

Romance Senior Style: The Singles Cruise

Sherry Churchill





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ROMANCE SENIOR STYLE: THE SINGLES CRUISE

by

Sherry Churchill

CAST

JANE WESTON: In her sixties, nice personality, attractive, professional looking.

DOTTIE TAYLOR: In her sixties or early seventies, a bit overweight, jovial and boisterous.

WAITRESS: Any age, she is dressed as the cruise line waitstaff. Experienced and efficient.

JASMINE ELLIS: In her sixties, attractive. She has had a few too many cosmetic procedures, has bleached blond hair, tight pants, low-cut blouse, and high heels.

RICHARD: In his sixties, attractive, and well-dressed.

YOUNG WOMAN: In her twenties, she is very sexy in a short dress and heels. She has long blonde hair.

Place
At Sea.

Time
The present.

ROMANCE, SENIOR STYLE

Female Version

Setting: The deck of the Cruise Ship Folly. Three lounge chairs are set in a line, facing the audience at center. Each chair is flanked by side tables.

At Rise: Jane is sitting in chair right, when Dottie enters from left with a margarita, followed by a waitress carrying a pitcher of margaritas and two extra glasses on a tray. Dottie sits in chair center, the waitress places the tray on the table between the women, and exits. During the first part of the play, the waitress will enter and replace the full pitcher as necessary)

DOTTIE: Keep 'em coming, honey. Room 326. *(She glances at Jane)* How about a margarita?

JANE: I don't really drink, thank you.

DOTTIE: Well, you should have a drink today. We're on a singles cruise made up of mostly women, I'm alone, you're apparently alone, and today is my birthday. This pitcher of margaritas is my birthday present to myself. Won't you share it with me?

JANE: *(she closes her magazine)* Well, when you put it that way, I might have just one. Happy Birthday. *(Dottie pours Jane a drink).* Margarita's are kind of fattening, aren't they?

DOTTIE: Well, first of all, I'm not fat, I'm fluffy. We don't use the 3-letter "F" word around here.

JANE: Oh, I didn't mean you! I'm on a diet.

DOTTIE: Who isn't? Here's your drink. Bottoms up!

(Jane and Dottie toast, then both take a drink)

DOTTIE: My name is Dorothy Taylor, everyone calls me Dottie, what's yours?

JANE: Jane. Jane Weston. Everyone calls me...well...Jane.

DOTTIE: Well, you're not plain-Jane, that's for sure. You look like a very classy woman. I'll bet you have a lot of men fluttering around.

JANE: I've been divorced for several years. I guess I'm a little shy around men when I don't know them very well, so I've pretty much stayed to myself.

DOTTIE: Well, we can't have that, now can we? Not on this cruise!

JANE: I used to like to think I was easy to live with, but I think my problem was that I put my career and success in front of my marriage. Most men don't like that. My husband used to say I had too much testosterone.

DOTTIE: Hahah! You don't seem the type!

JANE: Well, I guess when it comes to work I do, particularly when I started making more money than he did.

DOTTIE: You go, girl! Good for you! What you need is a man who has lots of his own money and is confident enough to handle a strong woman! I like you!

JANE: *(smiles)*. Well, thank you, Dottie. How about you?

DOTTIE: Oh, you don't want to hear my sad story.

JANE: Of course I do!

DOTTIE: No, no, no, no, no. Now, listen. I am a terrific matchmaker. So, here's what I want to know. Are you a bit of a cougar?

JANE: A what?

DOTTIE: Cougar. You don't know what a cougar is?

JANE: It's an animal. A big cat.

DOTTIE: *(tickled)* I can't believe you don't know what a Cougar is! EVERYBODY knows what a cougar is!

JANE: Forgive me, I'm not sure what you are –

DOTTIE: (*whispering*). It's when you like 'em younger!

JANE: I'm not sure I'm following you.

DOTTIE: Oh, for Pete's sake – younger men! Cougars are women who like younger men! (*JANE is embarrassed*). Obviously you've been sheltered much of your life. It's a good thing we met. I'll get you fixed up.

JANE: To be perfectly honest, I'm not really looking for a man of any age.

DOTTIE: WHAT????? That's ridiculous! Who makes you breakfast and rubs your feet? You must be miserable! Honey, someone has to teach you how to live. I'm a red-hatter from way back and I meet life head-on. So I'm about to impart some female wisdom. Fasten your seat belt.

JANE: My goodness, this margarita is delicious!

DOTTIE: Well, have some more, honey! It's a bottomless pitcher today!

JANE: Thank you!

DOTTIE: Now, first I'll tell you about men. You've got rich ones who are generous, and rich ones who are stingy. The stingy ones outnumber the generous ones. Sad, but true.

JANE: Money really isn't an issue for me.

DOTTIE: Well, it will be if you meet up with the second type of man: the out-of-work man who is on the hunt for a rich widow. Then, money will matter to you. One time, I dated a local TV weatherman; I thought he was well off. Turns out, he lived in a 5th wheeler on a rented lot. On our first date he was sizing up not only my house and the tools in my garage, but the length of my driveway for parking his trailer! First date! Then, when he accidentally kicked over the dog's water dish, he stepped out of my way for me to clean it up! That was a one-date deal, there.

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