

“I thought you said she paid you?”

“I thought she did I guess she didnt she’s your friend anyway you know.”

“She’s not my friend her mother is my friend although I know for some reason you would like to think otherwise for some reason. Her mother is my friend.”

“But what are mothers for anyway? Of course she’s not your friend her mother is your friend. And I thought she paid me but she didnt. And anyway what are friends for if not that? If not not getting paid?”

“Well I’ll not not get paid you don’t mind. Whether or not you were Its time to pay. Parity hurts but only briefly. Much less long than remembered indebtature. Much much less long. You know. So.”

“Okay. I pay.

We arrived, you and I, from the station by car service, fed and calm, at their house at about seven eighteen. Cool easy fall eve. Three minutes later than we had said, not enough to be late. The mother opened the door. The outside light above the door sprayed pictures down onto my shoulders and I could catch them with my peripheral vision. They were all from my time growing up at night. Outside. Coming home. That light above my parents door louder than the flood in my head. You were embracing the mother, so glad to see each other after almost a long time and the rest of that and you were both talking about hair and makeup and the changes and the rest of that and you introduced me and the mother had a look full of meaning in her eye as she said it was very good to meet me, and two of her fingers touched the place where a medic would take your pulse when she shook my hand. I didnt say anything outloud and I saw you notice but she was too ... involved. Her fingernails were painted the color of the crayon named flesh. Degas Soyer Kandinsky and Rauschenberg on the white walls. I saw a blood red japanese maple shone on by a outside light in the back on a circle of bricks set in the earth. I saw the moving shadows of hedges and trees beyond the maple and I remembered I could make that seem like enraged arms flailing at the sky. And underneath our reflection that fell out into the back fell floating out into the trees the sky white as fire ash and the lights of the city caught in one luminous pulsing clot far and down to the left deep down at the bottom signaling from behind the trees. She emerged from the center of this clotted electric nest and everyone turned to see. Her mother gave a little imitation shout of surprise, running her fingers through her short black hair. And she said

‘And this is Natalia. She’s twelve. Natasha, say hello.’

And she said ‘Hi,’ and ran her fingers through her dark short blond hair. And she had an excellent pair of denim legs and her breasts were just on their way, under a white t shirt. I felt myself pushing at myself already.

‘This is the man I told you about, Tasha darling.’ You were already picking up the shopping bag with your night things in it as I approached her to begin. ‘Mommy will stay with Hyla tonight in my room and you two will stay together in your room. So I’ll see you in the morning okay? Good night, dear.’ And I did not turn to see you both leave and I imagined I saw the room floating in the trees and the ash white sky empty of all bodies but ours, and could feel the silence set in like the sound of a cell lock clicking to and our heartbeats quicken and begin to pulse in rhythm to the lights of the hidden distant city captured by the low white sky. She had very large almost black eyes and a small chin and a small nose and her skin was the tone of a yellowed newspaper and there were blue veins running just underneath it and I could see purplish red capillaries running under the skin of her cheeks under her eyes and her mouth was narrow with very full lips and two large

