

RITA CALLBACK

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Rita: No. No, I'm good right here.

Janine: Do you mind if I sit?

Rita: You can do whatever the hell you like.

Janine: Then I think I'll sit.

(Janine sits.)

There that's better. I'm all set.

Rita: Right. Uh...Okay, here it is. There's a reason I didn't tell you when Bradley made that pass at me.

Janine: Yes?

Rita: ...I don't like being alone. It breaks my heart sometimes when I'm sitting at home and I'm thinking of you being with Bradley, or Vi sharing her life with Johnny, or Mary Ellen with Kyle. I know as a good friend I should be happy for the three of you but sometimes I just get overwhelmed by jealousy and sadness. I'm ashamed to admit that to you. I really am, but that's how it is sometimes. When my Shane died, Jason and I tried to carry on. We did our best to hold it together. We even talked about having another child to...to take Shane's place. I know how awful that sounds. But I was still young. I was only twenty-nine and I wanted children. And we could have done it. But Jason blamed himself for what happened to Shane. And even worse, he thought that I blamed him too. But I didn't, I swear. It was an accident. I know that. But Jason fell deeper and deeper into a depression and he started drinking too much and quite frankly, Janine, I couldn't take that burden on top of losing Shane so I left him. I took the selfish way out and I cut Jason loose without even thinking about it. And I've been afraid to get involved with anybody else since because I don't want to feel all of that pain with someone new. That scares the hell out of me. But my God it gets lonely. I feel so empty sometimes and that emptiness goes way down deep to where it seems like there's no bottom to it. To where there's no light at all. Just darkness. So, I didn't tell you about the incident with Bradley because I thought it might break you two up. And I didn't want you winding up alone like me, and feeling so empty the way I do sometimes. I thought that pain would be far worse than any hurt that Bradley could cause you. And that's it. That's the god's honest truth.

START



Janine: Come ere'.

(Janine hugs Rita.)

Rita: Now, let's keep this between you and me, okay? I mean, Mary Ellen and Vi think I don't give a damn about anybody but myself, and it makes them feel superior. I don't want to ruin that for them.

Janine: My lips are sealed.

Rita: Thank you. Okay, I have to go. Things to do.

Janine: Laundry?

Rita: Well, it's Tuesday.

(Rita moves to the door then stops.)

So, you're really kicking Bradley out?

Janine: I am.

Rita: And you turned the doctor down?

Janine: I did.

Rita: Hmm. So, now I guess we'll be alone together.

Janine: I guess we will be.

Rita: Just you and me.

Janine: Yep.

Rita: Well you know what? We can sit together and watch tv at night. We can do pot luck dinners with just the two of us. Go to movies together. Have pajama parties.

Janine: I wonder if I can still catch the doctor.

Rita: Oh, don't worry. I wouldn't do that to you. But, maybe once a month we could have a night for just the two of us. You know, check in with each other. Make sure we're doing all right.

Janine: I'd like that.

Rita: Good.

Janine: Rita, thanks for telling me that. And I really wish you would try again with someone else. I want to see you happy.

Rita: I am happy. I've got you and Vi and Mary Ellen. I'm luckier than most. So don't worry about me. Worry about yourself. This being alone isn't for the faint of heart. It'll take some getting used to.

Janine: Thanks for the warning, but I've been alone before.

Rita: You were alone when you were working in Montreal and traveling to all those exciting cities. You haven't been alone here, halfway to the North Pole. That's a whole different kind of alone.

(Rita exits. Lights down. End ACT Two Scene 1.)

END