

THE SHY ROMANTICS

by

PETER GARTNER

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INT: BEDROOM - NIGHT

MEL, a slim attractive blonde, reclining on the bed; JUDD, a handsome guy, reclining next to her, kissing her. They seem to move as one, as Judd starts to undo the buttons on her blouse, whilst still kissing her.

Mel suddenly stops. Judd stops when he senses she has stopped. He removes his fingers from her blouse.

MEL
I...don't want to fuck...

JUDD
What - ?

MEL
I said, I don't want to fuck...

JUDD
Why not ?

MEL
I don't..enjoy it...

JUDD
Fucking - ?

MEL
Yes...I don't..enjoy it...

JUDD
Not at all ?

MEL
Not at all.

JUDD
Fuck...

MEL
Exactly...

JUDD
Then, what are we gonna do ?

MEL
We can kiss..I don't mind that..
What I really like, is..a man
kissing my neck..I really enjoy
that...

JUDD
- Not sex ?

MEL
Not sex. I don't think a man..
can, expect..should expect, a
woman, to fuck him...I just,
don't think, it's reasonable..
not in this day and age...

JUDD
 What can a man..what should a
 man, reasonably expect..from
 a woman ?

MEL
 A kiss...

JUDD
 A kiss - ? Nothing else ?

MEL
 Not sex.

She gets up from the bed. He shakes his head, bemused.

MEL
 Life is precious..our relationship,
 is precious..

JUDD
 We have a relationship ?

MEL
 Sure we do...

He gets up off the bed.

MEL
 Sex is not necessary...sex is...

She searches for the right word..

MEL
 ...regrettable...sex is..
 regrettable...

He ponders her use of the word "regrettable". He tries to be more sensitive.

JUDD
 I'm sorry...

She looks at him.

JUDD
 ...if I hurt you...

MEL
 You didn't hurt me..

JUDD
 ...if I upset you...I was..
 insensitive...

MEL
 A little...Not a lot..

She sits on the bed.

MEL
 I think, love is beautiful...

MEL (con'd)

Affection is..so nice...but sex,
sex is ugly..sex is..animalistic..
sex is...not nice at all.

JUDD

What do you want, from a relationship ?

MEL

Affection...kisses...touching each
other, in a nice, gentle way, with
complete consent..not to go too far.

JUDD

How do I know, how far I can go ?

She cannot think of an immediate answer to this.

MEL

Sit down.

He sits on the bed, and looks at her. He notices that her blouse is still
a little open.

She realises this and starts to button up her blouse.

JUDD

You have beautiful skin...so..
smooth...Can I kiss you there ?

MEL

Not my breast.

JUDD

Why not ?

MEL

It might arouse me, too much.
I wanna keep..control. If you
like, you can kiss my shoulder.

She exposes her shoulder.

He feels her skin around her shoulder, and traces his forefinger along
it, just below the bone.

JUDD

So smooth.

He kisses along her shoulder.

After a while, she moves to indicate, he should stop.

He stops.

She buttons up her blouse.

MEL

Wasn't that nice ?

He nods.

MEL
Better than sex ?

He retracts himself a little from her, but looks doubtful.

JUDD
It felt good...but..I feel,
aroused. You are, beautiful.
You are, sexy...

MEL
That doesn't mean, I need to
have sex.

JUDD
You're right.

He gets up from the bed.

JUDD
You're right.

He breathes heavily, then goes into the adjoining bathroom.

Mel looks a little puzzled.

Judd left the door to the bathroom open.

Mel gets up from the bed and walks towards the bathroom.

INT: BATHROOM - SEX

As Mel quietly enters, Judd is in a corner with his back to her.

She silently approaches closer, then stops about two feet from him.

MEL
What are you doing ?

Judd is startled and stops what he was doing.

MEL
What..are you..doing ?

JUDD
What do you think ?

MEL
You're...

She hears a zip going up.

He turns around to face her.

JUDD
I was..masturbating.

MEL
Masturbating ?

He shrugs.

JUDD
Masturbating. You aroused me...

MEL
To jerk yourself off ?

JUDD
I...

MEL
You wanker !

JUDD
I felt, so aroused. You would
not allow me to fuck you.

MEL
Of course not...

JUDD
So, I had to, relieve myself...

MEL
You had to ?

JUDD
I had to.

She shakes her head.

JUDD
Anyway, why did you creep up on
me ? The bathroom is a private
place.

MEL
You left the door open...

He sighs.

JUDD
I guess, I was in a hurry...

MEL
To masturbate - ?

JUDD
I was aroused...Please, leave me
alone.

MEL
So, you can jerk yourself off ?

JUDD
I need to...ejaculate...

MEL
Fuck off !

She turns around and goes out of the bathroom. She is angry at first,
then recovers her composure. She closes the door, slowly and carefully.

He goes towards the washbasin and stands in front of.

The noise of unzipping.

Later:

He has finished.

The sound of water from taps, then turned off.

A little later:

He emerges from the bathroom, goes back into the bedroom.

INT: BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mel is seated on the bed.

Judd sits on a chair.

MEL

Did you enjoy, your wank ?

JUDD

I had to...cum.

MEL

Did you really, have to cum ?

JUDD

I had to...

MEL

Why ?

JUDD

I was aroused. You aroused me.

MEL

Did I ?

JUDD

You sure did. I had to, relieve myself.

MEL

By ejaculating into the washbasin ?

JUDD

Did you see that ?

MEL

I could hear the taps.

JUDD

That was to..wash away the cum.
I cleaned it, afterwards.

MEL

Good. Sex is, messy.

JUDD

It can be...

MEL

It is. Messy, and smelly, and wet,
and..just, gross.

JUDD

I would've worn a condom.

MEL

I'm glad to hear that.

JUDD

Look, Mel, I wouldn't force myself
on you. I would not rape good.

MEL

Good.

JUDD

I hope I am a gentleman.

MEL

Are you a, gentle man ?

JUDD

I can be gentle.

MEL

I'm glad to hear it.

JUDD

I would never force myself on
a woman.

MEL

Good.

A beat.

JUDD

So, what do we do now ?

MEL

We don't hafta do anything. You
have got some satisfaction. You..
ejaculated. You should be satisfied.

JUDD

What about you ? Are you satisfied ?

MEL

What I really like, is a man, kissing
down my neck...

JUDD

I could do that.

MEL

But you've had your satisfaction.

JUDD
I want you to be happy. I want
to please you.

MEL
Okay. Come over here.

Judd gets up and goes over to the bed.

He sits down next to her.

Mel undoes two buttons on her blouse, to expose her neck.

JUDD
You are, beautiful.

MEL
I know.

Judd kisses down Mel's neck. She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT: COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Mel at a table, with a cup of latte, seated across from KATIE.

MEL
I was with this guy...

KATIE
Yeah...

MEL
He kissed me...

Katie is looking at her own cup of latte, not interested.

MEL
...I didn't fuck him...

This gets Katie's attention and she looks up at Mel.

KATIE
You didn't - ?

MEL
No.

KATIE
Why not ?

MEL
I didn't want to.

KATIE
- And he respected that ?

MEL
Yes.

KATIE
That's interesting.

MEL

Is it ?

KATIE

He was a gentleman, respecting you.

MEL

He had a wank afterwards...

KATIE

Did he ?

MEL

He said he was aroused. I went into the bathroom, and he had to admit, he was..masturbating.

KATIE

Shit. - You interrupted him - ?

MEL

I guess I did. He had to finish.

KATIE

Did you see that - ?

MEL

No. I left him to it...to, finish. He said, he had to cum...he was aroused..I aroused him...

KATIE

You aroused him...?

MEL

That's what he said.

KATIE

Did you..arouse him ?

Mel ponders this for a moment.

MEL

We were kissing...

KATIE

Uh-huh...

MEL

He wanted to go further. He wanted sex...

Mel looks at Katie, waiting for her to say something, but Katie is waiting for Mel to go on, which Mel does, after a while.

MEL

I told him to fuck off.

KATIE

Good for you...

MEL

I let him kiss my neck...I actually enjoyed that.

KATIE

Good...Who was this guy, anyway ?

MEL

Just some guy I met. You know, nowadays, we tend to have, casual relationships...maybe, they're so casual, you can't even call them, "relationships." You meet people, you..get involved...but I will not fuck them..I like what I like.. I don't like what I don't like.

KATIE

Men should be, more considerate.. towards women...Sometimes I think, only women, can understand women.

Mel looks up at Katie.

MEL

Maybe, you're right.

KATIE

Women have more, compassion..more, empathy..women, understand women.

MEL

Men don't understand shit..not even themselves...

KATIE

That's very true. - You ever thought of, dating a woman - ?

MEL

A woman ? Dating a woman ?

KATIE

Why not ? Give it a try..You might get more, emotional fulfilment out of a woman..than a man...I mean, men are fundamentally, immature.. immature...they don't understand women...Women understand women...

