

A SIMPLE QUESTION

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A Simple Question

Cast:
(2 characters, 20's – 30's)

Ann
George

GEORGE and ANN are seated at a small bistro table in a Starbucks ANN has a notebook and they both have a cup of coffee. Both are dressed business casual. ANN stares at GEORGE for a minute before she speaks and GEORGE appears to be concentrating.

ANN:
Well?

GEORGE:
I'm thinking, I'm thinking.

ANN:
This is the last question, we're almost finished.

GEORGE:
OK, just give me a minute.

ANN:
The question isn't THAT difficult.

GEORGE:
I just want to make sure I get it right.

ANN:
How could you possibly get it wrong?

GEORGE:
I just want to make sure so I don't have to change my mind later and have you think I'm indecisive.

ANN:
Hmmm (*makes a note*)

GEORGE:
I didn't say I *was* indecisive, I just don't want you to think I *am* indecisive.

ANN:
(*looks up at GEORGE then continues writing*) Uh huh. Are you sure?

GEORGE:
About what?

ANN:
About not being indecisive?

GEORGE:
Are you trying to trap me?

ANN:
Why would I do that?

GEORGE:
What do you keep writing down?

ANN:
These are my private notes, I don't think you should even ask.

GEORGE:
Nobody said anything about notes.

ANN:
Nobody had to. It's a personal choice. You chose to try to remember everything, I chose to take notes so I can accurately recall the conversation and my observations.

GEORGE:
It never even occurred to me.....

ANN:
I see

GEORGE:
What? Are you writing down that it didn't occur to me?

ANN:
Let's get back to the question.

GEORGE:
How many questions are there?

ANN:
As I told you, this is the last question. So, do you *often* have trouble concentrating?

GEORGE:
No.

ANN:
Now, can you please answer the question?

GEORGE:
(pause) So, this has to be for the rest of my life, right?

ANN:
Right.

GEORGE:
I don't get to reconsider on say...my 50th birthday?

ANN:
What sense would that make? If you're going to choose, make a choice and stand by it.
Don't be a wuss.

GEORGE:
Why is this relevant?

ANN:
Because it says a lot about you.

GEORGE:
What does it say?

ANN:
Well I don't know that yet do I?

GEORGE:
OK fine. How is the question phrased again?

ANN:
(sighs) If you could only enjoy one taste, one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

GEORGE:
Chocolate

ANN:
Chocolate?

GEORGE:
Chocolate.

ANN:
Chocolate's not a food.

GEORGE:
Then what is it?

ANN:
It's....a confectionary.

GEORGE:
But if I put it in my mouth, chew it, taste it and swallow it, doesn't that qualify it as a
food?

ANN:
Fine, fine. So, you'd be perfectly happy eating nothing but chocolate for the rest of your
life ?

GEORGE:
Well no.....

ANN:
Are you changing your mind?

GEORGE:
No!

ANN:
So you've decided to change your mind about changing your mind.

GEORGE:
Let me guess...that says a lot about me.

ANN:
(writing) Oh yes.

GEORGE:
What I'm trying to say is, if I have to pick just one taste to live with for the rest of my life
I ..

ANN:
White or Brown?

GEORGE:
What?

ANN:
White chocolate or regular brown chocolate?

GEORGE:
Regular chocolate of course! Some people think, and I tend to agree, that white chocolate isn't even real chocolate...it's some weird aberration masquerading as chocolate to trick people into eating it. White chocolate is like cheese slices.

ANN:
Cheese slices?

GEORGE:
Right.

ANN:
(making a note) You're a little obtuse, George.

GEORGE:
Is that good?

ANN:
No.

GEORGE:
Do you have to write that down?

ANN:
Yes.

GEORGE:
I just meant that white chocolate is to regular chocolate what cheese slices are to real cheese.....a poor substitute. If you want to eat chocolate, I say don't screw around with a pale imitation!

ANN:
"Pale imitation" ...I like that George, a nice little bit of word play.

GEORGE:
Aren't you going to write it down?

ANN:
No, I'll remember it. Raisins, nuts?

GEORGE:
In the chocolate?Is it important?

ANN:
Of course it is, the inclusion of raisins or nuts can drastically alter the flavour profile of the chocolate.

GEORGE:
(a little confused) Flavour profile.....?

ANN:
Well...raisins, nuts?

GEORGE:
You need to know this?

ANN:
It helps fill out your psychological overview. The specific tastes that appeal to us can be very revealing.

GEORGE:
How is that?

ANN:
It's psychology. Don't question psychology.

GEORGE:
OK...No nuts. Absolutely not. Nuts don't belong in chocolate. Nuts and chocolate? That's just crazy. Nuts totally screw up the ...the...."texture profile" of the chocolate. And raisins! At ten paces I defy you to tell me whether what's stuck in the middle of your chocolate bar is a raisin or a house fly!

