

# RS#6 Cassie, Lenny, Claire, Glenn, Ernie, Cookie, & Ken

RUMORS

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~~door. Her hair is brushed over one eye. She looks  
sexy as hell, with a malevolent grin on her face.  
Everyone turns to look at her.)~~

~~Yeah, she's got one.~~

~~(CASSIE crosses to the sofa, sits on the arm next to  
LENNY, practically leaning on him.)~~

**Start** →

**CASSIE.** Please forgive me, everyone. I know I behaved badly tonight.

*(She smiles right at LENNY. He smiles back, then looks away.)*

No, I really did...and I apologize. I've had – well, I've had a rough day today, and I'm just not here tonight.

**LENNY.** That's okay. Neither are Charley and Myra.

**CASSIE.** *(Smiles at LENNY.)* That's funny. That's truly funny, Lenny. I can never think of anything funny. How do you do that?

**LENNY.** *(A bit flustered.)* I don't know... I just... *(Sees CLAIRE glaring at him.)* Can I get up and get you a glass of wine?

**CASSIE.** Why? Do I look like I need one?

**CLAIRE.** Who is she getting back at, Glenn, you or me?

**GLENN.** *(Without looking at her.)* All right, Cassie, cut it out.

**CASSIE.** What do you mean, sweetheart.

**GLENN.** You know what I mean. Push your hair back up and sit on a chair.

**CASSIE.** *(Smiles at GLENN, then to LENNY.)* Do you know what he's talking about, Len?

**CLAIRE.** Excuse me. I'm going up to get Charley's gun.

**ERNIE.** Cassie, everyone here is your friend. Why don't you and I go out on the terrace and have a nice, quiet talk?

**COOKIE.** *(To ERNIE.)* You do and you'll have a back worse than mine.

**CASSIE.** Oh, my goodness, I see what you're thinking. That is really incredible. Because the exact same thing happened to Glenn and me last week at a cocktail party for the Democratic Fundraising Committee. There was

the nicest woman there – very attractive, very sweet, very refined – and because sometimes I can feel so silly and so insecure, I thought she was coming on to Glenn. They got up to dance and they were as close as freshly-laid wallpaper.

GLENN. Okay, Cassie, I think we're going.

*(The intercom on the phone buzzes.)*

KEN. *(Holding his chest.)* Excuse me. I must have eaten too quickly.

CHRIS. That was the intercom, Ken. Not you.

LENNY. *(Crossing to the phone.)* I'll get it. *(Picking up the phone.)* Hello? ...Charley? Are you all right? *(To others.)* It's Charley.

KEN. Molly? Who's Molly?

GLENN. *(Losing it.)* CHARLEY! CHARLEY! NOT MOLLY!

LENNY. *(Into phone.)* Yes, Charley, we're all here... Len, Glenn, Ken, Ernie, Claire, Chris, Cassie, and Cookie.

CLAIRE. Isn't that odd that all the women's names begin with a C?

CHRIS. That's right.

COOKIE. Except Myra.

CHRIS. Her middle name is Clara.

CLAIRE. And the men's names are all the same. Len, Glenn, Ken.

CHRIS. That's right.

CLAIRE. Except for Ernie and Charley.

COOKIE. Charley begins with a C.

ERNIE. What is this, anagrams, for pete sakes? Let him talk on the phone.

LENNY. Yes, Charley, I understand. No, it's perfectly reasonable. You do what you have to do... We'll be here. *(He hangs up.)* He needs time to think.

KEN. More time to drink? He shouldn't drink with Valium.

GLENN. *(Shouting into KEN's ear.)* THINK! THINK! NOT DRINK.

KEN. Oh! Oh, my God! Oh, Jesus!

CHRIS. What? What is it?

KEN. My ears popped! They just opened up. My God, it sounds like a subway in here.

ERNIE. This is remarkable, but I'm having the first headache I've ever had in my life.

End

COOKIE. I just remembered.

CLAIRE. What?

COOKIE. Ernie's last name is Cusack. It begins with a C.

CLAIRE. You just remembered your husband's last name?

KEN. I can hear my own pulse. It's slightly up, but not too bad.

CASSIE. *(Smiles sexily at KEN.)* Can I take it, Ken? I'm very good at things like that.

GLENN. I'm warning you, Cassie. You're going to end up in the same place where your crystal is.

CASSIE. Don't threaten me, sweetheart, because I'll start naming names.

GLENN. That's it! That's it! I've got to stay, but I'm putting you in a taxi.

CASSIE. *(Screams.)* Never mind! I'LL WALK.

*(KEN grabs his ears in pain and drops to the floor.*

*CASSIE storms out the front door.)*

GLENN. Walk? Twenty-two miles? Cassie, wait for me. Will you wait!! *(He runs out after CASSIE.)*

CLAIRE. I feel badly for her. Especially because one day she'll grow old and die.

COOKIE. I just thought of something else. Glenn went to Penn.

CHRIS. Oh, sit on it, will you, honey.

ERNIE. If I had you all in my group, I would never need another group again.

KEN. *(At the stage-right wall, near the window.)* Shh. Quiet. I can hear them.

LENNY. Hear who?