

TALK

“I ‘ve been talking to your best friend.”

“He’s not really my best friend.”

“We are coming back to that.”

“What did he say about me?”

Why did she believe my friend? She held the cheese knife in her hand. She was trying to contain her emotions. She didn’t want to lose control of this moment. She felt betrayed, but she was doing her best to turn it around. She wanted to blame it all on him. What did he expect? If she wanted to talk to his friend, that was her right. She felt that she had an affinity with the friend that he did not understand. She wanted to figure it out.

“I was affected deeply.”

“I can make my own choices.”

“He is taking advantage of the situation.”

“What is in that?”

She peeled another cracker from the package. She cut a large piece of cheese that would fill the cracker. When she bit into the cracker, it had a unique crunch. She loved that moment, and that served as her defense. She needed to be assertive. She felt as if she was under fire. She needed to address these barrages.

She didn’t need to defend her choices. This had nothing to do with him. She found someone who complemented her creative awareness. I didn’t want to interfere in their little game. But it seemed as if it took advantage of this absurd belief. How was I supposed to respond?

He kept talking about what had happened. She felt as if he had nothing nice to say. He could only insult her. She wasn’t sure how long this would go on. She cut another piece of cheese, and she was more expressive with the knife. What was she seeing? She needed to be careful.

She didn’t want to lose her direction. She did not want to submit. She was holding the knife, but she was gesturing as if she was trying to defend herself. What was she afraid of? In her heart, she knew that something was wrong. She wanted to wash her hands of whatever had occurred.

The cheese knife lay across the plate. It still spoke for her. She looked him in the eyes. He was angry, but she tried to avoid his gaze. She felt as if she had nothing to do with this. She felt that sensation pass through her. She was not right in the moment. She did not understand the causes. She refused to give in to this way of thinking.

She was doing what she enjoyed doing. She was exploring her dreams. She did not need him to try to regulate her thinking. She felt as if she was trapped here. She did not want someone trying to tell her what she could do. She sliced another piece of cheese.

When she bit into the cracker, the snap seemed to echo throughout the room. What did she need to do to get out of here? Why didn’t she simply tell him to leave. She could sense how he was losing his energy. How long could he keep talking? She closed the cracker box. She put the cheese back in the package. This was not the end of the conversation. But she tried to find some way to distract herself. It wouldn’t be long.

She felt as if he was only repeating himself. And he seemed more vociferous. What did he expect? She had tried to explain herself. He was not going to listen. She did not want to feel threatened. But she did not try to seem to direct. He would go by his own volition.

“Why does this story interest you so much?”

“It happened.”

“It did not happen exactly like this.”

“How would you alter the description?”

“She was not so defenseless.”

“That is what you are saying.”

“That was Lancer.”

“What did she want?”

“I want him to leave.”

“He is not still there.”

“Who invited him?”

“Where is this supposed to start?”

“Where are we headed?”

“Should I look? Should I think about it?”

“This is no longer about you.”

“It was about me for a while.”

“And afterwards.”

“I had nothing to do with this.”

“How are you messing with me?”

“He is sure that he has it all under control.”

“She does too.”

“That is how she talks about it.”

“And that is something you want.”

“Are you kidding?”

“He bit me.”

“This is taking a lot longer than I thought.”

“Why is this not working?”

“She was gesturing to the chef.”

“Slice another piece of cheese.”

“What else is here?”

“Who else is in there?”

“I don’t want to leave.”

“You were not in there for long.”

“Who else understands?”

“Who else cares about understanding?”

“I give in to a gust of wind.”

“Have some cheese on a cracker.”

“I think that I will.”

“What else would you like?”

“A soda.”

“Some water.”
“I am having trouble talking.”
“This is not going to change anything.”
“No one wants to change.”
“I want some cheese.”
“Who else is here?”
“The mice.”
“The mice could eat other things.”
“All the crackers.”
“I like that.”
“I like that.”
“Welcome here.”
“I am ripe.”
“What does that mean?”
“I am doing my best to describe myself.”
“This is how I want to be seen, and this is how things end up working out.”
“Where else are you going?”
“That is what we are working out now.”
“I want to get out.”
“You seem active.”
“Let me show you something.”
“I am so tied up in myself.”
“Have a piece of cheese.”
“That is not going to do it for me.”
“Do it while you can.”
“Did you bring the key?”
“What key?”
“So I could get in the house.”
“What do you want?”
“I can be as quiet as a mouse.”
“Things will get pretty crazy after that.”
“Then we will all go home.”
“What is the risk here?”
“You tell me.”
“That you won’t go home.”
“Do not let go.”
“Give me back the key.”
“I will be as quiet as a mouse.”
“This guy is good.”
“I cannot do it every second.”
“Some of these moments are better than perfect.”
“This is the only thing that changed.”
“There is too much going in my head.”

