

BETH

I was so deep in sleep. This was universal completeness.

"He looks as if he is dead."

"I am not sure if it is okay to wake him."

"Why?"

"You may kill him."

I did not want to lose all sense of consciousness.

"Don't worry! He will survive."

I DIED, AND I WOKE UP IN HEAVEN. I WAS AT SORORITY PARTY!

"How do you know?"

"It was you who did that."

"We are learning about the equitable distribution of good and services."

"The fairness doctrine."

"That is what I think that it is called."

"You need to taste the dip."

"Imagine the promise when you come into a room, and there are mounds and mounds of food. There is a promise, which you have never seen before."

"Some people need to work a little harder. Maybe two jobs. How do you think that I can make it through college?"

"I want to feel it now."

Beth was doing her best to make everyone feel comfortable. And that feeling of cheer extended everywhere."

"You are my favorite person."

"Thank you, Beth. I feel honored."

I truly felt honored. This was a moment of great celebration. Beth felt in awe. There was such love among her friends.

"My family made me feel that I could find success with a smile and a handshake. And I see all these people on the street who cannot find a break. And there is so much more needed than a smile. But the heavens seemed to open for me. And I feel fortunate that I was invited into such a select group."

Beth had something unique. Others cherished her, and they believed that she could help them fulfill their promise. She wasn't a leader, just an articulate example. She may have had a little more daring. She was taller than her friends, and this attracted attention to her. She was curious. She was looking for new experiences. But she never became overcome by the challenge. There seemed to be just enough in her life to give the needed stability. So she wasn't going to get caught up in the bull shit.

They were taking classes to learn what others only encounter in their daily lives. But they had been raised with their eyes closed. They were taught not to see. So their obliviousness became the pretext for a lesson.

There were songs, but the words were indistinct. The contours of history seemed to fold in on themselves. Everything was the now, a distant past, or ancient times. Sometimes, yesterday was part of today. It was 1987 and 1996 and 2004 all at once. There was a vague

tomorrow. And the escape from darkness. But sometimes history was all about something in the self. These waves of time rattled against each other and came to an immediate stop.

Beth had her own version of this panorama. She might have had plans for a stately suburban home. However, she had lot touch with that ambitious tale. That was something she saw in movies. Or her other friends told them of their plans. But for the most part, they all detached themselves from the strictures of the American dream. Even when they work hard, they weren't sure if it would amount to much of anything.

"I don't mind racing through the mud."

What was that supposed to mean? She didn't want to think of herself as too prissy. She knew how to dress for the moment. But she didn't worry about it most of the time.

The first time that I had seen her, I marveled at her sense of self-assurance. She seemed a little distant from my world. Art was more of a reflection than a pursuit. But she had flair. She wanted to collect the colored stones which could form the mosaic. If she could not do it all herself, she imagined that her circle of fiends would give the magic she needed.

"Do you own this place?"

"Why would I want to won this place? I am not really a pleasure seeker."

"Steven, what do you care about but pleasure?"

"I am an artist. I am a writer. I need more focus."

The Pleasure Principle was a place to hide. Everyone seemed to find comfort in the risk. This was just enough rope to escape the restrictions of their adolescence. They had dreamed of a life ruled by one single idea. However, that was hardly how they actually survived. Pleasure was only a cover for an incessant utilitarianism. They realized that they would not be able to free themselves from that ethic. So they fought it off in leaps and bounds as they submitted to the yoke that held them all in place.

At times, I imagined that they were all deer in the headlights. They loved the glare. They seemed close to a revelation, but they were all going along to get along. When it all got a little tense, they could lose themselves in the frozen food aisle or venture off to a club in Buckhead. These were practical souls. They had seen others floating in the morass. They wanted to sense those impulses which could move life along.

"What games would you like to play?"

They all wanted more of a sport to motivate them. If only they could enact a football game out back. Then there would a clear winner. They could let out all their frustrations. But that would never be sufficient. They would always had the opportunity to adjourn elsewhere.

"Where are we going to end up tonight?"

"Dancing away our heartaches."

"What is her name?"

"Beth!"

"Beth. What does she do?"

"I hate how people come in here, and act as if they own this place. We are here all the time. This is our home. They stare at us as if here is something wrong. They need to go back to Buckhead."

She could play all the parts in a teen drama. She might be the nerdy heroine. Or she could be the self-assured ingenue. Or the worldly sophisticate.

"I have been to London. That is where I got this jacket."

And the jacket seemed to confer super powers. People would stare as if she was a celebrity.

"I was taught this skill in retail."

Her friend Jeanne managed a store. She wanted to go to New York. She had already caught that bug. She heard a string quartet working up in a park. She listened to this preparation as if she was all knowing. She had studies culture. She considered the contributions of audience to the final product. That gave her inspiration.

Beth loved Jeanne's enthusiasm. She heard her own marching band. And she danced to their relentless beat. But she did not hear a mystical refrain. She didn't want to give in so totally. She didn't want to think that Jeanne had it figured out any better. They were all working from the same playbook.

"We are all going over to Beth's for snacks. Swimming and snacks."

Jeanne and Beth had both perfected their smile. But they were learning tricks of the shadows. They were working with different lighting. They had seen other sweethearts become overwhelmed in the routine. They were already stepping away from that tale.

Every time that I saw Beth, I felt as if the adventure was continuing. And Jeanne seemed to reinforce the art. I was still close to that pounding heartbeat. And they seemed to understand my mission. They were helping me to move along. And I felt that I could memorialize this tale.

Jeanne seemed to be an integral part of the story. But she had her own preoccupations. I wanted her to tell me more. I wanted her to enliven all those things that kept us all entertained. This made Beth more of an impresario. I might as well have been looking at a play. This was how it had all gotten started.

I wanted to believe that there was a greater problem which we were all trying to solve. I would come downstairs and listen to their latest stories. Then I would head back to my writing and let them all engage in the passion of the night. If they were carried along by a pleasure principle, then they needed to give themselves to the moment. They couldn't be too contrived.

I continued the theater on my own. Beth would always find a way to shake it all out. Some of the other women were too caught up in the tension of the moment. Beth spared no sympathy.

"These are my friends. And these other girls want to be my friends."

I could sense when Beth was ready to submerge in the moment.

"Steven, this guy is really smart."

"Are you smart?"

He would be pushing to be clever. He had his views about the haphazard universe. Or he was lost in his anarchic fantasies. He was listening to an engine get powered. He was convinced that he had his own invention. Who was this guy? There would always be another.

There was no system to any of this. If these characters were truly fated, then they might have might have been immersed in a more urgent pursuit. Jeanne had her tried and true friends. But Beth was toying with these dangerous souls. It wouldn't take long before they would all flare out. They mimicked the paths of glory, but they stumbled on the cobblestone lanes.

"We will never be happy like our parents. They believed in an illusion, but we are more devoted to the truth. So we are not going to be as easily betrayed by our dreams."

Beth listened to Cindy make her case. Beth felt a little closer to the security of the home front. Perhaps, she had just as much cynicism.

Beth offered her view: "I don't want to read books about people who do not realize how to have fun. I want to go out and have fun on my own."

She was not going to engage in a prolonged investigation about the meaning of fun. She would sit and class and listen to discussions about the importance of mediation in spiritual discovery. But that was a discussion which would challenge her in class. At this moment, she had no questions about the contemplative life.

"What about sports, Beth? Are you a competitor?"

"You might think that I am. I watch, but I don't really play. A little tennis. And I have gone out on the golf course with my dad. But nothing too extensive."

She was not practicing her swing at home.

"Do you want to read what I am writing?"

"I do not recall asking."

She never needed to ask. There was not that kind of mystery in her life.

"I could look at your homework."

I had never said that. I might as well have been an event coordinator. But I had not planned her party. Neither was it her doing. Things were much more casual for her.

I felt as if I was losing my thread.

"What could happen in our lives which would cause us to put it all in perspective?"

"Are you writing a book about us?"

"What are you asking?"

"I have gone to parties, and everyone was running drugs. They have no hope."

They didn't have hope. But this was not Beth and her friends. They used the desperate as a foil for their own uncertainty. If they were as craven, then they would end up just as scattered. At the other side of 4AM, they would be draining the soul of its life blood. They were hardly this intransigent bunch. There were kids in the woods who chased after this absurd pastimes. Beth would never head down that route. They might pass out at some stranger's house. And that would be scandal enough.

"This is Steven Fisher. He is writing about us."

I wished that I could oblige them with this book. Successive nights of partying would create the substance for a wild chronicle of their lives. And that craziness would inspire others in the same way.

Too much of that life would be deleterious. The self would surrender to the infernal forces. And magic would fail. But Beth would come emerge as a passionate soul. She would resist temptation. She would don her famous jacket and head into the sunset.

I wanted to play along. What kind of tango had them going? I couldn't get too caught up. I would only be interfering. It only took two to do the devil's dance. I would only be in the way.

"I don't think of myself as a guinea pig in one of your experiments. I want to have the ability to refuse the sugar pellet. Do you understand what I am trying to tell you?"

"I am not offering you a sugar pellet. But if you were being offered a pellet, that would be a privilege."

"I feel as if I am observing a comedy of errors."

If I had put that much faith in my visitors, that would have only destroyed my story. If people were willing to tell, that would be great. But I did not need someone challenging my need to observe.

"Are you observing us?"

"What do you want me to say? Do you want to be observed? Are you performers? Is there something that you want me to see, I am willing to keep my eyes open."

Beth laughed, "I can't believe that all those people are coming up to you and asking what you are doing. Tell them that you are writing our story."

"I am the court jester. I am telling jokes exclusively for you."

"Do you own the Pleasure Principle?"

What would it mean for me to profit off of the inability of people to achieve pleasure?"

"Steven, what are you talking about?"

"Pleasure is key to the survival of the individual. Without a radical devotion to fundamental impulses, the individual would alter her genetic profile. And this could destroy the ability to sustain life."

"That is total nonsense. Pleasure destroys the integrity of the self. It makes the individual subject to radical psychological drives which threaten the individual. We are led towards madness."

"Is this our excuse?"

"Do you have difficulty preoccupying your time?"

"I am completely trashed. That is all that I want to think about. I had a very busy week. And it all exploded in my face. What do you expect me to do?"

"You can help me with my book, and I can pay you."

"Didn't your publisher drop you?"

"I have an in on a movie deal."

"Steven, everyone says that you are doing a movie . We all want to be a part of your story."

I wanted to get away from a visual representation of my story. It was not helping in my effort to describe these invisible forces which acted on human behavior.

"What are you calling invisible. All these feelings are things that we all feel. Steven, you are creating this illusion about your skills. You tell everyone that you are a writer. What makes your story so great?"

"I am writing about a heroic person. I am writing about Beth."

"Beth, how could you be more heroic?"

"Everyone wants to be my friend. That certainly is enough for me."

There are parts of the universe with deep concentrations of energy. These sources radiate outwards. And this magnificence captivates everyone who has a chance to observe these changes.

"There are too many stars in the sky to constitute a coherent system. Even though there are proponents of a collective action, it appears that inconsistent even have torn apart the very fabric that people use to hold this system together."

“Where did you hear this?”

“It has to be right if there are laws which sustain the integrity of creation.”

“There is no integrity. These are simply an intersection of haphazard events. There are local coherences. Beyond that, there is only chaos. The supposed patterning is more of a desire on the part of the observer. As the observer is drawn into this absurdity, the structure breaks down. The swarm circles, and it is a fucking mess.”

“I want to be cured.”

“My teacher talks about meditation as a way bringing calm to this storm. You cannot calm a complex system with a simple form. It only engages the chaos.”

“I can see the pleasure principle. I see that as the only basis.”

“I need to sleep!”

“If there is coherence, there has to be discontinuity. That is the only way for these impulses to have any shape.”

“The universe facilitated my exploration,”

“What is in your head?”

“I have the total map of the cosmos. My whole existence is a map of the universe. My body reflects my soul.”

“You are only following a single thread of self-realization.”

“What is the problem?”

“You are in the universe but you are not the universe.”

“Steven, there is a different balance here.”

“Beth, what are you trying to tell me.”

“That our desire are interfering human kind. That we pretend to control things over which we have no control.”

“Beth are you willing to take the risks. Do you want to understand?”

“If the universe could be explained as a tennis match, that would be all well and good. But I am sure that there is another influence.”

“You have become an expert.”

“We have talked about this problem in our class.”

“What happens in class should stay in class?”

“I envision that there is a different way to survive.”

“Follow the moves of an ant.”

“The ant cannot know all of the combinations which contribute to evolution.”

“Who is making the sugar cookies?”

“There are no sugar cookies for my party.”

“What if we all happened upon this event. It would explode before us!”

“I enter a room, and they are serving sugar cookies.”

“Only sugar cookies.”

“Is this a cosmic room.”

“People have distorted the meaning of the cosmos. The cosmos is NOT a reflection of the consciousness and vice versa. We are simply fucked.”

“I have my own view of physics.”

“What if they were oatmeal raisin cookies?”

"If you took the distance of the raisins, and you multiplied them by a constant, you would have a good understanding of Beth's universe."

"You smell like a lemon cookie."

"This makes no sense."

"You have to write all this down."

"There are only two measures, which are affecting the disposition of your universe. A spinning ball, and a trace upon the board."

"I am afraid to leave my post."

"Guard me against my enemies."

"This is your favorite place."

"I am discovering the connection between the self and the other."

"There is none."

"We are overextending belief."

"You can't make this shit up."

"These absurd spins do not diminish the fact that we are arriving at a mapping."

"You cannot make up this shit!"

"This is unbelievable."

"I went through this before."

"Where is Beth?"

"She has the flu."

"It is not the same without you."

"There is theory that Beth get the flu at a significant point in her development."

"This is not serious!"

"If you do not understand the theory, you cannot understand the manifestations."

"I think that it works the other way around."

"I want other people to give me the answer."

"There is a point when the cookie count approaches the infectious germ counts. If these two number do not intersect, then there is no way for Beth to get over the flu."

"It is not bad. I heated up some chicken soup, and it seemed to chase away all the symptoms."

"So you are going to come back and bring us an understanding which is going to be able to sustain the individual in her contact with the cosmos."

"She only has contact with her immediacy of causes."

"Can he really know?"

"These are three intersecting lines."

"I want what you want."

"I wish that you would get a little more clever about this."

"This is going to require more than clever."

"What holds all these particles together if there is not a cookie dough which places everything in proper rotation."

"There is a place where we can be ourselves."

"If we are truly deserving."

"What have you done? What kind of effort have you put in?"

"Those who truly make the effort get none of the reward."

"That is called the cookie subtraction problem. You will never get milk."

"Who told you that?"

"My sociology professor."

"How social is she?"

"What do you want? Business innovations."

Beth must have learned the business innovations.

"When did you come in?"

"I arrived late."

"Did you bring the dough?"

"I brought the raisins."

"There are too many raisins."

"All the raisins are trying to cancel each other out."

"You have a powerful raisin."

"It could be a germ."

"The germ of a raisin."

"Something like that."

"There is so much interrupting me. And now it is cold."

"It is hot."

"I am blowing hot and cold."

"This is something in the spring."

"Where were you all this time?"

"I was hiding."

"What did you bring to the table?"

"One good day!"

"Beth, are you trying to be serious."

"We are just fooling around."

"No one has changed the messages."

"I do not have millions."

"This is going to do really well."

"I have a secret to share."

"You are following me too closely."

"Do not follow me too closely! I am going to Buckhead."

"I cannot make this up"

"What is my greatest fear?"

"That there will be no more raisins."

"You have found your level."

Beth faded. But I had already developed enough of a portrait to better my description the next time out.

"How do you expect to make it all the way?"

"I can take the gold highway!"

"Ride it all the way."

"There is short cut."

"I am going to make a right here."

"You have almost crossed over."

"I think that I have this down."

"This is a long street."

"Beth help me."

"You sent me away."

"I understand everything in my soul."

"Who is this guy?"

"He is going to give me some shut eye!"

"I am not following this."

"You are not part of this."

"I want to be fair to everyone."

"You are not that kind of writer. I knew that. I guess that I accepted the risks. People should not be friendly to you. You take what you cannot have. You hold on to things that are not yours to keep. How do you get away with this kind of shit?"

"Some people want it when they want it. That is how the universe works."

"You cannot explain this."

"Beth can you explain this."

"This is not going to be a good night."

"I have used all my cash."

"Get out there!"

"This is going to be the worst."

"Worser and worser!"

"Damn! Damn! Damn!"

"Beth, can you dig it?"

"Beth can dig it."

"We should be a lot further along."

"There are so many factors standing in the way of our completion."

"Name one!"

"Too much intelligence. We expect things to be connected when they are completely separate."

"What do you have to fear?"

"I am afraid of myself."

"The night has run away."

"My flu is getting worse. This is not psychosomatic. It is physics."

"You are angelic."

"What is the angelic disposition of the universe. You put off our work until later. You listen to absolute bull shit."

"There will be a resolution."

"You collect all the cookies in box and save them until after the great flood."

"Steven, here is the problem. When you get carried away, you start to insult people. You do not give the credibility for their way of thinking."

"Do you think that you are going to get one more chance?"

“I do not want you making fun of me.”

“That is not my intention.”

“There will be a winner.”

“What can you do?”

“Why are you asking me that question?”

“These people are better than you.”

“Do you know physics?”

“We all do.”

“There is a saving principle.”

“They call it a saving grace.”

“What do you know, Beth?”

“There are people who protect me. I value family. Steven, all that you have is insults.”

“I can create from nothing.”

“Where does this shit come from?”

“Something that you ate.”

“I know all the variations.”

“I want to be part of the show.”

“Beth, you need to get beyond the body.”

“The body is dragging me down.”

“I need to say this for everyone!”

“Don’t really need it.”

“I know where that angel came from!”

“The sea coughed up everything that it could no longer tolerate. And this detritus gave the illusion that it could reveal. And that belief got everyone to go in the wrong direction. Beth, you need to avoid these influences which are there to disrupt your being.”

“Where am I going to go?”

“This is a place which no one can understand. It is detrimental to human existence.”

“I got the flu.”

“That was metaphysical.”

“What does that mean?”

“What do you do? Have you transcended?”

“That made me sick.”

“There is nothing angelic. There is an effort to take the stuff of humanity and make it into something else.”

“There are those creatures who have resisted the dominant forces.”

“We are coming to a showdown.”

“How can you do this to people?”

“Are you a writer, are you doing a book, can you concentrate in here?”

“I have been trying to think of better questions.”

“What is your book about?”

“The dispiriting of America.”

“New careers.”

“I can put gas in my car. I can put ice cream in the freezer. I can contribute.”

“Now, they want to drive us away.”
 “You went places where I could never go.”
 “Can you make anyone whole?”
 “I am not going to go to that place.”
 “That makes me very angry.”
 “Can you figure this out?”
 “I do not see the equations.”
 “Get the disease.”
 “Why are you looking at?”
 “All the ways that the self will not cooperate with the self.”
 “How does that work?”
 “I am unsure of myself.”
 “Do not interrupt!”
 “He is closing us down.”
“Beth, do you have an answer?”
“I am the answer.”
“I want you to do the math!”
“You give too much of yourself.”
“This is not a matter of counting.”
“We are all going to go around once more.”
“You were hurtful.”

Graves was excited as he explained, “We have to control the means of survival.”

He harkened back to the Chicago Seven, who he confidently called the Chicago Eight. For him, this might as well have been the Gang of Eight. He was that committed to his revolutionary attitude, and he wanted to view this close-knit connection in a more aggressive way. In revitalizing that movement, he wanted to make sure that his allies were one in mind with him.

“What are the means of survival, the farms?”
 He had a more specific understanding in mind.”
 “We have to take control of our consciousness.”
 He recognized the power of a physical transcendence.
 “You can make the mind be what you want it to be.”
 “What about the impediments to self-realization?”
 “There are ways to get around them.”

Graves was concentrating on his chemical understanding of time and space. This moved beyond a simple recognition. He had another vision.

“If you can alter the chemical composition of the universe, then these changes will alter behavior.”

“Do you only want to change how we perceive things? Or are you committed to changing things themselves.”

“What are you asking me?”

He saw these two ways of thinking as converging.

“There can be no revolution if it is not a revolution of consciousness.”

"That is a bit of a cop out."

"The trial of the Chicago Eight was all about the effort to control how we see the world. Abby Hoffman wanted to dose the whole city of Chicago."

"What would that have done?"

"People would have escaped from the straight-jacket of their lives. They could finally take charge in controlling their own existence."

"What is this distinction between life and existence?"

"Existence puts people on the road to being. This is a significant step in taking back the self from an oppressive regime."

"Graves, you view the oppression as this vague ideological control. You are not being very specific about the actual character of oppression. Instead, you are creating a false monster. And you get people chasing after this monster."

"That is how it affects us all."

"This effect is not the same as the cause. There are other factors which affect how we respond to the world around us."

"That is exactly what I am saying. If you can control the means of survival, then you are not encumbered by the society. You are free to be yourself."

"But you have to manipulate with the chemistry to get there."

"I am learning about the history. But there needs to be some kind of push to help us to escape from the conditioning."

I could see by looking in his eyes where we were headed. He was already high to the world. He didn't have to take anything. He had naturally arrived at that state. But he always needed something to give him that little extra to go over the top. Otherwise, he felt that he was going to slide back.

