

## **SPECTER**

MARLA

Alright, the wildest thing I ever did was, see, my boyfriend and I we would find this really dark and deserted stretch of road, with lots of woods preferably, and then what we'd do is- he'd let me off, like, in the middle of nowhere, like, we'd pass some guy who was alone, right, and then up the road a ways my boyfriend would let me out, and when this poor guy would drive along, I'd be in the middle of the road, like, and looking really nice, dressed in white, so he'd be sure to see me, you see, and the guy will stop, one way or the other, the best thing is if I can get him off the road, or maybe get him to stop and neck, or whatever, and then what happens is, my boyfriend comes back, and we kill the guy and steal his car, and everything he has, and then we bury him in the woods and we take off.

NORRIS

That's pretty wild.

MARLA

You bet it is

NORRIS

How do you kill him?

MARLA

My boyfriend holds him down and I cut his throat.

NORRIS

And then you eat his liver?

MARLA

I was joking before. Like a cat playing with a mouse. I'm not joking now, Andrew. It really makes you feel alive, you know? Really deeply, vividly alive.

NORRIS

I don't think that's very funny Marla.

MARLA

They never do. (Pause) I especially enjoy cutting the throats of the sarcastic ones. The look on their faces.

No longer smug. Sometimes I ask them how close a shave they want. It's really an art. Not getting blood all over your dress, sometimes it shoots out of the neck like a geyser.

NORRIS

What do you cut their throats with?

MARLA

My boyfriend's got a hunting knife.

NORRIS

I see.

MARLA

And do you know the best part? Sometimes, while we're waiting for my boyfriend to come, I'll sort of, to keep them busy, you know, neck with them, and also, in a way, I feel a little sorry for them, so I let them sometimes make love to me, and it's kind of exciting, because I never know when my boyfriend is going to show up, so sometimes it goes really far. And just at the very end, just before I cut their throat, do you know what I do?

NORRIS

No. What do you do?

MARLA

I give them a goodbye kiss, the most tender and wonderful kiss they've ever had. Like this.

(She kisses him, a long kiss. At first he hesitates, but then he gets deeply caught up in it. SHE pulls away.)

That time I really did have you going didn't I? You really believed me for awhile there didn't you?

NORRIS

Don't be silly.

MARLA

Yes you did.

NORRIS

I didn't believe you.

MARLA

You were scared out of your mind. Your heart was pounding

like Gene Krupa was in there with his orchestra. You were scared to death.

NORRIS

I was aroused.

MARLA

You believed me. That was the most exciting moment of your life, because you wanted me, and you were terrified of me, but you wanted me anyway, and when I kissed you, it was like nothing mattered but that moment, which demonstrates pretty conclusively that the human sexual instinct, once aroused, is stronger than anything. I brought you to an ultimate moment. Now the next time anybody asks you what's the wildest thing you ever did, you'll have something to tell them.

NORRIS

And what did you feel?

MARLA

I kind of liked it.

NORRIS

Did you?

MARLA

Yes.

NORRIS

You mean you liked kissing me? Or scaring and deceiving me?

MARLA

I'm not into deception. I just wanted you to feel a little excitement about life for once. Life is dangerous. Love is dangerous. Sex is very dangerous. Everything that reminds you you're alive is dangerous, because it also reminds you that you're going to die.

NORRIS

And you like that.

MARLA

I accept it, because that's the way it is, that's reality.

NORRIS

I don't think you know much about reality, Marla. I think you are mostly into fantasy. Who says you can play with people like that?

MARLA

I was just trying to help you out. I mean, I felt really bad for you, because your life is so boring.

NORRIS

But Marla, you don't know me, you don't know anything about me but what I've told you. I could be anybody. I could be ANYBODY.

MARLA

But you're not. You're just you.

NORRIS

You are operating on a very dangerous fantasy level here, you think you are in touch with some sort of reality, but you don't know anything about it. In the real world danger is not fun. This is not Disneyland.

MARLA

I know, it's New Jersey, so what?

NORRIS

So there are consequences, there are real live consequences. And some of them are really horrible and they are going to come and get you sooner or later if you keep on playing with people like this, you can't just play with people, especially not with strangers, you could get yourself hurt.

MARLA

You're not going to hurt me.

NORRIS

How the hell do you know that?

MARLA

I just know, that's all, I trust my instincts, which is more than I can say for you.

NORRIS

Yeah? Well, what do your instincts say about this?

(He pulls his face roughly over his to kiss her. SHE tries to pull away at first but then gets involved. She struggles as dress pushed up)

MARLA

Hey. Easy.

NORRIS

Shut up.

MARLA

HEY. STOP IT. STOP. STOP IT. I SAID STOP.

NORRIS

Are you excited?

MARLA

NO.

NORRIS

Are you having an ultimate moment?

MARLA

NO. STOP IT. STOP IT.

NORRIS

My pleasure.

MARLA

What the hell do you think you were doing?

NORRIS

Just proving a point.

MARLA

Rape is not a joke, buster.

NORRIS

No, it's not. And neither is murder.

MARLA

It's not the same thing.

NORRIS

You scared me. I scared you. Were you sexually aroused?

MARLA

No.

NORRIS

Your heart was pounding. I felt it.

MARLA

I was scared.

NORRIS

You were never at any point aroused?

MARLA

Sure, at first, before I thought you were going to rape me.

NORRIS

But once you thought the danger was real you stopped being aroused and started being scared.

MARLA

Yes.

NORRIS

Was it fun?

MARLA

No. It was horrible.

NORRIS

So is what you did to me.

MARLA

But that's different.

NORRIS

Tell me how it's different?

MARLA

For one thing, you were never in any real danger. I mean, I wasn't going to cut your throat.

NORRIS

How was I supposed to know that?

MARLA

I knew it.

NORRIS

And I knew that I wasn't going to rape you.

MARLA

The hell you did. If I hadn't told you to stop you'd have kept right on going.

NORRIS

If you hadn't told me to stop, it wouldn't have been rape.

MARLA

That's the most horrible, disgusting, stupid, sexist thing I've ever heard in my life.

NORRIS

On the contrary, I've just demonstrated empirically a fundamental tenet of feminist ideology, that rape is a

crime of violence involving one person taking advantage of another and forcing them to do something they don't want to do through violence or threat of violence that has nothing to do with two people having a sexual experience together. I've also disproved your contention that it's ok to play with other people's lives if you think you're doing them a favor, as well as your belief that you can do dangerous things and not have to suffer the consequences because you in your infinite wisdom can tell just by looking at a person whether or not they're dangerous. (PAUSE)

MARLA

But I was right.

NORRIS

About What?

MARLA

You stopped when I told you to stop, didn't you?

NORRIS

So?

MARLA

So it proves I was right, you're not really a dangerous person, so I was right about you. And furthermore, if I hadn't tricked you before you certainly would never have had the guts to try and do that, so I have done you some good, haven't I?

NORRIS

What? You turned me into a rapist?

MARLA

No, I've shown you that you NEED to do something with your feelings instead of just sit there inside yourself and be miserable. I mean, I hate what you did, but I don't think you're going to go around now doing that to people, and I DO think that you're a different person now than you were before all this happened, so that proves my point.

NORRIS

Just what IS your point?

MARLA

Oh, shit, I don't know, who cares, I forget, who cares?

Just leave me alone.