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Lori

Oh!, Mrs. Ludden I'm sorry, I thought it might be Rob.
I was surprised because he usually doesn't work this late.

Mrs. Ludden

And you are?

Lori

Generally yes I am.

Mrs. Ludden

So you work harder than Robby?

Lori

Oh no, no, I'm not saying that at all it's just that Rob has
a family and for me, my job is my family. His life is more
balanced, but you know, I'm all work, but I enjoy it.

Mrs. Ludden

Ah, no man honey?

Lori

Oh you know, catch as catch can....
I'm sorry to have disturbed you, really.... Um, I just want
you to know that everyone feels more confident having
you out here.... I hope to see you tomorrow.
Good night.

Mrs. Ludden

Hey listen, listen, listen come back here and sit down....
Right there, take a seat. I've got something to tell you so
you listen O.K.? (pause)
I was born in a small town in eastern Pennsylvania, a coal
mining town, Carvendale? My father, he had to leave
because he had early signs of black lung disease....

Lori

I'm sorry to....

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Mrs. Ludden

um, yeah I know..... So after that he started stealing headstones from the cemetery, and sanding them down you know, to resale them to put food on the table. Once the governor's wife came to my school. And I remember that she had the most beautiful hair that I have ever seen. And my girlfriend says to me "oh you know, that's because she can afford to buy those shampoos that they sell in them beauty parlors". So that became my one big ambition in life... to some day be able to afford to buy shampoo from a beauty parlor..... Last week I bought myself this adorable little Cozen Yale lamp, you know, just a little bed side table thing..... I paid seventy-five grand for it.

Lori

(pause) And I'll bet you have all the shampoo you want too huh...

Mrs. Ludden

I do (pause), but I've got a point to this story

Lori

Right, right.

Mrs. Ludden

I came down a different path than you...., but I got pretty far along that path. And along the way, I met lots of girls like you (pause).. I know who you are Lori Valpone.

Lori

Ha, ha..., I don't know what, what you mean?

Mrs. Ludden

Well I, you know, know your game. You're a comer... You know, picking me up at the airport, and paying all this attention to me, putting down Rob Malone and making a complete fool of yourself in front of Wesley Holmes, Oh my goodness, it's old and I have seen it kid...

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Lori

Well Mrs. Ludden, maybe um... Maybe I have a story to tell too.

Mrs. Ludden

I'm sure you do. ... I'm sure it's about your mom and dad and that nasty divorce.

Lori

Well actually... ha ... yeah....

Mrs. Ludden

Yeah....oh, and I'm sure there were private schools, oh and summer vacations, and that big deal sweet sixteen party..... No, no, no I would not get into this pissing contest with me Miss Maloney because....., I win.

Lori

Mrs. Ludden I'm sorry, O.K., I've made some mistakes... but that's only because I...

Mrs. Ludden

No, never apologize, never explain...

Lori

What do you want from me?! Huh?

Mrs. Ludden

Oh, that's a start right there, a real human emotion.
(pause) Listen, you're very smart and I bet you're very good at your job. I also understand that being a woman in a man's business, you're going to have to play certain games.... just don't play them with me, O.K.?

Lori

Understood.

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Mrs. Ludden

That's great, now listen sweetie do me a big favor. I think the girl outside has gone home by now, so could you call security for me and tell them that I want my car brought around?

Lori

Yes Ma'am.

Mrs. Ludden

Thanks.