

Insidious Pretext

Written by
Fausto Lucignani

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fauluc@hotmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

TARA CROWLEY, an attractive, forty-something executive sits at her desk. She scans a file.

Across the desk, DOMINIC ESPOSITO, Italian-looking, handsome (23) faces his interviewer. He appears tense.

TARA
So...you went to YALE.

DOMINIC
Yes.

TARA
Graduated with honors.

DOMINIC
Correct.

TARA
I'm impressed.

DOMINIC
Thanks.

TARA
Which subject did you like best?

DOMINIC
Math.

TARA
You'll need it here.

DOMINIC
I'm ready.

A beat.

TARA
Do you have a FACEBOOK account?

DOMINIC
Yes.

TARA
Many friends?

DOMINIC
A few.

TARA
All females?

DOMINIC
Mixed.

TARA
Do you spend a lot of time
socializing?

DOMINIC
Maybe a couple of hours...at night.

TARA
Only at night?

DOMINIC
Yes.

TARA
Do you tweet?

DOMINIC
No.

TARA
Any other recreational activities? I
mean, what do you do to relax when
you're not online?

DOMINIC
I go to a club...the SPOT CLUB...in
the Village...to meet friends.

TARA
I see.

A long beat.

TARA (cont'd)
How did you find our company?

DOMINIC
One of my friends told me about it.

TARA
Do you know what we do?

DOMINIC
Yes, I have researched the company's
profile online and read a few
articles.

TARA
And?

DOMINIC
I'm very interested in your line of
business.

TARA
How do you see your future?

DOMINIC
I'm a hard-working and loyal
employee. I'm sure I can build my
career here.

TARA
I'm sure you can.

A beat.

Tara stares at Dominic with an inquisitive glance.

TARA (cont'd)
Anything else you want to tell me
about you?

DOMINIC
About me?

TARA
Yes, about your life.

DOMINIC
My parents came from Italy, worked
hard to sent me to college and--

TARA
I'm not interests in that...are you
attached to any girl?

DOMINIC
You're asking me if I have a
girlfriend?

TARA
Yes.

DOMINIC
Yeah...I'm with a girl, she is--

TARA
Okay, okay...I don't have other
questions for now. I'll let you know.

Tara and Dominic stand up. They shake hands.

TARA (cont'd)
It was nice meeting you Mr. Esposito.
You'll hear from me soon.

DOMINIC
Thank you Ms. Crowley. Have a good
day.

Tara smiles while Dominic exits the office.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

An elegant NEW YORK CITY pub populated by single MEN and
WOMEN.

They chat, laugh, drink. Noise is high.

Dominic sits at the bar sipping a beer.

INT. PUB - MINUTES LATER

A woman approaches the bar. She wears a short skirt and a
tight, low-neckline blouse. She's HOT.

She stops in front of Dominic.

INT. PUB - SAME TIME

Dominic is astonished. He stares at her and mumbles.

DOMINIC
Good evening Ms. Crowley.

TARA
Here, I'm Tara.

DOMINIC
Okay...Tara...I didn't expect to see
you here.

TARA
(laughing)
Why? Don't I have the right to have fun?

DOMINIC
(hesitant)
Of course, of course...you work hard.

TARA
(smiling)
Is this your night off?

DOMINIC
I'm waiting for my girlfriend.

TARA
Maybe, I can meet her.

DOMINIC
(discomfited)
No prob...yeah...

Dominic looks at Tara. He has a serious expression.

A long beat.

DOMINIC (cont'd)
Any news for me?

TARA
Not yet.

A beat.

TARA (cont'd)
Is she late?

DOMINIC
It seems she is.

Dominic's cell phone RINGS.

DOMINIC (cont'd)
Hi, where are you?

VOICE (V.O.)
Sorry Dom, I can't come.

DOMINIC
Why?

VOICE (V.O.)
Still working.

DOMINIC
Okay. Talk to you later. Love you.

VOICE (V.O.)
Me too, good night.

He closes his cell phone.

DOMINIC
She can't come.

Tara smiles and gets closer to Dominic.

TARA
What are you going to do now?

DOMINIC
I'll go home, I guess...

TARA
You can stay and chat with me if your
want to.

DOMINIC
I don't know Ms. Crowl. . . Tara.

TARA
Are you afraid of me?

DOMINIC
It's not that, you know. I feel--

TARA
What?

