



MIMI'S STORY

(A Play with Music in Two Acts)

Book and Lyrics

By

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Music

By

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MIMI'S STORY

Cast

MIMI.....65 years old, attractive, humorous.

MELISSA.....35 years, brunette, beautiful.

PENNY.....30 years old, blonde, pretty.

**MENACHEM (Manny).....68 years old, Israeli, tan, very
handsome, flirtatious and intelligent.
Elegantly dressed in suit and tie.**



MIMI'S STORY

Songs

MIMI.....1-1-2

THEY CALL US SISITERS.....1-1-8

IS THAT HIS ONLY FAULT?1-1-15

The ULTIMATE TRUTH.....1-2-21

I WANT TO COME TO.....1-2-28

I COULDN'T TAKE IT.....1-2-31

***BUHBA* (Grandma).....1-3-39**

DON'T TELL ANYONE.....1-3-42

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE JEWISH.....2-1-49

IT COULD HAVE BEEN LOVE.....2-1-57

SHE'S SCREWING A JEW.....2-1-59

MIMI'S STORY

ACT I

Scene 1

A couple of weeks ago.

Stage left is a beautiful, expensive living room, where Picasso, Chagall and Monet paintings hang. PENNY is reading a magazine and drinking wine. MIMI, PENNY'S attractive mother, enters with great panache, wearing a red dress that is very short and sexy.

Ta raa.

MIMI

Mimi! I don't believe it. Is that really you?

PENNY

It's me, it's me, now tell me, how do I look?

MIMI

You don't want to know.

PENNY

Please.

MIMI

Like a floozy.

PENNY

(Shakes sexily)
But, do I look like a sexy floozy.

MIMI

Yes, like a sexy floozy, Mimi. Are you happy now?

PENNY

MIMI

After all I've done for you, you have the nerve to call *moi* a floozy?

PENNY

Make that a hooker too, Madam Flooky.

(BOTH sing 🎵)

FLOOKY

MIMI

(Sings 🎵)

Flooky, hooker, is that what you think I am?
My dear, why don't you understand?
I did all I can, for you and your sister too.

PENNY

(Sings 🎵)

Flooky, hooker, is what you look like to me,
Guess that's how it was meant to be.
You did all you could, but your could wasn't too good.

MIMI

You always said I was never good enough.
That I was cruel and too tough.
And so you broke my heart, slowly we've drifted apart

PENNY

All I wanted was that you would love me.
To be, who I was meant to be.
To me you were my world, when I was a little girl.

MIMI

All I wanted was the best for you.
I've given you everything money could buy.
There was nothing that I wouldn't do.
And still you make me cry.

PENNY

I wanted you to touch my soul.
A girl needs a mother that she can confide in.
And holds her tight if she feels cold.
When the darkness sets in.

MIMI

All I wanted was the best for you.
I've given you everything money could buy.
There was nothing that I wouldn't do.
And still you make me cry.

PENNY

All I wanted was to share my soul.
A girl needs a mother that she can confide in.
And hold her tight if she feels cold.
When the darkness sets in.

MIMI

I don't understand why can't you call me *Mother*, like everyone else, Penelope?

PENNY

And why, can't you call me Penny like everyone else?

MIMI

I thought I dubbed you Penelope, and pennies are for paupers... I'm still your mother, am I not?

PENNY

Yes, genetically speaking you are my mother, and for your edification, for some strange reason, why I still love you, I'll never understand...

MIMI

...If you really love me, as you and your sister so profess, you'd both call me *Mother*, *Penny*. Is that asking so much? You use to call Elsie big Mama. And you know, I'm not the old fashioned Mama type, never was, never will be, but, I am still your mother, your only mother. It says so on your birth certificate. Elsie was merely your nanny.

PENNY

Big Mama used to feed and dress the both of us, take us to school, the library, and museums. What did you do *Mother*, beside drink, travel and indulge yourself?

MIMI

I did plenty, plenty. No matter how busy I was, I made you and your ungrateful sister, Melissa, who thinks everything is funny, birthday parties, remember? You know why your big Mama did all those mundane things for the both of you, don't you? It's not because she loved you, as I did and do, I paid her. Me, I, I paid her to tend to all of your childless whims and desires. Don't I deserve a little credit? Why is it so hard for you to call me mother?

PENNY

I calls 'em as I sees 'em lady.

MIMI

You may be married to that gorgeous hunk of a husband of yours, and it's fun isn't it? I used to have fun too. It was so much fun, not to mention romantic and euphoric. Perhaps, that's the reason why I miss my Gerald. Your father was talented in more ways than one, and since I'm still kicking, unfortunately you and your sister will have to wait
(Shakes romantically)
to inherit my money, simply, because your *Mother* still has needs, lots and lots of needs.

PENNY

It's quite obvious, *Mother*. Now, are you satisfied I called you Mother, *Mother*?

MIMI

No comment. I may not be a spring chicken anymore, but I'm still a woman, and as long as this woman is ticking, hopefully I'll have needs, a desire to live, a quest for fulfillment; they say if you don't use it, it rusts.

PENNY

Really.

MIMI

Is it my fault, your all-knowing, money hungry, Presbyterian father left me three years ago? And don't say it is, please don't say it is.

PENNY

It's not your fault. And where's Dad's infamous martini shaker?

MIMI

I threw it out, and good riddance and goodbye.

PENNY

You threw it out, why? It was Dad's favorite.

MIMI

That's why I threw it out. Despite the fact that we had umpteen servants, he demanded that only I fix him his double martini before and after dinner. Now, that he is no longer here, no more martinis, for me either, because I've had it.

PENNY

(Almost sarcastic)

Well, then, would you care to join me for a glass of wine, Mother?

MIMI

Make it snappy and fill-her-up *Penny*. Maybe I'll forget it was my fault. *I've tried, Lord knows how I've tried*, but nothing helps me forget that it was my fault, it was my fault.

(PENNY pours glass of wine and gives it to MIMI who gulps it down.)

MIMI (cont'd)

(Whimpers.)

It's still my fault Penelope and you and your sister know it, but please don't gloat. I can't stand when the both of you gloat.

PENNY

I'm not gloating and how can you blame yourself? You've said over and over, it was the only time. We know, we were there and that's why we believe you that it was the only time. It was the only time, wasn't it?

MIMI

I swear on you and your sister Melissa's life; it was the only time, the only time that no good, self-indulgent sonofabitch, your father, who never even remembered you or your sister's birthday, did it, he actually did it.

PENNY

And he never even said congratulation when I graduated High School, or Yale. Yes, Father was self-indulgent, wasn't he? Boy, was he into himself.

MIMI

It wasn't the two of you or, I he cherished, only money, he only loved the almighty dollar. He used to tell me, "*Like it or not, bankers do not have time for children or their birthdays.*" And big bankers like himself, he was so pompous would say, "*I don't take out garbage for you or anyone else and that's what I pay all this help for, isn't it? To take out all this garbage that you consistently make and I don't know why?*"

PENNY

He always blamed you for the garbage, didn't he?

MIMI

Always, and then one time, he was a little loaded, he was always a little loaded. That's how I started drinking *Penny*. I never touched a drop until I met your martini, guzzling father. Sure, I smoked a little pot at Vassar and I really liked it, but I never drank, at least not as much as I do now.

PENNY

You always argued about his elitist attitude, how the both of you had to come back down to earth, to relate, why?

MIMI

Because of his wealthy, distorted upbringing, your father was raised to feel he was omnipotent, better than the rest of the world. That drunken, what ever he was, actually told me more than once, that he was richer than G-d... With the two of you and Gerald no longer here, I'm beginning to feel this twenty-four room, mansion with its all servants is too big and lonely for an old wench like me, and so I gave all of them the weekend off. Maybe I'll sell it and move to Trumps on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and then I'll be able to see my two girls whenever I want to, won't I?

PENNY

Don't you dare!

MIMI

I'm sure you are aware your father had many flaws, but the one that got my goat, was his lack of humility and unfortunately it soon became mine. If I remember correctly, it is addressed in the old Testament, not that I've read it in ages, that King Solomon, despite all his riches possessed no humility, and was no better, nor as happy as poor David, who slew his Goliath, simply because the Almighty willed it.

PENNY

(Laughs.)

King Solomon, David and Goliath, when and why did you read the *Old Testament*?

MIMI

Maybe, one day I'll tell you, anyway, when we would get really tipsy, which was every night, we'd have these screaming arguments. "*No matter how much money you have, your feces smells like everyone else's,*" I insisted, "*You stink worse than anyone I've ever met, in fact you stink to high heaven,*" I screamed. Finally, when he couldn't stand arguing with me anymore; he was really quite placid beneath it all, acquiesced and said, "*All right Mimi, just to show you that my dodo is not better than yours or my fellow man's, I'll take out the garbage, but this is the first and last time. Do you hear? The first and last time, because I can assure you my best friend Nelson, may he rest in peace,*

(Whimpers.)

would never compare his defecation to ordinary plebeians and I can assure you that he never took out the garbage..." Unfortunately, it was the first and last time, the only time. G-d Above, please forgive this tormented soul and grant me peace and serenity.

