

# ASTER / SONIA

ASTER Oh, you're "serious". Well, then...

SONIA Why? Is it because you're sad?

ASTER Sad? *Moi?*

SONIA *Seriously!*

ASTER *[Suddenly]* Of course I'm sad! How can you not be sad these days? Have you seen the world? Has the... pony express not sent dispatches from the front?

SONIA Ummm...

ASTER The world is going to hand in a hellbasket!

SONIA I don't think that's / a thing.

ASTER Fucking Sad or Fucking Mad are about the only real options left these days for anyone sane, and mad takes too much energy, and I need what's left of my energy for drinking, so I tend to choose sad...

SONIA You never take me seriously.

ASTER Okay... Okay. I'm ready... I am about to take you seriously. *[Sobering or straightening himself up... Maybe slaps himself a few times...]* Okay. Okay, I'm ready. *[Beat]* Ummm... what did you want to know again?

SONIA Why are you sad? Why do you drink so much? You could be so... What's the matter with you? That's what I want to know. What's wrong?

ASTER Wow. Okay...

Well, kid, I guess the truth is I just can't—I can't quite seem to... care, I guess. I just find it kind of hard to... you know... care. About anything.

SONIA But you seem to care about everything.

ASTER *[Bottom line]* And that's why I'm sad.

*[Beat. Beat...]*

SONIA I have a friend...

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ASTER Oh?

SONIA And she's... well, a little obsessed, I'm afraid, with a man maybe a bit like you. Successful... handsome, charming... slightly eccentric, maybe, but with many positive virtues. But older and still unsettled. And drinks, too, like you.

ASTER *[Joking-ish...]* You're not just talking about me, are you?

SONIA No! No, not at all. That would be creepy.

ASTER Oh, okay. Sorry... Go on...

SONIA Anyway... This *man* doesn't seem to notice her... you know... as a woman.

ASTER I see. And...?

SONIA What should she do? I don't think she wants to love him, but I don't think she can help it. I don't want to overstate it, but it's kind of... you know...

ASTER What?

SONIA Ruining her life. It's kind of ruining her life.

ASTER Is she pretty?

SONIA No.

ASTER Oh. Not at all?

SONIA Not so much. *[Quick beat. Small and dark...]* Nice hair. Nice eyes...

ASTER Too bad. Tell her to run away as fast as she can. He sounds like a fucking nightmare. ~~If he's anything like me he's a perfect recipe for disaster. I'm a trap. You know what my second ex fiancée called me?~~

↑END

~~SONIA No.~~

~~ASTER "A perfect lover in everyway except all the most important ways."~~

~~SONIA That sounds bad.~~

~~ASTER 'Bout as bad as it gets. *[Pulling himself up...]* I should probably be / on~~