

THE CAVE

“Myra, you taste the blood of the vampire, and you feel that sensation vibrate through your body. You do not want me to tell you that is an illusion. You have traveled to this point, and you do not want to follow any other trajectory. You have found an eternal harmony. It must be so.”

“What about those who doubt this revelation? You cannot abide with this lack of faith. It is part of your well being. You have achieved that logic. No one can take it from you. This is entirely part of your being. It invigorates you.”

“Why should someone question your belief. The circumstances assured you of this visitation. There is no other way to see this encounter. It is a profound manifestation.”

“You collect twelve of your followers. What is available to you? Will you hear the mysteries of the universe? How will they make themselves known to you. This experience is meant to consolidate your sense of revelation. For the time being, you feel as if you are chosen. This is a kind of knowing that is available to you. No one else can access this same kind of power. This is all your doing.”

“This is not simply belief. It is something more insistent. And you have been called to participate in this experience. This is a privilege. And this blessing seems to become more insistent.”

“Beyond this manifestation is some substratum. And this marvel resonates in the cosmos. And you have picked up on this phenomenon. You are carrying on this legacy. You are giving greater validity to its expression. This adds to your faith. Where does it go?”

“There was this guy who used to hang out here, and his name was Sly. And he developed his own following. His disciples subscribed to his version of the faith. And he provided them with gratification for their desires. They would all work together for equal satisfaction. And this cult was locked into this total devotion to Sly. It was almost as if women were procuring for him.”

“What are you trying to tell me?”

“Is the belief false?”

“The object was true.”

“Until it meant nothing any longer.”

“Did you need to wait?”

“I put a down payment on the place.”

“What did any of that mean?”

“You take yourselves so seriously.”

“None of this is that serious.”

“Will you even last?”

“You were telling me that the vampire blood was real.”

“Why would you want to believe that?”

“That was the best that you could do. It would give you access to the best.”

“I have almost crossed over to the other side.”

“They felt as if their existence was enough of a contribution to the truth.”

“Who are you talking about?”

“The cult.”

“It was more than a cult. It was very real.”

“I don’t feel as if I should do a real job. It only contributes to the further decay of the society. We need to figure out how to get paid just for being who we are.”

“Only in America.”

“What about the useless contribution of royalty?”

“It all depends how you can present yourself. What does this have to do with your understanding of the world.”

“You have what it takes.”

“Or you do not have it.”

“What do you want to hear?”

“I want to work with a clear slate.”

“What does the body tell me about how I need to be?”

“Is there an idea that can express it all simply?”

“The wonder drug.”

“I saw where that took us.”

“Would this be food for thought.”

“Myra, I need more background.”

“It all comes down to fun.”

“A playlist is not going to save you.”

“Everything happens in an operation theater.”

“Another anatomy lesson.”

“It should remain in books. I do not want to contemplate the cutting.”

“I want to suck your brains out of you.”

“Where did that come from?”

“Each night was supposed to be something unique. It could be a theme. Everything could be built around an item of clothing.”

“The sacred and the ritual.”

“You’ve got to believe.”

“Myra, is it all theater. You take off one costume, and you put on another.”

“The costume at the edge of darkness.”

“I am hurt.”

“Does the costume represent the pain?”

“Or the disease?”

“Or the designer’s vision.”

“Or we exchanger IDs.”

“He doesn’t know his own name.”

“He’s an architect.”

“I need to sober up.”

“Myra, help me.”

“I need you around.”

“I am over that.”

“We put on another costume.”

