

7. THE PATH TO SUCCESS

“How would you like to make a lot of money?”
 “I’m married.”
 “You’re married?”
 “Not exactly. But I am engaged.”
 “You better be sure about something like that.”
 “I’m trying to be.”
 “I could help you get certain.”
 “You have lovely eyes, a great smile. Such beautiful teeth!”
 “The better to eat you with!”
 “What’s going on?”
 “You’re realizing that you want to be with me. So what’s your problem?”
 “I told you that I’m with someone.”
 “Not for now. Maybe for some time in the future.”
 “I don’t want to sell myself short like that.”
 “You’re selling yourself short by not living in the moment.”
 “What is this? The do what you want philosophy because you don’t give a fuck about the future?”
 “This is out future!”
 “If I’m not faithful now, how can I ever be faithful?”
 “I’m not going to report on you.”
 “I’ll know.”
 “Good. Keep it to yourself!”
 “Don’t you know how to respect yourself?”
 “Yeah, I know how to keep a secret.”
 “Some things you do want to share with the world. That’s how love is.”
 “You share what you can’t have for yourself. You’ve got to be less possessive about yourself. About your body. About others. You can’t control time.”
 “How you feel can have a real effect on someone else. And that can influence what you feel. What you consider important in your life.”
 “Don’t make more of things that aren’t that important.”
 “I don’t want to feel that life is so haphazard.”
 “You can’t worry about that until you settle down. Have fun for now!”
 “The most fun is something that lasts. Something that reminds you of something that is lasting. That gives you a jolt.”
 “Sometimes it’s good just to forget.”
 “I tried that. It’s not as if you’re that different.”
 “Exactly! It’s not as if you’re that different.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “That you can have a little fun while it’s available.”
 “Tell me about yourself. What turns you on? What’s fun for you? Licorice-flavored liqueurs.

“Taking it up the ass!”

“Really?”

“No, I’m messing with you.”

“It’s not as if we could ever be together. But if we were, I could do right by you.”

“What does that mean?”

“I could provide for you?”

“How would you do that?”

“By making the right decisions. I would do what has to be done.”

“Are you making me an offer?”

“I can’t. It wouldn’t be right. Not the way things are. But if I could, I most certainly would.”

“I should find that comforting.”

“Of course, it is comforting. That’s the way things could be. You should find that very comforting.”

“When we’re together, I can pretend that you’ll provide for me.”

“I’ll do what I can. Of course, we can never really be together.”

“You wouldn’t mind making out, would you?”

“I don’t know.”

“How about having sex?”

“I really can’t do that.”

“You’re saying that you can’t. But we’re spending all this time talking about it. It must mean that you’re a little interested.”

“Are you interested?”

“What are you asking me?”

“If I could sleep with you, would you sleep with me?”

“That seems like quite a lot to wonder about.”

“I wouldn’t mind sleeping with you.”

“Wouldn’t mind—like a rash that you’re trying to kick?”

“I’d like it quite a bit. We’d have quite a bit of fun together. You would enjoy it.”

“Quit being a pussy! Tell me that you want to fuck me.”

“I am with someone. I don’t know if I can say it like that.”

“You’re just going to let it happen. That makes you somewhat more moral. You didn’t intend it. It was an accident.”

“I should walk away now.”

“But I’m too cute to resist.”

“Something like that!”

“Why don’t we set some boundaries? You can do this, but you can’t do that.”

“No physical contact, but a lot of flirting.”

“Some physical contact, but no penetration.”

“This is starting to sound very legal. So I can lick you clean, but I can’t put my penis inside you.”

“Is that satisfactory to you? After you taste it, aren’t you going to want to put it inside. It’ll feel so good.”

“I don’t want to cross that boundary. Then I still have some latitude of deniability.”

“Always the legal scholar.”

“I want this to work out. I’m taking the right path to success.”

“Why don’t you get so drunk that you can’t help yourself? You’ll hardly remember what happened. So there won’t be much to deny.”

“I’m leaning in that direction.”

