

6. OVER THE TOP

“Did you come to apologize?”

“Yeah, I came to apologize.”

“I didn’t think that you had it in you.”

“I really came her to fuck the shit out of you.”

“What makes you such a bully. Did someone do something to you in your childhood that makes you this way?”

“I don’t need an excuse.”

“Why are you being so confrontational?”

“I have a cause. And I’m tired of being so submissive.”

“I thought that you were over that shit!”

“This time I’m going to make it right. You won’t escape.”

“Escape what? If you can name one reason to justify what you do, then your actions would seem to be reasonable. But you’re just a psycho case.”

“So you’re not ready to admit the consequences of your actions.”

“Of course, I am. I’ve helped to make this world a better place.”

“How many fewer people have been educated by your methods? How many diseases have been aggravated by people waiting for treatment.? You’ve figured out how to make immense profit over the misery of others.”

“And you want me to confess my crimes.”

“That would be a start. How you’ve cut off health benefits to save a buck.”

“Costs are going up.”

“As you draw bigger and bigger bonuses. Your scale of personal growth is so narrow that you’ve written all the disasters off the books.”

“I can’t take on all the problems of the world.”

“No, of course not. You just do your share in adding to them.”

“I give to charities.”

“So they can crowd out the work of those doing what has to get done. Put more money in the logos and the press releases.”

“We have to attract money for these services.”

“Budget it outright.”

“Who’s going to pay for that? Higher taxes.”

“If you pay none and we pay so much, that might be a good idea.”

“Tax the wealthy. What a new idea. You’re penalizing innovation.”

“Really! You’d sit on innovation if it could direct more money your way. Anyway, I’m way beyond taxing for you. Instead, you’re going to drink the hemlock.”

“I don’t understand.”

“I’m here to fuck you for good. No more slow measures.”

“Why me? I’m just like you. A cog in the great machine.”

“You’re as good as the machine is going to get. It will set an example for the rest of the world.”

“What kind of example. People will love me for hanging on for so long. And they’ll just

think of you as a crazy guy.”

“No more. There are loads of people who are sick of you. Down deep, they’ll realize that what I did was good.”

“No one will hear you. Your detractors will drown out your one little voice.”

“People are tired of hearing these detractors.”

“Envy has a way of eating away at your defenses. Let the hatred build. It will eventually destroy you.”

“Great. But I’m taking you with me.”

“Do you want me to admit my sins?”

“This is not a confessional.”

“I guess that people might wonder why are you doing this to me. I don’t have to wonder. I know why. I have been a piece of shit. And I will get what I deserve.”

“You’re not hiding behind your respectability.”

“I’ve had moments of doubt. I’ve screwed some people over. I can admit to my mistakes.”

“This is not about self-sacrifice. We can’t have you enjoy your own pain.”

“What can you do about that?”

“We have to make the torture intermittent. So you can’t adjust yourself to the intensities of pain. Just as you accustom yourself to the experience, we do something to shake you up.”

“And I can’t find that spontaneity pleasurable.”

“Is this all part of your discipline. You invite your own reckoning to provide you with a deeper justification for your misconduct.”

“I had fun doing what I’ve been doing.”

“And there’s really nothing that can stop you.”

“I’ve got to eat.”

“You could take what you make in a few days and eat on that for a hundred lifetimes.”

“I’m not that guy.”

“You give that guy a reason to do what you do. So you are that guy for me.”

“Why do you need an enemy?”

“It no longer makes sense to me any other way.”

“This is how the world works now. Everyone does a little bit to make things dirty. But it’s not as if you can blame any one person.”

“I think that I can. And you’re a good place to start.”

“What about your own shortcomings?”

“I’ve found you. I’ve observed all your offenses. I’ve done a good job at making it all add up. And now I’m here to apply knowledge. Is there anything more to be concerned about?”

“If you spent more time working on you, you wouldn’t be so crazy about the world.”

“I’m not crazy about the world anymore. I’m just crazy on you!”

“I can use a little criticism now and then. It helps make me honest.”

“I don’t even know where to begin.”

“You can begin anywhere. It’s not going to change. And if you kill me, that will only be the beginning. You’ll start to enjoy stuff like this.”

