

JOE: Look, I know this is scary for you. But try to understand what it means to me. Will you try?

HARPER: Yes.

100 JOE: Good. Really try.

I think things are starting to change in the world.

HARPER: But I don't want . . .

JOE: Wait. For the good. Change for the good. America has re-
discovered itself. Its sacred position among nations. And
105 people aren't ashamed of that like they used to be. This is a
great thing. The truth restored. Law restored. That's what
President Reagan's done, Harper. He says "Truth exists and
can be spoken proudly." And the country responds to him.

110 We become better. More good. I need to be a part of that,
I need something big to lift me up. I mean, six years ago the
world seemed in decline, horrible, hopeless, full of unsolv-
able problems and crime and confusion and hunger and . . .

ozone
HARPER: But it still seems that way. More now than before.

They say the ozone layer is . . .

115 JOE: Harper . . .

HARPER: And today out the window on Atlantic Avenue there
was a schizophrenic traffic cop who was making these . . .

JOE: Stop it! I'm trying to make a point.

HARPER: So am I.

120 JOE: You aren't even making sense, you . . .

HARPER: My point is the world seems just as . . .

JOE: It only seems that way to you because you never go out in
the world, Harper, and you have emotional problems.

HARPER: I do so get out in the world.

125 JOE: You don't. You stay in all day, fretting about imaginary . . .

HARPER: I get out. I do. You don't know what I do.

JOE: You don't stay in all day.

HARPER: No.

JOE: Well. . . . Yes you do.

130 HARPER: That's what you think.

JOE: Where do you go?

HARPER: Where do *you* go? When you walk.

(Pause, then angrily.) And I DO NOT have emotional problems.

135 JOE: I'm sorry.

HARPER: And if I do have emotional problems it's from living

with you. Or . . .

JOE: I'm sorry buddy, I didn't mean to . . .

HARPER: Or if you do think I do then you should never have married me. You have all these secrets and lies.

JOE: I want to be married to you, Harper.

HARPER: You shouldn't. You never should.

(Pause.)

Hey buddy. Hey buddy.

JOE: Buddy kiss . . .

(They kiss.)

HARPER: I heard on the radio how to give a blowjob.

JOE: What?

HARPER: You want to try?

JOE: You really shouldn't listen to stuff like that.

HARPER: Mormons can give blowjobs.

JOE: Harper.

HARPER: (Imitating his tone.) Joe.

It was a little Jewish lady with a German accent.

This is a good time. For me to make a baby.

(Little pause. JOE turns away.)

HARPER: Then they went on to a program about holes in the ozone layer. Over Antarctica. Skin burns, birds go blind, icebergs melt. The world's coming to an end.