

JUDY

Oh, sure! Let me grab this basket, then we'll toddle on home!

FRAN

It's so cold—I'll go to the corner for you, Judy. Give me your car keys.

JUDY

That's okay. My back seat's a mess. If you go get the basket, Fran, I'll clear a spot for it in the car.

JUDY, FRAN, BRIDGET and MELISSA exit.

KEN

Sheila, can I talk to you for a second, maybe outside?

SHEILA

Absolutely not.

KEN

Inside?

SHEILA

Go to hell.

KEN

But she's crazy—

SHEILA

I have no idea what you're talking about. I'm going to see if Michelle needs help.

SHEILA exits to kitchen. TRISH and KEN alone.

--- **START** ---

TRISH

Listen, just please don't talk to me. I am going to get out of here as fast as I can. I'd be gone already, but I didn't drive myself.

KEN

This is like fate.

TRISH

Fate that I find out that you're married!

KEN

No! Fate that brought us back together!

TRISH

We're not together.

KEN

We kind of are.

TRISH

We're just in the same room.

KEN

We can fix this. I'll come by the bar on Tuesday.

TRISH

Don't.

KEN

Why not?.

TRISH

Because I don't want to see you. You have a wife?!? You said you weren't married!

KEN

I never said I'd never been married! We're separated!

TRISH

She's here. In this house. And so are you! No wonder you'd never bring me here!

KEN

I didn't bring you here because I don't like to get things all mixed up. I like my life compartmentalized.

TRISH

Which is why I stopped seeing you!

KEN

Then why are you in my house right now?

TRISH

I got invited to a party. I said yes. Judy's not my new BFF, but she asked me to come here—I thought I might make some friends!

KEN

You don't need friends—you have me!

TRISH

You don't invite me anywhere! Judy at least invited me here—

KEN

To my house!

TRISH

To your wife's party! Judy didn't happen to mention that the hostess' husband is my ex-boyfriend.

KEN

Don't say ex. And she doesn't even live here!

TRISH

Judy?

KEN

Michelle!

TRISH

What?

KEN

I'm telling you she doesn't live here anymore! Don't you see? She's doing this to save face with the neighbors! She thought I'd be out of town.

TRISH

I'm sure she broke into your house to have a cookie exchange.

KEN

She must have! I changed the locks! But look—now we have a chance to fix what went wrong!

TRISH

What went wrong is that you've been married for years and years!

KEN

Not years and years. Not even a decade!

---Cut to next Ken line---

MICHELLE

~~(entering, with coffee) Nobody's back yet?~~

KEN

No.

MICHELLE

~~Wonder what's keeping them. I'm really ready to close up shop here. (looks outside, then slightly concerned) The wind is blowing Judy all over the place!~~

MICHELLE grabs a jacket and exits.

KEN

Things were good.

TRISH

Things were awful.

KEN

We were just getting started. Then I got shut out for no reason!

TRISH

Right.

KEN

Let's back up a bit.

TRISH

No.

KEN

Trish, c'mon.

TRISH

Quit it.

KEN

Seriously

He approaches TRISH, she keeps him at arm's length.

TRISH

I will punch you in the face.

KEN

Easy! *(crossing to bar, pouring himself a large drink, which he consumes and refills until his final exit)* You're such a little firecracker.

TRISH

As soon as Judy gets back in here, I'm telling her I puked and we have to go. Then you and your wife can sit around and snuggle.

KEN

Ex-wife, sweetheart. We're separated. I really don't want you to think I'm a cheater.

TRISH

Are you divorced?

KEN

We will be. We are *seriously* separated. She doesn't live here. I'm free to . . . date.

TRISH

You were never dating me, Ken. Dating is when you talk to each other, eat meals and go to events together.

KEN

We'll do all that, I swear.

TRISH

I broke up with you because you stopped being nice to me. You came to the bar and drank for free til my shift was over, then waited for me in my car and after we were finished, you went home.

KEN

I'm tired. You work a really late shift. I have a really stressful job.

TRISH

And a really real wife.

KEN

C'mon.

TRISH

I thought you were too married to your work, and it turns out you're just too married!

KEN

We're having some really big problems.

TRISH

I know.

KEN

They can't be fixed.

TRISH

That's why I broke up with you!

KEN

Oh God! I'm talking about Michelle and me—we're having really big problems.

TRISH

I'm sure sleeping with me helped make everything okay at home.

KEN

You were my escape from that. You are, you are my escape from Michelle.

TRISH

She's crazy.

KEN

I know.

TRISH

These people don't really like her.

KEN

I know.

TRISH

And they really don't like you.

KEN

What the hell are you talking about?

TRISH

These women, at this little cookie party. They all hate you.

KEN

Well, Fran might be a little upset with me. I had to tell her everything.

TRISH

Why?

KEN

Because I asked her to drive by the house while I was out of town to make sure everything was okay. I asked her to check on the dog.

TRISH

Fran? The cop?

KEN

Yeah.

TRISH

What about those other girls? From down the street?