

## 1. THE STARS SHINE DOWN ON ESTELLE

The old saying goes that when romance stirs in the soul, the heart skips a beat. When Estelle is born, her heart skips one beat. And she can never catch up. She is always exactly one beat ahead of everyone else. So when she feels love, her heart skips another beat and now it is racing two beats ahead of everyone else. That is why Estelle is a hopeless romantic.

Estelle has always had dreams of being spirited away by a dark mysterious lover. But in reality, the loves of her life have always been dull and ordinary. As luck would have it, she is endowed with sufficient charms to pursue her romantic dreams. The fair creature only has to look in the mirror to realize what blessings have fallen her way. However, she cannot overcome the incredible curse that has made her lovelorn.

It's been three months since she has broken up with Michael. She can still feel his strong arms gripping her feeble body. She always felt like putty in his hands. One touch and she would melt. She wants that feeling all over again. She wants to feel the warmth of a real man.

Estelle could never go back to Michael, not the way that he broke her heart. She is still haunted by the surreptitious grin on his face. She never really caught him with another girl. It was just that over time, he seemed to be around less and less. He claimed that work was burdening his every minute. She may have been understanding, but the girl is not stupid.

Since that time she has tried to harden herself. She is not going to play the naive girl to a man again. She has found herself doing double duty at the gym just to sweat off a tendency to be overly nostalgic. She may need love to survive, but she never wants to be taken for a sucker again.

Estelle is working at home. The battery on her laptop is acting up. She needs to go to the computer store to have someone look at it. She packs up the computer in its case and take what she considers a needless trip to the store.

She says to herself, "Why don't they make these things right in the first place?"

Walking through the store, she finally finds a clerk who looks as if he has all the time in the world on his hands. But the minute that she says something to him, he pretends that he's busy devising plans to build a bridge, or some other major project. Even when he allows her to explain the problem, he seems absolutely useless. He might as well be making pizzas instead of servicing computers.

"I couldn't help overhearing." Another customer is using her helplessness as an excuse to bother her. Estelle is all ready to close her ears. She decides to look over at him. He dresses well, but he seems a little too full of himself. Down deep, he still hasn't thrown off his nerdy past. From the moment that he begins to speak, she feels that she is only confirming her first impressions. "I had quite the same problem myself." She decides to listen to his explanation. It seems like it might fix the difficulty.

He finishes by saying, "If you do that, I don't think that you're going to need a replacement battery.

She thanks him for his help. "Well I better get going. I was in the middle of my work when the computer died."

He speaks up, "Just one thing."

Oh no, this creep is going to ask for my number.

"What?" she asks with a pained expression. She has already forgotten that he just helped her with the computer.

“What kind of work do you do?”

She is still defensive, “Why are you asking?”

He smiles. His smile temporarily melts her resistance, “I just wondered why you were working on such a beautiful Saturday afternoon.”

She plays along, “I think it’s because my boss is a slavedriver.”

He complements her, “You look so young. I would have thought that you were a college student.”

She can feel herself giving in to his charm, “Actually I am in school. I also do bookkeeping at a hospital. I find that I’m working around the clock.”

About to graduate from Georgia State University, the sweet Atlantan is ready to embark on her lifelong plans without a worthy suitor for her hand in marriage. Her years have not been wasted. She is well-trained for a career. But she does not want to pass into the twilight of her life without the one great love to have made all her efforts worthwhile. Of course, that is a millennium away, but she can already feel that fate is not dealing her an ideal hand.

Estelle can tell by his accent that he is not from the South. She hates to hold that against him. But she feels that her faint heartedness has been bred by the leisurely pace of lazy flowing rivers in the heat of August. She would be totally vulnerable with a Northerner.

He is doing his best to look more mature for her. But Dan is a college student at Georgia Tech. He is studying construction engineering. In his dreams he imagines mighty bridges conquering the most wayward rivers. For his work, he feels an almost missionary zeal. He has tied his dreams to the progressive vision of the industrial age. In the ebb and flow of the global economy, he is almost a throwback to another era.

As she is about to walk away, he almost yells, “I forgot to get your name.”

She feels that this is only a prelude to asking for her phone number. Sure, he’s been friendly. But it’s hardly her intention to go out with him.

She smiles, “My name’s Estelle.”

“Like the stars!” he remarks.

“What?”

He explains, “As in stellar. Like your sparkling eyes.”

She thanks him for the complement. The two of them stand in the middle of the aisle staring at each other. He put out his hand.