“Cheese can be like a drug.”
“All foods are like drugs.”
“I need something that is not available here.”
“We can go to the drugstore.”
“Something else.”
“It could be a suggestion.”
“I am more than a little suggestive.”
“I want to go back to your place.”
“I want to borrow a cup of sugar.”
“There is more than sugar.”
“The mice are going to have a blast.”
“Where is this headed?”
“I want to go back to your place. I want to raid the pantry.”
“We have only one rule here.”
“He told me what it is.”
“What kinds of cheese are in the fridge?”
“You have answers to most of your questions.”
“How much room is here?”
“She is moving faster than I could ever catch up.”
“And you are an expert about my past.”
“You never should have hung out with him.”
“What are you doing?”
“Do you have empathy?”
“Why are you motioning with the cheese knife?”
“It is a cheese knife.”
“I am so done.”
“I am completely finished.”
“All for this.”
“And you think that I want to be part of your life.”:
“What is here? What else is here?”
“Everything worked for a minute or two.”
“We are not fucking married. Why do you think that I want to be part of your life?”
“This is only a snack. What more do you want?”
“I want a little more action.”
“What else is in the mix?”
“More sugar. More flour.”
“What are you making?”
“A cake.”
“And you think that this is going to work. Does this explain anything about your life?”
“You tell me.”
“I only want one answer.”
“You got the beginning of one. Everything else is second hand.”
“Now. This all must work for now.”

“We go back to to playpen.”

“I picked you out.”

“I know. But you had no idea what was going on.”

“What does that mean?”

“Do not eat the cheese.”

“Why do I need to hear that now.”

“He let the rat loose on the house.”

“I thought that it was a mouse.”

“It is going to be important that we understand what is what.”

“What is what?”

“The cheese tray.”

“Did you invite guests? Are there cocktails?”

“We are mixing up some.”

“That is great.”

“Your friend left.”

“I work a little harder.”

“What does this have to do with me?”

“Burn some sage.”

“That is making me cough.”

“I know what is possible.”

“Be honest. You are dealing with people, who know quite a bit about what is going on. You are not going to convince them to change their way of action.”

“And this is all for me.”

“I am loved.”

“You are better than loved.”

“I cannot catch on.”

“You could do this for me.”

“I want it done differently.”

“It will be.”

“Twirl around the room. Let me see your vibe.”

“Where does that come from?”

“I hae no idea.”

“Nothing will change.”

“There is a now. And a future. That is an exaggerated now.”

“You should leave now.”

“It is not going to change.”

“You asked me here. And I have to live with this shit.”

“Are you going to pay?”

“Should I stay?”

“You are going to have to more than stay.”

“What else is going on?”

“I have this all taken care of.”

“Of course, you do.”

“This is a different time. Another year.”
 “You are only more aware of something that is obvious.”
 “And that is.”
 “I understand this better than anyone else.”
 “I was not that interested the first time.”
 “You hate the world that you life in.”
 “And what do you to make an alternative?”
 “And I wonder where I am.”
 “And I wonder who is working with me.”
 “What are you going to do?”
 “How are you going to prepare?”
 “Is this going to go on forever?”
 “This is our forever.”
 “I have simple goals.”
 “I am more particular than that.”
 “And I can’t even leave work. I have things to do, and they are holding me here.”
 “And the story just falls away.”
 “Are we working together?”
 “What else do you want to do?”
 “I want to act if I care.”
 “And you don’t.”
 “I am trying not to hold on to something that has nothing to do with how I am, or how I will be.”
 “I know who you remind me of.”
 “That is not going to help me when I head to work tomorrow.”
 “What about the cheese story?”
 “Who is paying for this place?”
 “There is something else going on.”
 “Honey, that is all that I want to go on.”
 “And that does not change a thing.”
 “I will take what I have for now.”
 “You seem excited.”
 “I am waiting for dinner.”
 “Who else is involved?”
 “Keep moving around.”
 “Why do I feel as if you have more potential?”
 “You could just say what motivates you.”
 “There has to be more.”
 “Am I really this bad?”
 “That could not have been any better.”
 “This is going to get good.”
 “We are doing accounting homework.”
 “This is a job.”

“You have the house.”
“What is going on in there?”
“We will love and kiss everyone.”
“We have the residences.”
“And the factories.”
“What else is there?”
“You seem to be in control.”
“I am pretty much in control.”
“Do you know how to control yourself?”
“I am not going to eat any more cheese.”
“Is that an economic question?”
“Do you want me to feel sorry for you?”
“That will seriously cost extra.”
“That was fast.”
“I can tell you what I am looking for.”
“No one listens.”
“I listen.”
“I care.”
“We can be friendly.”
“That is a beautiful kitchen.”
“I want to want what everyone else wants.”
“More rooms.”
“One room.”
“The classroom.”
“I want to let this go.”
“Let it go.”
“I stumbled on human life.”
“What is it like?”
“Go do what you need to do.”
“Do it!”
“I just want enough velocity to free myself.”
“Give it time.”
“It is not time.”
“There is recovery time.”
“You look like someone that I know.”
“I cannot control myself.”
“I get it.”
“I have got a place to stay.”
“This is a different group.”
“Are those numbers right.”
“What happened after that?”
“Julie will explain this.”
“I will be back.”

