

APPEARANCES by Tina Howe  
Grace Matthews

start "...There is trouble in Kenny's genes and I'm nervous a witch about he and Donna having normal kids."

end "Please God, make me more accepting!"

ing to get around without any legs . . . ? I'd kill myself, just put a gun to my head, I couldn't take it . . . but then I'd have to take it, wouldn't I? . . . Put on a brave face like Kenny's little sister changing her socks every day. People adjust . . . I just don't know if I have it in me. I'm very weak on courage and always have been! I can't even help a blind person cross the street! As soon as I see one coming with their tapping stick, I try to disappear, hoping to God they can't really see me after all . . . It's a terrible failing. I wish I could change. It's my most fervent prayer, "Please God, make me more accepting!"

IVY: (*Bursts out of her dressing room.*) I CAN'T DECIDE!

GRACE: Oh, I like that on you! That's very nice.

IVY: But what about *this* . . . ?! (*She lifts up the maroon dress to reveal the white one.*)

GRACE: You're wearing two dresses at once?

IVY: I can't make up my mind. (*Starts sashaying around in the white one.*) What do you think . . . ?

GRACE: (*Starts laughing.*) You're too much!

IVY: This one . . . or this?

GRACE: I hope you're not planning to sneak out of here in one of those . . .

IVY: The wine brings out my color, but there's something ro-

down and see those spanking white socks hugging those little plastic ankles of hers, the cuffs folded just so . . . it brings tears to my eyes! That little girl really takes pride in how she looks! She knows she's been born with a handicap, but she doesn't let it get to her. And active . . . ? She does everything any normal ten-year-old would do: run, jump, play sports. She's amazing the way she tears around. And sense of humor? She's a real mimic, that one . . . you ought to hear her imitate the pop singers . . .

(GRACE imitates the child imitating a pop singer.)

(As . . .)

IVY: (Goes crazier with indecision, flipping the dresses back and forth.)

I CAN'T DECIDE!

GRACE: . . . though to be perfectly honest, she *does* give me the creeps a bit; I don't like being around her. There *is* trouble in Kenny's genes and I'm nervous as a witch about him and Donna having normal kids. Two of his sisters born with missing or extra extremities. One of his brothers has something queer growing out of his ear, and there's another child no one has ever seen! You can't turn your back on those things! Kenny and Donna are a very high-risk couple. I know Donna's anxious about it too. She doesn't look well, she's lost a lot of weight, but she refuses to talk about it. "It's between Kenny and me," she says. "I love him and I want to give him children. They'll be all right, I *know* they'll be all right!" . . . Well, it's in God's hands, there's nothing any of us can do about it . . . though I'll tell you, I haven't slept through the night since the invitations were sent out . . . It's too late to call it off now, 850 friends are rooting for them and the decorators have already turned Gracie Mansion into a pink and white valentine. What will happen, will happen . . . but if Donna has a legless baby, I don't know what I'll do . . . I mean, can you imagine watching a toddler try-