“Hi, my name’s Dan,” he says. As he speaks, she grips his hand. He doesn’t want to let go. He can feel her pull away.

Dan senses that he is missing the moment. Her front is beginning to reestablish itself. He needs to do anything that he can to save face.

“Let me give you my number just in case that you have any more computer problems.”

He pulls out his wallet. In it, he has a colored business card that he made on his computer. It has both his phone number and his email address. She thanks him and politely sticks it in her purse.

When she gets back home, it is already too late to keep working. She has plans to meet friends for dinner and drinks. There is also talk of dancing. She actually is pretty excited to put the work away for another week. She’ll take it easy Sunday, and then she will start on her homework in the evening.

Lily meets her for dinner at a new restaurant that has just opened in Brookwood. It is a seafood grill. Estelle orders Mahi Mahi. Lily has the shrimp. Crissy is supposed to join them after dinner.

Lily's dark hair is in a short bob. It gives her a sense of freedom that makes her so appealing. She loves to just shake her head in abandon as her full-bodied hair just follows her motions. Tonight, Estelle feels almost under-dressed in contrast to the smart dress that Lily has picked out for herself. It is a dark-green lace. She complements it with a pair of wicked pumps that seem to push her tall frame up even more.

In spite of Lily's elegant attire, Estelle is getting more attention from the male clientele. She does everything that she can to ignore these guys. Some of them appear to be neglecting their dinner dates so they can get a wink from Estelle. What wolves!

After dinner, they meet Crissy at a bar not too far from Piedmont Park off Monroe Drive. They sit out on the patio and enjoy their drinks together.

Crissy seems to be the most daring of the three. She is dressed in a short tight, black skirt and delicious shiny black slings.

Lily tries to direct their plans to a more upscale dance club.

Estelle remarks, "I'm sort of tired of those guys whose egos are almost as big as their expensive watches."

They all smile at Estelle's humor.

Crissy comments, "I don't think that you're going to find your knight in shining armor on a Saturday night. Sometimes, we just have to settle for what we can get."

The girls are dressed to the nines. Estelle cannot imagine them settling for anything at all. Estelle adds, "I think tonight the men are going to have to do a little more work if they're going to catch our interest."

Estelle can imagine them running aground at the present location as they set their sights on the impossible quest.

Lily is even rarer form than her compatriots. "I didn't get all dolled up to be remaindered to the junk yard. If we're going to cause trouble, we're going to cause trouble.

None of the three want to get caught up in the hubbub of Buckhead. And the nightmares in Midtown only begin with trying to park.

Crissy asks, "Where the hell are we going to go?"

They can hardly head to the underground clubs. Their glamor will stick out too much against the dour faces and drab clothes. These girls need the spotlights.

Estelle suggests that they visit Cinnamon.

Lily analyzes the choice, "It's not like it's the best we can do, but you have to admit, it's the best that we can do."

They all admit that they are settling for a less than a perfect night.

The girls have no trouble making it through the line. Inside the dance floor is pulsating. There are no tables so the best that they can do is stand at one of the drink stations. They can hardly get the attention of a waitress. Lily come back with drinks for the three of them.

Estelle is trying to move to the music. She feels that the atmosphere is a little much for to even catch her breath. But she plays along. Crissy seems that she is in heaven. When Lily come back with her drink, she downs most of it right away. She wants to get in the mood as quickly as

possible. No feeling, no guilt.

The guys are still staring at Estelle. That seems to be the rule of the night. At the same time, they are a little intimidated by her. Either it's going to take a lot of courage to approach her, or she's going to become a magnet for all the losers in the place. Lily is particularly stunning, but she is overshadowed by her friend. Crissy is making her own game, and she seems way beyond her two friends.

Estelle turns to look for Crissy. "Where the hell has she gone?"

Lily informs her, "Oh, she's on the dance floor over there dancing with a couple of guys."

Estelle smiles, "A couple!"

Lily, "I feel like the wallflower at a high school dance. What does a girl have to do to get some action in a place like this?"

Estelle has a quick comeback, "Girl, you're a three-alarm fire. You have nothing to worry about."

Maybe that's so, but no man has yet approached either of them.

Lily suggests, "Let's go dance with ourselves."

Estelle agrees, "Oh, what the hell."

They both rush off to the dance floor. There is barely a square of open space, but they work their way on to the floor. Immediately, some creepy guy tries to rub his body against Estelle. Lily swoops down for a quick rescue.