“I already do. But that’s no reason to stop with you.”

“That’s my point. You’ll begin to enjoy the brutality for its own sake. It won’t make any difference who you kill.”

“Is that how it works for you?”

“What do you mean?”

“You enjoy the intimidation.”

“No one likes to get pushed around.”

“Exactly!”

“But you’re going way beyond reason.”

“I’m minding my own business. And all that you do is push and push. How am I supposed to react?”

“I can’t answer your questions.”

“You feel that you have nothing to answer for?”

“I haven’t touched you.”

“Let’s just say that I moved to avoid making contact.”

“It’s not as if I meant to hit you on purpose. I might have accidentally knocked against you.”

“So that’s your excuse.”

“I didn’t mean to hurt you.”

“But you did. What are you going to do about it?”

“What are you going to do?”

“I don’t know. Beat the shit out of you.”

“You better succeed, because if you don’t, I’m going to really fuck you up.”

“You’re all talk!”

“You’re going to have to find out, aren’t you?”

“I’m not really afraid of you.”

“You’re by yourself. Who’s going to help you now?”

“What are you telling me?”

“I might as well take you as close to death as I can.”

“You think that you can do it?”

“I know that I can. You know that I can too. I don’t need any kind of weapon except for my fists. And I’m going to make my point.”

“Why are you like this?”

“I get a real pleasure from screwing with people like you. All this tension just builds up in me. I just let loose of it all by hitting someone.”

“You’re going to get caught.”

“What are you going to say about it? That you got what you deserved.”

“You’re not going to prove anything by acting out your frustration on me.”

“If it was just frustration, I’d say fuck it. But what really irks you is that you realize that I’m punishing you for something. And that gives you the creeps.”

“Punishing me for what?”

“For being an all out shit. For trying to hide behind your guns and your legal system. Here it is down to one on one. No protection. Where are you going to run?”

“I don’t have to run. What you’re doing is illegal.”

“Who are you going to tell when you’re dead.?”
 “Someone is going to find out that it’s you.”
 “That will only make me prouder of my accomplishments.”
 “You’re a fucking jerk.”
 “Chill out! I’ve taken an interest in you!”
 “I should feel privileged.”
 “You should!”
 “Why are you getting so wound up about this? This is a trivial matter.”
 “Wound up! This is my life. I should get wound up.”
 “It’s only part of your life. Not a very important part.”
 “You can say that. But things like this have a way of mounting up.”
 “In your mind maybe. Not in real life.”
 “In your real life. You let people walk over you.”
 “You shouldn’t get so aggressive about things. That is only part of the problem.”
 “I’m not aggressive. Not at all. I’m just doing the best to defend myself. I can feel things encroach on me little by little. If I give in, it will only make matters worse.”
 “You sound paranoid. I don’t think anyone else feels the way that you do.”
 “They just let the world walk all over them. Like the frog in water, you don’t feel the heat until it’s too late.”
 “It’s a nice analogy. But where is the heat?”
 “Everywhere. At work. In stores. When prices go up. When you have to pay more for gas.”
 “It’s all part of the natural development of things. Prices have to have somewhere to go. If they were dropping, then that would mean salaries were going down.”
 “Salaries are going down in case you haven’t noticed. And prices still go up.”
 “It’s just a bad patch.”
 “It’s a patch if you already have a stake in things. But if you’re outside and getting worse, then it’s a nightmare.”
 “You wake up from a nightmare. You’re taking it all too seriously.”
 “That’s easy for you to say. It’s not happening to you like this.”
 “It’s happening to all of us whether you know it or not.”
 “If I don’t know it, why is it so bad.”
 “Stay in your ignorant bliss. Accept the fate of the frog who gets boiled in his own juices.”
 “I’m not a frog.”
 “Do the math.”
 “I just work harder, and I can make up for the shortfall.”
 “So you do work more for less.”
 “I guess a little. But I still get a lot of stuff. All the things that I can buy.”
 “What? A new television. You can’t afford your own house, but you have a big screen TV so that you can watch other people live in mansions.”
 “If they work harder than I do, I they have skills, they get what the market gives back.”
 “For solving the hard problems in life.”

