

MARGARET: *(off)* I was trying not to bother her with silverware.

JAMES: She'll struggle through.

CYNTHIA: It's really no problem...

JAMES: Are we clear now, Margaret?

MARGARET: *(off)* I just don't like the spoon staining the desk.

JAMES: She'll keep it on her saucer.

MARGARET: *(off)* You don't put mugs on saucers, James.

JAMES: Today we'll live dangerously.

MARGARET: *(off)* Any stains, you'll clean them up.

*(The jingling bracelets can be heard moving off. James casually picks up the manuscript before Cynthia can read the cover and walks over to the window with it. She reads some of the titles in the bookcase)*

CYNTHIA: You have everything.

JAMES: I used to know what that was.

CYNTHIA: You, plus all the things that aren't you.

JAMES: *(smiles)* That's right... That Indian hyacinth joke?

CYNTHIA: You were going to tell me about the project first.

JAMES: Come here.

*(Cynthia joins James at the window. He points outside)*

JAMES: They all have their goals, purposes, objectives. That wrestler there is going to his saloon to demand a bigger percentage from his partners. That one, she's been convinced by her marriage counselor to confront her husband about all his late-night meetings. Jack and Jill across the street - they're both going to ace that chemistry test this afternoon.

CYNTHIA: Nothing wrong with that.

JAMES: Nothing fruitful about it, either. They're all the things that aren't me.

CYNTHIA: So? You can't be all of them.

JAMES: And why would I even want to be?

CYNTHIA: And why would you even want to be.

JAMES: Because maybe like you and the Fish-Man, something's missing with what I am?

*(There is a perfunctory knock at the door. Margaret enters carrying one mug of coffee, a sugar bowl, and a spoon on a tray)*

JAMES: That was fast!

MARGARET: Never offer anything you don't have ready to give.

JAMES: A golden sentiment, Margaret. But we have an announcement. Cynthia has agreed to become my assistant and inspiration.

*(Margaret lays the tray on the desk)*

CYNTHIA: Well, I...