PENNY

It wasn't your fault that he was hit by a garbage truck, Mother. *Shit* doth happen, which still is not my favorite subject.

MIMI

And where, may I ask is your sister Melissa?

PENNY

Probably stuck on the train.

MIMI

I told her I would send James to pick her up in the city, but she said she'd rather take the train and a cab from the station when she arrived. Said she wants a chance to unwind. Unwind, from what? She doesn't work, all she does is shop, read, especially those Pat Conroy books, goes to museums and... you tell me.

PENNY

If you promise not to tell...

MIMI

(Raises hand.)
...Scouts honor...

PENNY

She's having a hard time with Jerry.

MIMI

With mild mannered Jerry? Why he's one of the most respected shrinks in New York City. How is that possible?

PENNY

Ask your daughter, Mimi. On second thought, you better not.

MIMI

You know she doesn't tell me anything and neither do you.

(WE hear the doorbell ring. After a beat MELISSA enters, with something Under her sweater and appears hunchback.)

MELISSA

(Hunchback, to Penny.)
Walk this way Igor.

(PENNY rises and walks ala MELISSA.)

MELISSA (cont'd)

(Removes sweater from under her sweater and gives it to PENNY.)
Put this on Igor and walk this way.

(PENNY puts sweater on and walks ala MELISSA)

PENNY

Better master, better?

MELISSA

(Sings 🎵)

Indubitably Igor, indubitably. "Hail, hail the gang's all hear..."

PENNY and MELISSA

(Sing 🎵)

"...What the hell do we care?"

PENNY

Hey Monkey.

MELISSA

Hey Penny. Got you that sweater at Bendels. Hope you like it?

(MELISSA and PENNY slap five, bump Asses and hug.)

MIMI

Hey, don't, I get a hey?

ELISSA

Oh, hey Mimi.

MIMI

Hello Melissa.

PENNY

How, about a little *vino* Monkey?

(MELISSA scratches self and grunts like a monkey. PENNY fills glass and Gives it to HER. MELISSA and PENNY sing. 🎵)

THEY CALL US SISTERS

MELISSA and PENNY

We're best friends 'til the end.

We talk everyday,

'Cause we gotta a lot to say.

We were competitive.
Like all kids we would fight,
Then make up 'cause we were polite.
Sisters, they call us sisters.

MELISSA

They call her mutt...

PENNY

...And call me Jeff.

MELISSA

I use my right...

PENNY

...I use my left.

MELISSA

She thinks she's pretty.

PENNY

She thinks she's witty.

MELISSA

But we know the truth.

PENNY

This chick is uncouth.

MELISSA and PENNY

We're best friends 'til the end.
We talk everyday,
'Cause we gotta a lot to say.

We were competitive.
Like all kids we would fight,
Then make up 'cause we were polite.
Sisters, they call us sisters.

MELISSA

She married a Yank,
This guy is a crank.

PENNY

She married a shrink.
All he does is think.

MELISSA

He takes his bat to bed,
He's out of his head.

PENNY

He says please go on.
Soon she will be gone.

MELISSA and PENNY

We're best friends 'til the end.
We talk everyday,
'Cause we gotta a lot to say.

We were competitive.
Like all kids we would fight,
Then make up 'cause we were polite.
Sisters, they call us sisters.

MIMI

How are you Melissa?

MELISSA

I'm okay Mimi.

MIMI

That's not what I hear.

MELISSA

Really, what have you heard?

MIMI

According to your sister, you're having problems with Jerry and I'm so sorry.

MELISSA

I don't believe it. You told Mimi that I'm having problems with Jerry? Why don't you take an ad out in New York Magazine and tell the whole freakin' world? That's the last thing I'll ever tell you sister.

PENNY

(Trying to avert attention, to Mimi.)

Promises, promises. And how come you don't bust her cookies about not calling you Mother, *Mother*?

MELISSA

Stop trying to change the subject! It was between me-and-you, me-and-you! Did I tell her about your all-star husband who brings his bat to bed? Why did you tell Mimi?

MIMI

Because I am your mother and since when did Lefty start bringing his bat to bed?

PENNY

Forget about his bat and why don't you bug her like you bugged me, *Mother*?

MIMI

I would appreciate you calling me Mother, not Mimi, or the old witch behind my back. Mother, your mother. Penelope called me mother before, didn't you?

(ALL stare, after a beat.)

MELISSA

Mother...

MIMI

(Moved.)

Yes, Melissa.

MELISSA

You're drinking wine Mimi, what happened to your martini?

MIMI

Your mother doesn't drink martinis anymore.

MELISSA

Well, goody for you, and why don't you get me and mother some more vino, and let's have a toast together, Penny.

MIMI

I'd like that and thank you for calling me mother, sweet heart.

PENNY

Mother, would you please call me Penny?

MIMI

Certainly Penny, and what about the wine, Melissa? I'm not getting any younger, you know.

(MELISSA goes to cabinet, gets bottle, opens it, pours and ALL drink.)

MIMI (cont'd)

How, prophetic.

MELISSA

What's prophetic Mother?

MIMI

We both married Gerald's. Unfortunately mine's gone.

MELISSA

And mine is on the way.

PENNY

Wanna talk about it Monkey?

MELISSA

Not, really.

MIMI

What's wrong? You can tell me, I'm your...

MELISSA

...*Mother*, I know mother.

PENNY

You might feel better if you get it off your chest.

MIMI

It's been so long since we've had a family discussion.

MELISSA

(Laughs, ala Groucho.)

I hate to say this lady but we've never had a family discussion.

MIMI

Can't we start? I know I'm not the mother I could or should have been, and since your father died, something has changed dramatically. Beside no more martinis, I realize how wrong, how self-centered I was, and I'm sorry that I've neglected and hurt the both of you...

PENNY

You can say that again...

MIMI

I would like to make amends, atone and make it all up to you. I know you are both beautiful, mature, married women and I'm proud of you, I really am, but can't we start all over? Please.

PENNY

I'm touched Mother.

MELISSA

So am I. Did you hear about the guy that went into an antique store and said what's old?

PENNY

That bad, huh?

(MELISSA nods yes and sobs.)

MIMI

Why don't you talk about it sweet heart? We're family aren't we?

MELISSA

He's driving me crazy. I know he's a shrink and a damn good one, but I'm not one of his patients. But, at this rate I will be. He constantly analyzes me and everything I say or do...

MIMI

Go on.

MELISSA

That's exactly what he says, "*Go on, go on, go on.*"

PENNY

(Sort of laughs.)

Go on.

MELISSA

Don't be funny, Penny. I'm the funny one, remember?

PENNY

How can I forget? You won't let me.

MIMI

Stop interrupting your sister and let her continue.

MELISSA

CONTINUE! He says that too: "*You may continue, go on, you may continue, go on.*" He doesn't stop analyzing me and it's driving me bananas and I can't take it. When, I told him I hated the smell of his stinking pot, he didn't stop smoking it. All he said was "*Go on, and may I continue. It has been documented that they smoked cannabis during the days of Cleopatra, even before. If it was good enough for her and I'm sure those lunatic Cro-Magnon smoked up a storms, it's certainly good enough for me.*" And now he takes pills, Ecstasy. How convenient. He writes his own damn prescriptions. What's next? Guess what he said...?

MIMI

...Go on.

PENNY

You may continue.

MELISSA

Exactly!

MIMI

Ecstasy sounds so exotic and you know, I used to smoke a little pot in college...

PENNY and MELISSA

We know Mother, we know.

PENNY

(Giggles.)

You may continue.

MELISSA

You are such a bitch.

PENNY

'Merci beau coup.'

MELISSA

And then he has the audacity to ask me why do I scream when we make love?
BECAUSE WHEN I COME I SCREAM DUMMY, I SCREAM, AAAAAAAH...!

PENNY

...I never scream.

MELISSA

And you know what he always says? "*Please continue.*" I could have fuckin' killed him a thousand times. We're doing it and he's analyzing me. Can you believe it?

PENNY

Go on...

MELISSA

... I don't want to do it with him anymore. We've been married ten fucking years and all does is analyze me.

(ALL sing 🎶)

IS THAT HIS ONLY FAULT?

MIMI

Is that his only fault?

MELISSA

Why, isn't that enough?

PENNY

Nothing's as bad as it seems.

MELISSA

Says who?

PENNY

He was a part of your dream.

MELISSA

Boo hoo.

MIMI

Don't be in such a hurry.

S. G180118dberg

Mimi's Story

1-1-18

Why not?

MELISSA

Loneliness really hurts.

MIMI

So what.

MELISSA

Is that his only fault?

MIMI

Why, isn't that enough?

MELISSA

Does he ever hit you?

PENNY

He doesn't have the balls.

MELISSA

Does he tell you the truth?

MIMI

Maybe once in awhile.

MELISSA

He doesn't lie or cheat.

PENNY

No, no and no and NO!

MELISSA

Do you like his kisses?

MIMI

Yes, yes and yes and YES!

MELISSA

What about his smell?

PENNY

Why he can go to hell.

MELISSA

PENNY

Nothing's as bad as it seems.

