

Notes on a Scandal

EXT PUB:

BARBERA

I need to know the circumstances, you must inform me of everything.

SHEBA

Actually you were there when I first saw him. I think you'd given him a telling off..

BARBERA

I gave him a slight ticking off

SHEBA

He dedicated his goal to me...it amused me...nothing more. Then...a few days later he came to see me.

BARBERA

You found your gem, as they would say.

SHEBA

I said that I would teach him after school but only if he felt like it. It's the Job, isn't it?

BARBERA

Within specified hours and a specified curriculum

SHEBA

Barbara, he came every day for 2 weeks. Yes I was flattered but nothing more than that. I, I was excited to find someone who wanted to learn.

BARBERA

But surely you must have suspected his motives?

SHEBA

I sensed he had a little crush on me but so what. It was innocent.

BARBERA

Well that's when you should have stopped it.

SHEBA

I did. I told him I wouldn't teach him anymore, he refused to accept it. He just kept coming back. It began to feel like our secret, and secrets can be seductive...His father had been hitting him and he didn't want to tell his mom because she was ill. Kidney Disease. He was so vulnerable. I'd not been pursued like this for years...I knew it was wrong and immoral and completely ridiculous but...I don't know. I just allowed it to happen.

BARBERA

The boy is 15!

SHEBA

But he's quite mature for his age..

BARBERA

That is not a helpful word here

SHEBA

This is going to sound silly but something in me felt entitled. I'd been good all my adult life. I'd been a decent wife, dutiful mother coping with Ben. The voice inside me kept on saying 'why shouldn't you be bad' 'why shouldn't you transgress' 'you've earned the right' I knew it was wrong but it was like having another drink when you know you shouldn't.

BARBERA

The day we met it had already began?

SHEBA

Yes

BARBERA

And you had further relations that day?

SHEBA

We went to the art room

BARBRA

Well I'm glad I was such an aphrodisiac. I thought I was trying to help you.

SHEBA

You did. I'm incredibly grateful; you've been such a good friend.

BARBERA

Not reciprocated it seems

SHEBA

I desperately wanted to confess to you. But how could I Barbara. It would have put you in an impossible situation...I so wish I had. You would have made me see sense.

INT PUB:

SHEBA

Look I know you have to tell them...the head of the school. All I ask is that you wait till the New Year. Please I'm begging you; please let me have Christmas with my family.

BARBERA

oh you poor thing. You've got yourself into a state. I'm not going to report you. I want to help you... To support you through this.

SHEBA

You're not, not going to tell? You wont tell anyone?

BARBERA

Who would it benefit? Not you, Or the Boy. Certainly not the school. This is a private matter and we must keep it so.

SHEBA

Yes...maybe I should resign

BARBERA

Oh no...that might alert suspicion. You must stay at the school but the affair must end. Your solemn promise. I can't help you if you don't promise.

SHEBA

I Promise

BARBERA

So you'll tell him straight after Christmas?...Its all for the best.

SHEBA

I know. Thank you so much, you've been so brilliant.

BARBERA

Tell me when it's done.