

Think Like a Man

© 2019 by Marisa Smith

603-359-4854

marisasmithkraus@gmail.com

Agent:

Peregrine Whittlesey

Peregrine Whittlesey Agency,

279 Central Park West, NYC, 10024. Tel:

(212) 787-1802

pwwagy@aol.com.

THINK LIKE A MAN

CHARACTERS

Denise: 20's-40's, brash, loud, uncensored, struts her stuff and her bravado, mother of one son, Eddie.

Lily: 20's-40's, meek, seems naïve, modest, shy, mother of two daughters, Claire and Lizzie.

SETTING

The present, somewhere in the burbs.

It's Halloween.

Denise is dressed in an angel costume and Lily is dressed as the Wicked Witch of the West.

They're at the kitchen table in Denise's house, drinking wine and waiting for their husbands, Tony and Stewart, to arrive with the kids.

DENISE

(holds up her phone)

And they say women are always late. Where the hell are they?

LILY

They probably can't get the kid's costumes on. But it was sweet of them to offer, Denise.

DENISE

Gimme a break, Lil. We've got the kids ready every year since they started trick or treating, it's about time the hubbies pitched in.

LILY

I hope they do it right.

DENISE

So what if they put 'em on ass-backwards or upside down, it's not that big a deal!

LILY

Claire and Lizzie are going as ladybugs. I made them.

DENISE

Eddie's going as Darth Vader, for like the third time in a row.

LILY

Well, he's a cultural icon.

DENISE

Darth Vader is a douche bag.

LILY

Stewart will want sex tonight. He always wants sex if he does something for the girls that he doesn't usually do.

DENISE

Honey, forget that. Tell him you have a UTI or something.

LILY

Maybe. I guess once I'm into it ...

DENISE

Just say no. Or make him pay you.

LILY

Pay me?

DENISE

I do that with Tony all the time. If I'm not in the mood I do it for cash and at least I get somethin' outta it.

LILY

(aghast)

How much do you get?

DENISE

At first it was fifty but then my rates went up: now it's a hundred.

LILY

Ohmygod, it's just like you're a.... prostitute!

DENISE

Yeah, well, every woman's a prostitute when you get right down to it. I mean who doesn't have sex when you don't want to, huh? For the sake of family harmony, to keep the beast in a good mood, to get him off your back, yadayadayada.

LILY

Or to make your husband happy Denise.

DENISE

I'm gonna barf.

LILY

C'mon, I know you love Tony and I know you're still attracted to him.

DENISE

I guess. His butt is still like a nice hard apple, I gotta admit.

LILY

Denise! TMI.

DENISE

Oh stop it, you love it.

LILY

Well, I don't think all women are prostitutes at all. I never felt like one.

DENISE

That I believe.

LILY

And I'm not sure I wouldn't feel kind of degraded if Stewart were to pay me.

DENISE

Whatever floats your boat.

LILY

Not that I'm judging you.

DENISE

Nooo.

LILY

Seriously I'm not. It sounds like you and Tony enjoy the role-playing so it's fine. Really.

DENISE

I enjoy the cash. Did you read about that Italian model nobody ever heard of who settled with that movie producer dude for a million dollars because he touched her boob?

LILY

I *know*. He was like naked in a hotel room and supposedly went after her.

DENISE

The dingbat goes up to the jerk's room to have a "meeting" and she's shocked and horrified when he comes outta the john with just a towel on? Are you kidding me? What did she expect? Tea and cucumber sandwiches?

LILY

Yeah, but still, he was disgusting, he groped her.

DENISE

I know, I know. It's gross, but hey, I'd let some big shot touch my boob if I could get a quick million outta it, wouldn't you?

LILY

I don't know Denise. Who thinks of these things?

DENISE

Really, if some bazillionaire said I'll give you a million bucks if I can touch your boob what would you say?

LILY

Is he naked with the towel when he asks?

DENISE

Yeah.