The drunken lout yells, "Who are you, her bodyguard?"

Lily answers, "Let's just say that I'm going to get a lot closer to her body than you will."

After a few songs, they make their way back to their drinks. Fortunately, no one's picked them up. Out of nowhere they're greeted by a friendly face.

"I saw how that guy was hassling out there. I guess your friend came in for quick reinforcements."

Estelle hardly has any time to react. She can't help but smile. Lily tries to get in the conversation. "This place really attracts the freaks," she says.

Estelle realizes that she better respond quickly, or she's going to lose his interest. She puts her arm around Lily and does a little curtsy, "We work as a team."

His eyebrows go up. They both have peaked his curiosity. "What do you girls do?"

Estelle answers first, "I'm a student at Georgia State in finance. My name's Estelle, what's yours?"

Lily doesn't want to be left out. She extends her hand to him, "Hi, I'm Lily, I'm a buyer at a department store. What do you do?"

"I'm in investment banking. Estelle, I could give you some great contacts. Do you have a card? My name's Phil."

Lily feels left out. All that she can do is watch helplessly. Meanwhile, Estelle is rummaging through her purse for something to write on. She pulls out Dan's card. She is almost about to cross out his information and write on the back when she has second thoughts. He was pretty good with computers. She never knows when she might need some help. Instead, she settles on a matchbook cover.

Estelle apologizes, "Sorry, that I don't have something better to give you."

"That will do perfectly," he says. "Now, let me get you a refill on those drinks."

They both tell him what they like. Lily seems particularly aggressive, “Don’t forget my twist of lemon.”

Phil teases her, “I’m not going to forget anything that you want to twist around.”

Lily giggles. On the other hand, Estelle doesn’t want to come off as that frivolous. She half-believes that he could be a worthwhile job contact. She doesn’t imagine doing hospital bookkeeping for the rest of her life.

As they are talking to Phil, Crissy comes back with some guy who has his arm around her. She is gushing, “Meet Mike.”

Mike thinks that he has a sure thing. He is a little over-confident. And Lily has suddenly attracted Phil’s interest. Estelle is temporarily distracted. She again pulls out Dan’s number from her purse. She thinks about her Tech geek.

Estelle’s mind continues to wander. She is feeling a little pressured by the club atmosphere. With the pumping music and fast talk, she feels like a washing machine that they are getting to roll out on the display floor. She simply doesn’t need a sign on herself to advertise her assets. Even Phil seems full of glib quips meant to sweep a girl off her feet. She wants something more.

Phil convinces Lily to go off and dance. Mike is doing his best to try to make out with Crissy. Estelle is just frustrated. She wants to scream. When she notices that a guy is trying to catch her eye from over by the bar, she deliberately turns towards Crissy. Now he is unable to see her face to face. Estelle doesn’t care what her friends have going. She just wants to leave.

After Phil comes back with Lily, Lily realizes that she has received enough attention for the night. It was fun dancing, but Phil seems a little too serious for her. She does give him her number.

As he walks away, he again turns to Estelle, “I will call you about a job.”

She feels impressed that he still shows an interest. Now Lily and Estelle have to pool their efforts to disengage Mr. Wonderful from Crissy’s grasp.

Lily jokes, “I’ll hold him, and you pound on him.”

Estelle answers back, “This guy is definitely a heavy weight. It’s going to take a lot to bring him down.”

Crissy and Mike are sitting in the corner of a couch locked in passionate embrace.

Estelle looks at Lily, “This is going to be impossible.”

As soon as he gets up to go to the washroom, they both pull Crissy up.

“We’re taking off!” screams Lily ecstatically

Crissy protests, “I want to stay. He’s really nice.”

“He’s a monster. He’s already sucking you up,” maintains Lily.

“I rather like him,” says Crissy.

Estelle adds, “No time for consideration. We’re out of here.”

In the car Crissy asks, “Mommy, why couldn’t I keep the puppy.”

“Sorry Crissy, he had fleas.”

They drop Crissy off at her car by the restaurant where they started. Then Estelle lets Lily off at her place.

On her way home, Estelle remembers pulling out Dan’s card.

Estelle is surprised when she gets a call from Phil a few days later. She assumes for the moment that he is confusing her with her friend Lily.

She hardly believes him when he tells her, "I've got an interview for you on Thursday. I hope that you're free. This could be really big."

She pauses for a moment. This is too good to be true. "It sounds great. I'll be free. What time?"

