

The Dinner Party

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THE DINNER PARTY BY JUSTIN GOLDING

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS ROAD - THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

Aerial shot of a beaten up Camry Car going up a long twisting dirt road. The private road leads to a multi-million dollar country home owned by Senator Burrows.

EXT./INT. CAMRY CAR.

Harry Gonzales (early 30's) is talking to his news editor.

HARRY

(Car Phone)

The line is bad...Sam you're breaking up...

SAM

(through car speaker)

No...no off the record...end...interview

HARRY

Got it, boss...

SAM

(speaking but we can't understand him)

HARRY

I'm losing you...

A car, a hatch back Porsche, screams past Harry's car on the narrow dirt road kicking up enough dust to force Harry to stop, because he can't see.

HARRY

Jesus Christ!

EXT./INT. PORSCHE CAR.

Bob Borrowitz (late 20's) pale, curly hair is driving and Chelsea Merriweather (early 20's) striking and knows it is screaming with joy with her arms raised above her head. She brings them down and grabs more colorful drugs from a clear plastic zip bag.

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She feeds Bob a couple of the pills before taking a few herself. It is obvious these are not the first drugs they've taken today.

EXT./INT. CAMRY CAR.

HARRY  
Fucking Tourists.

INT. WINE CELLAR

Mrs. Tina Burrows, Senator Burrows's wife - 50's beautiful, elegant, classy. She is walking down the wine racks that hold 100s of bottles of wine.

She selects one, looks at the label, puts it back and walks a few more steps. She does this a few times, before choosing a bottle.

EXT. SENATOR'S HOUSE - SECURITY GATE.

Harry's Camry pulls up. A security guard steps up to the car. Harry brings down his window, or at least tries to. The driver's window stops half way down. The guard doesn't look happy.

HARRY  
It's broken.

He hands his press badge through the window.

GUARD  
You're expected. Park over to the left.

He hands the ID back and the gates open.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM.

There is a bank of monitors which gives full coverage of the entire house. The cameras are stationary, and are set to give a high, wide angle view of all the home's rooms.

We pull back to sit over the shoulder of Senator Burrows, (50's) confident, charismatic and arrogant as hell, who is sitting watching the monitors.

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He watches his wife leave the wine cellar and enter a small utility room off the kitchen. She leaves the door open, which blocks the camera.

SENATOR BURROWS

What are you up to, sweetie?

INT. UTILITY ROOM.

She puts the wine on the table and looks back at the door to make sure she has blocked the camera that she knows is there.

She pulls open a draw. Takes out a pair of latex gloves and puts them on. Also, inside the draw is a small face towel and a hammer. She takes out both items out and closes it.

She pulls another draw completely out and turns it over. Taped to the underneath is a syringe and a small glass medical vial that is full.

She sucks the clear liquid from the vial with the syringe and slowly pushes the thin metal needle through the wax covered cork of the wine bottle.

EXTREME C/U OF TINA'S THUMB COMPRESSING THE SYRINGE DOWN.

EXTREME C/U OF LIQUID FROM SYRINGE SWIRLING INTO THE BLOOD RED WINE.

With a latex covered thumb she smudges the wine's wax seal to conceal the slight indent the needle has left. She then wraps the vial in the towel and with the hammer smashes the glass to pieces.

EXT. SENATOR'S HOUSE - COURTYARD.

Harry pulls up to the hatch back Porsche that past him on the road up. He gets out and looks around at the beauty of the house and its setting.

He breaths in the mountain air and prepares to go and confront the Senator. He walks up to the front door and knocks. A maid answers the door.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM.

We watch the monitor's with the Senator. We see Harry enter into the hallway with the maid and see her lead him into the house.

The monitor covering the house's backyard draws the Senator's attention. His wife is holding the face towel and her gloved hands under her shawl. There are too many camera's in the backyard for her to hide, so she doesn't try.

EXT. HOUSE'S BACKYARD.

Tina walks up to the foundation and sits on the edge. Causally, she brings the towel out from under her shawl and drags it through the water.

