[walking outside in Vienna]

Jesse: I mean, there’s these breeds of monkeys, right, and all they do is have sex, like, all the time, you know. And they turn out to be, like, the least violent, the most peaceful, the most happy, you know, so I mean, maybe fooling around is not so bad.

Selene: Are you talking about monkeys?

Jesse: Yes. I’m talking about monkeys.

Selene: Ah, I thought so, yeah.

Jesse: Why?

Selene: You know, I never heard this one, but it reminds me of, like, this perfect, you know, male argument to justify them fooling around.

Jesse: No, no, no. Women monkeys are fooling around, too. Everybody’s fooling around.

Selene: Yeah, that’s cute. [they laugh] You know, I have this awful paranoid thought that feminism was mostly invented by men, so they could, like, fool around a little more. You know, ‘women, free your minds, free your bodies, sleep with me. We’re all happy and free as long as I can fuck as much as I want.’

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Jesse: Alright, alright, alright. But maybe, maybe there’s some biological things at work here. I mean, if you had an island, right, and there were 99 women on the island and only one man, in a year, you’d have the possibility of 99 babies. But if you have an island with 99 men and only one woman, in a year, you’d have the possibility of only one baby. So...

Selene: So. You know what?
Jesse: What?

Selene: On this island, you know, I think that there will only be, like, maybe 43 men left. Because they would kill each other, trying to fuck this poor woman. You know what I mean? And on the other island, there would be 99 women, 99 babies, and no more man, because they would have all gotten together and eaten him alive.

Jesse: Oh yeah?

Selene: Yeah.

Jesse: Yeah? See... see, I think there's something to that. I think on some level, women don't mind the idea of destroying a man, you know. Like, I was once walking down the street with my ex-girlfriend, you know, right, and we just walked by these, like, real four kind of thuggy looking guys next to a Camaro, you know, and one of them, sure enough, says, 'Hey baby, nice ass.' I mean. So I'm like, alright, 'Hey, no big deal, I'm not gonna get uptight about this,' right?

Selene: Yeah, plus, there were four of them.

Jesse: Yeah, exactly, there's four of them, right, but she turns around and she says, "Fuck you, dickheads." And I'm like, 'Okay, wait a minute here,' right. They're not gonna come over here and kick her ass. You know what I mean? So who just got pushed to the front line on that one? You see what I'm saying?

Jesse: I mean, women say they hate it if your all territorial and protective, but if it suits them, then they'll tell you you're being all unmanly or wimpy or, uh.

Selene: You know what? I don't think women really want to destroy men, and if. Even if they want to, they don't, they don't succeed. You know what I
mean? I'm sure even, you know, men are destroying women or are able, capable of destroying women much more than women. Well, anyway, it’s depressing, I mean. You know what?

Jesse: What? You want to stop talking about this?

Selene: Yeah. I really hate it. You know Men–Women you know, it’s, it’s... there’s no end to this, like, you know.

Jesse: It's like a skipping record, you know.

Selene: Yeah.

Jesse: Every couple’s been having this conversation forever.

Selene: And nobody’s came up with anything.

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[Belly dancer is dancing to drum beat on the side of the street.]

[Jesse and Selene approach, then Selene pulls Jesse closer to watch]

Selene: I saw a documentary on that. It’s a birth dance.

Jesse: A birth dance.

Selene: Yeah.

[they stop and watch for a little while, until it’s over. They clap]

Jesse: Should I give her some money?

Selene: Yeah.

Jesse: Everything that's interesting costs a little bit of money.
[He puts some coinage in the pot, and they begin to walk away.]

Jesse: So, birth dance, huh? Looked a little bit like a mating dance to me.

Selene: No, but really. Women used it when giving birth. In some parts of the world, they still do it.

Jesse: Yeah?

Selene: Yeah. The woman in labour enters a tent, and the women of her tribe surround her and dance, and they encourage the birthing woman to dance with them as... so as to make the birth less painful.

Jesse: Yeah.

Selene: And when the baby is born, they all dance in celebration.

Jesse: Wow. I don't think my mom would've gone for that.

Selene: I like the idea of dancing as a common function in life, something everybody participates in.

Jesse: I know. I heard about this old guy, who was watching some young people dance. And he said, "how beautiful. They're trying to shake off their genitals and become angels."

Selene: I like that. [smiles]

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Jesse: Alright. One question, though, back there. When the women are dancing and being all spiritual and stuff, right, where are the men? Are we out food-gathering? Are we not invited? You all don't need us? What?

Selene: Men are lucky we don't bite off their head after mating. Certain insects do that, you know, like spiders and stuff.
Jesse: MmHmm.

Selene: We, at least, let you live. What are you complaining about?

Jesse: Yes. See, you're officially kidding, but there's something to that, you know. You keep bringing stuff like that up.

Selene: What?

Jesse: Yeah.

Selene: No, no, no, wait a minute. Talking seriously here. I mean, I, I always feel this pressure of being a strong and independent icon of womanhood, and not making it look my whole life is revolving around some guy. But loving someone and being loved means so much to me.

Selene: I always make fun of it and stuff. But isn't everything we do in life a way to be loved a little more?

Jesse: Yeah, I don't know. Sometimes I dream about being a good father and a good husband, and sometimes it feels really close. But then other times, it seems silly. Like, it would ruin my whole life. And it's not just a fear of commitment, or that I'm incapable of caring or loving, because I can. It's just that if I'm totally honest with myself, I think I'd rather die knowing that I was really good at something, that I had excelled in some way, you know, than that I had just been in a nice, caring relationship.

Selene: Yeah, but I had worked for this older man, and once he told me that he had spent all of his life thinking about his career and his work and... He was 52, and it suddenly struck him that he had never really given anything of himself. His life was for no one and nothing. He was almost crying saying that. You know, I believe if there's any kind of God, it wouldn't be in any of us. Not you, or me, but just this little space in between. If there's any kind of magic in this world, it must be in the attempt of understanding someone, sharing something. [sigh] I know, it's almost impossible to succeed, but who
cares, really? The answer must be in the attempt.

[They both stare for a while, and then half-sigh, half-laugh].