

ELIZA

So tell me more about yourself.

JAY

I work at that little record shop.

ELIZA

That explains your encyclopedic musical brain.

JAY

This is going to sound stupid, but I really want to be a writer.

ELIZA

That's not stupid. Have you written anything?

JAY

A few stories.

ELIZA

Then you're already a writer. Could I read one?

JAY

I don't know...

ELIZA

If you want to be a writer, someone has to read your stuff eventually. Can't hide all those secrets inside you forever.

JAY

Yeah well, that's probably the same reason this is my first date in a year.

ELIZA

Someone hurt you.

JAY

Everyone leaves... eventually.

The words hit Eliza. Her gaze drifts.

JAY (CONT'D)

Guess I got tired of waiting for it to happen again.

They sit in awkward silence for a long beat.

JAY (CONT'D)

What about you?

ELIZA

I just moved here after some bad situations. My sister's still there. Never been apart actually. I left, like you said.

JAY

You two were close?

ELIZA

Our mom died when we were young, dad was a mystery, so it was her and I always looking out for each other. Things got messy, I got impulsive.

JAY

So you moved.

ELIZA

I ran.

JAY

You should call her. I'm sure she'd love to hear from you.

ELIZA

You're not like everyone back home. Always pretending to be someone they're not. It's exhausting. But that's not you, is it?

JAY

What you see is what you get.

ELIZA

Know what I'm thinking now?

JAY

What's that?

Eliza smiles wide.

ELIZA

Food.

Jay squirms out of his shirt and tosses it onto the floor.

JAY

Ow!

He looks down at a SMALL CUT that has appeared above his bellybutton.

JAY (CONT'D)

What the? Did I cut myself?

He looks up at Eliza, who is sucking clean her UNUSUALLY LONG fingernail.

JAY (CONT'D)

Wait... did you...?

Jay's vision starts to blur. Things are not right.

ELIZA

I like you, Jay. I really do.

JAY

I... like you... too... I don't feel... very good.

ELIZA

What you see is what you get. That's you. You have no idea how much I envy that.

JAY

No... no, you're so... great. You don't need to... I think I should lie down.

ELIZA

You are lying down. Moving here was supposed to be a fresh start, but you can't run from who you are.

He's really getting loopy now.

JAY

You gotta just... be yourself..

ELIZA

You're right. You're so right. Shit, you really are a nice guy, aren't you?

JAY

You're not like... other girls...

ELIZA

I wish I was. I really, really do.
You're feeling the toxin now.

JAY

I'm... feeling the... what?

Jay looks dreamily down at his cut.

JAY (CONT'D)

You... What did you...?

ELIZA

It doesn't take much.

JAY

What did you do?

ELIZA

I'm sorry Jay. I really am.
Most of the men I meet are absolute
beasts. I wasn't ready for you to
actually be nice... but it doesn't
matter now.

**JAY REACTS IN EXTREME FRIGHT AT THE TRANSFORMATION OF ELIZA
INTO AN UNHUMAN CREATURE**