The glass sparkles like little diamonds next to the other shinny stones. Hidden in plain sight.

She stands and makes her way to the outside Kiev fireplace. There is a roaring fire. Underneath her shawl, she takes off her latex gloves and wraps them around the towel.

She reaches the fire and throws the bundle onto the roaring logs. The wet towel dampens the fire for a moment, but then the flames leap up again, consuming the towel and gloves.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM.

The Senator is watching, but he can't see what his wife is doing. She walks back into the house and his attention is drawn back to the Study.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

The maid brings Harry into the room. There is a fully stocked bar in the room and Chelsea and Bob are standing next to it with drinks in their hands. The maid leaves.

There is an awkward moment, before Chelsea crosses the room to Harry.

CHELSEA  
Chelsea Merriweather.

They shake hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRY

Harry Gonzales. I recognize you...

CHELSEA

(she laughs)

I get that all the time. I was on American Dreams...

HARRY

Yes...you made the top ten.

Bob has walked over and joined them.

BOB

Yes, she was and should have won, but little Ms. Prude stopped flirting with Brian.

CHELSEA

He's a fat, pasty-faced flaky skinned pig.

HARRY

Brain Blake, the creator of the show?

BOB

Yes. A rich and influential pasty-faced pig. Lesson learned.

Chelsea gives him the finger and goes back to the bar and pours herself another drink.

BOB

Bob Borrowitz. Chelsea's manager...

They shake.

HARRY

You also produce films, right?

BOB

Yes. Well aren't you informed. Little boy-scout...always prepared.

HARRY

Occupational hazard. Reporter, at the journal.

INT. KITCHEN.

Tina walks in with the bottle of wine in her hands. The maid is in the kitchen. There is also a chief and a couple of other staff preparing dinner.

Tina hands the bottle to the Maid.

TINA

We may have some good news to celebrate tonight at dinner. If I signal you, open this bottle and serve it. It is very expensive, so only open it, if I tell you too.

MAID

Yes, Ma'am.

She leaves the kitchen and the maid places the bottle on a shelf, safe from the bustle of the kitchen.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM.

The Senator is watching the study, when Simon Stonewell, the Senator's Chief of Staff, (50's) grizzled, tough veteran of numerous political campaigns walks, into the room.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Bob, Chelsea, and Harry are by the bar talking. Simon freezes. He was not expecting to see Harry, but he recovers quickly.

SIMON

Bob.

Simon walks up to the group.

BOB

Simon. This is Chelsea, a new and very beautiful client. (they shake hands) and this is Harry, a reporter at the Journal, so you know, make sure your fly is up and your smile is on.

They shake hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMON

Your the one making all the noise?  
What the hell are you doing here?

HARRY

The Senator invited me. When can I  
get some time with him?

SIMON

You can't.

HARRY

What?

SIMON

(whispering)

Why don't you fuck off, while you  
have a chance. (leaving a shocked  
Harry) Bob, do you have a moment?

Simon drags Bob off to another part of the room leaving  
Harry and Chelsea together. Harry looks like he is about  
to chase after Simon, but Chelsea puts her hand on his  
arm.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS THAT HAPPEN  
SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THIS LARGE ENTERTAINMENT AREA.THESE  
CONVERSATIONS WILL BE INTERCUT.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Simon and Bob.

SIMON

Why the fuck are you here?

BOB

The Senator told me to get my ass  
up here and bring the girl.

SIMON

You mean, your girlfriend, whom  
I've met at least five times  
before?

BOB

She's not my girlfriend...she's my  
client...friend.

SIMON

Jesus Christ, you're a freak.  
Do you know who that is?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Simon nods towards Harry, who is talking to Chelsea.

BOB

A local reporter, so what...

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Harry and Chelsea.

CHELSEA

You're the reporter?

HARRY

What?

He is still looking after Simon.

CHELSEA

They talk about you.

HARRY

Me?

CHELSEA

They forget I'm there and I hear things.

This has gotten Harry's attention.

HARRY

What do you hear?

