

IRENE
Hi. Robert?

ROBERT
Hi.

IRENE
Was I interrupting you?

ROBERT
No, not at all. Let's talk. As they say, game on.

Irene looks over her shoulder. Claudia listens intently.

IRENE
That woman kind of scurried away. Another date?

ROBERT
No.

IRENE
Why is she staring at you? Did you double book?

ROBERT
What? No!

IRENE
She seems pretty upset. Should I talk to her?

ROBERT
No. She's...we had a little discussion before you came.

IRENE
So, she *was* a date.

ROBERT
No. Look, I'm sorry you saw her. I didn't mean...

IRENE
You thought she'd be gone before I got here?

ROBERT
She's my daughter.

IRENE

You have a daughter that old? Hard to believe.

Startled, Claudia sits up.

ROBERT

Don't let her hear you say that though. She'd be horrified. She said the same thing about you.

IRENE

We're not going to get along.

ROBERT

Yes..yes we are. She's trying to protect me from the big bad woman I met on the internet.

IRENE

You told her about me? She's vetting me?

ROBERT

Afraid so. Look I'm sorry. This isn't how I planned to meet you. Now I'm nervous. I wasn't before.

IRENE

Why don't you take your nerves over there and get me some coffee. Decaf, black. No sugar.

ROBERT

Okay. I'm just...I'm going to go to the men's room and then I'll be back.

IRENE

With the coffee.

ROBERT

With the coffee. Black with no sugar.

IRENE

Decaf, black, no sugar.

ROBERT

Got it.

Irene speaks loudly.

IRENE

What's her name?

ROBERT
You going to talk to her?

IRENE
You bet I am.

ROBERT
Oh God. Here goes. It's Claudia.

Robert leaves. Irene gets up and crosses to Claudia.

IRENE
Hi, I'm Irene.

CLAUDIA
Was I that obvious?

IRENE
Oh yeah.

CLAUDIA
I'm just trying to protect him...he's new at this.

IRENE
I understand. My sons get nervous too.

CLAUDIA
They know you go out?

IRENE
I'm a grown up. And this isn't exactly going out...we've been talking and writing and your father thought we should meet.

CLAUDIA
He told me you're very nice. I had to see for myself.

Irene gets out her wallet.

IRENE
Here's my license. You might want to jot down my address. And here's my card with my phone and email.

CLAUDIA
You don't have to do this.

Oh yes, I do.

IRENE

Why.

CLAUDIA

Because I'd like to be able to spend some time with your father without a chaperone.

IRENE

Well, I'm not exactly trying to-

CLAUDIA

Oh yes, you are.

IRENE

Robert comes back with two coffees; sees the two women have been talking and hesitates.

Don't be afraid. She hasn't threatened me.

IRENE (CON'T)

Good to hear.

ROBERT

He puts two cups on the table.

Go get your daughter some coffee. It seems she's going to stick to us like glue. Maybe later we can spend some time alone.

IRENE

Claudia, really...

ROBERT

She invited me to stay.

CLAUDIA

Not in so many words, but whatever.

IRENE

Robert leaves to get another cup of coffee.

So ask away. Anything you want.

IRENE (CON'T)

Why did you pick up my father?

CLAUDIA

IRENE

I didn't "pick up" your father. He contacted me first.

CLAUDIA

But, why did you answer him?

IRENE

Long story.

CLAUDIA

I'm listening. I've got time.

IRENE

Because I liked his profile. The way he talked about the happy years he had with your mother. The fact that he was smart...trained in law.

CLAUDIA

So you thought...what?

IRENE

I thought great, we can talk about the law. Always interesting.

CLAUDIA

You're a lawyer?

IRENE

Retired. But yes. For forty years.

CLAUDIA

He didn't say.

IRENE

Maybe you were too busy talking and challenging.

CLAUDIA

I assumed you were, you know-

IRENE

Phishing. No.

CLAUDIA

Because a lot of women go on to these sites to-

IRENE

When are you going to give it up? Your father told me he's named you in his will. All his properties are in trust for you and your kids. Why can't he meet and spend time with someone he already likes. I'm not about to steal him from you.

Robert returns with a third coffee.

ROBERT

You're going to steal me?

IRENE

Yes. As soon as your rottweiler lets me.

CLAUDIA

Hey!

IRENE

I'm taking your father for lunch as soon as we can lose you.

CLAUDIA

What about me?

IRENE

Another time. If there *is* another time. We'll have to see how things go today.

ROBERT

You heard the woman.

CLAUDIA

Are you going to let her boss you around?

ROBERT

Yes. It's quite refreshing not taking the lead.

CLAUDIA

What would Mama say?

ROBERT

She would've said go for it. She always wanted me happy.

CLAUDIA

I guess so. Okay, I'm holding you to that lunch.

IRENE

You have my word. And my card. Stay in touch.