

14. MY LITTLE ME

“You can’t do anything about what is happening to you.”

Her excitement strips away the layers of the self until she arrives at the core of her personality.

“I can make it mean so much more than this!”

“What are you talking about?”

“I’m touching myself.”

“Touching yourself? Which part of your body are you touching?”

“The only part that will make the touch mean more than the touch itself.”

“How can that be?”

“It means more than on and off!”

Who is talking?

She proceeds from a nostalgia about her past. She savors the reference points of that history: her first day in school, her first crush, her broken heart, her encounter with the heavens, her travel in inner space.

“His emotions are just trite sentimental crap.”

“So what?”

“That’s got to say something about who he is .”

“How is that?”

“He loves to get women in a starry-eyed daze, and then he takes advantage of them.”

“Is it really that bad? Women get off on romantic flattery.”

“Women aren’t all that naive.”

She is losing touch with her past.

“Don’t you feel used?”

“How could that be?”

“He’s only using you to get rid of his heartache.”

“He’s a fun guy. I don’t mind if I feel a little used.”

“What are you saying about yourself?”

“That a little pain only makes the pleasure that much greater.”

“How much is a little pain?”

“Something that makes you gasp. Something that makes you lose your breath.”

“Oh, that’s all you’re talking about!”

“That’s all!

“You are a sick fuck.”

“What are you saying?”

“You tolerate that much pain, you end up needing to knock yourself out just to get yourself awake.”

“She fucked up. If he treats her badly, she deserves it. She won’t let go.”

“What if it was the other way around?”

“I’d complain like shit!”

“Maybe she’s right about him!”

“I’d have a reasonable argument. But she is a psycho-bitch.”

“You are cruel.”

“I’m trying to talk to you! But you are distracted by all these things happening around us.”

“So what’s the big deal. I’m listening to you. What is your complaint?”

“The character makes a deal with the author so that the author can get anything that he wants. He gratifies himself through the exploits of his libinous representative.”

“Are you ready to make a deal?”

“Do I get my wishes gratified?”

“What are you ready to offer?”

“My best story!”

“You’re going to have to give me your body.”

“Sounds like a fair trade. But will it really work?”

“Depends what you have to offer.”

“I’ll give you my life.”

“Your life will never be the same.”

I am ready to play along.

“I am not.”

“It will be a lot of fun.”

“Fun for you.”

“I rejected you. And now you’re trying to rewrite the story so that I want to be with you. There is no way that would ever happen.”

“How can you say that? I know everything about you.”

“Knowing is not something abstract. You can’t get to know someone by observing them with binoculars through a window. You need to be given permission to look. To share things. To learn how she is willing to let herself be affected by what you say. How you touch her.”

“Am I disagreeing with you?”

“I’m telling you that you’re not the one.”

“What are you afraid of?”

“I’m afraid of you.”

“You shouldn’t be.”

“What are you trying to do? To get in my head. It’s not going to work because I can never feel the way that you do.”

She seems distant. She is in a remote place. I am doing everything that I can to try to reach her.

“They are going to come for you.”

“I haven’t had my chance yet.”

“We were supposed to be friend. Now you’re screwing with me.”

“Are all these people working together?”

“I came to surrender!”

Will I ever be able to reach her. She turns around to face me. I try to get her attention.

“I need to talk to you. Stop! Hold up!”

I am unable to catch up. I try to capture her image.

“That’s your method. You stare at her in the hope that you can retain an image of her body. Your eyes act like a pen that traces her figure. You dwell on the image until you are one with her.”

“What’s wrong with a little fantasy?”

“I said no.”

“But you get turned on by my dirty story!”

“You are a monster!”

“I need to get away.”

“I can’t let you go.”

“Do what you have to do!”

You work with the body that is given you!

“I can barely move!”

“It’s the limits of the self that you have elected.”

“Can I get a new body?”

“You’re going to get what you need. But you have to use what you have for now.”

“How can I use what I have?”

