

Dennis  
Tyler  
Peg

ANNIE  
Get the cards, I have to feed Sacco and Vanzetti. I'll see you at the picnic tables.

Annie goes to the "fish tank" down center and sprinkles some food inside. Johnny exits. PEG, a new resident, enters carrying a plate of tollhouse cookies.

ANNIE  
Can I help you?

PEG  
No, thank you. I'm fine.

Annie exits.

DENNIS  
Hey, new face!

PEG  
Well, hardly new.

DENNIS  
Are you here to see somebody?

PEG  
I'm not a visitor, actually.

DENNIS  
Your youthful sparkle threw me.

PEG  
Youthful?

DENNIS  
It's all relative. For this place you're a fetus.

PEG  
I live over by the -

Start

at the  
town  
w  
of

DENNIS

No, no, don't tell me. Half the fun is figuring it out. So let's see - are you an "Indie," a "Longhorn" or just an "Ass?"

PEG

I'm a - Sagittarius.

DENNIS

The spring in your step tells me you're an "Indie."

PEG

I'm sorry?

DENNIS

This is a big place, separate communities, but socially, Placid Pines here is sort of the hub, has the amenities, so it's kind of the clubhouse for everyone. But outside of here are all your different levels. First, we have Silver Pines - the over fifty-five condos - that's independent living, that would make you an "Indie."

TYLER

You're gonna need a pen.

DENNIS

Second is Golden Pines - that's Assisted Living. That would make you an "Ass."

PEG

Been called worse.

DENNIS

And finally, "Longhorn" for Long Term Care. That's for those of us waiting it out right here in Placid Pines.

Peg shakes Dennis' hand.

PEG

Peg Connelly. And you're right, Indie. Just moved in, the first cluster by the pond. The end unit?

DENNIS

Angela's place.

PEG  
Angela? Oh, yes. Mrs. Bazzoni. Did you know her?

DENNIS  
Yes. She used to have these little dinner parties during the holidays. Invite different people over each night. She was more of a local than the rest of us. We're transplants.

(he extends his hand)  
Dennis Haberman, from Brooklyn, U.S.A. Annie's Yonkers.  
Johnny's from the Bronx.

PEG  
It's nice you found some folks.

DENNIS  
We're kind of like city kids who got lost at summer camp. Stumbling around in the woods hunting for good bagels and lean pastrami.

Peg pushes the cookies toward Dennis and nods at Tyler to partake as well.

PEG  
Then you'll be happy to know that this tollhouse cookie recipe is my Mom's. Mrs. Isabelle Connolly of Montclair, New Jersey.

DENNIS  
Jersey is close enough!

Dennis and Tyler each take a cookie.  
Angela used to bake too, but she couldn't have – what is it, the wheat thing?

TYLER  
Gluten.

DENNIS  
That's it. I can't keep track anymore. It seems like, all of a sudden everyone can't have something. Wheat or peanuts or dairy. Angela tried so hard, poor thing, but –

TYLER

Her brownies tasted like chocolate flip flops.

DENNIS

This is Tyler, by the way.

TYLER

These are really good.

DENNIS

They are good. You can stay.

PEG

Glad you like them. I bet you have a lot of friends here. You're chatty.

TYLER

(playfully) That's why he doesn't.

DENNIS

Watch it. I did like Angela. Mrs. Bazzoni. She was here for a while. Said she came upstate for Woodstock in '69 and just stayed. It was cancer, right?

PEG

Isn't it always?

DENNIS

So young. You all moved in?

PEG

Still moving her out, so to speak. Bought the place as-is. She had no family so a lot of her stuff is still around.

DENNIS

She was a packrat.

PEG

Three trips to Goodwill so far! So many tchotchkes. Don't suppose I can interest you in a lava lamp? Or some hand-carved erotic sculptures of the Kama Sutra?

DENNIS  
Oh, dear. I remember those. That one by the front door of the guy with the big – did you see that one?

PEG  
Oh, yeah. That's where I hang my umbrella.

DENNIS  
What are you going to do about all the plants? She had quite the green thumb, if I remember correctly.

PEG  
Those I'm keeping. Flowers, basil, cherry tomatoes. She's even got a little greenhouse on the back porch.

DENNIS  
The neighbors loved her roses. Have you met any of them?

Peg shakes her head.

DENNIS  
You should. You're too young to be in here with us. No one comes in here, unless there's an event, and our last event was New Year's Eve 2000.

PEG  
Your last event was three years ago?

TYLER  
Yeah. And what a rave that was. Ginger ale AND Fig Newtons.

DENNIS  
A couple of years ago they rehabbed the main lounge. They got the plasma screen, we got the hand me down furniture. So the Algonquin has become kind of a side road. Like those old two lanes after they build the interstate. But we like it. And so do Sacco and Vanzetti.

Off Peg's look, Dennis gestures towards the "fish tank."  
Two of the fish. Annie is a bit of a bleeding heart. She named all the fish after historical figures she thinks were unjustly persecuted. So we've got them all - Sacco and Vanzetti, Socrates, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg –

e guy

I like Annie already.

PEG

End

TYLER

You kind of have to.

PEG

Does she take care of the fish?

the

DENNIS

She tries, but it's hard for her to keep up – she doesn't see very well.

en got

TYLER

Nelson Mandela's been a floater for two days now.

Johnny and Annie return. Johnny is wiping his face and neck with a handkerchief. It's too hot outside to play cards.

comes  
ear's

JOHNNY

Johnny Mathis over Nat King Cole? You're crazy, woman.

TYLER

Here we go.

DENNIS

You should be out meeting people.  
(he looks out the window)  
A lot of folks at the picnic tables.

ns.

ot the

PEG

No. Not yet. This is nice. Quiet.

o

DENNIS

It is. That's why I made it my library. Feel free to borrow anything on those shelves over there. I stocked it when I downsized.

s

JOHNNY

Nat Cole is definitely top five.

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uted.  
nd