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Jack + Leo + Audrey

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LEADING LADIES

AUDREY. It's my first day at the Tastee Bite. See? "Tastee Bite."

(She points to her chest, and her tight sweater has the words "Tastee Bite" across the front.)

LEO. The first E gets a bit lost in the middle.

AUDREY. I took the training course yesterday and I passed with flying colors. They said I had the best potential of anybody they interviewed since they opened their doors to the public!

JACK. When did they open?

AUDREY. Monday.

JACK. Good show.

AUDREY. They have faith in me and that counts for a lot. Right?

LEO. Absolutely.

AUDREY. To tell you the truth, I got the job just to make some money. I want to go to college. Ergo, the books. Ergo means therefore. I mean, I know it's a commute and all, living in York, but I figure it's worth it if it helps get me through college.

LEO. ... You live in York?

AUDREY. Yeah.

LEO. York, Pennsylvania?

AUDREY. Yeah.

LEO. You wouldn't know a Miss Florence Snider by any chance?

AUDREY. Are you kidding me? When I worked for a doctor, she came to the office like every day.

LEO. Do you know when she last saw "Max" and "Steve?"

AUDREY. 1920.

LEO. How old they were?

AUDREY. Six and four.

LEO. Their mother's name?

AUDREY. Jennie.

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LEO. Father's?

AUDREY. Irv.

LEO. Yes!

JACK. Oh, no.

AUDREY. I remember when she used to come to the office, everything with her was a big deal. If she had a headache, it was a migraine, she had a slight fever, she was burning up. She was always exaggerating.

LEO. And how's she doing?

AUDREY. She's dead. She died this morning.

JACK. Oh, crap!

AUDREY. I know. It's awful.

LEO. What about Max and Steve? Has anyone heard from them?

AUDREY. Nope, not a word. The funny thing is, she didn't even have a picture of them. I asked her. She was real broken up about it. She said she thought that the older one, that was Max, she thought that Max was in the theatre.

LEO. In the theatre ...!

JACK. Oh, God..

LEO. Ha! Fate! Providence! "If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all!"

AUDREY. Yeah. ... Anyway, I feel bad for her. I found her very congenial. That means nice. One day she comes in and I'm helping her up the stairs and she says "I'm gonna remember you in my will," and I say, "Do it with money" — teasing her, you know? And she says "You should live so long," which I thought was nice, her wanting me to live a long time.

LEO. Is there anything else she ever said about Max and Steve? Anything distinctive about them? A scar, a limp ...

AUDREY. Nope. Not really. Just average normal people. She said that Steve was deaf and dumb, but that's about all.

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LEO. Deaf and dumb?

AUDREY. Yeah. It's congenital. Not to be confused with congenial. Can I leave my stuff here? I gotta practice my skating. See, to work at this place you've got to roller skate from table to table. I still need some practice, but I've got a plan. The aisles. See? They're nice and straight. And they're numerous, which means there's a lot of them, and they're contiguous, which means that one comes right after the other in a straight line, like two worms sucking each other's lips. My name's Audrey.

JACK. Jack. Jack Gable. Like Clark Gable without the cleft in the chin.

AUDREY. Hey, You're cute. I'll see ya later!

(She skates off.)

JACK. She thinks I'm cute ...

LEO. Fine, you're cute. And you'll be deaf and dumb and I'll do all the talking.

JACK. Oh, stop it.

LEO. Why not? It's perfect!

JACK. I can't be deaf and dumb, I-I-I don't know any sign language.

LEO. So you'll make it up! It's easy!

JACK. It is not!

LEO. Of course it is! Try it! Just try it! Say... "yes." *(Reluctantly, Jack hold his hands out facing each other, fingers up and extended, the hands parallel.)* Say "no." *(JACK crosses his hands.)* "Maybe." *(Wavy hand.)* "I'm hungry." *(Points to his mouth with his tongue out.)* "I'm thirsty." *(Swigs, using his thumb as a bottle.)* "I have an idea." *(Finger up with a big smile.)* All right, good. *(Still signing, Jack gives a silent thumbs up.)* Stop it. *(JACK signs "stop it" by putting his palms face down and tossing them to the sides, the*