“A lot of people just give up. You can’t do anything to help.”

“If the life is this messed up, how can you help someone from just giving up?”

“You’re so negative. You have to do your part to make it better.”

“What if I give all my time working so I can keep up. Where is this extra time?”

“Weekends.”

“What if I have a family? I need some kind of pleasures in my life if I’m not going to break.”

“Take a vacation.”

“What if I can’t afford it.”

“So you’re going to fuck with other people because you can afford one measly vacation.”

“It’s way more than that!”

“OK, we admit that someone has given you a raw deal. We make things right. You can just go on your merry way.”

“It’s not just me.”

“But you’re the one who’s focusing on things that I do. Do you think that anyone else will care?”

“They’re going to hunt you down.”

“Hunt me how.”

“You’ve left yourself wide open. You’ve almost invited your enemies in.”

“Do I have any choice? You have to let people be free.”

“Your version of freedom is based on a basic infringement of the rights of others.

“How is that? Freedom is freedom.”

“People have built up basic securities for themselves: a house, a job. And you’re willing to wipe that away with one fell swoop.”

“Nothing is guaranteed in life. You’ve got to give businesses the opportunity to protect their investments. They represent the life savings of people.”

“And you aren’t afraid to let that tank for the benefit of a few well-to-do company directors?”

“You’re advancing a political agenda.”

“And you’re not?”

“I just want to protect basic liberty. We can’t have all these regulations restricting a man’s right to opportunity.”

“What kind of opportunity? The opportunity to crowd out small investors to make a quick buck. The chance to reward the executives as a company’s profits go down. Is this the liberty that you defend?”

“That’s how things happen. If we mess with it, we mess with all our freedoms.”

“Tell that to the guy who’s had his car repossessed. Or the mother who’s lost her child’s college fund.”

“She needed to invest more prudently.”

“You encouraged her to invest that way.”

“I’ve lost too.”

“You’ve lost over the short term so that you can reap large benefits today. Your sacrifice only exists so that you can clean up later on.”

“If I do well, it’s only because I know a little more than the average investor.”

“Don’t they call that insider trading?”

“It’s using my head. Most of my information is common knowledge. *The Wall Street Journal*, the internet, the *Times*.”

“You bet on the world to fail. You gain when other people lose. You’re not about people benefitting from their toil. Your meager efforts are rewarded many times over. You’re revered socially, and you turn that into capital.”

“I give people a service. I obey the law. I’m an ethical person.”

“I know the drill. The paragon of virtue. The minute that someone goes face to face with you, you call the authorities. No one can call you on your excesses without you imposing excessive force.”

“You are crossing the line. You’re threatening me.”

“What’s wrong with that? I’m just exercising my constitutional right to protect myself.”

“Your rights are messing with mine.”

“How can you say that? We all need to express ourselves.”

“You’re raising your voice. You’re becoming confrontational.”

“That’s all well and good. I’m telling it like it is.”

“You’re using language in a way that infringes on the rights of others.”

“You’re the one who always advances libertarian rights. Are these the limits of your oversight?”

“You are overstepping the bounds of civility.”

“You have been overstepping all along.”

“What I do is totally within my rights as a citizen.”

“You have trampled on the rights of thousands of people. I challenge you, and you cry foul.”

“You’re the one who’s becoming personally aggressive.”

“What are you afraid of? That I’m going to step on your toes. Is that where infringement begins and ends with you.”

“I have an army of lawyers to keep me in check. To make sure that I don’t do the things that you accuse me of.”

“So they rewrite the law that makes everything go in your favor.”

“That’s just paranoia. The law serves the majority of the citizens, not the few discontents.”

“What majority? The ones that you don’t see. That you render incapacitated to take any action.”

“That would be impossible. I’d have to affect nearly every citizen in the nation.”

“Isn’t that your dream?”

“I do my part to help make things better for the rest of humanity.”

“You’re in this world cut off from everyone else. You and your gang act as if people are just pawns in your chess game.

“We’re not into handouts. We make the tough decisions. And we reward those who work hard! Where’s the complaint.”

“You’ve rigged the game not to be productive. Just to fall your way.”