MELISSA

Says who?

PENNY

He was a part of your dream.

MELISSA

Boo hoo.

MIMI

Don't be in such a hurry.

MELISSA

Why not?

MIMI

Loneliness really hurts.

MELISSA

So what.

MIMI

Is that his only fault?

MELISSA

Why, isn't that enough?

MIMI

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I rest my case.

End of Scene 1

MIMI'S STORY

ACT I

Scene 2

**One week later.
11 A.M.**

**MIMI'S living room. In pajamas,
MELISSA is lying on the couch half
dozing. Wearing a bandana on her head,
MIMI enters with feather duster and will
dust throughout.**

MIMI

(Sings ♪ and dusts.)
"Oh, what a beautiful morning."

MELISSA

Good morning, Mother.

MIMI

(Happy.)
Good morning to you my beloved and yes it is a beautiful morning, isn't it?

MELISSA

I'm glad someone's in a good mood around here.

MIMI

The best, the very best.

MELISSA

And may I ask why?

MIMI

Because my little girl is home, you're home and I couldn't be happier. Did you sleep well sweet heart?

MELISSA

As well as could be expected, Mother.

MIMI

Did you have breakfast?

MELISSA

Juice, Cheerios, coffee and just what do you think you are doing, Mother?

MIMI

I'm dusting and isn't it wonderful?

MELISSA

You don't dust you've never dusted. Where's Martha and Agatha and the rest of your staff?

MIMI

Gone, I've let them all go. Naturally I gave them two months pay.

MELISSA

They're all gone, even James?

MIMI

No, James is the only one I still have, but soon as I get rid of all the cars, he's going.

MELISSA

Mother, who's going to cook and clean, answer, the phone? Why did you get rid of all your help?

MIMI

Because, I'm going to sell this big monstrosity, I've put it on the market.

MELISSA

What, you can't sell this house. It's my house. I grew up here and so did Penny.

MIMI

But, now you and your sister are all grown-up, aren't you? Would you please move so, that I can fluff the pillows on the couch? I'm sure some people will be coming to look at this old house.

MELISSA

You are actually going to let strange people in?

MIMI

Oh, they come with brokers, Japanese, Koreans, Italians and that Israeli, was he sexy. Unfortunately they were married, but if he wasn't... Have you spoken to Jerry?

MELISSA

Constantly, I got here last night and he had me on the phone 'til all hours of the night. I finally fell asleep at five this morning and he calls me at six. I could have killed him, and do you know why I look like I haven't slept? I haven't.

MIMI

He misses you Melissa.

MELISSA

He said he can't sleep without my leg and I said, "*Go on, what do you mean by that?*" He laughed and so did I.

MIMI

Go on, I'm just being funny. That was funny, wasn't it?

MELISSA

Ha, ha. Why didn't you tell me you put the house on the market?

MIMI

I didn't tell your sister either.

MELISSA

Why?

MIMI

Because, I knew you both would be upset and I didn't want to be talked out of it.

MELISSA

When were you talked out of anything?

MIMI

It's too big and the memories of your father are everywhere. His chair, two yachts, tennis-court, the Picasso, Chagall, his favorite, the Monet. The only thing I couldn't keep, because I knew it was leading to my ruination was his martini shaker. A little wine, okay, but martinis, never again. Despite his drinking and better than thou demeanor, I worshiped him. I guess I loved him the first time I set eyes on that gorgeous face of his. Romeo, Romeo, where forth art thou... my Prince Valiant, he was this rich, tall, good, looking aristocratic, Protestant, with blond hair and blue eyes and I was this short, dark hair, brown-eyed, poor hippie. We were so opposite and for some strange reason we fell madly in love.

MELISSA

(Grins.)

It was probably because of the pot you were smoking.

MIMI

Maybe at the beginning, but I didn't smoke very long, because your father disapproved.

(Sings 🎵)

As we both know, he was the ultimate law.

The ULTIMATE LAW

I thought he was a king,
He thought he was G-d.
He gave me ev'rything,
My life still was hard.

Didn't know how to feel.
Didn't know how to care.
His nerves were hard as steel.
He took me ev'ry where.

I fell in love with an Adonis.
They say love is blind.
I loved when he kissed me,
He thrilled me all the time.

He had the bluest eyes,
And the blondest hair.
His smile would hypnotize,
Away my despair.

When I told him the truth.
He laughed, said oh well.
And I felt so uncouth
My secret felt like hell.

I fell in love with an Adonis.
They say love is blind.
I loved when he kissed me,
He thrilled me all the time.

(The phone rings and both look at each other)

MELISSA

Choose you who gets it.

MIMI

Oh, okay, odds.

(Both put out fingers.)

MIMI

(Answers phone.)

I always hated odds, I really do. Hello... Hello Jerry, how are you...? Yes, she didn't

(Gives phone - grins)

sleep too well, either... Hold on she's right here... Talk to him.

MELISSA

(On phone.)

Hello Jerry... No, I'm not coming home... You know why, you know why... That's right, I can't stand your "*Go on, please continue...*" What do you mean, what do I mean by that? I'm not one of your \$200 an hour patients, I'm your wife and I want to be treated as such... We've gone through this before, haven't we...? No, you've promised and five minutes later, you're at it again... "*Go on, please continue,*" Please continue my ass...! Jerry, you have to stop calling me. I left you because I wanted to get away from you. I'm talking more to you now than when I was home... Fluffy misses me? Well, I miss her. I know she's my dog, but I couldn't take her because Mother is allergic... Jerry, I have to get off the phone, my Mother is dusting... Yes, she really is dusting and she's also going to sell the house... I was surprised myself... You have to be kidding. She didn't say she wanted to sell the Chagall or your Monet. They have to be worth a fortune... All right, I'll ask her, but don't count on it... No, no, I'll

(Hangs up.)

call you... But, don't count on it.

(The door opens and PENNY enters with a bunch of bananas, scratches self and prances ala monkey.)

PENNY

Monkey see...

MELISSA

...Monkey do...

(MELISSA jumps up, laughs and mimics PENNY, who gives bananas to MELISSA, who gives one to MIMI and THEY eat a banana.)

PENNY

You know what they say?

MELISSA

Do tell.

PENNY

The family, that eats together, stays together.

ALL

Hip, hip hooray!

PENNY

What's that thing on your head, Mother?

MELISSA

She's become a cleaning girl and she's going to sell this house, our house, can you believe it?

PENNY

Sell this house, you have to be kidding.

MELISSA

I wish I were.

PENNY

Anything else you'd like to share?

MELISSA

(Takes pills from pocket and offers.)

Well, now that you reminded me, there certainly is something I'd like to share. Now, if you *REALLY* want us to get closer, take one of these.

MIMI

A pill?

PENNY

What kind of pill?

MELISSA

A magical pill called, Ecstasy, and let me tell you, it is.

MIMI

Why, that's the pill I read about it in the paper. They're all taking it. Is it that good?

MELISSA

Better.

PENNY

You want me to take Ecstasy?

MELISSA

Trust me, it's fantastic, better than your ten martinis, Mimi. I know, boy, do I know.

MIMI

Really?

MELISSA

Gorgeous, the euphoria leaves you calm, serene and stoned. There will be no secrets
(Takes a pill, drinks wine and offers.)
between us, and I guarantee it will bring us closer together than we've ever been..

MIMI

I certainly would like that, wouldn't you, Penny?

PENNY

(Takes and swallows pill with wine)

I could sure use something, because I'm nuts, oh, what the heck, why not? Here goes.

MELISSA and PENNY

Mother?

MIMI

Ten martinis?

MELISSA

20, so do it!

(MIMI downs pill with wine and THEY look at MELISSA.)

MIMI

How long does it take?

MELISSA

(Snaps fingers)

Because it's pharmaceutical, and with the wine we drank, it will work just like that.

(There is a pensive silence. After two beats.)

MIMI

Oh, my G-d, do you feel what I feel?

PENNY

(Starts laughing)

I think so, I think so and I really love it. Do I love it, *wooo*, this, is unbelievable.

MIMI

(Laughing - Sobs.)

The two of you are so funny. I haven't laughed since...

MELISSA

Mother you were just laughing and now you're crying? Why?

PENNY

You miss Dad, don't you?

(MIMI nods no.)

MELISSA

You don't miss Dad?

(MIMI nods yes.)

PENNY

Listen lady, will you make up your mind?

MELISSA

If you don't miss him, why are you crying?

MIMI

Because I'm so happy my Melissa has come home. And she's slept in her room, and now that you're here, I have my two daughters, back on the ranch as they say. Penelope, I'd like to ask you something, I mean Penny. I'm sorry Penny, a momentary memory lapse due to my condition. I don't know, if it's aging or your Ecstasy, but, I am feeling no pain, and it's so much better than all those martinis. You know, I really love you Penny.

PENNY

Really...

MIMI

And Lefty doesn't really bring his bat to bed, does he?

PENNY

You remember what you want to, don't you Mother? How, convenient and if I wasn't feeling so good, I'd kill you Melissa. And yes, my all star Yankee brings his bat to bed and I'd like to shove it up, you know where.

