

THE SOAP OPERA CLINIC

“WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?”

RIDDLE: “WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?”

“What do you want to know? If you want an answer to any question, what would that be? What do you need to know for your life? Will you find love? Will he love you? Will you continue to love yourself? How can you make more money? How can you have more time? How can thing be easier for you? How can you get free? Are they waiting for you? Why are they waiting? Why have you been chosen? Why have you not been chosen?”

“What is expected of you? What is not expected? What are you afraid of?”

“Who are the characters? What are there names? What do they want? What do they not want? What excuses do they make?”

“Have you been forgotten? Are you remembered for the wrong reason? How can you live down your reputation? Does any of it make the least bit of difference? What keeps the world together? How do you contribute to the mosaic?”

“What do you have to hide?”

“What do you need to leave at thome.”

“This is all so confusing. How can anyone make sense of your writing? There is a conversation without clear speakers. Why should we care? Why should we bother? What is missing from the mix? What needs to be addes to get the right flavor?

“Why do you make fun of others? Why don’t you take yourself more seriously? Why do I need to do to make things clearer?”

“Where can I feel safe? What are you saying about me? Are you mocking me?”

“How am I suppsed to put any of this together? What is missing from the picture? How can you contribute to making things better?”

“Why should I be honest with you? Do you work with the government? Do you advance oppression? Are you making me feel terrible? Why don’t you love me? Why won’t you give me a chance?”

“Where did I go wrong? Where did we go wrong? Where did it all go wrong?”

“What do you have that I do not have?”

“Do you have a fresh coat of paint? What can be done to make it all look perfect?”

“There is an experience. There is a world. There are forces. They are things happening that are hidden. They are hidden from you. If you knew about her experience, it could make a difference for you.”

“You might have bad memories. There are things that you want to think about. You want to share them. There are things that you do not care about.”

“You talk about history all the time. You talk about time. What is history? History describes events that have occurred in the past. People make an effort to describe what has happened. And these stories can change over time. You act as if history has some kind of certain motion. That it has consciousness. That it leads us on. That it has a purpose. We are dealing with people, how are immersed in chaos. They never know quite what is going on. And you imply that there is some direction to this process. That things go from bad to good. That we are being led to some kind of positive resoultion.”

“Did I say the wrong thing?”

“You were destroyed.”

“I looked up in the sky.”

“I was lost in the night.”

“I rubbed all the history off of your body.”

“I was baptized for the future.”

“This guy seems so full of purpose. He enters the door so full of purpose. I don’t like the look or the hope or the attitude. This is what I am experiencing in the here and now.”

“You have made quite an effort trying to describe what you do. What do you do? What gives you that kind of purpose. Who cares from the depth of her soul? Who resonates that complaint. I am doing nothing. I am doing nothing to you. I am doing nothing for you.

“I want to participate. I want to go along.”

“This is your chance. This can be your story.”

“Why are you working when we are having fun?”

“And you have fun, and you go home and you are making every effort to live it down. Maybe, you could use a reminder not to go down the same road. But your only reminders trigger the same circular behavior. And your mistakes are all the same. You just go down the same road again and again. You can’t help it anymore.”

“What do you really think? What do you want to know?”

“What do you need me to tell you?”

“When you need to escape, what do you do?”

“What do you do to be the way that you are?”

“Do you believe that thinking can give you the advantage? What are you thinking about? Where do you want to start?”

“Do you feel guilty? What is the source of the guilt? Where are you headed? What do you call home?”

“You ask questions that cannot be answered. What would be an answer?”

“Wear this shirt. Believe this.”

“You have been through a hard day. You have been through a harder time. What is it going to take to break you.”

“This is all over your head.”

“I got what you need. Touch my hand.”

“Humanity has given us this believe.”

“I continue to look like this. I continue to dress like this. I continue to act like this.”

“I want to survive.”

“And this works for you.”

“Are there any meat on those bones?”

“I am glad that you have figured it out. If you want me to help, I can do everything is needed. Why don’t you need me? Why don’t you need the words?”

“This is going to be a lot more difficult on my end.”

“Say what you will, say what you might.”

“I show up, I eat, I drink. I am happy sometimes.”