“You need a partner.”

“Can you be my partner?”

“I can touch myself. But you can’t touch my body.”

“Will that work?”

“You tell me.”

“Do you have all the equipment to make this work?”

“I do.”

“All that I can do is watch.”

“That is why your options are limited.”

“I can tell you what I need you to do!”

“By the twists of my body, you can pretend that you are touching me.”

“You are getting much closer to a resolution.”

“Do you like this idea?”

“I like whatever can get me excited.”

“You can get excited just by watching.”

“I need to feel more than simple stimulation. I have to feel that there is some risk in this process.”

“Where does the risk come from?”

“When you are willing to take chances.”

“What more is there than the touching?”

“Your emotions. You have to lose yourself in the experience.”

“How can you know that I am losing myself?”

“How you move your body. The noises that you make.”

“All that can convince you that something is changing in the world.”

“I have a good imagination.”

“I have to be good at moving.”

“Geometric shapes that you can create with the body.”

“Even the most simplistic of images can offer inspiration to the imagination?”
 “If the body is suggestive enough.”
 “Where is this going to end?”
 “How much are you willing to show me?”
 “I want to see it all.”
 “I feel as if I am on a phone sex line. Or a peep show.”
 “You are in control here.”
 “Can I make you disappear?”
 “If that is what you really need to get to far reaches of the cosmos.”
 “Do I have to make a lot of noise to give you the right feeling?”
 “You have to make the right noises.”
 “I am open to these experiences if you can help me along.”
 She decides that she does not need a helper.
 “That’s a beautiful bracelet.”
 “It was carved in silver.”
 “How is that?”
 “The metal assumes the form of the spirit.”
 “Does the design of the metal give the bracelet its form?”
 “Until the metal assumes its final form, the spirit does not inhere in the metal.”
 “The metal is without a spirit in itself.”
 “Even if the metal had its form, it would eventually take the shape provided it by the form of the bracelet.”
 “The artistry brings the spirit alive.”
 “That is one way of thinking about it.”
 “What about the molten silver? Does the silver lose its form?”
 “At the boiling point, the spirit is electrified. It explodes in the molten mass.”
 “Does it escape?”
 “As the liquid dissipates into the air, the spirit gradually takes flight.”
 “The gaseous form intermingles with the essence of the self. This is the essential feature of the personal imprint that is etched into the silver.”
 “So the bracelet is personalized.”
 “It is magical.”
 “Can the intent of the bracelet interfere with the structure of the self?”
 “If the bracelet is properly formed, it provides the framework of the personality.”
 “What if another person takes the bracelet?”
 “It is something like a possession.”
 “Isn’t that the nature of the personality in the first place?”
 “I think that we are getting somewhere!”
 “How is that?”
 “Even if we are going backwards, we are going forwards. That is the nature of the curvature of the universe.”
 “I don’t understand.”
 “That is the nature of the spirit. Even in falling apart, the cosmos is coming together.”

“This is tricky!”
 “The universe only thrives on catastrophe.”
 “If creation is so remote from catastrophe, then it is almost as if the catastrophe is eternal.”
 “Or creation is eternal.”
 “It’s all the same thing.”
 “If creation is eternal, it can overcome any catastrophe.”
 “That sounds like wishful thinking.”
 “We are learning how to impose our wishes on the universe.”
 “How do we this?”
 “By touching the right place. Can you feel the power?”
 “I can feel the universe quake.”
 “It’s sliding against itself.”
 “The coming together and the breaking apart!”
 “I can feel its touch!”
 She can reach the expanses of the cosmos just by willing it.
 “This seems like a colossal waste of time.”
 “If you cry, you might make something of the world.”
 “How can that be?”
 “Your emotions represent actual objects in the real world.”
 “But they exist more as the after effects of those objects.”
 “It is a give and take between your desires and your touch.”
 “I am limited by my touch.”
 “Unless you find a way to touch the expanses of the universe.”
 “To reach inside is to reach the outside.”
 “That doesn’t seem very scientific.”
 “You have to learn how to touch so deeply in the self that you start to effect the forces of the universe.”
 “Such changes only provide local changes.”
 “But a minute portion of that matter is sufficient to shake the whole cosmos.”
 “Hardly the whole cosmos.”
 “We are at the crossroads. This is where all the forces intersect.”
 “What forces?”
 “Anything that you desire can be felt and realized by these coincidences.”
 “In the smallest part of me.”
 “That sliver of the self has a way of compacting all the power of the universe.”
 “The universe only exists in its discontinuity. You are assuming a connection where none exists.”
 “You can feel it deep in the self.”
 “I feel that the connection is rooted so deeply in the self that I can’t do a thing about it.”
 “But you know that it can happen?”
 “Even if the experience offered me a battery of scientific equations, would they really be helpful in modeling the universe? And if they were, do I have the capacity to set the processes in

