

Cape Fear

(theater scene with Dinero and Lewis)

Danielle

Hello? Nadine? I'm...a...here for the drama class.
(*cont.*) Hi.

Max

Oops, 'am I busted?

Danielle

No.

Max

I hope not.

Danielle

You can't smoke grass in school.

Max

Privilege of the profession, ease of inhibitions. You down here for drama?

Danielle

Yeah. Are you the drama teacher?

Max

And you're...let me guess. Cecil James?

Danielle

No. I'm Danielle Bowman.

Max

Danielle, oh, we spoke last night.

Danielle

Yeah.

Max

Oh, I'm sorry, how rude.
(*offers joint*)

Danielle

Umm.

Max

It's okay.

Danielle

Ummm.

Max

(*sings*) I think we're alone now.

Danielle

(*takes and smokes joint*) Hmm...thanks.

Max

I'm gonna give this to you. (*puts joint out on tongue*)

Danielle

Oww.

Max

Lil' trick I learned. Take it.

Danielle

(*takes joint*) You know when we spoke on the phone last night?

Max

Umm..hmm.

Danielle

You really made sense to me and I..uh..made me thought a lot.

Max

Those are human truths darlin' and that's what it's all about. And that's what we deal with here. (*pause*) See the book you have, Thomas Wolff? (*pause*) It's all about self discovery, the inner voyage.

Danielle

I like the end where Eugene's journey was really mystical, you know, it's almost like a pilgrimage.

Max

Almost like a cop-out if you ask me. But, those are one of the facts of a Wolff's life. The novel is what you would call a roman-a-cleft. You know what that is?

Danielle

Sure.

Max

But, nonetheless you can't escape your demons just by leavin' home. Although writers do find new freedom when they re-locate abroad. Take Henry Miller. Have you read his trilogy? (*pause*) "Plexus", "Nexus", and "Sexus"?

Danielle

Umm...no.

Max

You haven't read that?

Danielle

No.

Max

You're missin' somethin'.

Danielle

Well, you know what? I did read "Tropic of Cancer". Just parts of it though. 'Cause I had to sneak it off my parents shelf, you know. But, his descriptions are pretty vivid.

Max

Yeah, in one of his novels, I don't recall which, he describes an erection as a piece of lead with wings on it.

Danielle

I didn't read that part.

Max

Of course not, your not aloud. Your parents don't want you to achieve adulthood, that's natural. They know the pitfalls of adulthood. All that freedom, they know it only too well. (*pause*) Temptation to stray. Deflecting their guilt and anger onto you for a crime that's not even a crime, for smokin' grass.

Danielle

Wait a second...where are you from?

Max

Where 'am I from?

Danielle

Yeah.

Max

Where you think I'm from?

Danielle

I don't know.

Max

If I told you, you gonna get mad at me?

Danielle

No.

Max

(pause) I'm from a black forest.

Danielle

(pause) That's funny. You're not the drama teacher are you?

Max

(pause) Maybe I'm the big, bad, wolf.

Danielle

(pause) Umm...so you're that guy that's been hanging around the house? You the one that killed my mom's dog?

Max

Your mom's dog was killed?

Danielle

Yeah.

Max

I didn't even know anything about that. *(pause)* That's a shame. *(pause)* That's a damn shame.

Danielle

Yes it was.

Max

What kinda dog was it?

Danielle

Umm...I don't know, it was just. *(pause)* He was a fluffy and---

Max

Fluffy?

Danielle

UmmHmm. So, a, you didn't do that?

Max

Of course I didn't do that.

Danielle

(pause) Okay.

Max

I wouldn't do that.

Danielle

So, a, what are you doing here, then?

Max

Well, I came to meet you, to be honest with you.

Danielle

Umm..why?

Max

'Cause. *(pause)* I wanted to meet you. See what you're like. I see you're a nice person.

Danielle

(pause) You're not going to hurt me are you----?

Max

I'm not gonna hurt you at all. *(pause)* There's no hurtin' here Danielle. *(pause)* 'tween us there's no anger, nothin'. Just a search for truth. *(pause)* I mean, did you judge me...get angry at me...when you saw me smokin' the grass? Hmm.

Danielle

No.

Max

(pause) But your parents, they judged you, they got plenty angry at you. Didn't they?

Danielle

Yeah.

Max

Umhm, they punished you for their sins. (pause) What'd they do?

Danielle

They, umm, my dad, they just yelled a whole lot and my mom cried. And my dad said I couldn't drive the Cherokee.

Max

Umm, yeah, ya see, they punished you for their sins. You resent that, and you should resent it. (pause) But professor Do-Right has a lil' advice for you. (pause) Shouldn't bend, don't judge 'em. Just forgive. For they know not what they do.

Danielle

Why do you hate my father----?

Max

I don't hate 'em at all. Oh no, I pray for him. I'm here to help him. I mean, we all make mistakes...you and I have. But at least we try and admit it. Don't we?

Danielle

Yeah.

Max

But your daddy he don't. (pause) Every man carries a circle of hell around his head like a halo, your daddy to. Every man, every man has to go through hell to reach his paradise. (pause) You know what paradise is?

Danielle

No.

Max

Salvation. (pause) 'Cause your daddy's not happy. Mommy's not happy. And you know what...you're not happy. Are you?

Danielle

No, I'm not.

Max

(pause) You thought about me last night didn't ya?

Danielle

Yes....um...yes, I did.

Max

I know. (pause) You know, I think I might had found a companion. (pause) A companion to that long walk to the light. (long pause) Do you mind if I put my arm around you?

Danielle

(pause) Umm....um...

Max

It's okay.

Danielle

No, I don't mind.

Max

Okay. (They kiss.)

- Transcribed from the 1991 "Cape Fear" film for Ivana Chubbuck Studio scene class by student John Thorp. 8/02