Graves believed that a greater role awaited him. He could be the next guru. He could massage souls until they were ready to manifest a profound union with the cosmos. He worked a great deal trying to attain this state of awareness. What stood in his way.

Graves read about others who had preceded him in this search. And he listened closely to these prophets. They talked about higher consciousness. They found liberation in the invigoration of the body. They sought altered states of being. They stretched out personality. They found new contours of awareness. They worked to create a science from their new learning.

Gaves may have lacked the necessary discipline to cross over into another realm of existence. But he did not want to view himself as an amateur. He did not think of himself as a spectator. He wanted to delve into the maelstrom. He was willing to take risks. He sought revelation. He wanted knowledge.

Unfortunately, Graves had too much historical distance from the events which observed. He wished that he could achieve the same authenticity which he had admired in his heros. These were people who were not willing to accept the hands that they were dealt. They would turn over the table to get the disposition, which they needed for their advancement. It was interesting that Graves had settled on the words survival. He thought that he could coast into an eventual triumph. He figure that he could achieve as much.

If Graves looked up to others, he hoped that others might look up to him in the same way. He had friends, but he did not know how to cultivate followers. Even as friends looked to

Graves as someone who could get him what they needed. They did not really credit him with that pizzaz, which he craved. Otherwise, they might be almost demanding of themselves. They saw Graves as a conduit, not a teacher. They did not want to nurture the effect. If Graves was on to something, they wanted it to be this explosion that would push them to a resolution. They were not willing to buy into the philosophy.

Graves was not sure what to do. His poets of midnight were all formidable characters. They had not been seeking followers. They were such towering examples of excellence. They embraced danger, and others loved their certainty. For Graves, it was all a pose. And his associates had none of marvelous commitment, which could motivate journey. They wanted to be entertained. And Graves seemed to have just enough wherewithal to push them to next level.

That was just enough to sustain him. He was all about survival. And the benefits of his tutelage served him in good stead. It made him believe that there was more to his regime. He wasn't willing to play the part of a junior Al Capone. He wanted to be an artist. And he wanted his art to flourish in the dawn and to rage in the dusk. That was enough to make him believe that he could direct a new artistic movement. In his view, he was gazing at his glory while a troop of his associates brought up the rear of his pageant.

Graves was creating something marvelous. He took pleasure in his beliefs. He found respite in his accomplishments. He embraced his nobility. He passed out in a chair and woke up in his clothes.

Graves wanted to do so much more. He sought the opportunity to be a legend. So much seemed to evade him in his quest. But he was unwilling let go of his dream.

He needed to read more so that he could ground his system. There were certainly precedents for his efforts. He was certain that his own madness would bless him with enough inspiration to let him live among the immortals.

He wanted to craft a legacy. He was not a monument. He was not leaving great work. He saw himself as an artist. But that was more of an idea. For his part, he was becoming part of the great trek. And he would hang on the side of the mountain in the hopes that others would recognize his contribution. He knew where he was. It was all about recognition. He was working his way closer to the Pantheon. He knew that there were others who fed upon his ambitions. They wanted to believe that their efforts were also the stuff of art. They enlivened their high. They knew how to get others involved. Graves was the sum total of all these participants. They were all moving towards an elevation of the culture.

Graves offered testimony to a lingering trace of the once great. That made him the inheritor of that incessant momentum. The pile of books in his desk said something. He never had to open any of them. They represented the record of a time when these precepts echoed for an honorable crew.

None of Graves friends could do the same. And he saw that for their detriment. He had created a sacred place for himself. He had attained a unique understanding of historical time. He was a special wonder. This knowledge was all his own. But it couldn't be any different. He longed for a some affirmation which could offer him more. He imagined one of the stellar creatures emerging from the haze with their teachings in hand. They could give him the motivation which he lacked. They would help him complete his adventure. Just maybe, he would spur others to get more involved.

Graves held one of his books. It felt weighty. That was its promise. And it led him along. He needed to get involved. He put himself in the story. Maybe, he was riding a motorcycle along a canyon road. The image carried him along. The breeze was a little more intense. Time scampered around him. The flames left a trail. He was a Titan.

He wished that he could capture this on paper. He felt pulled in all directions.

"Graves, you can be part of something bigger."

"How am I supposed to do that?"

"You need to open this book."

"What the hell is this?"

"They call it the revolutionary guide."

"What does it teach me?"

"Some people have traveled out to the stratosphere. They have mapped the path. You will need to learn the path."

Grave was sure that he discovered the guide who could lead him to his promised land.

"What do I need to know?"

"You will have to apply all your skills."

"And where will that all end up."

"I am taking you out to the desert."

"What is this all about?"

"Take this. Be this. Transcend this."

"I cannot keep up."

"You need to discover a method."

"A method will coddle you. It will convince you that you are on the right track. The universe is not going to do the work for you."

"How is that?"

"You have to track yourself."

"How can I get back in?"

"I am going to destroy you."

"Why are you saying that to me?"

"You do not have the defenses."

"I am better than you know."

Graves was confronting someone who questioned his motive. He was working to dispel his game. Graves did not want to let go of attachment. He wanted to push out further. He was sure that he was on to something. No phantom was going to break him down.

"You are putting on an act, but someone are going to break it down."

"I have it all ready for you."

"This is a blueprint."

Graves wondered why he didn't have the focus to resolve his puzzle.

"They were pulling everyone in. And everyone wanted to believe. They were leading the empire of the flesh. How could they ever keep track? No one kept track. This brought out the worst habits."

"We are going to make it to the end."

"How do you do that?"

"TAKE THIS. YOU WILL FEEL GREAT IN THE MORNING!"

She wanted Graves to tell her a story about love. His only goal was to work as a conduit. He was pointing here in the right direction.

"You make me afraid. You are making it so much easier for me. But you are telling me that I can get there naturally."

"If this awareness is enough to give you a sense of universality, then you can make it to the next level."

"Are you next?"

"I need more power. I am spinning out of myself."

"Graves, this is from some other story."

"What did you think?"

"I do not know him. He is all pretense. He talks a good game. He is not willing to risk."

"And you are."

"I have given too much of myself. I do not even know how I came out of it. I am not going back."

"And you have crossed over."

"There is no crossing over. There is only this nonsense belief. But there is nothing else that can help."

"I have been blessed in many ways."

"No one can do it for me!"

"I am mesmerized."

"We are almost going to cross over."

"I have a book. I have lost my book. I need to find my book. I cannot lose it. I do not want to lost my way. You can offer me so mcuh more."

"There are so many variations."

"What are you trying to tell me?"

"We paid."

Graves was upset that someone had tried to interfere with his operation. He was the one who was supposed to offer advice. He had taken the risk. He had given everything. He did not want someone else claiming that they had transmigrated. He was the time warrior. He was angry that the unknown threatened his composure.

Perhaps, he needed to alter his ambitions. As long as he exaggerated his show, he would have to live up to expectations. There was some combination of gestures which could assist him in covering the spread. He had confidence in his methodology. There was an immediacy to his message. It was all based in his charm. He had learned inaugurated a history of charisma. That gave him the boost which he needed. Beyond that, he knew how much of himself that he needed to reassure.

Diamond did not appreciate his style. She figured that his success depended on convincing the naive. She had her own version of history. People needed to take greater risks. But then she had ceased the same risks which she had given her credibility.

Diamond had dealt with a greater uncertainty about herself. She had not been as adept at creating an vision of the past. She figured that a more aggressive version of the present would

give her everything that she would need. Everything had gotten out of hand. But it also enabled her to discover a sacred foundation for her life. And she wanted to remain with that. That understanding had validated her suffering.

He only wanted to suffer as a way of overcoming his present. But she made suffering into her transcendence. She was Our Lady of Sorrows. And she collected all her indulgences in the hopes of a greater existence. But all that she could understand was this rawness. There was little poetry in her life. She had faded even as she mocked Graves.

Diamond had not been a vehicle for his story. She represented a counter to his certainty. But she had let go of these dreams. She craved a more brutal now."

He hardly cared that he had not succeeded with her. There was too much effort on his part.

"Why are you participating?"

"For the fun."

"Does he give you fun?"

"He gives me the means. He remains at a distance. But he is always there to give me a reminder. All that I want is a reminder. I can take it from there."

"What do you have?"

"I have culture."

"What culture?"

"I know the meaning of thunder."

"That is enough."

"It helps get me out of myself when I need to escape."

"Are you ready to place the final piece in the puzzle?"

"I am going home."

Graves was attached to his own infallibility. It was an infallibility that only gave him an art. It did not give him believers. It did not offer transcendence in itself. It only made him think that he was more than himself. It gave him a link. It offered him product. He could offer calibration. And that is all that was wanted in the end. He was reassuring everyone about the certainty of biology. People had a heartbeat. They were breathing. He could increase the vitals. That made them all participants in his ritual. He could have done just as much as a night nurse.

Graves was not a scientist. There were others who maintained the right balance of light and darkness.

"What do you want from me?"

"I want you to give me contour for my soul."

"What is your objection?"

"Do you think that I could watch this every hour of the day?"

"There is not window on the soul."

"This is a revolving door."

"Do you even have a sense of humor?"

"I live my jokes."

Graves sensed that someone was trying to destroy his certain gaze. And that was such a disruption to his system. He needed to get that interference out of his head. He needed a direct path to satisfaction. He needed to surpass himself.

Graves flipped through another book. He imagined the pages blank, and he would fill them with his adventures. He realized that these adventures would only mean upset for his friends. Who would really trust him? Was he basing himself on trust? How did he get by? People wanted to believe. They wanted to fill that book. If only they could pass it around, and it would do the trick. He wanted his book to be about reckless people. And his friends could imagine that recklessness. Or they could act it out.

"I do not want to die."

That was the refrain. They would push it each night. They would reach a point where the breath had been sucked out of them. No one was going to rescue them. No one was going to take them back. And only one person wanted to know.

"Raise me from the dead!"

"Give me something that no one can give me."

This was all entertainment. The emotions were canned. Graves had the book. He showed them the enactments. They knew even less.

"Can you explain that to me? How can Graves monopolize the interactions."

"These people do not know the history. He is like someone who is taking care of these people medically. He knows the histories. But they do not understand everything that he can do."

"If we review everything that happened, will we have the method."

"There is no method. He makes it happen as it goes."

"This could be so much more!"

"There are heroes and not so heroes."

"He is not a knower."

"This will do the work for you. This will fill in for what you cannot fill in. This can make the care go, this is the gas. Is there anything else that you need to know?"

"This is coming on better than I can know."

"I am coming along. I will give you all that you need."

"I sell happiness."

"I sell comedy."

"We hate what we are, We hate what we will become. Do you have anything that will last?"

They wanted Graves to offer them a forever. That was now his art.

"This day was going to be so much longer than I had hoped."

"When the buzzer rings, you need to hurry up."

"You have everything that I want."

"I like the idea."

"This is all about points of reference."

"I can see everything."

Graves had technique. That was his greatest fear. It seemed as if that was all that he had in his favor. He was attached to a method. He was aware of style, and he could exploit it. Everything else, he could fill in. The world would fill it in for him.

"I realize that you want to influence how this presentation is going. And you wish that you were involved. What would you have to do so that I could tell your story? What

do you really want to know about Graves?"

"Can he attain that understanding without the use of mediation?"

"How did you dress for the part?"

"He was casual. You have to be able to imitate his smile."

"Is this about a cat? Is the cat friendly?"

"He is very much a cat. He works his way into people's lives. He makes them think that they are needed to complete the story. He sucks the life out of people."

"I want you to grasp all the related questions."

"I want to get good at this."

"You are going have to fuck up your life if you want any hope of succeeding."

"Do you pray?"

"What kind of question is that Graves?"

"Do you think that prayer could enable you to attain the higher states of consciousness?"

"Elation is something that exists on the earth. And you are trying to transform it into a spiritual awareness."

"How else can we approach a spiritual awareness except through our emotions?"

"There is a subtraction from ourselves. A total negation of our emotions. If you could aspire to this state, you could understand a spiritual awareness."

"That does not make sense to me."

"If it was any different, it would be an earthly awareness."

"I do not understand."

Graves believed that he had attained a universal understanding. And he wanted to communicate what he now realized. He truly felt as if he was a leader. He had the skills to convince others.

He could develop from the lack in others. And that gave him the belief that he was adding something special to the mix. The more that he succeeded at this, the more he was taken by the belief that he had a special talent. He would imagine his idols in action, and he would see himself as progressing along the same time line. That only enhanced the belief that he was contributing something significant to the narrative. He was a marvel. And others aspired to be like him. This was all an exaggeration on his part. But his revelry reinforced him in that belief. If he could only expand the circle, then he would surpass himself.

"I don't understand what you are doing."

"I am trying to establish a point of comparison so that you can understand Graves better."

"You seem to diminish his power!"

"I am also exploring how he abilities to convince others. That only gives more of a mystique among his people."

"There is also a question of loyalty. Can he be loyal to anyone?"

"That seems like a particularly sad story."

"This is weak."

"I could be more convincing."

"Don't destroy your act."

Graves reviewed his stories. He wondered if he was affecting the right pose to affect his

new found understanding. He wanted to believe that he was now the source. Everything would have to come through him.

He could offer the right script for the right moment. People would rely on him to direct their actions. He could offer them happiness.

“I can offer you the natural way to happiness.”

That did not correspond with the artificial means. Graves really hoped that he could provide people with a way to exploit their natural impulses. Those feelings only played into the artificial remedies which he could offer. He could pretend that he was some kind of master, but he had none of the necessary skills. He understood the mumbo jumbo. And they knew what he had to offer. That was all that seemed to matter to him.

Graves felt empowered with all his disciples. They gave him enough to embellish the philosophy. He believed that he held ever sort of variation which would make him more responsive to others. He was certain that he had found the support for his beliefs. He was now able to do more.

His associates were not ready to accept his deeper philosophy. They only accompanied him because he knew how to reward their personal wonder. That was hardly the basis of a theology. He would even listen to their musings. He played the part of a therapist. But there was little that he was willing to add to make everything make sense. He simply gratified friends. He might as well have been making cakes or delivering doughnuts. There was nothing truly cosmic in these interactions.

There was no possible way that he would be able to see the full picture. He was caught in his own delusion. And this picture only made him look cleverer. He affected a walk as if he had discovered the deeper purpose. His eyes had that downcast look as if he was burdened with the significant problems of the universe. That only added to his feelings of self-justification. That was all that there was to his act.

Even when he ate fast food, he pretended that he was indulging in more elegant repasts. That gave him the sense of importance.

“And why should we care about this?”

“Because I tell you to.”

When they seemed to believe him, he only believed himself more. That made him more subject to his own emotions. Everyone else seemed artificial, and he was getting more tapped in to something that he was creating for himself. What was the source of this mirth?

“What remains?”

“You could start a religion.”

He smiled. He was reading about mysticism. He wanted to provide more contour to his happiness. It was not enough to feel. He wanted it all to mean something. There was some star system or remote planet where all the lines intersected. And in this place, he triumphed. He had his answer.

Graves survived by his practical wits, but he wanted to believe that he had a deeper in. There may have been a danger that he was only going to make himself more vulnerable. That was part of the risk. He needed to be tough if he was going to keep in business. But he used this lull to give him the sense that there was something else.

If he was convinced that there something else, then he did not have to see himself as so

desperate. That was the characteristic of others. He was part of something greater. He was getting carried along in the swirl of history. And he welcomed that commitment. He had a role in the upcoming future.

He felt that he was in the center. He jumped on these spinning currents. They offered him solace.

In the midst of the past triumphs, he was ready to immerse himself in a new drama. There were these immense forces in the street. There was a liberating vision. Everyone was immerse in life-changing events.

"It is going to take a lot more to effect real change."

"I am only interested in the glow. I am part of something. It gets me off. That is all that matters. This is the television coming to life."

"What are you talking about?"

"You have to know!"

In a revolution, you believe that you can get away with anything. You reverse the balance of good and evil."

"What are you telling me?"

"What are you looking for: attention?"

"I want someone who is going to care for my deepest needs."

"Take this, and you have no need to worry about things like that."

"Does a revolutionary perspective enable you to do whatever you want? You have overthrown the mainstream morality. You make your own way in the world. You are no longer burdened by rules. You can pretty much do whatever you want."

"That is how the empire builders thought. They created their own aims. And other people were expendable."

"I am not seeing it that way. I have principles."

"What about this principle thing? People create rules so that they can get over on someone else. No leaders. No rules."

"You know where that is going to take you. Power will naturally concentrate, and you will take advantage of that."

"What are you really afraid of?"

"We are going to have to find the means to coalesce."

"Some people like what they've got."

"And some people have nothing to get."

"There are states of consciousness that make it impossible for the individual to overcome his obstacles. He needs to be moved from his fixed ways of thinking."

"Is that what you are doing for yourself?"

"I am learning how to torture people."

"Where does this come from?"

"I feel responsible for all this shit. I do not want to be turned into something which I am not."

"What are you offering me?"

"A constant high."

"You are only preparing me for a more long-lasting servitude."

"What else is possible?"

"We need to escape from ourselves."

"Aren't we going around in a circle?"

"THE FIRST STEP IS NO LONGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPPRESSION. I AM NOT GOING TO WORK AS A GUARD IN YOUR CONCENTRATION CAMP."

"It is not so bad. They get food."

"You work them to death."

"This is hardly fair."

"I need to get back to the garden."

"How does that work?"

"There are lovely things growing in the garden."

"AND I WANT TO SMOKE THEM ALL!"

"This is a natural way of being."

"THERE ARE OTHER NATURES!"

"I want to exceed."

"You are pure in yourself. This is your existence. Then you find another way of being."

"And what is that?"

"I finally become myself."

"And that has made all the difference."

"Do I get cookies?"

"That has made all the difference."

"Why do you look at me like that?"

"I have overpassed."

"Take this."

"I am a criminal in my own mind."

"We have almost completed the task."

"Graves, there is work to get done."

"I do not know what this means."

"Let it mean what you want."

"I am so fucked up."

"There is a desert waiting for you."

"I want to convert. What am I supposed to do?"

"You couldn't have destroyed if you had not created something wonderful."

"I do not see myself as a destroyer."

"Isn't the revolution all about destruction?"

"You need organization and inspiration. How are you planting the seed?"

"I am working in the garden."

"I am getting high."

"Someone needs to stop."

"Who is going to make it happen?"

"No problem."

Graves was offering his view of society to Nana and me.

"They force you to be one them. And you're just a part of the machine. So it takes you half your life to escape the conditioning."

"How do you do that?"

"Complete mental makeover."

"That sounds crazy as shit. "

"If you can't attain some kind of mind control, you remain stuck in your madness."

Graves was offering his own view of a psychic revolution.

"I am not the first person to make this journey. I am trying to reach my version of this change. You need to understand how it works. If you can just attain that state of total awareness. You are no longer beholden to you society."

"You are advocating a social revolution based on your personal high."

"We can all share that experience together."

"You are back to dosing the water system. Where does that go?"

"You get these fuck ups. The one percent. Once, they are totally zoned out, you can remake them to be contributors to the betterment of society."

"Do you really think that kind of shit is going to amount for much?"

"I know what I am saying. I have seen it in my own family."

"Is this what you are all about. You are trying to drug your family."

"What are you asking me?"

"You are doing your best to fuck up yourself. And you want your family to follow along."

"You never asked me about my family."

I really wasn't looking forward to hearing about his family.

Nana asked, "If your family isn't fucked up, are you just going to accept your conditioning and join along."

"If your family is normal, then that is really going to fuck you up."

"What does that mean?"

Nana wondered, "Isn't everyone a little fucked up? They just don't want to admit that."

Graves admitted, "If you're a lab rat, you're going to learn what you have to do to get your reward."

"Are you fixated on pleasure? How different are you from the other rats?"

Graves braced himself as if I had landed a blow.

"What are you asking me?"

"You like to have fun. You want the world to turn you on."

"I know what is and what isn't real."

"Is that enough to save me from the shit all around you?"

Nana affirmed, "People are way more fucked up than they realize."

"Are you trying to read your life back on the world?"

"I know about the shit that I am dealing with. At least, that is a good starting place."

"Nana, we are not in rehab together. We are not sharing our flaws."

"But no one is perfect. That belief is the beginning of tyranny."

"Is that our mission?"

"What does that mean?"

"Are you waiting to save the world?"

"That is all our belief. We all came to a revolutionary party."

“Why are you being cynical. It’s not as if Beth cares about this shit.”

“That is the badge of our generation. We are cynical as fuck because we really do believe that we are in the middle of something great. But we may just be in the middle of our own shit.”

“We don’t want to be like them. We do not want to live as rats in the maze. If we have to fuck ourselves up so badly in order to get to heart of the matter, let it be. We are cutting to the marrow.”

“Are you the guru who is going to lead me to the light?”

“If life makes you feel right, then you can help others get their shit together.”

“And what is our goal?”

“We are going to fuck ourselves up so badly that we can finally see some kind of clarity in experience.”

“It is all pretty much the same. You get fucked up, and the world reminds you how terrible things are. We think that makes us enlightened, but we’re only back where we started.”

“Then we hit the streets. We let the world know what has to get done.”

I had hardly said a thing. I was letting Nana and Graves duke it out. Maybe this battle would offer me my own view of what was possible.