DOMINIC
...confused...I don't know...

Tara stares at Dominic's eyes.

TARA
Your girlfriend doesn't have to find
out. You're safe with me.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tara and Dominic face each other.

They sip red wine.

TARA
I'm glad you're here.

DOMINIC
You were very convincing.

TARA
Do you regret it?

DOMINIC
I don't mean that...

Tara slowly gets closer to him.

Her breast touches his chest. She gently kisses him.

She tenderly caresses his face with the tips of her fingers.

Dominic seems frozen in place.

TARA
Don't be bashful...it's going to stay
between us.

A beat.

DOMINIC
...I--

Tara kisses him again. This time with intense passion.

Dominic responds with the same fervor.

They experience an extremely intimate moment.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tara and Dominic lie naked in bed.

She aggressively dominates the lovemaking. He has a more passive role.

TARA
Relax...you are too tense...

DOMINIC
You're so. . . so assertive...I've
never made love this way.

TARA
Do you like more romantic love?

DOMINIC
Yeah... no...I don't know...

Tara softly kisses him while caressing his hair.

TARA
Like this?

DOMINIC
...Yeah...

TARA
Is this the way she makes love to you?

DOMINIC
Yeah...she's not too experienced...

TARA
Poor baby...okay, I'll go easy on you.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tara, AL PERRY (60) and CLAIRE LUCIANI (45) sit around a large table in the conference room.

TARA
I have interviewed Dominic Esposito, a smart candidate, good grades--

AL
Do you recommend him?

TARA
I would say so.

CLAIRE
Did you interview other candidates?

TARA
Yes, nobody really special...I mean, not like Mr. Esposito.

CLAIRE
Why is he so special?

TARA
He's smart...great personality and he loves our company.

AL
It sounds promising.

TARA
I think so...do I have your approval?

AL
It's fine with me.

TARA
(to Claire)
What about you?

Claire scans a file on the table.

CLAIRE
Don't you think he's too young for
this position?

TARA
I think his age is an asset...we can
mold him the way we want.

CLAIRE
I see your point...fine, it's a yes
for me too.

TARA
Thank you, I'm sure we'll be very
happy with him.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Dominic is seated in front of Tara's desk.

Tara, dressed in a formal corporate attire, sits behind her desk. She reads from a file in front of her.

She stares at him.

TARA
Uhm.

DOMINIC
Bad news?

TARA
We had a meeting and the unanimous
decision was...to hire you!

DOMINIC
You mean...I got the job?

TARA
Yes, Mr. Esposito, you're now under
my direct supervision.

Dominic stands up and leans over the desk with the intention
of kissing her.

Tara stops him by putting her hand between his lips and
hers.

TARA (cont'd)
Please Mr. Esposito...now it's only
business.

DOMINIC
But...Tara...

TARA
Mr. Esposito, you shouldn't confuse
business with pleasure.

DOMINIC
I thought--

TARA
Let me make clear another point...
your job comes with a caveat.

DOMINIC
What you mean?

TARA
Well, I'm offering you a deal...a
brilliant future with our company...
but you have to break up with your
girlfriend.

DOMINIC
This is absurd...why?

TARA
Because she's a distraction. I need
your full attention with anything you
do for me...always.

DOMINIC
I can't...she's a nice girl...I love
her.

TARA
Love...love...love is an illusion...
do you want the job or not?

Dominic appears frustrated and upset.

DOMINIC
...your offer is just a pretext to--

TARA
(coolly)
Uhm...pretext, a nice Yale word...I
like that...

A beat.

TARA (cont'd)
Life is full of pretexts my dear.

DOMINIC
How can you live like this?

Tara bursts into laughter.

TARA
How do you think I've built my
career? Fabricating excuses...

Dominic looks at her in her eyes with a sad expression.

DOMINIC
Aren't you ashamed of yourself?

TARA
Why should I be?...I gave you a great
job and made you happy in bed...
nothing to be ashamed of. Maybe the
job is a pretext but for you it's a
wonderful reality.

DOMINIC
I think that you--

Tara stares at him with an authoritative glance.

TARA
I can't waste my time...yes or not?

An agonizing silence. Dominic keeps his eyes fixed to the wall. Then, he lowers his head.

DOMINIC
(softly)
Okay...

TARA

Good boy...I'll see you tonight at
the Spot Club...9 o'clock...we'll
celebrate your future at my place.

The End