“They want me to do a movie.”
“What is the theme?”
“I am not running the show, but I know how the show runs.”
“How does that work?”
“I am betting on the outcome?”
“Were you at the event?”
“I was at the baptism.”
“What is that?”
“Baptism in blood.”
“This is getting a little messy.”
“Have a tissue.”
“Are you telling me that something is wrong with me?”
“There is always something wrong with me.”
“You need to be careful.”
“Do not laugh at me.”
“I do not want anything from you.”
“Nothing is wanted.”
“I smell blood.”
“You are supposed to say that.”
“This place is a tomb. And there are accompanying rituals.”
“Where did we start?”
“Have one of these.”
“What is that?”
“Drink up. It is a pop.”
“What is that?”
“I want to buy one of those?”
“Who is running this?”
“There is no leader. We do what we want to do.”
“That is a bad day.”
“He is no longer with us.”
“Get inside.”
“I reserved a seat for you.”
“Who is the executioner?”
“Why does anyone care about this?”
“Someone is angry.”
“Anger is universal.”
“Welcome aboard.”
“Times have changed.”
“Indeed they have.”
“I don’t need to find better clothes. I am one with the people.”
“Myra, you will never figure out what this is. I am not flashing back.”
“I am part of the perfect moment.”
“It is not cool to be there.”

“It is not cool to cook.”

The costumes that they wore were so bulky that they had difficulty moving around, but that pose was perfect. They couldn't ask for anything else.

I wanted stay as close as I could to the action. I had my ear the ground. I could hear the commotion all around me.

“Don't waste your money.”

“I made the clothes myself.”

“I could not keep up.”

“They are waiting for you to liberate them.”

“I am bringing education and a great transportation system witme.”

“What causes someone to find pleasure in the suffering of others? This kind of glorification of personal triumph says something important about human experience. It is too complex to call it human nature. There is an anthropological precedent for this kind of behavior. One culture can view another as a threat to the species. These attitudes become built in the social structure. Feudal societies try to dominate each other. This kind of behavior becomes dominant. That does not diminish efforts to counteract such brutality. These actions reach the extreme industrial societies. Genocidal attitudes go to the next level.”

“There is a symbolic character to these actions. The culture engenders a metaphysical belief that it can obliterate another group. Why do advanced societies become so relentless. It is this idea that you can penetrate the mind of another person. People become disengaged from any sense of compassion. This kind of sickness can start to predominate. It becomes a fine line. When people have experienced this extreme neglect, they may try to counteract this cruelty by acting it out.”

“That could have been the attraction of these places. They promised some form of total involvement. A person would become submerged in this world. And feeling would become all-encompassing. This could be the impetus for individuals to crate their own version of the experience.”

“This could be competition in itself. Who could best embody this attitude? Indeed. It was a dose of the demonic.”

“I only lead one life. I want to join in.”

“I want to take it to the edge, even if I am going to have trouble getting out of it.”

“It looks best that way.”

“What other options do you have?”

“You have no idea.”

“You tell me.”

“That is going to make me sick.”

“Let it do what it does.”

“We know that.”

“Someone needs to tell me differently.”

“I am coming apart.”

“We can counteract those tendencies.”

“We will be better people.”

“I thought that you were a good person.”

“I did too.”

“Stop it while you can.”

“It was great while it lasted.”

“I want to believe that I can create our own night that has the same appeal as the great events of the past.”

“Where are we supposed to be?”

“This is the distinction. Where is the art?”

“We could get around and talk about it.”

“Where is this supposed to go?”

“I am a heavenly creature.”

“How wonderful?”

“What are you going to do with it?”

“I am the right sort of being.”

“Of course, you are.”

“I am not going anywhere.”

“Go with me.”

“Put on the wedding garment.”

“Wedding in blood.”

“We are going to run out.”

“Can we create it synthetically?”

“They are trying.”

“What will that do to the club life?”

“It is all biological.”

“We need a high level of hygiene.”

“I feel sic.”

“Very sick.”

“Were you prepared?”

“I already went through this.”

“You manifest as a unique kind of being. You do not have to do anything. You have arrived.”

“I still want to remember this moment as something more than it is.”

“Transcendence is an even more exquisite of being.”

She noticed this before. Now, it was more omnipresent.”

“What is the source?”

“These people are evil. I did not want to believe that. But it is more than a little obvious.”

“What are you saving?”

“Honestly, I need protection. I need something that is constant.”

“Do you go to the next level?”

“You try.”

“But you seem to plateau.”

“It will get better.”

