SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE

INT. GRAHAM'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Graham sits smoking a cigarette. There is a knock at his door.

Graham
It's open.

Cynthia enters. Graham looks up at her.

Graham
Who are you?

Cynthia
I'm Cynthia Bishop.

Graham
Do I know you?

Cynthia
I'm Ann Millaney's sister.

Graham
The extrovert.

Cynthia
(smiles)
She must have been in a good mood when she said that. She usually calls me loud.

Graham
She called you that, too. May I ask why you're here?

Cynthia
You want me to leave?
GRAHAM
I just want to know why you're here.

CYNTHIA
Well, like I said, Ann is my sister. Sisters talk. You can imagine the rest.

GRAHAM
No, I really can't. I find it healthy never to characterize people I don't know or conversations I haven't heard. I don't know what you and your sister discussed about me or anything else. Last time I saw Ann she left here very...confused, I would say. And upset.

CYNTHIA
She still is.

GRAHAM
And are you here to berate me for making her that way?

CYNTHIA
Nope.

GRAHAM
She didn't tell you why she was upset?

CYNTHIA
Nope.

GRAHAM
She didn't give you my address?
CYNTHIA
Nope.

GRAHAM
How did you find me?

CYNTHIA
I, uh, know a guy at the power company.

GRAHAM
I don't understand. Why did you want to come here? I mean, I can't imagine Ann painted a very flattering portrait of me.

CYNTHIA
Well, I don't really listen to her when it comes to men. I mean, look at John, for crissake. Oh, you went to school with him didn't you? You're probably friends or something.

GRAHAM
Nope. I think the man is a liar.

CYNTHIA
(smiles)
I think you're right. So come on, I came all the way over here to find out what got Ann so spooked, tell me what happened.

GRAHAM
(smiles)
Spooked.

He motions to the box of videotapes.
GRAHAM
That box of tapes is what got Ann so "spooked".

Cynthia goes over to the box and looks inside for a long moment, studying the labels.

CYNTHIA
Oh, okay. I think I get it.

GRAHAM
What do you get?

CYNTHIA
Well, they must be something sexual, because Ann gets freaked out by that shit. Are these tapes of you having sex with these girls or something?

GRAHAM
Not exactly.

CYNTHIA
Well, either you are or you aren't. Which is it?

GRAHAM
Why don't you let me tape you?

CYNTHIA
Doing what?

GRAHAM
Talking.

CYNTHIA
About what?
GRAHAM
Sex. Your sexual history, your sexual preferences.

CYNTHIA
What makes you think I'd discuss that with you?

GRAHAM
Nothing.

CYNTHIA
You just want to ask me questions?

GRAHAM
I just want to ask you questions.

CYNTHIA
And that's all?

GRAHAM
That's all.

CYNTHIA
(a crooked smile)
Is this how you get off or something? Taping women talking about their sexual experiences?

GRAHAM
Yes.

CYNTHIA
Would anybody else see the tape?

GRAHAM
Absolutely not. They are for my private use only.

CYNTHIA
How do we start?
GRAHAM
I turn on the camera. You start talking.

CYNTHIA
And you ask questions, right?

GRAHAM
Yes.

CYNTHIA
How long will it take?

GRAHAM
That depends on you. One woman only used three minutes. Another filled up three two hour tapes.

CYNTHIA
Can I see some of the other tapes to get an idea of what--

GRAHAM
No.

CYNTHIA
(thinks)
Do I sit or stand?

GRAHAM
Whichever you prefer.

CYNTHIA
I'd rather sit. Are you ready?

GRAHAM
Just a moment.

Graham grabs his 8mm Video camera, puts in a new tape, and turns
it on.

GRAHAM
I am now recording. Tell me your name.

CYNTHIA
Cynthia Patrice Bishop.

GRAHAM
Describe for me your first sexual experience.

CYNTHIA
My first sexual experience or the first time I had intercourse?

GRAHAM
Your first sexual experience.

CYNTHIA
(thinks)
I was...eight years old. Michael Green, who was also eight, asked if he could watch me take a pee. I said he could if I could watch him take one, too. He said okay, and then we went into the woods behind our house. I got this feeling he was chickening out because he kept saying, "Ladies first!" So I pulled down my underpants and urinated, and he ran away before I even finished.

GRAHAM
Was it ever a topic of conversation between the two of you afterward?

CYNTHIA
No. He kind of avoided me for the
rest of the summer, and then his family moved away. To Cleveland, actually.

GRAHAM
How unfortunate. So when did you finally get to see a penis?

CYNTHIA
When I was fourteen.

GRAHAM
Live, or in a photograph or film of some sort?

CYNTHIA
Very much live.

GRAHAM
What did you think? Did it look like you expected?

CYNTHIA
Not really. I didn't picture it with veins or ridges or anything, I thought it would be smooth, like a test tube.

GRAHAM
Were you disappointed?

CYNTHIA
No. If anything, after I looked at it awhile, it got more interesting. It had character, you know?

GRAHAM
What about when you touched it? What did you expect it to feel like, and then what did it really
feel like?

CYNTHIA
It was warmer than I thought it would be, and the skin was softer than it looked. It's weird. Thinking about it now, the organ itself seemed like a separate thing, a separate entity to me. I mean, after he pulled it out and I could look at it and touch it, I completely forgot that there was a guy attached to it. I remember literally being startled when the guy spoke to me.

GRAHAM
What did he say?

CYNTHIA
He said that my hand felt good.

GRAHAM
Then what happened?

CYNTHIA
Then I started moving my hand, and then he stopped talking.