MELISSA

Mind telling us why?

PENNY

When he's on a batting streak, which he always is, he doesn't let his bat out of sight.

MIMI

It sounds almost Freudian, doesn't it?

PENNY

You can say that again.

MIMI

How long has this been going on?

PENNY

Since we've been married, three years.

MELISSA

Did he take his bat when you went to Bermuda on your honeymoon?

PENNY

No, he took his glove.

MIMI

His glove, why did he take his glove?

PENNY

He was having problems fielding that's, why he took his glove. It's always one thing or another and I have to thank you Mel, because I am feeling no pain. Whew, this ecstasy unbelievable. Can you get more?

MELISSA

If and when I go back, I'll see if I can cop some from his private stash, and you must have had some honeymoon. Want to tell me about it?

PENNY

Between his bat and glove, there was no room in bed for me. And who wants to sleep with him? I don't.

MIMI

First Jerry and now Lefty? You're not thinking of leaving him too, are you?

PENNY

It's possible, *muey possible*.

MELISSA

It's that bad, huh?

PENNY

You got it.

MIMI

Should I get your room ready?

PENNY

Hold on Mother, I'm not coming home, and I'm not leaving Lefty, not now, anyway.

MELISSA

The Yankees will probably sweep the series in four games. In the off season, no bat and glove right?

PENNY

Right.

MELISSA

So, things will be honky-dory, right?

PENNY

Wrong.

MIMI

Wrong, what exactly is going on between the two of you? And remember, no secrets.

(Silence.)

MIMI (cont'd)

In every marriage, in every love affair, even between Adam and Eve, even though she ate the forbidden fruit, I say, blame it on Adam, because he didn't have the guts to offend G-d, so, he got her to do what he wanted her to do, eat it. They all want us to eat it, don't they?

PENNY

What a joke.

MIMI

They're all a like and even though, the most trying problems may arise, through time and memoriam, with a little understanding and compassion, it works out. Look at me and your father, may he rest in peace, he was this affected Presbyterian and I was this sexy little... and we were almost happily married for 40 years. Do you know why there are so many divorces now-a-days? Because, most people are so hedonistic, they don't have the time to give it time.

PENNY

I've given it three years and isn't that time enough? I'm still not satisfied.

MIMI

You're not satisfied?

(Sadly, PENNY shakes head no.)

MELISSA

Hey, I've been pissed and dissatisfied with Jerry for as long as I can remember, "*Go on, please continue, what do you mean by that?*" Remember? Blame it on Adam, right Mother? There's something wrong with all of them, but unfortunately, we need them, for without them, how would we ever climax?

PENNY

Climax, did you say climax? I haven't had an orgasm since I'm married. Excuse me, I
(Sings 🎤)
had one orgasm.

I WANT TO COME TOO

The reason why I'm so nervous.
The reason why I'm called a bitch
I've prayed at the church service,
Begging Jesus to take this itch.

Dear Lord it's driving me crazy.
And I really don't want to cheat.
You see I'm a sexy lady,
That has to get rid of this heat.

When I met Lefty, I thought he would fill all my needs.
When I met Lefty, he seemed so big and strong.
But I was wrong, my need have brought me to my knees.
What can I do?
I want to come too.

I've read about lots of women,
Who have the same problem as I.
I don't care about those women,
All I know is I want to die.

Maybe I should get a divorce?
Find someone who will fill my cup.
I've thought about it of course.
My husband just isn't enough.

When I met Lefty, I thought he would fill all my needs.
When I met Lefty, he seemed so big and strong.
But I was wrong, my need have brought me to my knees.
What can I do?
I want to come too.

MIMI

(Embraces Penny.)

Only one orgasm in three years? Too bad you don't take after me.

(Sadly, PENNY nods yes.)

MIMI (cont'd)

Well, why don't you see a doctor? I'm sure there are some medications you can take.

PENNY

It's, not me Mother, it's...

MIMI

...It can't be Lefty, why he's so big and strong. What's wrong with Lefty?

PENNY

Premature...

MIMI and MELISSA

...EJACULATION!

(Shocked ALL put hand to mouth in disbelief.)

MIMI

(Sways.)

Talking about my favorite subject, the peni.

MELISSA

That's penis.

MIMI
(Gyrates.)

Yes, penis. Does this Ecstasy make you amorous?

MELISSA

Why Mother?

MIMI

Because, I think I am.

PENNY

Really?

MELISSA

Who do you have in mind, Mother?

MIMI

Remember that gorgeous Israeli I mentioned.

PENNY

But, he's Jewish! He's a Jew mother?

MELISSA

You actually want a Jew?

MIMI

(Gyrates.)

He happens to be a gorgeous Jew that's hot-to-trot, and he likes little old me, can you believe it Monkey?

MELISSA

I wish you wouldn't call me monkey, Mother. You know I hate it.

PENNY

You hate it, since when did you hate being called monkey.

MELISSA

(Emotional.)

Since I was a kid.

PENNY

Really, I didn't know that. I always thought you liked it.

MIMI

When your sister was a little girl, she was very hairy...

MELISSA

(Emotional, SHE sings 🎵)

I COULDN'T TAKE IT

My arms were covered with this dark, disgusting hair.
I was a freak that's why I couldn't stand it.
The kids making fun of me called me monkey.
Wanted to run away, I couldn't stand it.

The girls, they never wanted to play with me.
When the boys, pointed and laughed, I couldn't fake it.
And Mother, all she did was drink as I cried.
I wanted to die I couldn't take it.

And suddenly my prayers were answered.
Electrolysis saved the day.
My hairy arms went away.
Jesus today, is why I pray.

I used to feel I belonged in the circus.
Children, step right up, well I wouldn't make it.
Then I thought that I should live with the lepers.
And all I did was cry I couldn't take it.

And suddenly my prayers were answered.
Electrolysis saved the day.
My hairy arms went away.
Jesus today, is why I pray.

PENNY

So, how come I don't remember all this dark, disgusting hair?

MELISSA

Because, you were so, young.

PENNY

But, I never saw all that disgusting hair you were talking about. Where did it go, what happened to it?

MIMI

She told you, we took her for electrolysis.

MELISSA

You, didn't take me Mother, Elsie took me.

MIMI

I know and I've never forgiven myself. At the time, I thought paying for it was all I had to do, but now, I see how selfish and uncaring I was.

PENNY

You were drunk Mother.

MIMI

Can you ever forgive me?

MELISSA

I'm trying.

PENNY

So am I.

End of Scene 2

MIMI'S STORY

ACT I

Scene 3

A week later.

MIMI'S living room. MELISSA is
speaking on phone.

MELISSA

(On phone.)

Six times, six times... It's twelve o'clock and you've called me since six this morning and in my book, that means six times, which is more than enough, so cool it...!

(MIMI enters happy as she vacuums.)

MELISSA (cont'd)

(Loud.)

MOTHER... MOTHER!

MIMI

Yes sweetheart.

MELISSA

(To Mimi who shuts vacuum to phone)

Would you please, I'm on the phone... Listen, Jerry, I have to go. Do not call me, do you

(Hangs up phone)

understand...? No, I don't want to speak to you again. Not today, anyway. Goodbye. And just what are you doing, Mother? You've been dusting these twenty-four rooms all week, night and day and I still don't understand it. Now, you're vacuuming? Why are you vacuuming?

MIMI

You know how allergic I am, and I think it's on your clothes.

MELISSA

What's on my clothes?

MIMI

(Sneezes.)

Your Fluffy's fluff. His dander is getting my dander, achew achew.

(The phone rings and both stare at it.)

MIMI (cont'd)

(Giggles.)

You are such a comedian. You want to choose, don't you?

MELISSA

Evens!

MIMI

Can I have evens this time?

MELISSA

All right...

(Both display fingers)

MIMI

Evens.

MELISSA

Odds.

(MIMI smiles as MELISSA answers phone.)

MELISSA

Jerry, I told you not to call me...! Who...? *Menachem* who...? Hold on, hold on, she's

(To Mimi

gives phone)

right here... It's some guy named *Menachem*. He wants to talk to you.

MIMI

(Flattered, almost sings.)

Hello... Of course I remember you Menachem... You loved my house and would like to buy it for your son...? No, unfortunately I'm not showing it at the moment, because my daughter is here... Yes, perhaps next week... Of course you can call me... Oh, flattery will get you everywhere, Menachem... It was my pleasure also... Yes, I hope we meet again too... Oh, Menachem, please stop it, my daughters are even more beautiful than

(Hangs up - happy)

I... Toodle loo. That was Menachem Hoffman.

MELISSA

And who is this *Menachem Hoffman*?

MIMI

You remember, he's that gorgeous Israeli I told you about, and he said I was beautiful.

MELISSA

He's probably after your money Mother, and have you forgotten, Israelis are Jewish.

MIMI

I know.

MELISSA

We are Presbyterian.

MIMI

(Swoons.)

He's so handsome and what a hunk and he said I'm so... He's the most attractive man I've ever had the pleasure of.

MELISSA

(Spells.)

