

BLOOD DIAMOND

119 AT THE EDGE OF THE COMPOUND

Archer stands alone. He takes a long pull from a plastic jug. Maddy steps out from the shadows.

Archer
It's palm wine.

He offers to her and she takes a swig. Makes a face.

Maddy
Jesus Christ.

Archer
Yeah, yeah. It takes getting used to, huh?

Maddy
God.

Archer
Drank that as a boy.

He takes another long drink. He's pretty drunk.

Maddy
In Rhodesia?
(off his look)
I take notes.

Archer
The Shona... The Shona have a word for me.
Mookeua, It means "white boy in Africa".

Maddy
When did you leave?

Archer
I didn't leave. I got sent away to South
Africa in 1978 when the munts overran us.

Maddy
Then you joined the army?

Archer

Yeah, yeah. I did my time in Angola.

Maddy

The 32 Battalion

Archer

That's right.

She just looks at him. He takes another long drink. Relents

Archer (CONT'D)

You know, contrary to what you might think about us we fought with the blacks, huh? Yeah. Side by side. There was no apartheid in a foxhole. The colonel always used to tell us that.

Maddy

This is Colonel Coetzee?

He looks at her, considering.

Archer

Yeah. Then, of course, it's 1994. No more army. No more apartheid. Truth and reconciliation and all that rubbish, you know. Kumbaya. We fought and died together, you know? Black and white. Most people back home didn't even know we were at war. We thought we were fighting Communism but in the end, it was all about who gets what, you know? Ivory, oil, gold... diamonds.

(He looks at her reaction)

So one day I decided, "Fuck it," you know? "I'm gonna get mine."

Maddy

You gonna steal his diamond?

Archer

That diamond is my ticket out of this godforsaken continent.

Maddy

That doesn't answer the question.

He takes another drink, doesn't answer.

Maddy (CONT'D)

My dad came home from the war in '69.
And it took him about 20 years to get right.

(He laughs)

What?

Archer

Nothing... You Americans love to talk about
your feeling, huh? So, what does that mean?
What does that mean? You got a thing for
messed-up vets now.

Maddy

Shut up.

(Short silence.)

You lost both your parents.

Archer

That's a polite way of putting it, yeah.
Mom was raped and shot and... Dad was
decapitated and hung from a hook in the
barn. I was 9. Boohoo, right? Sometimes
I wonder will God ever forgive us for what
we've done to each other? Then I look
around and I realize God left this place a
long time ago. It's... What's the point, huh?

She touches his hand and then he touches her face.

DANNY

HEY

M'ED

HOW DA BODY, MR ACHER?

DANNY

THE BODY FINE, M'ED

(DANNY HANDS M'ED A LARGE AMOUNT OF CASH)

M'ED

SO YOU WANT SOMETHINGNICE, HUH?

DANNY

THE BEST YOU CAN GET AHOLD OF, ALL RIGHT?

M'ED

TAKE ME A FEW DAYS, BUT I GO FIND YOU
SOMETHING SPECIAL.

DANNY

ALL RIGHT. YOU HERE THEY TOOK MARAMPA
YESTERDAY?

M'ED

REALLY?

DANNY

NOW, COME ON! YOU KNOW EVERY MOVE THEY
MAKE. WHEN ARE THEY GONNA HIT US, HUH?

M'ED

OH, I IMAGINE THEY COME DO SOME
"SHOPPING" HERE VERY SOON

DANNY

YEAH, YEAH. YOU GOT ANY SMOKES BACK
THERE?

(SHE'S MADDY)

DANNY (CONT'D)

WHAT'S THAT, HUH? (BEAT) ALL RIGHT?

(GOES TO MADDY)

DANNY (CONT'D)

CAN I OFFER YOU A CIGARETTE?

MADDY
OH, NO THANK YOU.

**(MADDY IS TAKEN BY WHAT'S ON THE NEWS. SHE'S WATCHING A
LIVE FEED OF THE CLINTON / LEWENSKI INCIDENT)**

MADDY (CONT'D)
**THE WORLD IS FALLING APART AND ALL WE
HEAR ABOUT IS "BLOW JOB GATE"**

DANNY
**TELL ME, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE
WORLD WASN'T FALLING APART, HUH?**

MADDY

**OH, A CYNIC. WHY DON'T
YOU PULL UP A CHAIR AND
MAKE ME MISERABLE?**

DANNY
DANNY ARCHER

MADDY
MADDY BOWEN

DANNY
PLEASE TO MEET YOU

MADDY
NICE TO MEET YOU

DANNY
AMERICAN, HUH?