Mel ponders this.

MEL

A date with a woman...?

KATIE

Sure...

MEL

A relationship with a woman - ?

Mel puts her hand against her chin.

KATIE
It's possible...

MEL
Umm...perhaps it is.

KATIE
You should give it a try.

MEL
Maybe you're right.

KATIE
Girl-on-girl..woman-on-woman,
ain't just for porn. Real people
do it as well. I'm talking from
experience here.

Mel leans back to think about this.

MEL
You got experience ?

KATIE
Sure, I have. In fact, I prefer
woman...I ain't too fond of the
penis. I prefer a woman's touch..
her silky skin, her refined and
delicate features...her sense of
what, sensual means...

MEL
"Sensual - ?"

KATIE
Erotic..not pornographic...

A beat.

MEL
Er, how do I go about finding
a woman..to, er, kiss ? A woman,
I can touch...her face, her hands,
her..shoulder ?

KATIE
Well, how did you go about, finding
a man ?

MEL
Online...

KATIE
But...er, that didn't work out
too well...

MEL
You have, some experience...?

KATIE
Yes...

MEL
You know, women, who do it ?

KATIE
I certainly do...

MEL
Who would you, recommend ?

KATIE
Who would I recommend ?

MEL (nodding)
Yes...

KATIE
Why, me..I would, recommend, me.

MEL
You would do that for me ?

KATIE
You're beautiful..I would very
much like to date you...

MEL
Okay. You're on.

KATIE
Follow me...

Katie gets up from the table, followed by Mel.

Katie goes towards the entrance, followed by Mel.

They go out, leaving a little latte in the cups.

CUT TO:

INT: BEDROOM - DAY

Katie, seated on the bed.

Mel is looking at herself in the mirror.

KATIE
Come over here.

Mel goes over towards Katie.

KATIE
Come and sit next to me.

Mel sits on the bed, a little distance from Katie.

KATIE
I reckon..we should all live, full
and fulfilling lives...that means,
each one of us, must find their
sexuality...what we like, each one
of us...I like women...some women
are so beautiful, it's a privilege
to kiss them...even just to look at

KATIE (cont'd)
 them, is a privilege...You must
 not be afraid, of, being close
 to a woman...

Katie puts her hand on the sleeve of Mel's blouse on Mel's forearm.

KATIE
 Such nice fabric...

Katie carefully and slowly undoes the buttons on the wrist of Mel's blouse, watched by Mel, who seems a little uncertain and apprehensive.

KATIE
 Relax..Your skin..is, so..fine..
 Breathe..breathe...

Katie relaxes her breathing and now is curious, less apprehensive, interested in what Mel will do.

Katie kisses Mel's wrist, then turns Mel's hand to kiss the back of her hand.

KATIE
 Your hands are delicate, but
 strong...like, reinforced
 porcelain...

This makes Mel laugh a little, relieving her tension.

Mel shakes her head.

MEL
 There's no such thing as, "reinforced
 porcelain." Porcelain is..easy to
 break, very delicate..brittle...

KATIE
 Hmm...

MEL
 That is, a ridiculous comparison...

KATIE
 Perhaps, it is...

MEL
 I am not, easy to break..I am strong.

A beat.

MEL
 You hat-ta be careful, how you treat
 porcelain...

KATIE
 I know. I will be gentle, with you.

MEL
 Don't under-estimate my strength.

Katie looks at Mel.

KATIE
I won't. May I go, a little
further ?

MEL
If you like...

Katie opens up the sleeve of Mel's blouse, exposing her forearm, which she kisses, moving up to Mel's elbow.

Katie then finishes kissing Mel's forearm, and draws back to look at Mel.

Katie smiles at Mel, who half-smiles back.

KATIE
That was nice.

Katie carefully does up the buttons on Mel's sleeve.

KATIE
There. No harm done. Your beauty
is hard to ignore. Every part of
you is perfect, your hands, your
lips, your..smile.

Mel half-smiles at this.

KATIE
The most beautiful part of
a woman's anatomy, is her
shoulder.

Mel looks at Katie, with some apprehension. Katie notices Mel's nervousness and looks at her with earnest eyes.

KATIE
You are, very, very pretty..

MEL (quietly)
Thank you..

KATIE
...very, very pretty...

Katie carefully moves her hand onto Mel's shoulder, then moves to undo the top button of Mel's blouse.

Katie then seems to remember her manners.

KATIE
May I ?

A slight delay before Mel answers.

MEL
Okay..

Katie undoes the top button of Mel's blouse, exposing some neck and a part of her shoulder.

Katie can hear Mel's breathing getting quicker.

KATIE
Relax...Trust me...

Mel tries to control her breathing.

KATIE
Learn to trust me...you can trust me...

Mel takes deeper breaths as Katie's finger-tips touch Mel's neck and shoulder.

Katie then moves her hand back to the buttons on Mel's blouse and undoes another button, exposing a little more of Mel's flesh, but without seeing any of Mel's breasts.

Katie moves her hand back towards Mel's shoulder, and touches it, drawing her forefinger across the ridge of the top of Mel's shoulder blade.

Katie then removes her hand and leans in towards Mel's neck and shoulder. Katie starts to kiss Mel's shoulder.

Mel warily observes Katie's actions, but allows Katie to continue.

Katie then draws back, looks at Katie and smiles at Mel.

Mel quickly half-smiles back.

Katie leans into Mel to kiss her on the lips.

They kiss for about twenty seconds, before Katie finally releases the kiss.

Katie draws back to look at Mel.

KATIE
You are..beautiful.

Mel takes some deep breaths, then her breathing calms down a little.

KATIE
Would you allow me to..see your
abs ?

MEL
My abs ?

KATIE
They can be, very interesting.
I like a flat stomach on a woman..
and..abs...

MEL
I do, exercise...

KATIE
I bet you're very fit...

MEL
I hope I am...

Katie smiles at Mel, who half-smiles back.

KATIE

I love abs...

Katie moves to undo the buttons at the bottom of Mel's blouse.

Mel looks at Katie with some apprehension.

Katie undoes the bottom three buttons on Mel's blouse to expose her tummy.

Mel has a flat stomach and well-defined abs.

KATIE

You have lovely abs.

MEL (quietly)

Thank you.

Katie bends to start kissing Mel's stomach.

Mel just looks slightly apprehensive, but also now a little detached.

Katie kisses along the lines of Mel's abs, then draws back.

Katie looks at Mel.

KATIE

Would you allow me to...?

MEL

What ?

Katie does not say anything more, but leans into Mel, touching her abs with both hands.

Katie then moves her hands upwards towards Mel's breasts, which remain covered by the remaining closed middle buttons on her blouse.

Mel looks on for a moment, almost frozen in shock, then manages to speak.

MEL (quietly)

Don't touch my breasts...

Katie is too absorbed in her action to realise she must desist.

MEL (very loud)

Get your fucking hands off my tits !

Katie is suddenly shocked out of her amorous actions and quickly takes her hands off Mel's breasts.

KATIE

Sorry...

MEL

I don't like it - I hate it !
Don't ever touch my fucking
breasts. I hate being touched
there.

Katie is genuinely puzzled by this.

KATIE

Why ?

MEL

- I hate it ! I just hate it !

Katie sighs.

KATIE

I don't understand that at all.

MEL

It's too..too..intimate. I don't like intimate.

KATIE

What is wrong with you ?

MEL

There's nothing wrong with me !
I just don't like it, that's all.

KATIE

You are unusual.

MEL (angrily)

Am I ?

Katie does not answer.

MEL

I don't like being touched, in those, regions...erogenous zones...

KATIE (puzzled)

Why ?

MEL

It's not nice. It's too..arousing...

KATIE

Er ?

MEL

It's not nice..to be aroused...

KATIE

"Not nice !?" What's "not nice," about it ?

MEL

I don't like it...

KATIE

You don't like, being aroused ?

MEL

I hate it.

KATIE

Why ?

MEL

I don't like..losing control.
Arousal means, you, lose control,
over things..over your emotions.

KATIE

Love-making is all about, losing
control..becoming part of something
more than just yourself...of..a
greater whole...two people, engaging
in a close, relationship..kissing..
having sex...

MEL

I hate sex...I hate, losing control...

KATIE

You have had sex - you have, experienced,
orgasm - ? You're not a virgin ?

MEL

Of course I've had sex. I am not
a virgin. I had sex in high school,
and I hated it. I always found it
more painful than, got any pleasure
out of..having sex. I did not enjoy,
having an orgasm.

KATIE

Most women do, enjoy, orgasm.

MEL

I reached orgasm, but I did not
enjoy it...Orgasm, the whole process
of having sex, is..so, animalistic,
so, gross, even disgusting. I hate
sex.

KATIE

We didn't have sex. I just touched
your breasts -

MEL

You should not have done that - not
without my express permission...