Mother, he's Jewish. Don't you understand? J-E-W-I-S-H. Jewish.

MIMI

So, was Jesus.

(The door bell rings and both look at each other and put out fingers.)

MIMI

EVENS!

MELISSA

ODDS!

MELISSA

You lose lady.

MIMI

(Exits and goes to door.)

I forgot, I forgot. I hate evens, I always hated evens.

(After a beat MIMI enters with PENNY who has a suitcase and a bat.)

MIMI

(Almost singing ♪)

Look who's here?

PENNY

Hey Toots.

MELISSA

Penny, what a pleasant surprise. *'Que paso?'*

PENNY

'Que paso,' I'll give you *'que paso.'* I did it too.

MIMI

What did you do?

PENNY

(Shows bat and puts it down.)

You know what they say, sister see, sister do. I left Lefty and took his favorite bat. Now, let's see what he does.

MIMI

You didn't. Why? I know why, I know why, premature...

MELISSA

...That bad, huh?

PENNY

Thanks to you, I finally got the nerve to make a move.

MELISSA

Thanks to me? What did I do?

PENNY

Be it you're my oldest sister and that I've admired you since... when you left Jerry, because you couldn't take his crap anymore, I said, good for her, why should she be miserable? Life is too short, and you and I, we deserve to be happy, don't we? Why I'd
(Picks up and swings bat.)
like to put his *thing* right here and whack it with his freakin' bat!

MELISSA

The World Series is tied, doesn't he need his bat?

PENNY

I bet he does, but who gives a damn, and then when I did that Ecstasy, which was really an eye opener, like wow! When, I was telling you about Lefty's inadequacy, I had a revelation: I knew I had to leave him because, I'm a woman that has needs. Like you mother, we all have needs, don't we.

MELISSA

Would you really like to hear about your mother's needs? There's this Israeli Jew that's after her money and does she have the *hots* for him. Can you believe it?

PENNY

If you start dating a Jew, I will never forgive you Mother, never.

MIMI

Menachem hasn't even asked me for a date and why do you have such a distaste for Jews?

PENNY

Because they're just not the same, they're not normal, they're not like us...

MELISSA

...And they killed Christ, remember...?

MIMI

...Who was a Jew, in fact he was Rabbi and haven't you heard of Pontius Pilot and the Roman soldiers? They were responsible for his crucifixion and where did the both of get this prejudice? In the bible, it says the Lord loves blacks and whites, Jews and Gentiles.

PENNY

What bible are you talking about?

(WE hear the underscoring of the "Hatikvah" throughout.)

MIMI

The real bible, my bible, the *Old Testament*.

MELISSA

The real bible?

PENNY

...Since when did the *Old Testament* become your bible...?

MELISSA

And what do you know about the *Old Testament*?

MIMI

It is the first and only bible that is recognized throughout the world.

PENNY

We read The King James version, not your *old Jewish Testament*.

MIMI

Perhaps you should.

MELISSA and PENNY

MOTHER!

PENNY

And even if I wanted to read it, where would I get one?

MIMI

(Exits.)

Stay right here, I shall return.

MELISSA

Where is she going?

PENNY

I wish I knew.

MELISSA

I can't believe, she believes in the *Old Testament*. I'll tell you, since dad died, she's been absolutely *looney tunes*, nuts.

PENNY

What's gotten into her and why did she get rid of all her help?

MELISSA

Because she wants to sell this house that that money hungry, Israeli Jew is after. I'm telling you, they're all alike...

PENNY

...His name is *Menachem*, what kind of name is *Menachem* and he's after her money all right. All Israelis are always after our money.

MELISSA

And she's ready to forget she is a Christian and...

PENNY

...I really don't understand her, do you?

(MIMI returns with old bible.)

MIMI

Here, this is a real old bible.

PENNY

Is it the *Old Testament*?

MIMI

Yes, the *Old Testament*.

MELISSA

Where did you ever get an *Old Testament*?

(After a beat.)

MIMI

It was my grandmother's.

PENNY

Your grandmother's?

MELISSA

You never mentioned you even had a grandmother.

(PENNY and MELISSA look at bible)

MIMI

She was your great grandmother.

MY GREAT GRAND MOTHER?

MELISSA

MIMI

(Sings 🎵)

Yes, and I called her...

BUHBA

Buhba, she was everything to me.
Grandma, she was so small and petite,
But was she sweet.

Grandma, was my peace and security.
Buhba, who taught me like my mother.
Love one another.

She was my princess,
She was my angel from above.
She showed such int'rest.
She always gave me love.

Buhba, was wise and she knew it all.
Grandma, she always listened to me,
She *cuhtchied* me.

Grandma, she made the best chicken soup.
Buhba, who was wise as Socrates.
Always said please.

She was my princess,
She was my angel from above.
She showed such int'rest.
She always gave me love.

PENNY

And where was my great grandmother from?

MIMI

Poland, Bendine, Poland.

MELISSA

She was Jewish, wasn't she?

MIMI

Her father was a rabbi.

PENNY

Holy shit.

MELISSA

THAT MEANS YOU'RE JEWISH AND SO ARE WE!

(MIMI nods yes.)

PENNY

I can't believe it. Bad enough we're Jewish, but, Polish Jews?

MELISSA (cont'd)

Why didn't you ever tell us Mother?

MIMI

(Very emotional.)

I couldn't... When your father and I fell in love and we decided to marry, he said he couldn't tell his very rich parents, and I mean old, Rockefeller rich, that he was going to marry a poor, Jewish girl from the lower East Side, because, he feared that he would lose his inheritance. He made me promise and had it put in our marriage contract, which was highly unusual at the time, that if I ever said I was Jewish, our marriage would be

(Cries.)

Annulled. And if we had any children, he would get total custody, and I had a twin sister, Anna, who had cerebral Palsy and in those days it costs a fortune to be taken care of in a home. Your father said he would pay for her care, as long as my secret remained a secret. What could I do?

(Underscoring ends.)

PENNY

(Hugs Mimi.)

Oh, Mother, Mother, I'm so sorry.

MELISSA

I never knew he was such an uncaring bastard.

MIMI

He was uncaring because he was afraid of losing the millions he would inherit. All he cared about was money. It was always money, money, money.

MELISSA

After his both parents died and he got his five hundred million, what was his excuse then?

MIMI

He couldn't tell his inner circle of billionaires that he was a liar who was married to a Jewess.

PENNY

And you lived a lie too, didn't you?

MELISSA

How could you take it mother?

MIMI

I had no choice, I had no choice. When I gave birth and had two beautiful daughters, I would have rather died than lose the both of you, and my darling, misfortunate sister Anna, was cursed enough. She needed the home and the care she received, because she
(Cries.)

couldn't even clean herself, she couldn't do anything. She had polio and I was normal. We were twins: it could have been me, don't you understand? it could have been me.

(Phone rings and ALL stare at it.)

MELISSA

Since you're the youngest, be my guest.

PENNY

(On phone.)

Hello... Oh, it's you. What do you want...? It's the fifth game and you want your bat? Get another bat... You can't, it's your favorite bat. I'll tell you what you can do with

(Hangs up.)

your bat...! I'll give him his bat, right up his...

(Phone rings.)

PENNY (cont'd)

You get it, I don't want to talk to him. Of all the things, I can't believe we're Polish Jews...

MELISSA

(Sort of sings)

"...Double your pleasure, double your fun".

PENNY

Now I know how Madeline Albright felt.

(Sings 🎵)

DON'T TELL ANYONE

MELISSA

Does this mean we have to plant trees in Israel?
I heard that some of those women wear wigs.
Why do those men have to wear black suits?
At least I don't have a big nose and ears.

PENNY

Does it mean I have to learn to read Hebrew?
And speaking Jewish sounds so guttural.
What happens if I meet a Nazi?
And I hear the Ku Klux Klan hates a Jews.

MELISSA and PENNY

It could have been worse.
At least her mother wasn't black.
That would have been a curse.
And I would have blown my stack.

The world doesn't like Jews.
And I never understood why.
Looks like we'll pay our dues.
And I think I'm gonna cry.

MELISSA

Can't figure out why they are called the chosen?
May be it's because they were singled out.

PENNY

You know I really don't feel any different.
Do me a favor, don't tell anyone.

MELISSA and PENNY

It could have been worse.
At least her mother wasn't black.
That would have been a curse.
And I would have blown my stack.

The world doesn't like Jews.
And I never understood why.
Looks like we'll pay our dues.
And I think I'm gonna cry.

(Phone continues to ring and nobody moves.)

PENNY

This time, you get it Melissa, 'cause I don't want to talk to you know who...

(MELISSA picks up phone)

MELISSA

(Answering.)

