

## Questions

Bernard Mersier

"Temptation is a polite word for weakness."

Bernard A. Mersier

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. THE PORCH - NIGHT**

We come in on a vacant lot with houses seen further in the distance.

Music is heard from cars driving past in the distance, as the streetlights flicker.

Sitting on the wooden steps of the fairly kept up two-family flat is ? early-thirties.

It's hard deciphering what mood he's in as his light brown eyes survey the area, while he strokes his five-o'clock shadow in desperate need of a haircut.

A white wife beater and black khakis clothe his reddish brown skin athletic body.

Resting beside him is a bottle of whiskey, a full shot glass of whiskey, a pack of cigarettes and a lighter.

He moistens his lips still with no true emotion on his face.

? (V.O.)

Is the definition of love true? Or is this what we're taught, ignoring the deeper meaning of a word which brings joy and pain? Everything has a bud which creates a beginning. In this case...we'll take it back to Adam and Eve.

He picks up the shot downing it.

Closing his eyes, nodding his head from the harsh taste, he then opens his eyes, taking a cigarette from the pack placing it in his mouth.

Digesting the burning sensation, he picks the lighter up, lighting his cigarette, taking a nice pull, exhaling smooth as his expression.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

The world's first perfect couple, Adam and Eve. The beginning, end and

possibly the true meaning behind the word "Love" we constantly ignore. Now...Eve complimented Adam perfectly because she came from him. They knew each other just as sure they knew night would turn day. Somehow, Eve was persuaded there was a better life thinking she could enhance what was already perfect. Then she convinced Adam into this same world, and that's when things went downhill.

Pouring another shot, he quickly downs it, followed by a pull from his cigarette, still showing no expression.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Here's the thing. Adam was here first, so he knew about the tree, but he still bit the apple anyway. Eve knew what she had was perfect, but still indulged in the fruit from the tree. Was Adam a fool? Or was he going along with the love of his life? Was Eve bored with her perfect man? Or was she being greedy, wanting the best of both worlds?

(Coy laugh)

Because of what happened then, this is why we go through this everyday, so they say. And why? That goes with the first question I asked. Is the definition of love the true meaning? Or is it something much deeper? He pours another shot but instead of downing it, he savors the taste by swishing it around in his mouth before swallowing.

We catch a quick glimpse of his pearly whites from a brief smile, before he takes a pull from his cigarette.

Standing to his feet looking around, he takes one last pull before flicking his cigarette to the side.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

I believe I know the difference between being in-love with someone, and just loving someone. You can love someone for specific things, and you can love a person as a whole, in your mind not seeing any flaws. Maybe when

this is over you can tell me if I'm right or wrong. Right now, I want you focusing on this. Are we meant for one person? Or were we meant to have as many mates as we want? Not just because we have no idea of what being in love is...we don't care to truly find the feeling, focused on the other two levels of love.

Grabbing his cigarettes and lighter, placing them in his pocket, he then makes his way from the porch heading across the street towards the vacant lot.

As he draws closer to the lot, he looks at the ghetto surrounding him, absorbing the ugliness, but in his eyes he finds beauty in what he sees.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

They say the heart of a woman is delicate and shouldn't be treated lightly. If you really think about it...the heart of a man is the delicate one, not only taken for granted, but he allows it. Think back to the beginning, and what men do for women now, knowing they're no good. But...beauty and love is depicted differently in everyone. Yet, there's only one true meaning.

Stepping into the vacant lot, he pauses when he kicks a bottle. Looking down at the bottle and the surrounding trash, he shakes his head. Not in shame, but more so trying to wrap his mind around what he's thinking.

? (CONT'D) (V.O)

Being in-love is like this vacant lot. You can fill it with whatever you want or you and your mate can fill it together. What matters is making sure the foundation is durable for a long lasting relationship. Without this, you'll be lucky if your relationship lasts a week. People these days don't date based on foundation. I think I'm one of those people, but maybe I'm not. You be the judge.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. ? BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Lying in bed under the covers snuggled is ? and his woman ? Dark skin 1. A smile resides proud on her face wrapping her arms around him. ? has his arm around her caressing her ear, but he doesn't seem deeply in-love with her as she is with him.

? (V.O.)

The love of my life. Beautiful inside and out with a solid foundation. What more could a man ask for?

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. THE PARK - AFTERNOON**

It's a clear summer day. ? and ? Dark skin 1 are wearing shorts and T-Shirts sitting on a blanket having a picnic enjoying the day.

She's on the slender side, but she's beautiful nonetheless.

As they sit eating and drinking, ? Dark skin 1 sister ? Light skin comes over with her boyfriend taking a seat. ? Light skin is a sight of beauty. Not much of a body, but her face makes up for it.

