

## QUEEN OF THE UNDERGROUND

“Do I want to be doing this in five years? Do I want to be doing this in ten years? Do I want to be doing this in fifteen years? No. I’m not even sure if I want to be doing this next week.”

“What are we talking about? What are you doing? Flirting with random dudes who have no future? Hanging around with people who don’t care about you? Pretending that any of this means anything? What are you going to be doing? Staying home with the better class of losers?”

“I realize what I am doing for the rest of my life. I am creating something of value.”

“Like you are now. How are you going along with the world? How are you carrying out the values of the dominant culture? What are you doing that is particularly creative? Are you advocating for anything more than an unusual lifestyle?”

“Is this my opportunity to describe what I want for the world?”

“Am I the chosen one?”

“Who is the chosen one?”

“Are the girls making fun of you?”

“What are we doing? We have out habits. How does that make us any different? Why would you say that we are different from anyone else?”

“Are you trying to hold on to something that no longer exists?”

“This is the beginning of our art?”

“Are you really trying to live your life as if it is a work of art? What would that mean?”

“Look at me.”

“That was the underground. You wanted to live the life. You took on the trappings. IF you saw yourself this way, how would it reflect the way that you saw the world? How would you want the world to appear to be pleasing to you? You were trying to make the world over in your image and likeness. But the world was making you over so that the society could offer what you always wanted. You were drawn by a more select version of the the existent world.”

“We live in the world. What are you suggesting?”

“Can you be distracted with an image. You create these expectations for those who you know and those who you see. You are exaggerating these slight variations in image, because you have no idea what the world that you truly wants would look like. You already have your soundtrack, but it reflects things as they are. What are you presenting that would change how we describe our world? Where is the education? What is the sensibility? What is the appreciation for argument and scientific reasoning? You take things for what they are, but what does it do to change anything in the present?”

“I see myself as a revolutionary.”

“That would suggest some revolutionary way of seeing the world. You may reject sentimentality. What do you replace it with? What is real caring that is not based upon this sense of social dominance that you subscribe to?”

“Are you challenging me?”

“Are you challenging yourself? You complain that people are being manipulated by images. But images are used to organize how people see the world. This is our science. We

recognize these arrangements that reflect our ability to change the world. We do not simply marvel. If we ever have this kind of wonder, it part of a process of recognition. Where is the process of recognition? You reward the short-sighted with a portion of your time. Anyone else would shut them down before they even got close. But you want that moment of flattery. When you reject these characters, you are supposed to be demonstrating your superiority. What is superior about that perspective? You could off a vision for change. How does living in the moment provide a model for personal development? How can this reinforce a fabric of caring? How does this awareness have its roots in the caring universe? Where is the philosophy? Where is the politics? Where is the individual actualization?"

"Once a person is no longer taken in by the limitations of the society, this become the time to soar. It is not about forwarding negativity for its own sake. Social criticism results in edification. It creates the foundation for greater empowerment. It assists people to see the sources of oppression, and this can provide a methodology for change. If this hesitation only reinforces this way of thinking, why bother expecting anything different? If you want to be a champion, you cannot live on your laurels. You need to move forward. You need to take the steps to improve the world. You need to create cooperative networks. You need to use your skills to fortify around you."

"It is essential to conduct a social critique, but this needs to empower people. They need be able to build and move on. There is still this belief that the critique should result in explosive moments of observation. The resultant culture should be aggressive in challenging the status quo. Without a sufficient understanding, this strategy runs the risk of repeating the worst elements of the present world. After that initial blast, the status quo reimposes itself. Everything returns to how it has been."

"If you are looking for things to change, you need to take risks. You are not going to see a movie or drink a drink that is going to put it all in place. You may have to develop theory. You have to build on your understanding."

"What are you talking about?"

"You tell me. Where is this headed?"

"What do we say after we have said our peace?"

"We move ahead. We get things going. We give credibility to our world."

"We are right in the middle of things."

"What do you have to offer?"

"Look at the balance."

"Why do you want a balance?"

"If I drink this too quickly, it ways something about my goals for the the night."

"What is that?"

"That I want that buzz to hit me in the moment."

"What do you want for the world?"

"I know where I am headed?"

"What is the program? How do these protests lead us toward social change?"

"A protest it meant to register our opposition to how things are going in the world. But that does not mean that we are articulating a program. We can militate with the available resources. But we need to do more to alter the present social reality."

“In some cases, we are dealing with people who have undergone such massive changes in their lifestyles, how they look and how they dress. What more develops from that? That can be the source of anger and frustration. People dig in, and they do nothing.”

