

SNAP WITH TWO JACKS

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Snap With Two Jacks

Characters:

Susie
Jennifer

Setting:

Jennifer's Kitchen.

During the course of the play Jennifer and Susie will start playing Snap. They will continue putting down, picking up and dealing the cards throughout as they are talking.

SUSIE AND JENNIFER ARE SISTERS. THEY ARE SITTING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE AT JENNIFER'S HOUSE. JENNIFER IS PLAYING SOLITAIRE WITH SOME CARDS.

SUSIE: Can you stop that? So we can get started.

JENNIFER: Not interested. Online matchmaking is just so not me.

SUSIE: Not you? The last time you went out with anyone was with that man with the facial twitch.

JENNIFER: He didn't have a facial twitch.

SUSIE: You knew exactly who I was talking about. He had a frequent involuntary smile.

JENNIFER: It can't have been very obvious.

SUSIE: How can you say that? He'd twitch into a smile every couple of minutes. Very unnerving.

Will you stop that..... Look at what you're playing... Solitaire.....That says everything.

JENNIFER: Does it?. Anyway, is your life always full of fun?

SUSIE: Jennifer. I have Jack.
(PAUSE)

JENNIFER: Want to play something?

SUSIE: I hate cards.

JENNIFER: Snap. Let's play Snap.

(JENNIFER DEALS THE CARDS. THEY START PLAYING SNAP WHILE TALKING)

SUSIE: I already chose a nickname.. For the profile....I called you "stillunder40".

JENNIFER: Stillunder40?

SUSIE: I wanted to hit any potential candidates with something straight away.

JENNIFER: Is that the most compelling thing that you can "hit potential candidates" with? That I'm still under 40?

SUSIE: It's a big selling point.

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JENNIFER: I'm not real estate.....

SUSIE: No, no of course not. I just want to show you off to your best advantage.....The only problem is....Your job.

JENNIFER: My job?

SUSIE: We'll put medical. Be vague. That way we can say you're a nurse – if we have to.

JENNIFER: Why are we saying I'm a nurse?

SUSIE: Saying you're a doctor could put off potential applicants. Your career choice is probably the reason we're forced to do this.

(SUSIE CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

Snap. **(PICKS UP THE CARDS)** Two queens. I'm good at this. It's the hand eye coordination.

(SUSIE COLLECTS AND DEALS THE CARDS AND THEY START PLAYING AGAIN)

As I was saying....You being a doctor is intimidating to men. Ken Cameron told me you're too intelligent for him.

JENNIFER: I am.

SUSIE: I agree but that's not the point. Ken Cameron has given us rare insight into the mind of -

JENNIFER: A dickhead.

SUSIE: The average dickhead. I admit Ken is not God's gift. Nowhere near it in fact. He has a terrible habit of plucking tiny hairs out of his ears while he talks

JENNIFER: How come you begged me to have dinner with him?

SUSIE: I did not beg...You never go out and I just think you need to adjust your standards.....

JENNIFER: My standards? You'd rather I go out with a dickhead like Ken Cameron than be alone?

SUSIE: I didn't say that. I have Jack. I-

JENNIFER: Maybe you don't think I can't do better than Ken Cameron.

SUSIE: I didn't say that but-

(SUSIE CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

Snap. Oh look. Two tens.

(SUSIE DEALS THE CARDS AND THEY START PLAYING AGAIN)

JENNIFER: You agreed Ken Cameron was a dickhead who pulls hair out of his ears... And in the next breath said I needed to lower my standards.

SUSIE: Adjust. I said adjust. Didn't I say adjust?

JENNIFER: You meant lower.Anyway....There was someoneMore recently after the facial twitcher. We were seeing each other for about 4 months.

SUSIE: Really?

JENNIFER: I'm not sure if I should go into it.

SUSIE: Are you making this up?

JENNIFER: Of course I'm not making it up. I wanted to save your feelings.

SUSIE: My feelings? Who was it?

JENNIFER: It was Patrick Drummond.

SUSIE: Patrick Drummond. The same Patrick Drummond that I knew slightly?

JENNIFER: The same Patrick Drummond you went out with for two years.

SUSIE: When was this?

JENNIFER: 18 months ago. It doesn't bother you, does it?

SUSIE: No it doesn't bother me. Of course not. I'm happily married. Very happily married. To Jack.

JENNIFER: I would hate for it to cause trouble between us.

SUSIE: We're sisters. There's no trouble.
It's just....I had no idea. You didn't say anything.

JENNIFER: We were very discreet. He pursued it. He pursued me. Really pursued me.

SUSIE: But eventually he dumped you-

JENNIFER: No. God no...I broke it off. He got a job overseas. He wanted me to go with him-

SUSIE: Overseas? He was going overseas when I was seeing him.
Christmas Eve. 1997. I had just bought him a cat for Christmas. I ended up having to keep it.

(JENNIFER CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

JENNIFER: Snap. Two aces. It had to be my turn sooner or later.... Didn't it?

(JENNIFER COLLECTS AND DEALS THE CARDS AND THEY START PLAYING AGAIN)

SUSIE: I'm amazed.

JENNIFER: I wasn't planning to tell you... ever. He phoned me for a couple of months after. It was too over the top. Are you okay...About it?

SUSIE: Obviously I'm okay Jennifer. I'm married to Jack. And Jack is....

JENNIFER: Yes.....

SUSIE: Jack is I couldn't ask for better than Jack. Could I?

JENNIFER: Maybe I shouldn't have said anything.

SUSIE: Did Patrick ever mention me? When you were together.....At all?

