

Save Me
by
Stefanie Zadravec

3 page excerpt

Kate Navin
Abrams Artists Agency
275 Seventh Avenue, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10001
646 461 9372
kate.navin@abramsart.com

stefanie@szadravec.com
www.szadravec.com

ACT ONE. SCENE TWO - MOMENTS LATER

CAROLINE, BETH, and RACHEL stand awkwardly in Caroline's living room. BETH is conservatively dressed. RACHEL, 17, has dyed, cherry-red hair, and wears a floor-length skirt made out of some kind of black nylon. CAROLINE has just finished the nickel tour.

CAROLINE
Bedroom, bathroom, and the noise out there is Seventh Avenue. So, the bus ride was okay?

BETH
Oh, yeah. (beat.) There was a real nice lady next to us who got on in Baltimore.

RACHEL
She smelled like eggs.

BETH
That was her sandwich.

RACHEL
Whatever. Why would you bring an egg sandwich on a bus?

BETH
(ignoring Rachel)
She lives in Bushwick Brooklyn.

CAROLINE
Yikes.

BETH
What?

CAROLINE
Bushwick can get a little sketchy.

BETH
She seemed perfectly nice to me.

CAROLINE
I'm sure she was.

BETH
Her daughter is a dental hygienist.

CAROLINE
I didn't mean she wasn't nice.

BETH
I'm a very good judge of character, Caroline.

CAROLINE

I didn't say you weren't -

BETH

Just because I'm not from *New York*, and we don't live in a big city, doesn't mean-

CAROLINE

That's not what I'm saying.

BETH

I'm not so naive.

CAROLINE

I never said you were. I only meant to say-

BETH

I've seen plenty. I don't think anyone would argue that.

CAROLINE

I'm not arguing, Beth. It was a stupid thing to say. I was talking about Bushwick, not you.

Beat.

BETH

I'm not arguing.

CAROLINE

Good.

BETH

Good.

Pause.

BETH (cont'd)

Your apartment looks nice.

CAROLINE

Thanks.

RACHEL

Tell her about the woman downstairs.

BETH

Rachel-

RACHEL

What? It was funny.

BETH

It was not funny. It was...

RACHEL

Mom totally freaked.

BETH

-unfortunate. I did not *freak*. I was startled, which is perfectly natural in that kind of a situation.

CAROLINE

What happened?

RACHEL

Have you seen that lady without a nose?

CAROLINE

Mariana. She's a friend of mine. What happened?

BETH

Nothing. She was coming out the door when we buzzed you.

RACHEL

Mom screamed right in her face.

CAROLINE

You didn't!

BETH

I didn't expect, it was *startling* to see a person without a nose.

CAROLINE

Did you apologize?

BETH

Yes!

RACHEL

No.

BETH

I didn't have time. I got flustered with the two doors. We had our bags, and I was rushing because I didn't know if you were going to buzz twice.

RACHEL

Your friend opened the second door for us, and mom went, *Ah!*, right in her face.

BETH

I was fumbling with the bags. Rachel brought three bags, even though I asked her to pack light.

CAROLINE

What did you say to Mariana?