"I'm no different than anyone else. I play by the rules. I look out for my friends. And I like to be rewarded for my efforts."

"What efforts? You're not even that good a magician."

"What does that mean?"

"Guess. You make people believe that you're creating value. But it's all sleight of hand."

"I do what I have to in order to protect myself and my family."

"What are you asking me? Are you asking me to break in?"

"I'll give you the first shot, baby brother."

"I'm not your baby brother."

"You might as well be!"

"What are you trying to tell me?"

"You claim that you're battling some monolithic bogeyman. But you're just envious of your big brother."

"OK , big guy, what's next?"

"We have to go back in your past. Use a microscope to see where things went wrong."

"Work my way backwards to figure out why I feel the way that I do."

"You do that."

"I've been doing that all along. And I just come back to the same thing."

"You're only messing with me. You just want the same result. That I did all this to you."

"You think that you have some kind of privilege to make your own rules. It gives you the license to do pretty much what you want."

"So what? What's your complaint?"

"For starters, I just don't like your face."

"That seems original."

"It's not what it looks like. It more that it looks like what it represents."

"And what is that? Someone who has a clue. A guy who has his life together."

"More like a guy who tries to get other people sleep where he shits."

"Compliments get you everywhere."

"Once I crack the facade, I'll see what's inside."

"What if I'm only the empty shell that you claim to be my nature?"

"Don't you think that you're worth more than this?"

"What am I supposed to do about it?"

"You better figure that out!"

"Is that a threat?"

"I'm not going to reveal all my secrets."

"I thought that you wanted to break me down to my hidden secrets."

"How you always manage to land on your feet."

"I'm an acrobat."

"I always thought it was more of a sexual thing."

"I'm an acrobat."

"Is that what makes you such a dick?"

"I don't have to be. I let the money do the talking for me."

“The sign of a real dick head!”

“I let them come to me. Any complaints.”

“I’m not a taker.”

“What are you? A voyeur.”

“I’m not going to hang around for your show.”

“What’s your complaint. If you could do the same thing, you would!”

“But I don’t.”

“Sour grapes. A weak will.”

“I don’t have the killer instinct.”

“I could give you pointers.”

“I just don’t have the same weapons.”

“You don’t need them.”

“But they get you close. And you let your killer charm do the rest.”

“What are you missing?”

“Motive. Opportunity.”

“It comes down to the same thing. A bad childhood. You start experimenting with the neighbor girl. You never realized that you had that power. So you just took it from there.”

“Sounds a lot more like your career.”

“I don’t need an excuse. You’re the one who’s getting violent.”

“You’ve been pretty aggressive along the way. Don’t think that there isn’t somebody who feels your wrath.”

“Too bad that you couldn’t have joined me in the beginning.”

“We could have worked together?”

“Don’t you need a helper?”

“You’re the one who has the history.”

“And you’re the one with the curiosity. You know what they said about curiosity.”

“You’re confessing to killing a cat.”

“That’s all that I’ll confess to. Now will you quit your interrogation.”

“I’ve finally got you to admit something, and now you want to quit.”

“So you have some real information to share with me?”

“Where the bodies are buried?”

“Something like that.”

“Don’t push me.”

“What a switch. You’re claiming to be the victim.”

“You’ve been threatening me!”

“After all that you’ve done.”

“I go to an office. I arrive early. I stay late. I don’t have time for much else.”

“You do all your damage at work.”

“I’m not going to take it home.”

“Good hideout.”

“I’m not stashing any shit there.”

“It would be nice if you told me about your treasure trove.”

“You do like to keep souvenirs.”

