

WRITING SAMPLE  
THE SECRET LIVES OF LOVERS

Written by

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Specialty kiosks litter the warehouse selling everything from jewelry to artwork.

Carl's kiosk is selling T-shirts. He's setting up for the day by hanging his shirts on a display rack.

In the booth next to his, selling jewelry and Hindu novelty items is ZAKIRA, 50's, a Hindu woman with a light accent appearing from the back of her kiosk.

ZAKIRA

Carl, I will make you the mother of all deals. I will bring you back a coffee if you watch my booth for only two minutes. It is a once in a lifetime offer. One I would take.

Carl has done her one better and grabs a pre-made coffee from a tray on the ground.

CARL

I brought you one already.

ZAKIRA

Look at you! You are a darling. You seem in a good mood, are you having some sex?

CARL

(almost spilling)  
Zakira!

ZAKIRA

What? Do you not like sex?  
(getting it.)  
Are you one of those boys who likes a little bit of the cock? It's o.k., you know. Sex is a wonderful exper...

CARL

No, I'm not gay, I like sex fine.  
You just... took me off guard.

ZAKIRA

You young people today, always ashamed about the beautiful things in life.

CARL

Uh, yeah, I guess.

ZAKIRA  
So, you fancy a beautiful young  
lady?

CARL  
I do. We're going on a date  
tonight.

ZAKIRA  
That is wonderful.

She reaches into the jewelry and pulls out a necklace

ZAKIRA (CONT'D)  
Here give her this, it will make  
her weak in the knees for you.

CARL  
I can't accept that.

ZAKIRA  
Yes you can and you will.

Carl takes the necklace.

CARL  
It's a monkey masturbating.

ZAKIRA  
It's not a big seller.

He puts the necklace in his pocket and finishes setting up  
the booth.

ZAKIRA (CONT'D)  
(looking down the road)  
Here comes your strange friend.

Isaac walks up to the booth. He waves.

ISAAC  
Hey guy.  
(to Zakira, loud and  
obnoxious)  
Hello Mrs. Zakira. How are you  
adapting to California, what with  
all the fresh produce and plague-  
free neighborhoods?

ZAKIRA  
(in a really thick accent)  
Oh, hello Mr. Isaac, my what a  
really nice day.  
(MORE)

ZAKIRA (CONT'D)

It's quite different than I expected even with your exposed women and cannabis stores. Where can I buy a sports jersey and wear it as clothing?

CARL

Will you knock it off.  
(They both laugh it off.)  
You two are having way too much fun with that.

ZAKIRA

Don't be silly.

ISAAC

And what is the correct amount of fun we're suppose to be having? Do you have a chart or a graph or something?

CARL

Why are you here?

ISAAC

I need to discuss something with you.

CARL

This couldn't wait until later?

ISAAC

No, you have a date with Stacey. Where are you taking her?

CARL

I don't know, drinks, somewhere we can talk. I was thinking about pool.

ZAKIRA

That's what a woman wants... Please, after I spend an hour making myself up to look good, secure my interest in you by taking me to a poorly lit place and have a large table separating us. It makes me want to fling my frilly bra and matching feminine soaked panties at you.

ISAAC

(laughing)  
That's good.

CARL  
You think she'll think that?

ISAAC  
Oh, what does she know, every date  
was probably arranged for her.

ZAKIRA  
That was just my wedding you little  
cocksucker.

ISAAC  
You nervous?

CARL  
A little.

ZAKIRA  
What's with the third degree, leave  
him alone or he'll never be able to  
put a little vindaloo in his beef,  
if you know what I mean!

ISAAC  
I'm just curious, is all.

ZAKIRA  
Is she hot?

ISAAC  
(coyly)  
Sure.

CARL  
What does that mean?

ZAKIRA  
What he means is he hit that shit.

Isaac is silent.

CARL  
You did!

ISAAC  
No, no. We only went out twice.

CARL  
Wait. What? Hold on.

ISAAC  
This is what I wanted to discuss,  
unfortunately the Muslim sailor  
over here...

ZAKIRA  
I'm Hindu you little shit.

ISAAC  
Yeah, whatever.

ZAKIRA  
There's no whatever. There's a difference.

She playfully hits him, he evades.

CARL  
When.

ISAAC  
It's no big deal. Last year when she moved up here and Grace set us up. It was just a couple of times. I was instantly friend-zoned.

ZAKIRA  
Did she slip her finger in your ass?

ISAAC  
You told her! Is nothing sacred to you?

CARL  
Why didn't you tell me this?

ISAAC  
I just told you and it's no big deal.

CARL  
Who ended it?

ISAAC  
There was no ending of 'it'. It didn't go anywhere.

CARL  
Bullshit, you ended it, didn't you.

ISAAC  
Fine, but I wasn't in a place...

CARL  
I don't know if I can go through this now.

ISAAC

You're acting dumber than normal.

CARL

What's wrong with her?

ISAAC

Nothing.

CARL

Shit Isaac, why did you have to tell me this?

ISAAC

Full disclosure. It means nothing. 'Member when we went shopping in college and I tried on that red leather jacket and didn't like it...

CARL

What does that have to do with...

ISAAC

And I took it off and you tried it on and bought it. Same thing.

ZAKIRA

Even I'm not going to comment on that one.

CARL

I should slug you.

ISAAC

Why? Because of my allegiance to you is so great that I would risk personal harm, humiliation and possible disbarment to fully disclose everything. You're over-reacting. I just tried to diffuse the situation with a meaningless analogy.

CARL

Yes. No. Look, whatever.

ISAAC

I'm sorry the world doesn't stop spinning for you.

CARL

Look, just forget it.

ISAAC  
Not 'til we're good.

CARL  
Fine we're good.

ZAKIRA  
Don't play him like a bitch.

ISAAC  
Yeah, Don't play me like a bitch.

CARL  
No, no, you're right, we're good.

ISAAC  
Alright, I gotta go and do  
something less awkward. I'll see  
you later.

Isaac leaves, Carl is lost in thought.

ZAKIRA  
This is why we arrange marriages.