

**TUCKER and ELLEN**

- Tucker: I guess we're holding down the fort, huh? You're so lucky to be working with Ava Rose. Chili is in her blood.
- Ellen: I'm afraid I'm not much help to her. I don't know anything about cooking.
- Tucker: Why'd you enter a cooking competition?
- Ellen: Because I realized I'd been in town for two years and my only friends are chickens. And that's a real love-hate relationship. I thought getting involved in an event like this might be a good way to meet people. And, I was right. How about you?
- Tucker: If I'm being honest, I'm mostly here for the cash prize. Connie promised me half if we win.
- Ellen: What are you going to do with it?
- Tucker: I wish I could tell you, but it's a secret. Let's just say that that money will buy my freedom. Yes ma'am. I get that cash and the world is my oyster mushroom. That's a culinary joke.
- Ellen: You're pretty funny, Tucker Dell.
- Tucker: And you're pretty pretty, Ellen-
- Ellen: Pellham. And, stop. I am not.
- Tucker: You're hotter than this jalepeno. I bet your boyfriend thinks so.
- Ellen: Well, I don't have a boyfriend.
- Tucker: Oh, no? Well, I'm surprised to hear that.
- Ellen: Would your girlfriend be surprised to hear that?
- Tucker: I don't have a girlfriend. So there we are. Two single people. (*They smile at one another.*) You want to know a little trick? Put a teaspoon of sugar in your sauce. Trust me. It mellows everything out.