“I can remember things without any concrete reference point.”
 “How do you do it? A good memory.”
 “Photographic.”
 “And that’s enough to turn you on.”
 “It helps me to remember. But I really have to feel something to get turned on.”
 “Then what do you do with *your* victims.”
 “They’re more like fans. I give them an autograph and send them on their way.”
 “What do you autograph? Their asses?”
 “They’re a lot easier than that.”
 “That’s your alibi!”
 “We work well together.”
 “I’m not signing up for your insanity.”
 “You’re hanging around and waiting for a little madness.”
 “I’m the one playing by the book.”
 “What book? The nutty. nutty book.”
 “You’re joking about hurting people.”
 “I would never call it a crime site.”
 “More like a grave.”
 “What are you trying to pin on me? You’re the one who’s threatening to kill me.”
 “Your victims end up doing it to themselves.”
 “I could teach you some techniques.”
 “How to win friends...”
 “...and bury people. Isn’t that how you’d like to it to read?”
 “Things happen out there. Isn’t that what you’re trying to convince me of?”
 “You’re the one who’s looking for the creepy shit.”
 “If the suit fits...”
 “You’re only trying to lure me into your lair so that you can have your liberty with me.”
 “I’m not a pervert like you.”
 “Call me names!”
 “You want me to say I’m sorry. We can go through to the list, and when we get to the conclusion, I can tell the world that I’ve found a pervert.”
 “What are you doing? The body count?”
 “I thought that was your department. I get lost in just imagining your crimes.”
 “You know a nice body when you see it.”
 “Where is this going?”
 “Where does any good fantasy lead?”
 “Where?”
 “To the dirty part. And then you want to give it a go.”
 “I’m not a panty hound if that’s what you mean.”
 “But you’re getting into it.”
 “Why would your say that?”
 “You want to talk about panties!”
 “Are you trying to distract me?”

“I can talk about my conquests. Although they are not really conquests. They are much closer to surrenders.”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about.”

“You don’t like to dip it now and then.”

“I’m not going to give you any ammunition for your silliness.”

“Now you’re going moral on me all of a sudden.”

“I’m not here to hear about your lurid activities.”

“You want to pry, and you don’t want to hear about my secrets.”

“I’m not looking for a sex scandal.”

“I’ve got needs. That’s what makes me tick.”

“Your needs to the exclusion of everyone else.”

“You’re going around in a circle again.”

“You’ve grown tired of peeking in other people’s windows.”

“I was never about that!”

“So how do you get your information. Phone questionnaires. You’re telling me that you don’t like to pry.”

“I’m not a porn fiend.”

“It’s better to live than it is to watch it.”

“So you just go with your feeling.”

“I do. No guilt. I know that makes you ashamed. But I love it.”

“So you want me to do like you do.”

“Just do what you like to do.”

“You need to know how to hurt. Then you wouldn’t worry so much about making other people feel badly.”

“As long as you never feel badly, that’s all that matters.”

“No penance.”

“Back to your torture experience!”

“Are you happy?”

“Are you sentencing me a life of unhappiness? Good luck!”

“Am I getting a little close? You don’t like to sweat.”

“I like to sweat when I have a good time.”

“I’m not encouraging you.”

“What are you going to do?”

“What does it take to get you going? Tell me what makes you excited?”

“This is more of a mental thing. You’re tried to rule with the body. You only give in to your whims.”

“Its all about this personal match between us. You haven’t got one over on me yet.”

“What’s your defense now?”

“That you’re really not that much different than me.”

“I’m quite different. I’m over game playing.”

“I’m not ready to untie you.”

“So what are you ready for?”

“Some hot oil. The rack. Suffocation.”

“Edge play.”

“You’re enjoying this too much.”

“So what!”

“Is everyone lying to me?”

“Not everyone. Just me!”

“You have to stop.”

“Are you going to beat the truth out of me.”

“That has been pretty fun!”

“What about the aftermath?”

“I’m just here to get what I want from you. What happens afterwards really isn’t my problem.”

“Is that why you needed a professional for the job?”

“I’ve been trying to act pretty professional.”

“Are you trying to scare me again?”

“I don’t try. I work with one on one contact.”

“I just close my eyes, and it hurts a lot less.”

“Take something for it, and it won’t hurt at all.”

“I’m just taking a peek.”

“You only hear what you want to hear.”

“You can’t play around like that and not risk some kind of retribution.”

“I could end it myself.”

“I’m not going to give you the satisfaction. Not until you’ve admitted quite a bit to me.”

“Who are you working for?”

“I should ask you that question. You’ve got the bodies piling up.”

“I could show you my hiding place now.”

“Who’s telling you to do these things?”

“I’m working on my own. If it was a conspiracy, you could blame me.”

“It feels pretty bad.”