

**COSMO GIRLS**

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Cast of Characters:

RACHEL (50 - 55)

(JILL (50-55))

Open: hospital waiting room, early morning.  
Small and basic. Chairs grouped in pairs. JILL  
(50's) sits in the empty room. In front of her is a  
small coffee table with a paper coffee cup and  
strewn with worn magazines. A plexiglass stand  
holds some brochures. Rachel (50's) enters and  
sits next to Jill.

RACHEL

I'm checked in. You really don't have to stay. I'm fine.

JILL

Shut up.

RACHEL

The parking is going to cost a fortune. You should have just dropped me off.

JILL

Shut up. You can pay for the next coffee. Want me to go grab us some?

RACHEL

You want more of this swill?

Rachel holds up her cup. It has the name of the  
shop "Coffee Joy" on it.

JILL

Why does hospital coffee have to be extra disgusting? It's adding insult to injury.

RACHEL

Literally.

JILL

I could grab you a scone or something though, they looked sort of edible.

RACHEL

I can't eat.

JILL

Are you sure? It's no problem.

RACHEL

Stop fussing.

JILL

Sorry.

Rachel looks at her watch.

RACHEL

We're way too early. I'm going to lose my mind sitting here.

JILL

I wanted to be sure we were on time.

RACHEL

I've been up since about six anyway, pacing.

JILL

Want to take a walk?

RACHEL

No.

Beat.

JILL picks up an old Cosmopolitan magazine  
from a stack on the the table.

JILL

Whoa, Rachel, check this out! Have we time-traveled?

RACHEL

I haven't seen a Cosmopolitan in forever! What are these, like twenty years old?

JILL

Total relics. There must be some central depot somewhere where doctors and dentist  
offices stock up on these things.

RACHEL

So much better than those boring decor magazines. The ones where every kitchen looks  
like a surgical suite.

JILL

Flips through the magazine.

Look at the outfits. Can you imagine wearing those shoes to the office?

RACHEL

I'd be in a wheelchair by lunch.

Jill shows Rachel a page.

RACHEL

How much hairspray to hold up that updo?

JILL

I think this model was personally responsible for the thinning of the ozone layer.

Jill keeps flipping.

JILL

You know, day-to-night dressing came up a lot less frequently than we were led to believe. Ooh, the quiz! Remember these?

RACHEL

Of course! My old roommate and I used to do them every month. They were all something like "Which Cocktail Best Describes Your Sex Life"?

JILL

And?

RACHEL

Back then? Maybe a sex on the beach. Or a screaming orgasm. Now it would be more like a dry martini.

JILL

Peri-menopause is a bitch.

RACHEL

I'm a bitch, that's for sure.

JILL

It's impossible to tolerate people now when most of the time all you want to do is set them on fire.

RACHEL

Thank god for hormone replacement therapy.

JILL

Sing it, sister.

RACHEL

Unless...maybe I shouldn't have been taking it. My sister-in-law told me I should just eat wild yams and maca root and do more yoga. Maybe that's what -

JILL

Respectfully, your sister-in-law is an idiot.

RACHEL

But there are warnings, right? Could cause a higher risk? What if all this is my own fault just because I didn't want to get frozen shoulder and deal with hot flashes?

JILL

Rachel, please don't spin out. We don't know anything yet, okay? Except for the absolute fact that nothing about this is your fault.

RACHEL

Right, I know.

JILL

Plus hot flashes are no fucking joke.

RACHEL

They are not.

JILL

I was at one of Jeremy's work events a couple of years ago and I had to keep leaving to go stand outside in the snow. He told me later that everyone thought I was doing cocaine in the bathroom.

Beat.

RACHEL

So what's the quiz?

JILL

Are you ready for this?

RACHEL

Please. Distract me.

JILL

Okay. This is very important, so consider your answers carefully.

RACHEL

Right.

JILL

(reads) “How Extra Are You On A Scale from One to Beyoncé?”

RACHEL

I think this is only going to prove that I’m boring.

JILL

Let’s see shall we?

(reads) “When you’re getting ready for a night out, what’s your style?

