

11. SWEET LOVE

When the citizen is unjustly accused and starts to think of himself as a criminal, he stops doing his part to uphold society's values. Law can never repair that kind of damage.

"I don't even know who you are anymore."

"How can I make it any clearer?"

"You used to have principles. What are you fighting for now?"

"I'm fighting for my life. What's the big problem?"

"You just seem to be on the edge all the time. You're always angry!"

"I'm trying to stay on an even keel. I just don't need people trying to push my buttons all the time."

"It's easy to push other people. And then you can blame them for reacting."

"That's not how it happens."

"Tell me how!"

"I call it self-defense."

"Really!"

"You hit someone, and when they swing back, it's called self-defense."

"Good story. It just doesn't fit!"

"What's bothering you?"

"Are you trying to push me too?"

"You've got a conscience all of a sudden."

"I've got a heart. What's so bad about that?"

"You think that you have some kind of justification to push people around."

"I'm not advocating violence."

"What makes you so aggressive?"

"I have my eyes open!"

"Great. Keep it to yourself."

"I see an avalanche. I've got to let people know."

"They're happy in their ignorance."

"Isn't it up to them to make that decision?"

"They are making it. They don't want to hear your nonsense. Why do you think that they react so intensely when you try to foist your ideas on them?"

"So many people are going blindly along with the rules."

"Breaking the rules isn't going to change things. People are only getting angrier."

"There has to be that first step. Something to break the chain."

"The best way to break the chain is silence."

"Where does that take you?"

"It keeps the world in order. It prevents chaos."

"Chaos is brewing underneath."

"You can't project your mess on everyone else."

"That's the point. It's not just me. I can feel the quaking beneath my feet."

"Quit being a Chicken Little."

"I'm not crying wolf!"

“Can you phrase your complaint without all the histrionics?”

“I’m telling it like it is!”

“You’re preaching to us now, and you just came out of rehab.”

“It wasn’t rehab; it was a spiritual awakening facility!”

“Big difference!”

“It is a difference. They helped me get a clearer view of what I want in life. It was more about values than just forcing me to be a certain way.”

“What’s the point?”

“It got me thinking about what I think is important in the world. Things of worth. Politics and such.”

“Just because you’re ready to change your own life doesn’t mean that the rest of the world is about to follow.”

“I see it closer to Paul Revere. A clarion call.”

“Now you’re a prophet. And angel sent down by the Lord.”

“Sometimes it take an individual to help carry things along. As if the world is already moving in one direction. But the picture needs to be clearer if anything of significance is going to happen.”

“So you’re going to progress from your personal obsessions to political enlightenment.”

“My personal situation wasn’t created in a vacuum. I’ve been affected by all the social and economic changes as everyone else.”

“You’ve always tried to ride the wave of privilege. A few things go wrong, and you act as if the sky is falling.”

“It’s more than that. I was misguided before.”

“You’re trying to get yourself off the hook for your past misdeeds.”

“How’s that?”

“Treat it all as one big social problem. Then you don’t have to answer for much of anything.”

“What would you have me do? Let’s say that I have been a little deluded. It’s a positive step to admit my mistakes and take real steps to remedying the situation. That’s a lot better than feeling helpless. I don’t believe that my knowledge should turn me into an emotional weakling.”

“You want it both ways. Your game isn’t as sharp as it used to be. So you’re ready to go one better. Now the whole world is part of the problem. And you can slough off your mess on other people.”

“I have to do something. I just can’t accept the status quo. I’m not going to keep my mouth shut anymore.”

“It’s not as if you’ve been blessed with some kind of vocation. You’re not a seer.”

“All of us have the ability. You have to know it as well as anyone else.”

“Even if I’m aware of what is going on, that doesn’t motivate me to change things. I have enough to worry about with my own life.”

“Don’t put your head in the sand. We’re all connected in a giant fabric.”

“Fabric, network. It’s all the same. More conspiracy. More people trying to tell us what to do.”