CHELSEA

They are mad as hell about your story...you'd better watch your back.

HARRY

Go on the record with me...

CHELSEA

What? Are you crazy? I've seen what happens to people that fuck with them.

HARRY

I can protect you...

CHELSEA

(she laughs)

You believe you can protect me?  
Holy Shit.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

The fact you believe you can do that, shows how little you know them.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM.

The Senator is watching. He gets up and leaves the room.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Bob and Simon finish their conversation. They walk over to Chelsea and Harry. Bob grabs Chelsea and drags her away from Harry.

Harry doesn't like Bob's rough treatment of Chelsea.

HARRY

Hey!

SIMON

Don't be a hero, you've got bigger problems.

CHELSEA

It's okay.

HARRY

(to Bob)  
Take it easy.

BOB

Fuck you, man.

Chelsea gives him a reassuring smile.

SIMON

That's your fucking problem, you stick your nose into matters that don't concern you.

HARRY

Is that a fact? Would you like to comment on the record about the parties the Senator has been throwing with underage guests?

SIMON

Where do you get this shit? Fake News put out by the Senator's enemies that want to bring him down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRY

That's not what I'm hearing.

SIMON

The Senator is a champion of this State. The Film Tax program, the youth programs...

HARRY

Keep the propaganda for the beat-boys, I've got the Senator on corruption and underage sex.

SIMON

(gets in Harry's face.)

You write any of that bullshit, and I'll make sure the only job you can get is at the local high school newspaper.

HARRY

Can I quote you on that?

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Bob and Chelsea.

CHELSEA

Stop with the pulling.

BOB

That's the guy.

CHELSEA

No shit.

BOB

Don't fuck with me. What did you tell him?

CHELSEA

Nothing.

BOB

(nervous. He is searching his pockets)

I hate this shit.

CHELSEA

It's in your back pocket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bob checks and briefly brings out a clear zip lock bag filled with white powder.

CHELSEA

Put it away.

He does. He sees that Simon is in Harry's face.

BOB

Shit.

He walks over to the guys.

BOB

Hey! No need to fight over the girl. There's enough of her to go around.

CHELSEA

Fuck you!

HARRY

(to Bob)  
You'r an asshole.

SIMON

(to Harry)  
It's time for you to leave.

HARRY

The Senator invited me and until...

Simon puts his hands on Harry. They struggle. They are physically, evenly matched.

HARRY

Get your fucking hands off me.

BOB

Hey! Wow! Use your words, boys.  
Use your words.

SIMON

Get out of my way, coke-head.

The Senator enters.

SENATOR BURROWS

No need for that Simon. He's my guest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Everybody freezes. The Senator walks over to Harry who is still arm locked with Simon, although they are not physically struggling with each other.

SENATOR BURROWS

Senator Burrows.

He holds out his hand to Harry, who disentangles from Simon and shakes the Senator's hand.

SENATOR BURROWS

It is a pleasure to meet you.

HARRY

Thank you for meeting with me. I have a number of questions that...

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes, yes. If you could be patient for a few more moments I will answer all your questions. Simon. Bob.

HARRY

Senator, what do...

The Senator ignores Harry and walks to the other side of the room with Simon and Bob. Chelsea comes up alongside Harry.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

Harry and Chelsea.

CHELSEA

If you are smart, you'd leave now.

HARRY

Fear is how these bastards win. Nobody is willing to challenge them.

CHELSEA

Have you thought, why people are afraid of them?

HARRY

Are you? Afraid?

CHELSEA

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRY

Best not hang with me then.

He turns to leave her.

CHELSEA

I have photos.

He turns back to her.

HARRY

Of what?

CHELSEA

The parties.

Harry leads Chelsea further away from the Senator to a quiet corner.

HARRY

Will you share them with me?

CHELSEA

I don't know. I don't know. If they found out.

HARRY

They won't. I never reveal my sources.

CHELSEA

I've recorded conversations...

Harry waits. Gives her time to find her courage.

CHELSEA

They'll know...