“Your woman must have some kind of super pussy if you’re going to all this effort to seduce me.”

“I thought that you were seducing me.”

“You smiled at me first. You said something to get me over here. You can’t pin it all on me.”

“You started talking about sex.”

“You wanted me to talk about. Your body language said that you were ready. I only gave you what you wanted.”

“I never talked about sex until you brought it up. I am with someone. She is pretty super. But you are irresistible. I’d be with my woman if she was right here, right now. But you’re here. And I can’t help myself.”

“Nice excuse. So I’m just a one night stand.”

“I didn’t say that. I am with someone. And I want to say that I’d be with her no matter what. But we could be great together. And then I’d have to wonder if I could go back to her.”

“Are you challenging me? I know that I’m going to be fantastic. But you don’t look to be in that great shape. And if you mess up, are you just going to blame it on me?”

“I’d only blame it on you if it was your fault.”

“How can I believe you? How can I know anything about you?”

“We could try it out. We could kiss.”

“You want to kiss me here with all these people watching. The word wouldn’t get back to her.”

“There are people who know me here. But no one knows her. They’re loyal to me. They’re not going to tell her. You’re not going to tell, are you?”

“Do you want me to? Do you want me to leave my earring in your bed?”

“I want to go to your place.”

“Are you inviting yourself?”

“I’m making a suggestion. I’m just wondering what I should do.”

“Equivocating again.”

“Do you want to have me over?”

“It’s not as if you can come to my place.”

“What’s the problem?”

“It’s a little far to drive. And then I’d have to drive you back.”

“You want to come to my place. Do I have it right?”

“You have it pretty good!”

“You want to sleep with me at my place.”

“More or less!”

“But nothing is going to happen.”

“I can’t promise that.”
 “If you could, would you promise that?”
 “If I could promise, I would promise you that something would happen. But I can’t.”
 “If you come to my place, you’re going to fuck me. Then you’re going to feel guilty about it. And that will help you resolve your conscience. That will get you off the hook.”
 “I don’t see it like that.”
 “Are you going to fuck me hard? Are you going to lose yourself in my body.”
 “You have a great body.”
 “And you can imagine having sex with me just by looking.”
 “I’m getting hard staring in your eyes.”
 “Is this the right way to go?”
 “If we were doing something illegal, we would both be punished for this.”
 “Do you want to punish me right here?”
 “I don’t know.”
 “Are you doing this to punish yourself?”
 “I have no idea why I am really doing this.”
 “But that’s not going to stop you.”
 “No, it’s not. I’m not really thinking about anything else at this point.”
 “You’re the one who always looks ahead.”
 “I am. I’m thinking about my job, the house, the wife, the children. But I would put all that aside just to be with you.”
 “Why not right here? Kiss me in front of everyone.”
 “Let’s go back to your place.”
 “You want to come back to my place.”
 “Yes.”
 “Even if it means turning your back on everything that you’ve worked for.”
 “Is that what it means?”
 “This is not about me. What do you want? Do you know what you want?”
 “I want to be inside you.”
 “You can put it like that. That brutal. That raw.”
 “Doesn’t that excite you?”
 “It might if I wanted to be with you. Are you even sure about that? Do you care?”
 “I’m not going to do this if you don’t want to. I’m not going to follow you back to your place. You can just walk away now.”
 “You can too. Are you giving yourself an out?”
 “I’m trying to get away. Trying to quit while I’m ahead.”
 “Go!”
 “You’re too hot to walk away on.”
 “So you want to fuck me?”
 “You could say that.”
 “Even if that means wrecking all your plans.”
 “I could revise my plans.”
 “What do we share? We both like good scotch, and we like to fuck. I could be one of a

million girls.”

“You could. But right now, you’re the one who’s offering me the access to heaven.”

“The great metaphysical fuck.”

“You have something special. You’re intelligent. You can talk well. I’d love to be with you.”

“Love to. But you are with someone else. The best excuse for fucking hundreds of women. You are the guy who is in love. So he can’t stray forever. But one night or so won’t mess with the grand plan.”

