

The Sorrows of Stephen

Stephen and William at the restaurant.

William: I think shes been having an affair.

Stephen: Are you sure?

William: No.

Stephen: Thats good.

William: But I think so.

Stephen: But your not sure?

William: But I think So.

Stephen: Thats good.

William: Why?

Stephen: Because. Maybe shes not.

Sophia Pickle (waitress) Enters

Sophia: You boys know what you want?

Stephen: Ill have the chef salad.

William: Im not hungry.

Stephen: Eat up.

William: No. Ill nibble on some of yours.

Sophia smiles at Stephen. Exits.

She's been meeting someone in the afternoons.

Stephen: How do you know?

William: She keeps telling me she been to the Museum of Modern Art.

Stephen: Thats perfectly possible.

William: Three times a week?

Stephen: oh.

William: Nobody likes a minimalist that much.

Stephen: No.

William: Not even another minimalist.

Stephen: Mmn. I've always liked the minimalist.

William: Have you?

Stephen: Yes.

William: I suppose they are rather funny.

Stephen: I think so, too

William: The rat.

Stephen: Yes.

William: Whoever he is.

Stephen: Mmn.

William: To try something like that.

Stephen: And succeed, yes.

Pause. William looks at him

I mean if he did.

William: If he did?
Stephen: Succeed, I mean.
William: Yes. He'd better be careful, whoever he is.
Stephen: Mmn.
William: If he did, I mean.
Stephen: Yes. The thing is, he could turn out to be quite a nice fellow.
William: I wouldn't be surprised.
Stephen: Especially if Christine likes him.
William: She probably likes him because she feels sorry for him.
Stephen: Do you think so?
William: Yes.
Stephen: What if she loves him?
William: Stephen.
Stephen: Im sorry. I was just thinking ahead.
William: Thinking ahead?
Stephen: Preparing you for the shock.
William: The shock?
Stephen: The worst. Just in case, I mean. Im sorry.
William: Your not acting very sympathetic.
Stephen: No, im not. Im sorry.
William: In fact, you seem slightly amused.
Stephen: Im not. Really.
William: No?
Stephen: Of course not. (*Pause., Stephen laughs.*)
Sorry. I'm sorry.
William: I know why your having such a good time..
Stephen: (worried) You do?
William: You already told me.
Stephen: I did?
William: Its because your in love.
Stephen: Oh....yes.
William: Congratulations.
Stephen: Thank you.
William: Its wonderful.
Stephen: Thanks.
William: When can I meet her?
Stephen: Sooner than you think?
William: That would be nice.
Stephen: Yes.
William: Shes not anything like liz is she?
Stephen: Not really, no.
William: That's good.
Stephen: Mmn.
William: You needed a change.
Stephen: Yes. Shes more.....shes more like Christine, actually.
William: Is she?

Stephen: Yes.
William: Well, that should be interesting.
Stephen: In what way?
William: Well, in almost every way, I guess. (Pause) Where did you meet her?
Stephen: At the Museum of Modern Art.
William: Your kidding.
Stephen: No.
William: Really?
Stephen: Yes.
William: At the Minimalist exhibit?
Stephen: Mmn.
William: My God.
Stephen: Incredible, isn't it?
William: How do you like that.
Stephen: Yes. (Pause)
William: There aren't any problems, are there?
Stephen: Well, actually, there are a few, yes.
William: Like what?
Stephen: Like well....
William: Shes not engaged or anything, is she?
Stephen: No, of course not.
William: That's good. (Pause)
Stephen: Well, she is, in fact. Yes. (Pause)
William: Stephen.
Stephen: Yes.
William: Not really.
Stephen: Mmn.
William: My God.
Stephen: Im afraid so.
William: You do set yourself up for things.
Stephen: I guess.
William: No wonder you've been having trouble seeing things from my point of view!
Stephen: What do you mean?
William: Well, just look at the position your in!
Stephen: Oh. Yes.
William: What are you going to do?
Stephen: I don't know. I feel terrible. The thing is, we've fallen hopelessly in love with each other. I've decided.....to keep her for myself.
William: Has she told he fiancé?
Stephen: Not yet. But he'll he'll just have to be made to understand.
William: You think do?
Stephen: We're talking about love after all.
William: We are?
Stephen: Well, aren't we?
William: I suppose so. Yes. (pause) Shes not leading you on, is she?
Stephen: Leading me on?

William: Shes not doing it just to have a good time is she?

Stephen: I don't think.....

William: A final fling before the big step.....

Stephen: No.

William: Because I know how involved you become, and Id hate to see you get upset.

Stephen: Upset?

William: Disappointed. If things didn't work out. (Pause) Be careful Stephen.

Stephen: I will

William: Id have it out with her fiancee.

Stephen: Mmn.

William: Id talk to her, too, if I were you. (Pause)

Stephen: Yes.

Pause. Sophia Pickle re-enters)

Sophia: Here you go.

William: Thank you.

Sophia: (To William) Sure you don't want anything?

Stephen: We'll share this.

Sophia: How about desert?

Stephen: How about a menu?

Sophia: Chocolate sundae, hold the cherry?

Stephen: Not today. (Pause)

Sophia: You still looking, then? (Pause)

Stephen: Yes.