

From The Craving

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TERRY, 20-30s or so

EMMA, 20-30s or so

TERRY is an aspiring screenwriter who has just gotten his first big break. EMMA is a ruthless producer.

EMMA

Let's get down to business, shall we?

TERRY

Sure, um...

EMMA

Tori, right?

TERRY

Terry.

EMMA

Terry. I need to be frank with you. We love your script. We're going to do this movie.

TERRY

That's great—

EMMA

Let me finish. Here's your contract.

(She hands him a booklet.)

TERRY

Shouldn't I have my agent look this over?

EMMA

I thought we were going to do this in a friendly fashion.

TERRY

I thought so too—

EMMA

You don't trust us? Is that how we're going to do this?

TERRY

I just thought that agents normally dealt with contracts—

EMMA

Okay.

(She takes the contract back.)

I guess we'll deal with your agent then. I didn't think you were gonna be like that. That's okay, though. I guess I just had a little more faith in you than you do in us. We can have a relationship like that if you want.

TERRY

I want to have a good relationship.

EMMA

A relationship is built on trust, Terry. You trust us to make the best movie possible and we trust you to accept that. I mean, if there's no trust here, I don't know that we can do this.

TERRY

Do what?

EMMA

Do the movie.

TERRY

You're not gonna do the movie?

EMMA

Let me explain something to you: I got into the movie business because I love people. I love them so much. It's a fault of mine. And the joy of making a movie to me, is the friendships that you build—I want to be friends with you, Terry, I don't want to be friends with your agent. I want to know what makes you tick, what's going on in that heart of yours.

TERRY

I want to be friends with you.

EMMA

Look at the contract then.

TERRY

Okay.

(TERRY takes the contract back.)

It's really long.

EMMA

It's so we're both protected. You want us to be protected, don't you?

TERRY

Yeah, sure, um... would it be possible for me to get a little bit more money up front?

EMMA (*hurt*)

You want more money up front?

TERRY

Yeah. I kinda sold my apartment in New Jersey and moved here to L.A.—and I'm in a hotel and I need some cash to pay for my room.

EMMA

It's always about you, isn't it?

TERRY

I just need a little bit.

EMMA

You don't care about us at all, you don't care about the studio.

TERRY

I care about the studio.

EMMA

We're bending over backwards for you—we're taking a chance on you, and the studio is very vulnerable Terry, so, so vulnerable. Wait a minute, are you showing this script to another studio?!

TERRY

There might have been one other studio—

EMMA

You showed this script to someone else?!

TERRY

It was through a friend of—

EMMA

How could you do that to us!? Don't you know how that makes us feel?! Like garbage, like we're second best—

TERRY

You're not second best—

EMMA

Maybe you don't even want this movie to get made!?

TERRY

No I want to see the movie get made!

EMMA

Why did I even come over here? Why do writers have to be such jerks? I always do this—I always want to take a chance on a writer and then I just get my heart stomped on over and over again.

TERRY

I didn't mean to hurt you.

EMMA

You did! You did hurt me. Fine, we'll give you more money up front. How much do you want? All of it?! You want all of the money?! How are we even gonna make the movie if you steal all of the money?

TERRY

I don't need all of the money—

EMMA (*near tears*)

We give and we give and we give and it's never enough for you! What about our needs!? When was the last time you bought the studio flowers?!

TERRY

I didn't think—

EMMA (*breaking down*)

That's right, you never think about us!

(EMMA breaks down and says the next line in a high-pitched, unintelligible whine.)

I wanted this to work so bad but you aren't putting any effort into it!

TERRY (*not understanding*)

What?

EMMA (*screeching*)

You never listen to me!

TERRY

I didn't understand what you said!

(EMMA breaks down completely.)

Wait. It's okay. It's okay. I don't need any extra money.

EMMA (*starting to calm down*)

You're just saying that.

TERRY

No I'm not. I'll pay for my hotel room using my credit card. I want the movie to get made.

EMMA

No take the money.

TERRY

I don't want the money.

EMMA

You're just taking pity on me now.

TERRY

I want what's best for both of us.

EMMA

Do you really mean that?

TERRY

Yes. Please. Can I please take less money?

EMMA

I guess. Sign here.

(TERRY signs the contract. EMMA blows her nose.)

Thank you.