

CONTINUED: (13)

She leaves. Thomas paces, angry with himself for losing his cool. He breathes in for four seconds, exhales, then leafs through Martha's Bible.

THOMAS

(Shouts)

→ Mom, what are you doing?

MARTHA (O.S.)

Prayin' for you.

THOMAS

There's a line forming.

(Shouts)

Want to come out and talk about it?

(Pause)

Can't stay in there all day.

MARTHA (O.S.)

Can if I want to.

Thomas finds papers, news clippings, photos in the Bible. He looks closely at one of the papers.

THOMAS

Oh, for--! Mom!!! Get your butt out here, right now!

Martha HURRIES IN.

MARTHA

What in the worl' are you yellin' about?

THOMAS

This, Mom, this!

He shoves the paper in front of her face. She brushes it aside.

MARTHA

Put that back where you found it.

THOMAS

You really don't want to talk about this?

MARTHA

No, I don't.

THOMAS

Mom, if you don't sign the consent form they--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

MARTHA

I said I don't want to talk about it!

THOMAS

But they're getting married Saturday!

MARTHA

Ain't gettin' married if the court don't get that paper an' the court ain't gettin' that paper if I don't sign it.

THOMAS

I don't believe this! Does John know you haven't signed it?

MARTHA

Stop pesterin' me, Thomas, why can't you just let things be?

THOMAS

I'm sure John's totally forgotten he's given you this, so what are planning to do? Surprise them at the altar?

MARTHA

I tol' you I don't want to talk about it!

THOMAS

But it's important! Why do you have to hide-- (the fact that)

MARTHA

Just let it be b'fore I have me a heart attack!!

THOMAS

Okay, Mom, but one of these days you're gonna run out of pity cards to play.

She pops a butterscotch from the candy bowl into her mouth.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Now you're eating candy.

MARTHA

Ain't candy, it's butterscotch.

THOMAS

Butterscotch candy!

MARTHA

It's sugar free! Now put that back where you got it an' hand that Bible here.

Thomas returns the form to the Bible then lifts the very large book and puts it in her lap. Martha flips through it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

THOMAS

Do you ever throw anything away?

MARTHA

Got my whole life in here, seems like.

THOMAS

(Looking through obits)

Who are all these obituaries?

MARTHA

Neighbors. People from church. Anybody's a Grayson I cut out. Or a Fields. Or Ledford, my Daddy's name. Might be relatives, all I know. I'll be in there someday.

THOMAS

I don't think you'll be able to cut out your own obit from the paper.

MARTHA

No, you'll do it for me.

Thomas reads from a piece of paper.

THOMAS

"My mother was born in the mountains of North Carolina where towering pine trees bleed a chemical that tricks the light of the sun into coloring the haze over the ridges blue." To scientific--"

MARTHA

(Finishes the sentence)

"To scientific minds this is an undeniable fact. To my mother this is a fairy tale."

THOMAS

You memorized it?

MARTHA

Just the part where you'se makin' fun o' me.

THOMAS

I wasn't making fun of you! Just using you as an example.

MARTHA

I ain't nobody's 'xample for nothin'. I'm your Mama. An' the Blue Ridge Mountains is blue 'cause that's the way God wanted 'em to be. Don't have to go through all that rigmarole.

THOMAS

And yet you kept it.

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA

Nobody in our fam'ly's ever got a A+ on nothin' b'fore. Nobody in our fam'ly's ever got through high school b'fore.

(Touches him gently)

Oh, Thomas, I don't know where you got your smarts. Must be from your Daddy 'cause I still got mine.

THOMAS

(Smiles at her joke)

Did I get them from him?

MARTHA

Get what, your smarts? Lord, no. Your daddy was dumb as a box o' hair. No, I don't know what you are, I just know you ain't got Jesus in your heart.

THOMAS

No room, Mom. It's all filled up with you.

MARTHA

Now THAT you got from your Daddy. He could sweet talk a dog out of a T-bone if he wanted to.

Thomas has found a photo in the Bible.

THOMAS

This your wedding day?

MARTHA

(Touches the photo)

Yeh. Come waltzin' in the Dew Drop Inn where I'se a waitress an' flashed that smile o' his, like to broke my heart. Wouldn't stop pesterin' me to save your life. Next thing you know we'se down at City Hall gettin' married, Lucille a witness, draggin' whoever she's married to then, I don't remember, she's had so many. Then we all went dancin'.

THOMAS

Now, this is a revelation. I don't remember ever seeing you dance.

MARTHA

Oh, I loved to dance b'fore I got so big. Went dancin' ever' weekend when you'se little. Lucille babysittin'. After he run off an' I married J.D. the dancin' stopped.

Thomas puts MUSIC on the stereo.

Perhaps an Elvis song.

THOMAS

Well, we're just gonna have to do something about that...

Offers his hand. END

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