“After that, there will be no choice.”

“What was going on in these places that was different?”

“People were trying to escape their biological conditioning. They were defining a new form of entity. They no longer had the same desires. It might be presumptuous to go along with that kind of thinking. It’s not as if you can put on a costume and change your essence. But there was a different kind of awareness. And it seemed to be supported with a vision into the world. What was the source of this speculation?”

“You push the night to the edge, and you start to let go of all the idols that tethered you to this world. You are floating in the stratosphere. What else is possible?”

“Or not possible.”

“This is not based on the drugs.”

“The drugs are only an interference with this kind of experience.”

“You follow the cues.”

“Where do they guide you?”

“These are all rare beings.”

“They recognize their inspiration.”

“They take it for what it is.”

“And more than that.”

“Of course, you are here.”

“There is more than that.”

“Do you believe him.”

“We believe no one.”

“You are able to project into the ether.”

“The words can take you there.”

“This has nothing to do with words.”

“Why are you staying here?”

“You have to know why.”

“Was I able to achieve another body?”

“I end up at your place, and you are trying to distract me from the mission. I didn’t come here to have you mess with me.”

“That is what we are all about. That says a great deal about who we are.”

“Do not ask for too much.”

“Run the numbers.”

“Sometimes, you squander that opportunity for whatever it is worth.”

“We pretend.”

“We are going to change tomorrow.”

“Whoever you are, you are bad news. And you are doing what you can to destroy me.”

“What am I supposed to say?”

“You are supposed to wait.”

“I cannot stay on board all the tiem.”

“I have my own explanation.”

“Go with it.”

“I will follow the model.”

“How did I get here.”

“Reluctantly.”
“You take the little stage.”
“Or there are no stages.”
“Or we are always on stage.”
“I am falling asleep.”
“They still cannot destroy us.”
“It is happening.”
“Can you deal with this?”
“The ups and downs.”
“I cannot explain this to you. You have a short attention span.”
“This was supposed to be mystical, but you tried to fuck me.”
“What are you saying?”
“I need to talk to you.”
“You got in my dream.”
“That does not help.”
“This is some kind of torture.”
“Why do people do this?”
“Where did this start?”
“This is so bad.”
“You are something unique in yourself.”
“Is this going to the end?”
“You have too much invested in the game.”
“Technology will change all this.”
“Probably not.”
“The body can be supplemented.”
“It is already supplemented.”
“I see it all.”
“Can you ever sit still?”
“That was some feak shit.”
“It’s the new Bible.”
“From Second Coming shit.”
“I am a god freak.”
“That is what goes on here.”
“This is all about ambition.”
“You have no idea what plane I am on.”
“This is not a plane.”
“We would have a strict door policy.”
“This is some deep government shit.”
“I want to be celebrated.”
“There is an ideology that goes along with our lives.”
“I can map it all.”
“I do not want to see it.”
“I can relate.”

]

“You are not the only one.”
 “They will all love you.”
 “I am working on a script. But I cannot tell anyone about it.”
 “There are so many levels of intelligence and counter-intelligence.”
 “I need to get you out of my head.”
 “Are you that thin-skinned?”
 “I realize how easy it is to insult you.”
 “He moves quickly.”
 “You are a lot worse than I know.”
 “And you call that a script.”
 “I need to focus. I have a presentation tomorrow.”
 “This means everything to me.”
 “Indeed, it does.”
 “The world does not revolve around your experiences.”
 “We can wire you up.”
 “Will this be a hit?”
 “Explain that to me.”
 “Do you have other clothes in the bag?”
 “I love the hair.”
 “I cannot rely on you.”
 “Rely.”
 “Eat this.”
 “I can go anywhere.”
 “Superman.”
 “What is that really about?”
 “There is not much time left.”
 “I am going to fall asleep doing this.”
 “Let me stop by for a minute.”
 “Can I cook?”
 “Why are you here?”
 “Who are you working with?”
 “It was never that kind of world.”
 “And that will make a difference.”
 “That is all that I want.”
 ‘This place never worked like that. You put on the costume, and you lived it. It was a total denial of who I am.’
 “That is brilliant.”
 “These people want something. Like French fries.”
 “Or pizza.”
 “Put all the shit in a microwave.”
 “We were not eating. We were living on pure existence.”
 “Keep talking.”
 “How can you deal with this guy?”