“You will be back.”
 “And you think that works to explain.”
 “Honestly, who’s counting.”
 “I could think about this for a long time.”
 “Keep thinking.”
 “I will take this.”
 “I met someone.”
 “We always meet someone.”
 “How many times can you repeat this and pretend that it is much of something?”
 “What kind of emotional depth do you have anyway?”
 “Who is helping you?”
 “I could give you things that you don’t have.”
 “More motive.”
 “More caring.”
 “More fashion sense.”
 “You are chosen.”
 “Let it be that way.”
 “I do not want to get exiled.”
 “It would only take on day.”
 “This is your actual state of being.”
 “They helped me out.”
 “I did not think that this was happening to me.”
 “I found a place to hide.”
 “I do not want it to hurt.”
 “It will not hurt.”
 “I want it to be great.”
 “Build another room.”
 “Then you can sell the house.”
 “Who is about to buy it?”
 “I am looking for some kind of regularity in my life.”
 “That is not hard to do.”
 “You are imitating something that people do all the time. It gives coherence to their lives. And you are only approximating that experience.”
 “I am so good at doing the walk.”
 “How many?”
 “What are you asking?”
 “I can do the accounts.”
 “I felt as if I was moving towards something.”
 “I only want to get away from something that is messing with me.”
 “There would be more drama.”
 “Sell the house.”
 “And what else is involved.”
 “What else are you thinking about?”

“Are you writing about me?”

“I didn’t even see you walk by.”

“We could have a redo.”

“How would that be?”

“I get in the house.”

“You do not even own it.”

“You cannot help.”

“No one can help.”

“This is where I want to be.”

“I am as far away as I can be.”

“This is really where I want to be.”

“I cannot feed myself.”

“You do not live by bread alone.”

“I want to be sharp.”

“These are different sports.”

“I can be good at this.”

“I do now want to be mean about this.”

“Be very mean.”

“That is something that I think about all the time.”

“I feel nothing.”

“You don’t even know what it would mean to expand the operation.”

“I need to define what is the operation.”

“Who here cares?”

“Open another factory.”

“You have what you want.”

“I cannot even keep track.”

“If you can keep track of the hours, we can make you a supervisor.”

“What else do you do for a living?”

“I can cook.”

“We get the meals brought in?”

“What does that mean?”

“I felt as if I was moving on.”

“I was getting used to what was happening around me.”

“I love that place.”

“You sound very concerned.”

“That did not matter.”

“It matters to you.”

“What did you discover? That artists lose touch with actual experience. They create something from their imagination, which only leaves them more caught up in meaningless situations.”

“There is a meaningless about human experience.”

“Do you really believe that?”

“Where did you park your car?”

“What are you bargaining for?”
“I want to go back to that point.”
“I hang on your every word as if you are some kind of prophet.”
“I am a prophet.”
“What other charges are there?”
“There are travel charges.”
“Who is going to pay?”
“What just happened to me?”
“There can be someone else involved.”
“You are doing this on your own.”
“I have some important things to tell you.”
“I want you to open all the doors.”
“I have been here before.”
“I only need one person.”
“He is not here.”
“You are so much of an asshole that you do not let on how much of asshole you are.”
“And you show up tomorrow.”
“What else is there?”
“You could follow me.”
“I cannot even move.”
“Do you like it?”
“I am all finished with this. And nothing more is going to happen.”
“You have got the house.”
“Is she still hiding?”
“She has spent her life in hiding.”
“I do not want to bother you.”
“Bother me.”
“You are too nice.”
“I am over it.”
“She is allowed to choose a gift.”
“I have been studying your credit card receipts.”
“What is that supposed to mean?”
“There is a necklace and a bracelet.”
“There is a house.”
“There is a house payment.”
“There is extra time at work to finish all this.”
“You seem much less devious.”
“What is the actual motivation?”
“To get you off my back.”
“She is hiding, and she is waiting for me.”
“This is where we can go.”
“Do you understand the difference?”
“There are different combinations.”

“A salad and some soup.”
“That is what you do at your job.”
“Do not exaggerate what you can do.”
“Is she coming back?”
“She is gone.”
“One-two-three.”
“THREE!”
“You arrived.”
“Where have you been all my life?”
“At the used car lot.”
“And now, you are here.”
“There is all the time in the world.”
“And that seems as if it is something.”
“Where next?”
“Upstairs.”
“This is not even funny.”
“How can I care?”
“What do you know that is different?”
“Nothing.”
“The chocolate cake.”
“You need to want for more.”
“Who else is working with you?”