

~~...are just in time, we...~~
~~...s good.~~

Jason swipes frosting with his fingers.

STAN. Hey, get outta there.

JASON. Happy birthday!

CHRIS. *(Singing.)* Happy birthday to ya!

JESSIE. Thank you!

CYNTHIA. Where you guys coming from?

CHRIS. Just took a spin on Jason's new bike.

STAN. No!

JASON. Yes!

STAN. Congratulations!

CYNTHIA. I hope you were wearing a helmet.

CHRIS. *(To Stan.)* Whatcha got on tap?

STAN. You need to ask?

CHRIS. Keep hope alive. That's all I'm saying.

JASON. Dude.

Jason scans the room.

Where's Ma?

JESSIE. I dunno, you tell me.

JASON. Don't worry. She'll be here. You know her.

JESSIE. Yeah.

CHRIS. *(To Cynthia.)* You look all important.

CYNTHIA. Gotta dress the part.

Chris gives Cynthia a hug.

JESSIE. Betcha proud of your Ma?

CHRIS. She's aight.

Cynthia gives Chris a playful jab.

JESSIE. *(To Cynthia.)* Hey Cynth, you remember the first day we met? You were sporting an afro and platforms and I thought there's no way you were gonna make a day on the line.

CYNTHIA. And you looked like fucking Joni Mitchell with a headband and hair down to your butt.

JESSIE. Guess how old I was when I started, Stan?

STAN. Nineteen—

JESSIE. Eighteen. Eighteen! Can you believe it? The summer I started, I was a couple years younger than you guys!

JASON. Betcha were hot.

JESSIE. You know, I was.

STAN. She was.

JESSIE. God, that was a summer, huh? A lot of fun. Wasn't thinking about anything, I figured I'd be at Olstead's for six to eight months max. Can you believe it? I was collecting green stamps the whole year, remember green stamps? I was gonna trade 'em in for a backpack, a tent. Had like ten thousand of 'em. I was going to hitch my way across the country with my boyfriend, Felix.

CYNTHIA. Felix. I remember Felix, he was a musician, right?

JESSIE. He had a harmonica. And we planned to wind up in Alaska where my dad worked in a cannery. Kodiak.

STAN. I knew your dad, Phil Lombardi, he looked liked, um—

JESSIE. James Garner.

STAN. Yeah. That's right.

JESSIE. He split for Alaska when I was thirteen. A lotta folks went up there that summer. Remember?

STAN. Sure.

JESSIE. God. Me. Felix. That was so long ago. We were gonna do Alaska, camp, live clean, you know, and save enough money to get to India. Live in an ashram for a while, then bum along the hippie trail. Istanbul, Tehran, Kandahar, Kabul, Peshawar, Lahore, Kathmandu. Places. Still remember 'em all. I used to say 'em every night like a mantra, a prayer. Istanbul, Tehran, Kandahar, Kabul, Peshawar, Lahore, Kathmandu. I mapped the whole thing out. Yeah, we had this, um, world map, that Felix had ripped outta an atlas in the library. The *World Book*. God... That was the plan.

JASON. So, why didn't you go?

JESSIE. Started working, met Dan, I guess I got caught in the rip-tide, couldn't get back to shore. That's how it is.