

## AFTER MIDNIGHT

*I could hear noises coming from the other room. I could make out another voice. She seemed to be sighing. For the moment, I was sure that he had his television on. It seemed a little loud, almost too intimate to be coming from television show.*

*"Can I have a bagel?"*

*I saw her in the kitchen. How did she get in here? Where did he know her from? She didn't seem like one of his friends. She was a little too glamorous.*

*"What are you getting?"*

*"He agreed to teach me for whatever that means."*

*"Did Vince ever shut up?"*

*"Vince likes to talk."*

*"What did he ask you?"*

*"He was trying to change my life."*

*"Of course, he was."*

*Vince was not a believer, but he might as well have been running a cult. He wanted total obedience. And he believed that he could get it if he got someone to agree with his aims.*

*"I want to join."*

*"What is this about?"*

*"There are these chips in the brain that govern belief."*

*"What do you believe?"*

*"I believe what you want to believe."*

*"I believe in tender touch."*

*"Of course, you do."*

*"What is the reason for your very bad childhood?"*

*Vince was a sadistic person, and this attitude was rooted in his childhood."*

*"Why did you make me suffer?"*

*"You smiled too much."*

*"Vince, you are going to have to leave."*

*"I was told that I could get a drink."*

*"You are ruining my movie."*

*"People expect things that they can never get."*

*"Microwave it all."*

*"I am here to heat the world."*

*"Vince has very good intentions."*

*"He wants to elevate his excitement level."*

*"And you do not."*

*"I am not living in his past."*

*"When did his past begin?"*

*"When someone smiled at him."*

*"He wants everything to be simple."*

*"He connected all the wires."*

*"Red to red."*

*"He didn't connect the ground properly, and he almost executed himself."*

*"TURN ME ON!"*

*"You need to get jacked."*  
*"I am the originator."*  
*"Turn the page."*  
*"I used to read books. I was an intelligent person."*  
*"Cut to the chase."*  
*"Who is being chased?"*  
*"The one with the wrong wiring."*  
*"Where do the wires go?"*  
*"IN AND OUT."*  
*"I am so done."*  
*"Fill in the parts."*  
*"Someone needs to cut you."*  
*"I have been cut."*  
*"I have the best explanation."*  
*"This part is white hot."*  
*"They need to lesion the offending parts."*  
*"How do they do that?"*  
*"You were never truly apologetic aboutb your activities."*  
*"I did not belong to an organization."*  
*"I am having bad memories."*  
*"This so close to the beginning."*  
*"I just want to dispel this feeling."*  
*"There are too many things to think about."*  
*"Like guilt."*  
*"I never hurt anyone."*  
*"I want to feel as if I am affecting other people."*  
*"You need to explain the difficulties."*  
*"I HAD SOME EXTRA MONEY."*  
*"I want satisfaction."*  
*"I do not worry about questions like this."*  
*"Do you know?"*  
*"He is under consideration."*  
*"Will he help us to get to where he wants to go?"*  
*"You are on a time clock."*  
*"Assume that Vince is not part of the story."*  
*"I need to interview her."*  
*"Where did you learn your technique?"*  
*"I worked at a bank."*  
*"I am really getting screwed."*  
*"That only offers a limited explanation."*  
*"Where do we wait?"*  
*"We need some time to waste."*  
*"That is not worth it."*  
*"It is worth it to me."*  
*"I have touchable parts."*

