

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
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INT. IL PECCATORE RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

One word: Burgundy.

Nick walks right past the reservation desk. When he reaches his regular booth, it is already occupied by HEATHER HOLLOWAY. She stands to greet Nick. Heather is everything you thought she'd be... in a great skirt.

HEATHER
Heather Holloway, Washington Post.

NICK
Nick Naylor, Big Tobacco.

Heather places a tape recorder on the table as she sits.

HEATHER (RE: TAPE RECORDER)
Is this kosher?

NICK
Only if I can call you Heather.

HEATHER
By all means. So, Mr. Naylor...

NICK (INTERRUPTS)
Nick...

HEATHER
Nick, let's start with...

NICK (INTERRUPTS)
An '82 Margaux?

HEATHER
Okay... is it good?

NICK
Good?

(pause for effect)

It will make you believe in God.

Heather smiles. It's going to be that type of interview.

LATER

Waiter pours the wine. Heater drinks.

NICK (CONT'D)
So what is the focus of your piece?

HEATHER
You.

NICK

You want know how I live with myself?

HEATHER

(smiling)

No, I don't imagine, that's a problem. I want to know how you see yourself.

NICK

I'm a mediator between two sects of society that are trying to reach an accommodation.

HEATHER

Interesting. My other interviews have pinned you as a mass murderer, profiteer, pimp, bloodsucker, child killer, and my personal favorite, Yuppie Mephistopheles.

NICK

Sounds like a balanced article.

HEATHER

Who else should I talk to?

NICK

Fifty-five million American smokers, for starters or perhaps the American tobacco farmer who is constantly being treated like a drug smuggler.

HEATHER

I actually do plan on speaking to a tobacco farmer.

NICK

Fine people. Salt of the earth.

HEATHER

Nick. Why do you do this? What motivates you?

NICK

You really want to know?

Heather nods.

NICK (CONT'D)

Really?

Heather leans in with intrigue. Nick turns off her recorder.

NICK (CONT'D)

Population control.

Heather laughs.

HEATHER
You're bad.

Their eyes meet for a charged beat. Nick relents.

NICK
Hey, everyone's got a mortgage to pay.

HEATHER
Is a mortgage really much of a life goal?

NICK
Ninety-nine percent of everything that is done in the world, good or bad is done to pay a mortgage. Perhaps the world would be a better place if everyone rented.

HEATHER
And why don't you rent?

NICK
Oh, I rent as well.

HEATHER
Really?

NICK
My son, his mother, and her boyfriend live in my house. I live in my apartment.

HEATHER
And what does Nick Naylor's apartment look like?

NICK
Nothing impressive. It wouldn't make the real estate section.

HEATHER
Can I see it?

NICK
You want to see my apartment?

HEATHER
I want to see where the devil sleeps.

Heather gives a smile that stops Nick dead in his tracks. If we held one more moment, we'd see him say "check please", but instead we...

CUT TO: