

THE NOVELIST 6 - 1

For Class use only - by Sherry O'Brien

SHE

Jack? Are you asleep?

HE

Nearly.

SHE

You've never heard of that woman, have you?

HE

Which woman?

SHE

Which woman, he says. The headless one!
Shit... I can't sleep.

HE

It doesn't concern us. Don't worry.

SHE

How can you just dismiss it? A woman killed herself and left a box of writing addressed to you!

HE

A woman I don't know. A nut-case.

SHE

It just...I find the whole thing disturbing. It frightens me. I don't know why.

HE

Gayle, it has nothing to do with us. She was - well, I don't know what she was, but it's done. We can't change that. What can we do?

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SHE

I know. You're right. But it is odd. (Beat)
I'm sorry about the Baxters.

HE

It's O.K.

SHE

I don't mean to be selfish, but I really need for
us to talk about this.

HE

I'm tired, Gayle.

SHE

Jack, we haven't...

HE

I know, but I'm not feeling good and I'm
really tired.

SHE

You know, you have endless excuses these
days.

HE

Oh Christ.

SHE

You hardly touch me any more. Do you
know that?

HE

Gayle, do we have to do this now? Hasn't
this night had enough drama?

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SHE

Drama? Drama? Do you think this is some kind of act? This is our marriage! It there's something wrong...

HE

There's nothing wrong!

SHE

Obviously there is. And I know what it's about. I just don't understand why. You never talk to me Jack! What is it? What is so wrong with having children?

HE

Nothing! I just don't want to have them now, O.K.?

SHE

Why not?

HE

Gayle, for fuck sake, give it a rest! We've been through this!

SHE

Fuck you, Jack.

HE

Gayle, come on! Get back in bed. Gayle! Gayle!

SHE

Fuck you!.