

ALAN

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ALAN. What's there to explain? Sometimes you just can't invite everybody to every party, and some people take it personally. But I'm not one of them. I should apologize for inviting myself.

MICHAEL. That's not exactly what I meant.

ALAN. Your friends all seem like very nice guys. That Hank is really a very attractive fellow.

MICHAEL. ...Yes. He is.

ALAN. We have a lot in common. What's his roommate's name?

MICHAEL. Larry.

ALAN. What does *he* do?

MICHAEL. He's a commercial artist.

ALAN. I liked Donald, too. The only one I didn't care too much for was – what's his name – Emory?

MICHAEL. Yes. Emory.

ALAN. I just can't stand that kind of talk. It just grates on me.

MICHAEL. What kind of talk, Alan?

ALAN. Oh, you know. His brand of humor, I guess.

MICHAEL. He can be really quite funny sometimes.

ALAN. I suppose so. If you find that sort of thing amusing. He just seems like such a goddamn little pansy.

(Silence. A pause.)

I'm sorry I said that. I didn't mean to say that. That's such an awful thing to say about *anyone*. But you know what I mean, Michael – you have to admit that he *is* effeminate.

MICHAEL. He is a bit.

ALAN. A bit! He's like a...butterfly in heat! I mean, there's no wonder he was trying to teach you all to dance. He *probably* wanted to dance *with* you!

(Pause.)

Oh, come on, man, you know me – you know how I feel – your private life is your own affair.

MICHAEL. (*Icy.*) No. I *don't* know that about you.

ALAN. I couldn't care less what people do – as long as they don't do it in public – or – or try to force their ways on the whole damned world.

MICHAEL. Alan, what was it you were crying about on the telephone?

ALAN. Oh, I feel like such a fool about that. I could shoot myself for letting myself act that way. I'm so embarrassed I could die.

MICHAEL. But, Alan, if you were genuinely upset – that's nothing to be embarrassed about.

ALAN. All I can say is – please accept my apology for making such an ass of myself.

MICHAEL. You must have been upset, or you wouldn't have said you were and that you wanted to see me – *had* to see me and had to talk to me.