He tells her, "Call them to confirm, and they'll give you an exact time. Just make sure that you get your resume is ready."

It's already a couple of days off, but she feels as if she is scrambling to get everything in order. She's not sure what she should wear. Her mind is distracted. She is a thousand places at once. She just needs to take it easy.

By the time the interview rolls around, she is completely prepared. She has investigated the firm on the internet. She is aware of all the major investment projects that they are involved in, everything from sport stadiums to completions bonds for motion pictures. She is ready to apply everything that she has learned in four years of schooling.

She has tried to be smart in getting ready for the interview. She has picked a conservative flower print dress. Over it, she has donned a short jacket. She wears her dove pendant. Her smile is wide, and she is ready to please.

Estelle ends up being interviewed by Stephanie Hamer, one of the partners. It starts off with a couple of slow pitches her way. She is asked about her bookkeeping job. The questioning moves to some more complex ideas of accounting and digital record keeping. Later on things get really serious, maybe too serious. Estelle tries to hold her own on questions of derivatives and residuals. When things move to rules for offshore investments, she is completely over her head. She can feel herself drowning, and she is trying to tread the depths until she makes shallow water. But Stephanie never lets up.

After the interview, Estelle is crestfallen. Phil makes a point to find her. She can't even look him in the eye. "I blew it. I didn't know what to say to half the questions. I felt like such an idiot."

"Don't worry! Stephanie is a tough one. She has something to prove. And she's never going to give another woman an even break. Don't hold it against you. You may come out of it with flying colors."

"I'm a mess right now," she admits.

"It's almost happy hour. Let's duck out of here and get something to drink."

She asks, "Don't you have to work?"

"I've done pretty well all that I can for today. I'll bring my lap top home and do some work tonight."

Estelle adds, "I am famished. I was too nervous to eat at lunch. And I felt steam-rolled at the interview."

Phil tells her, "Let's get out of here. We can get some food. I just have to close shop."

Phil rushes back to his office to get his laptop. Now he is ready to leave for the day. It's almost 5 so it's not as if he's really cheating them of any time.

The firm is on Piedmont Road in Buckhead. It's in a long row of office complexes. Estelle comments, "You could get lost in this place if you didn't know where you were."

Phil smiles, "I have some stories to tell."

"Where do you want to go?" she asks. "Everywhere is going to be pretty crowded at this hour."

He tells her, "I know this cool place on East Andrews." He gives her the directions.

"I know that place. I've been there before."

When they get to the bar, she is still wiped out. It is starting to affect her even more.

Phil informs her, "They actually have some good food here."

"Are you telling me that as a guy?" she is skeptical.

He says, "No, it's really good. The same guy owns it who runs that great fish place on Pharr."

She accepts his recommendation for the moment. She decides on some shrimp and fries. Not something that is easy to ruin.

Estelle confesses, "I think that I learned a lot today. I may not be ready for the real world."

"Don't be down on yourself. If you were in that long with Stephanie, she was interested. If you go fifteen rounds with that woman, then you're in the big time for sure."

She wonders about what is really going on, "Since you knew that she was such a bitch, why did you make me submit to such cruel and unusual punishment?"

Phil does his best to console her, "I knew that you were good. If you could go at it with her, and not break down in tears, I was sure there was a future for you somewhere."

She smiles, "Thanks for warning me. I could have worn armor to the interview."

He replies, "There's not much that you could have done except be yourself."

Estelle assumes that Phil must know what he's talking about. Sure, she's pretty vulnerable at this moment. And he could be using her weakness just to flatter her. But she is still open to his suggestions.

Estelle has almost finished eating. The color in her cheeks is beginning to return. She immediately comes to the realization that this attractive man has her undivided attention. She doesn't feel used to this. Or maybe, she is just out of practice. She is convinced that he has changed his tone. Phil appears to be coming on to her.

Estelle is hardly certain what to do, now that she has captured a live one. She could do the respectable thing and just toss him back. But then he has done so much for her already. She never thought of this as some kind of bargain. But if he's come here to horse trade, she better decide if she's here to give a horse show.

Estelle hates seeing her life in such stark terms. Of course, she lives for romance. But what else could romance be? This seems as good a place as any to start.

She reaches in her purse to pull out her credit card to pay. Phil interjects, "This one is on me."

"I wouldn't think of it," she answers.

"After what I put you through without warning you," he is firm. "It's my treat. You have to learn to let people give you things."

Her hand is still in her purse. Somehow it is now holding Dan's card. She quickly stuffs it deep within the purse.

