

Truvy, Shelby, M'Lynn, Clairee, Annelle

TRUVY Let's just face it, Clairee. You're a woman coming to terms with her grips. You and I are in the same boat. My kids are leaving town and I've got a husband that hasn't moved from in front of the TV set in fifteen years. It's up to us to figure out why we were put on this earth. That's today's sermon. So, Shelby. Are you and Jackson going to live in West Monroe or Monroe proper?

SHELBY Monroe, of course. His law practice is there.

CLAIREE You are so lucky, Shelby. Louisiana lawyers do well whether they want to or not.

SHELBY I don't really care. Don't get me wrong. The money's real nice...but I just like the idea of growing old with somebody. My dream is to get old and sit on the back porch covered with grandchildren and say, "No!" and "Stop that!"

TRUVY Are you going to quit nursing?

SHELBY Never! I love it. I love being around all those babies... Last week we had this poor little fellow, two and a half months premature. He looked like a big rat. I kept talking to him and holding him. But I knew he wasn't going to make it.

TRUVY That's so sad.

SHELBY It happens all the time.

M'LYNN Drum and I feel that Shelby should not work anymore after she gets married.

SHELBY I'm so anxious to discuss this topic for the nine hundredth time this week...

M'LYNN You should not be on your feet all day. You should be kinder to your circulatory system.

SHELBY (*changing subject*) Annelle? I know you're new and all, but don't let that stop you. Anytime you have anything to say, you just let 'er rip.

ANNELLE I don't have anything to say.

TRUVY Well, M'Lynn. It looks like you're ready to roll. I think we can trust Annelle to roll you up, don't you? Do you think you can roll up Mrs Eatenton, Annelle?

ANNELLE I don't know. Today is very special. And my work tends to be too poofy when I'm nervous. Does your dress have to go over your head?

SHELBY You can't screw up her hair. You just tease it and make it look like a blond football helmet.

M'LYNN I must have missed the passage in Emily Post that said all abuse must be heaped on the mother of the bride. Go ahead, Annelle. I'm sure you'll do a beautiful job. It doesn't matter what I look like anyway.

TRUVY Hush girls, Shelby. Tell me things about the wedding. How many bridesmaids?

SHELBY Nine.

TRUVY Good Lord!

SHELBY Exactly.

TRUVY I hope that photographer brings a wide-angle lens.

SHELBY I think it's embarrassing and awful. But Mama made me have my cousins, and Margi St Maurice.

M'LYNN Shelby. There was no way around it and you know it.

SHELBY It will be pretentious. Daddy always says, "An ounce of pretension is worth a pound of manure."

M'LYNN The poet laureate of Dogwood Lane...

SHELBY Mama. I wish you would get off Daddy's back. He gets enough hassle from Miss Ouiser.

TRUVY (*the peacemaker*) What are your colours, Shelby?

SHELBY Blush and bashful.

M'LYNN Her colours are pink and pink.

SHELBY Blush and bashful.

M'LYNN I ask you. How precious is this wedding going to get?

SHELBY My colours are blush and bashful. I have chosen two shades of pink. One is much deeper than the other.

M'LYNN The bridesmaids' dresses are beautiful...

SHELBY And the ceremony will be too. All the walls are banked with sprays of flowers in the two shades of blush and bashful. There's a pink carpet specially laid for the service. And pink silk bunting draped over anything that would stand still.

M'LYNN That sanctuary looks like it's been hosed down with Pepto-Bismol.

SHELBY I like pink.

M'LYNN I tried to talk her into using peaches and cream. That would be so lovely this time of year. All the azaleas in our yard are peach-coloured. Peach is so flattering to every skin tone.

SHELBY No way. Pink is my signature colour.

TRUVY What colour is your dress, M'Lynn?

M'LYNN Peach and cream.

TRUVY Clairee?

CLAIREE Beige lace to the knee.

TRUVY I am wearing a sexy blue chiffon, Shelby. Jackson's gonna take one look at me and leave you behind in the dust.

SHELBY Mama's dress is gorgeous. It cost more than my wedding-dress.

M'LYNN It did not. It was on sale.

