

JEFF FLENDER

ENLIGHTENED

TYLER
Well, should I come up?

AMY
Mmm... I just think, he doesn't know you. Might be confusing. Just wait in the car. It won't be too long. Okay, wish me luck.

Amy gives Tyler a nervous hug, then gets out of the car. Tyler watches her go toward the apartment building.

TYLER
(quietly; to himself)
Good luck.

31 INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 31

Jeff opens his door to find Amy there. He looks like he's just gotten out of the shower - he's shirtless, wet hair, in jeans, no shoes. He seems surprised to see her.

JEFF
Oh, shit. Is it eight?

AMY
Well, I'm a little early...

JEFF
No worries. Come on in. I'm just gonna pull on a shirt.

Jeff disappears into his apartment. Amy steps inside.

32 INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER SC. 1 32

Amy, alone in the living room, looks around with curiosity. Books piled high on the shelves; posters for indie bands and political rallies. She inspects a book - Oswald Spengler's *The Decline of the West*.

There is two framed portraits of HAILE SELASSIE and NOAM CHOMSKY. Amy is studying the latter, when Jeff returns.

START → AMY
Is this your grandfather or...?

JEFF
(amused)
No, that's Noam Chomsky. You've never heard of him?
(off her shrug)
(MORE)

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JEFF (cont'd)
He's a linguist and a political
theorist.

AMY
And who's that?

JEFF
That's Haile Selassie. He was the
Emperor of Ethiopia.

Jeff points her to a chair. They sit.

AMY
Why do you have a portrait of the
Emperor of Ethiopia?

JEFF
Well, Rastafarians think he was the
Messiah.

AMY
Are you a Rastafarian?

JEFF
No, but I spent a year in Jamaica,
smoking a lot of pot.

Jeff grins and gets out all her documents, stacking them.

JEFF
So I've read all this stuff...

AMY
(hopeful)
Yeah?

JEFF
...and there's nothing here.

AMY
What?

JEFF
Well, there's not a story here.

AMY
What do you mean?

JEFF
Not a front page story, at least.
It's all interesting from a
voyeuristic point of view, but
there's nothing here that's
illegal.

2/13

AMY

(stupefied)

Are you serious? Did you even read it all? How can you say that?

JEFF

Sure, there's some embarrassing shit...

AMY

Embarrassing? These guys are pigs - all they're doing is getting rich by screwing everyone.

JEFF

That's what executives are hired to do. Go into any office building down here - and there are thousands of them - and they're doing the exact same thing. It's business as usual, babe.

AMY

Don't patronize me. I know what's in here, okay? This is a systematic looting of a company by a bunch of fuckers with absolutely no social conscience...

JEFF

And did one of those fuckers fuck you over or what?

AMY

Excuse me?

JEFF

What kind of revenge play are you trying to write here?

AMY

This isn't about revenge. This is about justice.

JEFF

Justice for who? For you?

AMY

For everyone. For the employees and the citizens and...

JEFF

So what, you're a do-gooder? An idealist? Or someone who wants her name in the paper?

AMY

I'm just someone tired of the game - and ready to do something about it.
(off his wry look)

Fine. ~~Push this~~. I'll take it somewhere else. ~~I don't know why you don't see what I see~~ - maybe you're just too scared to take on Abaddonn. Who knows? But somebody will run with this.

Amy rises with her papers. Jeff follows her to the door.

JEFF

Wait. Amy, nothing would make me happier than to hang Abaddonn. Are you kidding me? To call out and crush a company like that is what I live for.

(clutching her papers)

But this is not a story. Maybe it is. But if I wrote it, the only thing it would do is get you in a shitload of trouble. And nothing - would - change.

AMY

(stricken)

Please don't tell me that.

Jeff locks eyes with her. He speaks softly, portentously.

JEFF

There is a story at Abaddonn. Something I've been tracking for a long time.

(points to her documents)

Bigger than this. Much bigger. And if you have access to their internal e-mails...

(smiles at the thought)

...we could do something that could shake that company, the government, the whole country at its core. I promise you. You're tired of the game? This would be a game-changer.

Jeff gives her an emphatic look. He has her attention now.

~~STORY~~

4/13