

## THE GATE

“Why are you with this guy?”

“He is making me safe.”

“Or course, he is. Are you the least bit curious?”

“That is what I am discovering in my own life. I need to control these negative impulses.”

“Aren’t you practicing a form of mind control?”

“Why are you even here? This is a bar.”

“What are you asking me?”

“Why this particular bar? You could be doing this at home.”

“You could be perfecting your philosophy at home.”

“I do not want to be reminded of the bad times.”

“These guys are temporary.”

“This life is temporary.”

“Where are we headed?”

“This is the place where I can express my caring about people.”

“Why do you seem so enamored by this situation?”

“What is behind the curtain?”

“I need you to make a fuss.”

“How can I tell if you have what you need?”

“Are you testing me out.”

“How much do you like this guy. He does not even ask interesting questions.”

“Is this what you do for a living?”

“What?”

“Disrupt lives.”

“The solution: this is historically important, but you will move on to something else.”

“Why don’t you ask?”

“You are expecting some kind of universal explanation.”

“I want to watch the dying stars.”

“That is your weakness. At least, you are admitting it.”

“You have no idea what I am really willing to admit.”

“This will make you believe in the therapeutic process. But your method prevents the individual from ever achieving a lasting political commitment. This is the basis for popping the bubble.”

“What are you angry about?”

“I want to watch you flare out, because you are dealing with your political awareness.”

“I don’t understand.”

“The writing brings me closer to the saints.”

“You want to devour us.”

“And you don’t. That is what you do all the time. You are all afraid of the chaotic. You need more variables.”

“I had gone to another stage of being incognito.”

“Who is talking?”

“Are you trying to tell us all what to do?”

I existed in this place of perfect knowing.

Then the mirror cracks.”

“Ouch!”

“Want to play the game of couches?”

“I am going to fall asleep.”

“You have to let me trust you.”

You relish this idea of vulnerability as a revelation of my failures as a creator. But I can abide with that level of failure. That is the only way that I can attain a critical outlook about my own work. I do not have a problem with my work flow. That is all that makes a difference. That can sustain my social interactions.”

“Do you want me?”

“Not at all. You cannot really love. And you are with people, who are equally unable to love,

“It makes you think that you have it.”

“You need to deal with the void in your experience.”

“What does that mean?”

“Make power moves.”

“We all need a session.”

“Do you want me to come by for a drink?”

“Why are you not still drinking?”

“You are trying to poison me.”

“Don’t you realize that I am not interested.”

“Do you have enough to interest me?”

I wondered why flattery was so much part of her therapeutic movement. She was trying to empower the individual. This could be the beginning of a psychological transformation. But she needed to control the therapeutic site. And this created greater control over the patients. She was developing a commitment to caring. But there was so much more in her way of thinking. She saw therapy as a normative process. The self had been derailed from the expected path. There only needed to be some kind of revision of this program. Indeed, that revision could be more rooted in traditional morality. The new way of thinking could empower the self. However, this was all a matter of joining along with values of the society. This perspective was an even more assertive version of the original contract. This enhanced the beliefs of the self.

Therapy became a matter of living up to an ethical understanding. It was a more committed form of duty. This might seem more natural, and the process engaged the self in this kind of thinking. Over time, the individual would freely adapt to this way of thinking. It might seem to be a trespass to think some other way. This added momentum to her viewpoint. She acted as if none of this was her doing. She was only facilitating the experience of believer. This faith became even more apparent during her sessions.

Once someone started to subscribe to this way of thinking, it became nearly impossible to craft an alternative outlook. It would be heresy to doubt her intent. The connection was solid. And it was not possible to deviate significantly. This was her power. She wanted followers.

That added to her confidence. The patients seemed to fall in line. If they were considering a different way of relating to the work, she would do everything that she could to keep them in the fold. Even if they did not know each other, they were all going along with a similar lifestyle. And this made it nearly impossible to consider a different approach to healing.

The disorder almost seemed rooted in the failure to commit to this process. It was almost as if the time before the session ceased to exist. Everything was fundamentally about submitting to this regime. It was as if the psychology had been elaborated on just these terms. And there was no other way to espouse the self. This philosophy might as well have existed since the beginning of time. These were the terms of human existence. Everything else was contrary to human nature.