motion?"

"Push off into the cosmos!"

"This is the greatest illusion!"

"We are mapping something that is very profound."

"You're trying to confuse me."

"You know that you have the power. You just need to learn how to use it."

"I can really do that."

"Once you can project yourself in meta-space, you are on the verge of crossing over. You can tap the full powers available to you."

"My little me!"

"Are you willing to do what it takes?"

"Do I have what it takes?"

"Look at yourself in the mirror. You have more than it takes."

"I'm not sure that I have enough."

"Do you want a new body?"

"I want a body that will give me everything that I need so that I can touch the expanse of the cosmos."

"You are closer than you think."

"Is that a bobby pin in your hair?"

"Yeah!"

"I need a bobby pin."

"What good is that going to be?"

"I need to pick a lock."

"Really. What lock?"

"It the lock that unlocks the secret of the cosmos."

"The door of eternity?"

"Yes!"

"You're going to use a bobby pin to open eternity."

"Would you rather have it another way?"

"I just thought that such a dramatic gesture needed a more appropriate device to set things in motion."

"The bobby pin provides the perfect form to decipher the lock."

"Maybe you need a formula to crack the code."

"Or the perfect image to unravel the complex interplay of the universe."

"There is actually a form that links together the disparate element of the universe."

"They all are subject to the same forces."

"The lock makes the planets move in orbit."

"Or turning the lock could stop all the planets in their path!"

"If the universe exists in an immaterial form, then the overplayed image is even more likely to move all the material forms by its application."

"Like the image of a chariot that is implied in a constellation."

"The universe is moving faster than ever."

"Such is the intent of the constellation."

“How?”

“To move the universe in synchrony!”

“What if the stars move in a form independent of the constellation’s coherence.”

“Any shift is not sufficient to disturb the overall arrangement.”

“How is that?”

“The constellation is maintained by the observed consistency.”

“But the actual image is offered by the observer. There is a hint that the image offers much more than can be expressed by the astronomical form.”

“How can that be?”

“There is an physical order available to the observer that is obscured in the astronomical mapping.”

“Where does this physical order manifest itself except in the imagination of the self?”

“The imagination helps the self come in touch with an even more expansive physical order that is not initially observable.”

“The complete nature of the universe is something that can only be grasped by the imagination.”

“Even the incomplete form of the universe is available only to the imagination.”

“So what do I see when I look at the night sky?”

“Layer upon layer of personal reports by the imagination.”

“How do they ever manifest themselves?”

“In the flashes of the imagination. It’s just like that images that form a moving picture. Each image has its integral nature. And the mind creates a continuous flow among these!”

“All this just to make an excuse to ask for a bobby pin!”

“Tell me what to think.”

“The universe is in flux.”

“My personality is in flux.”

“We are reaching the melting point.”

“My flesh is starting to melt. I am merging with the cosmos.”

“The discontinuity is being smoothed over. All the holes are being filled in.”

“I am so hot. I am sweating all over!”

“Once everything is liquid, it spreads out.”