While the four sit talking, we notice despite ? is with his woman, he's secretly eyeing ? Light skin.

? (V.O.)

Being a beautiful woman inside and out, and holding your man down is one thing. But having all of this, taking everything in life seriously with no fun...that can turn ugly. So...what is a man to do?

**CUT TO:**

**INT. ? LIGHT SKIN APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Sitting at the kitchen table having a conversation, drinking and smoking, is ? and ? light skin.

Containers of Chinese food, an ashtray and a bottle of cognac are on the table.

From the vibe and facial expressions, it seems the two are really digging each other.

? (V.O.)

A man needs fun and relaxation without all the unnecessary clingy madness. He also needs that one female friend who can hopefully understand the problems he's having with his woman. Sometimes...that woman is your woman's sister.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. ? BASEMENT - NIGHT**

A spade game is going on, which looks like ? and ? Dark skin 1 won against ? Light skin and her man.

Standing off to the side is ? Caramel and her male friend. ? Caramel is short on the healthy side, well-portioned in the right places. ? and ? Light skin are doing good not letting it be known they slept together. Meanwhile, ? is noticing ? Caramel and her male friend are having issues.

? (V.O.)

After having so much fun, and getting somewhat of an understanding of why the person you're with acts the way she does, you realize a solid relationship is perfect. Having fun is great. But...what does any of it mean if a person doesn't understand you?

**CUT TO:**

**INT. THE RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

? and ? Caramel are sitting at a table of what would appear as a fancy restaurant from the layout with candles on the table and a bottle of champagne.

The two look as if they're having a nice conversation while eating.

? (V.O.)

Now, she's something else. She has the potential of a great wife because she can hold her own. She knows how to have fun, and she really took the time getting to know me. Makes you wonder why she's single? With all of these great assets...some women feel no man will ever truly be worth settling down

with. Why? Because she feels no man will ever understand her.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. ? LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

The three ladies, now adding ? dark skin 2 are in the living room laughing and having drinks.

? Dark skin 2 is a beautiful big girl medium in height, carrying herself well. ? Dark skin 2 is faking like she's having fun by the way she has her cellphone clinched in her hand, letting us know she's having relationship issues.

? comes from upstairs with a smile, walking over to his woman giving her a kiss.

? Caramel and ? Light skin gushes over the kiss.

? Dark skin 2 looks then lowers her head back into her phone, hoping a call or text would come through.

Before walking out the door, ? catches a glance of ? Dark skin 2, and a look of wonderment comes across his face.

? (V.O.)

One can't help but wonder why out of a room of beautiful women having fun, there's always one you can tell is faking it to make it. But, why?

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. THE PARK - AFTERNOON**

The rain is drizzling down, possibly ready to pour as ? and ? Dark skin 2 are holding hands walking through the park.

? (V.O.)

One thing a man should know before approaching a woman is his intentions, and sticking with them. In this case with a woman lost in her emotions...if you're building her character, do just that and let it be. Because if you don't...she'll either become a strong woman wanting you as her man. Or she'll become a strong spiteful woman, lashing out on every man.

**CUT TO:****EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT**

? is walking down the busy street of Jefferson continuing on his voyage observing various men and women walking, standing outside of stores and etc all interacting with each other in various ways.

? (V.O.)

Look at them. Talking lies and eating lies, all for one night of what they hope will be worth the drinks and possible condoms. You're probably thinking I got some nerve after what I just said. And yes, I want your opinion, but my story is far from done. Here's something else I wanna mention.

(Coy chuckle)

I believe that the "Adam's apple" is a combination of lies and unspoken truth balled into one knot. Hence the concept of having a lump in your throat. The bigger the apple defines how many unspoken lies he's hiding. And as far as with women, they have cycles cleansing their body. Me...I believe it was bestowed upon them so they'll have time to reflect on their relationship selections, and figure out the right next move. The pain is so they'll know not to make the same mistake. But...it doesn't turnout that way.

Continuing with his walk, he comes to the Belle isle bridge.

Walking along the bridge, he pauses in the middle admiring the view.

Taking a deep breath, he goes in his pocket pulling out a cigarette and his lighter.

Placing the cigarette in his mouth, lighting it, he takes a calm pull with a smile.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

You're probably thinking I played with all these hearts and went unscathed.

(Takes pull, laughs)



Well...

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. BELLE ISLE BRIDGE - MORNING**

We see ? hanging from the bridge shirtless and disemboweled with a bullet hole in his head and chest, along with a deep wound in his left leg.

Police cars and the coroner van are on the bridge, as police officers take pictures and look for clues.

