

Four Sisters - The Same Haircut Excerpt

Wanda Nolan

EXT. NORMA'S HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Clara pulls up behind Norma's car and quickly gets out. She's wearing a pale pink track suit.

INT. NORMA'S HOUSE - DAY

Clara lets herself in the front door. She walks down the hallway and pokes her head in the living room. Jason is on his normal perch on the couch.

CLARA

Hi Jason.

INT. NORMA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason holds two fingers to his forehead and salutes her without taking his eyes off the television.

INT. NORMA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Clara enters the kitchen. Norma is rolling out the dough for tea buns. She doesn't acknowledge Clara as she takes a glass from the cupboard to cut the dough into circles.

CLARA

Morning.

Norma doesn't respond. She cuts circles with the glass into the dough.

CLARA (CONTINUED)

(anxious)

Norma, Theresa called me. Why didn't you talk to me yourself?

Norma says nothing. She transfers the buns to a cookie sheet. Clara becomes more agitated.

CLARA (CONTINUED)

I love him, Norma. You're going to have to accept it and let me figure out the Lily part.

Norma picks up a tea towel and begins to wipe her hands. Clara gets more frustrated with Norma's quiet.

CLARA (CONTINUED)

You think you know best for everyone and you don't. You -

(CONTINUED)

Norma turns to Clara and surprises her, not by her anger, but by the fear in her voice.

NORMA  
Please don't do this. Don't do it  
to yourself or us.

Clara is at a loss for words.

INT. NORMA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason turns down the television.

NORMA (CONTINUED)(O.S.)  
We only have each other, Clara.

INT. NORMA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Norma wipes her hands with a towel.

CLARA  
Norma-

NORMA  
After dad passed away, and mom fell  
into depression, who else was  
there?

CLARA  
I know you did a lot.

NORMA  
It's not about what I did. It's  
about us. If you continue with him,  
Lily may never get over it.

Clara looks distraught. She's worried Norma may be right. They both turn as they hear the door open and someone come in.

THERESA (O.S.)  
Hi Jason.

JASON (O.S.)  
The wig's looking good today Aunt  
Theresa

THERESA (O.S.)  
(laughs)  
Thanks Jason.

Theresa enters the kitchen wearing a bright yellow scarf.

(CONTINUED)

THERESA

Hi ladies.

Clara feels strengthened by Theresa's presence.

CLARA

He's a good man, Norma.

Norma looks at Theresa and then back to Clara, her tone changes to her usual big sister knows best.

NORMA

I'm thinking of you, too.

Clara looks to Theresa for help.

THERESA

Norma, you've got to let this go.  
It's none of your business.

NORMA

(defensive)

None of my business? This is our  
family she's about to ruin.

THERESA

Oh don't be so foolish. There's  
nothing about to be ruined.

NORMA

No? You think Lily will be fine  
with this?

Norma puts the tea buns in the oven and turns on the kettle.  
She gestures to the women to sit down. Clara and Theresa  
sit.

CLARA

I'm not letting him go.

Norma rests her hand on the table.

NORMA

What about Lily?

THERESA

It was forty years ago. She'll  
understand.

Clara nods in agreement.

NORMA

(to Theresa pointing at Clara)  
She can't be too convinced seeing  
how she hasn't told her yet.

CLARA

There hasn't been a right time.

NORMA

Do you remember how devastated she  
was when he left?

THERESA

(angry)  
Enough Norma. It's none of your god  
damn business. It's between Lily  
and Clara.

NORMA

Now look, you've got Theresa  
swearing and upset.  
(beat)  
And she's got cancer.

Clara throws up her hands in a gesture of "What do you do  
with this woman?"

THERESA

Don't you dear use my cancer as one  
of your guilt tactics.

NORMA

I can't believe you just said that.

Norma walks away from the table. They hear Lily enter the  
house.

LILY (O.S.)

Jason, I see you're hard at it.

JASON (O.S.)

Always Aunt Lily. Always.

Lily enters the kitchen. She's wearing a flamboyant dress  
with bright red flowers. The kettle starts to WHISTLE. Lily  
plops herself at the table.

LILY

What a beautiful day!

Norma readies the tea and brings the pot to the table. Lily  
surveys the women.

(CONTINUED)

LILY (CONTINUED)  
What's with the sour faces?

The women realize they are staring and try to busy themselves.

THERESA  
You're just in time for the tea.

Norma sits down and stares at Lily. Lily seems uninterested, or used to, the tension.

LILY  
(looks to each sister)  
Would you be shocked if I told you  
I was thinking of moving away?

Norma's not listening. She looks to Clara and then to Lily.

NORMA  
Lily, do you remember Mathias  
Feehan?

Lily is caught off guard.

LILY  
(to Norma)  
Have you seen him?

Norma doesn't respond. Clara looks pleadingly at Norma.

LILY (CONTINUED)  
You've seen him.

Again no answer. Norma lips are pursed waiting for Clara to say something. Lily gives Norma a sly smile.

LILY  
I know you kissed once.

NORMA  
(to the group)  
We did not.

LILY  
Oh Norma, it was a lifetime ago, I  
don't care. I know what it's like  
to love the wrong man.

CLARA  
You kissed him?

Norma says nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CLARA (CONTINUED)

So that's what this is all about?  
Not about Lily at all. You want him  
for yourself?

NORMA

No, of course not.

Lily turns to Clara.

LILY

What are you on about?

CLARA

Lily, I'm in love with Mathias  
Feehan.

Lily shakes her head like someone slapped her. It takes her  
a few moments to speak.

LILY

In love?

CLARA

Yes.

Lily gets up from the table upset. Clara stands up.

CLARA

Lily? You said it was fine when it  
was Norma. You said it was a long  
time ago.

Norma glares at Lily.

NORMA

That's because she knows he had no  
interest in me.