“Where is the fight occurring?”

“Some people do no care. They like what they see. It begins and ends right there.”

“Some people recognize that their way of living can be the foundation of political change. But it could also be a question of leadership. Those with power know how to manipulate the resources that they have. They can try to influence elections. They can take steps to control how institutions are managed. It is all pretty much the same thing.”

“The free society grants us this perspective that change occurs by transforming ourselves. We spent a lot of effort altering things in our environment. We change our image. We rearrange our living space. We save for a new place to live. This is enough to empower us for life. What else do we expect? That becomes the definition of freedom. And we get attached to these minor lifestyle changes. What is going on in the society? How does this affect political action? People have a limited theory of labor. They do not analyze the mechanisms of economic exchange. Everything may appear to be about individual effort and reward. This world can provide immediate gratification. There is less understanding about more universal steps for transformation.”

“When people have made such an effort to develop themselves, it becomes difficult to alter this kind of personal investment. How can a person find the motivation for something else? Personal frustration can be at the heart of this experience. This means becoming entrenched in the demands of the moment.”

“What can I do?”

“I could go back to the point where I felt nothing but paralysis.”

“We are not trying to destroy ourselves.”

“It is not that simple. We may not be part of the problem, but the solution can appear opaque. Any attempt to shine a light on the situation can only aggravate this isolation. It is not a matter of enhancing self-hatred. People want someone to blame. If not the self, then that enemy can be lurking in the neighborhood. That sense of betrayal can be all around. And people wonder what follows.”

“I don’t want to be alone simply because I have questions about the society that I live in.”

“Does self-indulgence become the solution? Am I caught in a loop in which I am only feeding my self-loathing?”

“We think that some particular event is going to provide us with rescue. Youth gives way to cynicism. And it can set in quite early. The promise was yesterday. And today not not offer a clear hope.”

“We get so deep in the shit that we need a little something to give us hope. We want that glimmer for the now.”

“Do you want to get in with the right reader? Is that why you object to what I am saying?”

“Is that why you are so attentive to what I have been saying?”

“I have been here. I have left a mess.”

“Give him a soap box. He has so much to say.”

“It is up to you.”

“Do I give up?”

“You are the artist.”

“We are dealing in these small shops. And they have limited inventory. The revenues are relatively small. This will not be the basis for social revolution. But we can see how the economic processes work. The process can be tenuous. If things slow down, the employee has little security. The management may try to be responsible, but the market is not so kind. There may be a desire to be more progressive, but there are critical challenges. This can make the managers more ruthless with the employees.”

“Anyone, who believes that this microcosm is going to be the source of lasting change, has only a basic grasp what is happening in the society.”

“What is going on in your life?”

“I want more of a boost.”

“This is back on you.”

“You could see a more comprehensive picture. This is the actual struggle. Where do these characters come from? They believe that their liberation comes from working this situation time and time again.”

“We may have arrived her with some kind of political inspiration. Nowm, we have more short-term aspirations. We are back to high school. Cliques and mean girls. This started as a provocative way of seeing the world. We move on to spectacle and tourist attractions.”

“What else do you want?”

“We haven’t even started, and you are making me tired and bored.”

“What do you have in there?”

“Something to make you feel good.”

“We are back to the same challenge. What give you the right to try to dissect my character?”

“That is a worthwhile question.”

“I want people to look at me differently. I want tonight to be the night.”

“This could be the beginning. We could see the world in a different way. We could give greater credibility to our gestures.”

“We cannot change ourselves if we do not recognize new way to change the world.”

“Admit it: you are an angry man.”

“It is not going to end her.”

“I am not going to say a thing.”

“Take care of this.”

“I am trying to deal with your resistance.”

“Did you figure out what happened?”

“I did.”

“And we have more of the same thing.”

“I cannot change anything in the world unless I feel happy.”

“Everyone is trying to feel happy in the moment.”

“I could want that.”

“You could make me feel wonderful.”

“Fashionable is not the same thing as innovative.”

“Who is innovating whom?”

“Who handed out the script?”

“A book I read. A picture that I saw in a magazine. She said something in the classroom. Was this personal liberation, or was I reinforcing economic privilege?”

“Do you want to take away what I have been working on?”

“What are you working on? You can give money to the library if you want to build your own wing.”

“You do not live in a city. You do not recognize the problems of people trying to live together who have different cultures. You want life simple, but the desire for simple is itself an evolutionary imperative that has come about through social interaction. You will not escape. No one will escape.”

“You are not even a part of this.”

“I am very good with magazines.”