SHELBY That's what she told Daddy. What she actually meant is that it was "for sale" not "on sale".

The telephone rings.

TRUVY I'll get it. *(Answering)* Hello... Hi, Janice... Yes, I heard. I know it's an emergency...but today I'm dealing with Shelby...

But tomorrow's Sunday—but... *(Just to get off the phone)*
...Sure, fine...come by after church. *(She hangs up in disgust)*

CLAIREE Truvy, you shouldn't give up your Sundays.

TRUVY Well, you know how neurotic Janice van Meter is about her appearance.

CLAIREE *(to ANNELLE)* Janice is the current mayor's wife. *(Sweetly)* We hate her.

TRUVY Now Shelby...fill me in on the reception.

SHELBY There's going to be ferns and twinkly lights. There'll be magnolias in the pool.

M'LYNN I just hope your father doesn't get any magnolias from Ouiser's side of the tree. We'll never hear the end of it.

SHELBY The wedding-cake will be by the pool. The groom's cake will be hidden in the carport.

M'LYNN Shelby and I agree on one thing.

SHELBY The groom's cake. It's awful! It's in the shape of a giant armadillo.

TRUVY An armadillo?

SHELBY Jackson wanted a cake in the shape of an armadillo. He has an aunt that makes them.

CLAIREE It's unusual.

M'LYNN It's repulsive. It has grey icing. I can't even think of how you would make grey icing.

SHELBY Worse! The cake part is red velvet cake. Blood red! People are going to be hacking into this animal that looks like it's bleeding to death.

M'LYNN The rehearsal supper was an experience.

SHELBY It wasn't that bad. It was out at Jackson's uncle's place on the river.

M'LYNN They served steak and baked potatoes. They went to a lot of trouble.

SHELBY His family loves to barbecue.

M'LYNN For dessert they served an original creation called "Dago" pie. I think that says it all. Jackson is from a good old Southern family with good old Southern values. You either shoot it, stuff it, or marry it.

SHELBY They are simply outdoorsy, that's all.

TRUVY Did you all do anything especially romantic?

SHELBY We drove down to Frenchman's Point and went parking.

M'LYNN Shelby, really.

TRUVY Oh, boy. The romantic part. This is what really melts my butter.

SHELBY Then we went skinnydipping and did things that frightened the fish.

M'LYNN Shelby.

CLAIREE It's been a long time since we've had a youngster in this place, hasn't it?

SHELBY We talked, and talked, and talked...

TRUVY I love those kinds of talks...in the arms of the man you love.

SHELBY Actually we fought most of the time.

TRUVY What?

SHELBY Because I told him I couldn't marry him.

Shock all around.

M'LYNN What?

CLAIREE Why would you go and do a thing like that?

SHELBY It's OK now. We worked it all out.

TRUVY Oh. It was just one of those last-minute jitter things.

SHELBY No. But the wedding's still on.

TRUVY Thank goodness. (*Pointing to SHELBY's hair-style*) 'Cause this is going to be in the hair-do hall of fame.

CLAIREE You scared us, Shelby. That wasn't a nice thing to do to your mama. You should never say something like that to a woman who's marinating fifty pounds of crab claws.

TRUVY Oooo. Making up can be extremely romantic. I'm jealous. I miss romance so much.

CLAIREE Truvy. It can't be that bad.

TRUVY The last romantic thing my husband did was in nineteen seventy-two. He enclosed this carport so I could support him! Very nice, Annelle. I think you know what you're doing.

ANNELLE Thank you. Mrs Eatenton, you have great hair. And your scalp's clean as a whistle.

M'LYNN I try.

TRUVY Must run in the family. Shelby. You have such pretty hair...so thick...

SHELBY's head is beginning to drop forward. She resists TRUVY's touch.

Hold your head up, darling.

SHELBY Stop it.

TRUVY Shelby? Shelby? M'Lynn!

Upon realization, M'LYNN springs into action. There is no alarm, just efficient action.

M'LYNN Oh honey.

CLAIREE (*also aware*) I'll get some juice.

CLAIREE exits into the kitchen.

M'LYNN Truvy. There's some candy in my purse.