“It might derail it for the time being. What can you show me?”

“What can any girl show you that you haven’t seen before?”

“Some are tighter. They work out. They can give me what I need.”

“That’s just another excuse.”

“You’ve got a great little body. I can’t stop there. I’d love to see a lot more of you.”

“You want to see my pussy! My tight little body.”

“I’m just telling you how I feel.”

“Should I reach in your pants to see if you really are hard.”

“Would you like to do that?”

“It all seems so easy. What is it about you? Why do girls get taken in by your shit over and over again. And your woman. Is she the most naive of all?”

“When she’s around, I only have eyes for her.”

“What does around mean? She goes to the bathroom, and you’re flirting with the waitress.”

“Not exactly.”

“You don’t want any opportunity go to waste.”

“It doesn’t hurt to talk to other girls.”

“What about buying them drinks? Having lunch with them. Going out with them when she’s out of town. Going back to their places. Making out with them, but not sleeping with them. Sleeping with them, but not caring about them. Caring about them, but not caring about them forever.”

“I saw a movie like that once.”

“Things are getting a little out of hand.”

“I want to sleep with you. And I don’t care about her right now.”

“So I become part of your grand plan. And once you neutralize me, you get another girl.”

“What’s wrong with that?”

“You make every girl that you’re with feel like she’s a princess. She starts to believe that the sun rises and falls with her most insignificant whims.”

“So what’s the big deal?”

“They all think that you can work some kind of magic.”

“I don’t even believe my own shit.”

“That’s a good excuse.”

“I can’t help what other people think.”

“Charm just comes naturally to you.”

“Are you making fun of me?”

“I wish that I could actually have some kind of affect on you. At least, I know better!”
 “So why are you trying to yank my chain for messing with these girls?”
 “I’m not blaming you. I ‘m just calling it like it is.”
 “Do you still want to go back to my place?”
 “I do. I just have to tell my ride that I’m OK.”
 “Who is that girl?”
 “She’s pretty hot! Isn’t she?”
 “Wow! Mesmerizing eyes and juicy lips.”
 “She is a looker.”
 “What about Janine?”
 “She’ll never know.”
 “Know what?”
 “About Melissa.”
 “And Melissa knows about Janine?”
 “She doesn’t care. She just wants to have fun.”
 “What about you?”
 “I’m telling her that I feel guilty. But down deep, I just want to bag this girl. Janine be damned!”
 “Isn’t that kind of stuff going to catch up with you?”
 “It’s not as if Janine has radar.”
 “What if she does? What if this is just the beginning of the end for you? You’re going to wreck a good thing!”
 “Just go. I’m going to be all right on my own.”
 “You’ve been doing this kind of thing a lot lately. Don’t you know when to stop?”
 “This is a good place to stop.”
 “You’re going to have a girl on the side.”
 “I’m going to do what I need to make things right for me.”
 “Janine can’t tell that you’ve been with another girl.”
 “She’s not around here. She won’t be back for a while. What I do, when I’m on my own, it is my business.”
 “Melissa is pretty hot. Why don’t you let me be with her?”
 “Go find your own girl.”
 “You just want to waste her like that.”
 “I’ve got her handled. You can go.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “For right now, she’s with me.”
 “And you want to pretend that it’s more than that.”
 “I always do. That’s why I go for quality bitches.”
 “Why are you such a dick? I’m not like you. Don’t you think that Melissa would rather be with me.”
 “You’re my side-kick. The reason that she’s with me is I’ve got something to offer. You’re a bit of a loser. I’m doing all that I can to hold you up.”
 “I hate you.”

“You want to be me. You want your cock sliding in that hot tender pussy.”

“Why are you like this?”

“You want her just by staring at those lips. That tight little body of hers. Just look at how her jeans hug her ass. What does that make you think about?”

“It makes me think about what a monster you are. You can’t have all the girls.”

“Why not? What are you going to do about it. You sit here and fantasize.”