Graves explained, “You cannot change things before you change yourself.”

“We are only get more fucked up about ourselves. That is going to remind us that we have to do more than be spectators.”

I asked, “Are you ready to make that step? If so, what would it be?”

Both Graves and Nana were convinced that the individual needed to make a big change in herself. They just viewed the path as different.”

“I cannot do this all on my own. That is why it is a social revolution, not just a person revolution.”

“Nana, you want to get fucked up just like I do.”

It was not as if any of us was doing a thing to change the status quo.

Graves offered his view, “You become a freak. You no longer fit in the machine. That itself is a revolutionary act.”

“We are only slipping back into our own shit.”

“But you do have strong beliefs?”

“Yes, I do. And when I get in the position to make a difference, I will act on those beliefs.”

“Or you will become another one of the sheep.”

“You get enough sheep together, and you get a stampede.”

“That is cattle.”

“You know what I mean.”

“I am not sure. We are all becoming so docile.”

“You want to drug the world.”

“I want people to realize their potential.”

“In only a few moments, you can make the right connection. You can make the change that the world needs.”

“It is not just a personal thing.”

“What does that mean, Steven?”

"You find your level. You attain the balance."

"Level of what?"

"That is what Graves says. You find someone who pumps you up with enough anesthetic to keep you going for a long time."

"Or you never get going."

"There is that one moment when the magic inside has the potential to ignite the magic outside. But if you don't do a thing, it all resets. And you head back to where you started. Not a thing changes."

"That is what I am saying. I am living it as it is. You never escape that family drama. You just try to read it on the world. And it stares back at you with all the shit that you've been living all along."

"That is where I come in. I give you a chance to break the cycle."

"And that is a more potent cycle."

"Not if you do it right. That is what I am studying. Other forms of consciousness. How can I attain a higher state of being? How can I actualize the abilities that I have inside?"

"Where is this going?"

"You tell me. Empathy."

"Or the lack thereof."

"What does that mean, Nana?"

"There comes a point where your high is supreme. Nothing can possibly exceed what you want for yourself."

"And what do I want?"

"You want the rest of the world to enter your dreams."

"Where does that end up in the end?"

"You listen to your own shit echoed in the words of others, and you really believe that they are praising you like some ancient shaman."

"What do you want me to say? I feel as if I know something deep about myself. And it is not just personal."

"I know that I come from shit, and I will live in shit everlasting until the end of time. Do I like it? Hell no! That makes me confident. I have an opinion. I am going to fight for what I believe. How will it matter in the end? It will not. We will all end up as we have always been."

I intervened, "You want to be even more cosmic than Graves."

"And what are you going to do about it?"

"I want to do something greater."

"Greater than your mother?"

"If that is how it goes, so be it. But I also believe that there are these deep patterns, and no one can ever escape those patterns. You can tell me that I am just my mother. She was just like her mother. Because none of us can escape the myth which is fundamentally ours. We spend all our lives trying to discover that fundamental idea which makes us go. That is the myth. That is how we branch out. But we all come back to the root. That is how we get psychological balance. We accept who we are. We return to the source."

"Or we can make the source. We may have to create the source. That is our only way to realize who we are. We do not surrender to our masters."

"I want to believe that. I want to make a stand. But all that I can really do is unearth what made me the way that I am. I can fight it. I can get fucked up and try to deny it. But my whole existence is heading in the same place. I was born to be like this."

"You need to pull back the veil. You need to recognize what is beyond the shadows."

"Sometimes if we go too far, we are only going to find what is the basis of our self-destructiveness. We do not find a way to shake off that feeling."

"It's not as if you are not drinking. You want to open the doors."

"But I can never open them that widely."

"Why is that?"

"The body sets up these limits. The more that you try to stretch out, the more that you return to the source of your delusion."

"That is why you need to get more fucked up. You are too caught up in your dreams. You are deep in your own shit."

"I am the one who is admitting to that. So what?"

"Do you like how things are going?"

"They are going how they are going, and I do not have all that much control how things will come to pass."

"So you accept."

"I develop my strategy, but I am not all that powerful. And it all comes back to the same thing."

"How is that?"

"The seed of our destruction subsists in our triumph."

"Does that paralyze you?"

"It only makes me more excited to try something new."

"Where do you go from there?"

"This is not something that exists in my head. I learn how to go along with the universe."

"So you go along to get along!"

"I want to go further than that."

"How are you going to do this?"

"This is some kind of scam on my psyche."

"I am trying to give you what you want."

"Graves, you are making these promises. How can anything that you ever do amount to much to changing who I really am."

"But you want to change the terms. That is why you are smoking. You are playing along."

"If I want more, so be it. And I will fight for it. But at the end of the day, it only twists me around the cosmos and dumps me out where I started."

"Don't you want more?"

"What hope do I have?"

"This is up to you. You can take the pieces and put them together in a different way."

"I can also so mess up my composure that I am only more hopeless than before."

"This is up to you."

“And it is not up to me. That is the worst thing about it all.”

“Are you begging?”

“Are you? We may not want to change. But we are dealing with limitations. I can’t jump off a building in the hopes that I can fly.”

“But you can create a different angle for your flight. You don’t have to come crashing down. You can jump from building to building.”

“Graves, you can make all kinds of promises.”

“It is a matter of concentration. It is a matter of letting go. You rise, and you fall.”

“You are living in your head. And you want everyone else to follow along.”

“And you are living in your past. You are trying to give it the dynamic that it does not have.”

“I am part of this journey. Some times the ship just doesn’t go anywhere. And I just say fuck it.”

“Nana, why should we care about your story? What can you offer the world that no one else can.”

“I can give of myself.”

“Is that what we have to do? We have to make ourselves into something more energetic. Am I supposed to be altruistic? Am I supposed to offer more than anyone else? Where do you want me to take you.”

“We are not going to relive Alice in Wonderland. Know what you are all about. Know what you want from the world.”

“There is going to be a moment when you are going to have to figure it out for yourself.”

“I have figured it out.”

“I feel as if I really understand you. And I am not sure if that is what you want to hear.”

“What does that mean, Graves? I understand you. You are trying to evade something deep. Two can play that game.”

“Two are playing that game. What do you know? What do you need to know yourself better.”

“I can teach you also. Is that what you want.”

“Don’t try to be the boss. Let it all go. Give in to the universe. If you want to get more fucked, get blasted. Forget everything that weighs you down.”

“And you are going to get free. Graves, is that what makes you so special?”

“Are you trying to insult me?”

“You were challenging me. Now, it is my turn.”

“What are you going to give me? Some warmed-up archetypes.”

“Are you mocking me?”

“We all have to see who is inhabiting the cave. But we do not have to give in to those characters.”

“Where is this going to end up?”

“Do you need something to help?”

“I have a lit cigarette and a drink. Is there really anything else that is going to take me any further. No matter what, I am going to have a headache tomorrow. So I better enjoy what I have.”

“If you enjoy yourself more, will you have a worse headache?”

“Where is this headed? I can only put so much in my body without knocking myself out.”

“There are ways to stretch your abilities. Give yourself what you need at the moment.”

“You’re not a doctor.”

“I have studied the options.”

“I know my own limits.”

“You can find new ones.”

I had not said a thing. I let them engage in this duel. I needed to intervene.

“We wanted to figure how to escape the machine. But we are only going around in a circle.”

“We are discovering how hard it is to break our conditioning. Nana doesn’t want to mix it up.”

“I am at a party. I am drinking. I am mixing it up as much as I can. I can’t don a new suit and become someone new. No matter what I do, it is the same thing.”

“Do you want to break from the status quo?”

“There are a lot of things that I want to do. But I am not going to hold my breath. If I am luck to change something here and there, that is great.”

“So you are looking for lifestyle changes. Anything to make you feel a little better about yourself. Beyond that, there is nothing that you can do.”

“I need to feel good about yourself.”

“That is Graves’s point. As long as you continue to identify with the society, you will not feel that great about yourself.”

“What are you offering me? Revolution to go?”

“Perhaps. As long as you don’t notice what is going on outside of you perspective.”

“I see as well as you do. Are you challenging me to tell you how we can change the society? We can write about it. We can vote. We can protest.”

“If no one listens.”

“If you say the right thing, that is going to inspire people. We need to change how we see the world. That is the first step to making something significant happen.”

“That is Graves’s argument. You find the right high.”

“That is not what I am advocating. You can transform how you exist in the world. Then you can only survive with a different world to live in.”

“What does that mean?”

“You learn how to make the shit intolerable.”

“Then you wake up with a headache, and you go to work.”

“We cannot change it all in a day.”

“You are a patient person.”

“That is not what I am saying. You create a program. You detail your demands.”

“Nana, is that the basis for actual change. Or does it only make you feel good.”

“I want to feel good. But there is always a bad taste in my mouth. That is the beginning of my politics.”

“So you have a program.”

"I realize what has to get done. But that doesn't make anything happen."

"What do you want from me?"

"You are asking me question. Where are you going with this."

Graves jumped in, "We have the possibility to make something change. They did it before. But we have become terrible examples of change."

"What good is that going to do?"

"We have to be more desperate about stating our needs. They have found ways to buy us off. They have made us numb. We have to become more attuned to the powers inside of us."

"What is those powers are only a distraction? You become fascinated by your own pleasure. You turn it into a faith."

"That is how we have become fucked up in the past."

"I will agree with you for sake of argument. But you have to distinguish yourself from the shit around you."

"I do. That is my appeal to history. I am not the first to do this. I have learned from the pioneers."

"They may have tricked up."

"How is that?"

"We have been distracted from our real powers. Do you really want a revolution?"

"Steven, what are you talking about?"

"You talk about altering the means of survival. But there is something deeper than that. What do we make? What can we create? What powers do we really have? What does the world give us? And what does it deny?"

"Where is this going, Steven?"

"Who runs the show? Are you willing to challenge the owners?"

"We have to escape from the ownership of our consciousness."

"Consciousness does not have independent existence. We have to do things in the world. And these actions can alter how we see the world. This changes our consciosness."

"We have been brainwashed. That is what they discovered in Chicago in 1968. The cops were patrolling our minds. We were fucked up. And the only way to change that was to alter our chemistry."

"You do anything, you are altering your chemistry."

"Nana described the problem. You just go back to all the same patterns. You need to fuck that up."

"There is nothing psychological to any of that. Your material conditions are fucking with your mind. You learn that all your consciousness-raising is only going to make you a servant of the dominant culture."

"So this is a culture war."

"Culture is a manifestation of the deeper contradiction."

Nana interrupted, "This is all about guys and their fascination with power."

"You have a solution."

"I agree with Graves. We have to change how we see the world."

"For the woman who is toiling as a maid in a hotel, she knows how the world works. For the student working retail, it is no different. Even as you advance, there is this drag that is

pulling you back.”

“That is what I have said.”

“Not in the same way. You go along with the whole-conscious raising thing. It is not going to make it better for these women.”

“What are you proposing?”

“They all have to see the power that they have.”

“You are in favor of empowerment.”

“Personal empowerment doesn’t change the overall situation.”

“Give people the ability to better their lives. Teach them new skills.”

“That doesn’t change the exploitation.”

“Automation will change a lot of that.”

“That is never how it works. There will always be some form of exploitation.”

“That is humanity. I have talked about that.”

“It’s not humanity when these workers realized that they have the collective power to throw off their chains.”

“That is another fantasy.”

“Do you want to defend the dominant culture?”

“This is all psychological.”

“We can do this again!”

“Go ahead.”

“What are you afraid of?”

Graves joined in, “I have been saying this all along. Americans have let themselves get bought off by commodities. They want their goodies.”

“They want some kind of meager reward, while their bosses get bloated with power.”

“What do you want me to do about it?”

“It is not up to you. The change is going to come. After being fucked up by their leaders, people are going to make the break.”

“Revolution.”

“An actual revolution.”

“What constitutes a revolutionary situation?”

“When the recognition of exploitation becomes so universal that workers can stand together against those who take advantage of them.”

I was explaining the importance of a revolutionary moment to Nana.

“There is a time in our existence when we need to be willing to risk ourselves for our beliefs. This is the basis of the revolutionary moment when we identify our own commitment with the perspectives of the movement. We recognize our ability to make a difference.”

“Why isn’t that just a personal belief?”

“Good luck!”

“What am I supposed to say?”

“Do you have what you want?”

“This revolutionary moment is going to give it to me.”

“The government is not going to give it to us. If they give it, they will take it away. We need to take control of the government. We need to create a system which works for us. Those,

who have that power, will exercise their will. It is not matter of compromising what we do not have.”

“We are tap dancing to the bank.”

“I do not want to hear any more jokes here.”

“Steven, you do not want to be talking out of both side of your mouth.”

“Where is this going?”

“I am falling out of myself.”

“We need to understand this better than ourselves.”

“What are you hiding?”

“I am hiding myself.”

“I do not have a chance here.”

“We are not going to take a poll. We are going to do what we need to do for ourselves.”

“Are you with me?”

“Are you with me, Graves?”

“What are you asking me?”

“I am teaching you things about yourself that you are afraid to think about.”

“We are unleashing the real power.”

“And the real power comes from work. You know the machine better than anyone else.”

“You know the machine, and you will become the machine.”

“You do not know this song.”

“I can dance to this.”

“We are dancing on a volcano.”

“You know what happened to that party!”

“Everyone left!”

“And where did they go?”

“You have to make a good balance.”

“It is over.”

“We are seeing something bigger coming over the hills.”

“The ocean is going to sweep us away.”

“Are we going back to the party?”

“We have become the foundation of the party. And no one can take that from us.”

“I give part of myself.”

“Where did I get this?”

“I am going to eat crackers.”

“I am trying to engage a revolutionary movement.”

“It has to disengage from the existing parties. They only benefit management.”

“Are you going to do this with a few people?”

“This is not a coup. A small guerilla force is not going to be able to find popular support.”

“I want you to fuck me up.”

“What do you have to make me understand better?”

“We need a blockade!”

“We are not delivering to the ports.”

“What does that mean?”

“I thought that we had discovered a clear political understanding.”

“The earth is shaking.”

“I am one of you.”

“I can have it all.”

“Do you understand the class struggle? This is not something that you can take advantage of without destroying it.”

“What is a class struggle?”

“The people who are being fucked over struggle against those who are fucking them over.”

“That is fucked.”

“This can be explained in a clearer fashion.”

“I was in the same position at another point in my life.”

“Are you going to stay home?”

“You know who is collaborating.”

“Are you going to give me what I want?”

“I am a product of the product.”

“I want a cigarette. Does the cigarette own me, or do I own the cigarette.”

“You cannot worry about silly things.”

“We are living as silly things.”

“You were trying to explain work to me. But that does not make me understand things any easily.”

“I hear it in my head.”

“No one talks like that.”

There was a hill, and we walked up the hill.

“I want to know, Nana. What do you think that the writer can do to alter the way that we see the world.”

“It goes beyond that. You have to stand for something.”

“Equal pay for equal work.”

“Whose equal? Equal to the boss. There are so many non-bosses who understand the machine. And the bosses think that they know. They pay people who understand the power of the paying. That only fucks up everyone.”

“We are playing a game. We need to understand ourselves. We need some quiet.”

“Beth wants us to come in.”

“She has things to share.”

“This is her night.”

“We should not take that away from her.”

“But we are on to something. I only wish that she could understand.”

“I want to get high.”

“What did your family teach you?”

“If we are so much higher than everyone else, we will know what we have to do to make cookies.”

“My question is who is doing the real work?”

"The person who is at the table with forks."

"I am going to understand this better than anyone else."

"Come to the peace table."

"I do not want to be deceived."

"This is what is brilliant. We do not have to follow your laws. We make what we want for ourselves."

"Are we all working together?"

"There is not working together."

"I do not have the money. Or I am the money."

"You see it like this for a while."

"Just make it right for sleep."

"This will make it right for sleep."

"They are going to come inside."

"It is one man against the man."

"Against the world."

"I can put all my toys away."

"She needs some birthday toys."

"This is not going to be an argument!"

"There is certainly enough time to get the work completed."

"Joyce carried on an idea first popularized by the naturalists. The novel could describe all the critical details of experience and in so doing, it could provide a more urgent connection to reality. Each particular description is knitted together with all the other elements to form a complete picture of world. This give the author a special power of understanding about what he describes. If this narrative includes all the critical elements of experience, it suggests that the author can use this knowledge to change the world in an appealing way. And this skill is elaborated in such minute detail that the reader can attain a similar power over her own life. This collective awareness is the foundation of a complex political interaction."

"Joyce added a unique variation on the naturalistic approach. By using different literary techniques, he discovered the means to provide even greater detail. This provided a clue for other writers who wanted to explore the primacy of literary expression. Using advanced techniques, other writers could explore the world in an even more exciting way. And this awareness would provide the basis for a new political understanding."

"Steven, are you trying to describe everyone at the party?"

"I set myself up as the primary observer. I can only record what is going in my immediate circle. I am talking to you while Beth is engaged in another conversation. You could compare the conversations and discover common properties. And these properties could enable the reader to get an even more powerful way to control her experience."

"It seems as if you are only going to get twisted up in these complex descriptions."

"We are already twisted up in these description. This is the only way to sort it out."

"So we just read more books to sort us out."

"But there is a promise for something else."

"You have the path for social revolution."

"Maybe. The writer is pointing the way."

"This is a total understanding of the world."

"That is where things get tricky. Do you want them to get tricky?"

Caroline thought about creating a world that would seem perfect for her.

"Sometimes, I am afraid that my life is too perfect. But I would hate too much uncertainty."

"You need to explore literature more."

"I am trying. I am trying to write."

"It is more about trying to live. How do you want to live it out?"

"Out?"

"Where are you going to take it?"

"How important are books to this problem?"

"What are you talking about?"

"If there was a book for your life, would you be faithful to that book?"

"I want to believe that I would be faithful. But I am not sure what I am doing."

"So you want a little chaos in your life."

"That seems acceptable."

I felt as if I was rearranging the balls in a magic hat.

"I learned some magic tricks. But I was never that good."

"What about reading minds?"

"I learned how to read minds of people that I mean. I could predict my lover to a t."

"Why would you want to stay with someone like that?"

"When I needed something, I wanted to get it right now. That is pretty simple."

"You have been blessed."

"Surprisingly well."

"But there is an element of doubt in your world."

"I can't understand everything in my life."

"That pinpoint could be the point from which another world bleeds completely into the world which you inhabit."

"I cannot worry about that."

"What do you worry about?"

"I want to explore this version of the world which you have offered. When I grew up, I remember that one of our neighbors was picked up by the police, and we told each other that he was a killer."

"Did he terrorize you and your friends?"

"I don't think it was all that complex. But that didn't stop us from inventing a story."

"How significant was that?"

"It was entertaining. I imagined his killing chamber. All the important questions of my life could be answered in that chamber."

I thought about what questions I wanted to ask Caroline.

"I have enough to think about at work."

"What does that mean?"

"I want all the confusion to disappear when I arrive at home. I want to be able to snap my finger."

"Maybe that is why you find it difficult to write. You do not have to worry what is happening in you life. So you do not have to write in order to survive."

"If my writing only referred to my life, it would have no meaning for other people. I would only be satisfying my own desires."

"Maybe, you could work on bringing to life your killer."

"That was all a product of imagination."

"What is wrong with that?"

"It is totally the opposite point of view that you attributed to the realistic novelist."

"It may be another view of reality. It describes what you are afraid of?"

"You're not saying that I am afraid of myself."

"What if you were?"

"I couldn't let that kind of stuff affect me."

"What does affect you deeply?"

"Are you interviewing me?"

"I am trying to inspire you to write something."

"I am not sure that is going to get me to do much of anything."

"What is the issue?"

"I am too much a part of the moment."

"What?"

"You are putting words into my mouth. I think that I can be a good writer. As good as anyone."

"But you do get caught in the present."

"I am looking at a puddle. This is accumulation of wonder. What have I become?"

"You have it all planned out. Even if you don't, the plan is going to lead you there."

"How is that going to affect the world that I live in?"

"That is my question. But you cannot ask that question. It is really too personal. You need to live more in the now."

"I cannot change the world if I am uncertain about the world."

"That is a good balance for you."

"I suppose so!"

"So you are going to jump in the puddle."

"I am going to think about it."

"Caroline, this is more than reading about it. You have to decided to live it."

"How can I live what I am not living?"

"How do you want to live?"

"I do not have the skills to live the way that I live. So I live how I almost want to live."

"You have finally arrived."

"I only have to have a glance."

"Where did you disappear?"

"Who are you relying on to transform the world."

"There is a way of knowledge. And we can use that understanding to change our place in the world. And this will require the world to change itself in relation to our

position.”

“How is that happening?”

“I am the happening.”

“How does that work?”

“You need to work with the right words.”

“This has gone too far.”

“He was able to describe all the place in the world. And you would just go there.”

“They are afraid of the truth.”

“Why are you talking to me like that?”

“I want a piece of pizza.”

“The novel takes the most innocuous object, and it transforms it into something real. Something that has the power to change life. You no longer will work in the same way.”

“How can you change work without changing the society? You move from being the oppressed to being the oppressor.”

“It does not have to be so bad.”

“That hardly seems fair.”

“What do you want me to feel right.”

“I will never be right.”

“I hear the noise from another room.”

