

## "BASIC INSTINCT"

*She sits down. They sit around her. Nick sits directly across from her. She lights up a cigarette. They watch her. She is poised, cool, in complete command of herself.*

CORRIGAN

There is no smoking in this building, Ms. Tramell.

CATHERINE

What are you going to do? Charge me with smoking?

*Ever so casually, she blows her smoke across at Nick.*

CORRIGAN

Would you tell us the nature of your relationship with Mr. Boz?

CATHERINE

I had sex with him for about a year and a half. I liked having sex with him.

*She has control of the room; she looks from one man to the other as she speaks.*

CATHERINE

He wasn't afraid of experimenting. I like men like that. I like men who give me pleasure. He gave me a lot of pleasure.

*A beat, as they watch her. She is so matter-of-fact.*

CORRIGAN

Did you ever engage in sado-  
masochistic activity with him?

CATHERINE

Exactly what do you have in mind,  
Mr. Corrigan.

CORRIGAN

(after a beat, little flustered)  
Did you ever tie him up?

CATHERINE

No.

NICK

You never tied him up.

CATHERINE

No. Johnny liked to use his hands  
too much. I like hands and fingers.

*They stare at her.*

CORRIGAN

You describe a white silk scarf in  
your book.

CATHERINE

I've always had a fondness for  
white silk scarves.  
I have a very vivid imagination.

NICK

But you said you liked men to use  
their hands.

CATHERINE

No. I said I liked Johnny to use  
his hands.  
I don't give any rules, Nick. I  
go with the flow.

*They have their eyes on each other.*

CORRIGAN

Did you kill Mr. Boz, Ms. Tramell?

CATHERINE

I'd have to be pretty stupid to  
write a book about a killing and  
then kill him the way I described  
in my book. I'd be announcing myself  
as the killer. I'm not stupid.

*She smiles.*

CORRIGAN

We know you're not stupid, Ms. Tramell.

Maybe that's what you're counting  
on to get you off the hook.

NICK

Writing a book about it gives you  
an alibi for not killing him.

CATHERINE

Yes it does, doesn't it?

*She holds his eyes a second, then --*

CATHERINE

The answer is no. I didn't kill  
him.

CORRIGAN

Do you use drugs, Ms. Tramell?

CATHERINE

Sometimes.

NICK

Did you ever do drugs with Mr.  
Boz?

CATHERINE

Sure.

CORRIGAN

What kind of drugs?

CATHERINE

Cocaine.

*She looks directly at Nick.*

CATHERINE

Have you ever fucked on cocaine?

*(she smiles)*

It's nice.

*He watches her.*

NICK

You like playing games, don't you?

CATHERINE

*(smiles)*

I've got a degree in psych. It goes with the turf. Games are fun.

*They are holding each other's eyes.*

NICK

How about boxing? That's a game.

Was that fun for you?

*They don't take their eyes off each other for a second.*

A