

STARLETS IN TRAINING

By Kelly Meadows

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CAST: Names are not used in the dialogue, but are provided for convenience in rehearsal.

(Three young ladies are walking around a waiting room, dreamy eyed. Take the opportunity to deliver the dialogue in “soap opera” fashion wherever possible.)

MARY: *(talks with a Bronx accent)* I can't believe I'm going to read for the part of *(excited)* Gloria!

SALLY: On my favorite soap opera.

JULIE: *Living, Loving, and Looting in Louisiana!*

MARY: I can't wait to do my southern accent. *(tries, unsuccessfully)* Beau, I know you're in love with Sarah, but I accidentally poisoned her bonbons with insecticide. She's recovering, and her house is free of ugly pests! In the meantime, why don't *(sexy)* “you and I” go to the party tonight!

JULIE: That's a southern accent? *(using one as well)* The part's as good as mine! *(does it in her own way)* Why don't “you and I” go to the party tonight? Yep. It's mine. Sorry.

SALLY: I wonder what happened to the last Gloria?

JULIE: She couldn't do the accent. *(on a gossip binge)* And I hear she was a cursed witch backstage. She wanted tuna salad everyday for lunch, and then, Beau would have to kiss her, and he called her fish breath – and she – she says *(with an accent)* “nobody calls me fish breath” and since everyone hated her, they wrote it into the script, that Beau called her fish breath.

MARY: That was funny! I loved it!

JULIE: Gloria didn't, but she's too important to write out of the show.

MARY: So, *(upstaging)* I'm going to play her.

SALLY: *(pulling her back)* I doubt that, fish breath.

MARY: Wrong on two counts!

SALLY: Which two?

MARY: *(confused)* I'm not sure. You've insulted me so much, I can't remember what all you've called me.

SALLY: You can call *me* Gloria – or fish breath, if you'd rather. I'll be kissing Beau on TV while you just have him on your Christmas wish list.

(SHE gets something out of a bag, or her purse, and looks it over briefly)

JULIE: **(intrigued, and suspicious)** What's that?

SALLY: **(coy, and turning away, but not that far)** Oh, nothing.

JULIE: I think it's something. **(looks around, and says seriously, as if SHE's a soap character)** Definitely something. You sneak.

MARY: **(as a director)** She pulls something out of her purse, and hides it from view. That's a silly thing for someone to do, isn't it? Like she's leading us on.

JULIE: **(with growing awareness)** It's a script!!

MARY: **(outraged)** Where did you get that?

SALLY: **(with a southern accent, as if SHE's reading off a page)** Oh, I have my ways. Maybe I know someone in production who just happened to "accidentally" leave one around for me to pick up after an executive dinner.

JULIE: I'll arrange an "accident."

MARY: That's no fair. You got a head start. An unfair advantage.

JULIE: She needs one, with that accent.

SALLY: **(like SHE's in the know)** Gloria doesn't have a southern accent. She has a "Yankee trying to be southern" accent. That's why it's set in northern Louisiana. That's why it's in Shreveport, and not New Orleans.

MARY: **(not amused)** That's not right! Who puts a soap in Shreveport? What's up with that?

JULIE: It's because Gloria talks funny. When I take her place, they're going to move it to Baton Rouge!

MARY: **(to SALLY)** Do you have an "in"? Do you know someone? **(accusing)** Have you been involved in any kind of shenanigans?

JULIE: Do you have some secret you're not telling us?

SALLY: Yes! **(laughs, the other two are aghast)** I can act!

MARY: If you can act, you've kept it a secret! Let me at it.

(snatches the script)

JULIE: Let me!

(snatches it away)

SALLY: It's mine! **(takes it back)** Get your own. If you can.

MARY: When the call is final, these lines will be mine! All mine! Get it? **(snatches it for herself and reads, trying to act)** Charlene! I can't believe the dirt you've done me. I hope you know you're going to pay for this! I'm going to take you down if it takes every fiber of my being!

JULIE: Now let me! (**snatches it, reads it entirely differently**)

Charlene, I can't believe the dirt you've done me. I hope you know you're going to pay for this! I'm going to take you down if it takes every fiber of my being!

SALLY: No, you do it like this... Charlene!

JULIE: (**a different accent, upstaging**) Charlene!

MARY: Charlene! (**another way**) Charlene! Or... this way! Charlene! There! Mine was best.

JULIE: Let me try again. (**clears throat**) Charlene!

SALLY: If you say it like that you deserve whatever dirt she did to you!

MARY: Wait a minute! Who *is* Charlene? I've never seen her on the show!

SALLY: (**flips through the script**) Oh, no!

JULIE: Your script is bogus!

SALLY: I'll bet that Charlene is new! Maybe I have...

MARY and JULIE: (**excited**) An advance episode!

SALLY: (**takes the script and hoards it**) Which I'll have to commit to memory. After all, I'm going to have to learn a whole episode every day!

JULIE: Ha! You're going to have to *watch* a whole episode a day. And you're going to have to watch *me*.

MARY: You can both dream on. And since you can't act, I'd say dreaming is a good hobby for you.

JULIE: Well I have the experience. When I was in eighth grade, I played Juliet in a Shakespeare play. I forget what it's called. (**tries to act**) Romeo, Romeo...

MARY: (**breaking in**) Wherefore art thou Romeo! Yeah wherefore is he?

SALLY: (**upstaging, and lecturing**) You know, wherefore doesn't mean where, it means why! So in effect, she isn't asking where he is, but why he is who he is. It's an identity question.

MARY: I'd ask where he was, and why he wasn't with me! He ain't gonna be "wherefore" I can't find him if he thinks he's gonna be my man.

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