

CUT #11

SAM and HANNAH

ACT II

CROSSING DELANCEY

51

~~my advice, Sam. You need to be a gambler. You were
always seen with me — you wouldn't give me a chance.
This is only the first one you need. Come, let me
introduce you to some lovely girls. I got plenty.
Trust me. *(She waves to someone across the park.)* Sophie
Levine. She wants me to find someone for her little Mar-
garet. *(She smiles warmly and waves again.)* Three hundred
pounds ain't so easy to fit~~

SAM. Listen, Mrs. Mandelbaum, I think you should know — I don't want to do this behind your back — I'm seeing Isabelle.

HANNAH. Oh yeah?

SAM. It's just a date. There's nothing for you to get excited about.

HANNAH. I'm very glad you had the decency to tell me. In my business, it's very easy for people to walk all over me. After all, do I ask you to sign a contract? — No. — Do I ask for escalating fees? — No. — It's all a handshake.

SAM. But I think it would be better if you let me handle this on my own now.

HANNAH. Of course. Of course.

SAM. Just to keep things simple.

HANNAH. Absolutely. *(pause)* So when is the date?

SAM. Mrs. Mandelbaum—

HANNAH. A simple question.

SAM. Saturday night.

HANNAH. Good, good, you should have a lovely time. You should have much happiness. This is all I wish. *(She looks up alarmed.)* Sam, please, start sneezing!

SAM. What?

HANNAH. Please, make like your sneezing! Go on, go on! Take out your hankie — do as I say! Quick! (*He does.*) Good good ... louder — Bigger!

SAM. Why am I doing this?

HANNAH. Now blow a little. Blow into the hankie — don't ask questions. This is a red alert. — Good, good. Very good.

SAM. Can I stop now?

HANNAH. (*She nods.*) The danger has passed. Ah that Miriam. She chases after me like a hungry dog. She sees you she starts to bark. — But the one thing she don't like is to be near a sneezer. She gets off the bus and walks home ten miles if someone gives a sneeze. I been on the elevator — she stops and shleps up twenty floors if God forbid someone should have a cold.

SAM. That's her in the white jacket?

HANNAH. The white jacket, the white shoes, the white hat — she wants me to find her a man — so healthy, so young, and so rich — he should never get sick, but if he does, he can afford to go away by himself he shouldn't contaminate her. Nu? This is some assignment she gives me. Where is there such a fool?

SAM. (*He rises.*) So long, Mrs. Mandelbaum.

HANNAH. Where you running? Wait — wait — I got something for you. (*She pulls a card out of her bag.*) My brother-in-law has a fantastic whole lot — you heard of Calvin Klein? — Max Perse. All the machers in the fashion business go to him. The new wave hits Max before it hits the beach. You get me? — The well dressed man always has the big advantage, Sam. — Look at history — Fred Astaire, Clark Gable, Allistair Cook —