MADDY
GUILTY

DANNY
WELL, AMERICAN USUALLY ARE.

MADDY
...SAYS THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN?

DANNY
I'M FROM RHODESIA, HUH?!?!

MADDY
WE SAY ZIMBABWE. NOW, DON'T WE?

DANNY
DO WE?

MADDY
LAST I CHECKED?

DANNY
**SO DON'T TELLME...YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE? HUH?**

MADDY
AND YOUR HEARTO MAKE A BUCK?

DANNY
I'M HEAR FOR A LACK OF A BETTER IDEA.

MADDY
THAT'S A SHAME.

DANNY
**NOT REALLY. PEACE CORPS TYPES ONLY STAY
AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO RELIZE THEY'RE NOT
HELPING ANYONE. GOVERNMENT: ONLY WANT
TO STAY IN POWER UNTIL THEY'VE STOLEN
ENOUGHTO GO INTO EXCILE SOMEWHERE ELSE
AND REBELS, WELL THEY'RE NOT SURE THEY
WANT TO TAKE OVER, OTHERWISE THEY'LL
HAVE TO GOVERN THIS MESS. BUT, T.I.A., RIGH T
M'ED?**

M'ED
T.I.A.

MADDY
WHAT'S T.I.A.?

DANNY
"THIS IS AFRICA", HUH?

MADDY
RIGHT.

DANNY
YOU WNT ANOTHA?

MADDY

**SURE. (BEAT. DRINK COMES) SO WHICH ONE
ARE YOU?SMUGGLER?**

DANNY

AM I?

MADDY

**SOMEHOW YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS THE UNCEF
TYPE.**

DANNY

**HOW ABOUT "SOLIDER OF FORTUNE"? OR IS
THAT TOO MUCH OF A CLICHE?**

MADDY

DIAMONDS?

DANNY

IF I TOLD YOU I WAS A MISSIONARY...?

MADDY

FOR VAN DE KAAP?

DANNY

**(VERY STREN) BETTER WATCH THAT TYPE OF
TALK MISS BOWEN, HUH? IN AMERICA IT'S ABOUT
"BLING-BLING". HERE IT'S ABOUT "BLING-BANG",
HUH? I WOULDN'T WHAT YOU GETTING INTO ANY
TYPE TROUBLE"**

MADDY

**HOW MUCH TROUBLE DO YOU THINK I WOULD
GET INTO FOR TALKING ABOUT "BLOOD
DIAMONDS'?**

DANNY

YOU'RE A JOURNALIST.

MADDY

THAT'S RIGHT.

DANNY

PISS OFF, HUH?

**(HE WALKS OFF. SHE FOLLOWS CLOSE BEHIND. PULLS OUT HER
RECORD NOW THAT THE JIG IS UP. MAY AS WELL GET A SOILD QUOTE
OUT OF HIM)**

MADDY

FOR 5 YEARS, THIS COUNTRY HAS REPORTED ALMOST NO DIAMOND EXPORTS. WHILE LIBERIA, RIGHT NEXT STORE, HAS EXPORTED 2 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH. VERY ODD, CONSIDERING THAT LIBERIA HAS NO DIAMONDS TO SPEAK OF.

DANNY

I'M SHOCKED

MADDY

NOW, VAN DE KAAP DENIES TRADING "BLOOD DIAMONDS", BUT ADMITS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHERE A DIAMOND COMES FROM UNLESS THEIR SMUGGLER GET CAUGHT.

DANNY

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, HUH?

MADDY

YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT VAN DE KAAP. HELP ME OUT. ...OF THE RECORD.

DANNY

WELL, OFF THE RECORD, I LIKE TO GET KISSED BEFORE I GET FUCKED, HUH?

(HE WALKS AWAY AGAIN. SHE DITCHES TO HAND HELD EQUIPMENT TO VISUAL GAIN TRUST. SHE FOLLOW WHILE ADJUSTING A HIDDEN MIC IN HER BLOUSE. SHE'S STILL AFTER THIS STORY)

MADDY

SHIT. LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN. HI, I'M MADDY BOWEN.

DANNY

HOW ABOUT YOU DANCE WITH ME.

