

SIDE 6 – HALEY, CHARLENE SCENE (with Julia)

P. 1 – HALEY, CHARLENE, JULIA SCENE

JULIA SUGARBAKER is showing Charlene’s baby sister, **HALEY MCPHEE**, (mid 30’s, sweet, sheltered, evangelical, former stay-at-home mom) around Sugarbaker’s. As **CHARLENE** accompanies them,

JULIA

And we keep the hand sanitizer right by the front door. If it’s a customer, (holding gun-like device) take their temperature and they must wear a mask. If they refuse, kick ‘em out. If they’re wearing a MAGA hat, don’t let ‘em in.

HALEY

Yes, ma’am.

JULIA

And this is going to be your desk, Haley... this is where your big sister started out and now she’s a co-owner.

HALEY

Oh, Lord, I’ll just be happy to make it through the day. I hope you don’t mind, but I went ahead and read *The Complete Encyclopedia of Design* last night just to make sure I’ve done everything in my God given power to be ready for the uncharted adventure that lies ahead!

JULIA

You do know this is only a receptionist job?

CHARLENE

Oh, she knows. She’s just excited ‘cause this is her first (as the phone rings) “gig” working outside the home.

HALEY

Yes, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work for someone like you, Julia, who has such a wonderful reputation!

MALE CALLER (O.S.)

Yeah, this is a message for Julia Sugarbaker! Why don’t you take your liberal, fake news bullshit and get the hell out of Georgia? You lying, socialist slut!

CHARLENE

Julia has her own blog now so that’s the kinda stuff we get all day long. Sometimes I just say, “Sir, sir, do you kiss your umother with that mouth?” I didn’t make that up, I just heard it somewhere. But I thought it was kinda cute--

JULIA

Charlene, I thought you and the General would be on the road to Key West by now.

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CHARLENE

Oh, we're leaving this afternoon. You know, if we weren't celebrating our anniversary and Bill's promotion, I wouldn't even be going-- with the pandemic and business the way it is--

JULIA

You haven't had a real vacation in years. You're going.

CHARLENE

It just feels wrong--

JULIA

(to Haley) Just ignore that. Don't make eye-contact. So, I understand your husband was recently transferred to Atlanta?

HALEY

Yes, ma'am. He's a youth choir director. And when Charlene told me y'all had an opening, I just decided to take the bull by the horns and ask him if I could apply-- he's so supportive-- he just said, "Haley, if that's what you want to do, then just get off my back and do it!"

CHARLENE

Haley's in one of those covenant marriages, you know, where the men make all the decisions.

JULIA

Oh, how very optimistic. And you've seen their track record?

HALEY

(smiling at Charlene)
Deadpan humor. Our favorite.

CHARLENE

Oh my gosh! I almost forgot. We have book club here once a month! (to Julia)
Haley's a reader-bee! She yearns for knowledge, just like me. (to Haley)
You should join!

HALEY

Oh, no... I didn't even go to college.

JULIA

Well, I wouldn't let that stop you. My sister's a member and she thinks *A Farewell to Arms* is a diet book. Suddenly, the phone rings again, O.S. and we hear the voice of Suzanne Sugarbaker.

SUZANNE

Julia Sugarbaker! If you don't stop criticizing Donald Trump, you're gonna end up on some lonely, gravel road with those awful, prisoner-of-war, pajama pants you wear

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wrapped around your neck!

CHARLENE

(on Haley's alarmed look) That's her sister, Suzanne. Since the pandemic, she's become obsessed with all these crime shows.

HALEY

Now she works here too, right?

JULIA

Yes... you could say that-- (smiling at Charlene) with a little imagination.

CHARLENE (to Haley)

But she's also living here with Julia now, 'cause she's going through a nasty divorce.

HALEY

Boy! Y'all sure do have a lot going on!