She was not offering a cure. She was getting people to accept a discipline. And it became almost scandalous to try to depart from these teachings.

“Do you mind if I sit down?”

“What are you saying?”

She was surrendering any independence. This was the very thing that had enhanced her method. And now, she was letting go.”

“Does this go back to something in your past?”

“What are you asking me?”

“Are you really happy?”

“I define happiness. I advise you to go home and review your own mental stability.”

“Doctor, heal thyself.”

“This is marvelous.”

“Someone has been insulted.”

“What would it mean to take real steps to change your personality.”

“I am not asking for questions.”

“That is a form of ritual.”

“People come to me for answers. If they thought that I was trying to trick them, they would be angry.”

“I thought that you had left.”

“Do you need more of a signal?”

“What should I be looking at?”

“Self-love.”

“Self-abnegation.”

“Is this a movement.”

“I need a big question.”

“I assume that you are doing this on your own. You have already reached this stage of development. Where do you go from here?”

“It does not work like that.”

“Who is your helper?”

“Read this book.”

“We are filling in time.”

“Are you interrupting?”

I felt immortal.

“All of that is illusion. You need to analyze yourself.”

“What does that mean?”

“If you were part of a movement what would that be?”

“Where are we going?”

“I am the exception to the rule.”

We could assume that she had elaborated her principles of therapy. And she learned how to apply this method. What else was there to this elaboration? Who else was participating. After these sessions, the individual could assume things about the world. That was all part of her success.

“What is I get distracted?”

I had worked with her. I was a patient, even if there was some reluctance on my part. This meant that I accepted her system. And I had organized my life to go along with this way of thinking. It was like a new diet. I felt positive about the results. And I wanted to tell the world. I did not think that it would be so easy to feel good. For that reason, I was not going to pretend that there something wrong with her way of thinking. I did not want to insult her. She offered support for my way of thinking. And I welcomed this chance to feel better about myself.

“What else are you expecting from the world?”

“That I can return to this place again and again.”

Why was she putting people through this routine? She was coming down on them and gave them little chance to escape. This was all part of method. The method was everything. But it seemed subtle. People were going along with this way of thinking. It offered little independence. People could let go of their troubles. But there they were, right back where they always had been. They weren't drugged. But there was not much independent in their ways of thinking.

“Are you defending individualism?”

“I am going to fall apart at the most inopportune moment.”

“You can start the process.”

“I have the notes.”

“If you jump, it is art. If I jump, it is distracting.”

“This is not a dance.”

“What do you hope to learn?”

“What flavor is the ice cream?”

“We hope to answer questions that remain unanswered.”

“Who is the therapist?”

“Who is playing boss?”

“There is a genius to all this.”

“If you can't change how you feel on Monday, the method does not work.”

“What are you saying?”

“What are you doing to me?”

“Why do you think that is going to work?”

”We start with familiar reference points.”:

“Such as.”

“Such as what.”

“Do not interrupt.”

“I want to make my own way.”

“What are you expecting?”

“A little genius on my part.”

“Who is helping?”

“You have to be cooperative.”

“Is that the foundation of mind control?”

“What if you cannot control?”

“There are things that I cannot control.”

“You need to give in to the moment.”

“And it all exploded in my face.”

“Have a treat.”

“None of that is free.”

“What else is there?”

“Will insurance cover my sessions?”

“I want to pretend”

“It went beyond that.”

“I live here.”

“I cannot live in the moment. I never will. There is an oppositional aspect to my thought.

I do not want to change that.”

“I work harder, and I get rewarded.”

“What is your reward? Another toy.”

“I am my own boss.”

“You have a boss.”

“We are only at the beginning of these issues.”

“I did not think that one little thing would end the story.”

“There is a lot of thing in this presentation.”

“It is a commitment to a belief.”

“We are running this.”

“It is a reward for working so hard.”

“What else is there?”

“I lost the trail.”

“I cannot take the arguments.”

“Why do we argue?”