- A) Just mascara and lip gloss - I’m hot with zero effort,
- B) One outfit change, maybe two. I like to keep it cute,
- C) Full face, glitter liner, and sky-high stilettos of course,
- D) I hire a glam squad, rent a fog machine, and my taxi is a limo.”

RACHEL

Oh, definitely C). Try to catch me leaving the house without my glitter liner.

JILL

I seem to remember you renting a fog machine for a party once.

RACHEL

Oh my god, I did.

JILL

Extra!

RACHEL

It was for Jack’s Halloween party when he was ten, but sure.

JILL

Suck it, Beyoncé.

RACHEL

I can’t even remember the last time I wore stilettos.

Rachel’s phone dings with a text. She pulls out her phone and reads, then types a response.

JILL

Everything okay?

RACHEL

Danny asking if I've gone in yet. Does he actually think I'd forget to tell him what the doctor says? Not to mention my appointment isn't even until 9:00 which I told him fourteen times.

JILL

Is he worried?

RACHEL

What do you mean, is he worried?

Jill shrugs.

RACHEL

He would have come with me this morning, but this board presentation is really important.

JILL

I'm sure it is.

RACHEL

It's not till next week, but he says the optics wouldn't be great if he was out of the office right now.

JILL

I think they would have understood.

RACHEL

He's under a lot of stress. He just committed to going to Korea for three weeks next month and there's a lot of prep involved.

JILL

Why is he going away for so long right now?

RACHEL

He just made senior partner, it's not like he has a choice.

JILL

Really?

Beat.

JILL

What if you need surgery?

RACHEL

He can't just leave his job to take care of me.

JILL

But -

RACHEL

What is he supposed to do? Whether it's the surgery or not the treatment protocol is probably going to be a year. He's just supposed to put his whole career on hold?

JILL

Yes!

RACHEL

You don't get it.

JILL

I'm trying to.

RACHEL

I'm worried that Jack is going to feel guilty about going away to school in the fall. Which is the last thing I -

JILL

Rachel. Breathe.

RACHEL

I'm trying not to jump to the worst-case scenario, but I can't help it.

JILL

Don't get ahead of yourself. We don't even know yet that it's -

RACHEL

Please stop acting like this could be nothing. I think we both know it's not nothing.

Beat.

They don't do a biopsy the same day as the mammogram if it's nothing.

Beat.

Okay, we're still determining how "extra" I am. Hit me.

Jill picks up the magazine again.

JILL

I'm changing your answer to D because of your history with fog machines. So...  
(reading) "You're not just "extra", you're the whole damn production!"

RACHEL

I'm so proud. Do another one, these are fun.

JILL

Since there's a whole archive.

She tosses down the magazine and picks up another one, peruses the cover and skips to the quiz.

JILL

This is good. "What's Your Inner Travel Goddess Vibe?"

RACHEL

Do goddesses fly economy?

JILL

Shh. (reads )

"You're overdue for a vacay. Where are you headed to get your groove back?  
A) New York of course, you're always in the centre of it all!  
B) Ibiza - Dancing till dawn, glitter in your hair and zero regrets,  
C) Thailand - Beach raves, spicy street food, and a l'il spiritual awakening, or,  
D) Paris - museums, macarons and mysterious strangers with sexy accents."

RACHEL

Thailand.

JILL

Really?

RACHEL

I've always wanted to go.

JILL

For the beach raves?

RACHEL

For the elephants. I love elephants. On our honeymoon I wanted to go there and work in a sanctuary. See the temples, those amazing jungle waterfalls...

JILL

Doesn't really seem like Danny's thing.

RACHEL

We went to Jamaica so he could go kite surfing. I got stung by a lionfish and spent half the week in the hospital.

JILL

Oh, my god.

RACHEL

Maybe it was a sign.

Beat.

RACHEL

He hates hospitals, Jill.

JILL

Everybody hates hospitals! Does he think other people hang around them for fun?

RACHEL

You're not having fun?

JILL

I'm having the best time.

Beat.

RACHEL

So, what kind of Travel Goddess am I?

JILL

Let's see. (reads)

You are a..."Sassy Soul Seeker! You like your spiritual growth with a side of chaos and cocktails."

RACHEL

Nailed it.

Beat.

RACHEL

I kind of wish I was that girl though. She sounds pretty fun.

JILL

You're fun.