KATIE

I do apologise.

MEL

Why is there this expectation...a woman..
even wants to, have sex ? I hate being
aroused. I hate sex. I hate any loss
of control.

KATIE

Sex means, we share something...our
bodies combine, as one. We should
help each other to..reach orgasm.

Mel scoffs at this idea.

KATIE

You shouldn't be so dismissive,
of sex. Maybe you need some therapy..

MEL

What are you saying ?

KATIE

You need..

MEL

What ? I am not frigid. I don't
believe in that ancient Freudian
crap !

KATIE

Maybe you need to see things
a little differently...

MEL

If I don't like sex, I don't like
sex - so what ?

KATIE

Sex is a necessary part of a healthy
relationship.

MEL

"Necessary !?" I don't think so.
Relationships do not depend on
sex. If anything, sex interferes
with, screws up, relationships
that were perfectly happy, going
along nicely, until sex has to
rear its ugly head. Sex, is not
necessary.

KATIE

I think it is.

MEL

Well, you're wrong - totally wrong.

A beat.

MEL

What would you do to me ?

KATIE

I might..touch..your erogenous zones.
I might, give you an orgasm. I might
have an orgasm myself. Personally,
I don't need a penis, to get an
orgasm. I need to be, penetrated..
but a penis, is not necessary.

MEL

You're not gonna penetrate me -
no way !

Mel gets up and storms around the room.

MEL

You can just fuck off !

KATIE

Mel, I don't wanna upset you...

MEL

You've already upset me !

KATIE

Please, sit down, and think about this...

Mel begins to calm down a little.

KATIE

Please...

Mel sits down on a chair, looking at Katie.

KATIE

You've got to, examine the possibility, there might be something you could change about, your attitude to sex.

MEL

I am physically repelled by sex. Not sure, it's, psychological.

KATIE

It usually is, psychological.

MEL

How would you know ?

KATIE

My own experience. I found I had a psychological block, made me avoid sex, avoid any affection. I could not have any physical intimacy. I found out I was essentially a lesbian, and could only feel love, for a woman.

MEL

That's not my problem. I am, bisexual. I am attracted to women as well as men.

KATIE

Equally - ?

MEL

More or less, yes. I am attracted to the person. I can touch a man, I can kiss a woman, but I can't have sex with either, man or woman.

KATIE

That is, quite a conundrum. You really need to see a psychologist,

KATIE (cont'd)
 psychiatrist. I can recommend
 Dr. Susan Crossman, an excellent
 therapist.

MEL
 What's she like ?

KATIE
 Very clever, very astute.

Mel ponders this offer for a moment.

KATIE
 Go on. Give it a try. You got
 nothing to lose. You got a lot
 to gain, a better understanding
 of yourself, of your sexuality.

MEL
 Well, I will go see your therapist,
 psychologist, psychiatrist, just
 to prove, there's nothing wrong
 with me.

KATIE
 They might not agree...

MEL
 Then they can fuck off.

CUT TO:

INT: CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

DR. SUSAN CROSSMAN, psychiatrist, therapist, seated behind a desk,
 with her name on a block.

Mel seated on a reclining chair.

MEL
 I hate sex.

SUSAN
 Well, that could be a problem...

MEL
 Why should it be a problem ?

SUSAN
 Well, most men and woman are
 programmed to enjoy sex.

MEL
 Well, I had a different programmer.
 What are you gonna do ? De-programme
 me ? Re-programme me ? I am not
 a robot. I am not a machine. I am
 a human being...

SUSAN
 You evolved a little differently...

MEL

Maybe I did; but, lemme assure you, it was a natural process. Re-programming me, would be, unnatural.

SUSAN

What people expect -

MEL

Fuck people ! I am not "people !" I am who I am. I am, what I am. I am non-sexual, A-sexual. I don't like sex...and don't tell me that is so unusual. I bet there's lot-sa folks don't like sex, but most o' them believe that crap, they are.. "programmed", to like sex. They only learn, later on in life, that's when they admit to themselves, they never liked sex in the first place.. they only went along with it, because, society expected it of them. You gotta lose your virginity - which I did - in high school, or you're..unusual. If you're pretty, (which I was), all the guys are queuing up, to fuck you. I yielded, in the end, but seriously, I did not like it...Just pain, not much pleasure. You don't understand that, do you, Miss, Mrs, Dr. Susan Crossman ? You know what you are ?

SUSAN

What ?

MEL

A pedlar of ancient misconceptions. I am so disappointed in you. A woman psychologist, psychiatrist, who still believes in the importance of orgasm. I thought you might be a little bit, more advanced, more modern than that Freudian crap - sex is so essential. I could easily like without orgasm. You're just trying to reinforce outdated notions of what a woman should be.

SUSAN

I do help lesbians and bisexuals, find themselves...

MEL

I bet you do. Not, non-sexuals, or A-sexuals.

SUSAN

That is, a little more difficult.

MEL

Dr. Crossman, you don't have a clue about me..you have no idea...

SUSAN

I have many years of experience.

MEL

Not with people like me. I am,
different.

SUSAN

You certainly are.

MEL

And what's wrong with that ?
I am not, abnormal..just different.

Susan sighs.

SUSAN

What am I gonna do with you ?

MEL

You're unprofessional.

SUSAN

I am respected, in my profession.

MEL

Do any of your patients respect
you ?

SUSAN

Most of them do..respect me.

MEL

Well, I don't.

SUSAN

In time, you may learn to respect
me, if I can help you..find yourself.

MEL

I have, found myself. I hate sex.

SUSAN

But we, have got to, understand
why..you hate sex. There might
be some incident, in your past,
makes you, hate sex. Let me help
you.

Mel thinks about this for a moment.

MEL

What if you can't, help me ?

SUSAN

I've got to try. I owe you that.
It is my professional duty..
I genuinely want to help.

MEL

What do you want, from me ?

SUSAN

I want you, to help me, help you.

MEL

You think that's gonna be easy ?

SUSAN

I'm not convinced of anything.

MEL

Then, why try ?

SUSAN

We've got to try. I implore you to give it a go.

MEL

If it makes you happy...

SUSAN

It's for your benefit.

MEL

Is it ? Is it really ?

SUSAN

If it can help you...

Mel ponders this for a moment, and finally gives in, more to keep Susan quiet, than thinking she might actually benefit from therapy.

MEL

Okay...

Later:

Mel is reclining on the therapy couch.

SUSAN

Tell me about your parents...

MEL

My parents...? Well, I guess you could say, my parents were... incompatible. It makes you wonder how they ever got together in the first place. My father was basically, a bastard...a useless piece of, crap..a waste of space. My mother was, a gentle soul.. too nice an' kindly for him... she was, ineffectual, too tolerant of his misdemeanours...until the time came, she could take no more. She divorced him on the grounds of, unreasonable behaviour, because he would not admit to adultery, which he was more than guilty of...

SUSAN

He cheated on her...?

MEL

He sure did...lotsa times..so often, she could not ignore his transgressions...she once said, "He was busy with his whores... some of the women he does it with, are real hoes." O' course this meant, there was less money for bringing us up, me and my sister...

SUSAN

You got a sister ?

MEL

She's a bit retarded..mentally challenged..neuro-divergent. So, I was kinda resentful of the money he spent on his "lady friends", and they weren't exactly, ladies.

SUSAN

Now, that is interesting. That could explain your aversion to sex. You associate sex with the money your father spent on his, women friends...

MEL

They were whores...

SUSAN

Indeed...And you..suffered from a certain lack of money, a lack of financial security, because, your father spent too much money, on...

MEL

Hoes...whores...

SUSAN

...instead of on, you, and your, sister, and your mother, of course.

MEL

She once said, "I really hate the bastard." I said to her, "you don't hate him anywhere near enough, for all the damage he's done to us..all the damage he's done to you." And it was true...she didn't hate him anywhere near enough. He really was, a piece of shit.

SUSAN

You hate him, and you hate sex. It all makes sense.

MEL

So, what's your cure, Doctor ? What's your prescription ?

SUSAN

You must dissociate the action of sex from your resentment of your father spending money, which was due to you, on...

MEL

...whores...

SUSAN

Exactly.

MEL

We grew up in poverty, but there was always money for his whores, and cigarettes, and cars, and holidays abroad..but mostly, whores...

SUSAN

You avoid anything that might arouse you, to avoid thinking about your father, spending all that money on, prostitutes..which is, understandable.

MEL

I used ta call him, "The Penis," because that's what he was, an utter prick. The worst thing about him, was his insincerity...he was such a hypocrite, pretending to be a decent father, when he spent all that money on whores, and we had to live in..relative poverty. I really resented that..when he expected us to be grateful, for his largesse, his generosity, when he had a huge wad of ten dollar notes in his hand, and he peeled off a single, ten dollar note, - the rest he spent on his whores...and we had a poor retard child had extra needs... he was such a shit. He had this gleeful smile, like he was the Big Man...it was charity, not his responsibility. He had no idea what it means, to be a father... he had no idea.

