

Side 3 The Affair

MICHAEL

Does he drink?

VERONICA

Does who drink?

MICHAEL

I'm asking if Roger drinks. If he caught us, would he....you know, internalize it....go on a bender or something?

VERONICA

He's not a boozier, Michael, if that's what you're getting at. My God, he's a doctor. He's not going to go out and get *shit-faced drunk* like some labor union rep.

MICHAEL

(coyly)

Now who's stereotyping? Doctors and dentists have high rates of alcoholism. *(incredulous)* You didn't know that? Doctors, dentists and cops.

VERONICA

(flatly)

Well, that's not Roger.

MICHAEL

Okay, so instead of internalizing it....instead of drinking....do you think he might get violent? *(casually)* Maybe try to do a number on me?

VERONICA

You're asking me if Roger would beat you up if he caught us?

MICHAEL

Yeah. *(corrects himself)* Well, would he try to beat me up is what I'm asking. *(with a hint of swagger)* Obviously, if he calls me out, I would know how to defend myself.

VERONICA

No. Roger's not a violent man.

MICHAEL

Good. *(pleased)* That's why I was curious if he had a gun.

VERONICA

(dead-pan)

But he does have a collection of poisonous snakes in the garage. If he caught us in bed, he would put them on you.

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MICHAEL
(annoyed)

See, there? That's exactly what Michael Flanders is talking about. He is not amused by that.

VERONICA

Michael Flanders? Why are you referring to yourself in the third person?

MICHAEL

To give the conversation some gravitas.

VERONICA

But we don't need gravitas. What we need is the opposite. We need relaxation. We need frivolity. *(sharply)* What we need is to change the damn subject.

MICHAEL

It's different for a man.

VERONICA
(laughs bitterly)

Oh my God...that sounds like a woman's line.

MICHAEL
(resolutely)

There's honor involved here, Ronnie. There's honor and there's pride. A man who finds his wife with another man has been known to fill his hand.

VERONICA

"Fill his hand"?

MICHAEL

Fill his hand. You know, *Pick up a gun.*

VERONICA

Where did you hear a term like that? Have you been watching *Masterpiece Theater*?

MICHAEL

It doesn't matter where I heard it. And it isn't always the man they go after. *(shrewdly)* Sometimes they kill the wife, so don't think you're off the hook. This is some heavy-duty, primordial cavemen stuff. *(simulates a cave man)* *Ooga-Booga.*