“I do not want to join a cult.”

“Whoever you are, I am perfect for me.”
 “I can make myself small.”
 “I have purpose.”
 “I do not want you to destroy that.”
 “We could make each other into a career.”
 “I am going down the wrong path.”
 “When did you lose hope?”
 “And that is impossible.”
 “There are many places that you can end up.”
 “These are the circumstances.”
 “Who are you kidding?”
 “That could not be more wonderful.”]
 “How do I know that I am included?”
 “That day was not as wonderful as I thought.”
 “I want to learn things the way that you do. I want to see the world the same way.”
 “What else is there?”
 “Be a part of this.”
 “I missed the split.”
 “This is yours.”
 “This requires a whole system of devotion.”
 “A faith.”
 “A scripture.”
 “You are being so dishonest. You describe a world coalescing. Where is this all going?”
 “Where are you all going?”
 “You have changed things.”
 “I waited all day for you.”
 “I waited all day for an audience.”
 “What are you saying?”
 “Why is this yours?”
 “I used to believe that a form of awareness would lead me to the promised land.”
 “It reminds me that I am here.”
 “We are moving to that point.”
 “We have science.”
 “You do not have enough earth do to what you want.”
 “Enough earth.”
 “You need to understand what is going on in there.”
 “I get it.”
 “Brace yourself.”
 “I am about to be invited into a myriad of possibilities.”
 “A symphony of awareness.”
 “It is what it is.”
 “There are some people who want to know. They can hear all the instruments playing at
 once.”

“Where did any of that go?”
 “You have been trying to save face forever. What have you figured out?”
 “This is where history comes into play.”
 “Lancer, you cannot play.”
 “Let us assume that this is something that you want.”
 “You straddle both worlds.”
 “To what effect?”
 “There is something else going on.”
 “What do you want me to tell you?”
 “I could tell you what is going on.”
 “How much did you spend?”
 “I spent my allowance.”
 “You are good at economics.”
 “I wait through all the shit.”
 “This is a job. And we are a team. What makes the team do well?”
 “How else can you describe work?”
 “It is who we are. We do the job enough so that it becomes who we are.”
 “I am set for life.”
 “I am set for this week.”
 “You are not really listening.”
 “You want me to remember every detail of your life. But you forget key elements of the contract. That is why you have a deal.”
 “I have taken it to this point.”
 “Do I fulfill the role?”
 “Why should I want to please you? Why do you pretend that you are a judge of what we do?”
 “I wish that it was not so obvious.”
 “Turn me on.”
 “Why don’t you call him out for what he is?”
 “He is the perfect reflection of your work and your money.”
 “Who are you?”
 “I need to stay in place.”
 “I need to get this done.”
 “This is a belief.”
 “This should be easier.”
 “I was asking simple questions.”
 “There is a lot more to work out.”
 “You were all in the room.”
 “Now, you are pretending that there is some kind of buyer’s remorse.”
 “What am I thinking about?”
 “I gave my life to you.”
 “I do not want to pretend that it is more than it is.”
 “Put all the parts together.”

“I think that this is the time to ask.”

“Ask now.”

“Who do I really trust?”

“I have mapped out the room completely. I know how many steps from one place to another.”

“I can do this with my eyes closed.”

“I am going to need to do this with my eyes closed.”

“My eyes are not closed to the changes for the future.”

“Do not try to get too cute with language. This is what people mean when they say changes. It could be a job or a relationship. Or just a change in attitude. There is nothing too complex here. We are not looking at the cells or the molecules or innovation or technology. This is how I feel. This is my story.”

“I am going to have to make a power move.”

“It means holding my hand.”

“I am going to wait for someone else to come along.”

“What is your name?”

“I am never going to be good at remembering.”

“I need to say hello.”

“We will go together.”

“This is another place to be, another place to go.”

“We can walk from there.”

“I am waiting for you.”

“I hurt more than I should.”

“How do I not feel things so intensely?”

“Give it time.”

“What if you are expecting real changes?”

“We are all sick together.”

“I need some details.”

“Take care of the pain.”

“It never hurts that much.”

“Read on, and it will make sense.”

“There is a situation and some people.”

