

**ACT I****SCENE ONE**

(The date is September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1997. Three women sit at a table in a modern-looking upscale Italian restaurant in Long Island, New York. Their table is downstage right, and on it are three wine glasses, three water glasses, and three bread plates. WOMAN ONE's and WOMAN THREE's wine glasses are full, and WOMAN TWO's is almost empty. A full bar sits upstage left, and a bartender stands behind it, looking bored. A waiter is standing directly in front of the women's table, with his back to the audience.)

WAITER

(To WOMAN THREE) And what can I get for you tonight?

WOMAN THREE

I'll start with the Porchetta and then have the Gamberi All'aglio Burro.

(Pause.)

But leave off the penne, I don't need it.

WAITER

Ok, great.

(To WOMAN TWO)

And can I refill your glass?

WOMAN TWO

Yes, please.

(WAITER exits stage left.)

WOMAN THREE

So the dress.

WOMAN TWO

Right, the dress. Can you believe she got it off the rack? It's just incredible to me. And she only went to the store in the first place to look at fabric swabs for the bridesmaid dresses.

WOMAN ONE

You should have been there. She really did look beautiful. Everything was beautiful.

WOMAN TWO

And we're so lucky with Brad. He's such a mensch. We're so lucky.

(Pause.)

She just gets it.

WOMAN THREE

Of course she gets it. She's always been such a good kid. But all your kids get it.

WOMAN TWO

Yes.

(Pause.)

Although I am relieved to finally be able to breathe. It feels like I haven't slept in a month.

(WAITER enters from stage right and refills WOMAN TWO's glass of wine from over her shoulder.)

WOMAN TWO

(Looking straight ahead) Thank you.

(WAITER walks over to BARTENDER and begins talking to him)

WOMAN ONE

But do you know what was missing? The wine glass. You didn't break the glass.

WOMAN TWO

It was an oversight. We thought we'd just take a glass from the catering company, but during the ketubah signing the rabbi tells us that we really need a light bulb. Apparently it breaks more easily and makes a better sound. So Brad's father runs out to buy a light bulb, but forgets to bring it up to the chuppah. So what's the rabbi going to do? Take a break in the middle of the ceremony?

WOMAN THREE

It doesn't matter. In this day and age, nobody's breaking anything at their wedding.

(Silence.)

WOMAN ONE

Do you know who just moved in together? David and Marilyn's son and that girl. Marilyn said he's planning to propose soon.

WOMAN TWO

Such a shanda.

WOMAN ONE

(Takes a long sip of wine.)

I know, it really is a shanda.

WOMAN TWO

The girl can't possibly understand.

(Waiter exits stage left.)

WOMAN THREE

And she'll never understand. That's what makes it a shanda.

WOMAN ONE

Marilyn was kvelling over that new hedge fund job he has, but I could see how disappointed she is. How could he do that to his mother?

WOMAN THREE

He was always a rebellious kid. But some people just don't get it.

WOMAN TWO

And they don't think about the future at all.

WOMAN ONE

(Sighs.)

Well it makes *me* concerned about the future. How could you not get it?

WOMAN TWO

Their poor kids will be so confused.

(Pause.)

We'll lose them.

(WAITER enters stage left, and refills all three water glasses from over the women's shoulders. He then stands in front of the women with his back to the audience.)

WAITER

The appetizers will be out shortly. Can I get you some more wine in the meantime?

(Curtain closes.)