HARRY

Maybe, but how do you think this ends? I can help you. Without me, you don't leave until they are done with you.

Chelsea looks scared.

CHELSEA

I don't know. I'll have to think about it.

Harry hands her his business card. Chelsea takes it and hides it, glancing fearfully over at the Senator and the other men.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

The Senator, Simon and Bob.

SIMON

Why is that fucker here?

SENATOR BURROWS

Calm, Simon, Calm.

SIMON

Fuck calm. My source at the Journal is telling me that fucker is about blow our party up.

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes. We have a leak.

BOB

What? He has proof?

SIMON

Keep up buttercup. This fucker is going to put as all in jail.

BOB

Wow! No! I can't go to jail. Jail won't be good for me.

SIMON

Said, every fucker, ever.

SENATOR BURROWS

Is the girl, ready?

BOB

Yes.

SIMON

What?

BOB

She's...

SENATOR BURROWS

Not know, Bob. As long as she's agreeable. Now, let me greet our guest properly.

He walks over to Harry. Chelsea leaves quickly. She goes to the bar to get another drink. Bob goes to the bar to get a drink, Simon follows the Senator.

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CONTINUED:

SENATOR BURROWS

Could you give us a moment, Simon?

He grunts and joins the others at the bar.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT AREA.

The Senator and Harry. They size each other up.

SENATOR BURROWS

My office has told me you've been  
trying to speak to me.

HARRY

Yes.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well?

This is the moment for which Harry has been waiting.

HARRY

(he pulls out his  
phone.)

Can I record you?

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes.

Harry is surprised. He takes a second to gather his  
thoughts.

HARRY

There have been reports that you  
have held sex parties at...

SENATOR BURROWS

What type of parties?

HARRY

Sex parties, Senator.

SENATOR BURROWS

I have held parties, it is part of  
my obligation as a Senator to hold  
functions to fund raise etc.

HARRY

Yes, but I have come into  
possession of documents that these  
were sex parties.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes, well...I'm sure sex has happened at these events, but who am I to judge.

HARRY

You are confirming that sex parties...

SENATOR BURROWS

I attend and organize numerous functions every year, has sexual intercourse happened at some of them? Sure, but I don't have any data or facts to back that up, just my knowledge of human nature.

HARRY

What I am talking about are organized sex parties, with underage girls.

SENATOR BURROWS

You have proof of this?

HARRY

Yes.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well, I'm at a loss, Mr. Gonzalez. You have videos, sworn testimony?

HARRY

Photos and videos.

SENATOR BURROWS

Interesting. How old are these girls, at your supposed parties?

HARRY

Fifteen, some as young as thirteen.

SENATOR BURROWS

Hm. You've seen their birth certificates? You've talked to these girls?

HARRY

A few of them. One of them is dead. She was murdered.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SENATOR BURROWS

Shocking. It is such a violent world. As you know, I am a strong supporter of the anti-crime bill that we have in this State.

HARRY

The last time she was seen alive was at one of your parties.

SENATOR BURROWS

And let me guess, that means I did it?

HARRY

Did you Senator?

SENATOR BURROWS

At one of my imaginary sex parties? What age is too young for a woman to have sex, Mr. Gonzales?

HARRY

What?

SENATOR BURROWS

How old must a woman be to have sex?

HARRY

These are girls.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well, when does a girl become a woman? Twelve, thirteen? Maybe fourteen, fifteen? What is your comfort level? What would be your 'age of consent' Mr. Gonzales?

HARRY

In New Mexico it is seventeen. Anybody over the age of eighteen who has sex with a minor can be prosecuted.

SENATOR BURROWS

That's the law, Mr. Gonzales. I am asking you what your comfort level is, not the law?

HARRY

I...I say the State law is right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SENATOR BURROWS

Even for a man of your age? Would people frown at you in public, if you were dating a seventeen year old girl, or is she a woman at that point?

HARRY

It is not something I would do.

SENATOR BURROWS

A personal choice, but it would not be against the law, would it?

HARRY

No.