“Who are you? What are you really about?”

“It is in all of us.”

“We are trying to figure out who you are.”

“What kind of work do I need to do to find out?”

“Why do I feel as if I am a trout on ice?”

“Where does that start?”

“Do not cut me?”

“Are you important?”

“Return.”

“You could jump out of the routine.”

“We brought it with us.”

“Did you come in here with some kind of ready-made argument?”

“There are not infinite varieties of shoes.”

“She had the look. This could be her story. That is how you love it. She suffers through the stages of recent history. She has a frown on her face, which is really a twisted smile. And you spend months trying to figure what that means and what that tells us about the state of the world. And she has some vague understanding about the economic challenges in the world. And she has spent time agonizing over her make up. But she is not wearing much make up. Everyone tries so hard to effect that same look that is almost natural for you. When you achieve consciousness, what follows?”

“Why are you so creepy? You are trying to provide more credibility to her story.”

“I include the working parts.”

“There are different ways to see this.”

“He is taking his lumps for the system.”

“There are other models.”

“There are other roles.”

“It is a long night.”

“Notice me.”

“I have the hook up.”

“We have to ask others.”

“Throw the first stone.”

“Throw all the stones.”

“Stone me.”

“I want forgiveness.”

“That makes you unique.”

“I carry the burden of history.”

“I can make this work.”

“I am aiming on an important job.”

“What kind of work do you do?”

“This was only a goal.”

“Why did you quit?”

“He did it better than I did.”

“But I did it again and again.”

“You should have been better.”

“I can see from faraway.”

“He sees it from up close.”

“What are you looking for?”

“The perfect equation.”

“How do we describe it?”

“Do you think that I do not have a life? That I do not do something very important?”

“I do something important.”

“We are going to figure out how to destroy this.”

“There are other options.”

“I am facing this option now.”

“Know what is affecting you.”
“What is affecting you?”
“What other ingredients are needed?”
“Make a difference.”
“He is among us.”
“Why is it so difficult for you.”
“Do you have all the parts?”
“Why do you like this?”
“I can be so brutal.”
“Spend some money.”
“Spend some more.”
“Where should I hide?”
“You are hiding in my bed?”
“There are not enough variations to go around.”
“She gave it to you.”
“I am dancing on a pin.”
“Does anyone else understand?”
“I want to talk about the children.”
“I am here and now.”
“I am here and now”
“I am sick.”:
“You are the one.”
“How does that work?”
“I get a little bit of both.”
“You cannot do some one thing.”
“I cannot do a thing.”
“I have one question.”
“She came back.”
“Damn.”
“She sees something.”
“The orbit.”
“Why is this a solution to the orbit?”
“This is what I want.”
“How does that work?”
“You are back.”
“What more is there for us?”
“That is more that.”
“You never asked.”
“I want you to share something with me.”
“That is going to help me out.”
“Help me out.”
“Complete the task.”
“He is among us.”

“Are there options.”
“There are options.”
“Someone will appreciate it.”
“I feel that every night.”
“She has a company.”
“That is epic.”
“Do you really believe that?”
“What is the theme.”
“Who even cares?”
“We do.”
“We keep sharing.”
“We join in.”
“Why me?”
“Why me?”
“No way him.”
“Maybe her.”
“Maybe me.”
“Maybe no one.”
“You never really ask.”
“What would it mean to aks?”
“How deep does this go?”
“It goes all the say.”
“Save it for me.”
“You have been displaced.”
“How do you make it happen?”
“Eat this.”
“Drink this. Share this. Be this.”
“That does not change a thing.”
She could change it.”
“She does not.”
“No one does.”
“What am I really thinking about?”
“She is never that close.”
“I am up close and personal.”
“She is protecting the kids.”
“Who do you aspire to be?”
“A radical Jim Joyce.”
“What does that mean?”
“History and sports.”
“Where is this headed?”
“What is in the food?”
“Why does any of it matter?”
“Do you want to be part of it.”

“Love it, or leave it.”

“I can do it best.”

“It all goes crazy.”

“They are all on that.”

“I have been consistent.”

“I am waiting to cross the river.”

“This is some deep historical shit.”