Moving away from the bridge but staying focused on ?, we see people standing on the grass and sidewalk looking on in disgust at the scene.

                                ? (V.O.)  
 For every heart you collect there's a  
 debt you'll pay. So, how did I end up  
 like this?

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT**

A nice size fire good enough for us to see what's going on burns slowly.

? is shirtless and gagged tied to a tree with a noose around his neck.

? Light skin is standing beside him rubbing the dull part of a machete up and down his abs.

Standing in front of him holding nine-millimeters showing no emotions is ? Dark skin 2 and ? Caramel.

And off to the right is ? Dark skin 1 holding the rope for the noose.

Despite the situation he's in, there's an unnerved look of happiness on his face.

                                ? DARK SKIN 1  
 Look at every woman's dream. Well,  
 since we're all here without you  
 sneaking around telling one of us  
 lies, laying your head with who you  
 see fit for the night. Don't you feel  
 like you're in a tight spot?!

She pulls the rope, tightening the noose.

She holds it for a few seconds, and then releases it.

Slowly catching his breath, ? remains calm, releasing a muffled laugh.

? LIGHT SKIN

Look at him! Knowing he's about to die, and he's still an arrogant bastard! Why haven't we killed him yet?

? DARK SKIN 2

I agree. Let's just kill him.

? CARMEL

No. He deserves every bit of this. Killing him quickly will only give him the satisfaction of getting over on us.

? muffled laughs grow louder.

? LIGHT SKIN

What's so funny?!

? Continues laughing.

? LIGHT SKIN (CONT'D)

I said what's funny?!

She snatches the gag from his mouth.

As his laughter calms down, he looks at them smiling.

?

You're absolutely right, I'm an arrogant bastard. Do you know why? It's because of women like all of you.

They all look at each other confused, and then back at him as he shakes his head disappointed.

? (CONT'D)

I figured there would be silence. I also figured y'all would blame me instead of yourselves or any of the women out here.

(Laughs)

Should I explain or is the killing

about to start?

? CAMEL

There's nothing you can explain to get outta this. Just admit you're no good, and should be erased from this earth.

?

(Laughs)

Strong words from a bitter woman who dated a married man for years, ending up heartbroken thinking he would leave his wife knowing he wasn't. That's why you're single. It has nothing to do with the fact a man doesn't deserve you. You just don't know what a good man is unless he's already taken.

The other women look at ? Caramel stunned.

? Caramel lowers her head in shame.

? (CONT'D)

(Laughs)

As tight as you ladies are, nobody knew that? Shall I continue?

? DARK SKIN 2

How about you just shut up? Don't you think you've said and done enough?

?

Says the woman three body counts away from sleeping with the entire area code. It confuses me how they don't know your phone stays dry because you're dried up, and used up. That's why you hang them. You can't go anywhere in the city without a whole block knowing you for one thing.

? Dark skin 2 lowers her head in shame.

? begins laughing.

Fed up with how ? is talking, ? Light skin slams the machete in his left leg.

His laughter turns into a brief scream as she twists the blade.

Doing his best holding back from moaning in pain, he just stares at her smiling, while the other three women look on in shock.

? LIGHT SKIN

Do you think you can continue dragging us through the mud more than what you already have? Is that what you really think?

?

(Light laugh)

Oh, you're my favorite.

? LIGHT SKIN

Oh yeah?

?

No doubt in my mind.

She snatches the blade from his leg, cocking it back ready to whack him across the mouth.

? DARK SKIN 1

Sis, no! Don't do it.

? stares at ? Light skin smiling as she stares at him with rage in her eyes, and her hand shaking holding the blade anxious to kill him.

? DARK SKIN 1 (CONT'D)

Come over here and hold the rope.

? LIGHT SKIN

Why are you sparing him?

? DARK SKIN 1

I'm not. Just come hold the rope, please.

Gaining her composure, she lowers the blade, but keeps her eyes on him.

? LIGHT SKIN

I can't wait till you die.

She spits in his face before walking off.

He licks the spit from his lip laughing.

?

Spitting is something new for you,  
ain't it?

She pauses in her tracks ready to turn around.

? DARK SKIN 1

Just come take the rope. It'll be over  
soon.

Standing there for a few more seconds debating on turning  
around, she finally continues walking over to ? Dark skin 1.

She takes the rope, and ? Dark skin 1 takes the machete from  
her before making her way over to him.

?

(Laughs)

That's right. Do what your big sister  
says. No matter how hard you try,  
you'll never be like her. You'll never  
have a man that'll love you for you  
because you have no idea who you are.

(Laughs)

You three should be thankful you had a  
piece of me! I made you morons realize  
your true potential! If there was no  
me, you'd all still be dense!