“It is still getting hotter. I feel so good!”

“The temperature continues to rise. This is the point that everything fuses together.”

“I can no longer control myself. I am giving in! Just being pulled along by the currents.”

“Far beyond the melting point is the boiling point. The liquid is bubbling as it starts to become vaporous.”

“I try to slow my progress. I am getting lost in the give and take.”

“As the vapor spreads out, the substance become more diffuse.”

“I am in flight.”

“The vapor is the entryway to the next state: the spirit.”

“My head is spinning!”

“The spirit now joins together all the moments of the universe. The spirit is distributed in its totality.”

“I will never be able to touch down.”

“Solid to liquid to gas to spirit. The spirit inheres in all things.”

“I submit to its power.”

There is something that is bigger than the self but smaller than the universe.

“It is hard, and it retains its shape.”

“You have touched the metal already!”

“I do bad things to myself!”

“I am having trouble breathing. It scares me just to hear that.”

She is ready to quit the body for some other past time.

“You really turn me on.”

“I’m not looking to change!”

“You need hard things as a reference point.”

“If it was a little softer, you could make your imprint on things.”

“It’s like writing in butter. It gets too hot, and there’s nothing to see.”

“I know someone who can restore all that writing butter.”

“You just need an imprint somewhere.”

With this desire, what shape do you have in the world? This is the perfect balance of passion and gravity.

“I have gone way beyond touch! I can find myself at the other expanse of the universe.”

“I know how to turn you on. To get you to touch where you feel that you are touching.”

“Can you touch me?”

“Where do you want me to touch you?”

“In the touching place.”

“To touch so that you can see.”

“You are way more than something that can be touched!”

“And I am way more than someone who can do the touching!”

When I look at you, I really like what I see.”

“There is a place to touch and a place to touch the touching.”

“A different geometry of the body.”

“Outside of the body is the body that touches the body.”

She needs to be alone to know the touch.

“I want to be accepted.”

“Will you let me touch you?”

“Will that make you like me more?”

“I think so!”

“If you can find another place to touch, you can touch me there.”

“Why is that?”

“I’m saving the touching place for someone else. Or saving a place to touch for someone else.”

This is going to be the shortest story of all the stories.

“Stand still so that I can absorb your being into mine.”

“Are you a taker or a give?”

“Definitely a taker. Just give me everything that you’ve got!”

“I’m not sure about that!”
 “Nothing ever stands in my way.”
 She is touching an idea. It feels so strong!
 “What is the idea that she is touching?”
 “Something that remains untouchable.”
 “I feel dirty about this.”
 “Touch until you can’t think about it.”
 “I am going to feel badly about it in the end.”
 “Do you feel badly about it now?”
 “I’m not sure what I feel. It could be the pain killers.”
 “Are you numb?”
 “I have to touch a little harder to really feel anything.”
 “Some people feel good about pain.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “They aren’t afraid to cause pain in others.”
 “What are you staring at?”
 “Your body.”
 “What part of my body?”
 “The part that helps me spread out into space.”
 “What part is that?”
 This is her breaking part.
 “That is a tight blouse.”
 “Do you like how it touches my body?”
 “I like how you have it half-open.”
 “You do like what you see?”
 “Is it made to be seen?”
 “We’re going to start at the beginning!”
 “We are way beyond that.”
 “This part allows longer touching.”
 “Do you need me to help?”
 “No helpers.”
 She does not need an image of the body to take her to the next step!
 “Touch creates its own body. It does not need to be seen to be felt.”
 “Oh, wow! That feels good.”
 “Feeling good means less feeling bad!”
 “This is a part of me that no one can take away.”
 “Feeling good is not the same as doing the right thing.”
 “If doing the right thing doesn’t make you feel good, then you should do what makes you
 feel bad.”
 “I am feeling sick. I need to go to the washroom.”
 “I can do it all on my own.”
 She wants to make it happen on her own.
 “I am going to deny the universe.”

