

baby baked potatoes and gravy, and there's always something to talk about: Who's getting married. Who died. Who just had a baby. How much we should give. Marriage is a wonderful thing if you can enjoy your wife for whatever she is.

*(The LIGHTS fade and we come up on BEA and JOAN looking at a wedding album.)*

BEA. And Joan, of all the pictures in your wedding album, my favorite is this one. The whole family together. Everyone happy and smiling. You and Richie, me and Frank, your mother and father, and Richie's cousins—Freddie and Rita, cheek to cheek; David and Loretta, kissing; Carmel and Vinnie, hugging—Freddie and Rita, cheek to cheek. Did you know that Freddie has not said one word to Rita for two years? . . . But they're still together. David and Loretta, kissing— Well you know what people in the family say about David, that he's a little funny? You know what I mean? Peculiar. I don't think he really is. It's just his way to lock himself in his room all day Sunday and play with his cars. Look, it takes all kinds to make a world. Who's to say the man is a degenerate, or worse? But they're still together! Carmel and Vinnie, hugging . . . When Carmel and Vinnie first got married, they lived with Vinnie's parents because he was out of work a lot and Vinnie's mother was always picking on Carmel. She kept blaming Carmel for Vinnie's laziness. Well, one night Carmel told Vinnie if his mother made one more remark to her, she was going to smack her in the face and Vinnie started yelling, "Don't you dare lay a hand on my mother!" and Carmel said, "Oh, go to hell, the both of you!" and she stomped out of the house and Vinnie chased her down the block and dragged her back by the hair and Carmel spit right in his face and he started choking her by the throat over the open window and the super had to come and pull Vinnie off Carmel . . . and they're still together. *(BEA sits back obviously pleased with herself.)*