SUSAN

Well, Mel, I think we have identified the problem. You are repelled by the concept of sex. It's very understandable.

MEL

Is there a cure ? Do I even want a cure ? Is sex really necessary for a woman in this modern age ?

Susan smiles, a little condescendingly, at Mel.

SUSAN

This is about your future happiness.

MEL

I am happy, as I am.

SUSAN

I don't believe that to be the case.

MEL

What would you know ?

SUSAN

I am, very experienced, in these matters.

MEL

So, what do you suggest ?

SUSAN

You should allow yourself, to be aroused.

MEL

Do I really want, to do that ?

SUSAN

I believe, you do.

MEL

What do I do ?

SUSAN

Well, next time you're involved with someone, romantically, you allow yourself, to get lost in the moment..you, do not resist the temptation, to be aroused. You can get wet.

MEL

Fuck off !

A beat.

SUSAN

Experience the orgasm. Learn to enjoy it.

MEL

Do I have to ?

SUSAN

That's what I recommend...

MEL

...And you're a therapist...

SUSAN

I know about sex. Let it happen.

Mel sighs.

MEL

Do I really hat-ta do that ?

SUSAN

Yes. That is, necessary.

Mel sighs once more, then gets up to go out.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT – DAY

The living room of Katie's apartment.

Katie and Mel, seated.

MEL

She said, I had to, allow myself,
to be aroused.

KATIE

That is, good advice.

MEL (ironically)

It's a prescription, for a healthy
love life...allow myself, to get
wet, as a preliminary to having
sex...preparing me, to fuck.

KATIE

Did she get to the root of
the problem ?

MEL

She said, my aversion to sex
was caused by..my father...

Katie looks at Mel.

MEL

He spent a lotta money, on...
prostitutes..money should'a
been spent on us, his family,
his wife, his daughters..in
particular, his, neuro-divergent
daughter, my sister, who had,
extra costs and needs..He said,
"You get extra on the Social."
He was so..irresponsible -
"extra on the Social..." She
had needs...There was enough
money, to pay for whores...
not any money for any treatment,
for my disabled sister. What
a shit ! Thinking, his penis
was more important, than his
disabled daughter !

KATIE

You've got a lot of anger.

MEL

Is that a surprise, with what

MEL (cont'd)

he did to us ? I needed emotional and financial security - I didn't get it. All I got from him, was nasty comments..anything, to avoid spending any money...he kept it all, to pay for his whores. He was such a phony - I couldn't stand him.

KATIE

Is he, still alive ?

MEL

No, thank goodness. The cigarettes finally got him. Died five years ago, from heart failure, induced by smoking. I did not go to his funeral. I wouldn't even piss on his grave. He wasn't a father; he was a sperm-donor..Penis..

A beat.

KATIE

So, what's the solution ?

MEL

I don't know.

KATIE

Could you try masturbating ?

MEL

How would that help ?

KATIE

You could achieve orgasm, without being stimulated by, another person, which might be too much for you, at present.

MEL

I'm not sure I actually want an orgasm, at the moment.

KATIE

You might get more than one, if you, continue, the stimulation.

MEL

I haven't had an orgasm, for a long time. I haven't masturbated, for... I don't even remember, the last time.

KATIE

How can you be, so..non-sexual ?

MEL

I think sex, is disgusting..

KATIE

Because of your father ?

MEL
Possibly...

KATIE
Probably.

A beat.

KATIE
You know what I say ?

MEL
What ?

KATIE
If it ain't got that flow,
It ain't gonna go.

Mel sighs.

KATIE
You gotta let it out, your sexual
frustration...

MEL
I am not, sexually frustrated !

KATIE
What are you, then ?

MEL
I am..not interested, in sex.

KATIE
You will disappoint, all your
partners...

MEL
- They are not, my sexual partners.

KATIE
What are they, then ?

MEL
My, romantic partners. My partners,
in romance, not sex.

KATIE
If they expect sex -

MEL
They can fuck off ! Go fuck
themselves - not me !

KATIE
You're too hostile, to the concept
of sex...

MEL
- To the, reality, of sex. Yuck !

Katie sighs.

KATIE

It's not that bad.

MEL

It is...I hate it...Why do we have to worship the orgasm ? What's so wonderful about fucking ? It's just gross, animal behaviour. We humans, should distinguish ourselves from animals, by our higher brain functions..our appreciation of the finer things in life, not heaving and grunting like a pig copulating. The worst thing of all, is the penis. What a disgusting sight ! Yuck ! Men should keep their dicks inside their pants, never to be seen by women.

KATIE

You could do it, under the sheets, to, avoid seeing, the penis.

MEL

I don't wanna do it at all.

KATIE

The human penis, is necessary, for procreation...for the future of the species..

MEL

I don't haf-ta do it...

KATIE

I guess not.

A beat.

KATIE

So, what are you gonna do, huh ?

MEL

I am not gonna fuck a man, or a woman, for that matter. I might kiss a man, or a woman. What I want, is romance, not sex.

KATIE

Do you think a man or woman who might date you, is only interested in romance ?

MEL

Somewhere..somewhere..there is a man or woman, more interested in romance, than sex.

KATIE

You go find them, if you can.

MEL

I gotta try.

KATIE

You won't know, until you date them, if a kiss is enough.

MEL

What else is there, apart from sex..which I don't want ?

KATIE

Not much. It usually progresses from kissing, to screwing without much in between.

MEL

There must be something ?

Katie ponders this for a moment, then speaks.

KATIE

Maybe..you sit back..you look into each other's eyes..and you smile...

MEL

- But you don't have sex !

KATIE

Your date will say, they must be going. They say, Goodnight, and you don't see them, ever again..because, you did not..fuck them. They move on, and find a more..considerate..person, to date. They expect, sex.

MEL

They can go fuck themselves.

KATIE

- Or, someone else -

MEL

Not me.

Katie shakes her head and sighs.

KATIE

You're hopeless...

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY/NIGHT

Early evening.

The curtains still a little open.

Living room.

MARK has his arms around Mel, both seated on the sofa. Mark is handsome, a little older than Judd.

MARK

You know, you're beautiful...
Because you're beautiful, you're
sexy.

MEL

No; you are sexualising me.

MARK

- Because you're sexy - because
you're beautiful.

MEL

Shit !

She pulls herself away from him.

MARK

What's wrong ?

MEL

I hate people assuming, I am in
any way interested in sex, just
because I'm, attractive.

MARK

You are attractive..beautiful..
sexy..

MEL

You think you have the right to
fuck me, just because I look good ?

Mark sighs.

MARK

It's not like that...

MEL

What is it like ?

MARK

Fucking a beautiful woman, means
more to me than fucking, a less
than beautiful woman.

MEL (angrily)

Good for you !

MARK

Having sex...with a beautiful
woman..is..

MEL

What ?

MARK

...Making love...to a beautiful
woman..is..something very special.

MEL

Why ?

MARK

Because, it's...like...the most wonderful experience...

MEL

Why ?

MARK

Because..it is...special..

MEL

You're not "making love" to her, you're fucking her - there's nothing "special" in that.

MARK

There is...

A beat.

MARK

You disappoint me...

MEL

- Because I don't wanna fuck you - ?

MARK

I would do..most of the work...

MEL

- Of fucking ?

MARK

I would do it...

MEL

- Not to me. I don't like, being fucked by anyone...I don't like it...

He sighs.

MEL

I don't care if I disappointed you..I don't care.

MARK

You're selfish...

MEL

I am not !

Mel stands and moves away from the sofa, then turns to look at Mark, annoyed and exasperated.

MEL

Just because I don't want to have sex with you - ? That makes me "selfish" ? Fuck !

No reply, but a slight nod from mark.

MEL

That's not a good enough reason..
to call someone, "selfish." I care
about myself - what's wrong with
that, huh ? What's wrong with that ?

No reply.

MEL

I gotta care about myself, you
know...my understanding, of my..
my...er...of...myself...

MARK

You're so old-fashioned, it's
ridiculous...so prim and proper...
girls aren't like that, nowadays...

MEL

You are, very inconsiderate...

MARK

Most women, like sex...

MEL

I don't.

MARK (dismissively)

You're different.

She shakes her head.

MEL

No, women pretend to like sex, to
please their partners..they don't
really like sex..at all.

MARK

Some do...

MEL

It's all a pretence, to appease
the male ego.

MARK

I have given women, really good
orgasms.

MEL

They were fake...

MARK

You can't say that - you weren't
there.

MEL

I'm glad I wasn't.

MARK

I could take you to, ecstasy.

MEL
I seriously doubt that.

A beat.

MARK
You're a prick tease.

