*Burl's never been a fan of the five of us getting together for our "Special weekends". So this year he refused to "allow me" to come to the beach. When I finished laughing at him, I got in the shower to get ready. But before I had time to towel off, Burl had ransacked my closet and driven off with every stitch of clothing I own. So that's why I'm wearing this clown suit. I've been moonlighting as Toodles the Clown at kids' parties, you know, to make extra money for little luxuries like food and electricity. And because you never know when someone's going to need a balloon giraffe, I always keep my costume under the seat of my truck.

*Let's be honest. Nobody's going to hire me. I don't have any skills. All I've done in the last twenty-five years is cook for a bunch of nuns, take care of a baby and read Mr. Popper's Penguins in silly voices. If there is a good job for me out there, it can't be any harder than motherhood. I mean, chasing after a five-year-old is like trying to put socks on an octopus. I try to take it one day at a time, and then several days sneak up and attack me all at once. *Face it, girls. Aging's no day at the spa. Inside, I still feel like I'm twenty years old. But sometimes when I pick up my martini, a middle-aged woman's hand is holding the glass. And I can't believe it's mine. Although, the more I drink, the younger that hand starts to look. Randall used to say when you turn fifty, you're closer to the final curtain than the overture. But I believe there's still time to search for whatever it is I'm meant to find. Randall didn't get that chance, so I'm going to do it for both of us. I'm bartending y'all - who wants a drink?

*Lexie, will you please stop it! You are not the center of the universe! It's not all about you! We have lives, too. Things happen to us that are just as earth-shattering and I'm going to be a grandmother and I just can't stand it! It's just that...I can't wrap my mind around it. Trent's only been married a year and all of a sudden he calls and tells us he and Pam are having a baby? How could they do that? Oh, I pretend to be glad. But that's just something you say to reassure other people that the horror of raising children hasn't soured you on the perpetuation of the human race. It's just too soon. It makes me feel...old.