“What did he tell you?”  
 “HE SAID THAT I COULD LEAVE AFTER I FINISHED MY DRINK.”  
 “Are you finished?”  
 “I could use another.”  
 “What do you know that no one else knows?”  
 “It is all basically the same.”  
 “It is biological. Basic needs.”  
 “Vince, this was not a basic need for someone else.”  
 “I completely failed.”  
 “This was brilliant.”  
 “Then I failed.”  
 “I have spent all my life trying to get over you.”  
 “Do not interrupt.”  
 “He has what he likes.”  
 “He likes what he has.”  
 “Vince, you do not care about this.”  
 “She will learn to enjoy it.”  
 “That was really my only educational opportunity. I wanted to get other people to do things for me. They could read the same books.”  
 “I read the same books.”  
 “They could turn the page.”  
 “I did turn the page.”  
 “What are you looking at, Vince.”  
 “Something to turn me on.”  
 “Something to make me feel better.”  
 “Floating in the water.”  
 “I want to share.”  
 “Does anyone care?”  
 “Vince, you are not looking for caring.”  
 “That is the only thing that I really want.”  
 “You are being closed.”  
 “I was not reading anything.”  
 “I wanted to love myself.”  
 “Vince, you cannot argue people to love you.”  
 “I can be funny.”  
 “You cannot humor people.”  
 “BEEP!”  
 “I am doing nothing.”  
 “This is impossible,”  
 “I want to look.”  
 “You need a time out.”  
 “The state has some questions.”  
 “The state cannot substitute for a failure in social interaction.”  
 “I have arrived.”  
 “The state cannot work around a failure in the transportation system.”

*"I am very concerned."*  
*"I know what is in your head."*  
*"Don't try to do too much your own."*  
*"A small electric current will excite you in unknown ways."*  
*"I know where this is headed Vince."*  
*"I have a method"*  
*"I felt embarrassed."*  
*"Honestly, Vince, is there any embarrassment in your experience."*  
*Vince does not feel good all the time. He needs special gifts to help him feel better.*  
*"This could be an important part of medical science."*  
*"How much money would I need?"*  
*"You need enough for a sweetener."*  
*"I need to write very quickly."*  
*"We were friendly."*  
*"I wasn't like that for long."*  
*"I am looking for some guy named Vince."*  
*"He is hiding in the darkness."*  
*"I need someone to blame."*  
*"How do you assign accountability?"*  
*"I get spanked."*  
*"Do not lay a hand on that child."*  
*"I never had that leeway."*  
*"Somone tortured you."*  
*"My father was not a warm man."*  
*"Is that the only explanation?"*  
*"I went to live with my mother."*  
*"I had a rough time too."*  
*"Drink this, and you will feel nothing."*  
*"Feel this, and you will feel nothing."*  
*"I had a plan."*  
*"This is not going to work for me."*  
*"I lost my focus."*  
*"Are we supposed to look somewhere?"*  
*"Close your eyes."*  
*"We could share a life."*  
*"I am not fast enough."*  
*"Take a stand."*  
*"Are you Vince?"*  
*"I wanted to be."*  
*"Try to be."*  
*"You wanted someone with a complaint like yours."*  
*"It is so easy to find what you are expecting."*  
*"I needed to go."*  
*"At that moment."*  
*"Right then and there."*

*"I was not in control."*  
*"No one is. This will make you feel as if you are okay?"*  
*"I had it completely. Then I lost focus."*  
*"I lost all sensation."*  
*"I need someone to hold my hand at every stage of the way."*  
*"What am I really holding?"*  
*"This is an evaluation."*  
*"How does that work?"*  
*"I only want the cash."*  
*"I did extra work"*  
*"Vince, you are going to have to give a complete accounting of your expenses."*  
*"There are things that I should have eaten."*  
*"That is not available in this room."*  
*"All the energy is draining from me."*  
*"Are you going back to the same place?"*  
*"That was too much loss of energy."*  
*"What would you take instead?"*  
*"I went home and did some work."*  
*"You are going to have to wait."*  
*"Shake it up."*  
*"Shake me up."*  
*"This is the only person who understands."*  
*"What did you have to give her to come here? What did you tell her?"*  
*"My money is lonely."*  
*"This has nothing to do with me."*  
*"It really does."*  
*"Do you get what you want?"*  
*"Everybody does."*  
*"I cannot even see two feet in front of me."*  
*"I cannot relate to any of this."*  
*"I have some questions for you."*  
*"I am trying to forget what happened at work."*  
*"They drained my energy."*  
*"There is a great deal more to say."*  
*"Someone is twisting in his chair."*  
*"I think that you know Vince."*  
*"We all know Vince."*  
*"I thought that he was someone else."*  
*"I am not going to worry about this."*  
*"I do not worry about anything."*  
*"That is where criminal intent starts."*  
*"These are not criminals."*  
*"Can you help me to get what I truly need?"*  
*"A pardon."*  
*"I like, but what do I need to put up with."*