“Why do we not argue?”

“Why do we tolerate this bull shit?”

“I am doing my best to understand.”

“What are you investing in?”

“I have enough education. I know that there are no favors.”

“There are innovations.”

“New machines are not going to beat old machines.”

“Do we know that for sure?”

“I have lost the trail.”

“Jump in the truck, and I can give you some money.”

We had both spent a lot of time making this life for ourselves. We were not going to let one bad night speak for our lives.

“You are dealing with so much shit.”

“And why is that good?”

“Why are we good?”

“Where were you?”

“I was with you.”

“This is getting to be shitty.”

“You hold on to the life that you live.”

“This was something that meant so much more to me.”

“It is a money thing.”

“Only a few of us live in this place.”

“You should be financial adviser.”

“We have a special tutor for our kids.”

“Like putting blinders on a horse.”

“We gain more knowledge about the world. This adds to our flexibility.”

“I feel as if I am being brainwashed.”

“This will be the beginning and end of you life.”

“You drained my brain.”

“How do you do this?”

“I do not want to stop.”

“Are we working together?”

“We are a team.”

“We are mean to people who need help.”

“Just pick up the money.”

“I have the power.”

“Is insurance paying for this?”

“This is state-ordered therapy.”

“I am so done.”

“Gladys, I need you to fix me up.”

“How do you know my name?”

“You are wearing a name tag.”

“I don’t have a name tag. I am wearing a suit.”

“Where are you?”

“Where I should be?”

“Who is defending your interests?”

“I needed to contribute.”

“I never knew how easy it was to get results.”

“Are you coming back?”

“This is all permanent.”

“Restrain yourself.”

“This is how the relationship works itself out.”

“Gladys is getting too excited.”  
“This is next to impossible.”  
“You abandoned me at a time of need.”  
“You are too needy.”  
“I am not going to die from that.”  
“I am already dead.”  
“You took too much of that shit.”  
“I loved the taste.”  
“More whipped cream.”  
“Give me back what I started with.”  
“My good health.”  
“And you consider yourself to be good at what you do.”  
“The civilians think so differently.”  
“I let go of my shit.”  
“Start in on it.”  
“Human sacrifice is not appropriate.”  
“There is no longer any kind of control.”  
“What are you thinking about?”  
“This is deeper than deep.”  
“Revise the history.”  
“We are all revising. You will not admit to what you are really doing.”  
“Who are you working with?”  
“Some really good historians.”  
“Where did you find me?”  
“I need to think about this.”  
“I want so much more from this.”  
“This took a lot out of me.”  
“You never cared.”  
“This is all out control.”  
“I seek more balance in my session.”  
“We keep hoping for better results.”  
“You turn.”  
“I teach them how to apply their ideas.”  
“I feel as if I am cheating.”  
“I solved the problem.”  
“This will be easy.”  
“Open your mind.”  
“I could jump up and say something.”  
“I am holding my breath.”  
“Is that part of the therapy session?”  
Gladys wanted to clear out.  
“The fun is just getting going.”  
“There needs to be a foundation for personal development.”

“No more sadness?”  
“What about the world? Gladys, do you feel safe from the rest of the world.”  
“I am not afraid of my patients.”  
“Does insurance cover this?”  
“I have my own method.”  
“How do you do that?”  
“There are six goals for therapy.”  
“Where is the first?”  
“I am getting no hotter.”  
“There are six goals for a better life.”  
“Do not worry about things that you cannot change.”  
“Subtract yourself from social discourse.”  
“Get along by going along.”  
“Do not rock the boat.”  
“Get a job that you like.”  
“There is a genius to your method.”  
“It is going to be a long night.”  
“I do not want to leave until I come to a solution.”  
“I want you to see my best side.”  
“Who else are you going to be?”  
“We were once friends.”  
“The sessions cannot repair that.”  
“What are your goals for therapy?”  
“I want to see the other side of myself.”  
“What side is that?”  
“What do I have to do with that?”  
“Where did it start?”  
“Can I do this kind of thing on my own?”  
“I need to be less concerned with the world of appearances.”  
“You need to be a better scientist.”  
“I see the regularities in my world.”  
“And this will all end.”  
“Over.”  
“Over and done for.”  
“I have a lot of difficulty dealing with sudden changes in my life.”  
“Let us go shopping.”  
“Come with me.”  
“We can see what we want and what we do not want.”  
“I did not create the world this way.”  
“That could be the beginning for therapy.”  
“What is the place for politics in your thought?”  
“You may have a plan, but I think that it is really going nowhere.”  
“I did not sign that document.”



