

19. STAR POINTS

“Do you like what you see?”

“I do. It looks really tasty. I want to take bite.”

“It’s alive!”

“It’s moving.”

“Of course, I’m moving. I’m human.”

“I thought that you were just there to satisfy my appetites.”

“That is how you like to think of me.”

“Are you willing to go along with my feelings?”

“It does give me a little bit of a charge just to feel you touch my body. But I also have doubts.”

“What doubts?”

“I don’t know you. I’m not sure if I can trust you.”

“Don’t I have a trusting face?”

“You seem to be an honest person. But I can’t see just by looking. I’ve been proved wrong so many times before.”

“What can you do about it?”

“Maybe the very form that I find appealing is the image of something that is deceptive.”

“How can that be?”

“A defect in my early education. I was made to be attracted to these gentle faces. But the gentility could simply be a front to hook me in to these villainous types.”

“There may have been a time that you accepted the villainy. Now it is more oppressive than you know.”

“I am considering that change. I was younger and more naive. I believed in the promises of my youth.”

“What happened?”

“I realized that it was all for naught.”

“I understand pretty well.”

“It could simply be a mask that you pull over your dastardly visage.”

“That would make me even more evil than anyone that you’ve ever known.”

“Certainly!”

“So you’re not going to let me touch you.”

“I don’t want to be touched in that way. Especially someone like you.”

“I’ll be whoever you want me to be.”

“That is what I am afraid of.”

“Don’t you need me to offer you a little stimulation now and then?”

“I think that I can manage that on my own.”

“I can help add a little extra.”

“Whatever you’re willing to offer.”

“You are open to that!”

“I’m just playing with you.”

“I don’t like being played with.”

“You can sure dish it out.”

“You made me feel that you’re receptive.”

“I wanted to see how far you were willing to go.”

“I can go all the way. Is that sufficient?”

“I have enough points to get a really good body.”

“The gods felt the same way. When they came to earth, they assumed a lovely form.”

“I want to be lovely. But not too lovely.”

“What does that mean?”

“I am afraid of exaggeration.”

“So you’re trying to be yourself. But how can you be yourself when you are assuming a body that isn’t yours in the first place?”

“Are you staring at me?”

“I think that I like what you’ve got.”

“I’ve got to admit that they did a good job. That’s what wishing can get you.”

“This is a little bit of a fairy tale.”

“How does it end?”

“Always with a curse. That is how a sorceress works. She has a curse hidden in her bag of tricks.”

“I don’t feel cursed.”

“I do. I want but I cannot touch. I touch but I cannot touch more.”

“Don’t get so greedy.”

“Being greedy isn’t the problem.”

“What is?”

“I see something that I like. It just gives me the impression that I can get a little more.”

“That is the problem with impressions. They always promise more.”

“What’s your solutions?”

“We could round off the edges so that there wouldn’t be so much to want.”

“That would really turn me on.”

“It’s a good thing to get turned on like that. Almost like having a machine to tell us what to want!”

“I agree.”

“So you admit to a machine problem.”

“I’m not going to admit to something that I have to pay for.”

“You don’t like things simple.”

“I don’t really like to be tricked. That’s why I have a problem with woman.”

“You’re admitting that to me. Should I have opted for a different body?”

“Do you have choices? Or do you have to take pretty well what is offered to you.”

“Within reason, you can get what you want. But sometimes you want more than is available. So you have to settle for what they give you.”

“That sounds sad.”

“You can always make up for the problem with a bubbling personality.”

“I could bring to a boil.”

“You have to deal with the boiling temperature.”