JENNIFER: Not really. Except-

SUSIE: What? Except what?

JENNIFER: He did say-

SUSIE: What? He did say what?

JENNIFER: He said you tried to get in touch with him for over a yearLeft phone messages, letters, cards, presents..... He said he never answered them.

SUSIE: I see. *(PAUSE)* It's in the past and there is nothing for me to be upset about. Nothing at all.

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JENNIFER: Absolutely. And you're married to Jack.

SUSIE: Spot on. I'm married to Jack.

JENNIFER: Do you still want to do the profile?

SUSIE: Let's leave it. It's probably stupid... And the last thing I would ever want... Is for you to seem pathetic.

JENNIFER: Okay. Good.

(PAUSE)

SUSIE: It's just that I was trying to help you.

JENNIFER: I don't need help.

SUSIE: Clearly you do. Your taste in men.....In the last 5 years, a facial twitcher and Patrick Drummond.

JENNIFER: The same Patrick Drummond *you'd* still be seeing if he hadn't dumped you and gone to London.

SUSIE: There's no chance I'd still be seeing him. No chance. He was very mean with money. All through the relationship he bought me one gift. One gift in 14 months.

JENNIFER: Is that how you judge relationships? By the gifts? Jack constantly showering you in tokens of affection is he?

SUSIE: I didn't say that.

(PAUSE)

If you must know he forgot my birthday last month and is having the swimming pool filled in so he can put in an organic vegetable patch.

(JENNIFER CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

JENNIFER: Snap....Two queens. How many's that?

SUSIE: Two all....He's toying with the idea of taking a very early retirement and staying home all day to grow organic vegetables....I think it's a mid life crisis.

(JENNIFER COLLECTS AND DEALS THE CARDS AND THEY START PLAYING AGAIN)

Last week he came home with a tattoo of a dagger on his arse.....
I immediately wondered if he is having doubts about his sexuality. I
mean... the shoulder, the chest but the arse..... A tattoo on the arse
suggests “prison movie” to me....Am I wrong?

JENNIFER: And?

SUSIE: He said he wasn't questioning his sexuality and without being specific, it
doesn't appear to be the case but...How many men get a bloody great
dagger drawn on their bum? Yesterday, I caught him backing up to the
mirror trying to look at it.

(PAUSE)

I like having a husband who is busy. Not lounging around all day like
some affluent hippy.

(PAUSE)

Look at me.... Who am I to lecture anyone? Look at my life. What's it
going to become?

JENNIFER: No...Susie...

SUSIE: If I was honest I would admit that I actually envy you. In some ways.
Mainly your career....

JENNIFER: No-

SUSIE: It's only a matter of time before Jack leaves me for some young thing he
met at the Body Art Boutique. How can I lecture anyone?

JENNIFER: That won't happen.

SUSIE: I bought Patrick Drummond a cat and he went to London the next day –
One day you look at your life and you're middle aged. Jack will leave me
and I'll be the one forced to watch Ken Cameron pulling hair out of his
ears....God, Jennifer...Where did it all go wrong?

JENNIFER: Susie....I shouldn't have mentioned the Patrick Drummond thing.....

SUSIE: Why wouldn't he want to go out with a successful interesting younger
doctor? He must have wondered why he ever wasted time with me.....
One day you wake up and it's all down hill. I'm past my prime.

(JENNIFER CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

JENNIFER: Snap!

SUSIE: See. You're even better than me at Snap. Three pairs. Not surprising really. Not the way my things are panning out for me at the moment. Not the way my life is heading....Down.

JENNIFER: No...No....Look...They're Jokers....They shouldn't even be in the deck. It doesn't count...It's still two all.

(PAUSE)

Look Susie, I should tell you....The reason we really broke up...One night....

(JENNIFER COLLECTS AND DEALS THE CARDS AND THEY START PLAYING AGAIN)

SUSIE: Yes.

JENNIFER: He called me –

SUSIE: Susie! He called you Susie....When? Was it during sex? Did he call you 'Susie' during sex?

JENNIFER: Okay then...Sure.... Yes..... That's exactly what happened. He called me 'Susie' during sex. I realized he still had feelings for you so I ended it.

SUSIE: He wasn't over me? After all? He was trying to relive with you what he had with me. As if he could.

JENNIFER: Okay then....That's right. Does that make things better for you?

SUSIE: Of course....Not. I'm irrelevant in this.... We're talking about you. Bastard. Imagine thinking that he could use my sister as some sort of second rate replacement.

JENNIFER: Second rate?

SUSIE: No. Of course I didn't mean 'second rate'... Not second rate...No....What a bastard! Thank God, we're close enough that you could tell me this.

JENNIFER: Yes. Thank God.

SUSIE: It's strange but all of sudden I feel a real weight off my shoulders. Patrick Drummond was using youIt's disgusting but it does make me feel good.....That we're so close we could talk about it.

JENNIFER: No well-.

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SUSIE: I do. I feel quite relieved. I almost feel...younger, lighter....
(*PAUSE*)
Jen.

JENNIFER: Yes.

SUSIE: Why don't we just do that profile? You might meet someone. Someone more deserving of you than that pig, Patrick Drummond.

JENNIFER: God Susie...Fine...I give in. Anything for peaceBut no hairy ears.....

SUSIE: Jennifer. There you go again.... I hate to sound harsh but....You're not getting any younger. God knows I'm not either.....But I do have Jack.
(*PAUSE*)

(SUSIE CLAPS HER HAND OVER THE CARDS)

Snap!
Oh look...Two Jacks.
I won after all.

LIGHTS DOWN.