

E: PATSY, LENA

[Patsy and Lena are in high school, best friends. Patsy is getting married because she's pregnant, but she hasn't told Lena that part of the story. "The trial" is a murder trial currently going on: the big news in town. "Josh" is Patsy's older brother.]

PATSY: It wasn't really sudden. I knew he wanted to, he'd let on, you know, in little ways. He said would I mind not being in school; he'll graduate, of course, 'cause this is his last year--and I said would I *mind*?

LENA: That's just incredible; when's it going to be?

PATSY: We aren't messing around; he said two weeks from this Saturday. He didn't want to have a church wedding at first--you know how he is; and I said, Chuck Melton, if you think I'm going to just run off to a preacher and practically elope, you've got another think coming. So it'll be the First Presberterian of Centreville, but I want it to be just simple. I said I wanted a street length dress--I know, but that's what I want, and I'll have a veil, and probably roses, if it's not too early for roses.

LENA: I'm just so surprised.

PATSY: Well, it wasn't really sudden, I knew he wanted to, he'd let on. I love the First Preberterian. I only hope the trial and all is quieted down. That could just ruin it all.

LENA: Oh, it will be.

PATSY: It's a beautiful church.

LENA: I really love it; it's just beautiful.

PATSY: And my aunt's gonna give the bride's breakfast.

LENA: Aren't you excited?

PATSY: I imagine we'll live in Centreville. You know, 'till we have enough money to get a place or maybe move somewhere. I don't want to live with his folks. I just can't stand them and I don't think they think too much of me either. They're so square and old-fashioned. They really are. They don't even believe in make-up or

anything.

LENA: Chuck is wonderful, he really is. I'm just so surprised. I don't think Josh and me want to get married though 'till I'm out of school.

PATSY: Oh, my god, you don't want to marry Josh. My Lord, I can't imagine it. You're not serious about him. Lord, he's so childish.

LENA: He isn't. He's six years older than you are. He's worked for two years.

PATSY: Well, I know, but you don't want to marry him. Age doesn't have anything to do with it. He's all right and he's sweet and all, but I mean to go to the show with and hold hands. I don't know how you can bear to rise into town in that garage tow-truck, though.

LENA: I drive it sometimes; it's not bad.

PATSY: Well, I know, but Josh! Lord, Lena, I've got so many things to do yet. You know the thing I think I like most about Chuck is that he's so clean and neat and all. The way he takes care of his Mercury. It's always like spanking new.