

Biloxi Blues

Eugene hides behind a screen. Rowena sits at her vanity, smoking, trying to be patient.

Rowena
How you doing, honey?

Eugene
Okay.

Rowena
You having any trouble in there?

Eugene
No, no trouble.

Rowena
What the hell you doing for ten minutes?
C'mon kid – I don't have all day.

Eugene appears.

Listen. You can keep your shorts on if you want,
but I have a rule against wearing army shoes in bed.

Eugene
Oh. I'm sorry. I just forgot to take them off.

Rowena
You don't mind a little perfume, do you honey?
The boy before you had on a gallon of Aqua Velva.

Eugene
No, I don't mind. You can spray some on me. (she does) Gee, it smells good.

Rowena
If you'd like a bottle for your girlfriend, I sell them. Five dollars apiece.

Eugene
You sell perfume too?

Rowena
I sell hard to get items. Silk stockings. Black panties... you interested?

Eugene
Do you carry men's clothes?

Rowena

That's cute. You're cute, honey... You want me to take your shoes off?

Eugene

I can do it. Honest. I can do it.

Rowena

Is this your first time?

Eugene

My first time? Are you kidding? That's funny... no.... it's my second time... the first time they were closed.

Rowena

You don't smoke cigarettes either, do you?

She takes it out of his mouth.

Eugene

How'd do you know?

Rowena

You looked like your face was on fire... If you want to look older, why don't you try a mustache?

Eugene

I did, but it wouldn't grow in on the left side... what's your name?

Rowena

Rowena. What's yours? (waits) Well?

Eugene

Jack... er... Jack Mulgroovey

Rowena

Yeah? I knew a Tom Mulgreevey once.

Eugene

No, mine is Mulgroovey. Oo not ee.

Rowena

Where you from, Jack?

Eugene

Texarkana.

Rowena
Is that right?

Eugene
Yes ma'am.

Rowena
Is that Texas or Arkansas?

Eugene
Arkansas I think.

Rowena
You think?

Eugene
I left there when I was two. Then we moved to Georgia.

Rowena
Really? You a cracker?

Eugene
What's a cracker?

Rowena
Someone from Georgia.

Eugene
Oh yeah, I'm a cracker. The whole family's crackers... were you born in Biloxi?

Rowena
No. Gulfport. I still live there with my husband.

Eugene
Your husband? You're married? My God. If he finds me here he'll kill me.

Rowena
No, he won't.

Eugene
Does he know that you're a you 're a...

Rowena
Sure he does. That's how we met. He's in the navy. He was one of my best customers.
He still is.

Eugene

You mean you charge your own husband?

Rowena

I mean he's my best lover... you gonna do it from there cowboy? Cause I'll have to make some adjustments.

Eugene

I'm ready. Here I come.

She lifts the blanket and he climbs into bed.

Rowena

If you're gonna hang on the edge like that we'll be on the floor in 2 minutes.

Eugene

I didn't want to crowd you.

Rowena

Crowding is what this is all about, Tex.

She pulls him over. He kneels above her.

Rowena

Okay honey, do your stuff.

Eugene

What stuff is that?

Rowena

Whatever you like to do.

Eugene

Why don't you start and I'll catch up.

Rowena

Didn't anyone ever tell you what to do?

Eugene

My brother showed me once, but you look a lot different than my brother.

Rowena

You're sweet. I went to high school with a boy like you. I had the biggest damn crush on him.

Eugene
Do you have a hanky?

Rowena
Anything wrong?

Eugene
My nose is running.

She takes a hanky and wipes his nose.

Rowena
Better?

Eugene
Thank you. Listen, please don't be offended but I really don't care if this is a wonderful experience or not. I just wanna get it over with.

Rowena
Whatever you say... lights on or off?

Eugene
Actually I'd like a blindfold.

She turns off the lamp.

Eugene
Oh god, oh god, oh my god. I did it. I did it.

Rowena
Anything else honey?

Eugene
Yes, I'd like two bottles of perfume and a pair of blank panties.

Black out.