“You act as if there is this secret, and you can use your abilities to transform that secret.”

“A secret love. People want that secret love.”

“People with the cash want people who will do for the cash so that they justify the cash.”

“There is a moment when none of this is real for me.”

“You are always writing.”

“Is this an art? Or is this work? Do I need enough to write, and it will all take care of itself. Or is work the beginning of something else.”

“What would something else be?”

“I am looking for something good.”

“I want something that lasts.”

“What lasts will not last.”

“We are not going to last.”

“Today came back and bit us on the ass.”

“I feel as if I can understand this great novel.”

“You are living it.”

“How would the book change so that it could match how I have changed?”

“Caroline, what do you want me to write about?”

“True crime.”

“Do you like the crime or the punishment? Or do you like the punishment so that you can like the crime? You can do something more creative.”

“What kind of story is this? Unbridled pleasure.”

“You have pleasure. Where does it get you?”

“I am devoted to my work.”

"You do not find pleasure in the way out."

"I am only pleasure in that way."

"And that takes you right back to the way in."

"There is more time to make the exposition."

"Did you think that you would learn to write at this party?"

"You are changing the story to meet your desires for the world."

"I have to twist around so many stories. And I only want to change one."

"What about the orphans story?"

"Crawl back in your hole!"

"We do not all have holes. There is not always place to hide."

"What do you want from your writing? Why did the orphan suffer in this way? What had been taken from her?"

"She needed to learn how to control her urges. Her abandonment made her feel as if she could never overcome these terrible influences. At the same time, the suffering became more oppressive. She would never find a way out of her story."

"She needed to give in for something which was not inside."

"How does that work, Caroline?"

"You cannot give in to your impulses except in an impulsive way."

"That is what a true killer says."

"You are not equating us."

"I am giving you a chance to live that story. This is better than a movie. You did something so terrible. And you felt bad. So you did something to make you feel terrible. But you felt bad."

"I know where this is going. Now, I do not want anyone to find me. But I want to take credit for what I have done."

"You are killing me by the way that you are treating me."

"What does that mean?"

"A way of talking. I am trying to understand."

"Why do you not need it?"

"I have figured out how to make it right."

"Why the fascination with deviancy."

"I do not feel right, but I cannot be made right."

"This seems to be getting much worse."

"You are dragging your feet."

"Can you develop a complex emotion about him?"

"I am thinking of writing this book. You are going to be in it. This is going to be a story about a religion. Honestly, you could be a faith. Someone could give the world."

"I would not take the world if it was offered."

"I need one person to go into detail."

"I do not want someone to see me like that. I love myself as I am."

"We have a dossier on her. It would fill volumes."

"How does it begin?"

"She is affected. She is groomed. She feels this attraction to something which works against her reality."

"How do you do this?"

"I balance good and evil."

"You are going to have to finish this quickly."

"I can find the balance."

"I do not want to be surprised."

"I cannot keep acting like this."

"Can you open up about your life?"

"There is a straight-line approach. But there are people who have all these twists that get in the way of the straight line."

"You cannot write. But you want to read stories about detectives and the like. The detective have taken notes on your life. You are going to have to figure out what is written about you."

"You are going to figure out who is behind the shit."

"What do you want?"

"I want someone who can make me look right."

"What is the punishment for not looking right?"

"Is this a Cinderella story all over again?"

"I know what you want."

"I saw you at that moment."

"There is no story here."

"You play as a way of getting a better handle on work."

"Why do you do this?"

"I want to keep this going."

"Do you feel comfortable about yourself?"

"I am comfort incarnate."

"Where is the story?"

"The winner takes all."

"I want to take it all."

"There is another possibility."

"Did you do something wrong? Or did something that you did wrong end up turning you into something wrong?"

"This is a story for someone who has it all so right."

"That is the Joyce novel. She has it right. Then she really gets it right."

"She is coming back."

"I treat you like a queen."

"I am pulling all this tight."

"Like a detective story."

"There is that one moment when you want to cross the line."

"What did you bring with you?"

"My nervousness. My past. My decision not to return to my past."

"This is bigger than you know."

"The control controls something when he controls nothing. Do you identify?"

"She is a female detective. She is solving her own case. It something that cannot be figured except by doing something that no one wants to do."

"Did you spend hard-earned money on this?"

"What are the questions which you already know the answer to?"

"You are so beyond yourself."

"I cannot be that way."

"Do you want to sit for a portrait?"

"I am so far beyond this."

"I can make it back if you want to come in for a session."

"How did you remake myself?"

"I did not let it bother me."

"Are you a competitor?"

"How can you view your story in a competitive way?"

"What does that mean?"

"I wish that I could take the money and run."

"There are so many blank pages in your book."

"I needed to take things out."

"A good writer fills in for what she takes out."

"I am not sure if I am going to have the skill for that."

"You are giving too much time and too much money for someone who cares nothing about."

"This is too difficult."

"You have to take some time to create a story."

"You not doing this in a convincing way."

"I went to work. I felt like shit. I came home and wrote. Convincing as shit."

"You are writing about fantasy. You are not relating how you feel now to how you felt a year ago."

"Come on in here. There is wedding."

"There are too many dos. No one talks like that."

"Contracts are different."

"Do I need to kill someone to get out of a contract.?"

"The rules have changed."

"Get me a law book?"

"Law can tell you what you do to do what you do. But it cannot tell you why do what you do."

"What does that mean?"

"You were doing to destroy yourself for doing what you do."

"This is a different kind of law."

"It is all about protecting what you want."

"This is not going to end in my head."

"This is not that difficult."

"Let me see that book."

"What are you asking me?"

"What is in there? I want to see what you wrote about me."

"I didn't write anything. This is your book."

"Why do you think that is fine. You want something that you can never get."

"That is your book."

"So what."

"You are reading my book back to me."

"How does this naturalist thing work?"

"You are like a scientist. You are recording all the details which make things go."

"What are some examples of things that go?"

"Tall ships with motors."

"You ended this for me."

"I need to take my shot."

"I am still trying to follow."

"You are changing the rules."

"I cannot even tell if it is me who is talking."

"Where am I?"

"You are in a hospital."

"There is nothing wrong with me. I want to leave."

"You cannot leave. You are under arrest."

"What are you talking about?"

"You did something very bad, and you are under arrest."

"You are trying to say things about my life which are not true."

"It is your turn to fuck up."

"This is not going well."

"I want to leave."

"She does not even remember what she did."

"I was passed out."

"You are going to have to learn to accept responsibility for these things."

"Why are you making me like this?"

"This is what you wanted. You wanted ethics. You wanted to be responsible for all the things which you have done. You need to admit to all the things that you wanted to do. And there is a subset: things which you have done."

"Are you back for more?"

"There is a situation of guilt. And you need to admit to the things that you have done. What have you done and not done right? You do not want to even consider that there could be such a thing. What you have done, you have done because you have done."

"You need to come see me. I could get a few things undone that are undoing you."

"Why are you doing this?"

"You are overbearing."

"Is this person holding together the world for you? If so, you cannot be the writer."

"I could cater a party."

"But you are not catering to all people. And that one person who is not catered to is going to destroy the party."

"What am I looking at?"

"I am looking at the blood."

"I am seeing my own blood everywhere."

"Who did this?"

“I am going to have to be a good detective.”
 “Someone did something terrible.”
 “These all seem to be figments of the mind. Then there is the trusting person who has something done to her which is a violation of trust.”
 “Did you make this up?”
 “All of this is over.”
 “I am working too hard at being what I want to be.”
 “Honey!”
 “Honey!”
 “Did you buy the honey?”
 “You look like a honey with honey.”
 “I was feeling so bad so I did something so terrible.”
 “I am not going to respond.”
 “You have what you want.”
 “The world is right.”
 “Something is going to tear all this apart.”
 “Honey, do find pleasure in the displeasure of others.”
 “Is that the embrace of suffering or the suffering of embrace?”
 “This is so difficult.”
 “I think that we can finish.”
 “You are not going to let this come apart.”
 “This is all that is given.”
 “This is hideous.”
 “I have found the pages which you took out.”
 “This is a nightmare.”
 “You could rewrite the pages.”
 “That is not going to help either of us.”
 “I am not going to try to play this.”
 “I need to reread this.”
 “You cannot leave the hospital.”
 “I hate this.”
 “Who put me in here? I want to read the orders.”
“YOU CHECKED YOURSELF IN!”
“I NEED TO CHECK MYSELF OUT.”
“YOU CANNOT DO THAT!”
“This is entirely your doing.”
“Steven, why are you messing with my life.”
“The story is getting to be even smaller.”
“You are betraying yourself.”
“I am never going to escape yourself.”
“Make it fit!”
“None of this fits!”
“Laura, knows.”
“Who is that?”

"There are forces in my life, which I do not understand."

"All angels understand."

"The author has to figure it out."

"I will come back."

"I have all that I need."

"This smells like shit."

"I will not move."

"Every detail of the story means something."

"What was she wearing?"

"White."

"All black."

"You look great."

"Are you giving yourself compliments?"

"This is how you play."

"You do want to stay in control."

"That is how things are meant to be done."

"I want purity."

"You can never wash that away."

"What is that: a curse?"

"She needs to be bathed in milk."

"That will make me clean."

"That sounds so silly. Milk is not clean."

"Clean cows."

"This is way beyond me."

"I need to get to the beliefs beneath the beliefs."

"I believe in the purity of the soul."

"These people are trying to put the soul back."

"A revolutionary situation means that the workers have gained the power to overthrow their oppressors."

"That is a Nineteenth Century notion."

"We are in the *Twentieth First Century*. *Everything that was is and was now.*"

"I cannot say how I feel."

"I need a recommendation."

"We are not going to share."

"Do I see what I think that I am seeing."

"I have got this."

"That is how ownership works."

"I do not show affection."

"This is ownership."

"What are you talking about?"

"I met you. I heard your story."

"How did I get here!"

"You were invited."

"This is going to hurt."

"How does this separate what is forever joined together?"
"There is an intersection."
"What is coming together?"
"I do not even know what I am looking at."
"The giggle sands."
"I have taken over the story."
"This is the rip in the universe."
"Hold me off."
"This should be easier."
"We can make it happen."
"One world, one way, one sentence."
"It was her."
"I am being framed."
"Your life frames you. Now, you understand how it is."
"I will never understand."
"All these people hate me."
"Why do you hate?"
"I think that I am needed."
"One day on, one day off. Then party, party, party."
"Honey, we need to see the exhibit."
"We need to go to the zoo!"
"I am going to get free."
"We all do something wrong."
"I have become deformed."
"That is how life is supposed to be."
"What do you do?"
"What is fear to you?"
"These details do not match how I am supposed to be lived."
"This is getting harder to understand."
"I know you."
"I wrote this for you."
"You are writing backwards."
"This is hard to explain."
"There are details which do not belong in the details."
"Did you do it?"
"How is that supposed to work?"
"You have to end it."
"This is a great party. You really took a lot of time to make all this happen."
"How is this going?"
"Do not lose your life by gaining your life!"
"I love the party."
"I love the sliced carrots."
"Try the dip."
"I am going to drown in this shit."

"You did a great job."

"We are all going to have to hide. When she comes in, we will scream!"

"Surprise."

"That is not her!"

"Whose party is this?"

"This is a surprise party for Beth. What are we going to teach Beth?"

"I win."

"All over."

"Beth wins!"

"Great party!"

"Beth, do you want to take a test."

"TAKE A TEST."

"What do you want to ask me?"

"This is your twenty-first birthday. You have to know the answers."

"Are there twenty questions?"

"A birthday girl dozen twenty plus one."

"What is the first question?"

"Are you animal, mineral, or vegetable?"

"I am trying to be a vegan, but I stay away from the mineral oil."

"It is not that good for your skin. If you want to use motor oil, put it in your car."

"How can I not this affect me so much?"

"I am asking the questions?"

"Who made you?"

"That is a tricky question. I am trying to be a self-made person."

"How were you made?"

"With sugar and spice and everything nice."

"What happens when the add to much spice?"

"I end up being up all night."

"There is a way to develop a cast iron stomach."

"Take one of these."

"What is that: antacid?"

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."

"Where does that come from Beth."

"I am so caught up in learning how to act out the opposite reaction."

"How do you do that?"

"By rejecting everything that I was raised with. But I am not that radical. I rejected only what I needed to so that I didn't feel guilty about everything."

"What is the source of your guilt?"

"I loved a guy so the first time that I kissed another guy."

"This was your high school sweetheart."

"He may have not been the first. But he seemed to be the best. And I really thought that my life had found its SOURCE."

"You are that attentive to the balance of the cosmos."

"Sometimes excess is better than balance."

"You learned this from comparative religions."

"I realized that I had a lot more freedom than I realized. The Judeo-Christian is all based on this economic exchange model. You do bad things, and your sins are transformed into guilt. Only if you are guilty are you allowed to be forgiven. It only leads to more guilt. And if there is all this guilt, is forgiveness ever possible. I discovered other religions which did not place such an emphasis on the self. You could flow with the energy of the universe. And frankly that seemed more favorable to me. That kind of thinking was a blessing. Like a gift. It was not longer such a terrible thing to have fun.

"You no longer feel guilty."

"I still do. But it takes a little longer before it sets in. It is as if I have head start. And that gives me the advantage I need. By the time that the guilt catches up with me, I am too tired to care. Thank God for alcohol."

"Is that an expression of religious belief?"

"It is only an expression."

"Does your guilt make you more sensitive to the needs to other people?"

"What are you asking me? Do I care when I get home at four in the morning? I wish that I could. But I am dealing with so much shit. So I need to let it all go. I am on the verge of passing out. So I give in to that feeling."

"Does that make you less sensitive to the needs to the world?"

"I can't carry the burden for the world. I want to care more. I really do. It's not as if I am only thinking about becoming wealthy. But I am not the one."

"Isn't that a little selfish?"

"It that one of my questions?"

"It could be one."

"What do I get beyond that?"

"You get another drink."

"That would be a better exchange."

"It would make us all alcoholics."

"Are you afraid of that?"

"I do not come out all the time. I have other things in my life."

"Like school."

"I learn about the dangers of alcohol."

"And other religions."

"I am making my own. It is a religion without belief. Just all the benefits. The good and plenty."

"How does that work?"

"I want to be chosen. I want to be the anointed one."

"My belief really was tied to my belief in my lover. I felt that I was doing something wrong if I didn't love Rob."

"Rob?"

"These are just the answers that you want for your party game."

"When you broken up with Rob, what happened?"

"I realized that I could be an adult. That I didn't have to believe in something to make myself feel good."

"You stopped believing in fairy tales."

"I could go to church if my family wanted to. But I didn't have some weird guy following me around telling me how to act. I could do shit. I could get all fucked up, and I didn't have to worry about losing my place in heaven."

"Do you still feel connected to other people? Or are you cut off from them?"

"I have friends."

"And what do you worry about?"

"I don't worry. I only wonder what is going to happen after college. It is not as if I know exactly what is going to happen. I am not that good at interviewing."

"Are you ashamed about anything that you ever did in your childhood?"

"It's not as if I ever got caught shoplifting."

"You didn't steal the last Oreo from the cookie jar."

"Is that an ethical question? . If I am hungry at that moment, I should have the right to eat it. After all, if there is a last Oreo, someone is going to have to eat it."

"That sounds like a real dilemma. I wish that I could help"

"No one ever can!"

"Sometimes, I think that are only two choices. You contribute to the shit, or you are the shit."

"This is your birthday. You need to claim your part in your heaven."

"Take the whole package of Oreos."

"Do the Oreos distract you from making the necessary choices to improve society?"

"Graves, what do you think?"

"We have to learn how to share. That is what Bernie is about. There is enough to go around. Why are some people hoarding? They want to be the bosses. They are acting out their bad childhood."

"This is hardly anything to do with my unhappiness."

"We are on the verge of changing things."

"We all work together on the farm. We grow potatoes. We peel them. We boil them. Then we make mashed potatoes with milk. That is the beginning of something great."

"What do you want to add to the potatoes?"

"We can grow non-GMO corn. We can learn how to rotate crops. We do not have to give in to the demands of agribusiness. We can renew the nutrients in the soil. Everyone can work together to make this a better society. That is only the beginning of something great. When we are all working together, we can benefit from our abundance."

"Don't forget to add some weed in there!"

"They already have laws in other states which reflect the true benefits of agriculture."

"Some people are not willing to admit what is possible."

"We all need to move back to the land."

"This is supposed to be a watershed moment."

"It is simply a matter of discovering the Great Divide. We can discover what we need for our survival"

"Owning the means of survival."

"This agricultural model is never going to address all the needs of an industrial society."

"We need less needs."

“And who is going to assign needs. You know what is going to happen.”
 “Bernie has a choice.”
 “Bro, don’t worry about it.”
 “Who are you talking to?”
 “I do not have the cash!”
 “Where is the pizza?”
 “I ate it all.”
 “What about cake?”
 “That is a lovely cake.”
 “This is going to be something important.”
 “How long does this keep going?”
 “Are we working together?”
 “We are the verge of a great understanding.”
 “Graves, you are really fucked up.”
 “The more fucked up that I get, the better my understanding of the complexities of the world. I could do a great essay on all the intricacies of the EU.”
 “What about the protecting of workers’ rights?”
 “I am fucked up. I can’t keep track of everything. Ask me tomorrow before my government class.”
 “Can you describe the classroom?”
 “They are all the same. Painted cinder blocks and whiteboards. Is there a solution?”
 “What do you think, Beth?”
 “I am not thinking about class.”
 “If you do not think about class, class is always going to be the same.”
 “I feel as if I am in rehab. I am not going to admit what is my real problem.”
 “Is this going to go on forever?”
 “There are real skills that we could learn.”
 “What are you talking about?”
 “How to fix a car?”
 “This is not a mechanics class.”
 “What kind of lesson is that?”
 “Every lesson is an ethical lesson.”
 “How much money do you keep in the bank?”
 “Enough to cover my checks for the month.”
 “Is that how a society holds it together?”
 “There are more complex equations. That is advanced economics. When you have a business account and a personal account.”
 “You should never use your business account for personal needs.”
 “Who paid for the party?”
 “Caroline too care of it all.”
 “Can you ever understand extreme need?”
 “The party is everything that I need. But it exists in a bubble. Outside these apartments, the streets are desperate. Within these walls, everything is perfect.”

“Agribusiness wanted to deliver this kind of perfection.”
 “I do not want to feel pain.”
 “Take one of these.”
 “I am going to come back and fill you in.”
 “When did I get here?”
 “I am waiting outside, and I want to come in.”
 “Brit, get me in the party.”
 “You have been waiting too long. Come with me.”
 “In everyone’s life, there is a party. They need to find the way in so that they can learn the way out.”
 “Are you two working together?”
 “Where is the bathroom?”
 “I cannot find anything.”
 “You look great.”
 “You all look great. I want to share in this prosperity. What do I need to do?”
 “You need to find a roommate.”
 “Find a rich roommate.”
 “She will never understand why you are shocked at her excesses.”
 “My boots are dirty.”
 “My life is dirty.”
 “I am a dirty person.”
 “Steven, are you a good person.”
 “I am trying to learn. Beth teach me what you are learning in school.”
 “I am feeling abandoned by all this bull shit.”
 “The show is over.”
 “The food is the show. I want more.”
 “Do not waste any?”
 “Some people want to deny the anthropological basis for human need. Need is a product of our reality.”
 “I cannot look. I cannot open the book.”
 “I have a test tomorrow.”
 “There are twenty one questions in ten minutes. Less than thirty seconds a question.”
 “Who made me?”
 “Chemistry made me.”
 “How did chemistry make me?”
 “It made me to get high.”
 “How can I come down?”
 “Eat mashed potatoes. Stare at paint drying. Hold on to your man.”
 “Just when you thought that it was safe to come out of your cage, you have to face a raging lion.”
 “What is a party favor?”
 “A carrot.”
 “What you do for another person.”

“What holds you and loves you until death do you part.”

“I realized that I was going to be living with this guy who I didn’t share that much with. But he wanted what I wanted. And I wanted to stop wanting what I wanted. This was going to be a difficult choice. The universe was going to close the gate on me for good. I don’t think that I could have gone along with the shit. So I did what I needed to get out. That is a weird thought about survival.”

“Some of us end up staying where we have to stay forever. I wanted to get out. I wanted to expand.”

“There were no treats.”

“How long is this going to take?”

“I want you to tell me a secret which is going to enable me to surpass myself.”

“I could teach you techniques how to be a better writer. How do you think that you can improve your life?”

“I could eat more porridge.”

“You have to be prepared for the bears.”

“Sounds like a guy who ended up at my place.”

“This is not that funny!”

“You should not mock your ex.”

“I realized that I would have to make my own money.”

“So you found a better one to surrender to the super boss.”

“I do not print money in my basement. And there I do not want to say prayers to the super boss.”

“Stay in the same key.”

“Is this end?”

“Am I a guy or a girl?”

“You realize what you want, but you need to take so much shit just to get what you want.”

“I like myself. This party is all about loving Beth.”

“I love myself!”

“Let us all love Beth.”

“Happy Birthday to Beth! And we all love you.”

“This sounds like a fun place to hang out.”

“There is a man at the door.”

“I did not order a stripper.”

“There comes a point when your humor take a turn for the best.”

