

"I wanna hear about sex," Melinda blurts...

Gordon rises from the floor, jumps over to Melinda, and whips her off the sofa...he looks into her twinkling eyes and says, "I could tell you about it, little girl, but I can't remember anything. I think I have amnesia, our new subject." Instantly, he turns to Melanie, and asks, "Melanie, what is amnesia?"

Confidently, Melanie states, "Amnesia is about forgetting things."

"Yeah, but everybody forgets things," Gordon says. "Amnesia is more about forgetting important things, like," and he turns to Melinda, "who are you?"

"Melinda," she says.

Gordon looks at Rosita and, using a pick-up voice, says, "Say, who are you, little girl?"

"Your worst nightmare," Rosita replies calmly, raising her left eyebrow.

Mark advises, "She's still mad at you, Dad."

Gordon turns toward Mark and proclaims, "She'll feel better after I give her a back rub tonight."

"And every night while I'm waitin' tables," Rosita promises him.

"I hear ya," says Gordon, turning back to the sofa. He lifts Melinda to sit down next to Rosita and sets Melinda on his lap. Gordon whispers in Melinda's ear but loudly so all can hear, "I'm going for shameless, now, so I'm gonna use you, okay?"

"Okay," Melinda shouts.

Gordon hides behind his daughter and, speaking in a little girl's voice, says, "Mom, remember how you always say that I look like you when you were a little girl but I have Dad's personality and smile? And that I walk and talk like you, but you always see something in me that reminds you of Dad, and that it took both of you to make me, and that Dad knows he really messed up this time, but all he wants, no, he needs, is just one little kiss from the only woman he's ever loved." Gordon peeks around the far side of Melinda's head and Melinda laughs. He adds, "So would you give him just one little kiss for me, please?" He looks at Rosita with a mock forlorn expression.

Rosita stares back at Gordon's mock sadness and shakes her head softly a few times. Resigned, she mumbles, "Come around the other side, silly boy."

Gordon moves to the other side of Melinda's head, and Rosita strokes his right cheek with her left hand. Gordon closes his eyes. She moves her hand close to his mouth and touches his lips with her thumb, leans forward and kisses him softly for several seconds. When she pulls away, she asks, softly, "What are we gonna do?"

Gordon opens his eyes, his focus darting over Rosita's face as he displays a serious expression. Using a lowered tone, he replies, "I'll have another job soon. I have some prospects, some old clients who like me and my work. You'll see." Nodding his head once, lifting one side of his mouth in a half-smile, he adds confidently, "We'll be all right."

Rosita's not convinced, but quite calmly asks, "How can you be so sure?"

"Because I'm good at what I do," Gordon responds with bravado, adding, "very good ..." - pages 16-18