

HOLDEN

Here's the thing. I spent five years as a brick agent and a couple of years at the academy. I'm squeaky clean.

ED

Oh.

HOLDEN

I'm Eliot Ness, I'm . . .

ED

You're Melvin Purvis, G-MAN.

HOLDEN

Exactly. And back then, no skirt in the FBI. No women, just men.

ED

Wow.

HOLDEN

Then I enroll in college, and suddenly, I am Warren fucking Beatty.

ED

Wow.

HOLDEN

Everything goes.

ED

You take sugar.

HOLDEN

No.

ED

Cool. Milk?

HOLDEN

Thank you.

ED

You got it man.

HOLDEN

Suddenly it's disco and poppers, and fern bars. I'm up to my neck in chicks.

ED

Pussy, pussy, pussy. I hear that.

HOLDEN

It turns out chicks do really dig a guy with a badge.

ED

"Gas, grass or ass. Nobody rides for free."

HOLDEN

Next thing I know, I'm with a 24 year old I met in a bar. No woman has ever been so into me in my entire life.

ED

Don't brag. It's unbecoming.

HOLDEN

Oh, my god. I am so sorry.

ED

I'm kidding.

HOLDEN

Man . . . the things she comes up with in the sack.

ED

You gotta love that young pussy.

HOLDEN

I do. I really fucking do.

ED

You gotta make it with that young pussy real quick before it turns into Mom.

HOLDEN

Yeah.

ED

So you were a virgin up until then, that's what you're saying?

HOLDEN

No, not at all.

ED

Oh, you go over like you're a virgin.

HOLDEN

What?

ED

What's wrong with that? I was a virgin for years.

HOLDEN

Oh, no, there's nothing wrong with it, it's just that I'm . . . not.

ED

Uh-huh. This new girl, she take it up the ass?

HOLDEN

We haven't really discussed it.

ED

Ask her. An asshole will suck your cock right in, literally. It's like a hole that sucks. *Makes a slurping sound.* It's easy. But when you fuck somebody in the neck, it's entirely the opposite. It's nothing but resistance. It's really difficult. Let me. *Puts his hand around Holden's throat* You feel this? Feel it. It's all muscle. Cartilaginous. Is this interesting?

HOLDEN

Oh yeah.

ED

Cause I can skip some of the detail.

HOLDEN

No, I'm here for the detail.

ED

A major college campus. It's like a giant candy store, you know what I mean.

HOLDEN

Right. Your, uh, mom worked on campus at UCSC, right? Remind me again what she did.

ED

Administrative assistant.

HOLDEN

Right.

ED

That's all she live for, man, her work and her precious coeds, whom she mothered relentlessly.

HOLDEN

Do you think she neglected you for them?

ED

Put it this way, she had a very violently outspoken position on men. She had a failed marriage with my father. I looked a lot like him, so . . .

HOLDEN

You reminded her of him. Do you think you developed a dislike for young women as a result?

ED

As far as she was concerned, I was never going to end up with one of those girls because I was a fuck up and an embarrassment.

HOLDEN

You were a failure in her eyes.

ED

Look. My mother was a decent, upstanding, reasonable woman but when it came to me, she had nothing but contempt, disappointment and disdain.

HOLDEN

That must've been awful.

ED

Well, here's the thing.

HOLDEN

I'm listening.

ED

Women are born with this little hole between their legs . . . which every man on earth just wants to stick something into. And they're weaker than men, so they learn strategies. They deploy their minds and their sex, and they intuitively learn to humiliate.

HOLDEN

Did your mother humiliate you? (Ed's mind has gone somewhere deep inside himself) Ed?