

'Bertram'

Start →

CHERYL

Look, I've just got to say this, and then we can move on and go enjoy the symphony. Jim says you're attracted to me.

BERTRAM

What?

CHERYL

Yeah, he said you made an "Mmm" noise.

HE LAUGHS.

BERTRAM

Cheryl, I'm seventy-six years old. I make a lot of noises. (THEN) Please, sit down.

HE USHERS HER TO THE COUCH.

BERTRAM (CONT'D)

You seem kinda shaken up. I just opened a bottle of wine. Would you like some?

CHERYL

That'd be great. Thank you.

BERTRAM POURS WINE INTO TWO GLASSES AND HANDS HER ONE.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

I swear to God, I love him to death. But sometimes he's just a caveman.

BERTRAM

(TOASTING) To your health.

7/10

THEY CLINK GLASSES AND CHERYL TAKES A DRINK.

BERTRAM (CONT'D)

Just so we're clear. Jim's not going
to come busting down the door, right?

CHERYL

No.

BERTRAM

Glad to hear it. He's a good-sized
fella.

THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING, UNSEEN BY CHERYL, BERTRAM PICKS UP
A REMOTE CONTROL AND TURNS ON SOME ROMANTIC MUSIC.

CHERYL

I mean, I'm allowed to pick my own
friends. I just want someone to do
things with. (THEN, RE: MUSIC. Is this
"Bolero?"

BERTRAM

It's my favorite version, conducted by
Zubin Mehta.

CHERYL

You know, it's amazing. He doesn't
think that any straight man can be
friends with an attractive woman.

BERTRAM

The man's a Neanderthal.

HE TURNS DOWN THE LIGHTS.

8/10

CHERYL

He can't cancel our symphony date. So
go get your suit on and let's go.

BERTRAM

What's the rush, Cheryl?

CHERYL

Well, it starts at eight, and there's
traffic and parking...

BERTRAM

That is a headache. (THEN) Hey, here's
an idea. We could stay here and make
our own music.

HE SLIDES UP NEXT TO HER AND LOOKS HER UP AND DOWN.

BERTRAM (CONT'D)

Mmm.

HE RESTS HIS ARM ON THE COUCH BEHIND HER.

CHERYL

Hey, that's the sound. (THEN) Oh, my
God! Jim was right! You're a lech!

CHERYL JUMPS UP.

BERTRAM

"Lech" is such an ugly word. I'm an
elderly gentleman who would treat you
right and has a timeshare in North
Carolina.

9110

CHERYL

Mr. Osgood, I'm a married woman. Less happily today than others, but married nonetheless. (THEN) I thought we were friends.

BERTRAM

Oh, we are. We are. Just think how much better friends we'll be once we see each other naked.

CHERYL HEADS FOR THE DOOR.

CHERYL

~~That's~~ I'm out of here. And I'm going to the symphony by myself. ~~I'm~~ going to do everything by myself. And I'll have a good time ~~by myself~~. ~~Break~~ (THEN) But you know what the saddest thing is? It's not that our friendship is over -- which it is -- but that Jim was right. All men are skunks.

BERTRAM

No, Cheryl. Men aren't skunks. Men are men. At any age. And I'm sorry.

CHERYL

So am I.

SHE EXITS. AND WE:

END 10/10

CUT TO: