

CAROL

Call me.

Herb Drier appears from the butcher shop. As before, he wears a bloody apron under his open winter jacket.

HERB DRIER

Hey, there's the girl of the hour.

Jessica recoils from Drier.

HERB DRIER (CONT'D)

I saved this deer's life, now he's my best salesman. Just wait til next year, when I'll have him for all of November and December.

JESSICA

What do you mean, you saved his life?

HERB DRIER

Your dad was about to shoot him. I showed up just in time. Hey, I'd love to chew the fat with you, but I have a ton Christmas turkeys to prepare. You have a nice visit with your deer, little girl. Or, rather, *my* deer.

Drier heads off.

JESSICA

Ew. Don't listen to him, Prancer. He's not going to have you for next Christmas. He's not gonna even have you for the rest of this Christmas.

SAMMY

That really is Prancer, isn't it?

Jessica turns to look at Sammy, who hasn't moved since Jessica arrived. She turns her attention back to Prancer.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

My sister says he isn't and that I'm a baby if I think he is.

JESSICA

Yeah, well, maybe you shouldn't listen to people who don't know what they're talking about.

SAMMY

Think it'd be okay if pet him?

After brushing Sammy off the first time, Jessica gives the boy a good look.

JESSICA

Yeah. I think he'd like that.

Sammy goes to the cage. Prancer moves his head toward Sammy so that he can pet him through the wire mesh.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

What's your name?

SAMMY

Sammy.

JESSICA

I'm Jessica.

SAMMY

I know who you are. You're my hero.

Jessica laughs

JESSICA

I've been called a lot of things, but never that.

SAMMY

My mom told me all about you. You were in the paper this morning.

JESSICA

Don't I know it.

Petting Prancer, Sammy looks to be in total awe of the reindeer.

SAMMY

It's clear as a window, just cleaned.

JESSICA

What?