“We are the people. We have to communicate with real ideas. Not just vague

impressions.”

“Since you took the pledge, you feel that the rest of the world should follow in your footsteps.”

“I have seen something. I feel the need to share it with other people.”

“You’ve become a missionary.”

“What’s the alternative?”

“Have fun like before.”

“It’s not as if this is something that I just realized. I’ve known all along.”

“Does that make a difference?”

“I was pretty young when I realized that I was mired in a confidence game.”

“So you took it upon yourself to expose it to the world!”

“I didn’t want anyone to get duped like I was.”

“It’s not as if we’re all stupid about what’s going on. Sometimes, you just have to shut your mouth!”

“Is that how it works?”

“You’re the only one who cares all that much. Everyone else just learns to deal with it.”

“I don’t know if I can do that.”

“The only one who it’s going to hurt if yourself. Don’t you see that?”

“Explain that.”

“You need it. And you won’t be able to do much to change things. So learn to live with it.”

“How’s that?”

“You’re the only one who’s going to suffer if you open your mouth.”

“I think that I’m suffering anyway!”

“Great! Make it worse.”

“Why are you such a downer?”

“You’re not going to change things. And when people realize that your behind the protests, they’ll take it out on you.”

“Maybe I’ll have the chance to really change things.”

“If you fail, they’ll really come down on you.”

“It’s not as if we’re getting along as it is.”

“You have to be mature about this.”

“That’s why I feel the need to be honest.”

“It’s great that you feel that way. But it would be crazy actually to let yourself get caught up in the machine. Leave it at work. Don’t go crazy thinking about it!”

“I hate this. We can’t let them get away with it. “

”They are getting away with it. The key is not to let it bring you down.”

“How do I do that?”

“Keep your mouth shut.”

“That means that I’m a coward.”

“Do what you have to do to succeed. If you don’t, they are going to fuck you over.”

“I have a conscience.”

“So do a bunch of guys in their early graves.”

“What do I have to risk?”
“More than you know!”
“I’m not a liar.”
“That’s great. Just don’t try to be a martyr.”
“I have my eyes open.”
“Keep it that way. Just let it go!”
“I don’t know whether I can.”
“If you don’t, you are going to really fuck up. They are going to do you in!”
“They are monsters!”
“Let them be what they will on their own time.”
“What should I do?”
“Nothing. You’ve done enough already.”
“I can’t keep like this.”
“Go back to being like you used to be. I’ve got some ideas for you.”
“Like what?”
“I’ve got a sweetie for you. She could be the reward for all your efforts.”
“Doesn’t she have say in the matter?”
“I thought that you wanted it that way.”
“I don’t want to be with someone who doesn’t want to be with me.”
“You have to make yourself irresistible to her.”
“What does that mean?”
“You know that she wants you. You just have to tell her what you need.”
“That’s a little weird to me.”
“What do you mean?”
“I don’t want thing to be automatic.”
“You’re looking for a sure thing.”
“I don’t want it to be that abrupt. I’m not that bold.”
“You’ve got to stand up for yourself. Don’t let yourself get pushed around.”
“When it comes to women, I don’t like to be so forceful.”
“If you don’t tell her what you’re up to, she’s not going to figure it out on your own.”
“What do you suggest?”
“Let her know who’s the boss.”
“This is not the military. I’m not pulling rank.”
“You have to make it happen on your own. So I’m giving you a little boost to get started.”
“I can make friends on my own.”
“You know that you don’t have the killer instinct.”
“Is that what it’s about? I’m a gentle man.”
“You know where gentle is going to get you.”
“Where is that?”
“In the back of the line.”
“You don’t think that I might cut my way to the front.”
“You don’t have the nerve. This is going to be your best opportunity for happiness.”

“You just can’t give her to me!”

“What are you trying to say?”

“No one is for sale.”

“I only want to encourage her. You’re a charming guy. Of course, you are. But you need a nudge to get you off the ground. Like a running start.”

“I’m already way ahead of the game.”