SENATOR BURROWS

Who decided seventeen? Some old men sitting around a table. (beat) Forty percent of all girls fifteen years or younger, who get pregnant in this country, their male partners are on average ten years older than them?

HARRY

That is your defense?

SENATOR BURROWS

You come here, wielding the sword of righteousness, based on what? A law that is less than a hundred years old and full of holes.

HARRY

You are not denying having sex with underage girls?

SENATOR BURROWS

(ignores the question)

There is also the spousal rule. A girl sixteen or even younger, if she is pregnant, with parental consent can marry her older lover. Once they are married, the law can't prosecute the man.

HARRY

That's your answer? These girls you abused...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SENATOR BURROWS

Who abused them? Sex is normal. Do you have a problem with sex? I know you trained to be a priest. Religion has such a hard time with the whole aspect of human sexuality.

HARRY

What? No. You hired underage girls to...

SENATOR BURROWS

Now I hired them? I hope you have proof for all these fantasies?

HARRY

(aggressively)

I have proof.

SENATOR BURROWS

If your accusations, where true, do you honestly think that people will believe those young, stupid, poor, attention-seeking girls over my word?

Harry gets in the Senator's face. Simon moves from the bar to intercede, but they are interrupted by the Senator's wife, Tina entering the room.

She is the one we saw POISON the wine bottle.

TINA

Dinner is ready.

The Senator breaks away from Harry and goes to his wife.

SENATOR BURROWS

Sweetie.

He kisses her on the cheek.

SENATOR BURROWS

Where have you been?

TINA

I went for a walk in the garden. Such a lovely evening.

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes. Let me introduce...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

TINA

You can do the introductions at  
dinner, dear.

She leaves. The Senator is knocked off his stride by her sudden departure.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well, you heard the boss.

Simon, Bob and Chelsea leave the room.

BOB

I just need the restroom.

SENATOR BURROWS

(to Harry)

Join us? We can continue our  
conversation over dinner.

HARRY

You think I won't ask these  
questions, in front of your wife?

SENATOR BURROWS

Will you? Let's find out.

The Senator leaves the room. Harry pauses for a moment, before he follows after the man.

INT. RESTROOM.

Bob enters. Closes the door and locks it. He pulls out his coke bag from his back pocket. He organizes a couple of lines on the counter top and pulls out his silver tube to snort the lines.

Snapping up, he looks at himself in the mirror and gives his face a couple of slaps.

BOB

You got this! Little Bobby, ain't  
going to no jail.

He cleans up and puts his coke bag back in his pocket.

INT. DINING ROOM.

They are all seated at the table except Bob. The Senator is at the top of the table and his wife is at the other end.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Harry is on the Senator's left and Simon is on his right. Next to Harry, is Chelsea. The chair in between Simon and Tina is empty. It is for Bob.

The maid is putting a **Fish Soup** next to everybody and is moving around topping up everybody's drinks.

Bob enters.

Chelsea smells the soup and pulls a face. She pushes the bowl away from her.

CHELSEA  
(with disgust)  
Fish.

BOB  
Sorry.

He takes his place at the table.

The maid leaves.

Nobody speaks.

The Senator looks at Harry with a big smug look on his face.

Harry glances up the table at the Senator's wife. She looks back at him.

Harry feels he has to justify what he is about to do. He takes out his phone again.

HARRY  
I was interviewing the Senator and recording him. Are you all comfortable with me recording our conversation?

CHELSEA  
I love being interviewed.

BOB  
As long as you get my good side.

He laughs at his own joke. Nobody else does.

SIMON  
(to the Senator)  
What the hell are you doing?

The Senator waves off the question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SENATOR BURROWS  
(to his wife)  
Sweetie?

TINA  
You know everything you do is fine  
with me.

SENATOR BURROWS  
Thank you. Without your support, I  
would not be half the man I am.

She raises her glass in salute to his compliment.

SENATOR BURROWS  
So, where were we?

The Senator has thrown down the gauntlet and Harry picks  
it up.

HARRY  
We were talking about your  
organized sex parties.