*"So much shit."*

*"That is impossible."*

*"Why did you sit down next to me? You started to tell me things about your life. I didn't want to hear about any of it."*

*"I know stories"*

*"All stories end here."*

*"I want the snack."*

*"I am eating dog food."*

*"It is not that good quality."*

*"I already have it."*

*"I knew that this was going to happen."*

*"He appeared to me."*

*"What is science, and what is miracle?"*

*"Which is it?"*

*"It is supernatural."*

*"This is a good theme."*

*"There are different ways of organizing human experience."*

*"I do what I want."*

*"You do not have a choice."*

*"That does not really matter."*

*"It is in front of me."*

*"I expect that there will be a change."*

*"I do not have a great deal."*

*"What is the cost?"*

*"You need to give of yourself."*

*"I do not have enough to give."*

*"You said something nice about me."*

*"I am not improving the odds."*

*"The odds cannot be improved."*

*"This is getting stark."*

*"There is a different distribution of income."*

*"What do you want?"*

*"Something that I can swallow."*

*"Think about the dog food."*

*"I do not want to bark?"*

*"I am wild."*

*"We are all wild."*

*"I am way out."*

*"I am on a magic carpet."*

*"You feed yourself on my words."*

*"How does that work?"*

*"These are matters that I refuse to discuss with Vince. I do not consider that he is a being with desire. He only wants to dominate others."*

*"I do not think that it is that complex. He only wants to eat."*

*"What are you eating?"*

“Can anyone in this room understand anything that we are talking about?”  
 “Some people are afraid.”  
 “They do not want to reach the point when they would eat dog food.”  
 “You bark. You bite.”  
 “I should stop.”  
 “It was perfect.”  
 “I lost the thread.”  
 “Everything is standard”  
 “I am not considering it.”  
 “Put it in the bowl.”  
 “Add water.”  
 “There is machine that will cook it. You want the world cooked. Then you can eat  
 it.”  
 “Once the world is cooked, it can be eaten.”  
 “We could do all of this tomorrow.”  
 “Different things.”  
 “Ketchup is the key.”  
 “Anything to make everything taste great.”  
 “Do not judge me.”  
 “I am not born to be judged.”  
 “The movmenet judges all of us the same.”  
 “Vince does not understand the culture that made these things.”  
 “They made burgers.”  
 “They made other things.”  
 “You are going to swallow all of this.”  
 “Add some ketchup.”  
 “Some kind of dripping sauce.”  
 “What does this say about all of us?”  
 “No one can sleep”  
 “I already need a drink.”  
 “I want to complete the work.”  
 “You are almost done.”  
 “This is easier than you know.”  
 “*Vince is undergoing an alteration of the social system.*”  
 “*You have no idea what is occurring.*”  
 “*All the air went out of the system.*”  
 “*There is another place where all of this will make sense.*”  
 “*It does make sense. Eat. Love. Sleep.*”  
 “*Where does this start?*”  
 “*Face-to-face.*”  
 “*I do not relate to this at all.*”  
 “*I need to go somewhere lese.*”  
 “*They get things done.*”  
 “*They have a task.*”  
 “*They want extra cheese.*”

