

"Men
in
Trees"

STUART

(new sides 10/13/06)

(3 pgs)

PATRICK

Glass so.

A bear.

ANNIE

Patrick, you need to storm out now because I work here and I can't.

Patrick nods and walks out. Annie watches him go, sad.

15 INT. JACK'S JEEP - DAY (D3)

15

Jack drives along a scenic road. He stops at a stop sign and pulls down his visor because of the sun. From behind it falls a PHOTO of HIM AND MARIN... smiling, laughing. He quickly throws it into the glove compartment.

16 EXT. ALASKA BEAUTY SPOT - DAY (D3)

16

Fall leaves in all their splendor dot the trees...

17 INT. BABBO RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N3)

17

CLOSE ON a perfectly manicured FALL LEAF DISPLAY on the HOSTESS TABLE of this upscale restaurant. Marin passes it to find STUART MAXSON, sexy, charming publisher, waiting at a table. He stands when she walks up.

MARIN

Stuart?

STUART

Marin, it's a pleasure.

They shake hands and sit.

STUART

I love your first chapter.

MARIN

Thank you.

STUART

I'll tell you how I knew it was good -- it made me actually want to take one of those silly cruises to Alaska. Check out the "fog that grows along the edges of the horizon at five a.m."

MARIN

You're quoting me! I'm flattered.

START →

1/3

STUART
Wanna sign with me?
(then, laughing)
Too pushy?

MARIN
A little. But I like it.

A WAITER walks up.

STUART
A bottle of Chateau Neuf de Pap,
thanks.

He nods and walks off.

STUART
So how did a woman who wrote
relationship advice books end up
writing about men in Alaska?

MARIN
My last book contract ended when my
engagement ended. They wanted an
advice book on marriage... and I
didn't end up getting married. So I
kinda fled to Alaska.

STUART
Cold feet?

MARIN
Yeah. He started warming someone
else's.

STUART
Actually, I was just suggesting a
title there.

MARIN
Okay, I'm mortified.

STUART
Don't be. I like to know all the
ugly personal dating histories of
my authors.

The waiter pours them wine.

MARIN
(sassy)
So you think I'm gonna be one of
your authors?

2/3

STUART

I think you need to be somewhere
you feel safe and understood. And
appreciated.

Marin is uncomfortable. He gets her.

MARIN

That's why I'm moving back to New
York.

STUART

You're not involved with Jack
anymore?

MARIN

(thrown)

Oh, no. No. No. Jack and I -- we
didn't date.

STUART

Well then you're an even better
writer than I thought because that
was quite a love letter you wrote
to him.

MARIN

I'm not dating. I'm still getting
over the foot-warmer. Graham.

STUART

If I were you, I'd stay up there in
Elmo.

MARIN

You would?

STUART

Seems to be where you get your
inspiration.

MARIN

You wouldn't need me back here?

STUART

I'd miss our dinners, sure. But you
have to ask yourself, as a writer --
as a person -- where do you belong?

OFF MARIN's reaction...

3/3
STOP.