Chelsea coughs over her drink.

SIMON  
Fucker...

SENATOR BURROWS  
I'm fine Simon.

BOB  
This just got interesting.

Tina keeps drinking as if she didn't hear Harry's  
accusation.

SENATOR BURROWS  
Actually, I believe we were  
discussing the age when we  
consider a girl becomes a woman.

HARRY  
The law says,...

SENATOR BURROWS  
Yes, yes the law, but laws can be  
changed. I should know. (to  
Chelsea) when did you become a  
woman?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHELSEA

Fourteen. My older brother's friend.

SENATOR BURROWS

How old was he?

CHELSEA

Twenty. He was back from college for Christmas.

SENATOR BURROWS

(looks at Harry)

By your rules, that man should be in jail. He took advantage of this poor girl.

Chelsea laughs.

HARRY

Minors can be influenced, coerced. That's why we have laws.

SENATOR BURROWS

In Texas, a woman can marry at the age of fourteen, in New Hampshire it is thirteen and in the great state of Massachusetts a woman can become a wife at the age of twelve.

HARRY

With parental consent.

SENATOR BURROWS

Yes. Then your point is that a minor cannot make the decision, but it is fine as long as the adult parents make the choice?

HARRY

That is not what I am saying.

SENATOR BURROWS

Your judgement upon me for my supposed crimes is based on the State laws of New Mexico. In these other States a girl, a woman can become a wife and a mother at the age of twelve or thirteen. It is the law.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (4)

BOB

(laughs)

Three-pointer. All net. You've got nothing reporter boy.

SIMON

Of course, the Senator is not proposing any changes to the States' laws. This is a philosophical conversation.

HARRY

What do you think, Mrs. Burrows? Your husband using young woman at his parties for his...clients? To gain favors?

SIMON

That's it. You are done.

SENATOR BURROWS

Simon. Let her answer.

**Note: There is a complete disconnect between the dinner conversation and Tina's responses to any of the questions asked of her. She does not engage with the conversation. She only answers direct questions that are put to her, as if she were on the campaign trail.**

TINA

I stand behind my husband. He is a man who has worked tirelessly for the State of New Mexico.

HARRY

You stand behind your husband's use of young girls...?

TINA

My husband is a good man who has fought to bring good paying jobs to the State. He has also worked with the teacher's union to improve education for our children.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well said sweetie.

HARRY

(to Bob)

My sources tell me that you are the main supplier of the girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SENATOR BURROWS

Women.

SIMON

Hypothetical females.

Bob looks to the Senator for help.

SENATOR BURROWS

Well answer the man, Bob. Or does the coke have your tongue?

Bob self-consciously sniffs. He takes a drink.

BOB

Wow! Too many eyes. Right. Answer Yes. I brought actresses to the Senator's events. Clients. They were film industry events. They wanted to be there...good for their careers.

HARRY

These girls...

SENATOR BURROWS

Again, we have not found a clear definition of when a girl stops being a girl and becomes a woman. Have we?

CHELSEA

(to Harry)

You are so adorable. Men championing women, its cute. You can never understand the feeling of being hunted...everyday.

SENATOR BURROWS

Please enlighten us.

CHELSEA

It is like having a pack of wolves constantly chasing you. Once your body changes, the hunt is on. You have to learn to control the pack or you learn to hide from them. It is good if you get a big wolf as your mate, it scares off the rest of the pack. But, you'll always get sniffed at in public. To stand alone, to have power, you have to have money or looks.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Both is even better. A woman with looks, that's power, if she knows how to use it.

HARRY

O-My-God. Do you truly believe that?

CHELSEA

Ask any man who walks into a room with a beautiful woman on his arm...ask him how he feels? Ask the men who look at the woman, how they feel about the man, with the woman? Beauty is a commodity and it comes at a price.

BOB

Don't put me out of business man! That's why I'm rich. I sell beauty...sometimes talent with the beauty. Men's hard-ons have started wars.