RACHEL

I used to be. I don't blame Danny for being bored of me. I'm bored of me.

JILL

It's kind of hard to squeeze in a beach rave when you're driving your kid to baseball tournaments and hockey games every weekend. Don't be so hard on yourself.

RACHEL

I thought when I had more time in the fall, I'd try harder. Have people over more, do date nights, plan a trip. I've just been so fucking tired.

JILL

I know.

RACHEL

I was going to join that new pilates studio, maybe do something different with my hair. Now who knows if I'll even have hair.

JILL

You can't think like that.

RACHEL

Don't tell me how to think! You're not the one sitting here with a chunk scooped out of your left boob, waiting to find out how badly the next year of your life is going to suck.

JILL

I know.

RACHEL

Stop saying that! You don't know!

JILL

Rachel -

RACHEL

It's not fair! This was supposed to be *my* time! This is when it was all supposed to get easier!

JILL

Who ever said it gets easier? Our parents are getting sick and dying, our kids are leaving, our husbands are in full-blown midlife crises, and our bodies are falling apart. I've never been more exhausted in my life.

RACHEL

I bet Cosmo would say at this age we should graciously push ourselves off on an ice floe.

JILL

Sometimes that's pretty appealing.

RACHEL

Don't be glib.

JILL

I'm not being glib. It hasn't exactly been a walk in the park over here. I didn't ask to be divorced at fifty.

RACHEL

At least you have your health.

JILL

Remember when that used to be a joke?

Beat.

RACHEL

At least you get the chance to find someone new to disappoint you.

JILL

You're right. I'm so lucky.

RACHEL

See? I'm a total bitch.

JILL

My brain fog is so bad I've forgotten what you said already.

RACHEL

What a couple of Cosmo Girls we are.

Beat.

RACHEL

Danny didn't have to accept the Korea assignment.

JILL

Oh.

RACHEL

I don't think he has the stomach for this.

JILL

Well, fuck him then.

Rachel snorts.

JILL

Because I do. Whatever you have to deal with, I'm there. You're not doing a minute of this shit by yourself.

RACHEL

I will not ask you to take that on.

JILL picks up another Cosmo, flips through and lands on a page.

JILL

"What's Your Best Friend Style? When your gal-pal's husband of twenty-three years decides his true soulmate is the cart girl at his golf club, how do you fly with your Ride-or-Die?"

RACHEL

That's oddly specific.

JILL

Do you:

- A) Tell her to suck it up, Buttercup! Crying causes frown lines,
- B) Offer to help bury his body, plus you look cute in overalls,
- C) Whisk her to Vegas, bring on the margaritas and the Chippendales! Or,
- D) Park her on her couch, feed her soup and saltines while she's in a fugue state for a month, drive her kids to school and make them dinner until she can pull her shit together.

RACHEL

Maybe I should have gone with C) Vegas.

JILL

There's plenty of time for C. And for B, really.

I do look cute in overalls.

RACHEL

Beat.

I was just grateful you let me be there for you.

RACHEL

JILL

Looks meaningfully at Rachel.

Okay.

RACHEL

Okay.

JILL

It must be nine by now.

RACHEL

They both look at their phones. There is more bustle around them, phones ringing in the distance, some background chatter.

A little past.

JILL

Rachel nervously starts to gather her things.

I'm coming in with you.

JILL

I'm so scared, Jill.

RACHEL

I've got you.

JILL

Beat.

JILL

This is a promise. We are going to Thailand in one year. You and me. Elephants. Jungle waterfalls. Spicy street food and a l'il spiritual awakening.

RACHEL  
Beach raves?

JILL  
Every night.

RACHEL  
Actually can we skip the beach raves?

JILL  
Thank god.

Beat.

RACHEL  
Okay. One year. I can do this.

JILL  
Damn right you can. Channel your inner Beyoncé. I'll always be right there with a wind machine.

RACHEL  
Thailand.

JILL  
One year. Then, my Sassy Soul Seeker, we will Eat, Pray, and Slay.

A voice calls off-stage from the reception desk.

VOICE:  
Rachel Stockwood, please.

JILL  
That's us.

JILL holds out her hand to Rachel and they exit towards the office.

FADE OUT.

End.