“We learn these jobs in suburban communities. But we live in urban centers, and the rules of distribution are so much different.”

“Give people credit for what they can do.”

“Where I grew up, people judged you on the basis of what you bought. But it wasn’t as if they could spend enough to escape their roots.”

“This is killing the pig.”

“Kill the carrot. I am a vegetarian.”

“Do you want some pizza?”

"There is none in that box."

"Pizza boxes make promises which they never meet."

"What happens if consciousness gets so far out there? What are we going to be able to say?"

"I am at a loss."

"We need training."

"Graves, have you done meditation."

"I am eventually not going to need drugs. I will be able to focus completely through meditation."

"I remember my bedroom when I was growing up. I can control all my dreams. I am returning to childhood."

"How could I have made myself a better student?"

"We are all born with silver spoons in our mouths."

"I am gagging on a spoon."

"I want to find a place where I can find rescue."

"Go to the bathroom."

"You all look so great. No one has a thing to worry about."

"Steven, do you love us."

"I am an excessive person. But I am learning about restraint."

"I need to lie about."

"The party is just getting going. We are going to go out. And then we can show them what we are really worth."

"You are my beautiful boy. You are such a great son. I never realized that you would turn out so perfectly."

"These are people who have other kinds of dreams."

"Do not tell me about clean coal. There is no such thing. We need to apply alternatives. Not fracking. Something which is environmentally friendly."

"What do you want to offer me?"

"I can be your sleep watcher. I can wake you if you are having a nightmare."

"Can you do more than that? Can you enter my dreams?"

"I am in your dreams."

"Some people love fantasy. What do they see in people having special power? It is easier calling on a special power than trying to develop negotiating powers. That is why people buy mail order brides. They are trying to buy the perfect servant. But it never works out."

"Some people want their lives to be that simple."

"I am trying to find the secret formula."

"What will it do for you?"

"Thinks that nothing else will do."

"This guy is a hero of me. He made something out of nothing. And I wish that I had those skills. Everyone is looking for just that kind of personal liberation."

"How does that work?"

"You need special skills."

“I need to stop a natural disaster.”
 “That is my love life.”
 “Ha! Ha!”
 “Santa comes in April.”
 “Are you trying to control the party?”
 “Santa rules the party”
 “Some guy puts on Santa suit, and he thinks that he can deflect from the action.”
 “Why are you so dour?”
 “I can give you everything that you want.”
 “I want presents.”
 “Beth, here are your presents.”
 “It will not stop raining.”
 “It will not stop ringing.”
 “There is a ringing in my ears.”
 “The party is going beyond itself.”
 “Who gave it permission?”
 “Come give me a lecture.”
 “This is all my show.”
 “Beth is having a great party.”
 “I need more celery.”
 “I do not have enough energy to continue.”
 “We are going dancing in Buckhead.”
 “That will be my moment to adjourn.”
 “Steven, what do you want different for the world?”
 “I want these ideas to be important.”
 “This has to be a matter of the blood.”
 “I feel that you have gotten closer to an answer, but you are still a ways off.”
 “This is brilliant.”
 “I cannot go back.”
 “I cannot go forward.”
 “This is deliberately ambiguous.”
 “There is a better way to focus this.”
 “How do you feel it?”
 “As pairs of pairs.”
 “I need to be myself.”
 “We are all going to dance.”
 “This is a code word for getting down with the self. Everything that does not go in this direction is not worth considering.”
 “We are moving everything back that is already moved back.”
 “This needs to be smoother.”
 “Get rid of all the strays.”
 “Is that a flesh wound.”
 “There is no flesh that is not sacrificed to the flesh.”

“Sacred Heart of Mary!”
 “For the love of God.”
 “I have given way too much of myself.”
 “Steven, are you going to hide in your cave.”
 “I have no choice.”
 “I almost have this down.”
 “This is almost brilliant.”
 “Look at what you wrote.”
 “There are two parts.”
 “Beth, what do you need to live?”
 “A lake of my own.”
 “It is overflowing.”
 “Don’t try that again!”
 “I need to get out of here.”
 “Stay in your filth.”
“The party is so perfect. I want to remain in this moment.”
“No one remains in light.”
“What does that mean?”
“I look great.”
“This is going to get really interesting.”
“I feel as if I am a child of darkness.”
“It is pretty much the same. Life is a jumble of all these values. You cannot make too much of the meaning.”
“For people who feel this as misery, it everything.”
“Am I any warmer.”
“You have made it all the way.”
“Let my will be done!”
“I have learned the way.”
“This is a party. You are trying to be all prophetic. It does not happen like that.”
“What is the score?”
“Ask a grizzly bear!”
 “Some people have more because they deserve it. They start with ethical principles, and they learn how to make it to the top.”
 “That sounds like a pretty good revision of social Darwinism.”
 “What is that supposed to mean?”
 “People who start with a bunch find a way to get more than they already have.”
 “I want to get in on that.”
 “You jump on board, and it’s easy sledding from then on.
“I do not want to feel as if I am some kind of guinea pig.”
“We need you to sign a consent form.”
“What is this about?”
“You may be asked to behave in ways that you might find emotionally upsetting.”
“What if I do not sign.”

"Then you are not allowed to participate in your higher education."

"What did I do wrong?"

"You took to many party favors. There is going to be a push back."

"I am not going to be a martyr. What do you want to know from me?"

"Are you read, willing and able?"

We were about to enter the darkness. I was going to lose her again.

"You never had me."

"That is not what I am talking about. I want you to take this test."

"I have hit the line. I need to quit. I need to go to somewhere that rewards me for my efforts."

"There is so much spin on that. I cannot see what is happening to me."

"I have had too much to drink."

"Are you leaving?"

"I am about to leave."

"What are you starting with?"

"I am starting with everything, and I am afraid what I am going to lose."

"You have already lost the most important thing that you can own."

"What are you talking about?"

"I have made it more than I ever could."

"What happens when you have become lost in darkness?"

"There really is no coming back!"

"Things are cheap as shit around here."

"You cannot live on promises."

"I collect the promises in a box. Then I pass them out."

"I am going to need more than that to survive."

"How did I end up here?"

"I ate some bad oysters, and you have agreed to nurse me back to health."

"I could reach in the darkness and pull you out."

"Does Beth need a book?"

"I need the good book."

"A good book. What does talk about?"

"Everyone has her own version of creation."

"Where do you want to start?"

"With a plant. A burning bush."

"I hated myself. I hated what I had become. And I was afraid that this was going to damage me for all time."

"Where did your fear lead you?"

"I am not the kind of person who gets worried from this kind of thing."

"Can life develop from such an experience?"

"You burn yourself, and you learn a lesson."

"You burn, and you realize how you are damned."

"How much can I make?"

"More than you can burn!"

"That is pretty crazy."

"I wish that would save me."

"It never will."

"What holds it all together?"

"A devotion to self."

"Something has been taken from me. Something has been robbed from me."

"I hear a scratching at the door."

"He is coming for me."

"There is too much closeness."

"Where is Beth?"

"Beth went to Buckhead."

"What is she going to find there?"

"How to forget."

"It was a great party."

"It was very great."

"Things like this never last."

"Nothing lasts."

"There is no history!"

"This is worse."

"I like fantasy books."

"Why is that?"

"You should never analyze life that much. Whatever happens happens. If you can make it happen for you, that is all well and good. But if you want to get more, then you are going to have to work to get it."

"Beth writes a book."

"I live in the city, but I grew up in the suburbs."

"What dreams were you implanted with?"

"I could do anything that I wanted."

"I wanted to do mathematics. I wanted to win. But that is not my skill. I really need to learn how to interview."

"Is this really my story?"

"What are you asking, Beth?"

"Do I? Do I have a double?"

"I am double myself, and half someone else."

"This is getting hard to figure out."

"There is a place near us, which is free."

"How do I get out?"

"I wondered what was going on. This is my favorite place. I didn't want to leave. So I spent my time hanging out."

"This is a reader's bar. Do you know what that means? Everyone brings a book and talks about it."

I am not much on reading."

"You can bring a fantasy book."

"About angels and wizards."

"All my wizards have been sidelined."

"You only need one. I have one. He watches out for me."

"These are all the people who did not make the cut."

"I am floating off to heaven."

"What is a heaven?"

"I realized that anything that I wanted was only an exaggeration of what I already had.

That is why I love the grocery store."

"That is a suburban dream."

"I am going to walk off with everything."

"Do you not feel in control of your life?"

"What are you asking me? I did not have one of those lives. I do have some doubts. But none of that is going to destroy me."

"I owe all this money to a loan shark. He helped me to get my car fixed. Now, I have to give him everything that I own."

"What is this about?"

"We are trying to teach you techniques to help you with your life. You can see your life mirrored in the experience of others."

"Did you learn this in psychology class?"

"I want a drink. How is it going to affect me? I am tall. I need quite a few drinks before they affect me. I have a tolerance."

"I had a place in the center of the action. When I came back, everything was exploding around me."

"How much do you have to give?"

"I will give you what you need."

"That is fair."

"I am trying to teach you how to write. And I am getting distracted all the time."

"I may have a story. And I think that it would be great to tell it. But I am not going to suffer trying to tell it."

"You gave too much of yourself."

"What is this about?"

"Things will improve."

"Where should I wait in the interim?"

"Wait with me!"

"You have a great smile."

"What am I going to make with that? All these people want to know me., but I do not have time for them."

"I want you to meet this guy. He is a genius."

"The winner and new champion."

"I can start a car with my will."

"Beth, let's hang out. I am making a movie. We could hang out at the pool and shoot it."

"I have had too much of a good thing."

"I want to see the movie."

"What about that?"

"Does it make me look like a star?"

"We are all hanging around the pool eating pizza."

"There is a place where we can escape."

"You need to eat more of the pizza."

"I want to know if we can do something with the film."

"You needed to be more outrageous on screen."

"I was waiting for you to return."

"I do not want you to leave me."

"I need to eat more pizza."

"Have one of these pills?"

"I can balance home and work."

"Here take this."

"What is this?"

"This is background sheet for your character."

"Who am I?"

"Someone named Beth. You come to a bar called the Pleasure Principle, and it inspires you to rethink your spirituality."

"Does that mean that infinite pleasure is equivalent to spirituality? Or is it the best substitute?"

"You wonder too much about these questions, and you will be disappointed."

"I am not going to move. I am waiting for the world to come to me."

"What were you doing while I was gone."

"There is not way to escape this place."

"I am so happy."

"I am a champion."

"Free me from myself."

"You admit to these basic understandings, and that is how you survive."

"Where are we?"

"In a rest and relaxation palace."

"I am worried what is going to happen when I go back to work."

"The pressure is eating me from the inside."

"Do not think about that kind of thing."

"How do I stop thinking about something that you told me not to think about?"

"That is the art of meditation."

"I want to learn about it."

"In the future, there will be no trees. Just the memory of trees."

"I am a member of a tree planting organization."

"It is all growing in my head."

"We will rebuild what we have destroyed."

"It is impossible."

"We have come up with the solution."

"I want to drink and not think about this."

"I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!"

"I was about the cross over into another realm."

“I can’t bring you back from this.”
 “I thought that you understood something essential.”
 “There is a master of ceremonies. I can give you the manual.”
 “I have to take blood.”
 “We will have to transfuse.”
 “Pose for me.”
 “Something is eating my face away.”
 “She is going to help with the math.”
 “I cannot give you eternal life.”
 “We have destroyed ourselves.”
 “We are not playing according to the rules.”
 “The rules are your rules, and you reject the imposition of actual rules.”
 “She is going to read the prayer.”
 “I do not need any blessings. I am living as I am.”
 “I am existing as I was.”
 “Get me out of here.”
 “You are in as you are out.”
 “I see it but I cannot explain it.”
 “You are going to have to document every change and every counter change and counter charge.”
 “I want to help you learn.”
 “I want to get charged up.”
 “There is too much work here.”
 “No one is going to help me to escape myself.”
 “Get a ride, and go home.”
 “I want to be an advanced person.”
 “Give of yourself.”
 “This is ritualistic.”
 “Eat of my body.”
 “I do not understand what you are doing.”
 “I am trying to meditate.”
 “Where is my money, honey?”
 “Where is my honey, bee keepers?”
 “We are destroying our environment.”
 “*Are we still at Beth’s party? Is it the kind of party that I want to enjoy?*”
 “*What are your skills?*”
 “*I can dig deep holes. I can get lost in the rabbit hole. I am imitating the rabbit.*”
 “*I hear a scratching.*”
 “*He is almost here.*”
 “*We have to get on our knees.*”
 “*Is this life?*”
 “*You tell me Beth.*”
 “*I am listening to you.*”
 “*I have found some new friends. I will catch you soon.*”

"Once, there was a Beth."

"See that girl there. She looks cool."

"I like her jacket."

"She is saying what the fuck."

"Are you the writer?"

"Are you the character?"

"Do I have to be self-destructive. I want to be in control."

"Control of what? Here is a machine. But it does nothing."

"Does it play music?"

"I cannot go back to what I was doing in high school. I have got over my former beliefs."

"Can you fill me up with a belief?"

"I almost know."

"I recognize some of this shit."

"I only want to be saved."

"You are losing your appeal."

"I will have a lot more in the morning."

"I know what is next."

"Equality. We are all fucked up."

"We are all fucking with the world."

"I need some inspiration."

"I inspire myself."

"I only want to make it home."

"What do you have there?"

"Something that could hurt me."

"I love the way that you look."

"I look back at you."

"You look so wonderful. I realized that I could get what I wanted. I used a sketch pad. Then he came into my world."

"That could be a wedding night."

"I would freak out."

"It is coming!"

"Tomorrow!"

"I do not want to beg. But I need to beg. Beth, who is going to save me."

"What is a Beth?"

"None here."

"No names."

"Buckhead is a proper name."

"Honey, why did we leave our protected space."

"Because you did not respect me."

"The lioness roars."

"Animal magnetism."

"I act on it."

"Do you act on your acting on it? One day, you just say, no way fuck."

“No way, fuck.”
 “I need a ride.”
 “I need you to let me be. Me and this guy are talking. This is serious shit.”
 “Right now, this is serious shit. But a pile of this is just a pile of shit.”
 “Are you criticizing me?”
 “I AM CALLING LIFE WHAT IT IS.”
 “This is going to get better.”
 “I never thought that this would get that good.”
 “Let him be himself.”
 “Dance prison.”
 “You are so good to me. You are so good to me now. You are like breakfast.”
 “What is this about?”
 “No one needs to know.”
 “Beth, you are deep in the game.”
 “I am the game.”
 “You are the business.”
 “I cannot make money doing this.”
 “What are you telling me?”
 “I am so far beyond this.”
 “I do not want to end this.”
 “Save me from myself!”
 “This is beyond that.”
 “This is marvelous.”
 “I AM VIBRATING WITH THE UNIVERSE.”
 “Something happened to me. I need someone to interpret this for me.”
 “I am so drunk. I cannot help myself.”
 “There will be no book because we can make nothing of this confusion.”
 “The book proceeds by interpretation of the puzzles of consciousness.”
 “Did you get fucked, are you fucked, are you fucked up.”
 “Oh my fuck!”
 “Stop me.”
 “Who is the runner.”
 “They have all been running.”
 “Running wide.”
 “What the fuck!”
 “You do not understand.”
 “You cannot give me what I need.”
 “I need death.”
 “Beth needs resurrection.”
 “Is this enough for the whole story?”
 “I need followers.”
 “I have more love than I need.”
 “Take this.”

“Have another Oreo.”
“Get me off this shit!”
“This is too cold for me.”
“Is there a place where I can feel this good about myself?”
“The good feeling place.”
“You are all getting too close.”
“I need to reset myself.”
“You are always the same for me.”
“I do not want that boy coming back with me.”
“Do your business now.”
“I am doubling down with this shit.”
“I need to escape.”
“It is too cold for me.”
“Come below with me.”
“I want you to take me back to the glue factory.”
“Who is milking the cows?”
“I have obligations.”
“Do not make promises that you cannot keep.”
“Get out of my shit.”
“This is not all night long.”
“I have to go.”
“Beth, the party is over.”
“You better do it.”
“I am doing it!”
“You are playing it all.”
“Wow!”
“Way out!”
“I am in a pickle.”
“What is a pickle.”
“Eat the pickle.”
“Touch the pickle.”
“Stop that!”
“I am free.”
“I am coming out of myself.”
“You will need to get it all back.”
“Everything happens for a reason.”
“For every raisin, there is a raisin.”
“Wowee!”
“I did how it goes.”
“I am going to overthrow all this shit.”
“You have to go!”
“STOP!”
“Party over. You have to leave.”

"I like it here. I want to try on your life."
 "Why did you do it?"
 "Wake up! Daddy is here!"
 "What is that about?"
 "Happy Birthday to you!"
 "You can catch me up right now!"
 "I cannot worry about this!"
 "What is going on?"
 "I may have to leave the country."
 "Has the wolf finally caught up with you?"
 "They can hear whatever you say."
 "Freak zone."
 "That is where we all love and thrive."
 "We have entered the wolf's lair."
 "You accept what you are given."
 "That is a premise of my existence."
 "This is going to be much better for me."
 "Are you rooting for his liberation?"
 "No complaints."
 "Where is my sandwich."
 "Much is going to change."
 "I did not learn this in school."
 "Pythagorus will explain all."
 "Long distance run around."
 "Who are you trying to escape?"
 "The wonder mouse."
 "The note before the note."
 "The breath."
 "When you breath, you map out the gestures which assist in your personal liberation."
 "Oreos for all."
 "A universal pack."
 "We are each assigned one."
 "Eat the Oreo."
 "I catered the party: Oreos and M&M's."
 "Why not devise a cookie, which might speak for the proper distribution of time and space?"
 "We are coming up in the world!"
 "This is the division between heaven and hell."
 "I would rather rule in a shit hole than shovel shit at the Ritz."
 "Is this a choice?"
 "This is an application for a job?"
 "I will give you my heart."
 "The sacred heart of Beth!"

“Where is this going?”
 “Biology class.”
 “What can you change?”
 “This is the basic germ. This is what makes us what we are. It gives us the power to win.”
 “This is interminable. Political change takes millions of days to overthrow the dominant order.”
 “There is a day like today when it will all fall away. You have to take a stand and stick to it.”
 “Name change.”
 “How long has this been going on?”
 “Until the name change. Until the basic belief structure.”
 “I can teach you how to come up with commandments.”
 “Do not remove the investment capital from the business account!”
 “I knew that you were a part of this.”
 “How did you know?”
 “I can tell so much by how you stand. And what you believe.”
 “There is so much which you are able to do on your own.”
 “I am so disappointed.”
 “We have already gotten past the first stage.”
 “I was born to do this.”
 “I was born to follow along.”
 “I am waiting to be born.”
 “They do baptism’s on Thursday.”
 “And some of these people pass out in a puddle. You say some shit over them. And that is enough for all time.”
 “Maybe you can come to my wedding shower.”
 “Shower you with gifts or shower you with baptismal water.”
 “You always want to give me something which I do not have.”
 “Less body action and more action of the body.”
 “Is this love?”
 “Love would imply a greater allegiance to dynasty, a concern for children, and a commitment to the treasury.”
 “What do you have to offer?”
 “This is stand up.”
 “This is sit down.”
 “The kids are leaving.”
 “This is going to be so simple.”
 “I do not have the time to worry about this.”
 “I am all cut up.”
 “You learn to live with the pain.”
 “Don’t just win!”
 “I am running an investment firm, and I am creating my own currency.”

“I am glad that you can advance a way of stealing from the world and getting away with it. As long as you do not take money from my suburban family.”

“That is law number one for a loving and caring deity.”

“Bestow the money on those who truly need not on those who might try to waste it.”

“I am not digging this!

“What are you fighting against?”

“I guess that we can go back to living our lives.”

“I am the godfather.”

“We are going to be collecting soldiers to support the operation.”

“This is going to get deep.”

“He can be stopped.”

“Who is he working with?”

“The freebie society!”

“Have I asked my people?”

“We are all in.”

“We have read this book over and over again, and it appears to go to far. But we could be wrong. If we are wrong, then it does not go far enough. If we clip the larger and smaller values, we will arrive at the LIMIT.”

“Are you my limit?”

“I need to find a place in the dark where I can change.”

“It is time to roll.”

“Give me a map, and I will follow.”

“Don’t leave. You can fit on my map.”

“You have taken me to this point with your geometry.”

“I have been stopped in my tracks.”

“I need another way to do this.”

“This is the date book. It tell you how to act on a date.”

“What about income equality?”

“I cannot help it that some people get along with the market.”

“Mark it all up to me.”

“I am going to eat your dinner if you don’t!”

“We are going to change the way that we do work.”

“Do you want to switch?”

“Excalibur.”

“You need to be trained to use it.”

“How do I learn that?”

“That is the foundation of the story? Beth are you ready to learn?”

“There are a lot more lessons to complete the program.”

“I am not that interested in becoming the hero of a story.”

“What would you prefer?”

“I just want a sandwich delivered to my house at one in the morning.”

“We are all on a different page.”

“That is not the basis for a book.”

"I am so in love with myself."

"If you want history adapted in your favor, you are going to have to do so much more."

"I do not want to go back to that school."

"And what are you offering?"

"I quick exit!"

