

BLOOD DIAMOND

Maddy

Do you believe this? The world is fallin' apart and all we hear about is "Blow job" Gate...

Archer turns to MADDY BOWEN. Maddy's a handful whose beauty belies the kind of fierce intelligence that sends most men running for the door, Archer likes what he sees.

Archer

When's the last time the world wasn't fallin' apart right?

Maddy

A Cynic... why don't you sit down and make me miserable.

Archer

Danny Archer.

Maddy

Maddy Bowen.

Archer

Pleased to meet you.

Maddy

Nice to meet you.

Archer

American huh?

Maddy

Guilty.

Archer

Americans usually are.

Maddy raises an eyebrow. He plays rough. She likes it.

Maddy

Says the white South African?

Archer

I'm from Rhodesia

Maddy

We say Zimbabwe now, don't we?

Archer

Do we?

Maddy

(laughs) Last time I checked...

Archer

So don't tell me you're here to make a difference huh?

Maddy

And you're here to make a buck?

Archer smiles. It's been a long time since he was interested.

Archer

I'm here for lack of a better idea.

Maddy

Thats a shame

Archer

Not really. Peace corps type only stay around long enough to realize they're not helping anyone. Government only wants to stay in power until they've stolen enough to go into exile somewhere else. And the rebels they're not sure they wanna take over otherwise they'd have to govern this mess but TIA, right M'Ed ?

Maddy

What's TIA?

Archer

THIS IS AFRICA

Maddy

Right.

Archer

Want another?

Maddy

Sure.....

(Beat)

So.. which one are you? Smuggler?

Archer

Am I?

Maddy

Somehow you don't Strike me as the UNICEF type.

Archer smiles.

Archer

How about Soldier of Fortune? Or is that too much of a Cliché?

Maddy

(laugh) Diamonds?

Archer

What If I told you I was a missionary?

Maddy

For Van De Kaap?

Archer

Better watch that type of talk, Miss Bowen. You know in America its bling-bling but out here its bling-bang, huh?! I wouldn't want you getting in any trouble.

Maddy

How much trouble do you think I would get into for talking about.. blood Diamonds?

And then, suddenly, Archer gets it. His face turns to stone.

Archer

..... You're a journalist.

Maddy

Thats right.

Archer stands up from his stool

Archer

Piss off , huh?

He throws some money onto the bar. Maddy Follows him out.

Maddy

For 5 years this country has reported almost no diamond exports while Liberia right next door has exported 2 billion dollars worth. Very odd considering that Liberia has no Diamonds to speak of.

Archer

I'm shocked.

He keeps walking.

Maddy

Now Van De Kaap denies trading blood diamonds but admits it's nearly impossible to tell where a diamond comes from.

(beat) [now face to face]

Unless.... their smuggler gets caught.

Archer

What do you want from me huh?

Maddy

You know all about Van De Kaap. Help me out..... off the record.

Archer

Well... off the record I like to get kissed before I get fucked.

He walks off, leaving her to the inevitable swarm of beggars.