

Characters

RENEE, an anorexic high-school girl.

PATTY, her best friend, a bulimic high-school girl.

Scene

Monique, the reigning anorexic queen of the Carpenters, has just collapsed and been taken to the hospital. Fellow Carpenter Renee is anxious to get there before her rival Jeanine does, so that Monique might name her as official successor. But Patty insists on throwing up first, causing them to be caught in the "after-lunch rush hour" in the girls' bathroom.

Author Note

When dialogue appears in brackets, feel free to update the cultural reference.

(A school corridor. RENEE and PATTY stand in line outside the girls' bathroom door. There is the occasional flushing sound.)

RENEE. What's the hold up? How long does it take these girls to spew?

PATTY. It's the after-lunch rush hour.

RENEE. Why don't you just spew at the hospital? There won't be a line there.

PATTY. If I wait any longer, I'll digest.

RENEE. All this standing. I'm getting tired.

PATTY. You're tired because you don't eat enough.

RENEE. Don't eat enough?! I don't eat at all.

PATTY. What is your body supposed to live off of?

RENEE. I'm heavier than I look. If you saw me without my clothes...

PATTY. I see you without your clothes all the time. You weigh yourself naked four times a day.

RENEE. I'm trying to get an accurate reading.

PATTY. All I ever see is bones.

RENEE. You're sweet.

PATTY. It doesn't look good, Renee...

RENEE. And don't start on Marilyn Monroe again, whatever you do...

PATTY. She was a...

PATTY / RENEE. Size 12!

RENEE. I know. Marilyn Monroe was JELL-O on springs. It was a different, slothful time. This is the millennium. We can't be all post-war. Yo Princess Dianas! Finish and flush!

PATTY. You were a twelve before we came to this school...

RENEE. I was a large ten! I had glands.

PATTY. You didn't have glands, you were naturally a twelve.

RENEE. And what is so great about nature? Nature is a fiend. Ticks, tornados, and malaria are "natural." I mean, don't go all crunchy on me. I swear every day is Earth Day with you around.

PATTY. Just because I put my soda can in the recycling bin...

RENEE. It was *fanatical*. Come on, we've got to get to the hospital before Monique buys the farm.

PATTY. I can't miss sixth period, I have a Biology test.

RENEE. Would you stop? What a schoolgirl.

PATTY. Don't you think Monique dying is kind of sad?

RENEE. Why? Look at the Carpenter. She's famous.

PATTY. Yeah, but she was famous for doing something.

RENEE. Rainy Days and Mondays. Please.

PATTY. Monique's not gonna be famous. I mean she's the third one at this school alone.

RENEE. The first one was really sad. You remember Andrea's funeral? We all cried so much.

PATTY. *(Correcting the pronunciation:)* Andrea.

(Toilet flush.)

RENEE. We have to get to the hospital before Jeanine.

PATTY. I don't know why you think Monique is gonna leave you for The Bradley.

RENEE. It's in the by-laws. In case of a tie the reigning Carpenter can choose her successor.

PATTY. Jeanine is her best friend. What makes you think she won't choose her?

RENEE. Solidarity. Jeanine isn't a true Carpenter. She's an obsessive exerciser. She went crazy when she couldn't figure out how to exercise her head.

PATTY. Is that why she talks that way?

RENEE. Yeah. Too much group therapy.

PATTY. Can't we go to the hospital *after* school?

RENEE. I have to be there for Monique now. In her hour of need.

PATTY. As if.

RENEE. Don't be all... I can be nice.

PATTY. When?

RENEE. I also want to be there for The Bradley. What, he doesn't deserve comfort just cause he's gorgeous?

PATTY. He doesn't even know you.

RENEE. That can only help.

PATTY. The Bradley must be getting tired of his girlfriends croaking.

RENEE. It's every man's fantasy. Rotating women without ever having to break up. Dead girlfriends are the ultimate pick-up line. Who's going to say no to a guy with a dead girlfriend?

PATTY. Have you ever talked to him?

RENEE. Why?

PATTY. Is he smart?

RENEE. Smart?

PATTY. I mean, what's he like?

RENEE. (*Impatient:*) He's The Bradley.

PATTY. You know what Tricia said? She said maybe The Bradley isn't that great.

RENEE. Just because there's no chance in hell for that fat little hen... After the monthly weigh-in, Tricia's gone!

PATTY. They'll really send her away?

RENEE. Ten and over. Gone! They divvy up her clothes. Talk about a tent sale.

PATTY. Who made up the by-laws? Where did they come from?

RENEE. Who knows? My mother lived on Melba Toast. Her Nana bound her breasts. They've always been there. Like celery and Seconal. Speaking of by-laws, Patty, you're still looking a little double-digit and you know the rules. Beyond an eight is beyond the pale.

PATTY. All I've got to do is balance out my binges and purges.

RENEE. Well you're on probation. You've got a week to lose five pounds. Err on the side of purge.

(*RENEE shoves PATTY through the door for her turn and follows her in. Loud flush.*)