

THE NOVELIST 5 - 1 (Telephone Scene)
Class use only -- by Sherry O'Brien

HE

Hello?

SHE

Is this Jack O'Neil?

HE

Yes.

SHE

Jack O'Neil, the publisher?

HE

Yes. Who is this?

SHE

Mr. O'Neil, I'm sorry to bother you. I just wanted to confirm your home address.

HE

Who is this?

SHE

You wouldn't remember me, I'm sure. We only met briefly. My name is Corrine Stark. I'm a writer.

HE

Ms. Stark, I'm afraid this is a bad time. Why don't you call my office in the morning?

SHE

I'm afraid this couldn't wait, Mr. O'Neil. I'll be dead in the morning.

HE

What?

SHE

I just wanted to be sure of your address.

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HE

What do you mean, you'll be dead in the morning?

SHE

I have some writing I wanted you to look at and...

HE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

SHE

I mean that I won't be alive. I plan to kill myself tonight.

HE

Who the fuck are you? If this is some kind of sick joke, I assure you...

SHE

It's no joke, Jack. Can I call you Jack?

HE

No! Don't call me anything. You're out of your mind!

SHE

I didn't mean to upset you, Jack. I truly didn't.

HE

Didn't mean to upset me? You need professional help, whoever you are and I don't have time.....

SHE

You must believe me, Jack. I only called to ensure my work would reach you. I didn't intend to tell you any of this, and I'm not sure why I did. I'm sorry. I'll let you get back to your party.

HE

How do you know I'm having a party?

SHE

I can hear it.

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HE

Oh.

SHE

Well...

HE

Wait! Don't hang up!

SHE

Shhh. It's O.K. There's nothing left to say.

HE

Just tell me why! Why do you want to do this?

SHE

I want some peace. I'm tired.

HE

There are people that can help you...

SHE

Goodbye Jack.

HE

No! WAIT! DON'T HANG UP! PLEASE! FUCK!
WAIT! WAIT! FUCK!