“That could mess with things.”

“You believe that you are much smarter than you are.”

“You do not have enough money to deal with the repercussions.”

“What do you resent about what I have. You therapists are all the same. I realize that you deal with tough cases. But you are used to cracking eggs. That is all that you are really good at. And some of your patients are so desperate that they go along.”

“There wouldn’t take much to push me over to the same place.”

“You are making it impossible to show empathy.”

“Is that how the method works?”

“Who are you working with?”

“This is totally degrading, but you seem to enjoy that kind of thing.”

“I did not sign up to work with you.”

“What else are you doing?”

“I need to get away.”

“I do not want to interfere.”

“What does the glare mean?”

“I think that you are telling me not to do things.”

“The degradation continue.”

“This is what happens when you need cash.”

“What is your real goal?”

“I own this room.”

“I am the local therapist.”

“We want to make you feel good.”

“We want to makes you feel good making ourselve feel good about your feeling good.”

“Repeat that.”

“It is simple.”

“What is the process?”

“I feel pain.”

“I feel nothing.”

“That is a good way of working.”

“There is still the walk home.”

“I am hitting the obstacle.”

“This is going to feel so fun.”

“What is the exchange?”

“What do I get good to get something bad?”

“That is how we remake ourselves.”

“And that is the offer.”

“Who is running this?”

“I will give you a parking lot.”

“There are a lot of parking lots.”

“I lost the trail.”

“There is not hope here.”

“We know how to make money off of charitable giving.”

“More money and less giving.”  
“When did this start.”  
“That works for all of us.”  
“What does not work?”  
“Closeness.”  
“Love.”  
“I am so good at putting back the pieces.”  
“Am I part of this?”  
“You cannot cover the cleaning bill.”  
“What is that about?”  
“I am feeling that is an insoluble problem.”  
“I am helping him out. And he deals with the liability issues.”  
“Give me a chance to participate.”  
“You are part of none of this.”  
“There were moments when everything meant nothing.”  
“You do it.”  
“Take it out of your pocket, and you take the hit. That is part of your cost.”  
“Will insurance cover this?”  
“Why is it really worth it.”  
“These are different ways to approach our personal liberation.”  
“Is there more to it?”  
“There is so much more to it.”  
“Gladys, you should have become an investment banker. That would be much authoritative.”  
“You are making it harder for all of us.”  
“How can we while away the hours?”  
“I do not know the difference.”  
“This therapeutic process is not going to be effective for your problems.”  
“Where did you start?”  
“It is not enough to know.”  
“Nobody knows.”  
“We are serious people.”  
“This is a world created by words  
“I collect checks.”  
“That was supposed to be special.”  
“It was special.”  
“Clear out the bank accounts.”  
“Off-shore.  
“What is the therapy?”  
“What happened to you?”  
“I wouldn’t shut up.”  
“She told me that the session was over.”  
“I am not finished figuring it out.”

“There is a genius to this.”  
“I am so done.”  
“I closed myself off.”  
“I can make you feel better.”  
“You did, but you have me hating myself again.”  
“Boom, boom.”  
“I need to learn.”  
“This is sociology.”  
“Listen to the beat.”  
“My heart.”  
“I can fix you up.”  
“There are only so many variations.”  
“Care about me.”  
“I need to take a step.”  
“This is more than that.”  
“I can go back in time.”  
“I do not do that kind of therapy.”  
“Shut this guy up.”  
“How did I get started thinking this way?”  
“He is not going to disturb me.”  
“Will insurance cover it?”  
“It depends how outrageous the episode is.”  
“He is hurtful.”  
“I am exaggerating.”