*"That does not change anything about you."*  
*"We are counting."*  
*"That is not enough."*  
*"I am way beyond this."*  
*"This will all happen in good time."*  
*"It will eventually fall apart."*  
*"It did."*  
*"I give orders."*  
*"That is the danger."*  
*"What else can you do?"*  
*"I am a professional negotiator."*  
*"Hostages?"*  
*"More financial brinkmanship."*  
*"That is all that I want."*  
*"Do you have a trust fund?"*  
*"I have money in the bank."*  
*"How did it get there?"*  
*"I wanted to be loved."*  
*"You need to clean this up."*  
*"You need to be fair."*  
*"What about people who are doing well?"*  
*"No one does well."*  
*"If we were really doing well, would we be here."*  
*"Too bad things happened."*  
*"That sounds like your life."*  
*"Vince got turned on.:"*  
*"I could break it down."*  
*"You can stay or leave."*  
*"What is happening in there?"*  
*"I am enjoying being lied to."*  
*"Put on a new identity."*  
*"I am not going to make it back to my place."*  
*"You look nothing alike."*  
*"Pretend."*  
*"You are very glamorous."*  
*"I want to destroy something."*  
*"We are all working together."*  
*"That is the only thing that I have ever wanted."*  
*"There is no desire here."*  
*"Vince would want it all now."*  
*"I know how to dealy."*  
*"I will have the skills."*  
*"You are in the way of what I want to see."*  
*"We are all headed in the same direction."*  
*"That is part of the curse."*



*"He understands something that I do not."*  
*"I am going to have to work on it."*  
*"There is a door."*  
*"You are looking at everything in a strange way."*  
*"You need to ask."*  
*"I will ask."*  
*"I only want to eat."*  
*"You can feed of the heavenly body."*  
*"How does that work?"*  
*"You only needed to be honest."*  
*"That messed with something good."*  
*"I do not want to consider it."*  
*"You could ask."*  
*"You take your problems home,"*  
*"Keep talking."*  
*"What qualifies for a total transformation?"*  
*"Everyone says the same thing."*  
*"I could quote directly."*  
*"There is no excuse for such behavior."*  
*"I am not moving that quickly."*  
*"What is the mythological history?"*  
*"I cannot put myself in your head. I am afraid to try."*  
*"That will give me whatever I need."*  
*"It is nothing like that."*  
*"LEAD ME OUT OF HERE."*  
*"That is how it works."*  
*"Why should I bother?"*  
*"I am taking it slowly."*  
*"We can all play along"*  
*"There is an audition."*  
*"What do you offer?"*  
*"My cleverness."*  
*"No one talks like that."*  
*"These are things that are in the head. These are unexplainable things."*  
*"You need to make a request."*  
*"I need to get out of here."*  
*"I will take care of it all."*  
*"This is the receipt."*  
*You have been invited to leave."*  
*"Look as if you know what you are doing."*  
*"I do know."*  
*"Tomorrow will tell you what you need to know."*  
*"No one has what is needed. What is appealing. That is too much for me."*  
*"I am not working with you."*  
*"I am not working for you."*