The three women are silent as ? Dark skin 1 walks up in his  
face.

? DARK SKIN 1

And what am I?

?

You're nothing like them.

? DARK SKIN 1

Why is that?

?

Because you...it doesn't matter.

? DARK SKIN 1

It does. Apparently you slept with  
them, I guess to teach some type of  
lesson. Why did you sleep with me?

?

...it wasn't about sleeping with you.

? DARK SKIN 1  
What was it about?

?  
...Being in-love for once in my life.

? DARK SKIN 1  
(Soft chuckle)  
You were in-love with me, but slept  
with them? Let me guess. They gave you  
something I wasn't?

? is silent, lowering his head.

She places a finger under his chin making him look up at her.

? DARK SKIN 1 (CONT'D)  
I know that's why, because they told  
me. Despite how serious I take things,  
you could've talked with me so we  
could make something happen. That's  
part of being in-love. You do know  
that, right?

With tears rolling down his face, he inhales deep exhaling  
sorrow.

?  
...You're right.

? DARK SKIN 1  
I'll tell you something else. Granted  
I know these other two, but if we do  
or don't continue talking after this  
it's fine. But, my sister. My sister  
will always be in my life. You know  
why?

?  
...Because she was here before me, and  
she'll be there after me.

? DARK SKIN 1  
See how we think just like men, if not  
twenty steps ahead, just waiting to  
see how far things will go thinking  
we're stupid? Sad, sad thing. Being in-  
love is simple as inhaling the air we  
breathe, unless you opt to hold your  
breath. You're still holding your  
breath.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek, and then looks deep in his eyes.

? DARK SKIN 1 (CONT'D)  
I need one thing from you, baby.

?  
Anything.

? DARK SKIN 1  
Tell me you love me.

?  
I---

She places a finger to his lips.

? DARK SKIN 1  
Not with your lips.

She steps back and to the side, clenching the machete tight.

? DARK SKIN 1 (CONT'D)  
For once...speak the truth from the  
inside.

She cocks her arm back, and before he can get a word out, she swings with full force connecting with his stomach.

#### **BLACK SCREEN:**

We hear two gunshots, followed by the sound of his insides spilling onto the ground.

? (O.S.)  
There you have it. Or did things go  
the other way around?

#### **MONTAGE - EXT. THE PARK - AFTERNOON**

The rain is pouring down heavily as ? stabs ? Dark skin 2 to death inside of her car.

#### **CUT TO:**

#### **EXT. ? CARAMEL PORCH - NIGHT**

? Caramel comes out the front door of her house making her way down the stairs, and that's when ? comes up behind her wearing all-black and a ski mask shooting her in the back of the head.

**CUT TO:****INT. ? LIGHT SKIN APARTMENT - NIGHT**

? has ? Light skin pinned against the wall with a gun in her mouth.

As her tears flow, and sobs linger, he pulls the trigger with ease blowing her brains out.

**CUT TO:****INT. ? BEDROOM - NIGHT**

? has ? Dark skin 1 pinned down on the bed choking her.

She's trying her best to get free, while his grip gets tighter.

?

(Crying)

I killed them for you. Now...I gotta kill you, so you won't live with the pain I bestowed on you.

With a swift motion, he breaks her neck.

**END OF MONTAGE****BLACK SCREEN:**

? (O.S.)

The outcome truly doesn't matter. Just the same as why there were no names used in my story because this is going on as we speak with every race, shape and sexuality. Love will have you in tight spots not knowing what you'll do if you're hurt or if you hurt someone you love, unable to cope with the pain you caused.

**EXT. THE PORCH - NIGHT**

We see ? sitting on the porch as he was in the beginning.

? (V.O.)

How is it a man's world and he was easily deceived? How are women bad, and they came from a man? Only a perfect couple can answer. Then



again...the perfect couple had a  
falling out which led to what it is  
today.

He downs his drink, and then places a cigarette in his mouth  
lighting it.

He exhales calm and smooth with a smile.

? (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Some of the many questions in life go  
unquestioned because we're taught what  
we learned is right. Two things in  
life are true. One can't be in-love  
with someone without being in-love  
with self, understanding you treat the  
one you're in-love with as you would  
yourself. And you can't give your love  
away over good wordplay, money, sexual  
thoughts, and various other things  
hoping you'll build love, not seeing  
you're being used up until you're  
replaced.

(Takes a pull)

So, I ask again. ...Is the definition  
of love true? Are we really meant for  
one person?

He takes one last pull before flicking his cigarette.

With the same smile, he stands up making his way into the  
house.

**SLOWLY FADE TO BLACK:**

"A true orgasm comes from a bond."

Bernard Mersier

**END CREDITS**