

SHELBY: I want the works. I want to feel completely pampered today. Mama's gonna want a manicure, too.

TRUVY: I am going to paint my front door red and change my name to Elizabeth Arden.

CLAIREE: Manicures, saucy new hairdos. What's going on?

SHELBY: We're always up to something-you know that. *(Changing subject)* But I want to get back to this Drew and Belle nonsense. I hope they reconcile with Marshall. Speaking as a parent, they better get their act together. I do not approve of friction between parents and children.

CLAIREE: Oh, I think it'll all blow over. I have to admit, he did go about it the wrong way.

TRUVY: What did he do?

CLAIREE: He marched in unexpected from Los Angeles and Drew and Belle were preparing for the annual Marmillion shrimp boil. Marshall without so much as a hello says, "Mama and Daddy. I have something to tell you. I have a brain tumor. I have three months to live." Well, naturally Drew and Belle became hysterical. Then Marshall says, "Hey folks, r'm just kidding. I'm only gay."

SHELBY: That was his idea of breaking the news gently?

CLAIREE: Drew became incredibly distraught and started throwing wet shrimp at Marshall, screaming at him to get out of his sight. And Marshall came to my house smelling like a can of cat food.

TRUVY: What do you think Drew and Belle are feeling right now?

CLAIREE: I don't know. They just considered themselves to be a model family for so long. First with Nancy Beth dethroned from her Miss Merry Christmas title after that unfortunate motel thing . . .

SHELBY: What motel thing? I don't live here anymore, remember?

TRUVY: Nancy Beth was discovered in a nearby motel with a high political official.

CLAIREE: They were both high. They'd been smoking everything but their shoes.

TRUVY: To be the only Miss Merry Christmas in history caught with her tinsel down around her knees was very humiliating for the Marmillion family.

SHELBY: How do you feel about Marshall?

CLAIREE: Haven't really thought about it. But I want you to know he's always welcome at my house. I'm very proud of him. He built up that chain of sportswear stores all by himself without a penny of family money. He says, "I am a self-made man. I pulled myself up by my own jockstraps..."

TRUVY: He could always turn a phrase.

*(TRUVY is about to use a bottle of something for SHELBY's manicure, but she realizes the bottle is empty. She turns to ask ANNELLE for some, but ANNELLE is in silent prayer.)*