

PECKING

Written by

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Based on many a woman's reality

FADE IN:

EXT. TENT LOUNGE - DAY

Sun shines on an expansive green lawn with large trees leading to a contrasting white tent with red banners trimming the edge.

Two women, MARGARET, the elder, and ABIGAIL, the younger, sit on patio chairs, a delicate white patio table between them. A servant arrives with tea and sets down the tray. It holds a basket of plain and raisin scones.

Margaret pours as Abigail helps herself to a raisin scone and places it on a small fine china plate.

MARGARET

Sugar?

ABIGAIL

One please.

Margaret drops one sugar in Abigail's tea and sets it in front of her. She notices Abigail is pecking at a raisin, pulling it out of her scone.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Thank-you.

Abigail is intent on pecking out more raisins as Margaret serves herself her tea. The scone is becoming destroyed.

MARGARET

Abigail!

Abigail jumps, startled.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Stop pecking at it!

Abigail stops and Margaret sips her tea. Abigail doesn't look but pecks out another raisin.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Don't think I didn't see that.

She begins to reach for a plain scone but catches Abigail pecking another.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Stop! Why in heavens did you choose a scone with raisins only to peck at them? Eat like a normal person.

ABIGAIL
I like to peck at them.

MARGARET
Whatever for?

ABIGAIL
It's the only pecking I'm allowed
to do.

MARGARET
I don't understand.

ABIGAIL
Have you never seen something you
wanted to peck at only to be
powerless to do so? My husband's
ears ...

Margaret gets a funny look on her face.

FLASHBACK:

Margaret's eyes seem to see a large nose with a hair sticking
out from it.

END FLASHBACK.

MARGARET
Say no more. One must have one's
outlet. Peck away my dear.

Abigail happily does. Margaret reaches for the scones once
more and hesitates, then, takes a raisin one.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Jolly good idea.

The ladies sit and peck at their scones, tossing the raisins
as their bewildered servants try not to look on.

FADE OUT.