

(Name of Project)

by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

INT. PROPANE LIGHT

DIRECTOR

You ready to go over the script?

ACTRESS

Okay.

DIRECTOR

Here.

ACTRESS

So.... From the beginning?

DIRECTOR

Sure. "The Goddess and The
Genius".

ACTRESS

I read the goddess part?

DIRECTOR

Do I look like a suitable goddess?

ACTRESS

Well..... That robe is festive.
You could be a kind of goddess...
And I could be "GENIUS", couldn't
I?

DIRECTOR

Of course, "I am she"

(swishy)

And I could be, you're right, but
I'm thinking of you for the Goddess
part. That's why I flew you all
the way up here.

ACTRESS

Do I look like a suitable goddess?

DIRECTOR

Not yet.

ACTRESS

Not yet?

DIRECTOR

No. Not yet.

ACTRESS

So... I look like.... what?

DIRECTOR
You will. Come on, read the
Goddess part.

ACTRESS
But, I don't look like a goddess...
yet?

DIRECTOR
You're still becoming.

ACTRESS
What?

DIRECTOR
What?

ACTRESS
Becoming what?

DIRECTOR
Becoming... you're in transition.
You're in crisis. You're becoming.

ACTRESS
The character.... right?

DIRECTOR
Not just that.... When you're done
becoming, you'll be believable as a
goddess. Becoming makes you fully,
uh, full.

ACTRESS
Okay..... Do you think I look
like a genius more than you look
like a genius? I do.

DIRECTOR
Little jab there? I'm... becoming.
Let's read through this thing.
(they sit for cold reading
with scripts)
Ready?

ACTRESS
I'm.... becoming ready.

DIRECTOR
How wonderful!

GODDESS
You think--

DIRECTOR

What!! Where did you--

-- You think you're so smart. They keep telling you that you're special and you're stupid enough to believe them? Now, that doesn't make you look smart to me.

GENIUS

(jumping)

How did you get in here? Where did you come from?

GODDESS

Where do you think I came from?

GENIUS

What?

GODDESS

Think!

GENIUS

I don't want to think -- please, don't hurt me, okay?

GODDESS

Why would I hurt you? You're the reason I'm here. And I'm certainly not happy that you don't want to think.

GENIUS

I CAN'T think anymore. That's all I do... I can't figure it out. I used to be a.... bona fide genius. I rode my bicycle to teach. I hid myself in the crowd, happy to be unknown, but then I did a summersault flip on the bicycle, oops, boom! -- planted my face into the pavement and I haven't been the same ever since. I can feel myself struggling to understand. I don't understand how you got here. I've wanted you here. I wished you here.

(MORE)

GENIUS (CONT'D)

I've dreamed that a woman would come through that door, in the dark of night, somehow, here, on this island, out of nowhere, in the middle of nowhere -- would come to save me, come to rescue me, come to make me whole again. Is it you? Did you come to save me?

GODDESS

Of course, my dear. I've been so worried about you.

GENIUS

You know of me?

GODDESS

Of course, Of course, they won't admit it, wouldn't admit it, but EVERYONE knows about you... They whisper in awe and jealousy about how strange you are and how lonely it must be to be such a great thinker, such a genius. They walk by your windows, hear your cries and your anguish soothes them. "Maybe insight is torture" they think to themselves. Maybe it's better to be ignorant. They hurry home to a warm hearth and warm heart.

GENIUS

Really?

GODDESS

I've watched you from afar. Watched you create universe upon universe of love and understanding. Galaxies spin because your mind wills them to and you.... you hide out here with no one to love you, letting the breeze heal you, talking to the trees and earth, letting loneliness caress and sooth you.

GENIUS

How DID you get here?

GODDESS

I've been wanting to see you.

GENIUS

We're on an ISLAND. How did you get here? Are you visiting one of the other camps?

GODDESS

You'd like that, wouldn't you. You've spent your whole life fantasizing about a beautiful woman who steals in here at night and WANTS you. I know.... I know.

GENIUS

I never told anyone about that--

GODDESS

It's obvious.

ACTRESS

So, when we do this. I'm going to have to act sexy or floatey or sleazy or what? I'm a little confused. Am I actually a goddess?

DIRECTOR

Not yet. You're the sexy woman who has come to fulfill his fantasy --

ACTRESS

Uhhhh. That's what folks SAID you'd be wanting when I told them I was coming here to be with you. They all say, it's about the casting couch, not who you know but who you-- you know. That isn't what we're doing here is it?

DIRECTOR

My lady was worried too. I promised her there would be no sex between us, that we are just working the script.

ACTRESS

Is that how it usually works, though? Director and Goddess --

DIRECTOR

-- There is a tradition of directors and their lead actors or actresses having sex. A long tradition....

ACTRESS

So, you're a liar to your lady and that's what you really want from me?

DIRECTOR

I want you to become a goddess who loves me. That's all.

ACTRESS

You know I'm not interested in that. I told you I wasn't interested in anything like that.

DIRECTOR

Like what?

ACTRESS

I will not have sex with you, okay?

