

~~Off Nora's level stare, Cindy does calculations in her head.~~

~~CINDY (CONT'D)~~

~~But maybe he does.~~

~~Cindy checks out Nora...~~

~~CINDY (CONT'D)~~

~~You don't think my being a novelist sounds like a lark?~~

~~NORA~~

~~I don't joke about writing or cooking.~~

~~CINDY~~

~~I don't joke about drinking and cooking.~~

~~NORA~~

~~See, we're a perfect duo.~~

Off Cindy, sparkling.

START

INT. THE PIT - NIGHT

Doug, overcoat on, walks by Patti at her desk.

DOUG

You ready, Robinson?

PATTI

Not yet. Santana's PR girl gave me the number of the hotel room where The Stones back-up singer is staying. I want to talk to her. There are rumors that the official police account is wrong.

DOUG

Then get a list of everything the backup singer says that contradicts the official account and turn it over to Jane.

He kneels down, leans in.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Those will be her leads to follow up on. So, meet at my place in an hour? I'll order from Vincenza's. I just got the new Van Morrison.

She caresses his cheek. Gives him a deep, french kiss.

PATTI

An hour.

He pulls a snow globe of the Eiffel Tower out of his coat pocket, sets it down next to her hand. Patti picks it up with gratitude, shakes it, grows serious.

PATTI (CONT'D)

We're finally in the same city after months of being pen pals. Maybe we could blow off Rothko tomorrow night and go out to dinner?

DOUG

I already told my parents you were coming.

PATTI

Your *parents*? You didn't tell me they were part of the event.

DOUG

I didn't think it was important.

PATTI

But it is... just so... conventional. I have to kiss the ring before we can start dating? Aren't they still grieving your broken engagement?

DOUG

Nah. I told them I was trading up.

She softens into the compliment. He turns to go.

DOUG (CONT'D)

(afterthought)

I wouldn't mind meeting your parents.

PATTI

No one is meeting my parents. Ever.

DOUG

(chuckling)

See you in an hour.

Doug, a spring in his step, exits. Off Patti, uneasy for a moment, and then getting right back to work.

Oz approaches from the other direction, buttoning up his overcoat.

END

START

PATTI

I knew I could break this story wide open. And I did.

DOUG

For Sam. He'll get the byline.

PATTI

What?!

DOUG

You stood me up, for the second night in a row. You lied to me so you could help Sam --

PATTI

Are you listening to anything I'm saying? Jetting off to the West Coast to try to convince a source to talk to me, it was the most exciting thing I've ever done.

DOUG

Is there a "we" in any of this? Or should I pick a new researcher?

A moment. Another stand-off.

PATTI

I'm sorry about standing you up. Twice.

DOUG

Plenty of women would have been jazzed to be invited to the Rothko opening and, even to meet my parents.

PATTI

And on any other night, I would have been.

(beat)

But not with this story in reach.

Doug nods, goes to walk away. Patti touches his sleeve.

PATTI (CONT'D)

Do you remember when, against all odds, the Colonel agreed to talk to you about the Tet Offensive? The whole newsroom cheered when you called in with eighteen hundred words of dictation that changed how people viewed that event.

(beat)
Last night, I understood how you
must have felt. The rush.

Doug sits with this for a minute. Evenly but stoic:

DOUG
But you're not a reporter. You're a
researcher. And we had a date.

He walks away. Off Patti, in new territory.

END

~~INT. LADIES ROOM - DAY
Patti is washing her hands when Nora enters.~~

~~NORA
You turned the ship around.~~

~~PATTI
Yeah. It felt pretty good.~~

~~NORA
Why did you stay on the story even
after they gave it to Jane?~~

~~PATTI
(stumped)
I guess... I... couldn't let it go.~~

~~NORA
Why? For Newsweek? For Doug? For
Sam?~~

~~PATTI
(thoughtful)
For the work. For me.~~

~~Nora pushes a torn piece of paper across the counter to
Patti. An address is written on it. Patti looks at Nora.
What's that?~~

~~NORA
We hold consciousness-raising
meetings here three times a week.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday.~~

~~From Patti's face we know she's never been to one.~~

~~NORA (CONT'D)
Why don't you come? I'll introduce
you to terrific girls trying to do
what you just did.~~