

**they met at the library**

“All right, let’s begin.”

“Boy, this is certainly something I’ve never done before.”

“Consider yourself adventurous.”

“Do you really do this with everyone, every time?”

“‘Everyone’ makes it sound like a larger number than it’s been, but yes.”

“For how long?”

“Getting the hang of this quickly, aren’t we?”

“How did it start?”

“I had this job one summer as filing clerk, and let’s just say I discovered I enjoyed it in ways I would have never imagined.”

“Just like that?”

“Keep in mind that people rarely have much insight into the origins of their predilections.”

“Like this one woman I dated who would always play these 911 calls she’d downloaded off the Internet while we—”

“Mostly I think that going through the sequence helps me loosen up a bit.”

“Normally one might recommend a glass of wine for that.”

“Order, organization, and office supplies are all huge turn-ons for me.”

“Perhaps I could talk to my friend who manages a Staples about letting us—”

“Quite honestly, I’ve wondered what to make of this and the fact that my father’s a lexicographer.”

“Really, my favorite part is of course the disrobing.”

“Sporting of you to put on that hat so we’d each have thirteen pieces of clothing to start out with.”

“Taking something off after each sentence is more inspiring than I anticipated.”

“Until I added that part, I had much more trouble convincing men to go along.”

“Very worried about this next one coming up, I have to admit.”

“What do they call those silver pencil-shaped razors they use in art classes?”

“Wha—what are you talking about? Wait, wait, I know, um, they’re—”

“Well, now, I thought I had clearly explained the rules—”

“X-Acto! X-Acto knives! But doesn’t X-Acto start with an ‘E’?”

“You can check with your friend at Staples, but, right now, perhaps you could just describe what I’m wearing?”

“Zero. Zilch. Zip. Zamboni. Zanzibar. Wow. Whoa. So—”

“Too bad about messing up the X, huh?”

“You mean—”

“Fun, though. Maybe next time. Can you hand me my socks?”