“Try to convince yourself of that. You always fade in the straightaway.”

“I’ve got the nerve.”

“Tell yourself that over and over again. You’re not going to get anywhere without a little help.”

“I don’t need your help.”

“Tell yourself that over and over again. But you know down deep that you are hopeless.”

“I don’t need a pep talk.”

“Look at yourself. What would a woman see in a guy like yourself?”

“I’ve got a sense of humor. I’m friendly. I’m outgoing. An all round go-getter.”

“We’ve been through this before. You never really get any of your ideas off the ground.”

“I can stand on my own two feet.”

“You do that, and see where it gets you.”

Playing by the rules doesn’t get you what you expect. Your rewards end up making things worse.

“What do you have there?”

“It’s a red cocktail dress.”

“How much did it cost?”

“Five hundred dollars.”

“You can afford that?”

“I want every guy looking at me!”

“And you can spend five hundred dollars for that kind of attention?”

“I’m going to bring the dress back tomorrow.”

“Are you kidding?”

“Not at all! I can’t afford that kind of expense.”

“So you’re going to pull a fast one!”

“I got to end up on top of the heap!”

“Good for you! Is there anything that you won’t do.”

“It’s only a dress!”

“Right. But you want every guy looking at you”

“Why not? Otherwise, I might as well stay home. If a guy doesn’t buy me a drink, I’d call the night a waste.”

“You are expecting every guy in the world buying you a drink.”

“It’s not like that. I’m not that ruthless.”

“Ruthless, you’d run down any girl in your way.”

“I’m not like that!”

“You’re being so creepy.”

“I just have to put on my little dress, and the world is my oyster.”

“You’re taking that kind of treatment for granted.”
 “I know what I’ve got. And I work pretty hard at maintaining it.”
 “So that justifies spending all that money for that extra edge.”
 “I’m not really spending.”
 “Why bother? Don’t you feel that if you wear the dress once, it’s yours.”
 “More like, I can’t wear it again.”
 “That is appalling.”
 “It’s not that extreme.”
 “Why can’t you just be yourself?”
 “This is part of being myself.”
 “Can’t you dispense with the dress?”
 “I need my tools!”
 “Said like a true psychotic.”
 “I’ve got heart!”
 “Does that make you more blood-thirsty?”
 “More than you can know!”
 “Are you joking?”
 “You’re the one making fun of my dress.”
 “Do you really need it that much?”
 “What do you think? Can you work magic without some magic to start?”
 “Did it really cost five hundred dollars?”
 “You can’t make money if you aren’t willing to invest a little money.”

“Why is that girl staring at you?”
 “I have no idea!”
 “You’re kidding. Every time that you say hello to Richard, she gives you this glare.”
 “What a bitch. What’s her problem?”
 “You don’t know her.”
 “We’ve been introduced, but that doesn’t mean that I really know her.”
 “But you know who she is.”
 “Of course, I do.”
 “Who is she?”
 “That’s his ex.”
 “She’s Richard’s ex. Didn’t he fuck her over?”
 “I don’t know.”
 “You were the one who told me all about her.”
 “I might have told you a lot. But I don’t remember.”
 “You’re kidding me.”
 “No, I don’t remember.”
 “You told me that he was dating this girl, and that he was messing with her.”
 “I didn’t say that he was cheating on her.”
 “You just said that he didn’t treat her that well. You told me yourself that he’s a real

dick.”

“He is a real dick.”

“So why do you even talk to him?”

“I don’t know. We get along. He’s a fun drinking buddy. He has a good sense of humor.”

“You have no idea what is going on?”

“Tell me.”

“He just asked you here to make his ex jealous. And you fell for it.”

“She is one psycho bitch. She’s following him around.”

“You really think that.”

“Look what she’s doing?”

“You’re falling for his trap. Do you really think that you’re that classy?”

“What do you mean by that?”

“That every guy in the world wants you.”

“That’s not what I think at all. I’m here to have fun. What gives you the right to criticize me all the time?”

