

FELIX. That was very endearing of you, Daria. Why not just take an ax and chop her feet off.

DARIA. Oh, grow up. The little gold-digger hit the jackpot. What more does she want, a trophy? And she got Simon in the bargain. Now let's stop talking about them. Let's talk about me instead. What is it you like most about me?

FELIX. Your shyness.

DARIA. I like you because you're handsome. And stoic. Doesn't all of Gillette's success make you want to scream? Aren't you seething inside with jealousy?

FELIX. No, he's my best friend.

DARIA. *Really?* You didn't try to shoot him, then.

FELIX. How could I? I was on stage when he was shot.

DARIA. So was everybody who's here this weekend. Except dear, innocent Martha.

FELIX. And you.

DARIA. Why would I want to shoot him? I haven't slept with him yet. Now stop being stoic and kiss me.

FELIX. I'm a married man.

DARIA. *(cuddling up to him)* You mean your lips don't work at all any more?

FELIX. Daria...

DARIA. Ten minutes, upstairs, they'd never miss us.

FELIX. Daria!

DARIA. We never get to spend time together!

FELIX. We could be spending a great deal of time together, in there eating dinner.

DARIA. You're angry about the review, aren't you?

FELIX. You did call me a side of beef.

DARIA. But in a nice way! Oh, Felix, I was just trying to get a laugh. I should tell the truth when I write, shouldn't I? Truth and beauty, as the poet Shelley said: it is all we know on earth and all we need to know.

FELIX. Keats.

DARIA. Hmm?

FELIX. It was the poet Keats.

DARIA. You know, Felix, you're even more attractive when you stand up to me.

(She kisses him hungrily on the lips and really goes at it. Then she breaks it off.)

FELIX. I should get back to the others.

DARIA. Not yet, surely.

FELIX. Daria.

(She whimpers.)

Daria, down!

DARIA. You know, Felix, there are certain things I know about your past that you might not want bandied about among your loved ones. So it might be in your best interests to be nicer to me, don't you *think*?

(We see a flash of anger cross FELIX's face – as the door of the dining room bursts open and GILLETTE enters, leading his guests.)