MEL
I most certainly, am not !

MARK
You seduced me...

Mel shakes her head.

MEL
I did not !

MARK
You did !

MEL
Lemme assure you, I did not,
seduce you.

MARK
I was under the impression, you
did.

MEL (angrily)
I have never seduced, anyone...

MARK
Liar !

MEL
Fuck off ! You make the assumption,
if a woman is attractive, and kisses
you, she wants to fuck you. I did
not, seduce you...

MARK
Your behaviour was, provocative.

MEL
How ?

MARK
You crossed your legs, and flicked
your foot, up and down...

MEL
- And that seduced you ?!

MARK
You used your charms on me.

MEL
What charms ?

Mark pauses for a moment, then replies.

MARK
You smiled at me...

MEL
I smiled at you...?

MARK
Yes...

MEL
- And that was provocative ?

MARK
Any reasonable man, would come
to the conclusion, you were up
for it...

MEL
Fuck off ! Seriously, just fuck
off ! Go into the bathroom and
jerk yourself off !

MARK
I might haf-ta do that. You
aroused me.

MEL
Pathetic.

Mel storms out.

Mark goes into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT: COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Mel and Katie, seated at a table, with cups of latte, half drunk.

MEL
Had another disastrous date...

KATIE
Are you surprised ?

MEL
I guess not.

KATIE
This sex thing, you got a hang-up
on that.

MEL
I need a date who doesn't want
to fuck me. How am I gonna find
someone who just wants a kiss,
and a cuddle ?

KATIE
I done a little research on that.

Katie takes out her smartphone, turns it on, to search on the internet.
She comes to a website, "Shy Romantics - dating for people who prefer

romance."

KATIE
Shy Romantics...

Katie shows the website to Mel.

KATIE
They cater for people interested
in romance...dating without, the
obligation, implied, your partner
on the site, expects you to fuck
him..or, her.

Katie scrolls through some of the men on the site.

MEL
Stop there. Pete Forty-Seven..
I like the look o' him.

KATIE
Join the site, sign up for a date.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Mel's apartment.

Living room.

Mel seated at a table, looking at her laptop, which is on the Shy
Romantics site. She gets to Pete Forty-Seven, and completes an invite,
suggesting they meet up.

CUT TO:

INT: DINER - DAY

PETE comes in and goes over to the table where Mel is seated, a half-drunk
cup of coffee in front of her.

PETE
Mel -

MEL
Pete...

PETE
That's me...

MEL
Please, sit down...

PETE
Thanks...

Pete sits down across from Mel.

They look at each other for a brief moment, and exchange a smile.

MEL
You like something to eat ?

PETE
No, thanks. I must say, you're
even prettier than your photo.

MEL
Thanks.

PETE
You know, the whole idea of the
site, is to meet people, who much
prefer..romance, to..well, sex.

MEL
That's how I am. I really appreciate
a man, who knows my limits.

PETE
I much prefer romance...Sex is..
well..I don't think it's that
important, for a relationship.
I think, sex, sometimes, can
ruin a relationship...It's not
that great...

MEL
That's what I think...

PETE
Romance can be..wonderful...

MEL
...A pure romance..without sex...

PETE
...Exactly...

MEL
That's what I want...

A slight delay before Pete speaks.

PETE
I think I could do that for you.

MEL
I hope you can.

A beat.

MEL
Well, Pete, should we make a move ?

PETE
Er, sure...

They both get up and go out.

CUT TO:

EXT: STREET - DAY

Outside the diner.

Mel and Pete walk a few steps away from the diner.

Mel stops and turns to speak to Pete.

MEL
I think, I'm really attracted
to you.

PETE
You're simply gorgeous.

Mel smiles.

She turns to face ahead and starts to walk. Pete walks in step with her.

MEL
Sometimes, being attractive,
can be a problem...

PETE
It shouldn't be...

She stops again and turns to speak to him.

MEL
It is...

PETE
There's more to you than just
looks.

MEL
You think so ?

PETE
You're..sensitive...intelligent...

MEL
We need..to get to know each
other, better...

PETE
You're right...Let's go to mine...

MEL
Sure.

They walk down the street, with Pete slightly ahead of Mel.

CUT TO:

EXT: APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Front entrance.

Pete shows Mel to the front steps.

PETE
Here it is. Let's go inside.

Pete opens up the front door and leads Mel inside. The door closes.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Pete leads Mel through the hallway to the door of his apartment. He opens the door and shows Mel inside.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Pete shows Mel to the living room.

MEL

Nice place.

PETE

Thanks. Like to sit down ?

MEL

Sure.

Mel sits on the sofa.

Pete sits on the sofa, at the other end, respectfully, with one seat between them.

MEL

You're a gentleman.

PETE

You're a lady..very elegant..
very beautiful.

Mel smiles.

MEL

Thanks. - I think your photograph was very honest. You're very clean-shaven. I hate men that don't shave...I hate facial hair...I hate beards and moustaches...I even hate stubble. I would never date a guy with facial hair, of any kind. I like a man to be clean-shaven. I want to feel, smooth skin..at least as smooth as a man can get..touch your cheek, with my fore-finger... feel, smooth...not as smooth and fine as a woman's skin...not one single hair..not that I can feel.

PETE

I shave each day, as best I can. I use two shavers..one to do the basics, the first shave..then I do the fine..shaving, with this, fine-shaver, and I feel my skin, my cheek...and, if it feels nice an' smooth, I am satisfied..I feel good. I hope, my skin will be, smooth enough...for you...

MEL

I am particular about smooth skin.

MEL (cont'd)

I would never kiss a man that don't shave.

A beat.

PETE

Shy Romantics is such a good idea, putting together people who like, romance, without sex.

MEL

I reckon, love can exist, without sex.

PETE

Certainly...

MEL

People can be attracted, to each other, without having to have sex.

PETE

Indeed.

A beat.

MEL

Shall we get, a little closer ?

PETE

Sure.

Mel moves down the sofa, closer to Pete.

MEL

I think I would like to touch, your face.

PETE

Okay..I would like that.

She moves closer to him, and extends her hand to touch his cheek with her forefinger first, then the tips of her other fingers.

MEL

Umm, nice, smooth skin.

She draws her fingers off his cheek and away from his face. Her hand remains a few inches from his face.

PETE

Your hand..it's so..exquisite. Delicate, but strong. I bet you have beautiful arms.

MEL

Would you like to see up to my elbow...?

PETE

...And beyond...

MEL

Okay...

Mel undoes the buttons on her sleeve, then the top button of her blouse, but keeps her breasts covered. With some effort and difficulty, she pulls her arm out of her blouse, exposing her whole arm and shoulder.

Pete takes her arm gently in his hand and holds it whilst he kisses all the way from her hand, up to her elbow, then beyond, savouring her fine silky skin, leading up to her bicep. He moves his lips to her shoulder and kisses along her shoulder blade.

He kisses along her collar-bone, then respectfully pulls his lips away from her.

PETE

I really enjoyed that...

MEL

So did I.

PETE

Your skin is like silk..like velvet,
so smooth.

MEL

You didn't touch my breast.

PETE

I wouldn't do that.

She looks at him.

MEL

Kiss my neck...

He leans into her and starts to kiss down her neck, which makes Mel smile.

When he gets to the bottom of her neck, he slowly pulls back and takes a deep breath, then exhales.

MEL

Lemme kiss your cheek.

PETE

Sure...

Mel leans into Pete and kisses his cheek. She then draws back.

Mel and Pete look at each other, then laugh and smile at each other, almost simultaneously.

They close in and start kissing passionately on the lips.

This continues for some time, until they break off the kiss.

PETE

If we were in a movie right now,
you know what would happen next ?

MEL

This ain't a movie.

PETE

We would start tearing off each other's clothes and get into bed, where we would..have sex. But we don't do that, because we are The Shy Romantics. We kiss, we cuddle, we caress, but we don't -

MEL

- Fuck...

PETE

Precisely...We don't fuck.

MEL

I like it that way. I never enjoyed sex. I hated it, in fact. I only did it, to please my partner, and I resented it, afterwards, having to please my partner, because he expected it...because men, expect it...because society expects men and women to fuck.

PETE

I don't do that. I would never expect you, to have sex with me...

MEL

...Which is a lot better, for us women...

Later:

Evening. In the dining area, near the kitchen, at a table, Pete and Mel having a candle-lit romantic dinner, with champagne.

Pete and Mel clink their glasses together.

PETE

The Shy Romantics...

MEL

The Shy Romantics...

They sip their champagne.

PETE

You look great in candlelight, like the painting of a great beauty.

MEL

Flattery...

PETE

I don't think so. The way the light catches your fine delicate features..it's, wonderful...A man can appreciate a woman's beauty, without having to...

Mel interjects as Pete hesitates to find the right word.

MEL

- Fuck them...

PETE

That's it...without having to...

