

## I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES: Side 1 – Libby & Steffy

Steffy. Are you just out for a visit?

Libby. (*Looking around.*) No. I'm sort of out on business.

Steffy. I see. Can I get you anything?

Libby. A glass of water would be swell. I think I swallowed the state of Arizona.

Steffy. (*Going to the sink.*) Wouldn't you like to take that thing off?

Libby. What thing?

Steffy. That pack on your back.

Libby. Oh, Jeez, I forgot it was still there. (*She takes it off.*) After you carry it for three weeks, you think it's a growth.

Steffy. He should be up in a few minutes. I hate to wake him. He hasn't been sleeping too well lately. (*She hands her the glass.*)

Libby. Yeah? Is he all right?

Steffy. Oh, sure. Just a little rundown.

Libby. All his various multiple projects, I suppose. (*She drinks.*)

Steffy. Well, he keeps busy.

Libby. (*Winces.*) Jesus, is this water? You could eat it with a spoon.

Steffy. It probably tastes funny after the water in New York. He really should get a filter.

Libby. And a fishing pole.

Steffy. That's something *he* would say. You sound a lot like him.

Libby. You mean the *Noo Yawk* accent?

Steffy. No. Just the way you say things. I think you have his sense of humor.

Libby. Well, that's about all he left. (*She looks around.*)

Steffy. You're not in school then, I take it.

Libby. You mean college? No.

Steffy. Because your father mentioned a few weeks ago he thought you might be in college by now.

Libby. He's not exactly up on my current activities, is he? No, I just missed getting into Harvard by about three million kids... I'm an actress.

Steffy. Really?

Libby. Yeah.

Steffy. You mean professional?

Libby. Yeah. Sorta professional. I mean, I'm not a star. If I was a star you would have known who I was when I said "Libby Tucker."

Steffy. What do you do, stage work mostly?

Libby. No, mostly I audition.

Steffy. But you have studied.

Libby. You mean in acting school? No. I never had the time or the money. I had a part-time job in the notions department in Abraham and Straus. I was *almost* accepted for a scholarship at the Actors Studio.

Steffy. What happened?

Libby. Nothing. They just didn't accept me.

Steffy. I see. So you just decided to come. I mean, you didn't write or anything?

Libby. Yeah. When I was nine... He answered when I was twelve.  
{*Looking around.*} Just one bedroom?

Steffy. Yes. I was just about to go out shopping. Your father's not very good about keeping his refrigerator filled.

Libby. You don't have to go on my account. I mean, that water was a meal in itself.

Steffy. If I don't do it, he never will. It's just down the block.

Libby. You know him long?

Steffy. About two years. We date on and off.

Libby. Two years and you just see him "on and off"?

Steffy. Well, I work and I raise two children. It's difficult.

Libby. Yeah, I know. My mother has the same problem. (Steffy *lets that pass.*) So what's he like?

Steffy, You mean you have no idea?

Libby. No.

Steffy, I'm sorry.

Libby. It's no big deal. I'm okay. I came very close to growing up neurotic but I got over it.

Steffy. I'm glad. . . Your mother raised you?

Libby, (*liaises her hand waist-high.*) Up to here. The rest I did myself. Mom was working all the time and she had my brother Robby to take care of. Actually, my mother and my father was my grandmother. Grandma gave me a sense of direction. She gave me confidence in myself. I'm sure you noticed my confidence. It's the one thing about me you can't miss.

Steffy. I noticed it the minute you said "Hi" . . .How'd you get out here?

Libby. I took the bus to Denver, then I hitchhiked. If you're not gorgeous, you hike more than you hitch. Listen, it wasn't bad. I got to see America, they got to see me. We both made a big impression.