

# THE FORGIVEN

LOIS

Why the hell are you so happy?

HELEN

What do you mean?

LOIS

I mean after all that's happened...here you are ...You're ...you're making Christmas wreaths in your Christmas sweater and singing Christmas carols like *nothing's happened*.

HELEN

If you're done with the mister, I'll take it back.

LOIS

Like it all just went away.

HELEN

I never said that.

LOIS

You don't have to say it.

HELEN

All right...I forgive you.

LOIS

You...you forgive me?!

HELEN

Of course. All this anger you have. I forgive you...Now, can we go back to what we were doing?

LOIS

No. No, we can't. You don't have an affair with my sister's husband, ruin their marriage - a marriage of 40 years, I might add - and then walk away - singing Christmas carols!

HELEN

I didn't ruin their marriage.

LOIS

Oh? You thought sleeping with your best friend's husband would solidify their union?

HELEN

I'm saying the truck driver cranked up on Dexedrine had a hand in it.

LOIS

Oh sure, but since he died in the wreck, I'm giving him a pass.

HELEN

I'm not even sure it was adultery.

LOIS

What?

HELEN

Do you think what Richard and I did was adultery?

LOIS

Yeah, I do.

HELEN

When one of the people in a marriage doesn't know the other is having an affair...

LOIS

I can't believe you! So if I took money from your purse and you didn't know...

HELEN

Let me finish. If the other spouse doesn't know and will never know, I'm not sure it matters.

LOIS

You're not sure it matters! Hmm... If only there was a book with guidance on this subject...Oh! Here's one.

*(Grabs Bible from under the table and thumbs through it angrily)*

Let's see what scripture has to say, shall we?

HELEN

Believe it or not, I'm familiar with scripture.

LOIS

Are you? Let's see. Oh, right up front. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Seems pretty clear. But let's not confine ourselves to the Old Testament writers. They were such killjoys. Let's try Corinthians.

*(She quickly pages through)*

Ah, no joy here either...“Flee from sexual immorality as you would run from flood and fire.”

HELEN

That's not a real quote.

LOIS

It's close enough!