“How is that?”
 “We are reshaping your face.”
 “This can actually be done.”
 “We are still in the desire phase.”
 “And what is after that.”
 “Satisfaction. Although that is pretty automatic once you have everything else in place.
 “You are telling me that the spirit can simply assume a physical form.”
 “I am proposing the opposite view that the physical form engenders a strict geometry.
 And it is that geometry which gives rise to the spirit.”
 “So the spirit does not have an independent existence from the its physical embodiment?”
 “That is my belief.”
 “A belief based on clear evidence.”
 “The actual evidence is somewhat limited. Although there is occasional physical
 corroboration.”
 “Ghost appearances?”
 “I wish that it was that straight-forward. More like electrical fields that are created from
 biological organisms.”
 “That is pretty obvious.”
 “This is a wider area of coverage than the boundary of the physical body.”
 “You’re not kidding.”
 “There have been measurements.”
 “Enough data to suggest an actual presence distinct from the actual organism.”
 “Like a double.”
 “That could be one way of interpreting the evidence. We haven’t got to that stage yet.
 But we are working on a theory to account for all the experimental data.”
 “That sounds like a fancy way to admit that you don’t know what you’re talking about.”
 “I know about the spirit.”
 “We’re back to talking about ghosts.”
 “It’s not quite the same. We are basing this on science.”
 “That’s just a way for you to try to fool other people about what is really going on.”
 “And what is really going on?”
 “I feel as if there is nothing to discuss. You have to know what I’m talking about.”
 “I don’t believe any of this crap.”
 “But you have to feel things a little the way that I do.”
 “I am trying to feel things that way. It just doesn’t make any sense.”
 “How can I make this clearer to you?”
 “If you’d quit being so mystical.”
 “There is really nothing mystical here. I am working off of hard evidence. Simply
 because you’ve never seen it manifested doesn’t make it less likely that it exists.”
 “You’re telling me that the gods can assume any physical form that I like.”
 “That is simply a way of trying to understand it.”
 “So it is impossible to understand.”
 “The spirit is engendered from the physical form.”

“Is it still physical?”
 “The spirit appears to bypass the usual rules of physics.”
 “That seems like quite an accomplishment. Are you sure that is what is going on?”
 “How else can it attain a unique nature?”
 “It could be an illusion.”
 “There seems too much invested here to countenance an illusion.”
 “This is getting quite involved.”
 “Of course it is. But those are the rules.”
 “Like creating a rash where there is none!”
 “If that’s what we’re talking about.”
 “Is that much different than creating a physical sensation.”
 “If the theory of sensation implies that the feeling is localized in some specific part of the body.”
 “What is that importance of that?”
 “That it makes you feel good.”
 “It’s a place that is perfect for such arousal.”
 “Any place will do if there is the proper association.”
 “Is there sufficient innervation in that region.”
 “There is a theory that proposes the organism will induce increased innervation to account for changes in stimulation.”
 “Things can really happen like that.”
 “It makes no sense morphologically. But things like that seem to happen all the time.”
 “What is the alternative?”
 “The body awakens to all sensations with a rush of excitement.”
 “That sounds very exciting.”
 “It really is! It appears to be a the forefront of research.”
 “What’s the problem?”
 “If that part of the body is not accustomed to that level of stimulation, it could break the skin. And that would have further consequences.”
 “So it would be better to just stop!”
 “That seems to be the suggestion. Otherwise, we could be in for further complications. Maybe a serious infection.”
 “That would be a terrible result.”
 “Especially after such a commitment to make things better.”
 “We should mess with our natures.”
 “Our nature is a disturbance of a previous state of our nature.”
 “It appears that we are going around in a circle. That we can never achieve the gratification that we need to make out lives complete.”
 “You may be asking for too much.”
 “I only want to be touched in a loving way.”
 “Why the attachment to the head games?”
 “I find that I can’t get off in a normal way.”
 “Few people can these days.”

“I wish that I could regress my body to a previous stage.”

“Then you’d lose all your points.”

“I do admit to getting so many offers that I don’t know what to do with all of them.”

“That gets a little strange.”

“Sure it does. But those are the torments of human existence.”

“On the other hand, I can just chill and let it reach such a clamor that I am simply overwhelmed.”

“It works like that.”

“Yes, it does. I suppose that makes me seem a little hideous to you.”

“You are what you are. It’s only when you try to exceed those limitations.”

“I really can’t help that. I can’t stay the way that I am and expect to enjoy myself.”

“You’re never going to enjoy yourself by being something that you are not.”

“Who is to say? Are you some kind of moral judge?”

