

THRICE

Written by

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FADE IN:

WHITE

Invades, confronts, dissolves to ARIEL's face. She's in her twenties and her wild red hair betrays her emerald eyes.

She lies, silky, in the white. Her hand reaches out to the sky, as if there was one.

ARIEL

And of all the folly that humans
do, make love to me again, Horatio.

SHERMAN who's also in his twenties, flexes a bare arm thicker than a neck. Then lowers his head in shame.

SHERMAN

My name's not Horatio.

ARIEL

Yes, it is. It fits just like you
do inside me.

She smiles. He rolls his eyes.

ARIEL

Now one more time! Come mount me
stud and we shall ride with nary a
care.

She moves her hips in unison with her words.

ARIEL

And neither of us can deny that we
dare. So hurry Horatio, hurry and..

Sherman turns, heads away. Ariel sulks.

ARIEL

Where goest thou, my love?

SHERMAN

I've lost the mood.

ARIEL

Well, I am the mood. Let me envelop
you in my lustfulness.

She sits up, reaches with her arms. They undulate like snakes.

OVER THERE

Two old men, JAMES and MICK, watch two dots in the distance.

JAMES
You said he would do it.

MICK
He'll do it.

JAMES
He won't and you'll owe me.

MICK
Then I'll owe you.

JAMES
I knew it! You don't think he'll do it.

MICK
He'll do it.

JAMES
Thrice! It has to be thrice!

MICK
He'll do it!

JAMES
And he has to finish the third time, he has to...

MICK
What's she doing now?

James cranes his neck to look.

BACK TO ARIEL

Her snaking arms are ready to strike.

ARIEL
And if a man resists do I explode with strength one thousand pi. Or do I cease just to ignite. Will you believe me when I lie? Will you forget to stop your fight?

He turns, angry.

SHERMAN
Shut up!

She taunts him with her eyes.

ARIEL

Make me.

Sherman rushes toward her.

SHERMAN

I said shut up!

He grabs her forcefully, shakes her. She quivers under his fingers as they dent her flesh. Her eyes look up at him in terror.

The veins accentuate his forehead as hatred seethes from his face.

She softens, a flower moist with dew. She beckons him with her lips.

The air between their faces sucks away, their lips meet with fury. Then the lust. He kneels down in front of her, presses his body against hers. They both moan with anticipation.

Then he pushes away. He sits down next to her, catches his breath.

SHERMAN

Manipulative bitch.

Ariel smiles.

OVER THERE

James' face is full of confusion.

JAMES

Is he gay?

MICK

No. He's not gay.

JAMES

Are you sure?

MICK

I'm sure.

JAMES

Because I would have done her.

MICK

You can't even do yourself.

JAMES

When I was his age I would have done her.

MICK

When I was his age I would have done her first.

JAMES

Well, I would have done her thrice.

MICK

And I would have done her four...

JAMES

Unt-uh. You can't do her more than thrice.

MICK

I guess not. I guess you would have won back then.

JAMES

I would have.

Mick does a bit of a jig.

MICK

But your not going to win now! He's going to do her thrice!

JAMES

He's not. He's gone gay.

Mick stops his jig.

MICK

He's not gay!

JAMES

He looks it to me.

Mick turns toward the distant dots.

BACK TO ARIEL

Her smile, now a smirk, one eye closed to aim, she points at sulking Sherman.

ARIEL

Whassa matta Horatio?

The ire's back. Sherman snaps.

SHERMAN
I'm not Horatio!

Ariel sits forward. Sober.

ARIEL
Alright then,
(with distaste)
Sherman. What's wrong? Why don't
you want to have sex with me? Am I
not good enough...

Sherman softens.

SHERMAN
No, it's not that. You're
fantastic. It's just that...

ARIEL
What? What can I do to enjoy being
joined with you once more?

SHERMAN
I've so many questions.

ARIEL
I will answer them if I can. Ask.

SHERMAN
Where are we?

ARIEL
It doesn't have a name, it just is.

SHERMAN
Is what?

ARIEL
Is it. And anything outside of
here isn't. Understand?

SHERMAN
No.

ARIEL
I'm sorry but there's no other way
to explain it. Maybe another
question?

SHERMAN
Ok then. Who is Horatio?

Ariel smiles shyly, almost embarrassed. Her vulnerability entices him.

ARIEL
Horatio was my first.

SHERMAN
Your first?

Her cheeks redden.

ARIEL
You know. My first love. My first
sex.

He teases.

SHERMAN
And how many others have there
been?

She's enjoying it.

ARIEL
Now that would be telling! Ask
another question.

SHERMAN
Ok. Um. Who are you?

She's taken aback, then...

ARIEL
Why, I am Ariel. I thought you
knew?

SHERMAN
I knew your name. I just wanted to
know, I don't know, more about you.

Ariel leans forward, she strokes Sherman's face gently with
the palm of her hand.

ARIEL
My dear you already know all that I
could ever show. You have tasted my
soul twice. Now are you ready to
have me thrice?

They stare at each other for a moment then Sherman smiles and
nods. He moves in for the kiss.

OVER THERE

James seems surprised. So does Mick.

JAMES
They're doing it!

MICK
I knew they would.

JAMES
Of course you did.

MICK
You owe me.

JAMES
When they finish.

MICK
They'll finish.

JAMES
You keep saying that.

MICK
I know that.

There is a pause while James ponders.

JAMES
How will we know when they finish?

MICK
We'll know. It'll be obvious.

JAMES
Why will it be obvious?

Terror streaks across James' face.

JAMES
What will happen when they finish?

Mick smiles slyly.

MICK
It's more like what isn't going to happen.

JAMES
You mean -- what is will be what isn't?!

Mick nods. James sprints off toward the dots.

JAMES
My gods! I've got to stop them.

Mick shakes his head as he watches James shrink into the distance. Then he shrugs.

MICK
It's too late.

BLACK

FADE OUT.