

SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE - GRAHAM MEETS/TAPES CYNTHIA BISHOP

24 INT. GRAHAM'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Graham sits smoking a cigarette. There is a knock at his door.

GRAHAM

It's open.

Cynthia enters. Graham looks up at her.

GRAHAM

Who are you?

CYNTHIA

I'm Cynthia Bishop.

GRAHAM

Do I know you?

CYNTHIA

I'm Ann Millaney's sister.

GRAHAM

The extrovert.

CYNTHIA

(smiles)

She must have been in a good mood when she said that. She usually calls me loud.

GRAHAM

She called you that, too. May I ask why you're here?

CYNTHIA

You want me to leave?

GRAHAM

I just want to know why you're here.

CYNTHIA

Well, like I said, Ann is my sister. Sisters talk. You can imagine the rest.

GRAHAM

No, I really can't. I find it healthy never to characterize people I don't know or conversations I haven't heard. I don't know what you and your sister discussed about me or anything else. Last time I saw

Ann she left here very...confused,
I would say. And upset.

CYNTHIA

She still is.

GRAHAM

And are you here to berate me for
making her that way?

CYNTHIA

Nope.

GRAHAM

She didn't tell you why she was
upset?

CYNTHIA

Nope.

GRAHAM

She didn't give you my address?

CYNTHIA

Nope.

GRAHAM

How did you find me?

CYNTHIA

I, uh, know a guy at the power
company.

GRAHAM

I don't understand. Why did you
want to come here? I mean, I can't
imagine Ann painted a very
flattering portrait of me.

CYNTHIA

Well, I don't really listen to
her when it comes to men. I mean,
look at John, for crissake. Oh,
you went to school with him didn't
you? You're probably friends or
something.

GRAHAM

Nope. I think the man is a liar.

CYNTHIA

(smiles)

I think you're right. So come on,
I came all the way over here to
find out what got Ann so spooked,
tell me what happened.

GRAHAM

(smiles)

Spooked.

He motions to the box of videotapes.

GRAHAM

That box of tapes is what got Ann
so "spooked".

Cynthia goes over to the box and looks inside for a long
moment, studying the labels.

CYNTHIA

Oh, okay. I think I get it.

GRAHAM

What do you get?

CYNTHIA

Well, they must be something
sexual, because Ann gets freaked
out by that shit. Are these tapes
of you having sex with these girls
or something?

GRAHAM

Not exactly.

CYNTHIA

Well, either you are or you aren't.
Which is it?

GRAHAM

Why don't you let me tape you?

CYNTHIA

Doing what?

GRAHAM

Talking.

CYNTHIA

About what?

GRAHAM

Sex. Your sexual history, your
sexual preferences.

CYNTHIA

What makes you think I'd discuss
that with you?

GRAHAM

Nothing.

CYNTHIA

You just want to ask me questions?

GRAHAM

I just want to ask you questions.

CYNTHIA

And that's all?

GRAHAM

That's all.

CYNTHIA

(a crooked smile)

Is this how you get off or something? Taping women talking about their sexual experiences?

GRAHAM

Yes.

CYNTHIA

Would anybody else see the tape?

GRAHAM

Absolutely not. They are for my private use only.

CYNTHIA

How do we start?

GRAHAM

I turn on the camera. You start talking.

CYNTHIA

And you ask questions, right?

GRAHAM

Yes.

CYNTHIA

How long will it take?

GRAHAM

That depends on you. One woman only used three minutes. Another filled up three two hour tapes.

CYNTHIA

Can I see some of the other tapes to get an idea of what--

GRAHAM

No.

CYNTHIA

(thinks)

Do I sit or stand?

GRAHAM

Whichever you prefer.

CYNTHIA

I'd rather sit. Are you ready?

GRAHAM

Just a moment.

Graham grabs his 8mm Video camera, puts in a new tape, and turns it on.

GRAHAM

I am now recording. Tell me your name.

CYNTHIA

Cynthia Patrice Bishop.

GRAHAM

Describe for me your first sexual experience.

CYNTHIA

My first sexual experience or the first time I had intercourse?

GRAHAM

Your first sexual experience.

CYNTHIA

(thinks)

I was...eight years old. Michael Green, who was also eight, asked if he could watch me take a pee. I said he could if I could watch him take one, too. He said okay, and then we went into the woods behind our house. I got this feeling he was chickening out because he kept saying, "Ladies first!" So I pulled down my underpants and urinated, and he ran away before I even finished.

GRAHAM

Was it ever a topic of conversation between the two of you afterward?

CYNTHIA

No. He kind of avoided me for the rest of the summer, and then his family moved away. To Cleveland, actually.

GRAHAM

How unfortunate. So when did you finally get to see a penis?

CYNTHIA

When I was fourteen.

GRAHAM

Live, or in a photograph or film of some sort?

CYNTHIA

Very much live.

GRAHAM

What did you think? Did it look like you expected?

CYNTHIA

Not really. I didn't picture it with veins or ridges or anything, I thought it would be smooth, like a test tube.

GRAHAM

Were you disappointed?

CYNTHIA

No. If anything, after I looked at it awhile, it got more interesting. It had character, you know?

GRAHAM

What about when you touched it? What did you expect it to feel like, and then what did it really feel like?

CYNTHIA

It was warmer than I thought it would be, and the skin was softer than it looked. It's weird. Thinking about it now, the organ itself seemed like a separate thing, a separate entity to me. I mean, after he pulled it out and I could look at it and touch it, I completely forgot that there was a guy attached to it. I remember literally being startled when the guy spoke to me.

GRAHAM

What did he say?

CYNTHIA

He said that my hand felt good.

GRAHAM

Then what happened?

CYNTHIA

Then I started moving my hand,
and then he stopped talking.

END