“How can you do that?”
 “I am getting a deeper understanding of the cosmos. I can make things happen on my own.”
 “Don’t you need a little help?”
 “I already said no helpers?”
 Her touch measures the expanse of the universe.
 “When will I reach the other side?”
 “You are the other side.”
 “I feel great by myself.”
 “Learn how to find pleasure in feeling pain.”
 “I am trying to avoid that sadistic trip.”
 “Then do it to someone else.”
 “There is no someone else. I am by myself. Me and the universe.”
 “Spread your wings.”
 “He scared me away.”
 “You are never going to find what you are looking for.”
 “No one does. That’s why they settle for what they get.”
 “I’d like to end it now!”
 She is learning to love herself!
 “I am learning to love myself by myself.”
 Beyond the universe, beyond the expanse, beyond the vapor, she is already there!
 “I am running away from myself. I am running away from myself with myself!”
 This is an instruction manual on how to touch yourself by yourself for yourself.
 “I can’t share any of this with you.”
 “I can think about it.”
 “What I feel is way more powerful than you can even imagine. I can make heaven and earth move!”
 “That seems as if it is imagined.”
 “You can imagine it. But I can really feel it.”
 She turns the page of the manual. It is full of chemical formula.
 “This is how you contact the spirit.”
 “Do you like this body?”
 “I like its contours. It gets me thinking!”
 “Does it get you touching?”
 All this concern with touch is a distraction from something really important. How she shapes the world. Making things with glass. Leaving her impressions in metal.
 “I am reshaping the rivers.”
 “That is not ecologically friendly!”
 She is reshaping her body. She had achieved the perfect prototype.
 “Do you like to be degraded?”
 “What are you talking about?”
 “Letting your lover do things to you with liquid.”
 “I’m not sure that I’m that into sex. I don’t need a lover.”

“You do well on your own.”
 “I am doing pretty well on me own. I hate it when a lover turns cold.”
 “Cold how?”
 “The wet slobbering kisses just turn cold.”
 “Wake him up!”
 “I am trying. I can’t. He wants me to do all these things that I don’t want to do.”
 “Does he have a grocery list?”
 She learns how to maker her way on her own.
 “I don’t even think about it. It’s not like touch here or touch there. I just think it. I just
 do it. The universe just goes along with how I shape things for myself.”
 “I like different shapes too.”
 “I only need my own shape. I hate being forced into a mold.”
 “That is how you leave an imprint.”
 “I like to think of myself as a free spirit.”
 “You need someone to turn you on.”
 “I need to get turned on myself.”
 “Why not let the universe split the difference?”
 “Because I do not want to get split in two.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “Shaken like shake.”
 “Spilt like a split.”
 “This is something that is done with liquid. I am more self-contained.”
 “Do you get wet?”
 “I am wetting myself all the time.”
 “On to vapor.”
 “I am in the breeze.”
 “More like gone with the wind.”
 “More like I’m a goner.”
 “Don’t you need a helper?”
 “Do it quick. Although I am not going to touch you.”
 “That hardly seems fair.”
 “I am a good-natured spirit.”
 “Let the universe turn you on.”
 “I do!”
 “You can’t stop yet.”
 “Why?”
 “I’m not there yet.”
 “You seem to be defining there on your own.”
 “If you were in my place, you would define there exactly the same way that I do.”
 “There is no need for a story after this.”
 “There is the need for a story. But there is no need for fantasy.”
 “You don’t need a picture.”
 “I just need a feel.”

“I love your picture.”

“Can we stop now?”

“We can never stop. Not the way that we are going!”

“I have to go.”

“Wait a second! We need another position.”

“I can’t stay in this place.”

“We are going to be finished soon.”

“I can finish on my own.”

“I could always finish on my own. I just lose track who I really am.”

“Am is not part of it. It’s who you want to be!”

“We all want to be someone.”

“Or someone else.”

She wants to be herself, by herself, so she can touch herself.