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ACT ONE, SCENE 1

SET IS TWO HOMES, SIDE BY SIDE. LIVING ROOMS ARE NECESSARY; OTHER ROOMS CAN BE CREATED AS SPACE DICTATES. A COMMON AREA WITH MAILBOXES IS OUTSIDE. BOTH HOMES ARE TYPICAL UPPER CLASS SUBURBAN. BOTH ARE DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAYS, BUT JANET AND RICH'S A LITTLE MORE SO, AND JANET LIKES SANTAS. SADIE AND VANCE ENTER THEIR HOME FROM THE GARAGE. THEY HAVE BEEN ARGUING.

SADIE

All I'm saying is that it's freezing out, and when it's freezing, I'm accustomed to my ass being warm, and I don't like it when it isn't.

VANCE

(appraising)

Your ass is more than warm, Sadie; it's hot.

SADIE

Okay, then, I like it hot. I'm not comfortable when it's not hot, and I'm asking you to please do something about it.

VANCE

You can drive it down to the dealer as well as I can.

SADIE

It's a car thing, Vance. And it takes time. And you know I don't like going down there.

VANCE

Because that mechanic looks at you.

SADIE

Leers at me.

VANCE

He finds you attractive. It's a compliment. You can handle it.

SADIE

And you can handle cleaning the shower or changing the sheets, but I never ask you to because if I did, it would never get done.

VANCE

Because I wouldn't care if it got done.

SADIE

That's how it works in your head? You do what matters to you, I do what matters to me, and how lucky if we happen to agree? We're supposed to be a team.

VANCE

We are a team.

SADIE

Right, you're just benched while I run the household and do most of the parenting.

VANCE

We were talking about asses. How did we get here? How do we always get here?

SADIE

We got here because you never think I have a point, and you--

VANCE

Have no idea what you go through, and you never get a moment's rest, and is it any wonder you put off sex half the time, blah blah blah.

SADIE

And just like that, you reduce it to sex.

VANCE

Because we're good there. You know we are. When we're there.

SADIE

We always have good sex. But it's better when we're good, too.

VANCE

But good is still good, right?

SADIE

You're infuriating.

VANCE

But I do have a hot ass.

SADIE

Exactly. Your benched ass is hot, so you don't give a shit about mine.

VANCE

I'm not talking about the damned car! I'm trying to flirt with you.

SADIE

Try cleaning the house.

VANCE

(regrouping)

Come on... You used to care that my ass was hot.

SADIE

And you used to care if *mine* was.

VANCE

Baby, it still is.

(trying to get close again)

SADIE

You know that's not what I mean.

VANCE

But still...

(he kisses her)

It's one of your best assets.

(SADIE groans at his corny
joke, melting despite her
anger)

VANCE

C'mon... Alison won't be home for an hour, right?

SADIE

Vance, you can't fix everything this way.

VANCE

We have an opportunity, Sade. Can't we put it on hold?

SADIE

In the storage bin with the job offer and all the other
things you put on hold? That's a mighty big bin.

(VANCE goes behind her and
starts rubbing her shoulders)

Vance, come on, can we please talk about...

VANCE

(kisses the back of her neck)

Mmmm... You smell so good...

SADIE

Come on, you know I hate it when you...

VANCE continues to kiss her neck and
reaches the hollow of her throat. SADIE
lets out a moan of surrender.

SADIE

Will you take the car to the dealer?

VANCE

You want to be hot? You want me to make you hot?

(VANCE starts getting louder)

RICHARD is walking up his walk, and goes to get his mail.

RICH

(to woman across the street)

Hey Nancy! Lester's Christmas balls look great!

(in response to Nancy's chastising)

Ornaments. Whatever.

(turning toward house shaking his head)

Some people are so uptight.

RICH continues up his walk, overhears.

VANCE

I WILL MAKE YOUR ASS HOT!

RICH smiles to himself, stops to listen.

VANCE

IT'LL BE THE HOTTEST ASS ON HONEYSUCKLE LANE! COME ON BABY, GIVE IT TO ME!

RICH chuckles, goes into his house.

SADIE

Vance, the neighbors will hear!

VANCE

So what, you've never been shy...

VANCE moves in to continue kissing her, but SADIE has had time to regroup.

SADIE

Oh!

VANCE

(mistaking this for enthusiasm)

That's it...

SADIE

Oh no!

VANCE

What?

SADIE

I have to make cupcakes for the Girl Scout meeting tonight!

