

RITA SIDE

DANIEL  
Misunderstanding is pain, RITA.

RITA shivers.

DANIEL  
Understanding, therefore. Is the  
solution.

Pause.

DANIEL  
Help me to understand.

Soundtrack quiets.

DANIEL  
That's all I ask.

RITA's arms drop.

RITA  
That's all ?

DANIEL smiles.

DANIEL  
Yes.

RITA  
Then all you had to do was ask.

DANIEL  
That so ? Well, then I ask.  
Officially.

RITA  
I have a story.

DANIEL  
Why don't you begin then. I'm dying  
of anticipation.

RITA (BEGINS SLOW)  
Once with my father.

DANIEL nods in approval.

RITA  
I was a girl. And I caught my first  
fish. It was alive. So I took it to  
him to take off the hook.

DANIEL's smiles fat, smug.

RITA  
He used a pair of pliers, and  
pulled the hook right out through  
its lip.

DANIEL stares.

RITA  
I cried because the fish was  
bleeding on his hand, but he smiled  
at me and said, it's ok.

DANIEL stares, transfixed.

RITA  
It'll die anyway.

RITA  
So he strung it over a branch.

Pause.

DANIEL (RAPT)  
And ?

RITA  
And it died next to his last fish.  
My fish, his fish ... Skin on skin.

DANIEL's palms begin to sweat. ADAMANTHA looks at RITA with  
flat affect.

Long pause.

DANIEL  
So ?

RITA  
You get it.

DANIEL looks at RITA.

DANIEL  
But I don't understand.

RITA stares at DANIEL.

DANIEL  
What dammit !

RITA looks at ADAMANTHA. ADAMANTHA shifts uncomfortably,  
looks at DANIEL.

ADMANTHA (NERVOUS)

Hey.

DANIEL ignores ADAMANTHA, ecstatic.

DANIEL

You're not being clear !

DANIEL points gun at RITA, fires. Blanks pistol. RITA looks, flat affect. DANIEL stares, shifts on his feet. Fires again.

RITA

That doesn't scare me.

ADAMANTHA looks back and forth between DANIEL and RITA, panicky but trying not to show it.

ADAMANTHA

Hey ! This. This is boring ! Be funny !

DANIEL

...

ADAMANTHA

Or just shoot the bitch !

DANIEL

...

ADAMANTHA

Come on, show her !

RITA is silent.

ADAMANTHA

I can do it !

DANIEL (TO RITA)

You have to be clear.

RITA is silent.

DANIEL

It's no good if it's just a fish story. You need to be clear.

DANIEL re-levels gun on RITA. Stares.

RITA is silent.

DANIEL stomps, furious, and whips blanks gun against hall wall.

Slight tears well below DANIEL's eyes. DANIEL sweats. Turns to ADAMANTHA, stares at her, ADAMANTHA still looking at RITA. ADAMANTHA stares.

RITA

You can't. Can you.

DANIEL looks at RITA.

DANIEL

I'm not allowed. There's a difference.