

Untold Stories of Padgett Xarles

by

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INT. A DIMLY LIT ROOM - EVENING

PADGETT XARLES (30's) sits fashionably and comfortably.
RICHARD (40's) sits opposite Padgett.

RICHARD
You can count it.

PADGETT XARLES
Count it? I do not count it. I
have been doing this long enough
to know just by the size of it.

RICHARD
You trust that I put it right?

PADGETT XARLES
I trust that you do not have time
to play games. (beat) She has the
right to refuse you and if she
does, this does not get returned
to you.

RICHARD
I understand.

PADGETT XARLES
I am not in the guarantee
business.

RICHARD
When will I know?

PADGETT XARLES
As soon as I know.

RICHARD
And when will that be?

PADGETT XARLES
Mr. Richard, you are quite the
impatient man. Mrs. Fonda is quite
the busy lady. When she receives
word, she will have twenty-four
hours time to accept or refuse
your bid. Is it necessary for me
to go over all the rules with you?

RICHARD
No...it's not. I...I've never done
this before and I know the rules,
I've studied the rules but
actually doing it is different
than studying.

PADGETT XARLES

Yes. That is the way things are...we will be in touch.

RICHARD

Can I...do you mind if I ask you a question...about Mrs. Fonda?

PADGETT XARLES

What would you like to know?

RICHARD

Well, is she, I mean, has she ever accepted before?

PADGETT XARLES

You did not study the rules very well.

RICHARD

I have to know because I feel as though this is something I'm doing specifically because she wants me to do it. Otherwise, I wouldn't get involved in any of this. It's only for her.

PADGETT XARLES

I'm afraid I cannot provide you with that information. Perhaps in time, if things work out between the both of you, you can ask her yourself.

RICHARD

But I can't ask her myself, not before everything because it will stifle my plans, it won't work for her I am sure. I cannot question her. Please, please tell me if she has accepted before. It will remain between you and I only.

PADGETT XARLES

Suppose she has...in what way will that change things?

RICHARD

It will change things entirely because I will know that I am just another buffoon for a night.

PADGETT XARLES

Buffoon?

RICHARD

Yes, a man who has been played.

PADGETT XARLES

I know what the definition of buffoon is Richard and in what context you are referring to the word but I do not understand why you would appear as such. You know, this is the game. This is what keeps this society flowing and surviving without more damage than there actually would be. If Mrs. Fonda has accepted before, it is in no way a reflection of you being the man that you are in this town. I understand your need to know. If you were anybody else, you would have already been removed but my impression of you is that of a kind hearted man. That does not mean that if you pester me further about this matter, that I won't be forced to hand you down and remove you completely. You will be abolished. I have to stay loyal to what I've built. There are rules in place because they work. Without them, the whole system will crumble.

RICHARD

You strike a hard bargain, Mr. Xarles.

PADGETT XARLES

I have no choice.

RICHARD

On that note, I will leave you to your work.

PADGETT XARLES

I do hope that everything falls into place. Mr. Richard.