“Why are you almost there.”

“Almost forever.”

“That is so wrong.”

“That might have worked for me.”

“You are all fighting your way out of the proverbial paper bag.”

“Scratch the surface.”

“I get it.”

“Your body is broken in bits, and they are all claimed.”

“Scratch off the reality.”

“Stare at me.”

“You destroy whatever protects us. Then we are victims to whatever is all around us.”

“You were sheltered.”

“I need the protection.”

“You need more than that.”

“I keep getting frightened.”

“You do not know enough to know so little.”

“I gave my soul to a different belief.”

“They all described you to a t. And you think that you can occupy a leadership position.

I wish that you would face someone who really knows her shit.”

“And you are captured by this.”

“That is what I see.”

“You need to slow down.”

“That is no remedy.”

“We could think about it in the future.”

“I can mix it all for you.”

“I have found a way to pull it all together.”

“I want to see both examples at once.”

“You had that chance.”

“I want you to understand this a little more clearly.”

“I really do not believe that shit.”

“We can make it bounce for you.”

“What got you to this point.”

“I wanted to be noticed.”

“Did you read the book?”

“I am the book.”

“That is more than a little wonderful.”

“I can dictate.”

“Dictate.”

“Touch and dictate.”

“This is your story.”

“This is the only chance.”

“I am honest. I have spent my whole life being fed bull shit. I can recognize it from a mile away, but I embrace it. I embrace the dream of the system. It is a few months or a few years away. When it comes, I will have everything that I want.”

“Turn off the shit, and you make something worthwhile happen.”

“Then there are these wolves, and they feed off the sheep, And they get off on feeding. And that becomes an avocation in itself. When the rate of depredation become less, then they become bitter. And they try every trick to manipulate the world back to this ideal that they uphold.”

“They have the courts.”

“They all do.”

“You can get your scholarship.”

“I have my life.”

“That is worse than ridiculous.”

“I say let’s hop on the next plane.”

“World, look at me.”

“We are not on the same train..”

“We ate all the cookies.”

“The box.”

“What do you want to ask?”

“That is too close.”

“We are safe.”

“What is that book in the drawer in your hallway.”

“Where?”

“In that little table.”

“She is being led.”

“She is leading.”

“None of that will matter.”

“You were almost there.”

“Do I have to listen to the same thing all night?”

“It is the same thing for the rest of your life.”

“Where does all that work go?”

“How can you explain that?”

“I cannot.”

“I will take that.”

“Then the performance is warmed-over pudding.”

“What is that about?”

“Cherry cobbler.”

“Your taste.”

“What does that say about me?”
 “We are in the middle of this major political conversation. Then you tell me that you live to eat.”
 “I am sunk.”
 “Do you want to know more?”
 “I know about stories. This fades on the long stretch.”
 “We are on the stretch.”
 “I am down on my knees.”
 “I am taking a knee.”
 “Do we even agree with each other?”
 “I almost went down that path.”
 “Welcome to the pleasure dome.”
 “When did it start?”
 “I could not sit still.”
 “I need that for now.”
 “I need to ask for things that I cannot get.”
 “We make our own fries.”
 “What did you not eat?”
 “I was there.”
 “I was at an intersection.”
 “We are going to need to wait.”
 “Why does that do it?”
 “Where does it do it for?”
 “How are you willing to change?”
 “These are things that I work on.”
 “I need to give you more credit.”
 “What come next?”
 “We are totally committed to your life.”:
 “To your life.”
 “How did you start?”
 “Where are we headed?”
 “Where do you want to go?”
 “That would be different with different players.”
 “She can be very funny.”
 “She is one of the fish.”
 “I am the fish.”
 “I am the Fisher of men.”
 “Another story.”
 “Why is that not mine?”
 “You have been trying hard.”
 “Try harder.”
 “Who is this guy?”
 “Do not throw stones.”

“Do not shoot arrows.”

“You have a great body.”

“I have a human body, and you figured out how to destroy it.”

“I paint it to destroy it.”

“My art has more of a method.”

“Astrid will describe.”

“This is a different night. She has short-term goals that she assumes play for the long term.”

“I want that.”

“We are all freaks.”