“I just think that you have to have some level of integrity. You have to know your limits.”

“I’ve done a pretty good job in learning my limits.”

“It’s not as if you’ve changed that much.”

“I’ve tried to do my best.”

“You still look at women the same way that you always have. And you expect them to look back at you exactly the same way.”

“Is this my curse?”

“It is what it is? Are you really willing to change?”

“Are you challenging me?”

“Do you need a challenge?”

“I didn’t realize that I needed to prove myself.”

“We are all under pressure to make life a little better.

“Is that something written on a doily?”

“I’m not that much of a romantic. You just need to be more realistic about life. This isn’t an amusement park for your pleasure.”

“Is there something that you want me to admit?”

“I don’t know if you have sufficient awareness about what you’re actually doing?”

“I don’t have to do anything. Women come to me!”

“What happens after that?”

“I’m not that much of a monster.”

“You don’t have to be. All of this is pretty automatic.”

“What makes you such a jerk?”

“I’m not like that. I’m a nice guy.”

“And girls just melt before that persona.”

“Are you envious of my success?”

“Are you calling me a failure?”

“What do you want to be? It’s your choice. You can chose the body to fulfill your dreams. You can mold the flesh to suit your desires.”

“Is that all that it takes?”

“Are you claiming that the world is basically rotten? No matter who you are, it’s all going to turn out the same way.”

“You put too much credibility in image.”

“How do you see me? Look at my face.”

“I am trying to see you for who you are. It’s tough.”

“I know how to use what I’ve got.”

“Everyone sees you for who you want to be. You have that knack. I don’t know how you do it.”

“I have a skill. I have pierced the barrier.”

“What are you talking about?”

“The separation between will and desire!”

“You can have whatever you want!”

“I recognize you from somewhere.”

“I guess that I have a memorable face”

“We don’t know each other.”

“I don’t think so.”

“Where do I know you from?”

“I’m not sure. You may know who I am. But I don’t really think that I know you.”

“I’m sure that I know you.”

“As I said, I have a memorable face.”

“No, it’s more than that.”

“I’m sure that you look at me, and you assume that you know something about me. But that’s just a belief on your part.”

“So you know more than you’re letting on.”

“What do you have in mind?”

“I don’t know. Ideas, theories about the universe.”

“You think that you can know those things just by looking at me.”

“I don’t know. It seems that you know a little more about the world than just having fun.”

“I know how to make a buck. I guess that’s enough.”

“I just assumed that there was a little more there than that.”

“Don’t be so arrogant! What more do you expect?”

“That you have some deeper knowledge about how things work.”

“Do I look like fucking Isaac Newton?”

“What is that supposed to mean?”

“I can’t make diamonds with my hands if that’s what you’re wondering about.”

“What if you could?”

“I guess that would imply some deeper understanding of matter.”

“Which you claim that you don’t have.”

“What do you want me to do?”

“Show me something magical.”

“I really don’t have those kind of skills.”

“But you have that magic in your face.”

“Maybe you’re not a very good judge of character.”
 “I’ve always thought that I could see things.”
 “You could adjust your focus!”
 “What would that do? It’s not as if I’m blind to the world.”
 “But the world may have no idea who you are. So you project all this energy on it.”
 “Are you telling me that’s it’s all imagination on my part?”
 “I’m just saying that you want it to be that way.”
 “What’s the problem?”
 “You are substituting your desires for any real development on your part.”
 “It’s not as if I’m walking into walls.”
 “Can you save me?”
 “There is not redemption in science.”
 “There is in superstition.”
 “I’m not superstitious.”
 “What would you say if I told you that I like it more than sex?”
 “I’d say that you were a little weird.”
 “Why is that?”
 “You are really telling me that you prefer pleasure to pain.”
 “It all comes to heartache in the end.”
 “But you don’t want to embrace the pain.”
 “You want to avoid someone trying to control your life.”
 “There’s always forces that you can’t control.”
 “That’s why I am the way that I am.”
 “Fantastic.”
 “You’re telling me that it’s OK.”
 “Of course not. I’m taunting you.”
 “Why are you so rude?”
 “Why are you so strange?”
 “Let’s just say that I know myself better than anyone else knows me.”
 “And what’s the point?”
 “You have to take risks. Your body offers you possibilities. And you can’t let yourself
 be limited by convention.”
 “What is that supposed to mean?”
 “I’m not some kind of fiend. I just believe in pushing the envelope.”
 “You are being awfully crafty.”
 “It’s not as if I’m trying to hide something.”
 “Then what are you all about?”
 “If I told you everything, I wouldn’t have any secrets for myself.”
 “But you’ve told me pretty well everything up to this point. What more is there to hide?”
 “More than you can know!”
 “How is that?”
 “It’s not as if I want to waste my time pretending. I don’t want to wait forever, and then
 lose my chance at the last minute. That is why I try to make things happen when I can.”

