

M/R

SEX LIES & VIDEOTAPE - LUNCH

16 INT. CAFÉ - DAY

Graham and Ann are having lunch. Ann looks to have had a lot of wine. Graham drinks club soda with a twist.

ANN

It's hard to explain. It's like... John treats everybody the same, you know? I, mean, he acts just as excited about seeing somebody he hardly knows as he does when he sees me. And so I feel like, what's different about me, if I'm treated exactly the same as some acquaintance? If I don't like somebody, I don't act like I do. I guess that's why a lot of people think I'm a bitch.

She takes a sip of wine.

GRAHAM

Yeah, I know. I mean, I'm not saying I know people think you're a bitch, I'm saying I know what you mean. And I don't even know that people think you're a bitch. Do they?

ANN

I feel like they do.

GRAHAM

Hmm. Well, maybe you are. Really, I wouldn't pay much attention.

Ann smiles.

GRAHAM

I know that I just don't feel a connection with very many people, so I don't waste time with people I don't feel one with.

ANN

Right, right. I don't feel connected to many people, either. Other than John.

Graham nods.

ANN

Can I tell you something personal? I feel like I can. It's something

I couldn't tell John. Or wouldn't, anyway.

GRAHAM

It's up to you. But I warn you, if you tell me something personal, I might do the same.

ANN

Okay. I think...I think sex is overrated. I think people place way too much importance on it. And I think that stuff about women wanting it just as bad is crap. I'm not saying women don't want it, I just don't think they want it for the reason men think they do.

(smiles)

I'm getting confused.

Graham smiles.

ANN

Do you understand what I'm trying to say?

GRAHAM

I think so. I remember reading somewhere that men learn to love what they're attracted to, whereas women become more and more attracted to the person they love.

ANN

Yes! Yes! I think that's very true. Very.

Graham watches Ann take a sip of wine.

GRAHAM

So what about kids?

ANN

Kids? What about them?

GRAHAM

Do you want them?

ANN

Yeah, actually, I do. But John doesn't. At least not right now.

GRAHAM

Why is that?

ANN

I don't know, he just said he wants to wait. I quit asking.

Graham nods.

ANN

So what's your personal thing?  
Are you really going to tell me something personal?

GRAHAM

Do you want me to?

ANN

As long as it's not...gross, you know? Like some scar or something. It has to be like mine, like something about you.

GRAHAM

Agreed.

Graham takes a sip of club soda.

GRAHAM

I'm impotent.

Ann looks at him closely.

ANN

You're what?

GRAHAM

Impotent.

ANN

You are?

GRAHAM

Well, let me put it this way: I cannot achieve an erection while in the presence of another person. So, for all practical purposes, I am impotent.

Ann takes a large sip of wine. Graham lights a cigarette.

ANN

Does it bother you?

GRAHAM

(exhales)

Not usually. I mean, honestly, I haven't known many guys that could think straight with an erection, so I feel I'm way ahead of the game as far as being

clear-headed goes.

ANN

Well...are you self-conscious about it?

GRAHAM

I am self-conscious, but not in the same way that you are. You have got to be the most attractive self-conscious person I've ever seen.

ANN

Why do you say I'm self-conscious?

GRAHAM

Well, I've been watching you. I've watched you eat, I've watched you speak, I've watched the way you move, and I see somebody who is extremely conscious of being looked at. I think you really believe that people are looking at you all the time. And you know what?

ANN

What?

GRAHAM

They are looking at you. Ann, you are truly breathtaking. I don't know if you understand how your appearance can affect people. Men want to possess you, women wish they looked like you. And those that don't or can't resent you. And the fact that you're a nice person just makes it worse.

ANN

(thinks)

My therapist said that--

GRAHAM

You're in therapy?

ANN

Aren't you?

GRAHAM

Hah! No, I'm not. Actually, I used to be, but the therapist I had was really ineffectual in helping me deal with my problems. Of course, I lied to him constantly,

so I guess I can't hold him totally responsible...

ANN

So you don't believe in therapy?

GRAHAM

I believe in it for some people. I mean, for me it was silly, I was confused going in. So I just formed my own personal theory that you should never take advice from someone of the opposite sex that doesn't know you intimately.

ANN

Well, my therapist knows me intimately.

GRAHAM

(surprised)

You had sex with you therapist?

ANN

Of course not.

GRAHAM

Oh, see, I meant someone you've had sex with. That's part of the theory.

ANN

Excuse me for asking, but how would you know?

GRAHAM

(smiles)

Well, I wasn't always impotent.

Ann takes another sip of wine and thinks for a moment.

ANN

Now, you said never take advice from someone that you don't know intimately, right?

GRAHAM

Basically, yes.

17 INT. JOHN AND ANN MILLANEY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Cynthia is leaving the house. She gives John a big kiss.

ANN

So since I've never had sex with you, by your own advice I shouldn't accept your advice.

GRAHAM

That's correct.

Bit of a dilemma, isn't it?