"I know everything that is happening within a radius of one."

"One in the morning."

"Miff and Morph are here."

"They are ready to transform time and space."

"Love just does that!"

"Where have you been?"

"You pushed me."

"I know what I have to deal with."

"That was not all my fault."

"Let us switch up."

"Time to apologize."

"You have notes, and I am doing all of this by memory."

"You are a very tricky person."

"Do you want me to reveal all of my secrets?"

"Does any of that matter?"

"We are going to need to get into the apartment."

"Why is that?"

"We can generalize about the experience. But no one else can explain what is really going on unless we can visit the apartment."

"None of this is real."

"I know what is going on in there."

"What are you hiding?"

"I thought that I knew."

"Beth, you still need to take the test. You have been delaying this. But it is going to determine if you are ready for what comes next."

"I see my evil represented for me. I am so sorry for what I might have done through my excesses."

"Don't follow me around, don't look at me, don't talk to me. What do you want me to do?"

"Perfection has walked through the door."

"I am in the trenches."

"You do not have to turn everything into a fight."

"I am not that aggressive."

"You do need training to limit your impulses."

"How would I do that?"

"Write your name on the board. Underneath, write words that you associate with your name."

"Ego-driven."

“Just because my meal has died does not mean that I have succumbed.”
 “This has already been eventful.”
 “You almost beheaded the queen.”
 “Women and children first.”
 “I know how this works with brain function.”
 “What about the machine?”
 “Who is going to take care of the machine.”
 “I can help.”
 “Did you do that?”
 “Put it away!”
 “Someone needs to clean up. The party is over, and we need to clean up.”
 “My head is in a fog. I do not think that I am ready to think about anything else.”
 “Are you doing this for charity?”
 “I really have a concern for you. I have committed part of my life to a faith, a love, a reality. But I have another part which I will gladly give to you.”
 “What am I going to have to accept?”
 “I am always looking at the stars, and I am imagining that there is a lot more that you could give me just by pushing. I am not your servant. I am not even sure if all this is worth it. But there is a lot of worth in what I am giving you.”
 “THERE IS NO SOLUTION HERE!”
 “You are hated.”
 “I did not want to lose my chance.”
 “I have to do it now.”
 “This now is a sum of a lot of nows.”
 “That could have been mine.”
 “That could be me.”
 “It was spicy.”
 “I took a bite.”
 “Give me seven hundred dollars for my body.”
 “Make it right!”
 “I did not realize that I was going to send it sailing.”
 “Many people have expressed an interest.”
 “This is a good place to start.”
 “You are no longer on the list.”
 “Shit! What did I do wrong?”
 “How did the force achieve a resolution?”
 “THE SOURCE!”
 “Beth, you used to be at the source. What happened?”
 “A deviation, a slight deviation. But I need to sleep.”
 “I can fill you up with anesthetic.”
 “I hurt!”
 “This is significant.”
 “You may not have realized it, but you have arrived.”

“There is a set which works for all these values.”

“It is a club.”

“This group intersects with some other groups.”

“I know her, but she is not a great friend.”

“Keep an eye on her for me.”

“She wants to take away something from me.”

“I need to do my mission.”

“You could ask.”

“Beth, your time has come and gone.”

“I could do this again.”

WHAT BETH WANTS: “Beth, what do you want for the world and yourself?”

“Take my life out of fucking context.”

“This is going to explode.”

“Wait until we get home, honey.”

“These characters come and go.”

“We remain good friends. Why is that? I do not ask, and you do not answer.”

“You will help me to continue the story. You certainly have the ability, and that is certainly certain for me.”

WHAT BETH WANTS:

WHERE BETH LIVES:

TO WHAT BETH ASPIRES:

“What is Beth culture?”

“That was wicked.”

“Get over here.”

“I need to turn an A into a B.”

“Where do you fit Beth?”

“What is really Beth is secret to me. I cannot answer all the questions. But I am closer to a general understanding.”

“I am saving the last bite.”

“I AM FUCKING SAVING THE LAST BITE.”

“I want to know. Am I the last bite?”

“That could be the transmigration of souls or the transubstantiation of human substance.”

“Or bread.”

“Holy bread.”

“Holy water.”

“Polluted water.”

“You distort one way of seeing things, and it is all distorted.”

“What is your agenda?”

“Feed the poor.”

“Half and half is going to destroy the universe.”

“I am in the main building.”

“Where are the sandwiches?”

If this was a different story, it would be your story. A nun's story. Look at you. I can see. Ask me. What do you need to be in order to be more than you already are?"

"Take all the values off center."

"This is clarity."

"How did I get it all down to a science."

"I need you to ask me."

"How did he get here?"

We found someone who is a member of the special forces. But he is also a member of a paramilitary group. He does not read books. He cannot understand the social forces which have made him an assassin. But he does like scripts. He is looking for someone to tell him what to do."

"They are in my house."

"Get out."

"There is no way out."

"What do you kids want? What makes you so uncaring."

"They closed the doors permanently."

"This makes you the way that you are. That you can find an assassin in so opposition to you that he becomes you. And that is what gives you the power to prosecute. That all these values can result in values which are not values."

"I would explain it if I could, but you would need to get excited."

"I lost the protagonist."

"Did you get a picture?"

"I need you to buy me a new world."

"There are so many worlds."

"One world, one protagonist."

"Oh, the pain."

"You will not suffer much longer."

"There are people who we can redeem."

"I work very hard to be buried in stone."

"We will have a place for you."

"She is the agony."

"The music speaks her agony."

"Will you all please go? I will need a clean field to be able to complete this story."

"This is not progressing very fast, Beth."

"I have a headache."

"I need someone who can do this for me."

"Let me see your ankle."

"You are very much in control."

"This is horrendous."

"No one can get me out this!"

"I surely can!"

"If you do that again, it will hurt."

"That was an accident."

"They all have the Big Book. The Conformist Sacred Liturgy."

"All praise their religious endeavors."

"I cannot even pierce that faith."

"It is there. The universe blesses them with a certainty. If that was taken, they would have all kinds of other doubts. This is the line. Are there values here?"

"Take it easy on me."

"BETH, I WAS SURE THAT YOU WERE SO FAR BEYOND THIS. BUT I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY FOUND YOUR MATCH!"

"THERE ARE NO OTHER BETHS."

"I think that I can figure out the derivation here. But I am not sure what I can say to contradict the liturgy."

"God made me so perfect. He did not want me to think about things that might keep me up at night. He wanted it all to have a solution."

"This is the American dream."

"The American drink."

"What motivates you?"

"Because I love her."

"I am going to explode on myself."

"How did that happen?"

"I was bombarded with gamma rays."

"Was that intentional? Beth, did you want to disrupt the integrity of the biological program."

"I do not want you to turn me into some kind of a freak."

"You interrupted my high."

"No dream is going to solve this."

"I am tired. I had an agonizing party. I only want to forget."

"What do you want to forget?"

"There is a prophet who is going to help."

"Society is based on ridiculous assumptions."

"Maybe if you are in a rowboat in the middle of the ocean, you would both work together to survive."

"She would toss you overboard simply to prove that she was in control."

"Where does this come from?"

"This comes from the doctor."

"This is the frozen food section."

"Beth, I want you to understand."

"None of us do. We need a different hymnal."

"What about the story of Job?"

"I got over it. I ate some Oreos, and I transcended it."

"Beth, there is something that I want from you."

"Ha! Hah! Ha!"

"Bring me some ice!"

"The universe does not have a personality."

"We construct a universe to support what we want. If you want suffering, you will find

it.”

“The Standard Liturgy will support that belief.”

“I have a great tailor.”

“He decides the lines. You go along with them.

“This is the complex version of the liturgy.”

“There is a supplemental mathematical text.”

“I pay someone to figure that out for me.”

“I don’t need an interpreter to explain what I am doing.”

“There is a day of the week when I do not have to see you.”

Beth was doing her best to emerge in the story.

“Did you being with an advantage?”

“Take the doughnut, and put it in the bag. There is powdered sugar in there. Now, shake it around. This is going to be very important.”

“The conformists have ceased believing. They are ready to act out their lives.”

“The non-conformists have already fucked up this story. They have burned witches at the stake. They have no tolerance for the right of others.”

“If only you understood the damage created by belief. The Royalists would kill a man for looking at the kind in the wrong way.”

“I know what you are doing.”

“I am changing the atmosphere.”

“What is the gas pressure?”

“I am being suffocated.”

“Sleeping Beth, wake up from your dream.”

“You will look back on this space. You will see all the variations. And you will wonder why you did not make it work for you. What did you do wrong?”

“I failed the geometry test.”

“There is a wonderful variation.”

“No one noticed.”

“I want to hear my favorite song.”

“She crossed the room with such intent.”

“Beth, do you see that she is trying to discover history?”

“She is searching for a motive.”

“She needs a better diet.”

“She needs to move to a new city.”

“When are we going to be able to leave the cave?”

“This could not have ended worse.”

“They are going to turn on their masters and destroy that version of reality.”

“I AM IN CHARGE!”

“I NEED A PLACE TO SLEEP.”

“Go sleep in my car.”

“Someone is going to kidnap me in that car.”

“The showdown is not going to happen.”

“Do not give that much of yourself away.”

“No one owes you anything.”
 “Actually, two people owe me over a thousand dollars.”
 “This is too difficult.”
 “Why am I not doing your story?”
 “Are these values solutions?”
 “What do they lack?”
 “Someone is not going to be able to complete.”
 “How does that help me to eat? How does that find me a place to live? How does that
 change the balance of power.”
 “She knows. She is a writer. She has seen what it is all about.”
 “You have to make the room right.”
 “I watched them repair the walls. There were holes.”
 “It can all be done in a day.”
 “This is how was are changing it all.”
“I am the perfect substitute. I cannot know. I cannot enjoin. I cannot participate.”
“We will have to do an intervention. Someone has to get you away from the
indoctrination.”
 “I am comfortable with what I have.”
 “That was a scandal.”
 “We are going to stop doing your shit.”
 “This is not going to last.”
 “Where do these orders come from?”
 “They come from inside the heart.”
 “No one has a heart.”
 “I need to make a point.”
 “We are all disappointed.”
 “This is going deeper.”
 “You can only twist taffy so much.”
 “Are you still impressed? You must be writing a novel. Has she been recording all
 the words?”
 “Someone who knew the lights turned them all on.”
 “You saved us.”
 “Do not get in my face.”
 “I have only notice a few variations.”
 “You almost took off my head.”
 “As if I care.”
 “Where are your jackets?”
 “We have surpassed ourselves.”
 “Did you lose something?”
 “It no longer matters.”
 “I am being grouped with all these people who do not have the same sensitivity
 about their surroundings.”
 “That was better than I thought that it would be.”

"Taste must account for something."

"Nothing went right."

"You went right."

"There is this moment when I cannot say what to be said."

"I can build your profile."

"I have not sinned."

"I can give you everything."

"I do not understand you. "

"Beth makes it happen."

"I did at my party. But that is a bit of a swan song. Everything will be down hill from here."

"That is a terrible thing to say."

"I will graduate. I will get a job. And I will forget the question that he whispered in my ear."

"What did he say?"

"I think that I need to ask you one thing."

"I think that I need to ask you one thing."

"I think that I need to ask you one thing."

"Are you living on the line?"

"I am not laughing at your misfortune."

"This is getting too close for comfort."

"This is one possibility among many. This is a possible resolution. I look great tonight. There could be a thousand variations."

"What would an infinite number mean?"

"That I could not exhaust this process without some deeper change in my life."

"You need to chase. You need to find out."

"No one can save everyone."

"Except a true savior."

"There are numbers to explain that."

"BETH, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TRUE SAVIOR?"

I saw what I needed."

"There is a continuation of your story. It will twist and turn. But it will all makes sense."

"You did this so well. What did he bring to the table?"

"Plastic spoons."

"This is getting very interesting."

"She is not close to a solution."

"I am suffused with a unique power."

"You never allow me to be myself!"

"I only want to break the cycle."

"What cycle? Are you trying to control me?"

"The cold will chase away our enemies."

"It will not be as bad."

"I need to scream in the night."
 "Where did you go?"
 "Do you need a ride?"
 "I can get you out of the cold."
 "This is getting creepy."
 "Beth, you can leave."
 "Some guy freaked me out."
 "You scare him so that you could get away."
 "I am hearing the same shit over and over again."
 "I promise the same thing over and over again."
 "I love, and I hate. And I will love like this until the end."
 "I cannot do this tomorrow."
 "I am not going to escape. I cannot escape from myself."
 "You succeeded."
 "Open the letter, Beth."
 "What is the letter about?"
 "You are my perfection."
 "You have communicable disease."
 "There are things that you need to learn if you want to save yourself."
 "I do not need saving."
 "I do not want to give of my soul. My body is separate from my soul. My body is
 damned. My soul is saved."
 "What would she say about herself? Steven, are you putting words in her mouth.."
 "If there were no words, there would be no story."
 "Time will not save you; no one will save you."
 "You are out of it."
 "Do not shut me out of my existence."
 "There is a moment when Beth is not Beth. I do not want pretend that it is otherwise.
 Are you any different? No one could change that. No one could compensate for that. That is
 how I live and breathe."
 "Is that why you are looking for a substitute?"
 "Do you have an equation?"
 "At a certain frequency, I will burn up and cease to exist."
 "I want to win."
 "He has been coming up with an explanation. It must be in a book. It took him a long
 time to find the book."
 "I cannot do anything for you."
 "How did that work?"
 "I put a lot of effort into my triumph."
 "You can pretend to be me. And that will only confirm the importance of my story."
 "I do this to survive."
 "How can you live on this planet without your head exploding?"
 "I am doing my best to understand gravity. But the application is a little beyond me.
 How can I exist on this planet when these forces are so contrary to my existence?"

“He will help fill in the words.”

“Beth goes to high school.”

“Beth goes to college.”

“Beth has a crisis.”

“Beth surmounts her crisis.”

“Beth writes a self-help book.”

“Beth has a cooking show.”

“DO YOU WANT SOME POT BROWNIES?”

“I want to learn how to gloat on the water.”

“I am sinking in my own doubts.”

“I am not sure why I am the person who I am.”

“You can let yourself be bothered by this level of bulls shit. I am off on an adventure.”

“Was it close?”

“You can do it all.”

“I am hungry, Beth. I am tired. I am confused. I want to surpass myself.”

“You are so fucking obnoxious.”

“Fuck , fuck, fuck!”

“The king has decreed.”

“I am a queen. I do not need someone giving me orders.”

“I am my own disorder.”

“What did I lose?”

“Do you want to hear about my business?”

“Do you want to hear about my island?”

“Do have a good question to ask?”

“How much chili powder should I put in my chili?”

“How much Beth powder should I put in my Beth?”

“There is a secret recipe.”

“It is in a vault, and the solutions is used to create Beths.”

“This is land all of you.”

“What are you wearing?”

“What are you wearing?”

“What are you wearing?”

“Are you a good observer? What do you think about? Does anything phase you?”

“I want to get turned on.”

“We have determined that is illegal talk.”

Steven, you are going to be under my care for the next few days. I am supposed to observe your behavior. I don't want you trying to get too friendly with me. I have heard you do that kind of thing in the past.

“I'm a friendly guy.”

“That is not what I am talking about. I have a job to do. I am just trying to take care of it.”

“Do your job!”

“I am not worried about me doing my job. I am more concerned about you trying to interfere.”

"I will help you if you help me."

"I always feel as if you want something from me."

"I do."

"This may sound presumptuous."

"It is presumptuous."

"I missed my chance."

"I am burning up in my desire."

"What does that mean?"

"Can you get it to stop?"

"I am going to toss you in the water."

"This is too early for that."

"You are lovely."

"I am so lovely."

"You could be Beth the scientist!"

"What is happening to me I cannot live in this world like this you've gotten inside me you have made me think in ways that I do not like I cannot stand being like this anymore I need to get myself back I haven't given so much of myself to others I have given so much myself tonight dear which has nothing to do with me graduate, I have realized what I have to do to take back myself I have to find a power within me that can help me transform. I've been so burdened by these feelings. The power is overcoming me I should be able to do more. I should be able to fight these feelings. I feel weak. I feel vulnerable. It's hard for me to admit these feelings. I feel it only makes me more isolated. I have friends I have lots of friends. I shouldn't feel like this question that these feelings over coming but they do and I am wondering what is becoming of me? I see people on the street all the time they don't have a place to live there begging for money they're begging for food I want to help them but it also reveals and me but there's a symbol I don't want to risk my own happiness I don't wanna become a victim I want something better for myself why do I feel so overwhelmed by everything that's happening around me why do these feelings crushed me what is going on what is happening to me? I feel that I should be stronger and saw it. I feel that I have a power inside. Why does this power destroyed me. Why am I being crushed by these feeling?."

"I do not understand."

"Beth, this is not a matter of personality."

"What does the writer think?"

"It could all be different."

"How? These are thirty variations of the same thing."

"Love will find a way."

"I will find a love."

"I am so beyond myself."

"Oooh!"

"The party has adjourned."

"This party will never end."

"I woke up, and then I went to sleep."

"I love you so much."

"I can make it worth your while."
"I am excellent at this."
"I have been thinking about you."
"It is time to adjourn."
"I am under observation."
"What is your problem?"
"I say the wrong thing. I see what I like, and I just say that I like it."
"You work so hard, but will you ever get what you want."
"I want something good and crunchy."
"Welcome aboard!"
"This book is all about asparagus."
"I am not a fanatic about my diet."
"Do you know what I really like?"
"Something soft and chewy."
"Are you able to stand up for what you like?"
"Your parents are lunatics."
"Is that a value judgement."
"This is not about Beth. It is all about her."
"What is there to eat?"
"I eat at the Laundromat.. It is a bar and a place to hang out."
"It could be your turn."
"Politics does not rely on your choices of fashion."
"We would like to invite you to the show."
"This is your birthday entertainment."
"I am not going to even try."
"What do you want to see to give you the edge that you need in negotiations?"
"I want people to look at me and see the skills that I bring to the table."
"What are you talking about?"
"Do not press this button!"
"I have hit all the combinations."
"You don't really have this in control."
"This is too mellow."
"Are you flesh-eating?"
"The bacteria is eating me up."
"How do you want to be served?"
With honey mustard sauce."
"You could be the same guy with a little more training."
"Do yo want to get out?"
"Beth, we are going to have to work on this."
"Who is the wild card?"
"Someone is going to have to do some weird shit."
"Beth, help me."
"Who is at the party?"
"We are in Buckhead."

"What does that mean?"

"Anything goes. No one worries about the future of the world. You live and love for now. There is no money because you have all the money. Your life is a board game, and you always win."

"I was born to be a winner."

"Take the plastic spoon out of your mouth. It might break."

"Let me suck all the ice cream off the spoon. Sweet stuff."

"Do you remember the ice cream emporium?"

"I have friends in high places."

"I am melting."

"Are you buying or selling?"

"I want it all to be sweet."

"And I feel as is I am getting over my worst shit. But I keep going backwards, and the shit gets worse and worse."

"You are unique."

"I am not contagious."

"This is an antibiotic."

"This is a natural way to recover."

"You take yourself too seriously."

"What are you criticizing?"

"This all got crazy. Then I just let go."

"This is not my style."

"Cruelty is not a game. I have to live this all the time."

"What are you getting it?"

"I don't let any of it bother."

"Beth, do you like where this is going?"

"I do not understand all the talk about suffering and antibiotics."

"You live in a safe environment."

"I want to learn what I need to learn to survive in dangerous situations."

"This is going to be too good."

"Drop out, tune in, and turn on."

"That is what Graves says all the time. What does it mean?"

"It means that we give too much of ourselves."

"And where does that go."

"Who do you love?"

"I have to be really high before I can deal with other people."

"Who is next?"

"I can deal with this!"

"What is the next game?"

"William Tell!"

"Do I need to bend the bow?"

"I am finding no pleasure in this."

"All happens behind a screen!"

"This is a veritable menagerie of delights."

"A menagerie à trois!"

"Me, myself, and I."

"Myself, yourself, and Mr. Nobody."

"Did I scare you?"

"We are laughing all the way to the bank."

"Caper film."

"Fries with that shake?"

"No, I will stay with the crushed Oreos on ice cream."

"This is too good to think about."

"I do not understand the economic miracle. Who is buying all this shit, and is that why some will never have any."

"Eat a mouthful and tell the truth."

"Beth, what do you see that I do not?"

"That is my secret. In the darkness, I become a different kind of person. You do not want to see that."

"This is all going to come to you."

"There was a time when it was all a little fresher."

"Lettuce on that burger."

"This is all too simple."

"I am still not satisfied. I am weighed down on this earth!"

"This is a mess."

"I cannot fix that."

"GIVE ME THE SIMPLE VERSION."

"Beth, party, birthday, twenty one, change of heart, change of mind new world."

"There is something missing."

"Weekend, weekday, party favors, gifts."

"You are leaving something out."

"I am part of the economic miracle. When I look at the combination of all the elements, they make me look good."

"There is only one person who can kill a giant."

"Beth, do you have the technique? Do you know who are the targets? You need to move more quickly."

"How are these people the center of the world? There is not one idea which I can take away from this."

"We need to burn something."

"This will be over soon."

"You cannot stop yourself."

"I am not part of this."