“You’re trying to interfere in someone else’s life. And you’re acting as if you’re doing nothing at all.”

“I’m out with my friends enjoying myself. I’m not even thinking about that girl.”

“You’re being naive. Your actions do have an effect on other people.”

“I know that. People can’t be so sensitive.”

“But you’d be just as sensitive if someone was messing with you in the same way.

Richard is just a dick.”

“I don’t see it in that way.”

“Of course, you don’t”

“You should mind your business.”

“If only you listened to your own advice.”

“So why are you wasting you time?”

“I’m trying to get over something. My guilt.”

“What are you guilty about?”

“Not being myself.”

“So what do you do about it? Change your costume. Act differently about your life.”

“A pretty dress would help.”

“A little like Cinderella in her ashes.”

“Are you going to bring me to life?”

“A drink would help.”

“That’s starting the cycle all over again.”

“You didn’t think that you were going to quit that easily. It’s one thing knowing why you do something. It’s quite another to really be able to change any of it.”

“I could change my name. I could leave this place.”

“The basic personality would be the same.”

“How long is this going to go on?”

“Until you stop acting the way that you have been acting.”

“That sounds like a good beginning. So how does it end.”

“I get over the guilt.”
“That is wishful thinking. What you do to get over it only makes you more guilty.”
“I like to have fun. I could keep having fun.”
“You are so deep in the shit.”
“I still haven’t admitted to anything!”
“If you admit to something, that would be the beginning of a change.”
“What do I do?”
“Go for it.”
“I don’t feel all that disposed to confess my sins.”
“Then feel disposed to sin a little more.”
“I could have another drink.”
“Would that make you a little loose?”
“Look at me. Do I look that easy?”
“You’re not saying that you only surrender for love.”
“I’m not really saying anything of the sort.”
“When does the love start?”
“When a guy sees my true worth.”
“Do you come that easy?”
“I never come as far as you’re concerned.”
“Is this what you want?”
“Even if it was, you’re not going to give it up that easily.”
“Are you afraid?”
“You’re the one with the fear. I’m just watching from the outside.”
“I’m watching from the inside. We need to fold one against the other.”
“There is hope?”
“If you can burn off the offending part.”
“It’s too noisy in here.”
“They’re coming to your rescue.”
“I can’t help staring?”
“You like my shirt?”
“It turns me on.”
“It’s nice and tight. You like how it hugs my body.”
“It does it for me.”
“You want me to get all hot and wet with you.”
“That sounds like fun.”
“I can make you feel good, but what’s in it for me.”
“We have plans.”
“What? I’m not looking for a lot of talk.”
“What do you need?”
“A new place. This one is getting a little cramped.”
“We can go out and look at some real estate, then we can come back here and make some crazy love.”
“I’m not going to make a move until you sign some paper.”

“That could take a while.”

“I’m in no rush. I hope that you aren’t.”

“You’re flaunting this low-cut thing in front of my face. Now you want me to take an IOU on love-making.”

“Can I trust you?”

“You’re the one who’s tempting me.”

“I wear what I like.”

“Let’s have a little fun now, and we’ll have a lot more fun later.”

“I’m not the one who feels under the gun.”

“Just let my tongue go under your gun.”

“You’re going to have to show me a lot more love if you want some.”

“I’m doing all that I can.”

“That’s not enough. I want to see something that I can hold on to.”

“You’ve got it all right here.”

“I’m thinking about something more in green!”

“You are being pretty mercenary!”

“So I sleep with you, and I get nothing to show. You can just ditch me in the morning!”

“Why are you being such a drag?”

“I’m not for sale.”

“That’s not how you’re making it seem. You want me to buy you a house, and then you’ll think about a little nookie.”

“You are being a real pig. What is wrong with you?”

“You’re driving me wild. It’s that body of yours.”

“I said that I’m not for sale.”

“Not for a few bucks.”

“What is this about?”

“I’m calling it how I see it.”

