

BITS OF 3 SCENES. THEY'VE BEEN ALTERED SLIGHTLY TO WORK BETTER AS SIDES. TAKE A BREATHER IN BETWEEN...

TONI (O.S.)
Mr. Pruitt, I'm conducting a survey--

DARREN
Miss, I'm sorry, I'm at work and I don't have time to play twenty questions or whatever.

TONI (O.S.)
Please? I'm a psych student at State and the survey is for my senior project. Just a few minutes of your time would be a big help.

A sigh --

DARREN
How long will this take?

TONI (O.S.)
Not long at all, just a few questions.

DARREN
Alright. Fire away.

TONI (O.S.)
Excellent. First, a couple of background questions. Socio-economic status? Working class, middle class, upper--

DARREN
Upper middle.

Realizing how mindless the questions are, Darren leans forward to get back to his report.

TONI (O.S.)
Race?

DARREN
Caucasian. Thought that was illegal to ask?

TONI (O.S.)
Not for scientific studies.

Darren picks up his pen to make a mark as the caller continues --

TONI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Let's see, you're forty years old
 and have been married for just over
 a year and a half, correct??

DARREN
 How do you know that?

TONI (O.S.)
 My list has birthdays and marriage
 license info. Public records, ya
 know?

DARREN
 Oh, okay.

TONI (O.S.)
 Between public records, insta-face
 and everything else, there just
 aren't any secrets anymore.

DARREN
 Yeah, I don't really get into all
 that.

TONI (O.S.)
 Probably wise. You and your wife
 have been together how long total?

DARREN
 Three, give or take.

TONI (O.S.)
 Have you been faith--

Interruption --

DARREN
 (quick, into phone)
 Sorry, gotta go.

*****BIT LATER*****

TONI (O.S.)
 Sorry, I got a bit off track there.
 Let me explain what's going on. You
 see, my dear Jarrod, you are not
 merely an interviewee for my
 survey. You are my subject.

JARROD
 What?

TONI (O.S.)
I apologize for not being more
forthcoming in our initial
interview.

JARROD
I don't understand.

TONI (O.S.)
You really need to pay closer
attention. You wouldn't like it if
dear, sweet Molly made you repeat
yourself. Would you?

No answer.

TONI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Would you?

JARROD
Who the hell are you?

TONI (O.S.)
Would you, Jarrod?

JARROD
No. I don't suppose I would.

TONI (O.S.)
Now then, let's review. You said
that you would kill Molly if you
caught her cheating on you.

JARROD
I didn't say that.

TONI (O.S.)
You said that, of the two, you
would be most angry with her, which
we'll extrapolate to mean that
she's the one you would kill in an
either or situation.

JARROD
This is bullshit.

Jarrod gets up from his chair.

TONI (O.S.)
That it may be, but I assure you,
this is the most serious bullshit
you could ever imagine.

*****This scene takes place later in the story around the turn into the 3rd act. darren is still in his office*****

TONI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Molly dies now.

DARREN
No. Please don't-don't hurt her.
I'll do anything.

TONI
Anything?

DARREN
Anything you want.

TONI (O.S.)
You haven't been terribly
cooperative so far.

DARREN
Please. I need her. Why do you want
to hurt her? Why?

TONI (O.S.)
That's simple. She disgusts me.

DARREN
But I'm the one she's hurt. Not
you--

TONI (O.S.)
I'm going to give you one chance to
save her. You want to be her hero,
dashing to the rescue, right?

DARREN
Yes, anyth--

TONI
Listen very carefully. This is your
last chance. You do exactly as I
say or Molly dies. It doesn't
matter if you refuse or if you try
your hardest and fail, either way,
Molly dies. Your fault, my fault,
nobody's fault. Molly dies. Do you
understand?