*“This is simple.”*

*“I found you.”*

**“Vince cannot be allowed in here. He has his own difficulties. He wants to interfere with things that we like.”**

**“Vince cannot be admired.”**

**“That not going to work for me.”**

**“What is your primary need?”**

**“To be obliterated.”**

**“How do you educate yourself?”**

**“I am feeling faint.”**

**“You should not have ventured out.”**

**“What is the fear?”**

**“Not that you will be denied. It is worse to get what you want.”**

**“What could that be?”**

**“I do not want to be denied.”**

**“Now you have done it.”**

**“That is all that matters to me.”**

**“Why did I pick the wrong pony?”**

**“This has nothing to do with you.”**

**“Why is it like this?”**

**“I should not scratch.”**

**“You know everything from your point of view.”**

**“I want it all to work well.”**

**“You are too sensitive.”**

**“You should run all of this.”**

**“Tell me what you know.”**

**“I am feeling happy.”**

**“What is in happiness?”**

**“A tinge of regret.”**

**“I am working a color wheel.”**

**“There will be a lovely reward.”**

**“Someone told you that you this is good.”**

**“We see things differently.”**

**“I am stumbling over.”**

**“I am pretending that this has nothing to do with me.”**

**“I have it all worked out.”**

**“This is a menu.”**

**“Different days, different flavors.”**

**“I cannot make sense of any of this.”**

**“This is all over.”**

**“A new month.”**

**“More work.”**

**“May?”**

**“May I?”**

**“YES, YOU MAY!”**

“I am trying to have a better time.”  
“This is all vanilla.”  
“Where does that go?”  
“In ice cream.”  
“That is very expensive stuff.”  
“It makes it all tastes better.”  
“This is fun money.”  
“You do need something.”  
“Put it back in to take it out.”  
“You will all complete it at the same time.”  
“We all have affection. We are honey badgers.”  
“What does that mean?”  
“There are limits to our development.”  
“That is not going to work out for anything.”  
“How do I get her to escape.”  
***“It’s not as if I am talking to a bunch of accountants.”***  
***“I am an accountant.”***  
***“That works out.”***  
***“He will never know.”***  
***“No one can. No one will.”***  
***“I need a revision.”***  
***“You need an editor.”***  
***“Can we stop this.”***  
***“This seems like an exciting place.”***  
***“It smells so badly.”***  
***“Are there provisions for renting out this place?”***  
***“This is a temporary visit.”***  
***“And you believe that you know.”***  
***“How did I arrive here?”***  
***“They all know about it.”***  
***“That will provide an explanation.”***  
***“That is not sufficient to qualify for a completion.”***  
***“Fill out the form”***  
***“What are the questions?”***  
***“Who loves me?”***  
***“I need a new explanation for tonight.”***  
***“Did you bother?”***  
***“No one ever bothers.”***  
***“I lost interest.”***  
***“I am not even responding.”***  
***“Are you a Vince Green in the making?”***  
***“He did not have the patience. We cannot let any loose cannons in here.”***  
***“That is a different kind of restriction.”***  
***“I am doing much better.”***

*"You are everything that I need and more."*  
*"You did a very bad thing."*  
*"Everyone in there did a very bad thing."*  
*"We are all interrupting each other."*  
*"Leave at different times."*  
*"We all end up at the same place."*  
*"I do not every want to think about it."*  
*"I only think about it one way."*  
*"You really do not have a grasp."*  
*"He was taking too much time."*  
*"I need to find the door."*  
*"That is perfect."*  
*"I want someone to complete your life."*  
*"What assets do you have?"*  
*"I have some pennies."*  
*"I need to walk away."*  
*"I am saving up."*  
*"This is the worst that I have ever been doing."*  
*"You are promising what you can will never have."*  
*"How did that happen?"*  
*"I am part of of this conversation."*  
*"Somone threatened me."*  
*"You can give no one what you want."*  
*"You are going to work forever."*  
*"And what do you get?"*  
*"A key."*  
*"A key to a box."*  
*"Open it."*  
*"What is inside?"*  
*"That takes way longer than I thought tht it would be."*  
*"If you talk that way, it will not give you anything."*  
*"Nothing is everything."*  
*"I need to go through all the possibilities."*  
*"That is a manner of speaking."*  
*"You have the important stages."*  
*"And then I will sleep."*  
*"You should have felt privileged."*  
*"We are pretending."*  
*"We are going back in time."*  
*"Keep talking."*  
*"None of this makes sense."*  
*"It will never make sense."*  
*"Kkgkgkkgk."*  
*"It is all clear to me."*  
*"I don't want to think about my past. I want to live in the now."*

*“You are a total fuck up.”*  
*“How does that work?”*  
*“Do not worry about it!”*  
*“That will not help.”*  
*“Live in the moment.”*  
*“I am walking home.”*  
*“You are going to crawl.”*  
*“Slither.”*  
*“What is the source of temptation?”*  
*“Something that you’vev had before that you want again.”*  
*“Noodles.”*  
*“French Toast.”*  
*“I smell French Toast.”*  
*“This will never end.”*  
*“The maple syrup is melting.”*  
*“That will not result in any kind of liberation.”*  
*“I just want it for one night.”*  
*“I need a baby sitter.”*  
*“A baby sister.”*  
*“That is impossible.”*  
*“Is that cute?”*  
*“It just is.”*  
*“Say goodbye.”*  
*“I need to get some gas.”*  
*“I need to fix my engine.”*  
*“Some things cannot be fixed.”*