

FAT CITY - BILLY & OMA

BILLY

Hey. Hi. How you been keeping?

OMA

Terrible.

BILLY

Are you alone? 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 chair 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  
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. I know I'm making a nuisance of myself. All these goddamn Mexicans around. 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 what to do.

BILLY  
Listen, you know, you'd be liable to get backhanded right off that chair if you're not careful.

OMA

You'd see if I care one bit. That's all I need. It would make you feel so good, right?

BILLY

I'm sorry..

OMA

Get it out of your system.

BILLY

I was just kidding.

OMA

It would make you feel good to 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.

BILLY

I wouldn't hit you.

OMA

Come on.

BILLY

I'm sorry..

OMA

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...here.

OMA

Go ahead.

(Billy hits 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's have another drink. Why don't you have one more of  
these cream sherries? 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 around here.

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 here. Let's see each other.

BILLY

Yeah. Let's meet up. Let me come to your place.