SIMON

Jesus Christ, have you ever gotten out of your own backyard? You are aware that moral values change? By country, religion, time...fuck our future ancestors will look at us and view us with distain, just as we do with our fuck-up forefathers. You insult me with your stupidity...you believe you have the moral authority to decide what is right or wrong.

HARRY

I think my readers will agree with me.

SENATOR BURROWS

Will they? Do you think the masses have any greater thought beyond their next meal? Do You think they have the ability to understand that their lives at best, are flickering shadows projected onto the walls of their hovels? What ability do they have to see beyond the illusion?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

BOB

I wish I was stupid. I wish I didn't know...once you know, you can't go back.

SIMON

(disgusted)

Is that your excuse? You weak, pathetic...

BOB

You've got to numb it man, cause this fucked up place is not for the sane.

HARRY

We are all screwed up? That's your defense? Children. The innocence of...

SENATOR BURROWS

Innocence? Have you met any children? They will push another child off a cliff to steal their toy.

HARRY

You can't believe what you are saying, your own son...

SENATOR BURROWS

Was weak.

Tina flinches which shows us that she is listening.

HARRY

He committed suicide five years ago, because of bullying.

SENATOR BURROWS

No, because he was weak. Life is about power, you either have it or you don't.

SIMON

Right now you think you have power, but you don't. We know about your little story.

HARRY

Little? It is going to be front page news tomorrow.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

HARRY (CONT'D)

All your bizarre ideas about sexual consent will not protect you from a judge or the public.

BOB

Whoo! Wow! Fuck. Tomorrow? I just brought a few actresses to a few events. Me? No. I...had nothing to do with anything else.

SIMON

Heart of a fucking lion.

BOB

Listen...you got to listen...I want that on the record.

HARRY

(to Bob)

There's a tape where you are having sex with one of the girls.

CHELSEA

Oh. Damn. You are screwed. Nothing to do with you, right? It was just my dick.

BOB

Fuck. No. What? Man! How would I know? What the hell man? Who filmed me? I'm being framed...

SIMON

He's just another slime ball agent getting his rocks off, nobody will care.

HARRY

Who helped the Senator get the Film Tax Credit through the Senate. (to the Senator) Once this story is out, how much power will you have then?

SENATOR BURROWS

Then you will have justice?

HARRY

Not me, the girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

SENATOR BURROWS

Don't fool yourself. At least be honest. You are enjoying this power over me.

HARRY

I've enjoyed nothing in uncovering this story.

SENATOR BURROWS

It will be a national story. It could make your name. Maybe the networks will come calling. You are a good looking man. You've thought about it?

The Senator is making Harry uncomfortable. It is like he is inside Harry's head.

SENATOR BURROWS

You will profit from my demise. Yes?

HARRY

No. Yes, but what is important, is that I would have stopped you.

SIMON

You are an idiot. Such a fucking idiot...

CHELSEA

Stopped what?

SENATOR BURROWS

Him hurting more people, using his power for...evil.

SENATOR BURROWS

How quaint.

BOB

That's not how power, works man. He's just the guy, now.

SENATOR BURROWS

And I thought I was special.

SIMON

Jesus, you are a child. Evil? Power? Justice? Words. Fucking words...used to conceal the interests of the dominant group.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

SIMON (CONT'D)

They make their interests appear universal.

HARRY

The Sophists argument. Are you shitting me?

SENATOR BURROWS

They taught you well at the seminary, before you ran off. Did you give up on God or did God give up on you?

CHELSEA

Did you take a vow of celibacy?

BOB

Wow! I'd love to be a virgin again. It'd be awesome to have sex for the first time over and over again.

HARRY

How can the sexualization of women be made to appear of universal interest to the people?

CHELSEA

It gives me something to sell.

BOB

And me.

SIMON

It is not in their best interest, idiot.

SENATOR BURROWS

Do you know of Hemings? Sally Hemings?

Harry shakes his head no.

SENATOR BURROWS

She was the slave mistress of Thomas Jefferson. She bore him six children.

HARRY

Senator, you've got to be kidding me?