

START

(Etc. PIPPI and NORBERT are left alone.)

PIPPI

Norbert, what is goin' on? One minute you're beggin' me not to leave Starke, the next we're broken up. Then we get back together, but now you want to get separate motel rooms?

NORBERT

I just think with the storm knockin' out the electricity and everybody from Armadillo Acres headin' over to the same motel, it's the right thing to do. They's all Jeannie's friends, ya know?

PIPPI

Well, gee. As long as Jeannie's feelings aren't hurt, don't go worryin' about mine.

NORBERT

Pippi, you know I care about you. But what can I do?

PIPII

Norbert, I been real patient with your situation, but I don't have all the time in the world. I am not that young a woman.

(NORBERT says nothing.)

Feel free to dispute that.

NORBERT

(Scrambling.)

Oh. Yes, you are young. And, uh, pretty ... And you're flexible —

PIPII

Norbert, the point is that I'm startin' to look ahead. And that's not somethin' I'm used to doin'. But my days in this racket are numbered. Strippin's like an all-you-can-eat waffle bar. You got to know when to walk away.

NORBERT

Pippi, if I could give you a million dollars so's you wouldn't have to do this no more, don't you think I would?

PIPII

I'm not askin' you to take care of me, Norbert. I'm just askin' that you stop livin' in the past, and start thinkin' about tomorrow.

NORBERT

It's not that simple.

PIPII

Why not?

NORBERT

Because tomorrow is my anniversary!

(Beat.)

It's my twentieth. Me and Jeannie were gonna do somethin' special.

PIPII

The Ice Capades. Oh, I know all about it. I been gettin' dirty looks at the trailer park all month — as if it's all my fault. Norbert, did you really think she was gonna make it to that show with you?

NORBERT

I don't know, maybe. Even so, I am worried about her stayin' in that trailer park all alone what with the power and the phones still cut off. I just wanna check on her is all. I'll call you?

(NORBERT exits. PIPPI is left alone in the dressing room.)

PIPPI

Well shoot. Who knew datin' a good man would be more trouble than datin' an asshole?

END