MADDY

NO, I DON'T DANCE.

DANNY

NEITHER DO I, COME ON.

(DRAGS HER TO THE DANCE FLOOR TO GET AWAY FROM OTHERS.
SHE'S EXCITED HE'S GOING TO TELL HER SOMETHING AND STARTS
RIGHT IN WITH THE QUESTIONS)

MADDY

SO DANNY.

DANNY

ARCHER

MADDY

ARCHER... WHEN DID YOU FIRST START MOVING
STONES? WAS IT IN ANGOLA? WHEN DID THE
WHOLE, UM MERCENARY THING START? WAS
THAT FUN?

DANNY

HUM?

MADDY

SO WHAT ARE YOU? A NEALIST? OPPORTUNIST?

(HE SEES THE MIC DOEN THE FRONT OF HER SHIRT. PULLS IT OUT
SLOW)

DANNY

MAYBE I WASN'T BREAST FEED AS A CHILD,
HUH?

MADDY

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T MET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
BEFORE?

DANNY

I THINK YOU GET OFF ON PEOPLE LIKE ME.

MADDY

YOU THINK.?

DANNY

YEAH

MADDY

WHEN DID Y OU FIRST WORKING FOR CAN DE
KAAP?

DANNY
CHRIST, YOU NEVER STOP, DO YOU?

MADDY
NO. I NEVER STOP. DO YOU WANT ME TO STOP?

DANNY
**WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE? SEE
WHAT'S IN THE MINI BAR, HUH?**

MADDY
**I'M A PRINT JOURNALIST... I DRANK IT. IS IT
POSSIBLE YOU DON'T CARE HOW MANY PEOPLE
DIE BECAUSE OF THE DEALS YOU DO?**

DANNY
**LOOK, PEOPLE KILLING EACH IS A WAY OF LIFE
HERE. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.**

MADDY
**SO YOU CAN JUST WATCH IT AND GO ABOUT
YOUR DAY?**

DANNY
**MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL JUST WRITE ABOUT IT
THEN? LOOK, THANKS FOR THE DANCE, HUH?**

(HE LEAVES. GOES TO THE BAR. M'ED HANDS HIM HIS USUAL BEER)

DANNY (CONT'D)
...AND A SHOT TOO, HUH M'ED?

M'ED
SURE

MADDY
YOUR A HARD CASE, HUH?

DANNY
**TELL ME SOMETHING? HOW LONG HAVE YOU
BEEN HERE IN AFRICA, HUH?**

MADDY
**3 MONTHS, AND BEFORE THAT AFGANISTAN,
AND BOZINA.**

DANNY

**...AND YOU COME HERE WITH YOU LAPTOP
COMPUTER AND YOU MALARIA MEDICINE AND
LITTLE BOTTLES OF HAND SANITIZER, THINKING
YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE OUT COME,
HUH? LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. YOU SELL
BLOOD DIAMONDS TOO.**

MADDY

REALLY?

DANNY

YEAH

MADDY

TELL ME...HOW IS THAT?

DANNY

**WHO DO YOU THINK BUYS THE DIAMONDS T
BRING OUT, HUH? DREAMY AMERICAN GIRLS
WHO ALL WANT A STORY BOOK WEDDING AND A
BIG SHINY ROCK, HUH? LIKE THE ONE THEY SEE
IN THE ADVERTESMENTS OF YOUR POLITICALLY
CORRECT MAGAZINES. PLEASE SO, DOWN COME
HERE AND MAKE JUDGEMENTS ON ME, ALL
RIGHT? I PROVIDE A SERVICE. THE WORLD
WANTS WHAT WE GOT AND THEY WANT IT
CHEAP. WE'RE IN BUSINESS TOGETHER. GET
OVER YOURSELF, DARLING.**

MADDY

**JUST TO CLARIFY, NOT ALL AMERICAN GIRLS
WANT A STORY BOOK WEDDING. JUST LIKE NOT
ALL AFRICANS KILL EACH OTHER AS A WAY OF
LIFE. ...AND YEAH IT'S A SHIT, SHIT WORLD BUT
YOU KNOWWHAT? GOOD THINGS ARE DONE
EVERYDAY. JUST APPARENTLY NOT BY YOU.THIS
PLACE IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.AND I THINK I
WANNA SPEND MY TIME WITH SOMEONE ELSE.**

(SHE LEAVES HIM)