“So you resort to this kind of silliness.”

“You asked me.”

“I’m only trying to understand you better.”

“I’m not unusual as you think. I just don’t want to be put into a bad place.”

“You can’t control everything in life.”

“Don’t you think that I know that?”

“How’s that?”

“Only when you let go can you really discover what keeps you together. The real power inside.”

“You believe that crap. That’s just a form of self-admiration.”

“I want to be safe.”

“No one can ever be that safe.”

“There is a safety in pain.”

“Certainty in suffering?”

“If that’s what you need.”

“What do you really need?”

“Something that no one can give me.”

“You can get it on your own.”

“Maybe!”

“What do you do for fun?”

“I write scripts.”

“You don’t say. What was the last thing that you did?”

“*Catastrophes of the Self*.”

“That was a terrible movie.”

“Don’t you think that I knew that. It was job!”

“You’re not going to be working much longer if you keep writing stuff like that.”

“They needed a script. They had an idea. I did the best that I could.”

“Is that what that is?”

“I got paid. They were happy. And the movie made money. Can I really complain?”

“Where did you get those characters from? She seems as if she’s just walked out of a strip club?”

“The producer is a real prick. He doesn’t know good movies. He asked me for a product. And turned it out. Enough said.”

“You should get sued for foisting that kind of shit on the public.”

“No one marched you into the theater under gun point.”

“I’m your friend. I like to see your work. You made me embarrassed.”

“What were you expecting? I told you that I was under a deadline. And you knew what was expected.”

“Do people really act like that?”

“They do all the time?”

“What would possess a human being to make such an embarrassment of himself?”

“Basic impulses. Greed! Lust! Stupidity!”

“You said it!”

“The script isn’t that far off from the truth.”

“Whose truth?”

“Take a look around.”

“You don’t have to descend to the level of the sewer.”

“I was in a little bit of a gutter myself. There was work to get done. And I took care of it. There’s not much else to say.”

“Have you ever took a long look at yourself in the mirror?”

“Do you really think that I could see that side of myself if I did?”

“If you can portray such ravenous monsters, there has to be a bit of that in you.”

“There’s a bit of that in all of us. It’s just that we’re all pretty good at hiding that side.”

“I don’t think that everyone is that perverted.”

“If anyone had the opportunity, they would turn out the same way.”

“That’s silly!”

“Human desire is a powerful force to resist.”

“Anyone with enough experience can see through the phony appeals.”

“It’s one thing to know what is going on. It’s quite another to resist.”

“Resist what? Some sleazy whore?”

“You’re not that far off from the characters that I portray. You’re so quick to dismiss other people because you recognize how deeply they touch you.”

“Are you trying to get under my skin?”

“I only want you to be more realistic with your assessment of yourself.”

“Your script is bad. You can’t make excuses by drawing me in.”

“It’s raw. And in that sense, it’s true.”

“True to what? The worst in human beings.”

“But you’re just as quick to condemn. That is exactly what I am portraying.”

“I’m not going to fall for a stripper.”

“You never know!”

“I don’t even credit that lifestyle.”

“I’ve seen you after a few drinks. You undress every girl in the place with your eyes.”

“That’s natural.”

“So you just give in to your basic desires.”

“It’s not like that.”

“Like what?”

“I’m not one of the characters in your script.”