"OK! Just this once," she gives him a big smile.

He is trying not to play too heavy, “Maybe we could do this again.”

She looks into his eyes. She can feel that spark run through her body. “We will do it again!”

After they are finished, he walks her out to the car. They talk briefly. Then he shakes her hand.

It is still early when she gets home. She could call Lily and share the details. But she wants to keep it to herself. For the time being, she doesn’t want to share Phil with anyone. But she starts to think about it. Phil was interested in Lily that first night. Even if Estelle has nothing to do with it, she doesn’t want to make it seem as if she is getting in the middle of anything. For the moment, she decides not to say anything to Lily.

To soothe her conscience, she takes out Dan’s card and puts it on her computer monitor. This is a reminder for her to call him when she thinks of a convenient excuse. If she’s pursuing Dan, Lily can hardly blame her for taking Phil away.

The next day, Stephanie calls Estelle personally. She is totally surprised. She is still on edge as she hears the news.

Stephanie tells her, “We’re probably looking for someone a little more experienced for the position. You just need a little seasoning. I definitely want you to work for us sometime in the future. We’ve got some paid internships. That might interest you this summer after you graduate.”

Estelle can hardly contain her excitement. “I’d love to!”

Stephanie reminds her, “Be sure to call me in April.” She kids Estelle, “If I don’t hear from you, I’m going to track you down.”

“Thanks so much, Ms. Hamer.”

Estelle can hardly hope for anything better. She had felt overcome by Stephanie Hamer. But Phil was right. It was all part of a test to see if she had the right stuff. And she never cracked even when the going got the toughest.

Estelle decides to save her news until later. She still feels a little guilty about Phil. When she gets home that evening, she calls Lily.

Estelle can hardly wait to blurt out the news. “I got this great job offer.”

Lily wants to share her friend’s excitement. She doesn’t want to tell her that the job is in Phil’s firm. But she tells her about all the other details.

“We have to celebrate,” Lily tells her. “It’s Friday night.”

“I’m a little tired. I think that the tension is getting to me. Maybe tomorrow.”

“You’re only young once,” Lily tries to coax her out.

“Not tonight,” she tells Lily.

She feels that she is burning in hell for not telling Lily about Phil. But she couldn’t figure out a nice way to break the news. She is again looking at Dan’s number. Even if he is a nerd, he probably has plans for the weekend. But she decides that she has to call her no matter what.

Estelle is sitting at her computer table. It may be Friday, but she could get an early start on her home work. She turns on the computer. Her mind is distracted. For once, she needs to do something for herself. She picks up the cell phone and calls Dan.

“Dan, this is Estelle. I met you in the computer store the other day.”



He answers, "I was just thinking about you. I wondered if you were ever going to call."

Estelle believes that he may be a total loser. They've barely met, and he claims that he's thinking about her. Who is he kidding?

She admits, "I really don't have any computer problems. I think that it's just me. I'm a little cracked in the head."

Dan reacts to her, "I think that I may be better with heads than with computers."

Estelle thinks that this sounds really stupid. She is convinced that she made a mistake. Phil has made her desperate. Now, she is wondering where this is going.

He continues, "We could get together to talk about it. Maybe tomorrow afternoon. We could get coffee. Maybe some ice cream."

Ice cream? Who does he think she is? A twelve year old. Even if she felt bad about being with Phil, he treated her like an adult. But Estelle feels a little desperate. She settles for ice cream with Dan.

Estelle has a shower and gets ready for bed. While watching a movie on TV, she is surprised how tired she is. It's been a long week. She is ready for bed by about 10.

Her plans call for meeting Dan at 3. Estelle is spending her Saturday afternoon getting ready when her phone rings. She remembers that she promised to go out with Lily that night. It's probably Lily.

She reaches for the phone and notices that Phil is calling.

He tells her, "I'm sorry that I didn't call to congratulate yesterday. I was in meetings until 8. Then I just needed to relax."

She is not sure what to make of his call back. She is almost ready to go meet Dan. She now feels that she is juggling two things at once.

She tells Phil, "I really would like to talk. But I have to be somewhere in half an hour."

Phil answers, "I really didn't call to talk. I just wanted to see if we could have dinner tomorrow. Nothing too fancy."

Estelle has hardly resolved how she feels about Phil. She wants to ask him if he's talked to Lily. She says nothing about that.

"I'm free. I do have a lot of homework to do so it can't be too late."