but set well teeth in the middle and she was smiling a little bit and I could see the rhythm of her heart in her neck but her eyes were clear and decisive and she was thin with growing and her breasts were just beginning to gather weight and the hair on her arms was gold and black too and even on her upper lip was a faint sweeping of gold hairs and her fingers were very long and I thought like I thought about dogs that she would grow into those hands she would be a big woman when she grew up and her hands were cool compared to mine and I was pressing at myself and could feel myself against myself as we walked to her room or really as she led me to her room and I could hear you and her mother talking and your voices fading as we got into her room and you got into her mothers and there was one light on on a little table by the bed and it shone just up and made a perfect circle of light that was bent in half by the ceiling and the wall and it was a little girls room for sure which I felt for a few moments because I was looking at her bedding which was a kind of plaid and stuffed a kind of raggedy ann plaid comforter and there was a raggedy ann doll on the bed and she was standing in front of the bed and she was stripping and looking at me all the time and I was very very hard I was dripping to tell you the truth and my breath was kinda fastening onto her movements and I began to strip myself I ended up with my pants down but my shoes still on so I had to untie my shoes with my pants down and then I pulled off my underwear and I sprang out and just stood there and she just stood there and I could feel the whole night all the air cool on my penis and I could feel how it was hot and I was looking at her she was standing naked too and she didnt have any hair on her cunt and her breasts were coming but couldint really cast much shadow and her hips were just enough to make her legs look very very straight and she was looking at me and I think I ws breathing harder than she was and I looked at her standing in front of that bedding and I walked over to her and put my hands on her shoulders and felt my penis press into her belly button and I put my mouth on hers and the tip of her tongue met mine and the smoothness of her skin ran electric through me and I could smell her pussy begin to exhale and I smelled the insides of her ears and I smelled her throat and her armpits and I smelled her slightly swelling nipples and I smelled her belly button and I tasted myself in her belly button and I smelled her sweet naked vagina and the tip of her pussy's tongue met mine and I was thinking there is nothing more perfect than this there is nothing more perfect than this there is nothing more beautiful than this I was thinking I am knowing god now as I heard her begin to come and I pressed my tongue deep inside her and she made a little girl noise and she was coming and I was thinking there is nothing more perfect nothing more perfect and I got up off my knees and she had her eyes on the bent circle of light and I placed myself between her and entered her and it seemed as if I would split her up the middle but I didnt I was inside and she was wet and warm and swollen all around me and looking at me as I began to move and push and she was good and I looked her in the eyes too and I was thinking this is knowing god nothing more perfect than this and I pushed hard and she watched me and did not cry out and I was moving now fast and she was still good still wet and open for me and I was moving fast and hard and my head began to drop and my face began to press upon hers and my tongue began to search for hers and sounds began to fall out of my mouth and now my head began to rise and my hands were pressing her shoulders down and my arms were straight and I was staring right in the center of that bent circle of light moving hard and fast and hearing sounds fall out of my mouth and I came and thought I could feel her belly swell with the flood of my sperm and I looked down from the circle the bent light and her head was hanging off the other side of the bed and I released her shoulders and she slowly raised her head and was smiling just a little and I

could see the imprint of my hands on her shoulders red on the offyellow of her skin and pulling out of her my cock felt a mile long and a huge flood of come followed me out and darkened the raggedy ann plaid and we continued through the night and I used paper clips and twine and never used a condom and I watched her little face take my whole cock and we saw the sun rise and heard you and her mother making breakfast and talking lowly as if you didnt want to wake us up and I fucked her once more alternating from her asshole to her vagina and saying you understand why I am here as I moved in her you understand your mother arranged this and she saying yes yes yes I know and i was saying then I kept saying as I moved in her I'm thirtytwo remember I'm thirtytwo I'm thirtytwo you remember that you remember and in the blue that rises up before dawn I looked at her long body some bruises not many and her shining between her thighs and she reached out and pulled the curtain and from the windows of the house next store a group of college kids were hurling empty plastic buckets onto the lawn and into the street and she drew the curtain back down I am her tutor I remember thinking I was hired in the manner of a tutor by her mother and I was getting hard again hard and with the pain that comes with coming too much in one night and I kissed her Goodbye Natalia and turned off the light on the small table by the bed and got dressed in the blue light and watched her get under the raggedy ann comforter and I put my socks on and left her room and you and her mother were sitting drinking orange juice by the patio doors with the japanese maple behind the glass doors black red in the blue light and her mother said How did it go and I said Fine Fine as I laced up my work shoes and then I had some juice myself and we sat without speaking you her mother and I and listened to the college kids throw buckets out the windows as the blue faded and turned yellow and then white and you went and got your shopping bag and I rinsed my glass in the stainless steel sink and left it upside down on a dishrag on the formica counter and we said goodbye to Natalia's mother and I noticed she had no polish on her fingernails and you got in the backseat of the car service and I got in the front and it wasint until some time had passed that I realized I should have gotten in the back too and I made the driver pull over so I could get in the back although he protested that it didnt matter but it did I knew it did and I made him stop and I got in the back and rode the rest of the way to the station with my elbow on the armrest that is attached to the door and didnt talk to you nor him and I realized I didnt get paid on the way to the station but didnt say that neither and she was your friend anyway maybe this could just be a favor."

[1995]