

# not funny, people

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“Not Funny, People”

AT RISE, HUSBAND MARK CORTEZ is sitting in front of a canvas, end of paint brush in his mouth, studying the canvas in front of him.

Suddenly, he picks up the canvas, turns it upside down, replaces it on the easel and nods, smiles, satisfied that he was working the wrong side up and now things are looking good for his painting of a still life of fruit in a bowl on a table in front of him.

LYN CORTEZ, Mark's wife, opens the door leading to the back rooms with her cell phone in her hand, turns her head to say to MARK...

LYN

Mark, honey, what's your favorite place on earth?

Mark doesn't move from his focus on the bowl of fruit and the paint brush executing a stroke on the canvas.

MARK

No time for games, Lyn. I'm in my space.

LYN

C'mon, honey. Where would you like to spend eternity?

MARK

I recognize a trick question when I hear one. 'With you,' of course.

LYN

That's sweet, dear, but seriously, where? Favorite place, maybe two.

MARK

Fifth hole at Annandale.

Lyn rolls her eyes.

LYN

Is that where you got your hole in one?

Mark grins, does not take his focus away from his painting.

LYN (CONT'D)

Okay, one more favorite place.

MARK

For doing what?

LYN

Just give me a favorite place. What about Smitty's?

Mark nods his head back and forth for "maybe".

MARK

You buying?

LYN

I suppose I am, if I'm still around.

MARK

Why wouldn't you be around?

LYN

Tell you later.

(whispers into her cell phone...)

You got that?

Lyn closes the door behind her.

As Mark checks his paint stroke...

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS UP on Lyn and Mark enjoying cocktails at a table for two in Smitty's.

Mark and Lyn click glasses in a silent toast.

They both sip their drinks, put the glasses down, look around the bar, back at each other.

MARK

What was that this morning about my favorite place?

LYN

I bid on a crazy auction item.

MARK

Didn't we talk about that?

LYN

I won't get it. I just threw in a bid to drive up the item.

MARK

What was it?

LYN

A Destination Helicopter Ride to your favorite place or places with your...

(mumbles the last word)

Ashes.

Mark chokes on his drink.

MARK

My what?

LYN

It's for a good cause, honey.

MARK

Did you say, my "ashes"?

LYN

Helicopter scatters are very "in", Mark, but expensive. This is a good deal. And deductible.

MARK

How about your ashes?

LYN

I thought about that. We *could* do a couples scatter if we died together, like in a car accident, but I didn't think you'd want to be scattered over a cultural location like LACMA with me, and I sure don't want to be scattered over a golf course, even with you. Anyway, it's supposed to be a funny surprise for your husband at the charity ball tomorrow night. I was just going to goose the bid anonymously to make it more interesting. Of course, we'll be outbid. No way we'll get it. The Committee's hoping this item is our big money maker. I'm up for President next year by the way.