

Jessie

Tennis.

Lina

Maybe they know each other from lunch?

Jessie

They must! Oh how funny! Our husbands totally broke bread!

Lina

So funny. But John's not my husband. Just. FYI.

Jessie

....I'm sorry. / Oh, God --

Lina

Don't be. I mean we'll probably get married. Or not. *Let's get out of his mother's house first--* then we can talk.

Jessie

(pointing to her place)

Oh. That's? You're living with?--

Lina

Yolanda Vanera. Yes. Not that she owns it; she rents. For 37 years now, just been paying someone else's mortgage-- and now *we* get the privilege of doing the same. But she's only charging us six hundred a month so we're saving up a lot for our own place, which I'm really grateful for. But it's hard, living with another woman, you know? Sometimes she says stuff like Lina, *you look sooo tired chica, give me that baby and go take a nap.* And I'm like **BACK THE FUCK OFFA ME, GRANDMA, BEFORE SHIT GETS REAL RIGHT NOW.**

Jessie

Shhh.

Lina

(diarrhea of mouth)

Sorry. And Also? She's cheap. (I'm sorry-- now you've opened the floodgates, I'm going to just let it rip!)-- she's *so* cheap. If she's cooking us dinner, she'll make exactly three chicken cutlets. Like little tiny chicken cutlets. And I'm breastfeeding you know? I'm **STARVING.** I want 19 chicken cutlets. And if I ask for more, she gives me a look, like Oh, You Want More? You're that Kind Of Woman?

Jessie

I think you deserve more chicken.

Lina

I do! And I'm sorry but she also drinks a whole box of wine every two days.

And she's supposed to be sober-- she pretends to go to meetings, but we know she doesn't-- and it's the big box she's drinking, too- the Peter Vella White Zin? She doesn't do it in front of us, which is respectful-- me and John are sober; six years for him, four years for me-- well, eight years for me, but I kept up cocaine in secret for four years, but four years of complete sobriety for me now. Sorry is this TMI?

Jessie

(a little...)

No. No, good for you. That you kicked it.

Lina

You don't kick it. All you do is come to accept that you want it and choose to want something else more.

Jessie

....huh. Yeah.

Lina

But anyway, me and John *cannot* figure out what she does with the wine boxes. There's no evidence! The box is not in the trash, not in the recycling; it's like she incinerates them.

Jessie

The case of the Missing Wine Box.

Lina

Exactly but like I said, she's helping us out a lot letting us stay here. And she's changing her schedule at Bed Bath and Beyond so she can be home with Max when I go back to work, which is great because the prices these babysitters are quoting me?--

Jessie

(slight alarm)

Wait, you're going back to work? When?

Lina

Uh.... 24 days from today.

Jessie

Oh God, that's so soon.

Lina

I know. I can't talk about it, I'll start crying. And I put my good mascara on so you'd think I was pretty, so. I'm not doing it.

Beat.

Jessie

(carefully)

.... do you *have* to go back? I mean. Is it an option not to?