“Who are you?”

“Someone who can hide from the rest of the world.”

“What does that mean?”

“They’ve got you on camera?”

“Should I be proud?”

“You’re committing a crime.”

“It’s more of a protest than anything else.”

“It doesn’t matter what it is. You’re going to get arrested and prosecuted for this.”

“For doing a little dance on camera.”

“You’re playing games with me. You know exactly what you were doing.”
 “Showing off. So what’s the big deal.”
 “This is more than showing off!”
 “What are you telling me?”
 “This is felony burglary.”
 “And what are you going to do about it?”
 “I’m going to take care of it.”
 “You’re going to take care of it for me.”
 “Why should I help you?”
 “Because I really didn’t do anything.”
 “That’s your way of seeing things. As far as I’m concerned this is a big deal.”
 “They’ve got my face on camera.”
 “And now your face is associated with some shady activities.”
 “If the tape disappears, then there is no record of what happened.”
 “It’s not a tape. It’s a hard drive record.”
 “Disrupt the hard drive. There’s always some way of getting rid of the record. Wiping the drive clean.”
 “Everyone wants that kind of clarity. It’s just not that available.”
 “All it takes is some work with a magnet.”
 “Sometimes you end up destroying the self along with the misdeeds.”
 “Maybe I haven’t been forceful enough.”
 “You don’t want a reputation. It’s hard enough getting rid of one offense.”
 “I wasn’t looking for confession.”
 “And I don’t really grant absolution. It’s going to be little difficult getting rid of your guilt.”
 “I’m not carrying a burden along with me.”
 “You don’t feel in the least bit embarrassed by what you did?”
 “I don’t have any reason to feel guilty. It was a blast.”
 “The rest of the world is not so sanguine about your antics.”
 “It’s not as if I’m a hire-wire act.”
 “It still was a little daring.”
 “I didn’t do it for the thrill.”
 “What motivated you?”
 “I was only trying to be myself.”
 “We all want to be ourselves. It’s just that you crossed the lines of decency.”
 “Whose decency? Some people are prudes.”
 “It’s one thing being a little risqué. However, you got caught.”
 “Can you see the guilt in my face?”
 “I’m not that good.”
 “No, you think that you’re better than everyone else.”
 “Is this ever going to end?”
 “There’s always that little bit that you leave off the end. Then it all mounts up, and you’re overwhelmed.”

“What the hell are you talking about?”
 “How a man loses his soul?”
 “Looking at a tight piece of ass!”
 “Do you have the eyes to look?”
 “You’re trying to stop me in midstream. The damage has been done.”
 “You admit that you’re a bastard.”
 “Only in my desires. I try to be round with my actions.”
 “You’re bouncing off all these girls. What’s so noble about that?”
 “I don’t see it that way. I’ve done a good job cleaning up my act.”
 “How did you manage that? Is there a wanted poster out for your bad side?”
 “I spend most of my time at home writing. I take some time off with you, and you’re willing to send me to a maximum-security prison.”
 “You like performing for the world. How else do you get the credit that you so richly deserve.”
 “What else is there for me? I’ve got a skill.”
 “It’s more of a disease.”
 “People love me. They think that I’m charming.”
 “That’s your excuse for being an asshole.”
 “I’m not that bad.”
 “You don’t kill people. You just let them down.”
 “I am not here to redeem the world. If I was, I’d feel worse about it.”
 “You have no idea what you are doing.”
 “Go ahead: tell me. I want to know.”
 “I couldn’t explain it to you if I tried. You don’t want to listen.”
 “I don’t want to listen to someone calling me names.”
 “What do you want from the women that you meet?”
 “You’re the one who is being reductive. It’s not as if I just want one thing.”
 “Do you want to see their souls?”
 “I wish that I was so blessed. I don’t know. I do what I do. Sometimes I get what I want. But this isn’t an act. This is me!”
 “Spoken like a true thief of hearts!”
 “I’m not going to feel guilty.”
 “Didn’t you try to cure yourself?”
 “There is no way to cure ourselves of who we are!”
 “No wonder I find philosophy so stupid!”