“How did that develop to an understanding of science? You understood the social mechanisms, but you clung to this over-valuing of image. This makes me tired. This is the image of oppression. It is happening once again. You were the rejected people, and now, you want to be the chosen ones. How does any of that work? Anything that was important for this representation has been suppressed. What do you see? What do you want to see? How can you create images for change.”

“Who do you love? Who do you love over time.”

“Why is he along for the ride?”

“And you think that I want to waste more time.”

“Someone needs to load the SUV.”

“There is a lot to think about.”

“Some people only think about one thing.”

“Some other people only think about that one thing too.”

“Be fair.”

“Do not destroy me.”

“I am destroying myself.”

“I need a life.”

“I do not want to touch my savings.”

“WHAT DO YOU WANT?”

“Who are these people?”

“A lot of people that I know.”

“And you are putting all of your life on this one thing.”

“A cookie order.”

“Love and hate.”

“Hate and more.”

“And we are back where we were last night.”

“Who helped you dress?”

“My dresser.”

“Do you love this?”

“I am cold.”

“I cannot move on.”

“Am I lying.”

“This is when things start to take off.”

“This is so much energy, and none of it is going anywhere.”

“There was a movement.”

“There is another movement.”

“We are looking at the money.”

“We are the community.”

“The truly honest people.”

“And you are telling me that works. It only works because of something fundamental that you stole. And you think that you represent the dispossessed. This is another level of dispossession.”

“Are we kidding?”

“That is not the source of liberation.”

“We will work on this together.”

“This is older than the earth.”

“You understand what this kind of dispossession is.”

“She doesn’t have to try any more than this.”

We are making an effort to situate social rebellion in concrete situation experience by the individual.

“What if I like things?”

“We are getting tricky.”

“You are working for the short term.”

“That is our life.”

“What is something bigger.”

“This is not the classroom.”

“This is the lab.”

“What is he going to do about it?”

“Once this is complete, what are you going to complain about?”

“This is your doing not mine. You can blame the money situation. But this mess is all on you.”

“I will hold my breath.”

“I made some radical changes.”

“I know that you have.”

“About lifestyle changes, about personal habits, about my beliefs.”

“How can we organize that into a program?”

“He has everything that he wants and more.”

“Is that going to be enough for you?”

“That will be enough for now.”

“I need to do this on my own.”

“You did this in reverse order.”

“I see where this is headed.”

“This is not connected.”

“What do you have for me?”

“I had a script, but she did not show up.”

“Listen to this.”

“This can help you develop.”

“How do you want to see this?”

“This does not involve me.”

“What would have happened?”

“We would have had a repeat of the past.”

“This means everything.”

“And this means nothing.”

“It would have been easier to say good bye.”

“What do you have in your favor?”

“I need things to be simple.”

“That is your horse farm.”

“Where do you send your money? What is the source of your hate?”

“We are looking at people who have been rewarded by the society. The rewards are meager, but that is all that they are willing to protect.”

“Could I get all this wrong?”

“Who knew?”

“Who really knew?”

“Why is this your story? Why should we care at all? How did you get things going?”

“You could be everything. But it would require some real work. You would need a political awareness. This could motivate your artistic choices. You would be more committed to real training.”

“I have so much more for you to look at.”

“We need to do this right.”

“One person can listen, and one can watch.”

“Someone does not understand. When do you come to that realization?”

“I do not have the text. I am trying to figure out what is in there. This can help me to describe your behavior more accurately.”

“This could be anyone, but it is someone specific.”

“I need to take more time, but I do not have it.”

“The guy who promises something to everyone.”

“Know where you are at this moment.”

“What makes this all a go?”

“Individual belief.”

“I would like to tell you, but are you really willing to make the effort?”

“We see you in the corner writing our story. What is in there? Tell me what I want to know.”

“You spend time getting ready to go out. And you think how this can change how life will be different for you tonight. You have stardom on the brain. You have talent. How can you share your skills with others. Tonight is the night when you will tell the world. And they will

gather at your feet because this is an important story. And it is important not to miss any world. And I am watching all this. And I am even more convinced of your uniqueness. So I am going to use my abilities to pay tribute to your ability. This reinforces your unique nature. And I am totally in accord with this way of thinking. I have been searching for the words to try to describe your nature. Who are you? What are you? How can we tell the world what they need to know.”

“I am the book. I am the syntax. I am the words. People need to understand why I am the way that I am.”

“Why am I this way?”

“I am not even involved.”

“I was so drunk last night. What does this reveal about my nature?”

“Why do you care about this?”

