

DR. REISMAN

Well, so what brings you here today? You're free to talk about anything. A lot of couples experience a death of passion-

CELESTE

Passion is definitely not our problem. If it is, maybe it's because there's too much of it.

DR. REISMAN

How do you mean?

CELESTE

Well, we love each other very much.

PERRY

Yeah.

CELESTE

And, um I just think maybe we... things can just get a bit volatile.

DR. REISMAN

Volatile how?

CELESTE

We fight a lot and we say things. Um, we yell, we scream, and we just have a lot of anger that we need some help controlling.

DR. REISMAN

When you talk of anger and volatility are we talking about a physical expression of anger?

CELESTE

No. Just emotional, um verbal.

PERRY

It's not quite true. After we fight, we... we very often make love. I don't know if you can call it making love. It's very um, there seems to be a lot of anger, you know, mixed up in it, and well, there's a line between passion and rage, and you know, sometimes maybe we we cross that. Sometimes.

DR. REISMAN

Where do you think this rage comes from?

PERRY

I don't know. I don't even know how to begin to answer that question.

DR. REISMAN

Try.

PERRY

Okay, um I I think I'm afraid of losing her.

DR. REISMAN

Okay. Why do you think that?

PERRY

Have you have you seen her? Look at her. She can have any man she wants, you know. And if she's not happy with me, there will be a line of a thousand men just waiting, you know. Uh yeah. And lately, it doesn't always seem that she's happy. And that, uh that terrifies me. From the very beginning, like when we first met, I've always worried that she would just go through me. You know, like that.

DR. REISMAN

What do you mean by that? By "go through you"?

PERRY

That she would outgrow me, maybe. Or figure me out or something. So I've always had this sense that that, you know, the day would come where she would just where she would just not love me anymore, and and I- I think I'm constantly looking for evidence that she-

DR. REISMAN

eEvidence that she doesn't doesn't love you anymore. Celeste, how do you feel about what Perry just said?

CELESTE

I gave up my career for you.
I-I I left my family. I left my
friends. I moved here for you.
You honestly think I don't love
you?

PERRY

A couple of days ago, you said that
you would leave me.

DR. REISMAN

What occasioned that?...Anybody?

PERRY

I grabbed her...I grabbed her by
the shoulders pretty hard. So, the
idea that it's never gotten violent
is, uh I grabbed her hard. And then
she said that if I ever do that
again, she would leave me.

CELESTE

He frightened me.

DR. REISMAN

And Has this ever happened before?

PERRY

Yeah. Sometimes I lash out.

DR. REISMAN

And, you, Celeste?

CELESTE

What about me?

DR. REISMAN

Do you ever lash out?

CELESTE

Yeah, when it gets physical, I
fight back. I do.

DR. REISMAN

And how does that feel, when this
happens?

CELESTE

Not good. I don't feel good about
it.

DR. REISMAN

Can you be more specific?

CELESTE

I think I feel ashamed.

DR. REISMAN

- Ashamed?

CELESTE

Yeah. We get angry. We fight and then have this crazy, angry sex. And then we make up, and it's all better, and...and we have this dirty secret