

LIVING OUT LOUD

Judith knocks on the door while she's standing in it.

Pat: Hi, good party.

Judith: Yeah...Look I want to apologize. I was a little... abrupt before. I'm sorry.

P: You want some coffee?

They sit and he pours them a drink.

P: There's something I want to get off my chest. Uhh...it's been bugging me. It's about the first night that we talked, the night that I borrowed the money from you.

J: No. You don't have to.

P: No, no I want to. I want to come clean about something.

J: About not needing the money for the gas guy?

P: You knew?

J: Yeah, a 189 dollar gas bill for a fifth avenue co-op?

P: (beat) so why'd you give it to me?

J: I don't know. I figured you were good for it.

P: Mhm... (He gets up) There's something else I wanted to ask you....uh....I was wondering if one night.

She makes an uncomfortable sound and he stammers not paying attention.

P: This is...Jesus, this is tough. I'm really a little rusty at this.

J: Pat. Don't...

P: What?

J: Don't. I don't want to hurt your feelings.

P: Hurt my feelings about what?

J: I think I know what you're gonna ask.

P: You do?

J: mhm and I'd rather you didn't.

P: Oh, oh, see I just wanted to know if you wanted to have dinner with me sometime, maybe go out to a movie sometime.

J: Pat I just asked you not to ask me.

P: Oh, you were right? (Beat) Well I thought maybe you could have been completely off the mark.

J: No.

P: So you knew what I was going to say? Is that a no?

J: Look, I, I, I think you're a wonderful person, but I think that...

P: ...that I like you?

J: Yes. And I think I know what you want.

P: Yeah...so? I think you're a terrific person too. I like being with you, I'd like to see you more, you know take you out, spend time with you.

J: But that's not possible.

P: Why? Because of what I do?

J: No.

P: Are you sure?

J: Look, you're not being honest. It's not just about spending time with me.

P: You feel comfortable with me, right? We have a good time when we're talking, nice time telling jokes or kidding around, right?

J: Yes, but I don't want you thinking it can be anything more than that.

P: Well, it's none of your business what I think or what I want. You can't control that.

J: Well, uh, it just won't happen

P: How do you know it won't?

J: I know.

P: How can you know? I mean you can't know a thing like that.

J: I'm not attracted to you that way.

P: So maybe it'll change.

J: It won't.

P: How do you know that?

J: I know. I want to feel my life. I want to be authentic. I want to stop agreeing to things I don't really want.

P: Then stop. Look, Judith, I'm not asking you to marry me. I'm just saying let's spend a little time together. Whatever happens, doesn't happen, it doesn't matter.

J: Of course it's going to matter. If you want to sleep with me, and I don't, it's gonna matter.

P: No believe me it won't matter.

J: So if I want to just be friends, that's what we'll be?

P: Yes...unless it changes.

LIGHT LAUGHTER

J: I don't think it will.

P: You never know. How can you know? You don't know. Things change. I might lose interest. I mean it's not a great possibility that I might, but...

He touches her hand. She pulls away.

J: Come on.

P: Come on what? What? We're laughing here. We're having a good time.

J: I don't want this.

P: Then why'd you come down here?

J: To apologize...

P: Oh you came down here to apologize, is that it? Is that authentically why you came down here?

LONG BEAT

J: No...I came down here because I can't sleep and because I don't want to be alone.

END