She closes the deal with Phil, and then she is off to meet Dan. She feels that she is so calculated about it all.

Estelle is dressed casually for the meeting. She's in jeans, flats, and a light violet blouse. Her hair really shines in the daylight.

She has imagined Dan to be this clumsy kid. She is a little surprised when she sees him again. Today, he strikes her more business-like. He no longer seems to be a social reject. She still hasn't warmed up to him completely. For the moment, she feels that she hasn't made a mistake in driving over here.

Dan is more than a little overwhelmed. He was simply being polite in the computer store. Now he is astounded by her presence. He tries to collect himself so that he doesn't do anything too embarrassing.

They sit down and order. Estelle decides on a coffee milk shake. At least, it's more mature than simply asking for a cone.

As they sit with their snacks, she is trying to size up Dan Oberman. In the store, he had

told her how he was an engineering student. Now, he tells her how he loves tennis. He's done some skiing.

Dan offers his story, "My family wasn't that well off. But they cared for my needs. I learned early on how important it was to succeed in school. Things come pretty naturally to me. I study, but I don't have to kill myself to get good grades."

Estelle contrasts her own experience, "I just feel that I'm always working. Working for school, working at the hospital. I wish that I had it a little easier."

He wants to be sympathetic.

Estelle qualifies herself, "I guess that I'm coming off as hopeless case. I told you that I needed head fixing."

He feels a little indelicate, but he can't avoid asking this early, "Are you going out with someone?"

"I was until a few months ago. Michael broke my heart."

He responds immediately "That's sad to hear."

"I'm not the type to dwell on things. I don't spend my time telling guys that I meet all about my last relationship. I'm too busy to worry about things like that."

He sounds as if he's repeating himself, "So you haven't been dating anyone since Michael?"

Dan almost sounds like a detective. She immediately thinks about her dinner date with Phil. She feels that she has to say something.

"I've seen a few guys on and off. Nothing special. What about yourself?"

"I went out with a girl when I lived in Pittsburgh. She was my high school sweetheart. But things went badly after a couple of years away. Long distance romances never work."

Dan seems so serious when he talks about himself. She can hardly imagine herself involved with him. But he does make her feel more at ease than Phil. Even for a casual meal tomorrow, she imagines how she is going to have to get herself all dolled up.

They talk more about school. Nothing too spectacular. He brings it back around to her social life.

"What are you up to tonight?"

"I'm going to meet a girl friend. We're going to go out and celebrate my summer internship. I know that's a long way off, but I just heard the news today."

"I'm going to do some work. Then I'll probably head to a party with some buddies. I'd love to have you tag along."

His invitation doesn't seem all that enthusiastic. Besides, she isn't ready to spend too much time with him. He's seemed like a nice guy. But she can't make too much about it.

Once she gets back to her apartment, Estelle decides that she needs a rest. She'll get ready to meet Lily a little later. After her nap, she has a light snack. They've decided that they won't get dinner tonight. Lily has asked Crissy to come, but she has other plans. So it's just the two of them.

Unlike the last time out together, the girls decide not to go all out. This actually increases their options. They don't have to necessarily end up at an upscale dance club. One night at Cinnamon was enough for a while.

Nell's is a restaurant that they've transformed into a dance club. They've brought a strong sound system and some modest lights. The place is really hopping when they get in. From the moment that they hit the dance floor, they are the hit of the club. Guys right and left are coming up and asking them to dance. They hardly have to pay for a drink all night. They just make sure that nothing gets too serious.

On the way home, Lily tells Estelle, "I never knew that we were such good dancers."

Estelle laughs, "We could start a dance routine."

"Can you sing? We could start a band." Lily starts to sing one of the dance songs that they've heard tonight.

Estelle teases her, "Maybe we should just stick to dancing."

Lily won't stop, "Is there something wrong with my singing voice?"

Estelle joins her singing. They are just getting crazy.

When she arrives home, she wonders why she didn't mention Phil to Lily. She wonders to herself if there's a nice way to tell her what's really going on.

If Dan had been a little more debonair, she probably wouldn't even give Phil a second thought. She'd just meet him for dinner, and she'd be done with it. But Dan hasn't yet become her savior. She is still having second thoughts about having met him today.

For her part, Estelle shares no misgivings about Phil. She associates him with the success that she hopes for herself. She already got a taste of that after her interview. She wants to move in those high-powered circles. She doesn't want guys to see her as some mousey type who is afraid of her own shadow. She just doesn't want to destroy the sentimental side that has made her who she is.