MEL

...Fuck them...

PETE

...Exactly.

Later:

Night. Mel and Pete are relaxing on the sofa, at either end.

PETE

I'm wondering..if you might,
stay the night with me...

Mel considers this for a moment, then speaks.

MEL

I might...but...I would not
have sex with you.

PETE

Of course not...

MEL

...I would not, sleep with you...

PETE

Ah, now that's interesting...

MEL

- Is it ? Why ?

PETE

What I was thinking was...we
could sleep together, in the
same bed, on either side..and,
actually sleep, but not sleep,
as in, "sleep with...", as in,
er...

MEL

...Fuck...

PETE

That's it. We could, just, er..
sleep.

MEL

I would not fuck you, or anyone
else..

PETE

Of course not. I just think, it
might be nice, to, sleep together,
but not..have sex.

MEL
What would you wear, in bed ?

PETE
Pajamas...

MEL
Do you have a spare pair, I
could wear ?

PETE
Er, yes..I do have, a spare
pair..in the wardrobe...in,
the bedroom. I could lay it
out on the bed..if you wish.

MEL
Okay.

Pete goes out of the living room, into the bedroom.

Mel looks around.

In the bedroom, Pete goes to the wardrobe, opens it, and takes out two pairs of pyjamas. He neatly lays out one pair on the bed.

He takes one pair with him, then goes out of the bedroom, into the bathroom, closing the door, which Mel hears.

Mel gets up and goes through into the bedroom, where she sees the pajamas on the bed.

She sees that the door to the bathroom is shut.

She carefully undresses with her back to the bathroom door.

She puts on the pajama top, then sees herself in the mirror as she puts on the pajama bottoms.

She then sits on the bed.

She looks towards the bathroom door and waits.

Mel sighs.

Eventually, Pete opens the bathroom door and comes into the bedroom, wearing pajamas.

PETE
You look awful cute in those
pajamas...

MEL
You're pretty cute yourself.

PETE
Can a guy be cute ?

MEL
It's possible. Come and sit down,
over here.

He sits down on the bed, next to her.

She leans into her and they kiss passionately.

After a while, they break off the kiss.

Pete smiles at Mel.

MEL

You gotta wait a long time, to find
the right person...

PETE

It helps if you've got Shy Romantics.

A beat.

PETE

Would you allow me..to..kiss your
back ?

MEL

I think I would like that.

She turns so that Pete can see and touch her back.

Mel. undoes the buttons on her pajama top and reveals the back of her
shoulders to Pete.

She then carefully lowers her pajama top a little further to expose
her back.

Pete slowly leans into her back and starts kissing it, moving from
the bottom of her neck, down her backbone towards her waist, but no
further; then he slowly kisses all the way up to her neck. Mel smiles
as Pete kisses her back.

Pete draws away from her, and Mel then pulls her pajama top back over
her shoulders.

Mel buttons up her pajama top.

MEL

I enjoyed that.

PETE

So did I ! Your back is as beautiful
and exquisite as the rest of you.

She turns her face towards him.

MEL

Did you ever think, I seduced you ?

PETE

No - of course not.

MEL

This guy accused me of seducing
him, when I wouldn't fuck him.
He called me, a "prick tease."
He didn't understand the concept,

MEL (con'd)
 a woman can be attractive, without
 having a deliberate intent to, attract
 him.

PETE
 You are, very attractive..but I,
 respect you.

MEL
 You're a sincere person...

PETE
 I hope I am...

MEL
 That's how you come across.

PETE
 I am, what I am.

MEL
 Do you think I'm a flirt ?

PETE
 No. You are sincere...

A beat.

MEL
 Does an attractive woman, have
 a duty, to be, demure ?

PETE
 She can be, whatever she wants
 to be...

MEL
 Often, men seem to think, if
 an attractive woman, is being
 nice to them, it means, she's
 interested in him, sexually.

PETE
 I'm not like that.

MEL
 I will be polite, unless someone
 angers me.

PETE
 That shows, you're a decent person.

MEL
 Why, thank you..That's quite
 a compliment...

PETE
 Should we make a move ? Get into
 bed - ?

A slight nod from Mel.

MEL

Okay...

PETE

Of course, we won't have sex.

Mel moves to get into one side of the double bed. Pete moves to get into the other side of the bed.

They pull the sheets to the side almost simultaneously, and get into bed; then, pull the sheets over themselves.

Mel turns to look at Pete, who turns to look at her.

PETE

I think, I love you...

MEL

Already - ?

PETE

You make me feel..a frisson...
but, it's not momentary...it
stays with me...I feel so good
when I'm with you..so alive..
so happy...

MEL

We need more time..to get to
know each other...Love is..
a strong emotion, much more
than just, attraction. Love is..
very special, almost unique..
Maybe it happens, once or twice
in a lifetime...Are you sure, you
feel, love, for me ?

PETE

I honestly, think I am, in love,
with you.

MEL

You ever been in love before ?

PETE

Not like this. I have never felt
like this before.

MEL

You're getting serious...

PETE

I sure am.

MEL

Well, I for one, need more time
to think about this. Of course,
being in love, does not justify,
engaging in sex.

Pete smiles.

PETE
Of course not. Sex is definitely,
off the table.

MEL
Good. I am a little tired now.
Maybe, I need some sleep.

PETE
Kiss me, Goodnight.

Mel leans towards Pete and they kiss, then hold the kiss for some time,
until they break off.

MEL
Goodnight, Pete.

PETE
Goodnight, Mel.

They turn to the side, and snuggle down to sleep.

During sleep, they turn into different positions, but do not engage in
physical intimacy.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Early morning.

Pete wakes up and sees that Mel is still asleep. He smiles as he looks
at her face.

He quietly and carefully gets out of bed, and goes to the curtain, to
open it a little.

As he does so, a shaft of light illuminates Mel's face, to make it look
like she is an angel surrounded by the aura of a light beam.

She begins to wake as the light penetrates her eyes.

She is a little drowsy.

She sits up in bed.

MEL
It's morning..and we didn't
fuck..

PETE
No. We went to bed and had
a good night's sleep.

MEL
So, a man and woman can sleep
together, without fucking..

PETE
We just proved, it's possible.

MEL
I'm proud o' that.

Pete feels the stubble on his face.

PETE
I gotta go get me a shave.

MEL
I would not kiss a man with
stubble on his face.

PETE
That's..very understandable.

Pete sits down in front of the dressing table and opens a drawer which contains a number of different shavers. He takes out two shavers and a small brush.

He starts to shave with one of the razors, carefully shaving his face and then, his neck.

Mel watches him as he shaves.

After a complete shave of his face, Pete switches off the shaver and puts it down on the dressing table.

He feels his face and neck.

He then takes out a second shaver and shaves his face and neck.

When he has done, he turns off the second shaver and puts it down on the dressing table.

He feels his face and neck.

MEL
Is it smooth enough ?

PETE
I think it is.

Pete takes out a tissue from a box of tissues, and opens up the first shaver, and taps out the debris.

He brushes the shaver clean, then closes it and puts it in the drawer.

He repeats the process with the second shaver, then closes the drawer.

MEL
Come over here.

Pete goes over to Mel and leans down towards her.

She stretches up to meet his lips.

They kiss for some time as Mel feels his face and neck with her hand as she caresses him. After some seconds, they release the kiss.

MEL
That, is super-smooth.

PETE
Takes two shavers to do that.
Like a look at my shavers ?

MEL

Okay...

She gets out of bed and follows Pete to the dressing table.

He opens up the drawer.

MEL

That's a lotta shavers.

PETE

It took me a long time to find
the best shavers...

He opens up the adjacent drawer to show even more shavers.

MEL

How many have you got ?

PETE

I don't even know no more.

MEL

You are the Shaver King.

PETE

I could review them online,
I got so many.

She feels his cheek with her hand.

MEL

That's smooth.

He smiles.

CUT TO:

INT: KITCHEN - DAY

Morning.

Mel and Pete, in their day clothes, with half-drunk cups of coffee.

PETE

What put you off sex ?

MEL

I never liked it. I felt a sense
of revulsion, when I..got fucked.
Boys, insisted on fucking me..
a kiss and a cuddle was never
enough for them. They had to
fuck, to demonstrate their manly
prowess..to show, they had a cock.
They were very cocky, and I could
see, fucking a girl was like..an
expression of their self-confidence.
They didn't care for me, for my
pleasure...I felt more disgust
than satisfaction. But the real
reason I hated it, was my father.

He looks at her with concern.

