

BETTY JEAN

Says the prom queen with her very own "angel face." Hey, I just remembered what I used to call Johnny.

SUZY

What?

BETTY JEAN

(deliberately, loudly)

Get out of my face!!

(normal voice)

It just seemed to work for us, ya know?

SUZY

Well, if it makes you feel any better, everything's not hunky-dory at our house either.

BETTY JEAN

Ooh— do tell.

BETTY JEAN grabs another glass and pours a drink for herself.

MISSY

Did something happen, Suzy?

SUZY

Remember how at Christmas time everyone at Harper's Hardware got fired but not really? It was all just a big funny joke on Betty Jean?

BETTY JEAN

(raising her glass)

Good times.

SUZY

Well, it really happened to Ritchie down at the Matchbox plant. I mean he got fired, in the really fired way, and let me tell you, not not getting fired isn't nearly as funny as not really getting fired is.

MISSY

Oh no!

CINDY LOU

(to Betty Jean)

I have no idea what she said.

BETTY JEAN hands CINDY LOU her glass.

BETTY JEAN

The wine helps.

BETTY JEAN gets another glass of wine for herself.

SUZY

So I got a job at the Piggly Wiggly to make ends meet while he's looking for a new job. My shift starts early in the morning, and I couldn't be home to make the kids' breakfast and everything, so Ritchie's mom started helping out around the house.

SUZY points out a woman in the audience.

Start

SUZY (CONT'D)

Thank you, Mother Stevens.

They all wave to her.

ALL

Hi, Mrs. Stevens.

SUZY begins to nervous giggle, and then begins to cry.

SUZY

(to Missy, while cry-sobbing)

Why is she always around?

MISSY

Honey— what's wrong?

SUZY

(through sniffles)

Now Ritchie is mad at me because I'm making more money than he is, which is nothing, so it's not hard to do.

(the following in one breath)

So I told him I'd only work until he finds another job, but the only job he can find is way out of town in Fairview, and I'm afraid if he takes a job out of town he might find a new family and then he'll decide that being away from his old family with a new job in Fairview is better than being away from his new family here in Springfield and being really fired.

SUZY cries again. MISSY comforts her.

CINDY LOU

(sotto voce, to Betty Jean)

Did you follow that?

BETTY JEAN

(sotto voce, to Cindy Lou)

She's upset about something...

BETTY JEAN and CINDY LOU drink together.

SUZY

So he's mad at me, I'm mad at him,

(getting agitated)

and Ritchie's mom is mad at both of us, which doesn't help at all.

SUZY turns to Mrs. Stevens.

(flatly)

I love you, Mother Stevens.

(out to Ritchie)

Why do we argue, Ritchie? We both want the same thing, don't we?

Stop

SONG #8: HURTING EACH OTHER/MORE TODAY THAN YESTERDAY

(singing)

NO ONE IN THE WORLD

EVER HAD A LOVE AS SWEET AS MY LOVE