

*a scene from IN THE POCKET by Richard Gilbert-Hill

INT. BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

BARBARA (30s) sits behind a desk in her large office.
RALPHIE (30s) enters.

BARBARA
I have a job for you.

RALPHIE
So soon?

BARBARA
Is that a complaint?

RALPHIE
Oh, no.

BARBARA
Good. I'm glad. You know how I feel
about complaints.

RALPHIE
Yes, very clearly.

BARBARA
You do?

RALPHIE
Oh, yes.

BARBARA
How long have you known me?

RALPHIE
Uh...

BARBARA
A week? Two weeks? When did you
transfer?

RALPHIE
Two weeks ago.

BARBARA
Two weeks?

RALPHIE
Yes.

BARBARA
So you've known me for two weeks?

RALPHIE
Yes.

BARBARA
And in that time you've learned how I
feel about complaints?

RALPHIE
Yes. (Beat) Word gets around.

BARBARA
I see. (Beat) I want you to lay down
on the floor with your face pressed
down into the carpet. (Beat) Scratch
that. I want you to kneel down on the
floor with your face pressed into the
carpet.

Beat.

RALPHIE
Is this a joke?

BARBARA
Absolutely not. Do you want to keep
your job?

RALPHIE
I don't know.

BARBARA
Excuse me?

RALPHIE
Well, I sure don't want to kneel with
my face pressed into the carpet and
my ass up in the air.

BARBARA
You have a problem with that?

RALPHIE
Yeah It's undignified.

BARBARA
Oh, come on. You're in advertising!

RALPHIE
What's that supposed to mean?

BARBARA
Like you're an expert on dignity?

RALPHIE
I never said I was an expert.

BARBARA
Not even close.

RALPHIE
Well, I don't know about that. In
certain things I am.

BARBARA
Oh, reallly?

RALPHIE
Yeah.

BARBARA
Like what?

Beat.

RALPHIE
Certain things.

BARBARA
Uh huh. (Beat) Do you want to keep
your job?

RALPHIE
That would be nice.

BARBARA
Then get down and do as you're told.

Beat.

RALPHIE
You're not going to hurt me, are you?

BARBARA
It depends on how you define pain.

RALPHIE
Wow. Uh, anything that makes me
scream.

Beat.

RALPHIE (cont'd)
This feels like a setup.

BARBARA
It's your job. Now get down and do
it.

RALPHIE
I'd rather be fired.

BARBARA
Ok. You're fired.

Pause.

RALPHIE
Ok, ok. I'll do it.

Beat.

BARBARA
Well?

RALPHIE
Ok.

RALPHIE gets down on his hands and knees. He buries his face
into the carpet, his ass sticking up in the air.

RALPHIE (cont'd)
How's this?

BARBARA
Good. Now stay there.

BARBARA walks around behind RALPHIE and sits down on his
upright ass.

Beat.

RALPHIE
How long is this supposed to last?

BARBARA
Not long. By the way,
congratulations.

RALPHIE
For what?

BARBARA
Your promotion. It came through.

RALPHIE
It did?

BARBARA

Yes.

RALPHIE

Then why am I doing this?

BARBARA

This is your first lesson in what it means to be my equal.

She gets up off of him.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Don't ever forget it.

RALPHIE

Oh, dear.