“I don’t really have much in common with the women here. I don’t have much in common with many people.”

“Look at that body. You’d have lot in common with her. Imagine going down on her. You’d realize the perfection.”

“It’s all the same in the dark.”

“That’s what you think. That girl is prime. So clean. She wants it all the time. Her perfume could make you hard.”

“You are going home with her.”

“Of course, I am. I laid the guilt trip on her.”

“She bought it!”

“She thought that she was convincing me of something.”

“I’ll see you later! You know where the key is.”

“Thanks for helping me out.”

“That’s your ride.”

“I stay with him when I’m downtown. That way I don’t have to make the trek when I’ve had a little too much to drink.”

“So you’re ready to go back to my place.”

“I am. But should we hang a little longer here.”

“And delay the inevitable.”

“Are we really sure that it is the inevitable?”

“Your ride left you. Do you want me to leave you too?”

“No, I just don’t want it to be so abrupt.”

“You know where this is headed.”

“Maybe, I need to be reminded of what we’re really doing.”

“And that’s going to give you a clean conscience.”

“Whatever happens happens.”

“You are taking things for granted.”

“What do you want me to say?”

“What do you feel the need to say? That I’m turning you on.”

“I thought that we agreed to that already.”

“You’re going to have to offer me a little more.”

“Like what? The keys to the kingdom.”

“You think that I’m just going to give in because you smile at me.”

“I thought that we were pretty well beyond that.”

“It’s just that you brought things to a halt.”

“I’d like to get it all going again!”

“You can’t make it go just by saying go.”

“I’m ready to say go.”
 “And your hot girl at home.”
 “She’s out of town.”
 “And when she comes back.”
 “I guess that I’ll go back to her. But I can’t know that for sure.”
 “Uncertainty turns me on.”
 “Really?”
 “Not at all. I was just trying to flatter you.”
 “Flattery will get you everywhere.”
 “Everywhere? Are you going to make me an offer? I can be part of your great plan.”
 “I’m not sure.”
 “You’re holding back on me.”
 “I have to use things to my advantage.”
 “You’re going to try to make a play for the big time.”
 “You’ll have to figure that out!”
 “You can’t be friends with everybody. You have to commit something of yourself.”
 “I don’t know whether I can do that.”
 “You already have. You’ve committed yourself to the moment.”
 “So that’s the definition of success.”
 “How’s that?”
 “Getting things right for the moment.”
 “And then it fades away.”
 “Or you learn how to pull all the moments together.”
 “So success is getting it right every time.”
 “Learning how to predict things with certainty.”
 “What can you tell by looking?”
 “I can tell that you’ve got it.”
 “Got it how?”
 “The perfect body.”
 “I don’t feel so perfect. Not today. I just take a look at myself in a mirror, and I look pretty terrible.”
 “You look pretty fantastic to me.”
 “Too bad that I can’t live off of your mirror.”
 “What would it mean if you could?”
 “I probably wouldn’t have to work. I could survive on my looks.”
 “Really?”
 “If I believed your flattery.”
 “What would be sufficient for that?”
 “I’d have to feel pretty much the same that you do about success.”
 “There are rules that make the world the way that it is.”
 “You sound like an artist or a lawyer.”
 “Learn the rules, and you can clean up.”
 “What if things are a little more complex than that?”

“How could that be?”

“I don’t know. The human factor.”

“You have to figure that the rules are pretty much in your favor when you look at yourself in the mirror.”

“What are you telling me?”

“You know how snugly your jeans fit.”

“So what. I’m just having a lucky day.”

“You’ve got to know what a guy thinks when he sees your like that.”

“You’re a bit of a pervert.”

“You work at it all the time. You starve yourself. And then you wonder why things go your way. Quit working me for compliments!”

“I’m telling it like it is.”

“Don’t tell me that it doesn’t drive you wild when you realize that a guy will do anything for you. Just for a chance to touch you.”

“Are you ready to give me what I need?”

“You better be worth it.”

“Worth what? Are you willing to put out?”

