

White Palace

Max returns from wedding, carrying bouquet of flowers. Enters Nora's dark house.

Max

Nora?

Nora?

Nora?

What are you doing out there?

Nora

Electricity's out.

Max

How come?

Nora

Because I didn't pay my bill

Max goes to kiss her but is rejected

Poor people are a hoot, aren't they?

Max

Why didn't you say something, I would have written you a check.

Nora

Because I don't want your charity.

I'm doing just fine

Max

What's the matter with you?

Nora

Why don't you take that pretty bouquet and put it in some water

Max

OK

Max goes into kitchen

Nora

Did you have a nice time at the wedd'n?

Max

Shit

Nora

They turned it out when I was at work, so I had to sit in the dark when I got home. I'm afraid of the dark. Maybe I forgot to tell you that I'm afraid of the dark. So I called information and got your mother's number. And SURPRISE! I told her I was a friend of yours in the dark.

Didn't even get to watch "Some like it hot" on TV.

Max returns to porch

Your mom says she likes Marilyn, but she thinks she was murdered.

Max

I'm sorry.

Nora

Yea, you're always sorry. So... who'd you bring to this shindig? Some fresh young thing with a tight little ass and a college ed.

Max

No

Nora

Bet you I got one thing up on her. Bet she can't hold a candle to me in the fucking department.

Max

That's enough

Nora

That's one thing I know how to do; don't I, baby? And I'll say when it's enough.

Max

There's no other woman.

Nora

Bullshit

Max

I wish there was, but there isn't. I can't even look at another woman without wanting you.

Nora

I'm afraid your gonna have to do better than that.

Max

I don't know...

Nora

Why did you lie to me?!

Max

I don't know what's happening to me. I have never wanted a woman as much as I wanted you, not even my wife.

Nora

You better be careful with words like that. Words like that could kill a person if you don't mean it.

Max

Well I mean it.

Nora

That you love me more than you do your wife?

Max

I didn't say that. I said I wanted you more than my wife

Nora

What's the difference?

Max

I don't know. I don't know. I only know that when I'm not with you I'm a total wreck.

Nora

And when you are with me?

Max

I'm a different kind of total wreck.

Nora

Why did you lie to me?

Max

Have you ever been to a Jewish wedding?

Nora

Not recently

Max

Well it wouldn't of been that easy I wanted to save us a cross examination.

Nora

Oh bullshit. You were embarrassed to take me their weren't you?

Max

No, Nora that's not true

Nora

There's nothing I hate more than being lied to. I'd rather have a man beat me up than lie to me. At least then you have a chance to defend yourself.

Max takes her hand. Nora unclenches her fist. He rubs her face with his hand.

You know, every time we have a date and you show up on time I'm so damn grateful its sickening. Because I don't expect you to show up at all, but you do. And every time you do I just can't believe it. And I'm so damn happy because I'm thinking maybe your gonna stick around a while. And I'm believing in you. Because you told me the first time we met, you didn't gobble and you didn't lie. Well I don't give a shit if you gobble but don't you ever lie to me again. Because I'll forgive you once but I won't forgive you twice.