

SCENE 5 SIDES
(EMMA and AURORA talking on the
phone)

EMMA

Hi Mom.

AURORA

How did you know it was me?

EMMA

Please. I've been married for five years and there hasn't been a morning when it wasn't you.

(EMMA puts the phone between cheek
and shoulder as she tries to multi-task.)

EMMA

Could we talk later? I've gotta get Tommy ready for school and I have to take Melanie to the pediatrician. It's not a good time for me to be on the phone.

AURORA

Don't be so inconsiderate.

(Just then, we hear the splash of
GARRETT in the pool, next door.)

AURORA

(To herself:)

For a degenerate, he's an awfully early riser. Now then, I've gotten myself all set for a nice talk with you. You have almost an hour to get the boys off. What's wrong?

EMMA

Nothing.

AURORA

Nonsense. What's wrong?

EMMA

Okay, Mother. I'd like you to loan me some money. I really and truly need it. Will you?
(AURORA says nothing.)

EMMA

Don't be quiet. You know how hard it was for me to ask. Say no if you want to . Just don't be quiet.

AURORA

I'm sorry , sweetheart. I was just thinking.

EMMA

Thinking what?

AURORA

How much I hate to part with money .

EMMA

Mama, I wouldn't ask, except...well, don't yell, but I think I might be pregnant again.

AURORA

Oh, no! Oh, no! Are you sure?

EMMA

I haven't been to the doctor yet but I feel like something's going on down there.

AURORA

And if you are pregnant...I suppose you're going to go ahead and have it?

EMMA

Yes, of course. What's happening to you, anyway?

AURORA

Don't act like it's so terrible. I keep hearing about bright young women who are having simple abortions. You can go right there in Iowa and get one.

EMMA

I don't know why I tell you anything. I seem to like you less and less.

AURORA

That's because I'm the only one who tells you the truth. Emma, how is your life going to get any better if you keep having children with that man? How?! What miracle is going to take place and rescue you?

EMMA

Leave me alone. I need the money. Why not just give me my painting to sell? You always promised me the Klee.

AURORA

No! That's your security! I'm not going to let you use it for rent.

EMMA

Mom, let's not do this. I'll speak to you later.

AURORA

If the money is really that...

EMMA

No, don't give me the money. It would make you crazy.

AURORA

(Realistically :)

Yes it would.

EMMA

Call me tonight if you want to. We really got to get going. I've gotta pick Patsy up at the airport. She's coming for a visit.

AURORA

Patsy would have an abortion.

EMMA

Goodbye, Mama.