LILY

And he's looking at my breasts?

DENISE

He's staring at your breasts and he says: if you let me touch your beautiful tit I'll give you a million dollars.

(Beat)

LILY

Cash or check?

DENISE

He's gonna write you a check. He's a master of the universe, he's good for it.

LILY

I think I'd need cash.

DENISE

Okay! Fine. He's got a million in a suitcase.

LILY

And I can look at it before he touches my breast?

DENISE

Yes! Boy, you're tough.

LILY

How long is he gonna touch it for?

DENISE

Jesus mother of God.
(She cups her breast and counts to ten.)

DENISE

One thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four, one thousand five. Five seconds.

LILY

Humm. That's.....two hundred thousand dollars a second.

DENISE

I'd do it for *half* a mil.

LILY

But what about my integrity, my dignity?

DENISE

What about it?

LILY

What about my belief in feminism?

DENISE

Feminism is all about empowering women. I think a million dollars would empower you.

LILY

But wait after taxes, it wouldn't be a million.

DENISE

You're getting cash.

LILY

But then I could go to jail for tax evasion if anyone found out.

DENISE

Okay, Okay, he'll write you a check. For consulting.

LILY

Consulting for what?

DENISE

How to sew a ladybug costume, I don't know!

LILY

You don't have to get mad! (Pause) I want to think this through.

DENISE

Well hurry up.

LILY

So, if I got a check for a million, after taxes that would be....about... say worst case scenario I only get to keep half.

DENISE

That's still a hundred grand per second.

LILY

College for Claire and Lizzie. A new car. A vacation in Hawaii ...

DENISE

See, I knew you'd come to your senses.

LILY

I didn't say yes. In fact, the more I think about it, I have to say no. I would feel too dirty, and what would Stewart say? He'd hate me!

DENISE

Stewart would say yes if he were you.

LILY

What? Stewart can't say yes, he doesn't have a breast.

DENISE

If Stewart had a breast he would definitely say yes because he's a *man*.

LILY

I don't get it.

DENISE

Stewart would think like a man. He'd say my breast is worth a million. It's a fair deal.

LILY.

So I should believe that my breast is worth a million dollars?

DENISE

If you were a man you would think that. You wouldn't be all "my breast oh no, I'm just a little woman blah blah."

LILY

I should think like a man?

DENISE

Yeah! See, the great thing about women is that we can think like a man when we want to. But men can't think like a woman, no *way*.

LILY

And if I think like a man in this scenario I would say yes?

DENISE

Without a doubt. (Pause) In general, most men value themselves more than women. In *general*, I'm painting with a broad brush here.

LILY

Humm, I think you might be right though.

DENISE

That's why they don't say I'm sorry all the time like we do.

LILY

They *never* say I'm sorry.

DENISE

See what I mean?

(She gets a text message and reads it.)

The guys will be here in five and want us to meet them outside. Finally, let's get this show on the road.

LILY

You're sure a man would say yes?

DENISE

I'd bet my life on it.

LILY

Yeah, a man wouldn't overthink it. It's a million bucks!

DENISE

Exactly.

Lily thinks.

LILY

You're right. If I *pretend* I'm a man, I'd say yes! Yes!

DENISE

Good for you. You'll be amazed at how it comes in handy. Pretending to be a man. You'll get really good at blaming other people and *plus*, you'll be able to tolerate those awkward silences at cocktail parties and let someone else fill them in! It's just fantastic.

(She slings a small purse over her shoulder. LILY hauls a huge purse over her shoulder.)

What are you doing with that huge purse?

LILY

We may be going to some unfamiliar neighborhoods.

DENISE

So? What's in there?

LILY

Just stuff we might need. Granola bars, Kleenex, water, mace, pepper spray ...
(She pulls something out of her purse and shows DENISE.)

A taser.

DENISE

WHAT? A taser?

LILY

Sweetie, you shouldn't forget to think like a *woman* sometimes.

END OF PLAY

