

**SYLVIE.** Not Sports and Leisure – it’s too tough.

**OLIVE.** I can’t believe this.

**VERA.** Should I tell Florence to wait a minute?

**OLIVE.** *(To MICKEY.)* Movies! Entertainment! *Open the door!*

*(MICKEY picks up a card as VERA opens the door. FLORENCE stands there, dressed neatly. She carries a purse. She tries to act as if everything is fine but we can sense the tension and anxiety underneath.)*

**FLORENCE.** Hello, Vera.

**VERA.** Oh, hello, Florence. We practically forgot all about you.

*(She scurries back to her seat. FLORENCE steps into the apartment.)*

**OLIVE.** One more piece of the pie is all we need.

**FLORENCE.** Hello, girls.

*(The GIRLS barely look up. They throw her a perfunctory, “Hello, Florence,” but their attention is on the game.)*

**SYLVIE.** *(To MICKEY.)* Could you repeat the question, please?

**MICKEY.** I didn’t ask it yet... “Name three actors who played Charlie Chan on the screen.”

**FLORENCE.** *(Wanders around.)* I’m sorry I’m late.

**OLIVE.** Five, ten minutes. Big deal... There are some sandwiches there if you’re hungry.

**FLORENCE.** Yes, I am. I didn’t eat all day. *(She crosses to sandwiches; looks in the sandwich.)* No. Never mind.

**OLIVE.** What was the question?

**RENEE.** Three actors who played Charlie Chan.

**FLORENCE.** Is there anything to drink?

**OLIVE.** Sure. Coke, Pepsi, 7-Up, anything.

**FLORENCE.** I meant hard stuff. Do you have any hard stuff?  
...A Dubonnet?

**OLIVE.** Dubonnet? ...No, I just killed my last case.

**FLORENCE.** It’s not important, *(As she turns away from them; audible sigh.)* Nothing is very important.

**OLIVE.** (*Back to the game.*) ... Three actors who played who?

**MICKEY.** Charlie Chan! Charlie Chan! How many times do I have to say it? Charlie Chan!

**SYLVIE.** Alright, take it easy, everyone. Calm down.

**FLORENCE.** (*Stands behind VERA, plays with VERA's hair.*) ... Anyone call about me?

**OLIVE.** Call? Not that I can remember, (*To others.*) Did anyone call for Florence?

*(They quickly mumble "they can't remember.")*

Why? Were you expecting a call?

**FLORENCE.** Me? Who would call for me?

**OLIVE.** (*Turns back to game.*) Er, three actors who played Charlie Chan, is that it?

**MICKEY.** That's it. That's the question. You got it!

**OLIVE.** You mean in the same picture?

**MICKEY.** (*Losing patience.*) How can they play in the same picture? What do they want three Charlie Chans in the same Goddam picture for?

**VERA.** They had two Tarzans in the same picture once.

**MICKEY.** (*Attacking her.*) Never! Never two Tarzans in one picture.

**VERA.** One of them pretended to be Tarzan.

**MICKEY.** (*Losing control.*) Then it wasn't two Tarzans. It was *one* Tarzan and one pretending to be Tarzan.

**RENÉE.** Alright, take it easy. Take it easy.

**OLIVE.** Calm down, everyone, alright?

**MICKEY.** I'm sorry. I can't help it. Everyone makes me nervous.

**SYLVIE.** That's because you make everybody *else* nervous.

**MICKEY.** (*Sarcastically.*) I'm sorry. Forgive me. I'll go kill myself!

**OLIVE.** (*Warning her.*) Mickey!

*(Motions her head to FLORENCE; they all sit in silence a moment as FLORENCE crosses to the window.)*

FLORENCE. Gee, it's a pretty view from up here. What is it, twelve floors?

OLIVE. (*Gets up very quickly.*) No. It's only eleven. (*She closes the window quickly.*) It says twelve but it's only eleven... Want to sit down and play, Flo? It's still early. (*As OLIVE crosses back to table.*)

FLORENCE. No... I don't think I could concentrate tonight.

SYLVIE. It's your favorite category. Movies.

FLORENCE. I wouldn't know one movie from another tonight.

OLIVE. You'd know this one... "Name three actors who played Tarzan in the movies."

MICKEY. Charlie Chan! *CHARLIE CHAN!!*

FLORENCE. Sidney Toler, Warner Oland and Peter Ustinov... Excuse me. (*Crosses.*)

OLIVE. Where are you going?

FLORENCE. I have to go to the bathroom.

OLIVE. Alone?

FLORENCE. I always go alone... Why?

OLIVE. No reason... You gonna be in there long?

FLORENCE. ...As long as it takes. (*She goes into the bathroom.*)

MICKEY. Are you crazy? Letting her go in there alone?

OLIVE. How is she going to kill herself in the john?

SYLVIE. What do you mean, how? She could take pills. She could slash her wrists.

OLIVE. It's the guest bathroom. There's nothing in there. What is she going to do, swallow a towel?

MICKEY. She could jump.

VERA. That's right. Isn't there a window in there?

OLIVE. It's only six inches wide.

MICKEY. She could stick her head out and slam the window on her neck.

OLIVE. She could also flush herself into the East River. I'm telling you she's not going to try anything.

VERA. Shh! Quiet!

*(They all listen. We hear FLORENCE sobbing in the bathroom.)*

VERA. She's crying.

RENÉE. We should do something. She shouldn't be in there crying all alone.

OLIVE. You want to go in there and cry *with* her? *(We hear the toilet flush.)*

VERA. She's coming out!

*(They all make a mad dash for the table and sit. They're all in the wrong seats. They get up and quickly change seats. They resume positions of being relaxed and even bored. FLORENCE comes out and wipes her eyes and nose.)*

OLIVE. *(Reads from card.)* "What picture did Claude Rains and Bette Davis —"

FLORENCE. *Mr. Skeffington.* I think I'm going to take a little walk. *(She gets her coat and bag.)*

OLIVE. Where are you going to walk this time of night?

FLORENCE. I don't know. Along the river is nice.

OLIVE. The *river*??

FLORENCE. You heard something, didn't you?

OLIVE. No.

FLORENCE. Yes. You're worried I'm going to try something because Sidney dumped me after fourteen years of marriage, the dirty bastard! *(She bursts into tears and rushes for the front door.)* I've got to go!

OLIVE. Florence, no!!

RENEE. Don't do it, Florence, please!

*(They all plead with her.)*

FLORENCE. Don't stop me. Don't try to stop me.

*(FLORENCE is trying to get out the door, they are pulling her back in.)*

MICKEY. Florence, we're your friends. You can talk to us.

FLORENCE. *(Tearfully.)* I can't live without him. There's no point in going on.