DIRECTOR

I don't want you to. I want you to become a goddess and love me in the movie. I want to heat up the screen. I want to become a genius for you, a mind you can love not a body to play with. I can have sex, whenever I want to. You're too special to spoil with sex, don't you see?

ACTRESS

That sounds like bull shit. You're so special. I'm special. We're special. I call bull shit.

DIRECTOR

Really?

ACTRESS

A little bit. Bull fart, at least.

DIRECTOR

No. I really made a promise and I like to keep my word. You couldn't get me to have sex with you if you begged me. You couldn't get me to give you THAT if you did the dance of the seven veils. You couldn't ACT enough like you want sex with me to make me even CONSIDER it. I promised not to do it and you can't make me. Okay?

ACTRESS

Okay..... You're wrong, by the way.

DIRECTOR

What?

ACTRESS

I could.

DIRECTOR

No. You couldn't.

ACTRESS

Bet you the role I'm reading for that by the end of the evening I'll have you begging to be with me.

DIRECTOR

You'd lose.

ACTRESS

Bet. I want to be a goddess. I want to be YOUR goddess. I want to be the goddess to your genius. You wrote the part of genius for you to play and direct?

DIRECTOR

You've got some becoming to do, before you can be a goddess.

ACTRESS

You've got a lot of becoming to do to be genius, visionary and director, too. Why don't you just stick to what you're--

DIRECTOR

--It's my show.

ACTRESS

Bet me. I won't let you have sex with me. I just want us to bet that I can make you want it, beg for it even.

DIRECTOR

You're going to act out the casting couch scene to convince me you're suitable for the part? Isn't that the scam I'M supposed to be trying to pull?

ACTRESS

Bet me.

DIRECTOR

No.

ACTRESS

(sulking and miffed)

You're no fun. I could really prove something to you if you make the bet. Just give me permission, okay? Set me loose. Let me be free to be.

DIRECTOR

You can do whatever you want. I just know you'll lose the bet so I don't want you to waste your efforts. I don't want to bet.

ACTRESS

You're not gay are you?

DIRECTOR

No....

ACTRESS

So.....

DIRECTOR

I don't want to bet. I don't have anything I want from you but I do want to know why.

ACTRESS

Why what?

DIRECTOR

Why you wouldn't have sex with me if that was what this weekend was about. Why?

ACTRESS

..... Why? Why would I? Why would I ever? Why don't I want to have sex with you?

DIRECTOR

Yes.

ACTRESS

Uh.....

DIRECTOR
Honestly. No bull shit. Really,
..... why?

ACTRESS
Really?

DIRECTOR
Really.

ACTRESS
I caaaaan't. I--

DIRECTOR
You won't get the part if I don't
believe you're answering honestly.

ACTRESS
Don't make me do this, okay?

DIRECTOR
Now, I really, REALLY want to hear
why.

ACTRESS
Okay.....

DIRECTOR
Well?

ACTRESS
When I was five years old I was a
part of a group of disadvantaged
kids who had the opportunity to do
a play at Rice University. My
father had just died. My
grandmother was raising me. Our
toilet didn't work. We had no hot
water for years. The gas stove had
no gas because the gas line was
broken. We cooked on a hot plate.
We flushed the toilet with water
that came from a hose that was run
through a crack in the window.
Nothing was getting fixed. Nothing
was fixable. Grandma and I lived
in the one room in the house that
we could keep cool or warm. There
was a theater program with The
People's Workshop that grandma got
me into that Summer, so she could
have a break from taking care of
me.

(MORE)

ACTRESS (CONT'D)

Oh my oh my, even the rehearsal studio was air conditioned. The building was all fixed up and, when the lights came on and walls started to glow, it became a magical land of breath-taking beauty. There, in charge of everyone and everything -- there, creating art from the movements and sounds and emotions we made up just to impress him was, well, you know who -- there was you. I'm an actress because of that Summer. I'm a great actress because, even at five years old, I understood what you were doing, making beautiful life out of horrific mess, making me dream of a world that could be beautiful, giving me hope that I could know a life with flush toilets and gas stoves and a daddy who cares what happens to me. So, I'd do anything for you. What a waste it would be if I didn't change your life, if I didn't make you an Oscar winner, if I didn't change EVERYTHING for you: What a waste if I just opened up my legs: What a waste if you never could understand the depth of my love for you, how grateful I am, What a colossal waste just because all you could touch was my skin, all you could see was my face, all you could know was my flesh.

DIRECTOR

Is that your audition monologue?
You do a contrasting character two minutes later?

ACTRESS

You did that show at Rice. I know you remember it. I was hoping you'd remember me.

DIRECTOR

So?

ACTRESS

So, you think I'd come visit you on an island in the middle of miles of water, knowing we'd be alone, ignoring the warnings of my friends, colleagues, and advisors if I didn't know, at your core, who you are?

DIRECTOR

Frankly, my doe, I need you to KNOW you can trust me. For us to do this movie together, for you to be open and intimate with the camera, you have to know you can trust me completely. If any actress that I trust with my reputation wants to impress me, she MUST come to seclusion with me, she MUST open up to me, she MUST make me..... trust her ... too.