“What is up for grabs?”

“The perfect body for the perfect soul.”

“The perfect success!”

“You’ve got the career, the house, the car, the securities. Are they all on the table?”

“Not all at once.”

“Just as I thought. You not really willing to risk much of anything. But you want me to give you everything that you have.”

“What are you willing to offer me?”

“I could have everything that I want for so much less.”

“Is that the deal that you have with your lover? Or do you know where to hide things?”

“That’s what love is!”

“She might know the difference.”

“Do you? Have you changed your mind?”

“I don’t know!”

“You’re thinking that you’re not going to get you share.”

“How much are you willing to cough up?”

“Now you have a price?”

“I’m just doing some random numbers in my head.”

“Getting a little over-confident?”

“You were the one who was throwing around the word perfect.”

“It was idle speculation.”

“Maybe I could get a better prospect if I hold out.”

“Better than me? Good luck.”

“I thought that you were looking for a good time.”

“I was the one who was holding out because I was already with someone.”

“I don’t want to put you in a difficult position, but you were the one who seemed to be

wanting more than I did.”

“How is that?”

“I gave you every opportunity to back off. But you kept coming strong!”

“That’s how you see it.”

“You practically had me prancing around naked in the bar. Now you’re playing Father Perfect.”

“Is that how you always work it?”

“It’s not as if I want to call things off.”

“What about your lover?”

“She’s not around. Why should I worry about her?”

“So you are ready for a little sin.”

“I guess so!”

“Is redemption part of the process?”

“How does that work?”

“You’re the guy with the perfect smile. What are you willing to share?”

“I thought that you didn’t expect anything.”

“I only want what you want. I just thought that you might be a little more forthcoming.”

“You said fun is fun.”

“Did I? Oh well. I thought about what you said. You’re coming over to my way of thinking about things.”

“Maybe.”

“So what happens to your sweet Lenore!

“She’ll have to pine until she makes it back to the city.”

“We’ll just continue where we left off.”

“And where was that?”

“You were about to sign over you future to me!”

“Nice move. Are you always so clever?”

“I usually don’t have such an easy adversary.”

“What does this have to do with perfection?”

“Nothing. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

“We are heading back to your place.”

“Your friend left so you need a ride. Isn’t that how you worked it?”

“I’m not that clever.”

“You’re pretty obvious. Is there even a girl?”

“Sure there is.”

“She has no idea what you’re doing. Is she the dumbest of the bunch?”

“I used to think that she was pretty perfect.”

“It’s a convenient time to have your doubts.”

“Are you trying to tell me something?”

“I thought that you were warning me.”

“About what?”

“How not to make the same mistake.”

“We’re only talking about a night.”

“You’re sure of that.”
“What does that mean?”
“You’re the one who’s starting to have your doubts. I’m only here for fun.”
“You’re working me!”
“Am I worth it?”
“You’ve got kissable lips.”
“Is that enough?”
“I don’t know.”
“You’re the one who’s looking for a little perfection.”
“Do you think that I’ll find it?”
“If you haven’t found it yet, do you think that you’re going to get any closer?”
“I feel a lot closer.”
“I’ve been saving all my tricks for a moment like this.”
“And what are you expecting in return?”
“You told me as much as to say that you had nothing to give.”
“You have nothing to give yourself.”
“Do you think that I’m holding back?”
“I have a lot more to risk.”
“How is that? You obviously don’t care about your word.”
“I’m trying to be up front with you.”
“Towards what end?”
“I guess that I feel a little guilty.”
“And in the same sentence, you’re telling me that I’ve got nothing to lose.”
“We all have a little to lose.”
“Your perfection?”
“Things aren’t that bad.”
“So you won’t mind if I take a rain check.”
“I still need a ride.”
“I can give you money for a cab.”
“You can’t give me a ride?”
“Take the money!”
“What does that mean?”
“The deal’s off.”
“You can’t leave me like this.”
“Are you too hot to cool down?”
“Huh?”
“Shove some ice down your pants. That will help you cool down.”