

CLOSER

DAN/LARRY

RECEPTIONIST
You can go in now.

Dan goes in.

DAN
I want Anna back.

LARRY
She's made her choice.

DAN
I owe you an apology. I fell in love with her. My intention was not to make you suffer.

LARRY
So where's the apology? You cunt.

DAN
I apologize. If you love her, you'll let her go, so she can be happy.

LARRY
She doesn't want to be happy.

DAN
Everybody wants to be happy.

LARRY
Depressives don't. They want to be unhappy to confirm their depression. If they were happy, they couldn't be depressed anymore. They'd have to go out into the world and live, which can be depressing.

DAN
Anna's not a depressive.

LARRY
Isn't she?

DAN
I love her.

LARRY

Boo hoo. So do I.

DAN

She's gone back to you because she can't bear your suffering. You don't know who she is! You love her like a dog loves the owner.

LARRY

And the owner loves the dog for so doing.

DAN

You'll hurt her. You'll never forgive her.

LARRY

Of course I'll forgive her. I have forgiven her. Without forgiveness, we're savages. You're drowning.

DAN

You only met her because of me.

LARRY

Yeah. Thanks.

DAN

It's a joke. Your marriage is a joke!

LARRY

There's a good one. She never sent the divorce papers to her lawyer. Now, to a towering romantic hero like you, I don't doubt I am somewhat common, but I am nevertheless what she has chosen, and we must respect what the woman wants.

LARRY

If you go near her again, I swear, I will kill you.

Phone buzzes.

DOCTOR (to phone): Mmm hmm? Okay.

LARRY

I have patients to see.

DAN

When she came here, do you think she enjoyed it?

LARRY

I didn't do it to give her a nice time. I fucked her to fuck you up. A good fight is never clean. And yeah, of course she enjoyed it. As you know, she loves a guilty fuck.

DAN

You're an animal.

LARRY

Yeah? What are you?

DAN

You think love is simple. You think the heart is like a diagram.

LARRY

Have you ever see a human heart? It looks like a fist wrapped in blood! Go fuck yourself. You writer! You liar!

LARRY

You go check a few facts while I get my hands dirty.

DAN

She hates your hands. She hates your simplicity.

LARRY

Listen. I spent the whole of the last week talking about you. I know all your little ways. Anna tells me you fucked her with your eyes closed. She tells me you awaked in the night crying for your mother, you mommies boy. I could go on. Shall we stop this?

LARRY

It's over. Accept it.

Dan starts crying.

LARRY

You don't know the first thing about love because you don't understand compromise.

LARRY

Oh, don't cry on me.

DAN

I'm sorry. I don't know what to do.

LARRY:

You want my advice? You go back to Alice.

DAN

She'd never have me. She's vanished.

LARRY

No she hasn't. I found her, by accident. She's working in a club. Yes, I saw her naked. No, I did not fuck her.

DAN

You spoke to her?

DOCTOR (phone): Yes?

DOCTOR (phone): Yes, I know. One minute.

DAN

How is she?

LARRY

She loves you beyond comprehension. Your prescription is where she works. Go to her.

DAN

Thank you.

LARRY

You still pissing about on the 'net?

DAN

Not recently.

LARRY

I wanted to kill you.

DAN

You wanted to fuck me.

LARRY

Don't get lippy.

LARRY:
I read your book, by the way.

DAN
Thanks.
You stand alone.

LARRY
With Anna. You still writing obituaries?

LARRY
Busy?

DAN
I was made editor.

LARRY
Yeah? How come?

DAN
Previous editor died. Alcohol poisoning. I sat with
him for a week in the hospital.

LARRY
I really do have patients to see.

DAN
Thank you.

LARRY
For what?

DAN
Being kind.

LARRY
I am kind. Your invoice is in the post.

Dan starts to leave.

LARRY

Dan.

He stops.

LARRY

I lied to you. I did fuck Alice. Sorry for telling you. I'm just not big enough to forgive you, buster.