

Forbidden Fruit – Excerpt

by Peter Cavell

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Woman: All right, let's go over our cover story.

Man: For what?

Woman: For when he finds out! He's going to be really angry, so let's prepare an alibi.

Man: My alibi goes something like this: I was going for a walk down by the waterfall, minding my own business, watching the monkeys and lemurs play, when I found you sitting on a rock in the shade. "Hey!" you said, "I've decided to eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, and it's delicious! Here, try some!"

Woman: It wasn't my fault! I only tried it because that guy told me to. *(She trails off, realizing that she wasn't supposed to mention "that guy".)*

Man: Guy? What guy?

Woman: Oh, nobody. Just some guy.

Man: "Just some guy"? There are only two people in the whole world – me and you – and you don't think it's a big deal that "some guy" showed up and influenced you to eat this fruit? Where did this guy come from? Did he hit on you? Did you *let* him? You tramp!

Woman: He wasn't human. He was a snake.

Man: *(flatly)* A snake.

Woman: But he could talk.

Man: *(sarcastically)* Oh, that explains everything. Why didn't you say so before?

Woman: Listen, can we forget about him for a minute? Please? We still have a bigger problem. Why did we do such a stupid thing?

Man: I don't think it was so stupid. *(mischievously)* Come on, didn't you enjoy it? How was it for you?

(WOMAN looks away, pretending not to hear.)

Man: *(turning on the charm)* Come on, you can tell me. How was it?

(pause)

Woman: *(shyly, but excited)* It was incredible.

Man: I knew it!

Woman: *(less shy, and gradually becoming more enthusiastic)* It was easily the best fruit I've ever tasted.

Man: Better than a pineapple?

Woman: Definitely. Even better than a *banana*! It was so sweet and juicy and fresh. I've never had anything like it. But when you bit into it, did you suddenly feel...different?

Man: What do you mean?

Woman: It made me feel weird, in a good way. It was like my thoughts had been fuzzy before, but now they were clear. Like I'd gone through life with bad eyesight, and had suddenly been given glasses.

Man: What are "glasses"?

Woman: I don't know. That's not the point.

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