Hello Lefty... Jerry, I told you not to call, didn't I...? No, I don't miss you. How can I miss you, if I talk to you every five minutes...? My mother is fine, thank you... Yeah, then she started vacuuming. No, I'm not kidding, she really started vacuuming...? Yes, how do you know that Penny's here...? He called you, I see... I know he needs his bat, Jerry. Fortunately, the world will go on, with or without Lefty's bat... No, she hasn't said a thing about selling her paintings... No, I didn't even mention it to her... That's right, we've got more important things to discuss... Like what, like what? I'll tell you like what. Are you ready? My mother is a Polish Jew... How do I know, how do I know? She told me, that's how I know, and I had a great grandmother that was born some where in Poland... Yeah, my grandfather was a rabbi. You're right, that means I'm a Polish Jew, too... What are you laughing at...? Who are you going to tell...? You wouldn't dare... We don't have a son, only Fluffy. What the hell are you talking about a *Bar Mitzvah* for...? You think they're fun, I see. Listen, call waiting, I have another call. No

(Clicks phone.)

Jerry, don't call me... Goodbye, goodbye... Hello, *Menachem*... How nice to speak to you too... Yes, I'm her daughter Melissa... My sister Penny's here also... It would be a

(Gives phone.)

pleasure meeting you too... Yes she is beautiful... She's right here, hold on... Mother, it's you know who.

MIMI

(On phone, happy.)

Hello Menachem, how are you. Fine thank you... Yes, it is wonderful having my both daughters here... I don't see why not. Next, Monday would be fine... I'm telling you, they are much more beautiful than I... Thank you, you're very kind. Do you flirt with all the women...? Oh, stop it you're making me blush... Fine, I'll see you next Monday. *Shalom* to you too, *shalom* to you too.

End of Scene 3

MIMI'S STORY

ACT II

Scene 1

Monday.
Noon .

MELISSA is dusting and PENNY is vacuuming.

MELISSA

Do you know why I'm dusting?

PENNY

The same reason why I'm vacuuming, and I hope she doesn't expect us to put on a different outfit every five minutes like her?

(MIMI enters wearing a stunning purple dress.)

MIMI

Ta raa, so, how do I look and you better not say a floozy.

PENNY

You look beautiful Mother.

MELISSA

But, you also looked beautiful in the pink chiffon and that turquoise jump suit...

PENNY

Personally, I thought you looked great in that brown maxi with the beige, silk blouse. Mother this is the forth outfit you've put on in the last hour. Aren't you tired?

MIMI

I just want to look perfect for him, that's all.

MELISSA

Mother he's not Adonis or Caesar Romero he's just an Israeli that's after your money.

MIMI

Oh yeah, wait'll you see him. And, he did say he was interested in buying this house.

(Doorbell rings and MIMI rushes to it.)

MELISSA

(Laughs to self.)

Evens!

MIMI

(Rushing, exits.)

You can have evens, this one's all mine.

MELISSA

(Sings ♫)

"Love is lovelier, the second time around."

PENNY

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Mother fell in love again?

MELISSA

With that *Menachem*, are you kidding?

PENNY

How, many times?

MELISSA

He's called four times and it's only twelve o'clock and you?

PENNY

Lefty's on his way to Atlanta, the game's tomorrow night. He called me on his cell-phone. If he doesn't get a hit, it's my fault. He said he misses and wants me back.

MELISSA

Does he want you, or his lucky bat?

PENNY

I wish I knew.

(MIMI enters with an enormous bouquet of flowers. MENNY, wearing a suit and tie is carrying two boxes of chocolates.)

MIMI

Look who's here and aren't these flowers beautiful? Say hello to Menachem Hoffman. Menachem, this is my daughter Melissa and this is Penny.

MENNY

(Shakes hand.)

Hello Melissa, it is a pleasure meeting you.

MELISSA

Like wise, Mr. Hoffman.

MENNY

Please call me Menny, because my friends do, and I brought these chocolates for the both of you.

MELISSA

(Takes box and is pleased.)

Why thank you Menny, how thoughtful.

MENNY

(Shakes hand and give box.)

And you must be Penny, a pleasure. Your daughters are even more beautiful than you said, Mimi. Truly an understatement, and your home is even more magnificent than I remember.

MIMI

Yes it is, isn't it Menachem.

MENNY

Please call me Menny, '*mon cheri*.' My friends call me Menny and with the Good Lord **(Touches Mimi.)** willing, we are going to become more than good friends, sexy.

MIMI

Oh, Menachem, you are such a flirt.

MENNY

Menny...

MIMI

(Flirtatious, she hugs him.)

Yes Menny.

PENNY

Would you like to see the rest of the house Menny.

MENNY

Not at the moment, thank you.

MELISSA

A glass of wine perhaps?

MENNY

It is rather early, but since this is such a special occasion, I would love some, but I must warn you, I have a low tolerance and when I drink early, I become a 'Yenta.'

MELISSA

'Yenta,' what is a 'yenta?'

MIMI

'Yenta' is a blabbermouth.

MENNY

And so it is. How do you know what a 'yenta' is, my dear?

PENNY

Because, your *dear* is Jewish.

MELISSA

Not only is she Jewish, she's a Polish Jew.

MENNY

Really, how wonderful. And where from Poland may I ask?

MIMI

My mother was born in Bendine.

MENNY

Oh, my G-d, my mother was also born in Poland. Our meeting, my dear is not serendipity, it was fated. Not that I am religious, but I am so pleased you are of my fate.

MIMI

Since we both pray to the same guy, I have a special bottle of claret that I've been saving and what better time than now?

MENNY

You are too kind '*mon amor.*' I enjoy claret so much, for it is so light and delicate as you
(Sings 🎵)
are Mimi.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE JEWISH

Even though you look like you are,
I can't believe you are Jewish.
To me you're like a shining star,
With six points means you are Jewish.

Le chaim, I drink to life.
I hope one day you'll be my wife.
Together, let's start anew.
I feel there's nothing we can't do.

With you I see a miracle.
How I sigh when I hear you laugh.
To me you are so comical.
Please, may I have your autograph?

Lets go dancing every night.
And then I'll take you to *Paree*.
With you everything feels right.
And I say what will be will be.

Le chaim, I drink to life.
I hope one day you'll be my wife.
Together, let's start anew.
I feel there's nothing we can't do.

(Kisses Mimi's hand.)

Mimi, I believe our meeting was fated.

MIMI

(Swoons, Sexy,

laughs.)

Oh, don't go anywhere Menny, I'll be right back to see what kind of 'yenta' you

(Exits.)

really are.

MENNY

(Sad.)

Your mother is the most extraordinary and attractive woman I've met since... And now that I found out she's Jewish, I like her even more, so look out, because...

MELISSA

...Because, why?

MENNY

Since my beloved wife, Leah perished...

PENNY

...Your wife perished? I'm so sorry.

MELISSA

You loved her, didn't you?

MENNY

She was everything to me, my breath of spring. We were married almost 40 years. The mother of my son Dov... and then... She was riding on a bus in Tel Aviv, when a young Palestinian sat next to her and detonated a bomb. They were both killed instantly.

PENNY

How sad, how truly sad. I'm sorry.

MENNY

Except for my son Dov, who I see now and then, unfortunately I am alone...

(PHONE rings.)

MELISSA

(Answers phone - hangs up.)

...Excuse me... Jerry not now, I'm busy and stop calling! Please, continue Menny.

MENNY

I was saying that I am blessed that I have my son Dov. He is a professor at Yeshiva University. He's coming to New York City to teach at N.Y.U. I believe this home is perfect for him, his wife Rachel and my six grandchildren, Abraham, Sylvia, Rivka, Lee, Trudie and Lenny.

PENNY

You're lonely, aren't you?

MENNY

More than I care to admit.

PENNY

You like Mother don't you.

MENNY

She is so exciting, so beautiful she touches my lonely, aching soul.

MELISSA

You're really not interested in buying this house, are you?

MENNY

I think this is a magnificent home and I think I would like to purchase it for my son and his family, for it would be ideal, but personally speaking, I am more enamored with your beautiful mother.

(MIMI enters with a tray with wine and glasses.)

MIMI

Shall we?

MENNY

Please allow me the honor, '*mademoiselle.*'

MIMI

(Charmed.)

'Mamsoile,' how charming '*monsieur.*'

(MENNY pours and gives wine.)

MELISSA

(Lifts glass.)

What shall we toast to?

MENNY

(Lifts glass and drinks)

Your mother and her beautiful smile. To my Mimi, may she smile on me forever.

(ALL drink and toast, "To Mimi.")

PENNY

The reason why Menny is so interested in this house is because he wants to give it to his son Dov, his daughter in-law Rachel and his six grandchildren, Mother.

MENNY

They are the love of my life, Mimi. Would you like to see pictures of them?

MIMI

I'd love to.

(MENNY take pictures from wallet and shows.)

MENNY

This is Abie, what a wise guy. This is Sylvia who is as beautiful as my Leah.

MIMI

She is stunning...

MENNY

And this is my beloved wife Leah, may she rest in peace.

MIMI

Your wife is dead?

MENNY

Yes, unfortunately.

MIMI

I'm sorry.

MENNY

It's been over six years, and now that I met you, I no longer have the need to mourn.

PENNY

Mourn?

MENNY

When Jews mourn for the deceased, we sit '*shiva*,' which means you sit on a small wooden box for one week. Me, I've mourned for six long years, and now, because of you and your beautiful smile Mimi, I will mourn no longer, because, suddenly I feel euphoric, alive. Mimi, I can't thank you enough for the joy and excitement you have given me.

