

Skeeter

Act I, Sc. 1

SKEETER (O/S)

Ray, for god's sake! Not in front of Mama! My god, not in front of Mama, Ray!

(LIGHTS shift in LIVING ROOM. Ray is replaced by CAIT, putting remnants into a box. It's 1993. Skeeter is on her feet, acting out the scene.)

SKEETER

"Ray! Ray! Stop it!" I says. "Are you drunk or something?" And the look on my mother's face. I says to Ray, years later, of course, "Ray, how could you?" Nothing could have hurt her more. And I was out to here with your brother at the time -- the first grandchild in the family as a matter of fact. And went into labor three days later -- two weeks early because of all the to do over Papa's death and the funeral, I'm sure. Ray was in no shape. There he is, burning up Mama's whole life, right in front of her, and I says Ray, I says, "How could you!"

(CAIT escapes. SKEETER doesn't miss a beat.)

SKEETER

How could you do that to Mama! And of all days! For God's sake Ray!" I salvaged what I could. Always had a sense of history and all. No one ever seemed to notice. There was always the big to do over Ray, being a war hero...Mama was always going on and on about him to people in town...you'd've thought he was an only child, for heavens sake. And if it wasn't for me, her whole life would've gone up in flames. And some of those things can never be replaced, of course -- *priceless* things -- original music by Irving Berlin! Stuff he'd dash off for he and Papa to sing at Coney Island..

(CAIT ~~speaks back in with a suitcase~~)

CAIT

~~Priceless things...~~

SKEETER

Missed the birth of his first grandchild by three days...three days! I never did have time to grieve...had to think of my baby...two nights later, I went into labor. I says to your Aunt Sheila...

(Skeeter drags on her cigarette mid sentence with her mind still going a mile a minute. Mutters to herself, acting out all the parts while smoking. Cait rises, breaks the 4th wall).

End