MEL

He didn't fuck me. I was not sexually abused. What he did, he paid, his girlfriends, for sex. Effectively, he paid hoes, prostitutes, whores, for sex. There was always money to fuck a whore, never enough money to look after his family...and my poor disabled sister, needed help..she needed care, and all he could say was, "You get extra on the Social," like social security was gonna pay for her treatment..We couldn't get the help she needed...She needed private care..which costs. He would rather spend the money on fucking a whore, than on.. decent treatment, for my poor disabled sister. Her health suffered as a result. So, I always associated sex with him, feeding his penis. I used to call him, "The Penis," like his cock came first, like the rest of him grew from his cock, like fucking a woman was more important than his sick daughter's health. Sex always disgusted me. How about you ?

PETE

I wasn't impotent, or anything like that...it's just that..I was much good at it. I had sex with a few girls, but they always seemed, unimpressed with my manly prowess. Some just looked so disappointed. A girl told me, I was a lousy lay. That was it. I never enjoyed sex, anyway. So, after that, I never had sex again.

MEL

You don't disappoint me.

PETE

Thanks.

MEL

You know, I don't even masturbate these days.

PETE

I don't jerk off, neither.

MEL

I just don't think, an orgasm is necessary. I know, it's supposed

MEL (cont'd)
to be the greatest thing in
the world, but, it don't do
nothing for me.

PETE
Same here.

MEL
I get more pleasure from a kiss,
than I ever got from, an orgasm.

PETE
The same for me...

A beat.

MEL
You wanna come to my place ?

PETE
Sure.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Mel's apartment.

Mel leads Pete into the living room.

Pete looks around.

PETE
Nice place.

MEL
It's okay - not as spacious
as yours...It's what I can
afford. You wanna go look at
my exercise room ?

PETE
Sure.

Mel shows Pete the exercise room, adjacent to the living room.

The room has exercise machines and weights, and a table near the end.

MEL
I work out. I'm too shy to go
to a gym, so I work out here,
in my own room, at my own pace.

PETE
Ain't nothing wrong with being
shy. I'm a little shy myself.

MEL
Do you, exercise ?

Pete looks around at the exercise machines.

PETE

A little. Not as much as you.

MEL

- You don't know how much I exercise.

PETE

I ain't bought no equipment. I just do simple exercises.

A beat.

MEL

I guess I exercise, to keep fit, to keep, healthy. I coulda been an athlete, but I was too shy.

PETE

I coulda been many things, but I was too shy.

MEL

Sounds like we are compatible. We're made for each other.

PETE

Could be...

Mel goes over to a large weightlifting bar with heavy weights on both ends. She goes to pick up a weightlifting belt and tightens it around her waist.

MEL

Watch this.

Mel behind the weightlifting bar, and takes a few deep breaths.

She then crouches to lift the bar.

She does a clean move to get the bar up to her shoulders, takes a breath, then does the jerk move to lift the weight above her head, and holds it there for a few seconds, grimacing with the strain.

She then lowers the bar and lets it drop.

The bar bounces a little on the floor.

MEL

That's how I get my abs...Could you do that ?

He looks pensive.

MEL

You don't wanna be beaten by a girl...

PETE

I don't mind...

Mel sighs.

MEL

Okay. I guess you have to, practise,
before you can do a lift. I would've
thought, a man would wanna show a girl,
he was better than her.

PETE

I'm not like that.

MEL

Good.

Mel sees Pete's eyes being drawn to the table at the end of the room.

MEL

That's a massage table. I got some
oils. Would you, massage me ?

PETE

Sure.

MEL

I haven't had a decent massage,
for ages.

Mel goes to a box on the floor beneath the table and picks it up. She
puts it on the table and opens it up, to show several bottles of oil.
She picks out a bottle of jojoba oil.

Mel turns and shows the bottle to Pete.

MEL

Jojoba oil..perfect for a gentle,
subtle massage.

She hands the bottle to Pete.

MEL

I'll get ready.

She goes out of the exercise room, into the bathroom, and closes the
door.

Pete looks around the room and sees a small barbel.

He lifts it up with one hand, and with some effort, lifts it above his
shoulder. He pumps it up and down a few times, but soon has to put it
down on the floor, as he can manage no more.

He takes a few deep breaths.

He goes to an exercise machine and puts his hand on one of the handles.

Mel comes in dressed in a towel, covering her body.

She goes to the massage table and positions herself carefully, lying
down frontally.

MEL

Okay..I'm ready.

Pete goes to the massage table and carefully draws down her towel to

expose her back, down to her waist.

Pete opens the bottle of jojoba oil and pours a little onto his palm, then onto his fingers.

He begins massaging Mel's back with great care.

PETE

Your back is just, exquisite...

MEL

Thanks.

Pete rubs the oil into her back and massages her.

MEL

That feels so good...

He massages all the way from the base of her neck, to her waist, then up again.

Later:

Mel is sitting up on the massage table, covered by the towel, only showing her shoulders.

Pete leans into her, and kisses her shoulder.

PETE

You're very beautiful...

MEL

You're very gentle...

He kisses her on the lips.

CUT TO:

INT: COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Mel and Katie, with half-drunk lattes, seated at a table.

MEL

I just had two days of bliss,
with that guy I met at Shy
Romantics. He's a real gentleman.
He respects me.

KATIE

...Still a man.

MEL

Some men can behave themselves.

KATIE

Not many...

MEL

Some can.

KATIE

A rare man, indeed...

MEL

I like him.

KATIE

Do you love him ?

MEL

I am attracted to him. I might begin to love him, quite soon. Attraction leads to affection, leads to love..in time.

KATIE

Good. But, he doesn't want to fuck you...

MEL

I don't want to fuck him.

KATIE

Can love exist, without sex ?

MEL

I believe, it can.

A beat.

KATIE

Does he love you - ?

MEL

He said, he did.

KATIE

- On such a short acquaintance ?

MEL

It's possible...

KATIE

Ask yourself, why he doesn't want, to have sex with you.

MEL

He doesn't want to have sex with anyone.

KATIE

You sure he's not gay ?

MEL

The way he kisses me, is so passionate. There's no way, he's attracted to men. He is, heterosexual, and I am not, anti-gay.

KATIE

You're bisexual. He might be bisexual.

Mel shakes her head.

MEL

I doubt it. He always kisses me, more passionately, than I ever kissed you. He genuinely, desires me.. but, he doesn't want to fuck me.

KATIE

Why not ?

MEL

Because he doesn't like sex. He is, a-sexual.

KATIE

An a-sexual, heterosexual ?

MEL

They do exist.

KATIE

The first one I ever heard of.

Mel sighs.

MEL

He told me, he used to, have sex with women, but, he wasn't much good at it...so, his girlfriends complained, either silently, showing their disappointment, in their looks; then, a girl told him to his face, he was a lousy lay. That was the last time, he fucked a woman.

KATIE

You don't arouse him.

MEL

He kisses me with great fervour, but, he simply is not interested in sex. He's no good at it; and he was prepared to confess as much. But his kiss...it was, so, incredible !

KATIE

It's in his kiss..

MEL

Sure.

A beat.

KATIE

Come round to mine. You are, irresistible. Take a shower with me, and I will prove to you, just how sexy you are.

Mel shakes her head.

Katie smiles condescendingly.

KATIE
You are..very sexy.

MEL
So, I'm pretty..I'm even beautiful.
That means, I must be sexy ?

KATIE
It's impossible for a beautiful
woman, not to be sexy.

MEL
I am not, deliberately sexy. I don't
make myself, sexy.

KATIE
You're, irresistible. Take a shower
with me..

Mel sighs.

MEL
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Katie's place.

Living room.

Katie with a smile on her face, leading Mel into the living room.

KATIE
Take all your clothes off, and
get in the shower.

MEL
Yes, ma'am.

Mel goes into the bathroom.

Katie smiles an almost smirk-like smile.

In the bathroom, Mel undresses carefully, then steps behind the frosted
glass of the shower cubicle and shuts the door.

She picks up a soap bar, and then turns on the shower.

She starts to lather herself.

Katie comes into the bathroom and takes her clothes off in a separate
pile.

Katie opens the cubicle door and goes inside.

KATIE
You got a good lather up ?

MEL
Yep.

Instead of picking up the bar of soap, Katie deliberately takes some lather off Mel's body, to lather herself, in a lascivious move.

KATIE
You are..irresistible.

Katie leans into Mel to kiss her on the lips.

They kiss for some time, with Katie more engaged in the kiss than Mel, who is on the receiving end of Katie's passion. Katie then releases the kiss to look at Mel's body.

KATIE
The naked female form, of such a beautiful woman as yourself, is the sexiest thing on the planet.

MEL
I am not..aroused.

KATIE
I am...

Katie leans in to kiss Mel's shoulder, moving her hands around Mel's back.

Katie's hands move down Mel's back towards her waist and start to go a little lower.

MEL
Don't touch my ass.

Katie draws back, suddenly, and looks Mel straight in the eye, removing her hands from Mel's back.

KATIE
I'm sorry.

MEL
Okay.

KATIE
You're so beautiful..so sexy..

Mel sighs, as Katie leans into her, kissing down her shoulder towards Mel's breasts.