MIMI

You're not doing too bad yourself, now tell me about your Leah and maybe I'll tell you about my Gerald.

MENNY

It is too difficult speaking of my past unless I have more wine. Shall I pour?

MIMI

Fill'er up mister, 'cause there's plenty more where that came from.

(MENNY, refills glasses and HE drinks his entire glass and refills it again.)

MENNY

I hope so, because I'm in the mood to converse and as you can see, good wine makes me talk.

MELISSA

'Yenta,' huh?

MENNY

Shhh, don't tell anyone, now, where shall I begin?

PENNY

Tell us how you met your beautiful Leah.

MENNY

Ah, yes, beautiful, exotic Leah, my own Ava Gardner. It was 1960 and we met on a 'kibbutz'. She was a nurse and I was an aspiring geologist when I met her. The first time

(Sways romantically)

I saw her, she was doing the 'Hora,' and the way she moved back and forth, was so sensuous. I fell in love with her immediately. She was a true Sabra, with long, black hair, dark eyes, golden, bronze skin and the most succulent, luscious lips I ever had the

(Looks at bottle of wine.)

pleasure of. I believe it is empty.

MIMI

There's more, we have a wine cellar filled. What would you like?

MENNY

Perhaps some champagne for this auspicious occasion?

MIMI

(Alluring.)

I have some 30-year-old Piper that should do the trick. I'll be right back, Menachem.

MENNY

Please wait, for the room is so much brighter when you are before me, and the wine can wait a moment.

PENNY

You are very lucky to have had such a passionate love affair.

MENNY

Unfortunately I had to learn.

PENNY

You had to learn how to love?

MENNY

Not how to love but, how to make love.

PENNY

I don't understand?

MENNY

Because, I am a little high...

MIMI

High is good.

MENNY

And because I feel so close to all of you, which, I yet do not understand, that is except for you '*mein gehleibte*.'

MIMI

Oh, Menny, Menny, '*mein gehleibte*' is so beautiful.

MELISSA

What does that mean, Mother?

MIMI

"*Mein gehleibte*" means my love in '*Yiddish*.' And I thought Israelis speak Hebrew.

MENNY

They do, but because my mother was from Poland and my father from Russia, they spoke '*Yiddish*,' to communicate and I had no choice but to learn. It was my first and favorite language. And I hope I am not too presumptuous, but I warned you, I have a low resistance when I drink so early.

MIMI

Which I find very attractive, '*mein gehleibte*.'

MENNY

'*Touché*,' and now I am going to tell you something that has been my secret, a secret I have never told another human being, for I have always been so ashamed. As I have told you, I was madly in love with my Leah and the hunger and thirst I had for her was undeniable, as deep as the ocean.

MIMI

My Gerald was also hot in the pants in the beginning. You men are all alike.

MENNY

Since we both were young, with little money, for our honeymoon, we camped on the Negev and pitched a tent beneath a bejeweled, star-studded sky. The evening was all I could ask for. We drank wine, I played my guitar and Leah sang and after we bid the moon goodnight, we went to bed. My desire for Leah was unbearable for I had wanted her passionately for the two years I had known her. I agonized and dreamt about making love to her every night; it was unbearable, all consuming and finally as we were about to make love for the first time on our wedding night, something terrible happened.

MELISSA

It was those Palestinians, wasn't it?

MENNY

(Emotional, chokes up.)

Not this time. Before I entered her untouched, pristine body, much to my disgust I couldn't contain myself and please forgive me, but, unfortunately, due to my over-anxiousness I arrived all over her. I was so forlorn, I started to weep, for, we both had awaited this sacred moment of bliss. Leah held and kissed me and told me it happened, because I had anticipated this moment for so very long and it was all right, for we would make love a thousand more nights, and we would always be together.

PENNY

So, what happened?

MENNY

Compassionate Leah told me that when we make love again, to think of the Psalms of King Solomon or the songs that David used to sing and whisper them to her.

MELISSA

How, beautiful.

MENNY

I did that, thousands of times, whenever we made love and thanks to my beloved, I never
(Looks up)
had that problem again. Thank you King Solomon, thank you David for my life with Leah was more than I could ask for.

PENNY

And I thank you, for you are an extraordinary man to divulge your inner most secrets to us, who you hardly know. How touching.

MENNY

In the eyes of our Lord, we are all one family of man, one precious family.

MIMI

I think it's time for that champagne, don't you, Menny? And I hope you still remember the Psalms of King Solomon and the songs of David.

MIMI

I haven't thought about them since...

MIMI

(Exits)

But, I hope you remember them, anyway, I shall return.

MENNY

May I join you?

MIMI

(Ala Mae West.)

What took you so long big boy? I thought you'd never ask.

(Holding hands, MIMI and MENNY exit.)

PENNY

Boy, talk about being hot in the pants.

MELISSA

They sure are attracted to each other and I think it's cute.

PENNY

Cute my, *kabooty*.

MELISSA

I don't know, Penny. I sort of like him. Not, only is he charming, his honesty disarmed me and his love and passion for his wife, mother could do worse, trust me.

PENNY

Since they're both Jewish, I guess it's probably okay.

MELISSA

And that unfortunately means so are we. Can you believe it?

PENNY

Too bad I didn't know it when I was at Dartmouth. Remember Michael Schwartz?

MELISSA

He was your first one, wasn't he?

PENNY

(Sings 🎵)

IT COULD HAVE BEEN LOVE

He was so cute, adorable and was he smart:
Class president.

MELISSA

(Sings 🎵)

I was thinkin', could he have been the next Lincoln?

PENNY

Was all I could ask for when he took me to bed.
Man, was he hot

MELISSA

Wish I had someone who was my forget-me-not.

PENNY

But I knew I couldn't get serious with him.
He was Jewish.

MELISSA

He was circumcised, but you tried him on for size.

PENNY

Instead of Jerry it could have been Michael.
Instead of a Jaguar, I would ride a bicycle.
I'd give up Lefty's bat and Lefty's glove,
It could have been love it could have been love.

Suddenly we are not Presbyterians?
We were deceived.

MELISSA

It could have been worse we're the chosen I believe.

PENNY

I guess we were fools thinking the Jews were not like us.
But I feel the same.

MELISSA

G-d the Higher Power plays in every ones game.

PENNY

Instead of Jerry it could have been Michael.
Instead of a Jaguar, I would ride a bicycle.
I'd give up Lefty's bat and Lefty's glove,
It could have been love it could have been love.

MELISSA

It could have been love all right, for the both of us.

PENNY

I guess being Jewish isn't all that bad, as long as we don't run into any Palestinians.

MELISSA

So, what do you think about being the chosen?

(MIMI enters with hair mussed and lipstick smeared. MENNY'S tie is undone, there is lipstick on his face and both look like they were smooching it up. THEY are holding each other and laughing.)

MIMI

(Almost laughing.)
We're back, with my favorite champagne.

(PENNY and MELISSA stare at THEM.)

End of Scene 1

MIMI'S STORY

Act II

Scene 2

The next week.
11 A.M.

Living room. Annoyed, MELISSA and
Penny are pacing.

PENNY

I don't care if it's his first night here or not, I will never make him or that floozy breakfast again. I mean the French toast is ice cold, the coffee is ice cold. This is ridiculous. What the hell are they doing, it's eleven o'clock.

(Sings 🎵)

SHE'S SCREWING A JEW

MELISSA

What do you think they're doing?

PENNY

(Sings 🎵)

You can bet that they're screwing.

MELISSA

Knowing her they're doing it.

PENNY

Knowing her she'll never quit.

MELISSA

Mother is a hedonist.

PENNY

Hedonists love to be kissed.

MELISSA and PENNY

What are you gonna do?
She's screwing a Jew.
And in our own house
That guy is a louse!

PENNY

Do you know what is funny?
He is after her money

MELISSA

And when he takes everything.
That's the last time he'll sing

MELISSA and PENNY

What are you gonna do?
She's screwing a Jew.
And in our own house
That guy is a louse!

PENNY

You know, I really can't blame her, because he is good looking.

MELISSA

Paul Newman good looking.

PENNY

And he's certainly charming...

MELISSA

...And honest...

PENNY

...And rich...

MELISSA

...And they're both Polish Jews.

PENNY

...Can you believe it?

MELISSA

(Finger to lips - laughs)

Shhh, don't tell anyone, but we are too.

(Phone rings and both stare at it.)

PENNY

Why don't you answer it? You know who it is.

MELISSA

I've already spoken to him three times. Want to choose?

PENNY

Not, really.

MELISSA

Then let it ring.

(Begrudgingly PENNY answers phone.)

PENNY

(On phone.)

