

SCENE 19

Annie's Story

ANNIE. There was, for a very brief moment in time, the paper dress. And I had one. I got it at Paraphernalia, which was Betsy Johnson's first store, on 67th and Madison. It was a kind of greyish plaid sheath. I wore it to brunch at my cousin Marty's. He was an advertising executive who had just married Steffie, whom he put through medical school and then she ran off with a doctor. They were very impressed with my dress and how au courant I was. Then I wore it to Paula's sister Janet's and her new husband Earl's, who invited me and Paula to dinner at their newlywed apartment which contained their newly-upholstered dining room chairs. In the middle of dinner, I got my period suddenly and violently. And when we all stood up, there was a blood stain on the seat of one of the prized new chairs. For history I should say that the dress was completely intact, just wet. It must have been the predecessor to Bounty paper towels. Anyway, when I stood up, Janet said something like, "WHAAT???" and I said something like "What?" As though nothing had happened at all. I then left the room for the bathroom. God knows what the three of them did because I never acknowledged to anyone that anything out of the ordinary had happened. Although I will remember this on my deathbed.