“He was in rehab with me.”
 “How can you measure that kind of thing?”
 “I am trying to figure it all out.”
 “Did you follow the lecture?”
 “I was asleep.”
 “I am beyond the world.”
 “THIS IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.”
 “We want to see some kind of positive outcome for what we want. We become immersed in the imagination.”
 “You bring me this place, and you lose me.”
 “I was sure that we were great friends.”
 “You put your words in my mind.”
 “WE DO NOT HAVE MINDS HERE. THERE IS NOT REFLECTION. WE DO NOT DWELL ON THINGS. IT IS ALL AUTOMATIC.”
 “You have a body.”
 “We are not like that.”
 “The clothes take the self outside the space of the body.”
 “That is a lot of money for a whole a lot of nothing.”
 “There was no trying too hard. You did not even try. You lived. You smiled.”
 “I need to get out while I can.”
 “It is not something that you give to the world. It is not something that you take away.”
 “This is pure being.”
 “This is nothing to me.”
 “Why am I like this?”
 “Just buy me a drink.”
 “We cannot be transformed in this way.”
 “I am doing my best to describe it to you.”
 “Do you understand what it takes?”
 “We are on a date.”
 “You can get away.”
 “Life exists in this rare place.”
 “Why are you like this?”
 “I am what I am.”
 “Take the money.”
 “We start by pretending that is something. And it all becomes something natural.”
 “This is terrible.”
 “You cannot sustain a conversation for very long.”
 “What do you have?”
 “I have absolutely nothing.”
 “This is where it all happens.”
 “We can help each other.”
 “I did not come dressed for your night.”
 “This is all second skin.”

“We go for the first.”
“We shed our past.”
“I save myself.”
“Get out while you can.”
“They could not even move with these costumes.”
“It only takes one person to destroy the energy.”
“We are talking about Nate.”
“And you have finally arrived.”
“I am going through some crazy hell shit.”
“Heart shit.”
“We could exaggerate suffering.”
“The nobles took it to that level.”
“They tried to maintain power through force.”
“That is not how you build a bridge.”
“I wish that I could be that secure.”
“I am fucked.”
“These are different ways of handling the same problem.”
“THEY HAVE NO THEORY.”
“What is that?”
“This is such a high level of cruelty.”
“How do you get over this?”
“You said that you wanted this, but you had no idea what you were asking for.”
“That is really cute.”
“This is nothing like other things that I have been working on.”
“Where is this headed?”
“We start at the beginning.”
“What is going on in the classroom.”
“This is not a classroom.”
“There are some extraordinary claims.”
“He has no single moment independent from the technology.”
“What is happening to this world?”
“I have seen you before.”
“I am someone different.”
“Some people have been doing this all her life.”
“What is happening in there?”
“We are planning for our futures.”
“The pain is just too excruciating.”
“On a scale of one to ten, how is your life.”
“You have a rough understanding. You were not there.”
“No one really cared. And then you died.”
“She wants to leave.”
“It is next to impossible trying to explain this to you.”
“Are you kidding?”

“This is very healthy.”
“It is getting chilly.”
“I am having difficulty explaining this in a few words.”
“I had no idea what I was getting in to this.”
“That is silly.”
“We do not want you here.”
“You are all here.”
“Are you waiting here?”
“You have no idea how much money you can earn in such a short period of time.”
“This is not about making money.”
“You needed to be more creative.”
“How is that?”
“Say what you feel.”
“I have been watching the same show for a while.”
“Do you think that I want your idea.”
“I have only one plan here.”
“And the world will buy this from you.”
“How is that?”
“Are you on something?”
“How else can you look like that?”
“THAT FINALLY WORKS.”
“I need to learn more about his place.”
“Learn!”