“You know that I only have eyes for you.”

“I believe you. You’re just going to have to follow through.”

“I wish it was that easy.”

She recognizes that she can get pretty well anything that she wants. She’s hardly sure that is what she wants.

“I guess that my body is getting ahead of me.”

“Why would you want to slow things down?”

“I don’t have all that much experience. People are going to start expecting things of me that I can’t deliver.”

“Give ‘em what you want, and nothing more.”

“That is the problem. They assume that I am giving them more than I intend.”

“There is so much to give.”

“You’re not being very sympathetic.”

“How can I be?”

“Take yourself out of the equation for a moment.”

“I’m too caught up in my own life.”

“Your body in the world. Your body is out way ahead of the world.”

“How is that?”

“You don’t have any inhibitions.”

“I’m a little shy.”

“Is that a disease?”

“I just don’t like people staring at me. Like you’re doing now.”

“Sorry!”

“I can’t tell what you’re thinking. It can’t be good.”

“We all think a lot of things. Associations. You shouldn’t make such a big deal about it.”

“That’s not it. People want to see their impressions confirmed in the world. They’ll risk a deeper understanding just so that they can receive immediate gratification. Some kind of validation of their opinions.”

“That sounds like a mouthful. What does it have to do with me.?”

“Everything. They take one look at you, and they begin to assume that you have some kind of special knowledge.”

“It’s not as if I’m stupid.”

“I’m not saying that. But don’t guys approach you and act as if they know you when they know nothing about you at all.”

“Sort of!”

“Do you like that kind of attention?”

“Sometimes. I’m not the most outgoing person, so I don’t mind if a guy does a little of the work for me.”

“Isn’t this a case of him doing too much of the work?”

“I’m not a mind reader. I can’t psych out the world.”

“Then it’s better to protect yourself.”

“I’m trying to do that!”

“What are you worried about?”

“I’m wondering about what you’re saying about me. Do I turn you on?”

“You’re a lovely girl. The world lies at your feet. You can’t keep working for the outside; you have to look inside.”

“Do you like me?”

“I love you! But you can’t live off the impressions of others.”

“I want to get deeper. But what is there. Isn’t it all an arrangement of things we see? We already have the feelings. And we’re only trying to explain why we feel the way that we do. It’s a vicious circle.”

“Don’t let it bother you.”

“I try not to. But I do want to be liked.”

“You are revered.”

“I want to be liked for who I am. Not for some impression that I create in other people.”

What if I think of her as the perfect specimen, the perfect harmony of earth and the rest of the cosmos?

“This is making me feel sick.”

“What do you mean?”

"I'm not like you think I am at all."

"I can tell things just by looking. Even the way that you walk. Your nonchalance about the world."

"Dream on pervert."

"Huh?"

"You just want to get in my pants. Look at you: you're some kind of monster."

"I've been working on that."

"I have to. Now leave me alone."

I am sure that I see the perfection of form and content."

"I offered a sure thing. And you turned it down. What are you up to?"

"I don't want you tell her things about me that aren't true."

"Should I tell her that you're some kind of perverted monster?"

"I don't want you telling her anything at all!"

"Great. I'll just keep my mouth shut."

Is it possible for me to touch an idea?

"You keep expecting me to do these things for you."

"If you could, you would make me really happy."

"I'm not your machine!"

"Help me out!"

"I can't help you out any more."

"Pose for me."

"Your poses. Your fantasy."

"I have a dress that I want you to try on."

"Whose dress is it?"

"It's a friend's. She wanted me to return it to the store for her."

"A friend's?"

"She only wore it one night. It wasn't her style."

"It was her style for a night!"

"Make it your style."

"Can I keep it?"

"It cost five hundred dollars."

"What if I like it?"

"I can't afford that much."

"What's wrong? Don't you think that I'm worth it?"

"You're the one who told me that you can't be bought. That you're more than your image."

"I might like the dress."

"Try it on, and I'll see."

"I'm not going to try. I want to succeed!"