

indignities in my life-people start throwing cigarettes at me!

**VERONICA**

At least they weren't lit.

**DANTE**

I hate this fucking place.

**VERONICA**

Then quit. You should be going to school anyway...

**DANTE**

Please, Veronica. Last thing I need is a lecture at this point.

**15.**

**VERONICA**

All I'm saying is that if you're unhappy you should leave.

**DANTE**

I'm not even supposed to be here today!

**VERONICA**

I know. I stopped by your house and your mom said you left at like six or something.

**DANTE**

The guy got sick and couldn't come in.

**VERONICA**

Don't you have a hockey game at two?

**DANTE**

Yes! And I'm going to play like  
shit because I didn't get a good  
night's sleep!

**VERONICA**

Why did you agree to come in then?

**DANTE**

I'm only here until twelve, then  
I'm gone. The boss is coming in.

**VERONICA**

Why don't you open the shutters and  
get some sunlight in here?

**DANTE**

Somebody jammed the locks with gum.

**VERONICA**

You're kidding.

**DANTE**

Bunch of savages in this town.

**VERONICA**

You look bushed. What time did you  
get to bed?

**DANTE**

I don't know-like two-thirty, three.

**VERONICA**

What were you doing up so late?

**16.**

**DANTE**

(skirting)

Hunhh? Nothing.

**VERONICA**

(persistent)

What were you doing?

**DANTE**

Nothing! Jesus! I gotta fight with you now?

**VERONICA**

Who's fighting? Why are you so defensive?

**DANTE**

Who's defensive? Just...Would you just hug me?! All right? Your boyfriend was accosted by an angry mob, and he needs to be hugged.

She stares at him.

**DANTE**

What? What is that?

**VERONICA**

She called you, didn't she?

**DANTE**

Oh, be real! Would you...Would you please hug me? I just went through a very traumatic experience and I haven't been having the best day so far. Now come on.

VERONICA stares at him.

**DANTE**

What? What's with that look?! I wasn't talking to anyone, especially