

FAT CITY

BILLY+OMA

INT-BAR-DAY

Oma is sitting at the bar, drinking.

BILLY

Hey! Hi! How you been keeping?

OMA

Terrible.

BILLY

Are you alone? Mind if I sit down?

OMA

It's a free country. Help yourself.

BILLY

Where's your old man?

OMA

In jail.

BILLY

In jail? What for?

OMA

Because they won't leave you alone in this world, that's why. You don't know what you have to take when you're interracial. Every bum on the street has to get a look at you. Earl, he's a peaceable man, even-tempered. He did not hurt that guy. It was a little nick on the back of the neck. He wouldn't any more try to assault somebody than you'd get up out of that stool there and try to fly. He's not made that way. He's the sweetest-natured man in the world.

BILLY

He'll get out.

OMA

He's so jealous. I wouldn't put it past him to be out already, spying on every move I make. He's so possessive. He won't let me talk to people. He gets mad at me. You remember the last time we talked, way back then, remember?

BILLY

Yeah.

OMA
You know what he did to me afterwards?

BILLY
What?

OMA
He raped me.

BILLY
No shit.

OMA
Yes. He picked me up and he threw me on the bed. Well, don't look at me like that. I'm not ashamed to say it. I've never been ashamed of the act of love. I believe it's a part of life.

BILLY
Sure. Why not? I mean, of course, if people like each other.

OMA
I'm not talking about free love. I have no use for that.

BILLY
You know, free depends what you mean "free". I mean, if it's not free, can you call it love?

OMA
I'm talking about love. Real love, not just sex. When you're really in love, you marry for life, and that is the only way it can be. I don't consider my second marriage sanctified. I should've stayed true to Frank.

BILLY
Frank? Who's Frank?

OMA
Frank. That was my first husband. He's full-blooded Cherokee.

BILLY
You married an Indian?

OMA
What's wrong with that? You think you're any better?

BILLY
I'm not knocking it.

OMA

You just watch what you say. I won't stand for any insults against Frank. I still wear his wedding ring.

BILLY

Where is he?

OMA

I'm a widow.

BILLY

That's too bad. I'm sorry to hear that. What happened to him?

OMA

He was shot.

BILLY

No kidding? Who did it?

OMA

He was a police officer. He was killed in line of duty.

BILLY

That's terrible. I was married, too. She ran out on me.

OMA

We didn't even have time to have children. I married white next time. All he was good for was running us off an embankment. That and spending the insurance. Marrying him was the biggest mistake of my life. He had unnatural desires.

BILLY

He did?

OMA

The white race is in its decline. It started downhill in 1492, when Columbus discovered syphilis.

BILLY

What did he want to do?

OMA

White man are animals.

BILLY

Oh, gosh, we're not so bad.

OMA

White man is the vermin of the earth!

BILLY

Hey, come on, not so loud.

OMA

Don't tell me what to do! I don't care who hears me. I know I'm making a nuisance of myself. All these goddamn Mexicans sitting here. They don't know who their real friends are!

BILLY

Hey, calm down. What are you going on about? Take it easy.

OMA

Don't tell me... Will you take your hands off me?

BILLY

Listen, you know, you are liable to get backhanded right off that stool if you're not careful.

OMA

You see if I care one bit. That's all I need. You go ahead, if it'll make you feel so good.

BILLY

I'm sorry..

OMA

Go on, get it out of your system.

BILLY

I was just kidding.

OMA

Go on, if it'll make you feel good, punch me in the face.

BILLY

Oh, God Almighty.

OMA

Take some teeth out while you're at it. I still got a few left in there, that the others were nice enough to leave me. Come on.

BILLY

I wouldn't hit you.

OMA

Come on, come on...

BILLY

I'm sorry...

OMA

...big lift for you. What you are waiting for? It's just the thing you need.

BILLY

Hey listen, I'm sorry.

OMA

Far be it from me to spoil anybody's fun.

BILLY

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Will you listen to me? Goddamnit, I am sorry!

OMA

So what? So you're sorry?

BILLY

Well, I feel I could break my head.

OMA

Go ahead. I'm not going to stop you.

BILLY

Feel like I could just bust my head...on that jukebox

OMA

Go ahead.

(Billy hits the jukebox with his head)

What did you do that for?

BILLY

You told me to go ahead and do it, so I did. You can count on me right down the line.

OMA

You wanna knock your brains out?

BILLY

You count on me.

OMA

Just don't bump your head any more.

BILLY

Listen. Let me tell you something. You can count on me right down the line.

OMA

I thought you wanted to hit me.

BILLY

Oh, well, will you forget that? I never hit a woman in my life. Hey, let me buy you a drink. Could we have two cream sherries, please? Why don't you believe me? Don't you think that you can count on me?

OMA

Just don't bump your head any more.

BILLY

Oh, come on. Come on. Will you forget that? Hey, listen, I just asked you a question. Do you think I'd let you down?

OMA

I don't know. Would you?

BILLY

Hey, I wouldn't. I wouldn't

OMA

Maybe you wouldn't. How would I know?

BILLY

You can count on me. You can count on me. No, I'm the reliable type.

OMA

Do you know who your friends are?

BILLY

Listen. Anytime you need anything, you just come and see me.

OMA

These others, I wouldn't ask the time of day.

BILLY

They wouldn't give it to you.

OMA

Do you know something? You're the only son of a bitch worth shit in this place.

BILLY

I appreciate that. I mean, because there's something I really like about you.

OMA

I like you too.

BILLY
To us.

OMA
Let's get out of this joint.

BILLY
Yeah. Let's go somewhere else. Keep the change.