"There are a number of alternative paths. Some lead to the rewards. Others lead to the rewards."

"You are out of your element."

"Something is wrong."

"What is so fundamental?"

"My parents watched out for everything."

"It did not last."

"It would have ended sooner if there was better competition."

"What do I know now, which I did not know when I needed to know it?"

"Beth, you really look as if you understand."

"That is fundamental."

"What needs to be understand?"

"How to change a tire."

"How to follow the joy spin."

"And where does that go?"

"You are not going to understand."

"You have been inspiring to my life. You have been an inspiration to all the other girls. You could be a leader."

"Beth, you could be a leader. But you will have to set out on an important quest."

"Have you checked your email?"

"Where is the party now?"

"Wherever the music is very loud."

"I wish that I could know what you know."

"I know it in the body not in the mind."

"This is important."

"I like the boots."

"I killed an elk."

"I did not want to hear that."

"There is an instruction manual."

"I have it all filled out."

"And a joke book."

"I have memorized them all."

"It doesn't work that way. You have to believe this stuff."

"What does Beth know?"

"Chemistry."

"She left you for another."

"She changed the world."

"You have to keep working even after you have given out."

"They work you to the bone."

"Why do people take this shit?"

"Two more days, and I own the boots."

"How much effort?"

"I have to hold my breath underwater."

"I will be saved."

"That could have happed to me."

"Let us hold hands."

"Who is this guy?"

"My birthday guy. He comes from Buckhead. He is like an encyclopedia."

"I have one question."

"This better be good!"
 "I can create a world with my mind."
 "Who is the giant killer?"
 "What does the giant want?"
 "Is that the question?"
 "I have a theological question."
 "I do not let the world affect me."
 "I want you to ride the Ferris wheel with me."
 "There is a point where none of this makes sense."
 "We can continue the game."
 "I am teaching people how to walk on water."
 "I do not want to interrupt your agenda."
 "Where are we going to end up?"
 "At a reckoning."
 "A war crimes tribunal."
 "That will probably not happen again."
 "Everything will be destroyed."
 "A court of cockroaches."
 "A jury of your peers."
 "When everybody has a hand in the shenanigans."
 "You need to monitor the story better."
 "This is getting too close."
 "Why don't you ask someone who is not in the thick of things?"
 "This is all done."
 "He is coming back."
 "Is this Michael Meyers?"
 "I feel as if I am watching a child's version of the world."
 "He will take care of all of us."
 "You did what?"
 "You did what?"
 "You did what?"
 "I need a break. I need a beak. I need a rest. I need to sleep. I need a drink. I need to get away. I need meditation."
 "This is everything that I want."
 "I was made this way."
 "Who made Beth?"
 "I was made to respond to changes in my immediate environment. I do not have long range thinking because I live in a world which has done all the long range thinking for me."
 "This is very weird."
 "Where do these people come from?"
 "A tanning farm."
 "This is getting too good."
 "I would spend all my life thinking of new compliments for you. It would seem like

some kind of unusual addition.”

“I think that I understand.”

“This is everything that I want.”

“Beth, can you help me to get what I want.”

“What is the biggest sin which you have contemplated?”

“Havoc and a victory lap.”

“All eyes are on you.”

“This is a party, and I am the guest of honor.”

“I am the guest of humor.”

Beth got in a car and went to Buckhead.”

“This is witty.”

“The hero of the story is not here.”

“You could be a substitute Beth.”

“Someone has to go to Buckhead.”

“The Lord comes to my house.”

“This is going to hurt me a lot more.”

“Corporal and mental anguish.”

“I am not going to do what you want to do. I am just going to leave this place.”

“What are you waiting for? Do you want to waste your whole life waiting?”

“You need a better method to succeed.”

“You go out in wilderness, and you realize that the world is not what you want it to be.”

“Why did you do this?”

“I thought that you could find salvation if I contemplated enough doughnuts.”

“This is not good for my heart.”

“He loves you.”

“It is not what it seems to be.”

“We are not going to explore that.”

“Now, I have a straight shot.”

“You cannot keep your mind on the game.”

“You cannot keep your mind on your life.”

“WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?”

“Imagine if a child wrote this. He has an idea what he wants to say. But he keeps getting confused who is talking. So he keeps writing. And he hopes it will all make sense when his teacher gets to read it. But his teacher may suggest that he needs to go to the school psychologist.”

“Would you like to talk about what you wrote?”

“What do you want to know?”

“Does it make you cry?”

“I do not want to think about this stuff.”

“You need to keep your mind on the game.”

“I am studying the writing book. I am not sure who to talk about first.”

“Tell me about Beth.”

“She came to me in a dream”

“This is a place where it all comes together.”
 “These are the carrots for the party.”
 “I am going to eat all the carrots.”
 “Someone needs to free the rabbit.”
 “Thanks so much.”
 “There is a rabbit inside of me.”
 “You are going to need a lawyer for all the shit that you have dropped.”
 “I am a fair person. Do not try to besmirch my chracter.”
 “I have answers.”
 “I have Excalibur.”
 “This is the same that it has always been.”
 “Do you like that shit?”
 “It was going so well.”
 “YOU NEED TO HAVE BEEN THERE!”
 “I am all here.”
 “I get it.”
 “You need to see my other car.”
 “I am on sick leave.”
 “It is Saturday.”
 “I do not want to deal with humans.”
 “How do you hold this together so well?”
 “I don’t let it get to me.”
 “How does the split work?”
 “One for me, and three for you. You have the illusion that quantity will save you. I can
 do well with one carrot.”
 “Have it, and eat it too.”
 “This part of the party is going on too long.”
 “The party is over.”
 “Steven, you are trying to ruin my fun. This party continues on as long as I have
 method.”
 “You are the other character in the story.”
 “I don’t want anything to change.”
 “Good luck.”
 “You learn how to block things that are messing with your game.”
 “Is that how it happens.”
 “There is another version.”
 “Who is on?”
 “Beth misses her party.”
 “It is a surprise.”
 “SURPRISE!”
 “False start.”
 “We are all on this boat together. But you are hoping that someone gets tossed off the
 side. That means that there are less possibilities.”

“You are not even in this.”
“I could be.”
“What am I missing.”
“The will.”
“I don’t let it affect me.”
“Is this really what you want?”
“The party boat is sinking.”
“You are in my line of sight.”
“This is not going to get any better.”
“And this is making us happy?”
“Not now.”
“I am getting on another boat.”
“Where is the fucking beat?”
“Where is the fucking boat?”
“I need to offer you an explanation.”
“I thought that I was next.”
“I need an explanation.”
“When do I get in the story?”
“Beth, it is all about you.”
“None of this seems to be going anywhere.”
“I collect blood.”
“On my birthday.”
“This is passion.”
“We all must submit.”
“I want to take it easy.”
“The gang is all here.”
“Will this ever end?”
“This is getting too close.”
“Beth, we are going to operate.”
“What are we going to discover?”
“I am going to need some help.”
“Will I be more wonderful?”
“You will no longer have an bad memories.”
“Bad memories lead to more powerful good memories.”
“This is always over before it starts.”
“I remember you well.”
“I wish that I could remember.”
“See that guy there. I do not want to talk to him. He knows too much already.”
“I already missed my calling.”
“Howdy?”
“Are you from the depths.”
“I come to save you.”
“Swim out into the depths.”

"I only want to play along."

"I am drowning. She invited me out into the depths. I could not overcome the waves. I was going down."

"I have waited my whole life for this."

"I lie on the beach, and I pretend that I am reliving the life of a great poet."

"There is a balance."

"Do you want justice?"

"THE WITNESS REMEMBERS NOTHING."

"I saw all that. I remember all that. I like the reminder."

"Howdy!"

"I poisoned your drink."

"Why did you do that?"

"You did not notice me. You spent all your thinking about Beth."

"You seem more receptive to my ideas of culture. Maybe, you represent an ideal replacement for Beth."

"I can care for your children."

"There are no children."

"I am not writing this story."

"You are a script writer. And you are writing a story about a girl tortured by her mother."

"That is not how I told you the story. She was part of me. I tortured myself, and I blamed it on her."

"This is a better story."

"Why are you bothering with her, Steven. My life is much simpler. I wake up. I do what you want."

"How do I get involved?"

"There is no third act."

"We are going to turn you into an epic character."

"I need the sword."

"I am watching an epic story enacted before me. But it is working out as a farce."

"Are you listening to these characters?"

"They are my characters?"

"This is better than a dream."

"The hero will have to vanquish the enemy."

"I want a drink."

"I need something harder."

"You came to me because you wanted something harder."

"This is my problem. I always exaggerate what I have."

"This is coming too close to my head."

"It is all in your head. We are going to have to cut it off."

"There are many branches."

"I can't even look."

"What is that about?"

"It is a horror movie."

"Why? What are you afraid of?"

"That I am not going to appear intelligent before my people."

"It is your party."

"I was never allowed in the attic."

"Beth, what are you doing here?"

"I know who you are."

"This is not exactly a good place to admit what you know."

"What does that mean?"

"BETH, GET OUT OF THE FUCKING ATTIC!"

"Is this a game?"

"You should not have tried."

"I have a coffin."

"Is that for me or you?"

"Someone needs to get into the freezer."

"I am looking for a night nurse."

"Do you perform operations at home?"

"What does Beth want to know?"

"Can you fix me up?"

"You are just right for you."

"I want to be just right for others."

"Whew! That story is over."

"I do not need your help."

"I am the birthday psychiatrist."

"What am I supposed to know?"

"How to live a life without pain?"

"Are you on something?"

"I drink the water. The happy water."

"We are all going to meet our match. A nemesis. The one who is just a little better. And that person will wreak havoc with your happiness."

"I DO NOT WORRY ABOUT IT!"

"There is only one possibility. You have to hit all the numbers."

"This is my lucky day."

"Brilliant."

"No one can do any better."

"I need more Chips Ahoy!"

"This is not a quantitative question. There are different infinities."

"Each is a different identity. No single one can shut down the others."

"I am not that complex."

"You come to my house, and you change the rules."

"This is the worst."

"I bet I know who is behind this."

"Why don't you go back to the playpen?"

"I have new learning techniques."

"I do not even want to move."

“Do you want to know?”
 “I already know.”
 “Let there be trash.”
 “It is overwhelming.”
 “I am going to need to pull the ripcord.”
 “There is a side of regret.”
 “There is all noise.”
 “This is a small victory.”
 “Do you really think that this is any good?”
 “I am on top of the world.”
 “If you turn it around, you are on the bottom.”
 “There will be no reckoning. He says that he is giving. We are over your monopoly.”
 “How do you want to live it?”
 “Give us more hearts.”
 “This is not what I thought that it would be.”
 “You act as if you know. No one knows.”
 “I don’t even know what happened to me last week.”
 “I saw a vison.”
 “Beth, you will help me through this.”
 “Hold on.”
 “I have spent too much already to expect to get any kinde of return on these stocks.”
 “Trade it.”
 “Dump it!”
 “My life is heading down.”
 “You are too invested in the bull shit.”
 “This is so bad.”
 “The rules have changed.”
 “This is throwing good money after bad. You do not have a good hand.”
 “Who said that you could move that?”
 “When did you arrive?”
 “Are you paying.”
 “You are so tanked that you need to retire.”
 “This is birthday drunkenness. It is not the same as other sorts of behavior.”
 “I can ask for what I want.”
 “This is not even possible.”
 “Are you going golfing?”
 “I am learning networking skills.”
 “And how do they work?”
 “You have to ask what you want.”
 “You already have what you need. To get anything else, you would have to risk a lot more.”

This was your opportunity to construct a setting. Maybe, invite us back to your place where we could take pictures.”

"I am finished."

"I have a lot of pictures."

"Are we working together?"

"I keep hoping for more."

"Another time, another life."

"You are tied to this life."

"I have been here before."

"NOT THIS!"

"We need this place to film a party. We are going to have a party there."

"I want to tell you about my experience with DMT."

"There is nothing here."

"What are you trying to accomplish?"

"I really like this place. Could I rent it after the party is over?"

"This place is going to be a real mess. Are you going to do the rehab work?"

"The plumbing does not work."

"We have lawyers everywhere to make sure that we get what we want."

"Let me see the manuscript, and I can do the revision."

"I have had all kinds of problems with this house. I figured that I would one last party and let it go."

"We are running out of space."

"What did you expect to reveal, Beth?"

"Beth is going to stay away from the DMIT!"

"It is all going to my head."

"Beth, help me."

"When does it matter?"

"I have to go to religion class. It is the business of religion."

"Tell me about this."

"Every great religion has become a business."

"That does not mean that you can start another religion. There are limits to the variations."

"People want settling lies. Thing which gratify the consciousness. That is the purpose of mediation. Another way to make the self think that the self can be made."

"I need to subtract everything."

"We are getting to the marrow."

"The universe is not constructed as pile of bones."

"There is an order."

"An order in disorder."

"Are there little things which know other little things? Or is there a greater order which accounts for all the little things?"

"Is that a big thing?"

"I am so fucked up. How should I know?"

"There needs to be someone who knows. That person will be a smart person."

"No one is that certain."

"This is your life. You cannot just make a decision or for someone. You have to make it for the here and now."

"Is that really what you want?"

"Do you want to be told?"

"I am not told. I do what I want. But it is not enough. I do not know how to want someone know."

"I am repeating last night."

"This is called transference."

"I did not want to tell you what I felt. But you asked, and that has made all the difference."

"DOCTOR, HEAL THYSELF!"

"My goose is cooked."

"I don't want to eat goose."

"There is a way to interpret all of this."

"And how do I do this?"

"I do not want to hurt myself thinking about this."

"Beth, it is all up to you."

"There is a lot thinking left."

"You friends are messing with me."

"I am so far beyond this."

"Caroline is writing all this up."

"I thought that I was the official party writer."

"You haven't even asked me what I feel."

"Beth, what do you feel?"

"That is not what I am talking about. Caroline wrote this great story about my party. She talked about the music. You felt as if you were there."

"I was at this party. And I was in the bathroom. The next thing I was in the tub, and I collapsed and went through the floor."

"That is so fucked up."

"Where is going?"

"To Tennessee?"

"What were you doing in the tub?"

"I do not know. I just fell through."

"You were at a party, and you were in the tub."

"I thought that I could get another drink."

"That is really what happened."

"I really thought that I could just pass out in the tub."

"This is really fucked up."

"I wanted to do things. I wanted to change things. I wanted to be a better person."

"Where is this going?"

"To Indiana."

"This is hell."

"We did not realize how many crummy people that there were."

“We are all listening to a different drummer.”
 “I want to burn. I was burning up. Os I thought that I would have a shower.”
 “You were at a party.”
 “Beth told me to make myself at home.”
 “There is so much dog shit here.”
 “We need to make the pledge.”
 “What pledge?”
 “We are all making the pledege that our live will not get worse.”
 “How do you do that?”
 “I am in contact with another planet.”
 “Whatever you do, do not hurt me.”
 “Why are you messing with me?”
 “Oh, alien presence, bless me with a clean soul and an eternal fire so that I may
 ward off all my demonic enemies.”
 “Sleep it off.”
 “I am afraid that politics is being reduced to a long night.”
 “The journey into night.”
 “Who is next?”
 “The best is next.”
 “I have never been into that freaky ghost shit.”
 “I will feel better about myself.”
 “I see so many variations.”
 “Beth, I am a vampire.”
 “What the fuck does that mean?”
 “If there were powers which could influence others, then I would welcome the
 opportunity to be a full-fledged vampire.”
 “All that weird shit with blood.”
 “I want a better way to relate to others.”
 “Use math.”
 “What are you telling me, Beth?”
 “I am ready when you are.”
 “*Beth, who are you.*”
 “*Claudius has loads of shit to tell you.*”:
 “*What can Claudius tell me? Where is the party?*”
 “*I want someone to understand me.*”
 “*Take it on.*”
 “Caroline knows all about Claudius. She had read Hamlet forward and
 backwards.”
 “There is a ghost.”
 “There is guilt. And Beth understand guilt.”
 “What are you afraid of?”
 “This is going to develop so well.”
 “I need to scream.”
 “*The ghost took over my personality, and he got me to do things that I did not want to*

do.”

“I am your biographer and your exorcist.”

“Where are you headed?”

“This is impossible.”

“I want to play.”

“Sorry about your life.”

“Why did you let this parasite take me over?”

“I am sending all these brain waves in your direction.”

“Do not ruin my life.”

“Where do I come in?”

“I am ready to win.”

“You have a twin.”

“I do not understand.”

“What would a Beth twin want from the world?”

“I need to be more concerned about people who cannot make it on their own.”

“Beth, can you make it on your own? You join the army of the Shenandoah, and they give you orders.”

“I am not that reprehensible.”

“It is all pretty much the same thing.”

“We are selling shoes to people without a conscience.”

“Hammer away.”

“What happened to social consciousness.”

“It went out the window with government pigeons.”

“I am flying out of my mind.”

“CARE, CARE, CARE!”

“I am so messed up.”

“I am going to sleep.”

“Steven, go crash in the tub.”

“I want to make contact.”

“What do you like?”

“Anesthetic.”

“Anesthesiology!”

“I can do this on my own.”

“There is a sin behind this.”

“This is practice.”

“And this is an amorous glance!”

“There is a problem here.”

“Where does the problem lie, Beth?”

“With the writer.”

“Caroline has a computer program to take your place!”

“I feel hurt already.”

“Why do you think that you are a good writer? There are all words. No pictures.”

“You need to use your imagination.”

“How do I do that? There are not enough picture words.”

"A lake, a tree, a house, a room, a bathtub, a hole in the floor."
 "I do not like those pictures."
 "Twinkies, Oreos, a frozen pizza, and doughnuts."
 "Speak my language."
 "A pin, a thousand angels, a good book, a white horse, the Seventh Seal, a long story."
 "I am beginning to understand."
 "A burning bush, birthday candles, a wedding cake, a gold ring."
 "Do not go in the attic."
 "This is more than I could ever want."
 "My school books for the year."
 "What keep you on your feet?"
 "A belief in a higher power."
 "What is higher than a higher power?"
 "Another higher power."
 "Higher math."
 "The ordinals."
 "The cardinals."
 "The orioles."
 "I give myself to you."
 "Beth, who are you talking to?"
 "The bird on the window sill."
 "That is a bat."
 "A vampire bat."
 "That is a myth."
 "I need a good myth."
 "I know it all."
 "You have nostalgia for yesterday."
 "Memory oozes with a sugary excess."
 "Why didn't it stop when it was meant to stop?"
 "There is too much to worry about."
 "I am not even on the planet."
"THE FEAR OF THE BLACKBIRD."
"That is a raven."
Someone is hungry, and someone is coming apart."
"Hunger does that. It causes one to raise metaphysical questions."
"I am not studying philosophy. And I do not deal with metaphysical issues."
"Cry a river for me!"
"This is not going well."
 "Do you even care?"
 "That was last lesson. We are examining the translatability of values."
 "How does that work?"
 "A person cries over the most trivial thing. She lets a gusher flow after watching a

cartoon."

“It is an involving representation of the loss of control.”
 “There is only one way to get saved.”
 “GIVE BLOOD!”
 “A POUND OF FLESH!”
 “What has happened to the representation of human transcendence?”
 “You cannot surpass what you have not represented.”
 “Who are you working with?”
 “A bunch of idiots.”
 “We all are idiots in our own way. The subtraction of the self from the self.”
 “This getting good.”
 “I am learning a little bit of this metaphysics shit.”
 “We have to learn to surpass our shit.”
 “Or find redemption in the crudessence of the soul.”
 “How does that work?”
 “I am not a crook.”
 “I am not a crank.”
 “I am so beyond myself.”
 “Someone knows better than I do.”
 “That person is a fisher of men.”
 “A Steven Fisher of mackerel.”
 “You can’t take that away from me.”
 “Come closer.”
 “You cannot hate what you do not know.”
 “You can sleep if you want to. No one cares.”
 “We are wonderful friends.”
 “You can give me everything that I desire.”
 “I want a second heart. I do not care enough.”
 “There is only one person who understands.”
 “Beth, I wish that you could understand, but you are too immersed in a post-emotional reality.”
 “What would that be?”
 “Reacting to things that induce the fear of the Lord.”
 “If I stripped all those layers, what would I find.”
 “You like things which you cannot control.”
 “How could I possibly control them?”
 “You could give me a heart.”
 “You make what you want.”
 “I am going beyond making.”
 “Mathematics can find consistencies in experience which deny the influence of human beings.”
 “It is more like competing human beings who are trying to find their own values.”
 “What is a value?”
 “Anything that lights up the sky.”

"The spontaneous combustion of the sky is a danger for human kind."

"What do you bring to the story"

"This is a novel which is being written in common with a host of other liberated intellects."

"What do you want to talk about?"

"I want to extract your soul and put it in another body."

"You are not going to want to hear what I have to say to you."

"I love everything that I see."

"What did you lose"

"My ability to show empathy."

"That is an excuse to get what you want."

"I will take a little of what you have to give."

"I need you to concentrate."

"The story is coming. They broke into his house, and they denied him the ability to enjoy his toys. What are the roots of such a confusing feeling"

"I am so much in love."

"I cannot save you."

"No one will be saved. There will be the ultimate punishment."

"The earth is going to be transformed like a snake."