VANCE

Screw the cupcakes. I'll get some from [local grocery].

SADIE

It's my turn to make something. You know how those women are.

VANCE

For Christ's sake, Sadie, do you think the kids care if their cupcakes have organic sugar? The high is the same, trust me.

SADIE

Just let me get them started. It'll only take a few minutes.

VANCE

Fine. Go start them. I'm going to check my e-mail.

SADIE

I'll hurry.

VANCE

Forget it.

(exits)

SADIE

Sorry, Vance...

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

THE NELSON HOUSE. OVER END OF LAST SCENE, RICH HAS ENTERED, REMOVED HIS COAT, SET DOWN HIS BRIEFCASE.

JANET

(off stage)

Rich, is that you, honey?

RICH

It's me. I had a meeting in [local town], so I decided to just come home to my sweet, loving, sexy wife instead of going back to the office.

JANET enters; they share an affectionate kiss

RICH

How was your day off?

JANET

I thought the department could handle one day of interviewing without me, but the phone didn't stop ringing.

RICH

HR never rests.

JANET

In between, it was PTA politics. I did manage to get some Christmas shopping done.

RICH

Christmas shopping?

JANET

It's so much easier to shop for toys on-line.

RICH

Indeed it is.

JANET

(love pats him)

For Jake.

(beat, suggestively)

Do you want Santa to bring you some toys?

RICH

(as Santa)

Sit on my lap and I'll give you a toy.

JANET

Rich!

RICH

What? You're always trying to drag me into all your
 (motions around the house)
 Santa magic.

JANET

I know, but Santa can't be horny.

RICH

All right, all right...
 (looks at her)
 But you do look good.
 (kisses her again)

JANET

What's up with you?

RICH

They're at it again.

JANET

Who?

RICH

Our neighbors, the Lewises. Right in the kitchen, it sounded like.

JANET goes to walk toward window as if she might be able to see, RICH pulls her into a hug, and grabs her butt.

RICH

He was screaming about her hot, sexy ass.

JANET

Oh my...
 (they kiss deeply)

RICH

And it made me think about your hot, sexy...

JANET

(kissing him back, musing)
 They are an attractive couple. He reminds me of that one guy... oh what was his name... the ones we met in Jamaica that first year. She had a beauty mark on her chin and that adorable little lisp...

RICH

Victoria. Damn, that lisp was tho thexthy... I don't remember him so well...

JANET

Ha! I bet you don't.

(JANET moves toward the window,
as if she can catch a glance
at Vance.)

But he had that same way of walking, just the tiniest bit of
swagger, enough to make you wonder what he was so confident
about, but not enough to be arrogant.

RICH

You remember all that?

JANET

(another kiss)

And more...

(she whispers in his ear)

RICH

Really?

JANET

Jealous?

RICH

(shrugs, glances toward the
Lewis house again)

Still... that Sadie Lewis is one hot burrito.

JANET

Rich...

RICH

What? I was just thinking we should maybe have them over for
dinner some time. They're our neighbors.

JANET

(teasing)

Nancy and Lester are our neighbors, and we've never had them
over.

RICH

Janet, I think Nancy would keel over if she even saw a one
gun salute.

(looking across the street,
musing)

Maybe that's why they don't have any kids.

JANET

(over Rich's last line)

I thought this was about being neighborly.

RICH

It is, but--

JANET

But seriously, Rich. They live next door.

RICH

So wouldn't it be *neighborly* to invite them over for some wine? You cook up your fabulous lasagna, we get to know each other a little.

JANET

Jake rides the bus with their daughter.

RICH

All the more reason.

JANET

What's the point?

RICH

Maybe we have a lot in common.

JANET

Is that wishful thinking?

RICH

Should we bet on it?

JANET

Noooo...

RICH

Let's at least have them over.

JANET

Maybe when the weather gets warmer. We can have them over for an outside barbecue. We can use the new deck.

RICH

That's a great idea; we'll invite them into the hot tub.

JANET

Maybe not such a great idea.

RICH

Relax, Janet. We'll have the neighbors over. It'll be fine.

(moves to kiss her again)

Did I mention that he was telling her what a hot, sexy ass she had?

JANET

I believe you did. But tell me more...

RICHARD

What time does Jake get off the bus?

JANET

We have an hour.

RICH

(takes off his shirt and kisses
her again)

What are we standing here for?

JANET raises her arms; RICH takes off
her shirt

RICH

Donald Pump is calling a very important meeting...

They fall to the floor kissing; fade
out