

2 MATT & SALLY

START

Fifteen little Campbells?
SALLY No.
MATT No. Only Harley, two brothers, and one sister?
SALLY No.
MATT Only Harley and his brother?
SALLY Harley and his sister.
MATT Harley was the only son of a very prominent Laclede County family.
SALLY Yes.
MATT So why didn't they want their only son to marry the beautiful, popular, cheerleader Talley girl whom he had been going steady with for three years?
SALLY They didn't like me.
MATT All those years he dated you over their protest?
SALLY Not on your life.
MATT No, because Harley did not do things against his parents' wishes.
SALLY No.
MATT But in fact you didn't graduate with Harley. You were delayed a full year.
SALLY That's beginning to hurt, Matt.
MATT ~~You're pulling. I'm not pulling. (Releases her, but stands in her path.)~~ Why weren't you good enough for Harley?
SALLY I got sick.
MATT You got TB and went to Arizona, where you lived for the rest of your life.
SALLY No.
MATT You gave this contagious disease to their only son and he went away to Arizona and was never heard from again.
SALLY The TB was not serious. There were complicating circumstances that caused me to be out of school.
MATT There were complications. Sally was pockmarked and ugly and nobody wanted anything to do with her.
SALLY You might say that.
MATT This only son was repulsed by the sight of you.
SALLY No, Matt. I was in the hospital for a month. I had a fever.
MATT This Harley has a morbid fear of hospitals. I'm getting

a fever is who's getting a fever.
SALLY They didn't want it.
MATT But your dad insisted.
SALLY He didn't want it either.
MATT You were pale and white and would not look good in a wedding dress.
SALLY Matt.
MATT You were a tramp and a vamp and would have ruined the reputation of this prominent family. Is what the story is?
SALLY He was the heir. He had to carry on the family name!
MATT And you were irresponsible; you had uncontrollable kleptomania and could not be trusted around the family money.
SALLY I was sick! I had a fever.
MATT You were delirious and drunken and no family would allow such a woman to marry their only son.
SALLY (She tries to run past him.) I was sick for a year.
MATT (Holds her again.) You were not sick. You went away. Why did you go away?
SALLY I was at the house.
MATT (Driving.) Why were you in the house for a year?
SALLY I had a fever.
MATT No. Because you had disgraced yourself.
SALLY I had a pelvic infection.
MATT Is that what you told people?
SALLY They didn't know what was wrong with me.
MATT Why were you hiding in the house?
SALLY They couldn't get the fever down!
MATT Why were you hiding?
SALLY (Hitting him.) They couldn't break the fever! By the time they did, it didn't matter.
MATT What were you hiding —
SALLY Because it had eaten out my insides! I couldn't bear children. I can't have children! Let go of me. (She breaks away, crying, falls against something, and sits.)
MATT What do you mean?
SALLY I couldn't have children.
MATT Sally, I'm here, you're okay. It's okay.

② MATT & SALLY (CONT)

SALLY Go away. Go away.

MATT *(Sitting beside her.)* I didn't know. I thought you had had a child.

SALLY I have had no child. There was no scandal. I was no longer of value to the merger.

MATT It's okay. It's okay.

SALLY Oh, stop. That's what I tell the boys. It's okay. Only they're dying of blood poisoning. Don't comfort me. I'm fine. Blast you. Let go.

MATT I thought you had had a child by someone else. You're so crazy.

SALLY I only wish I had.

MATT This was a result of the TB?

SALLY *(She looks at him for a long moment. Then finally, no longer crying.)* The infection descended into the fallopian tubes; it's not uncommon with women at all. And so there couldn't be an heir to the garment empire. *(Almost laughing.)* It was all such a great dance. Everyone came to the hospital. Everyone said it made no difference. By the time Harley graduated, the Campbells weren't speaking to the Talleys. By then Dad was looking at me like I was a broken swing. It was a very interesting perspective.

MATT Did you think that your aunt had told me you couldn't have children and I was making up the story of my life just to tease you?

SALLY Possibly.

MATT *(To the sky.)* Eggs! Eggs! Eggs! We're so terrified. But we still hope. You take a beautiful dress to work — Did you tell the nurses I was coming to see you?

SALLY No!

MATT And look at me. For five years I have been wearing the same tie to work. It is a matter of principle with me not to wear a different tie. I buy a new tie to come and see Sally. You see how corruption of principle begins.

SALLY I had nothing to do with that.

MATT Is that a new dress, by the way? I don't know that dress.

SALLY Yes. It's no big deal.

MATT It is an enormous deal! It is the new New Deal! It is a

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Big Deal!

SALLY You didn't even say you liked it.

MATT I like it, I love the dress. *(Pause.)* I was sitting up in St. Louis all this winter in a terrible quandary. It is not that I have been happy or not happy, but that I have not thought that I could be happy. *(Beat.)* But this winter I was terribly unhappy and I knew I was unhappy. I had fallen for a girl and could not give her the life she would surely expect, with a family, many children. *(Pause. Taking her hand.)* You know what has happened? Some mischievous angel has looked down and saw us living two hundred miles apart and said, You know what would be a kick in the head? Let's send Matt on a vacation to Lebanon.

SALLY You believe in angels?

MATT I do now, most definitely. Her name might be Lottie Talley, maybe. *(Pause.)* We missed your marching band.

SALLY They'll play all evening.

MATT *(Pause.)* So. We'll go up to the city tonight. Leave the car here —

SALLY Oh, Matt, it's absurd to be talking like that; we're practically middle-aged.

MATT So. We'll go up to the city tonight. Leave the car in town, take the midnight bus.

SALLY *(Pause.)* I'll be up in a week or so.

MATT *(Pause.)* I'll stay here at the hotel in Lebanon and wait.

SALLY You have to work tomorrow.

MATT So what?

SALLY *(Pause.)* We'll go tonight. *(They kiss. The distant band strikes up a soft but lightly swinging rendition of "Lindy Lou."** They laugh.)*

MATT "Lindy Lou." *(Pause. They are sitting holding hands, perfectly relaxed. Matt looks around.)* You live in such a beautiful country. Such a beautiful countryside. Will you miss it?

SALLY Yes.

MATT Me too. Once a year we'll come back down, so we don't forget.

* See Special Note on Songs and Recordings on copyright page.