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BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS 1 - 1

KATE

You're lucky, it could have been you in that car with him when he had the accident. I warned you the first day about those people.

BLANCHE

Stop calling them "those people". She's a mother like you and me.

KATE

And what is he? Tell me what he is.

BLANCHE

Someone in trouble. He's someone who needs help. I mean, for God's sake Kate, you don't even know the man.

KATE

I know him. I know what they're all like.

BLANCHE

Who are you to talk? Are we any better? Are we something so special? I mean, we're all poor around here. The least we can be is charitable.

KATE

Why? What have I got I can afford to give away? Am I the one who got you all dressed up for nothing? Am I the one who got your hopes up? All I ever did was try to help you.

BLANCHE

Nobody cares for their family more than you do Kate, but you can at least be sympathetic to someone else in trouble.

KATE

Who should I care about? Who's out there watching over me? I've done enough in my life for people.

BLANCHE

For who?

KATE

You know who I'm talking about.

BRIGHTON BEACH 1 - 2

BLANCHE

No. I don't! Say what's on your mind Kate. What people?

KATE

You! Celia. Poppa when he was sick. Don't you ask me what people! How many beatings did I get from Momma for things that you did? How many dresses did I go without so that you could look like somebody when you went out? I was the workhorse! You were the pretty one! You have no right to talk to me like that - you've got no right!

BLANCHE

This is all about Jack isn't it? You're blaming me for what happened to Jack.

KATE

Why do you think he's home sick today? Why did the policemen have to carry him home after he collapsed from a heart attack at three in the morning? So your Nora could have dancing lessons, so Laurie could see a doctor. Everything is gone! You worry about your friends across the street not the ones who have to be dragged home to keep a roof over your head.

BLANCHE

Why didn't you ever tell me how you felt about all this?

KATE

I didn't have time! I'm too busy taking care of everybody.

BLANCHE

My God. You live with someone your whole life and still you don't know them. If I could take Nora and Laurie and pack them out of the house tonight, I would. But I can't. I have no place to take them. If I could leave them with you another few weeks I would appreciate it, until I can find a place of my own, and then I'll send for them. I'll go to my friend Louise in Manhattan Beach and stay with her for a few days - and then I'll find a job! I'll do anything anybody asks me - but I'll never be a burden to anyone as long as I live!