MEL
Don't touch my tits..

Katie draws back, leans into Mel's flat stomach and abs. She kisses Mel's abs, then puts her hands on Mel's waist, moving them downwards.

MEL
Don't touch me there !

Katie then stands up, and draws back from Mel.

KATIE
You have aroused me. Step outta the shower and get dressed. I haf-ta, relieve myself. I'm getting so wet. I'll wash it off.

Mel sighs.

MEL

Okay.

Mel opens the door and steps out of the shower, then picks up a towel to dry herself off.

Katie remains in the shower.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Katie's place.

Living room.

Mel and Katie, fully dressed, on either end of the sofa.

KATIE

I told you, you're too sexy...

MEL

"Too sexy ?" How sexy should I be ?

KATIE

I got awful wet in there. You aroused me. I had ta cum, and I came soon after you got out. Of course, I washed it all away. I cleaned the shower afterwards. Seeing your face, in my mind.. and thinking about your body.. I had ta cum.

MEL

Great.

KATIE

It was the greatest ecstasy I think I've ever felt..the best orgasm..I ever had...thinking I was fucking you.

A beat.

KATIE

You know what this means ?

MEL

What ?

KATIE

You gotta take a shower with Pete..see if you can make him cum...

MEL

Why ?

Katie leans over more towards Mel.

KATIE

He should get a hard-on.

MEL

Oh yeah, just like a porn movie.
So, he gets hard and I suck his
dick, then he cums all over me
in the shower. That's not gonna
happen.

KATIE

How do you know ?

MEL

'Cause, he is, a-sexual, non-sexual...
Basically, he doesn't fuck.

KATIE

That's unusual.

MEL

- Not that unusual.

KATIE

Most men, seeing your beautiful
naked body, would immediately
get a hard-on and want to fuck
you, there and then.

MEL

Well, we shall see.

KATIE

You'll give it a go...?

MEL

Okay...

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Mel's apartment.

Living room.

Mel, seated on the sofa, waiting for Pete.

Mel sighs.

She hears the bell ring, and gets up.

She goes to the intercom.

PETE (O.S.)

It's me.

MEL

Okay.

She presses a button.

Pete comes in.

She goes over to him and kisses Pete on the lips before he can say a word. After she releases the kiss, he is able to compose himself.

MEL
I was so looking forward to
your coming today.

PETE
I am here...

Pete goes over to the sofa and sits down. Mel sits down, next to him.

MEL
You know what we should do ?

PETE
No..what ?

MEL
We should take a shower, together.

PETE
Together ?

MEL
You and me, together..in the
shower.

PETE
Okay...

MEL
Don't be afraid...I won't do
anything, you don't like...
We'll just, take a shower...
together, and get all lathered
up...

PETE
I'd like that.

MEL
We won't make love, of course..
we don't do that...just take
a shower, together.

PETE
Sounds good.

MEL
It will be...I'll get ready.

Mel goes out of the living room, through her exercise room, into the bathroom.

Pete looks towards the exercise room, as if following Mel.

After a little time, he gets up and goes out of the living room, through the exercise room, into the bathroom, where he sees Mel's clothes.

Mel is in the shower. She turns the taps on.

Mel starts to lather up.

Pete carefully takes his clothes off.

He approaches the shower door and sees Mel inside.

Pete opens the shower door and goes inside.

MEL

Pete...

PETE

Mel...

MEL

I'll get you all lathered up.

Mel rubs the soap bar in her hands to create some lather, and then applies it to Pete's chest.

MEL

I hate a hairy chest. A man's body should be smooth. Of course, a man can never be as smooth as a woman, but, hair..is just gross.

PETE

Fortunately, I don't have much hair, on my chest.

MEL

You have quite a flat stomach.. that's nice...I like that.

She lathers him lower down, on his stomach.

MEL

Umm..you are not getting an erection.

PETE

Er..no.

MEL

I will not touch your cock. You're not gay, are you ?

PETE

I don't think so.

MEL

Then, why aren't you getting a hard-on ?

PETE

Is that what you expect ?

MEL

My friend, Katie, said, you should get hard.

PETE

What would she know ?

MEL
We had a shower together, me
and Katie...and she said, I was
so sexy, she had, to relieve
herself.

PETE
I see...

MEL
You're not gonna do that...?

PETE
No. I don't need to. I'll kiss
you instead.

Pete kisses Mel on the lips.

PETE
There..that's better.

MEL
Okay...

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Living room.

Later:

Mel and Pete, in their day clothes, seated on the sofa.

PETE
I'm not impotent...I just don't
get hard..enough. If you really
wanted me, to have sex with you,
I would take Viagra, to give you
satisfaction.

MEL
I don't want sex. I don't need
sex. A kiss is enough.

They kiss.

MEL
Are there really people like us,
in the world, in real life ?

PETE
There's us.

MEL
Are we unique ?

PETE
I doubt it. After all, there's
The Shy Romantics. We're not,
that unusual.

Mel smiles.

MEL

We are, The Shy Romantics. We
kiss, we cuddle, and we caress,
but we don't...Say it with me...
We don't...

MEL AND PETE

...Fuck...

MEL

That's the first time you've
said that.

PETE

I'm shy.

MEL

Katie reckons we're unusual..
we don't..have sex.

Pete shrugs.

PETE

Maybe, we're not, that unusual.
Society expects men and women
to have sex, to create the next
generation, but...

CUT TO:

INT: COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Pete, Mel and Katie, seated at a table with half-drunk cups of latte.

PETE (cont'd)

...that does not mean, every man
and every woman on the planet must
have sex...surely, it's a matter of
personal choice...

KATIE

But..surely, a woman as beautiful
as Mel, should pass on her genes
to the next generation. She should
have descendants...

PETE

...Daughters..beautiful daughters...?

KATIE

Her daughter might look just like
her.

MEL

I am not pregnant...

KATIE

You owe it to the future, to..let
your beauty live again...In ten,
twenty years, your beauty will
begin to fade, and then...

Mel looks at Pete.

MEL
She's a right lesbian...

KATIE
What's wrong with that ?

MEL
Nothing.

KATIE
I appreciate female beauty, at
its height...after which, it will
decline, inevitably.

MEL
So, in twenty years' time, you
might not desire me...

KATIE
I must admit, I would look for
someone younger.

MEL
You would be twenty years' older
yourself !

KATIE
I would..indulge them...

MEL
With money ?

KATIE
With gifts...

MEL
Bribe them to fuck you - ?

KATIE
I would be lucky, if they'd be
prepared, even to kiss me.

MEL
You are impressed by the outside
of a person, not their character.

KATIE
I'm shallow..most people are.

MEL
Pete appreciates my inner soul.

KATIE
Does he ? Are you sure of that ?

MEL
Pete, what do you find attractive
in me ? My beauty, or my character ?

PETE
Both.

MEL
Will you still love me, in twenty
years' time ? Be honest, now.

PETE
I don't know...

MEL
- Too honest.

PETE
I can't predict the future, and
I won't lie to you...

KATIE
Maybe, you should..learn to lie.

PETE
Honesty, in relationships, is
essential.

KATIE
What about kids ?

PETE (to Mel)
You want kids ?

MEL
Not at the moment.

KATIE
You might get broody.

MEL
If I do...

PETE
- We will..have sex.

KATIE
Can you manage that ?

PETE
I will take Viagra.

MEL
I do not like the penis.

KATIE
You'll have to accept it, if
you want kids...

CUT TO:

EXT: APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Front entrance.

Mel and Pete stop in front of the steps.

MEL
I don't want a child...

PETE

Good.

Pete opens the front door and they go inside.

CUT TO:

INT: APARTMENT - DAY

Pete's apartment.

Mel and Pete both seated on the sofa.

PETE

There's more to life than sex.
There's more to relationships,
than sex.

MEL

Sure is.

PETE

Katie doesn't seem to get that.

MEL

She can go fuck someone..or, if
not..go fuck herself. I wanna
live a life, not inhabit a cliché.

PETE

Surprising how conventional she is,
seeing as she's a lesbian - men and
women should have sex, and produce
children...that is just so, old-fashioned.

MEL

It is, isn't it ? - I guess, what
really matters, is love, not sex.

PETE

Being in love, is very important.
Sex is an optional extra...

MEL

...Which I, do not want.

PETE

Excellent. The Shy Romantics have
the freedom, and the choice, to
reject sex. It is a voluntary
organisation...

MEL

- Fortunately...

PETE

Indeed..fortunately. Personal
choice is essential. We choose
to live, the way we want.

Pete leans towards Mel, and they kiss.

After they break off the kiss, they look at each other.

MEL

Life is great, when you can do,
what you want to do.

PETE

Let's do..what we want...

They snuggle up to each other.

PETE

Love is better than sex.

MEL

Sure is.

They recline in each other's arms.

THE END