

Holy Smoke

FADE IN:

INT. CABIN - DAY

RUTH and HARRY enter carrying their luggage.

HARRY

Shoes please, Ruth.

She grudgingly removes her shoes and gives them to him.

RUTH

This is a complete waste of time. You're never gonna break me.

HARRY

That's fine. I didn't expect it to be easy. You're a young, intelligent lady with strong convictions. It would be a little disappointing if it were too quick.

RUTH

There's no way I can listen to someone like you, who dyes their hair. I've made up my mind.

HARRY

Mmmm.....you've made up your mind.

RUTH

Yeah, that's right.

HARRY

And how, may I ask, did that happen?

RUTH

What?

HARRY

How did you do it? Did you make your mind hard and solid, like a brick? Always the same, rain or shine? Nothing gets through? If I was to say to you, "Don't think of pink butterflies," you don't, right? Or do you?

RUTH

I'm not thinking of pink butterflies.

HARRY

You just mentioned it. You see, the mind is a rebel, it's not a servant. I'm not the one who will break you, Ruth. Your own mind will. "It will seek the truth and the truth will set you free." John, 8:32.

RUTH

I've already heard the truth.

HARRY

The truth about your saintdom? Baba and Mrs. Baba?

RUTH

Not everything's a posture; everything's a joke.

HARRY

You're right. It's not a joke. We're talking about your soul here. Have you thought about the damage that could be done to your soul, to your very center, if you handed it over to someone else? The wrong someone else? "I feel within me that spark, that atom emanation of the divine spirit." Giuseppe Verdi. The soul is a match, a spark. A flame that can light your path. I want to ask you a question. What, in your opinion, is the most important task of a human life? Any idea?

RUTH

Is this multiple choice or a fake question?

HARRY

It's an oratory technique. Have you heard of Socrates?

RUTH

Yeah.

HARRY

The soul takes nothing with her to the other world but her education and culture. So, let's get to the facts. What are

you doing with your soul? What is Chigata Baba teaching you?

RUTH

What's the point in me telling you? You already have your opinion.

HARRY

I want to know what you know. Something has touched you, hasn't it?

RUTH

To find that out you'd have to look into my heart. Why aren't you beyond something you can read in a book or a quote? "It is. It is. It is." That's his teaching.

HARRY

That's what he said. His words. "It is."

RUTH

His words.

HARRY

"He alone attains unto it who exclaims 'It is, it is.' This may be perceived and apprehended in it's essence." The Upanishads. The Upanishads were an ancient Hindu text. Feel with your heart, but check your facts.

RUTH

I want my clothes back.

HARRY

No. You agreed to stay and I'm going to make it easy for you.

RUTH

You can't stand the fact that I got faith, can you? 'Cause you're so frightened and dried up of feeling. Just trust in your heart. It's beyond you. I get strength like you can't imagine from my choice.

HARRY

Well, that's what we're really here to examine. The

meaning of the word “choice.”

RUTH

I want my clothes back!
He offers her some juice.

HARRY

Juice?

She slaps the glass out of his hand.

HARRY

You know, I thought I was going to have to wait the longest time for the real you to break through. You think a sari is going to hide that? A hundred saris can't hide that. You'll only succeed in tying a big knot around your self. Would you share what you're thinking, please?

RUTH

I'm meditating. I was just meditating on the difference between you and Baba.

HARRY

He wears a dress.

RUTH

He lives the way he teaches.

HARRY

And what, specifically, has he taught you?

RUTH

To do good. To be a good person.

HARRY

And how is that manifesting itself? Are you out there doing good deeds? Paying your taxes?

RUTH

You're a cynic.

HARRY

Yes. Yes, I'm a cynic. Because I investigate crap. What

about the crap in you, Ruth? Did you take that to the guru?

RUTH

You're a shit. You don't care about me. You don't even know me. And I didn't go to Baba to get my fuckedupness fixed.

HARRY

Well, you'd be the first.

RUTH

Allright, so I hoped it would help me grow. I know I'm not perfect.

HARRY

Good.

RUTH

Yeah, so what do you believe in, then?

HARRY

Why do you want to know that?

RUTH

Because I am just curious to know what you worked out.

HARRY

So you can follow me. Sorry, Honey. That's not my ticket. She grabs her bag and makes for the door. He restrains her.

RUTH

I told you don't ever touch me! My body is mine, "Honey!" You're a prick!

HARRY

You know, you'd be better off crying.

RUTH

Fuck you.

HARRY

I don't want to disempower you.

RUTH
Oh yeah!

HARRY
If you want disempowerment, you go right back to Mother India. See how they treat women there. Or didn't you notice all those little ultrasounds blipping away so people can go in and say, "Oh my God, it's a girl!" and flush her out and abort her.

RUTH
Moronists.

HARRY
Excuse me?

RUTH
They're Moronists in their treatment of women.

HARRY
I don't hate women. I love ladies.

RUTH
Ladies. You don't know any. I bet you date little Barbie dolls, don't you? "Oh, you're so brainy! You're so big. Can I suck your dick?" You want to sleep with me, don't you?
She starts pushing him around, getting rowdy. He restrains her again.

RUTH
What are you doing? What? Do you think I'm going to break like all the other chicken-wing girlies you snap apart?

HARRY
Not all touch is desire, Ruth. But you wouldn't know that because you're so busy imagining how everyone is desiring you.

RUTH
I'm going to be sick! La la la la la la!

HARRY
You're one of the most ungenerous people I've ever met. I

don't think you could actually entwine with another person
on account of having to maybe give something back.

RUTH

You don't know that.

HARRY

No. And I don't want to . We made a contract. Which you
broke.

RUTH

I don't have to honor a contract with the devil.

FADE OUT