

## Picasso at the Lapin Agile - Germaine (p.61-62)

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

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GERMAINE: Have a drink. You don't want me to go on.

PICASSO: No, tell me about men like me.

GERMAINE (*settles in*): A steady woman is important to you because then you know for sure you have someone to go home to in case you can't find someone else. You notice every woman, don't you?

PICASSO: Many.

GERMAINE: I mean, every woman. Waitresses, wives, weavers, laundresses, ushers, actresses, women in wheelchairs. You notice them, don't you?

PICASSO: Yes.

GERMAINE: And when you see a woman, you think, "I wonder what she would be like." You could be bouncing your baby on your knee, and if a woman walks by, you wonder what she would be like.

PICASSO: Go on.

START  
HERE

GERMAINE: You have two in one night when the lies work out, and you feel it's your right. The rules don't apply to you because the rules were made up by women, and they have to be if there's going to be any society at all. You cancel one when someone better comes along. They find you funny, bohemian, irresistible. You like them young, because you can bamboozle them, and they think you're great. You want them when *you* want them, never when they want you. Afterwards, you can't wait to leave, or if you're unlucky enough to have her at your place, you can't wait for *her* to leave, because the truth is, we don't exist afterwards, and all conversation becomes

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Steve Martin

meaningless because it's not going to get you anywhere because it already got you there. You're unreachable. Your whole act is a camouflage. But you are lucky because you have a true talent that you are too wise to abuse. And because of that, you will always be desirable. So when you wear out one woman, there will be another who wants to taste it, who wants to be next to someone like you. So you'll never have to earn a woman, and you'll never appreciate one.

END  
HERE



PICASSO: But I appreciate women. I draw them, don't I?

GERMAINE: Well, that's because we're so goddamn beautiful, isn't it?

PICASSO: Germaine, men want, and women are wanted. That's the way it is, and that's the way it will always be.

GERMAINE: That may be true, but why be greedy? By the way, I knew you were using me, but I was using you back.

PICASSO: How?

GERMAINE: Now I know what a painter is like, tomorrow night a street paver maybe or a newsagent or maybe a bookseller. A street paver may not have anything to talk about to a girl like me, but I can write my romantic scenarios in my head and pull them down like a screen in front of me to project my fantasies onto. Like you project your fantasies onto a piece of paper.

PICASSO: How does Freddy fit in? Why are you with him?

GERMAINE: *His* faults I can live with. And occasionally, occasionally, he says something so stunning I'm just glad to have been