Hello Jerry... Oh, it's you Lefty... I'm fine thank you... Don't you always win...? Do you really miss me...? I suppose I miss you too... I know this is the first World Series I've missed... I'm sorry too... Lefty, do you happen to know the Psalms of King Solomon...? No, I'm not kidding. What about the songs that David sang...? The David, that slew Goliath, not David Bowie. Do you know "*I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree...*" And my favorite, "*How do I love thee, let me count the ways...*" I love you too, always have. What about, "*Casey at the Bat?*..." Every ball player knows that, great... When, am I going to come home? I'll come home if you promise me something... Good, now this is what you have to promise. The next time we make love, you are going to whisper "*Casey at the Bat,*" to me... Why, because it will be wonderful... Yes, that's all and I'll come home... Of course I miss you silly. Good... I'll be home whenever... Bye honey and I love you too.

MELISSA

'Touché.'

PENNY

Save your *'touché'* and let's see if it works.

(MIMI and MENNY, wearing bathrobes, enter.)

MIMI

(Sings 🎵)

"Oh what a beautiful morning." Good morning children.

MELISSA and PENNY

Good morning mother, and good morning Menny.

MENNY

Good morning and how are the both of you this splendid morning?

PENNY

I'm fine, wonderful and thank you for being a 'yenta.' You have no idea how it helped..

MENNY

I don't know what this 'yenta' did to deserve a thanks so early, but you are certainly welcome.

MELISSA

We made French toast and coffee, would you like me to warm them up?

MIMI

Why that would be wonderful. Would you like some breakfast, my dear, and you should hear him sing, a regular Mario Lanza and he sang to me all night.

MENNY

Thank you and yes, I would like some breakfast.

MELISSA

Shall we Penny?

PENNY

By all means.

(**MELISSA and PENNY exit.**)

MIMI

Aren't they wonderful?

MENNY

(Grins.)

I wonder who they take after?

MIMI

Melissa laughs and jokes around, but she's really unhappy.

MENNY

I know, that's why she's here instead of with her husband.

MIMI

She really adores him and she misses her dog, Fluffy.

MENNY

So, why doesn't she go home and work it out.

MIMI

As I've told you, her husband is a psychiatrist. She left him, because she can't take being his patient anymore. He constantly analyzes her and it drives her crazy.

MENNY

I see... I have discovered, that people that bring their work home, generally don't have any other interests. What can Melissa do to refocus his attention?

MIMI

I hate to say this, but he is rather boring when it comes to having other interests.

MENNY

Does he like opera, jazz, sports, books, travel, stamps, and art?

MIMI

Come to think of it, he is somewhat of an art *aficionado*. He adores my paintings, especially the Monet. Hey, you just gave me a *brilliant idea*.

(Phone rings.)

MIMI (cont'd)

That has to be him and I'll get it.

(MIMI rushes to phone and answers it.)

MIMI (cont'd)

Hello Jerry... Oh, I just knew it was you... I'm fine thank you and yes, it is wonderful having both my daughters home, although I wish they weren't... I know you miss Melissa, she misses you too... No, I'm not interested in selling my paintings, but I'll make you an offer you can't refuse... Yes, I believe Brando said that in "*The Godfather*," and what do I mean by that...? No, Mr. Hoffman is not in the Israeli Mafia and no, I will not take out a contract with him on you, but I most assuredly will put it in a contract that you will have to sign for me. Yes, I will tell you, but you must swear that you will keep it secret. If you divulge one word, all bets are off... It concerns the Monet that you've always admired. Now, I will give you that illustrious painting on one condition, that you will never, and I mean never analyze my daughter again. Understood...? Well, let me tell you young man, if my Melissa ever tells me that you said, "Go on, please continue," in other words, analyze her, according to the contract that you will sign before my attorney, you will lose the Monet I am going to give you... That's right, give you... When can you sign? Composure Jerry, composure... Say, Monday morning at 11 A.M...? That's right, Park Avenue and 57th Street and remember, not a word to my daughter, or say *tata* to your Monet... Of course I won't tell

(Hangs up phone.)

Her you called... You're very welcome and remember Jerry, not a word. Goodbye.

MENNY

(Hugs Mimi.)

Not only are you beautiful, you are a loving mother that is all giving, lovely and brilliant might I add, and as sly as a fox. Just, what I like in a woman.

MIMI

What else do you like about this woman, mister?

MENNY

Oh, Mimi, when I'm with you I feel like a bull, 20 years old that's wants to sing forever.

MIMI

I noticed and those songs of David that you sang to me last night and this morning were so romantic.

MENNY

You know what they say, practice makes perfect.

MIMI

And you are so perfect, boy are you perfect.

MENNY

You aren't too bad yourself, lady

MIMI

Glad you noticed big boy.

MENNY

How could I not?

MIMI

You know how much I love my daughters, but I wish they'd leave, so that you and I could be alone and then, maybe we'll do a duet?

MENNY

I'd certainly like that *'mon cheri.'*

MIMI

Oh, Menny, when you call me *'mon cheri,'* my motor really gets going...

MENNY

And when I look at you *'mon cheri,'* I can't tell you what you do to me.

MIMI

(Sings and embraces Menny.)

"You do something to me, something that surely mystifies me."

(MENNY takes MIMI in HIS arms sings and dances.)

MENNY

(Sings 🎵)

"I could have danced all night, I could have danced all night..."

MIMI

(Sings 🎵)

"Oh, how we danced on the night..."

MENNY and MIMI

(Sings 🎵)

"...We were wed, we vowed our true lives, though a word wasn't said."

**(MELISSA and PENNY with suitcase watch THEM dance as they enter.
MIMI notices them and stops dancing.)**

MELISSA

Please don't stop, you look beautiful dancing together.

MIMI

Thank you, but where are you going Penny...?

MENNY

...And what happened to our breakfast?

PENNY

Your French toast is in the kitchen and I am going home.

MIMI

Oh, please don't go. We were having so much fun, and I don't want to be lonely, Penny.

PENNY

I don't think you'll be lonely anymore, Mother, not, with Menny here. And I truly want to thank you Menny. You have helped me in more ways than you'll ever know.

MENNY

That is the second time you have thanked me. Why, I do not know, but I humbly accept your thanks.

MIMI

And you Melissa, did you speak to Lefty?

PENNY

About a half-an-hour ago.

MIMI

And...?

PENNY

You tell me.

(Phone rings and ALL stare at it.)

PENNY (cont'd)

You know who it is Melissa, why don't you answer it?

(Begrudgingly, MELISSA answers it. Near by, MIMI will overhear conversation.)

MELISSA

(Phone, aloud.)

Hello Jerry... Not only did I know it was you, everyone here knew it too... You love me, you miss me and you want to come home. I'm not coming home to be your patient ever again... Why should I believe you this time? You said it a thousand times before, haven't you...?

MIMI

(Whispers to Melissa.)

Sorry for the intrusion, but perhaps he's changed. People, change you know?

MELISSA

(To Mimi on phone.)

Mother, I wish you didn't butt in. And you spoke to someone who is very important, a big shot and you had a revelation. Really... A metamorphous occurred and you realized how wrong you were analyzing me, how you, will never bring your work home again... Why should I believe you this time, Jerry, tell me why...?

MIMI

(Whispers to Melissa.)

...Because, he's a changed man, we all change you know.

MELISSA

(To Mimi on phone.)

Mother, will you please stop? I'm trying to have a conversation with my husband... You were saying... Fluffy doesn't stop crying all night? It won't work Jerry. You can't con me about Fluffy... You won't be a psychiatrist anymore, just to prove to me how much you love me. Are you crazy? You are one of the most respected shrinks in the city and what about all your patients? Absolutely not, I forbid it. Unless I come home immediately you're going to close your office and the hell with all your patients. If they commit suicide it will be my fault. You are serious, aren't you? All right honey, I'll come home, but remember... You'll never forget. I hope so. Yes I love you yes I love

(Hangs up.)

you, now, are you satisfied...? I should be there in two hours. Bye.

MIMI

Now you're going too?

MELISSA

Do I have a choice? He swore that he's a changed man and that he would never analyze me again, and for some strange reason I believe him, maybe, because I want to believe him. Oh, how I want to believe him.

MIMI

(Smiles.)

Go on, what do you mean by that?

MELISSA

Oh, Mother, you are so cute. How can I ever thank you?

MIMI

Thank you is unnecessary, you are my child and I am your Mother.

MELISSA

And a wonderful Mother might I add. It may have taken you awhile, but you did it Mother and I couldn't be more grateful.

PENNY

Hey, if you're going back to the city, don't you think you should pack?

MENNY

Why doesn't James drive you both, back?

MIMI

A splendid idea, *'monsieur.'*

MENNY

'Danke cham.'

MIMI

'Bitte cham.' And how many languages do you speak, *'mein leibshen?'*

MENNY

Eight, including Japanese and I believe it is time to bid both of you beauties *'sayonara.'*

MIMI

Japanese too. Is he perfect or is he perfect?

MELISSA

The perfect match.

PENNY

Hey, are you going to pack, or what?

MELISSA

I'm going I'm going.

S. G71ol71dberg

Mimi's Story

1-1-71

PENNY

Well, get a move on lady.

(THEY both exit.)

MENNY

And it's about time too.

MIMI

I thought they'd never leave.

MENNY

Now, where were we?

MIMI

Soon as they leave, you were singing...

MENNY

(Sings 🎵)

"Old man river, that old man river."

(THEY embrace as lights dim.)

THE END