“The millions of possibilities.”

“I had a vision.”

“I had a couple.”

“You have been selected because of your unique vision We want to know what we have to share with the world.”

“That joke has become your life.”

“I clashed one more time.”

“There is only one resolution for this understanding.”

“So you are right.”

“You will not be right.”

“I need to leave while I can.”

“Who was this guy?”

“I want to know you. But I need to get to know these other people first.”

“What does the talking?”

“She is not really part of the story. But she has distinctive image and enough charm to go around. She likes good music. What else could we say to enhance her story.”

“This is when we leave.”

“She wants more posing space.”

“She wants a microphone to magnify what she has to say.”

“She understands one things really well.”

“He does too.”

“What is his real fear?”

“This is the relation of law to constitution.”

“General principles for the protection of the rights of all people.”

“When human rights becomes an illusion to violate the sovereignty of other peoples and cultures.”

“And this is what I have.”

“What other book do you have?”

“I need to tell you who I am.”

“You are mixing in my life.”

“I need to short-circuit your life.”

“Talk very quickly.”



“Why should I care about any of this?”

“Take my card.”

“Take my life.”

“I remember you.”

I was trying to put together a book for her. She knew what I was about, and she realized how important it was to share. She wrestled with this artistic vision because this would add to her awareness.

“This will end very quickly.”

“This was your opportunity. What did you do about it?”

“I ate another meal.”

“I built a car port.”

“What happened?”

“Life does not take that long to happen.”

“They are going to deliver your food.”

“Everything is about to happen.”

“That is my life story.”

“I have got it all down.”

“You took a long time to create this look.”

“It will get destroyed in only a few moments.”

“This is a freak show.”

“We know what you really think.”

“I want it to happen in the now.”

“And it does.”

“It is more wonderful than wonderful.”

“This is all on you.”

“Give me something to work on.”

“You are my bank.”

“This is the beginning of a con job.”

“Hold this money for me.”

“How much did he give you?”

“I need you do to something important for me.”

“Take your pennies, and make something happen.”

“I hate to think that I need a favor.”

“There is another stage of this.”

“And the one beyond that.”

“What kind of talent do we have?”

“That says something in and of itself.”

“There is no limit.”

“And you admit what made the whole show go.”

“A whole lot of nothing.”

“And all the nothing came to the surface.”

“We will finish this.”

“What will we know?”

“Knowledge is not a prerequisite for growth.”

“This chapter is about three people, maybe a fourth, or a fifth. There is the person, who is committed to her lifestyle. There is the stellar individual, who could be the inspiration for a story. But she might wonder about her talent. This is the beginning and the end of her show. Then there is the person, who contracted me to write her story. And then there is the author. And I am...”

“This is getting good.”

“It has been good for quite a while.”

“He knows who you are.”

“She looks like Dusk.”

“That could be her story.”

“She shows up with her date.”

“This is the guy that I love. I live with him.”

“And the story ends like that.”

“You cannot fake yourself through this.”

“Is it time?”

“I want a little more from the telling.”

“Where is this headed?”

“Not here.”

“What do you need to know?”

“A five year plan.”

“A way to fuck up.”

“More sensitivity to the moment.”

“I think that I can get a lot of money from you.”

“What are the health benefits from drinking this shit?”

“It tastes bad, but it is really good for you.”:

“You must be very good at working this out.”:

“I am some kind of genius.”

“Watch this for me.”:

“I have my eyes on you.”

“This is going to be tense.”:

“I am not going anywhere.”

“No one is going anywhere.”

“Do you know the difference?”

“He did not show up.”

“There is no story here.”

“I died and was reborn.”

“This is not her story anymore”

“I am glad that works for you.”

“There is not enough for you.”

“Who is going to pay?”

“I do not know where to start.”

“Start with a joke.”

“What do you want?”

“You do not have enough of an idea for yourself. You will be asking a year from now.”

“There will never be any question.”

“This was supposed to be the basis for a political meditation.”

“Where is the fear?”

“Are you gone?”

“We are all long gone.”

“Someone can put it all together.”

She asked the author. The writer understood deeper levels of psychological motivation. He could provide a need understanding.

“Why are you doing that here? Why do you want it to mean more than it does?”

“Does anyone care? Is there any care left?”

“This guy has it.”

“Do not let him leave.”

“No one is letting anyone leave.”

She asked me to help out.

“Untrue. She knows what she wants.”

“Where did you go?”

“This is getting all too close.”

“The silence gave it away.”

“That is perfect.”

“We see perfection when we want to see it.”

“Who is watching you?”