

SCENES FROM A MALL

SHE

Was yesterday your first affair,  
or were there others? You might  
as well tell me, now that we're  
talking.

HE

Let's go someplace else.

SHE

This is fine. No one is listening  
to us, believe me.

HE

I had two others, but they were  
one-nighters, and this was years  
ago.

SHE

Who were they?

HE

You really want to know? What  
possible difference could it make?

SHE

Just tell me.

HE

One was a headhunter that I met at  
O'Hare airport.

SHE

A headhunter?

HE

Yeah, she gets talent for corporations  
and stuff. The other was a secretary  
from Atlanta.

SHE

That's it? Two?

HE

Yes. And they were one-nighters both.  
Three--if you actually count the hooker  
in Dallas.

SHE  
A hooker in Dallas???

HE  
That was business. It was totally  
business. They sent her to my room.  
As a gift. I couldn't refuse.

SHE  
What did she have that I didn't have?

HE  
The hooker?

SHE  
No, the yesterday one.

HE  
Nothing. That's the whole point.  
It was not about that.

SHE  
Then what was it about? Did she do  
tricks in bed? Things I don't do?

HE  
No. Well... yes, actually. In  
the beginning, it's always a crazy  
time.

SHE  
Oh, and you have lots of experience  
with beginnings.

HE  
Hey, we were great in the beginning,  
too. We were fabulous, you know?  
Remember how you used to grab me  
under the table in restaurants?  
And the elevator one night...

SHE  
Is that what you did with her?

HE  
A little bit, yeah, at first. But  
then it tapers off, quickly. To...  
very, very nothing, nothing.

SHE  
Oh, nothing.

HE

Yeah, you know--routine sex.

SHE

Oh, like ours was. This morning.  
Fake. Perfunctory. Do you love  
her? Do you want to marry her?

HE

Hey look, I told you this was over.

SHE

Did you love her? Did you want to  
marry her?

HE

I couldn't marry her. I was married  
already.

SHE

Yes or no.

HE

No, of course not.

SHE

You never told her you loved her?

HE

No. I might have. But I didn't  
love her.

SHE

Then you lied to her, too?

HE

I didn't lie!

SHE

Oh, then you did love her!

HE

I didn't love her. I liked her.  
I loved the sex.

SHE

Oh, you love me. But you only  
like the sex.

HE

No. I love our sex. But after a number of years, you must admit that it gets very routine.

SHE

Routine?

HE

Yeah. It becomes like, you know, two zombies.

SHE

Zombies???

HE

Well, maybe that's not quite the word I meant.

SHE

I know exactly what you meant, you sorry-assed, two-timing, lying sonofabitch!

HE

Did I pick a bad day to discuss this?