

Gloria's Revelation 1:1 RA

GLORIA

If only I could have quit at the second one. But oh no, I have to go and eat a half a dozen...ever since I quit drinking, all I want is chocolate.

SUZIE

They say chocolate has something in it...makes us feel loved. When I drank, I wasn't that concerned with feeling loved...I just wanted to feel sexy.

GLORIA

Oh, come off it. Tell the truth...you just wanted to get laid.

SUZIE

But I'm a nice girl and nice girls...

GLORIA

...aren't like that. I know, that's why we hid behind the liquor. We could pretend it wasn't us.

SUZIE

What was the worst thing you did when you were drinking?

GLORIA

Why do we drool over drinking stories?

(beat)

I'd just as soon forget about it.

SUZIE

Come on!

GLORIA

No, I don't want to talk about it.

SUZIE

Just the abridged version, just a little bit, it can't hurt. Just give me the key words...like sordid, illicit...huge member...

GLORIA

It has nothing to do with sex.

SUZIE

Of course it does...somehow, wanting it, getting it, resisting it...in the end, everything boils down to

(MORE)

SUZIE (CONT'D)

sex. That's what my foster father told me.

GLORIA

He's the one that was always teaching you a lesson...right?

SUZIE

Ya. If I remember correctly, he was still trying to teach me something the day the social services case worker loaded me into the car.

GLORIA

Today, he'd be the one being loaded into the car.

SUZIE

It's nice to know things are getting better.

(beat)

Anyway...give it up.

GLORIA

I'm not sure you'd understand.

SUZIE

Oh come on! On all those IQ tests the agency made me take, I always scored highest on comprehension. I scored lowest on ethics...that's why I got a business scholarship...but that's a whole other story...I want yours. I may stoop to anything to get it, so be forewarned

GLORIA

Look, Suzie, you couldn't possibly understand why I did it. I'm not sure I do. Saying I was drunk doesn't do it. I wish I had blacked out so I couldn't remember. Like the night I sideswiped half a dozen cars. I thought someone had run into my car in the parking lot and was so pissed I phoned the police. I was pissed alright...

SUZIE

So what happened?

GLORIA

He was a nice, young RCMP officer...what was his name?

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I remember he grew up in Regina,
that way he didn't have to leave
home to go to the academy. He was
so cute...and polite.

SUZIE

You didn't?

GLORIA

I didn't plan to...it just kind of
happened. He was so understanding
and helpful.

SUZIE

I bet he was.

(beat)

Don't deflect! Come on Gloria. You're
not going to hold out on potentially
the juiciest story I'll ever hear?

GLORIA

You said the worst thing. Right?
Not the juiciest, the worst, as in
"makes one feel ashamed, mortified,
lacking in dignity".

SUZIE

Ya. Oh goody!

GLORIA

Right. Ok.

(beat)

Do you remember a club down on Hornby
Street called Black Jack?

SUZIE

Ya. Good music...good dance floor.
Happy hour went on longer than most,
and they had those really good chicken
wings...I might have been there once
or twice.

GLORIA

Do you remember what happened to it?

SUZIE

Wasn't there a fire or something?

GLORIA

Not really a fire...it was...

SUZIE

You were there?

GLORIA

I had been drinking all night, was with this guy...an insufferable bore. I was sitting on the toilet in the bathroom wondering how I could possibly get rid of him.

SUZIE

You know, it's coming back...there wasn't a fire...it...

GLORIA

What it was...was a false alarm. It didn't seem like any big deal. Pull the alarm, people run out, I lose him in the excitement.

SUZIE

...ya, but some people got hurt. Didn't someone die?

GLORIA

Yes. Someone did die, Suzie. The fire exits were blocked, people panicked. A woman...Francine Spencman...was trampled to death.

SUZIE

You pulled the alarm?

GLORIA

Because I was bored.

SUZIE

Because you were bored. Oh...um...

GLORIA

I knew you wouldn't understand.

SUZIE

No, it's not that. Really. It's just a bit of a shock.

(beat)

What did you do after?

GLORIA

Nothing. I did nothing. I told no one. I tried to pretend it didn't happen. It wasn't my fault the exits were blocked.

(beat)

The club was shut down, the owners sued. Open and shut case. As long as I kept drinking, it never crossed my mind.

SUZIE

How could it?

GLORIA

Being sober...I think about it a lot.

SUZIE

Gloria. I don't know what to say. I can't imagine...I mean...look, we have to go to group in a little while.

GLORIA

You're not going...

SUZIE

No of course not. I won't say anything, I promise. But it might help, maybe, if you were to talk to Meeker about it, privately.

GLORIA

Meeker is a self-righteous prick. I wouldn't talk to him privately about who won the hockey game. Just forget about it, okay?

SUZIE

Sure.

GLORIA

Suzie, I mean it. You breath one word of this to anyone...

SUZIE

Don't threaten me. We all have our secrets Gloria...cool it, okay? I'm just trying to get through the next three weeks and get out of here. It's your call how you deal with your conscience. I gotta go to group...are you coming or what?