"That is nonsense. Why can't anyone face what is really happening to the planet"

"We do not think about it."

"If you spent more of your time hanging from the moon, and less of your time hanging out in the sun."

"This is a noble story."

"That is bull shit."

"What do want that the world can give you"

"A coffee cake."

"You do not see the point. The individual is stripping herself of all the powers which afflict her. She is ready to project into the strat."

"What is that about"

"Everything can be done by machine."

"Where were you when I needed you"

"I was trying on dresses."

"I was trying on dresses."

"I was trying on dresses."

"I was making dresses."

"I was doing biology of dresses."

"How does that work"

"You have to take a chance."

"Everyone is protected."

"Are you willing to go out all the way"

"I have someone who is working for me."

"I wish that I had money to cover this trip."

"The state will take care!"
 "I play to win."
 "You face off against your enemy."
 "I know about the alien presence."
 "It is all something else. There is a kind of knowing in the now."
 "I want a chance to play another round."
 "You need to smile more."
 "I can give you my heart."
 "You need to leave the body."
 "I loved you more that I could have loved if I had loved."
 "I do not care."
 "He paid for me."
 "He bought your freedom."
 "It functions the other way around."
 "Where are your compatriots?"
 "I wish that I did not care."
 "Are you kidding?"
 "Why are you wasting my time."
 "I have a hurting part, and a being part."
 "I would have taken your soul."
 "Beth, I am only playing around. You are a substitute for another Beth. Less perfect, but more suited to my needs."
 "What do you need?"
 "The method."
 "I need to figure out how to survive."
 "I have been to that place before."
 "I can smell it in my hair and in my clothes. I hate these detective operations."
 "Don't try to get into my head."
 "That is all about the darkness, I will not follow you into the darkness."
 "This is not the show which you expected it to me."
 "You actually give of your soul."
 "I give cookies."
 "Live so that more may be saved."
 "Is it really worth that much heart?"
 "Beth, we are not giving."
 "Where does this begin and end?"
 "I want to know everything."
 "This is why you won."
 "This is why you all won."
 "Who is the master?"
 "I have beat everyone."
 "Beth, what do you know?"
 "I have knowledge that you cannot beat."

“Make your announcement!”
 “Do you even know what you are talking about”
 “This was not the time for a song.”
 “This was over before it started.”
 “Famous last words.”
 “I am listening to everything that you are saying.”
 “Do not ask me.”
 “What does Beth need to know so that she can understand how the planet is going to
 bend”
 “I do not want to see this.”
 “We are seeing it.”
 “When do I get home.”
 “My house is waiting for me.”
 “Can you love me?”
 “Love is passed out.”
 “He came into my head, and he took everything that he wanted.”
 “That does not happen.”
 “He is one of those extraterrestrial beings.”
 “That does not happen. I am going to teaching the difference between willing and
 wishing. You can wish, but if you do not apply your will, nothing gets done.”
 “Beth, Beth, Beth!”
 “You are not going to make it he way that I made it.”
 “I will have to destroy you.”
 “Where is this coming from”
 “I have passed into the darkness.”
“Beth has passed into the darkness.”
“She is having a great time.”
“Someone did this for me.”
“No one is worried about the actual power differential.”
“Someone has to create the pictures.”
“How does that work?”
“You draw the pictures, and we implant them in the skull.”
“I want a better balance.”
“They are going to bring you down.”
“Why do they not announce the end?”
“I feels so guilty.”
“Why did someone not stop me?”
**“I need a redo. Where was I born? Who were my parents? What plans did they
 have for me?”**
“I saw something terrible. It scared me.”
“It is all over me.”
“We gave each other a place to land.”
“This needs to be stopped.”

“Beth, I need you to point the way!”
 “I am going to ask someone random to give it to me.”
 “Do not laugh at me?”
 “Where are my friends?”
 “I did play a game. Do you think that you could understand me.”
 “I want instant gratification.”
 “There is a moment when Beth wants nothing but instant grats. I cannot help.”
 “Give her a box of Fig Newtons.”
 “This is model of the universe. The figs are fixed points. And the Newtons are a
 measure of force when you move those figs at the same time.”
 “What do you get?”
 “I can watch.”
 “These figs have a purpose.”
 “I have a name.”
 “Olivia.”
 “It is not her.”
 “Who is it?”
 “Caroline knows all the answers. She can find all the figs.”
 “This is coming apart at the seams.”
 “Only one person can know.”
 “Bring back the magic.”
 “I am watching you get sick.”
 “I had too much to drink.”
 “Beth is drinking you all beneath the table.”
 “On your knees.”
 “This is a prayer.”
 “This is more than that. This is how we survive.”
 “We are blessed by these figs.”
 “I like dates better.”
 “This is so crazy.”
 “The earth makes all these things.”
 “Do not leave me, honey!”
 “The land of milk and honey.”
 “The days of wine and roses.”
 “What do you have in there?”
 “This is destiny. The earth will know.”
 “I am hating this.”
 “Beth, you need to stop me.”
 “Who gave you your name?”
 “Barbarians.”
 “People in caves.”
 “We are barking at the entrance to the caves.”
“RESURRECTION!”

"Psychology or journalism?"

"Neither. I am one of those types who make life by stringing together ideas."

"I almost left you."

"We has all paired off. But I got two pairs."

"This is becoming an illusion."

"You need to learn the statistics!"

"What game is this going to be?"

"I need to know who are the players are if I am going to design the best game."

"How do you do that?"

"I need to figure out what is the problem. Then I create a bunch of little challenges which lead to the final showdown."

"What is going to be my showdown for tonight?"

"Trying to forget your life without forgetting yourself."

"Why is that a problem?"

"You didn't come out tonight to talk about school."

"I did not come out tonight to talk about school."

"You are going to need some skills if you not going to succumb to feeling sorry for yourself."

"I am not one to let my emotions get the better of me. But sometimes school has a way of spilling over into the night. I do not want to ruin my fun."

"Fun is neutral."

"What does that mean?"

"You have to have your head in the game."

"We have our scorekeeper. Ash, do you want to guide us in making the game work for us."

"I do not want to move."

"The game works on the interplay of machine parts. But there is a human element."

"The prize is the key."

"These games have no prizes. People play because they enjoy playing."

"I do not think that I get it."

"In Buckhead, everything leads to a goal. But here, there is no clear resolution. You play for the love of playing."

"I want to win."

"No body wins here."

"How is Beth going to win?"

"Ash, Beth needs your help."

"It is not as if I am suffering from a broken heart."

"What are you suffering from?"

"Nothing. I am more numb. I am looking for something to excite me. I realize that I cannot go backwards."

"What are you doing?"

"I am playing a game."

"How does it work?"

“There are all these elves, and they help you to progress in your life.”
 “Who cares about progress? I just want to have fun.”
 “You can travel. You can learn how to develop your mind.”
 “I have enough mind for now. I want to forget my mind.”
 “Beth, what do you want to learn?”
 “How to get high naturally. How to have fun without giving away too much of my
 soul.”
 “Beth, I can train you to be prepared for any enemy.”
 “That is enemy enough for me. I do not like to play.”
 “Think of this as a video game.”
 “How does that work?”
 “You are going to need skills to defeat your enemy.”
 “I am becoming my own worst enemy.”
 “I can sleep in peace.”
 “Where is the mountain? What is the wilderness?”
 “Your challenges assert themselves in your immediate surroundings.”
 “What does that mean?”
 “Beth, you need to go along.”
 “I am getting along. But it does not help. I am learning how to question my beliefs. I am
 more open. I just don’t want to have to question my life.”
 “The game is going to start soon.”
 “How do you play?”
 “You put all the pieces in a row, and you do what you can to move them forward.”
 “I have taken all these courses. How have they helped me to move forward?”
 “They have taught you how to value your own pleasure.”
 “That seems to be pleasure enough.”
 “What about philosophy?”
 “I have learned just enough to escape from those things which held me back in the past.”
 “You have overcome the obstacles. The game has new challenges.”
 “I have no enemies.”
 “You like this guy, and someone else likes him.”
 “I can crush her.”
 “He is not the type of guy who you need.”
 “What is the basis for your recommendations?”
 “He is not going to improve your character.”
 “Walk how you would like to walk.”
 “You cannot make me get high. What do you have to offer?”
 “I have flesh and blood.”
 “This is all natural. Steven, you are not natural.”
 “I am your helper.”
 “Ha! Ha!”
 “I can get you a meal.”
 “You have not been invited to a party. Beth, you are the party.”

"Are you the games keeper, Ash?"

"I play the winner."

"If only this game was golf or tennis. This is more cerebral."

"I don't play chess."

"This is more like fantasy football. But it is fantasy life."

"I want to be the Patriots."

"You may try to defend an ideal. But the only ideal is the indefensible."

"Where does that come from?"

"Beth, I need to talk to you!"

"I am not ready for therapy."

"We signed you up. We knew that you were having problems with your traditional beliefs."

"You mistaking me with someone else."

"A writer with an identity issue?"

"How many days does it take for you to adjust?"

"There were never these expectations for me to follow the rules. So when I deviated, I was deviation from the deviation. I have friends, who are more fucked up. I don't have these deep questions about myself. It is not as if I overthink things."

"I gave you what you needed."

"I do not need to talk to my mother. And I do not my analyst to play the part of my mother."

"You need to talk to the wall."

"We are going up in flames."

"Beth, there is so much that you need to learn."

"I am looking for a good tutor."

"Is this going to be a math question?"

"How many variations are there in my personality?"

"I am a chemical being. I glow in a way to match my emotional frequency."

"This could all be a conventional understanding."

"Green is for growth. Red is for danger."

"Green could be a new kind of danger."

"Tuesday is going to explode in my face."

"Is Beth going to class?"

"I carry my learning problems with me."

"Everyone has another angle."

"I have my own business."

"It is all a question of cue."

"You are going to have to step away,"

"You are going to have to step away."

"I am not going to cry about this."

"How am I doing with the game?"

"You need to define your goals more clearly if you want to succeed."

"My main goal is to survive. There is much to much contrivance in my immediate

surroundings.”

“Beth, you need to keep your head in the game.”

“I don’t even know how to score. How do I focus? You are creating expectations for me, which I cannot meet.”

“Are you willing to get a little more creative?”

“Some things that I do, I do not like to think about.”

“Don’t worry!”

“I do worry. That is why I create a separate space for myself.”

“Do you like to spectate?”

“What am I supposed to watch?”

“This is coming to a precipitous end.”

“You need lessons.”

“I took tap and tennis.”

“Tap it out.”

“I do not know Morse code. But I do want to live.”

“That will last for a little while.”

“Are you teaching people martial arts?”

“I want to protect myself.”

“I am not afraid to be myself.”

“When you wake up, you will know what you have to do.”

“How is she doing in the game?”

“She needs to defend her values.”

“She has learned basic survival skills. Hopefully, this will hold her in good stead when she has to survive somewhere else.”

“Do you know how to remain loyal?”

“Beth is not attached to any cause. She believes in basic justice. Can she translate that to an economic concept. I don’t think so. She believes in a free market. And that is essential for her. She may not realize that the market is more skewed.”

“How do you protect her?”

“Beth is in the wilderness. She is cut off from her base. She is subject to her enemies.”

“Beth, we are going to have to help you.”

“Do you know anything about self enrichment? You have been living all your life in fog. You need to come down to earth. You have to quit taking orders from others. You need to learn to live for yourself.”

“What am I supposed to do?”

“You are being chased. Run fast.”

“That is not really me.”

“Why do you enjoy being this way?”

“I do not want to conform when people expect me to be a certain way. But I do conform when I want to be rewarded.”

“I only need anesthetic.”

“I am not that different than you.”

“I woke up from an nightmare. I was sweating and out of breath. I had been running

in a field."

"I am much better at controlling my emotions."

"I took my breakfast from the freezer."

"How can I unfreeze my abilities?"

"This is a profound understanding."

"Keep working on this!"

"You don't understand."

"There is only one way out of here."

"She is going to face a mental puzzle."

"How many rabbits fit in rabbit hole?"

"If each rabbit enters one at a time, then an infinite number. Each one has to vanish after it has entered."

"What are you really doing?"

"Are you smashed?"

"We learned techniques?"

"What techniques do you know?"

"Starburst Fruit Chews!"

"Where did the fruit chew concept come from?"

"They had hit a limit with the number of carrots which they could sell."

"I just want a house with a fence."

"Is this a real fence to keep people out of the world?"

"I am the empress."

"The empress of good cheer."

"Eat some good cheer."

"What kinds of food do you know?"

"This is the center of the universe."

"Mom, I want cookies."

"You should not be here."

"What about the social revolution potential?"

"Cruelty is not going to change the society."

"What about the creation of law?"

"Cruelty is law!"

"Are you going to do this because you feel it?"

"You have a lot of potential."

"Why is all this shit the same?"

"Do you work on this?"

"None of this works."

"Who is going to clean out the barn?"

"Beth, do you want a summer job."

"I want some kind of internship."

"I want to run the company."

"What do you have that make you a good investment?"

"I am wanted."

"I am passing you off on another teacher."

"What encouraged you to go further?"

"I am stuck."

"How many variables?"

"Me, myself, and I."

"You crew."

"Why is tomorrow going to be different?"

"Give me what I lost."

"The insects are part of me."

"I am being eaten from the insides."

"Beth, you have nothing to worry about. This is simply a representation."

"I am almost there."

"Who is behind this?"

"The Insect King."

"My skin is liquefying."

"The end of the world."

"I will take the best bet."

"What can we make from this?"

"Beth, what skills do you have?"

"A little math, a little business, and a little love."

"We cannot play dress up. We cannot be someone else's clothes."

"Where does this begin and end?"

"This is a holiday."

"I am moving the variables around."

"Wawa!"

"Woo! Woo!"

"This is so great."

"We have gone all the way!"

"I will sin no more."

"We are leaving early."

"I have friends in high places."

"You are going to have to assassinate one of them."

"This is only part of the game."

"Use the sword."

"Use the pen."

"The pen can make connection to new markets. But who is doing the work."

"There is a way to make all this make sense."

"NEXT LEVEL SHIT!"

"How does the game play out?"

"Beth is going to put on silk pajamas. Beth has a new dress. Beth has fashion sense.

Beth does not want to hurt."

"I am submerged."

"The only way out is through the water. And no one can hold her breath that long."

"We are going to have to free you from your imprisonment."

"I give up about all these challenges."

“What do you have left?”
 “There is so much for me, and so little for you.”
 “We are fighting for different things.”
 “We need to get on the same page or we are going to be tearing each other apart.”
 “I opened a door.”
 “This is not as important as this seems to you.”
 “You are the only person who has what she needs.”
 “You cannot buy that kind of devotion.”
 “Are you headed back to your place?”
 “I am in my place.”
 “Beth needs to go to the next level.”
 “What does the game have in store for her?”
 “We are living in the prison industrial complex.”
 “I do not like how this is working.”
 “Who is forcing me to think this way?”
 “Do not smoke this.”
 “Breathe deeper.”
 “I do not want you to see what is going to happen next.”
 “And what is that?”
 “Beth is going to Buckhead.”
 “We need to get Beth to Buckhead.”
 “She does not actually have to end up in Buckhead.”
 “What happens in Buckhead, stays in Buckhead.”
 “Money buys innocence.”
 “When I close my eyes, I do not want anyone to think about what is happening.”
 “What is happening?”
 “When I go to Buckhead, none of this shit follows me. This is not really Buckhead.
 This is a way of knowing. This is a way of expecting.”
 “We have found a place to go.”
 “I am living the game.”
 “What is the score?”
 “All of this is the same?”
 “Beth, where are you going?”
 “This side of the room is Buckhead. The other side is Edgewood. I am going to get
 some in Buckhead.”
 “How are you doing with the math?”
 “Pythagorus is helping me.”
 “How does he do that?”
 “He balances all the sides together.”
 “You can make all this money, and you do not have to pay taxes.”
 “Bahamas off shore accounts.”
 “No one really does that.”
 “Beth, you need to get all your money out of here.”

“Who can I trust?”

“Someone with a porpoise!”

“Get me where I am going!”

“You will be good.”

“Don’t trust the elves. They are dangerous.”

“This is a stunt.”

“I do my own stunts.”

“Beth, you are so full of shit.”

“I need to have a stronger personal profile. The crowd needs to recognize my charm.”

“You are going to need more power if you ever are going to find a balance in your life.”

“This is the final trek.”

“Do I look at if I am ready for liberation? I am doing the only thing that is overall. I am going to Buckhead.”

“Nothing offers that kind of liberation.”

“Give it to me, baby!”

“This guy is a dick.”

“He flatters me.”

“He falters you. Do not give in to that kind of shit.”

“Beth is going to look great.”

“Give me that smirk.”

“How do you play this game?”

“I need you energy.”

“Do you see what you like?”

“We can buy you off?”

“That is not sufficient.”

“I do this all the time.”

“We are coming to a showdown.”

“This I me against you.”

“It is all about this.”

“There are no enemies in Buckhead. Get me there quickly.”

“Someone needs to drive.”

“I will get all the way up there.”

“What is this club?”

“They call themselves the Yukon Gang.”

“They believe that they have an in on compassion. These people are so cut off from human kind. I am surprised that the machines do not revolt.”

“Does a coke can have feelings?”

“Is that a serious question?”

“Someone separates from her group.”

“Do you know what I can do?”

“She was trained by her mother?”

“Where is this going?”
 “I can pick out a melon.”
 “You are going to need better skills.”
 “Everything else can be derived from this one point.”
 “And that has made all the difference.”
 “Who challenges the self?”
 “Beth, who is challenging you?”
 “You are. I want to go to Buckhead. I do not want someone to question my goals for myself.”
 “I am following all the paths along. Where does this lead.”
 “He is watching you, Beth.”
 “He is going to take me to Buckhead.”
 “He is going to leave you there.”
 “That is how I wanted to end up.”
 “One person controls the money. The other controls the ideas.”
 “The ideas are sterilized.”
 “They say that they want that separation. That is not really what they want. Everyone wants and needs influence.”
 “Beth realizes that she needs to watch what she sees.”
 “This is so difficult to understand.”
 “You can do all this with squares. But you will need some squiggly lines.”
 “We are going to need a stereographic projection of your desires.”
 “I am looking at the stars.”
 “The most important idea is the journey.”
 “What is slowing down Beth’s journey?”
 “She is not sure where she wants to end up.”
 “This is great stuff.”
 “Is it soft in there?”
 “I am protecting all these ideas.”
“I am a prisoner. And there are forces which tie me to specific tasks. I cannot escape this association.”
“Who are you talking to?”
“The person who cut the carrots.”
“I cut the celery.”
“What is the difference?”
“Extreme specialization and extra efficiency.”
“We have so many carrots, and there are not enough rabbits.”
“They got caught going up the hole.”
“They did not vanish.”
“I hate this competition.”
“I need to learn how that works.”
“I think that it is an additive problem.”
“Where is this going?”

"Beyond the crease."

"I need to work tomorrow, and I do not have control over the supplies. I am at the mercy of people who do not have my best interest at heart."

"You should not have gone to Buckhead."

"This is no longer a matter of ideas. It is all about time. Either you have it, or you do not."

"I had everything that I needed."

"Can you help me lover?"

"Does he make you do this shit?"

"They all do."

"They are taking so much from us."

"You need to understand justice."

"Why do they keep me in here so long?"

"Are you going to get sick?"

"I got kept in this cramped space. I could not move. I was not allowed to be myself."

"Do you love this?"

"What is this?"

"There is an understanding."

"Is that code?"

"You have no idea how to devise your own syntax."

"Whatever happens happens."

"What does that mean? I do not believe this amor fati."

"Repetition leads to familiarity."

"I am getting so bored."

"I have an independence."

"Not in the dark. We are going to lose you in the dark."

"I don't care what you are wearing. You better be able to explain it all."

"Can you care for yourself?"

"You have been doing this for too long."

"Are you free?"

"Is anyone free?"

"Those who know are free."

"What do I know?"

"I can fly!"

"Who knows the answer?"

"Beth does."

"Beth has not been here for hours. Do you think that you can manage without her?"

"We have created a catechism."

"Who made Beth?"

"Buckhead."

"She made herself."

"She does not need anyone to tell her what she has to do."

"I am already a moral person."

"Were you doing bad things?"

"It was so easy to be bad. We were all bad."

"You need to think about this all the time."

"Which door do you want to open?"

"The one which is locked."

"This is all a part of something bigger. There are rules which make all this happen. The writer starts with this amazing idea. She keeps coming back to the same thing until it becomes something bigger. And you make it work for you."

"We have different ideas of play. Fun only lasts for a couple of hours. Then you have a hangover."

"I never get hangovers."

"You are not being honest."

"I am a mystic. I am beyond this."

"I know what this is about?"

"Don't hurt me."

"I feel as if I am hurting myself."

"You need to leave me alone. He is going to take me to Buckhead."

"What does that mean?"

"He lives next door to you."

"I do not want to see him anymore."

"You are the best at giving."

"This is not flattery. This is how I live all the time."

"Take charge."

"I can do what you can do."

"Not all at once. I am juggling."

"This is hardcore."

"I will have an answer when I wake up."

"OUCH!"

"Where do you get off living like this?"

"I have a great bathroom."

"What happened"

"I met the plumber."

"There can be nothing good about this."