



JAKE'S WOMEN

by Neil Simon

KAREN

Why is it whenever I try to help you, you push me away? You're that way with all women. You're so — so — standoffish. What you love is to love women. You love to have women in love with you. You even love to love women who love you because you're standoffish. But intimacy, aha, that you're afraid of. I said, "Aha, that you're afraid of." I think you're afraid to lose control in a relationship with a woman. To let a woman in so close, so deep inside of you, that she'll gobble you up and you'll lose whatever you think you are. You always have to be the Master, Jake. The Master, the Conductor, the Director and the Attorney General. You don't think it's strange that you sit around here thinking about women and making up what they say to you? And then you think up that we make up that we come over here on our own? Come on! How much more control do you want? ... They love you, they leave you, they come back to you, they worry about you, they die, they live, they grow up, they fall down, they fight for you, they cry for you — it's a three ring circus in here and all the horses and lions and elephants are women ... You're the star of the show, Jake. You're the one they shoot out of a cannon and you fly around the tent with an American flag in your mouth and all the women go crazy and faint and they take them away to hospitals ... The trouble is — it's very hard to get close to a man who's flying around in a tent with a flag in his mouth. That's what I call trouble with intimacy.