

MICHAEL

Oh, pffff...

CAROL

The girl at the airport Ramada! The Absolut Vodka girls when you were in Boston...

(MICHAEL can't help smiling at the memory. He covers it.)

CAROL

And that's just the ones you told me about.

MICHAEL

I told you all of them! And you're counting yourself, which really doesn't seem fair.

CAROL

I don't think you can do it.

MICHAEL

Monogamy? Honey, love of my life, I've looked all over the world and decided I only want you.

CAROL

When you're in bed with me you only want me.

MICHAEL

(to his crotch)

Do you believe this?

**START HERE —>**

CAROL

You cheated on all your other girlfriends.

MICHAEL

Because they weren't you! I mean, be logical here...

CAROL

How do I know you won't cheat on me, which if we were married would destroy me, Michael, it really would.

MICHAEL

Sweetheart it wouldn't happen.

CAROL

Even Friday night, when we checked in. With me right beside you.

(HE pretends confusion.)

CAROL

The slinky catwoman in the business suit at the bar?

MICHAEL

I didn't...

CAROL

Oh come on. Your neck made a crane sound. With your past, and what you've told me about your practices, how could I trust you?

(HE sits on the edge of the bed. SHE pours him champagne.)

MICHAEL

I hid those roses in my robe for five minutes. They scratched.

CAROL

This is supposed to change my mind?

MICHAEL

Okay I get what you're saying. Through my pain and disappointment and the thorn injuries, I get it. You're right. Everything you said. I ruin everything.

CAROL

Don't be so accurate on yourself.

MICHAEL

Ha. I'm self-serving, I swing wild. I damaged my relationship with Daniel...

CAROL

Daniel who owes you eight grand?

MICHAEL

He lost his wife, I was being understanding.

CAROL

He didn't lose her, she's in Phoenix. With a car and a boat you paid for.

MICHAEL

Carol, I want to do everything for you. I want to give you champagne and flowers. I want to hold you in my arms under the moon on a beach, in Greece...

CAROL

Why Greece?

MICHAEL

It just, it looks nice. "Greece," you know?

CAROL

You're a very sweet and caring person. But you're a child.

MICHAEL

I'm a Leap Year baby; I'm only six! Are you afraid I won't support your career?

CAROL

(a bit brittle)

My career doesn't require your support.

MICHAEL

Cos the gallery, I've gotta tell you...

CAROL

Not everyone's into art.

MICHAEL

Plenty of people are into art. Not many people are into video art. If you diversified...

CAROL

Plenty of people come in when you're not there. Collectors pay a lot, I've explained this to you...

MICHAEL

All the lingo. "Reclaiming the narrative" and "culturally re-framing"...

CAROL

Oh, this from Mr. "Disruptive Tech"?

MICHAEL

... like, that video by the Mexican woman...

CAROL

Irena's Costa Rican.

MICHAEL

It's, what? a series of rocks, and some doors...? I'm sure she found the most interesting rocks, and the most fascinating doors...

CAROL

But you don't get it.

MICHAEL

With most things if I don't get it there's an answer I can look up. But there, what's the statement?

CAROL

There are perfectly good landscape paintings for what you're looking for.

(doing him)

"What's a landscape for? I already know there are trees. What does it prove?"

MICHAEL

When I run my program for a client, I get a ta-dah. I've established something about the universe.

CAROL

Except for the mining company.

MICHAEL

That, that was a fluke...

CAROL

You had to give them their money back and your picture was put up at the guard gate.

(MICHAEL senses – rightly – that he's losing her.)

MICHAEL

So okay, so seriously. This "other woman" thing and my failure to "get" "video art, these are the only blocks to us getting married?

(SHE crosses to him, rubs his shoulders.)

CAROL

Let me see the ring.

MICHAEL

Is this you softening?

**END HERE —>**

CAROL

This is me asking to see the ring.

(HE buffs it in the box, hands it over.)

CAROL

What'd it cost you?