ANN:
A purist. *(takes note)* Milk or dark.

GEORGE:
Dark, definitely.

ANN:
Why?

GEORGE:
The taste.

ANN:
And what does the taste remind you of?

GEORGE:
Nothing really. I just like it.

ANN:
Uh huh....

GEORGE:
I like it because it tastes a little ,.....edgier! I love the way the taste flows off my tongue,
fills my mouth and melts to the back of my throat.

ANN:
(becoming a little distracted)...What was that again?

GEORGE:
The taste flows off my tongue, fills my mouth and melts to the back of my throat.

ANN:
(a little breathless)
I see. This happens regularly? The flowing and the filling and the melting?

GEORGE:
Everytime I eat chocolate...the taste fills my senses..

ANN:
...and melts to the back of your throat....

GEORGE:
...and flows off my tongue...

ANN:
....flows off your tongue.....

GEORGE:
...and feels so velvety...so smooth

ANN:
...smooth...

GEORGE:
....velvety...

ANN:
...velvety.....

GEORGE:
.... Fills my mouth..

ANN:
...fills my...

GEORGE:
You've stopped taking notes.

ANN:
(snapping out of it) No, no I haven't...I'm getting everything down *(hurriedly writing)*
velvety lips.....smooth tongue....filling my mouth....

GEORGE:
Got all that?

ANN:
Oh yeah...

GEORGE:
Where were we?

ANN:
Ummm, Chocolate. Dark chocolate flowing off your...you know...and melting down
your and whatever....

GEORGE:
I don't taste it as much as experience it.

ANN:
I can see that...

GEORGE:
The cocoa dances on my lips, the taste filling my senses ...it caresses and kisses and
touches so lightly. I tremble and sigh...I could taste it forever.

ANN:
Me too...

GEORGE:
You love chocolate?

ANN:
No

GEORGE:
Then what...

ANN:
Can't you see?

GEORGE:
See what?

ANN:
The touching, the caressing, the sighs, the trembling, the dancing on my lips!

GEORGE:
That's just how I describe how...

ANN:
Sex!!!

GEORGE:
What?

ANN:
Don't you see? Chocolate is sex!

GEORGE:
Should I be writing this down?

ANN:
Sex is chocolate!

GEORGE:
Sex is what?

ANN:
Chocolate! You're not just describing chocolate, you're describing sex! You are totally coming on to me!

GEORGE:
Wait a minute...

ANN:
You're happening all over me!

GEORGE:
What's happening?

ANN:
I can't believe it! Right here in the middle of Starbucks! (*loudly*) This man is coming on to me!

GEORGE:
Shhhh! What's wrong with you?

ANN:
Me??!! It's you! All your talk about chocolate...the taste filling your senses, flowing off your tongue, melting down my cleavage...

GEORGE:
I never mentioned cleavage!

ANN:
Cleavage! Who said cleavage??

GEORGE:
You said cleavage!

ANN:
Ha!...out of everything I just said, that's the one word you pick up on!

GEORGE:
What has your cleavage got to do with anything?

ANN:
(*huskily*) Say that again....

GEORGE:
Say what again?

ANN:
"your cleavage"

GEORGE
No!!

ANN:
What if I stuck a Toblerone down there?

GEORGE:
Aren't there nuts in a Toblerone?

ANN:
Dairy Milk then.

GEORGE:
I don't know.....

ANN:
Nielsons Semi Sweet

GEORGE:
Do you have Hershey's Dark?

ANN:
Hershey's Dark (*she slowly rises to her feet as does GEORGE*) ..Very, very dark....

GEORGE:
...lusciously dark...

ANN:
...sinfully dark...

GEORGE:
..... soft....

ANN:
...warming....

GEORGE:
...melting...

ANN:
...with body heat...

GEORGE:
....in your cleavage...

ANN:
...in my cleavage...

GEORGE:
...hot chocolate...

ANN:
...hot melty chocolate...

GEORGE:
...on my tongue....

ANN:
TASTE ME!!!

(they passionately kiss over the bistro table. When the kiss ends, they look at each other collect themselves and sit down)

GEORGE:
Café Mocha. You taste like café mocha.

ANN:
That's what I'm drinking. You taste like our House Blend. Medium.

GEORGE:
You're good. You going to write that down?

ANN:
No..I think I have everything I need here.

GEORGE:
No more questions?

ANN:
No.

GEORGE:
So, what do you think?

ANN:
Satisfactory, most satisfactory.

GEORGE:
Will you call me?

ANN:
No.

GEORGE:
No?

ANN:
No need. I've decided.

GEORGE:
(disappointed)
Oh. OK then. Well thank you for seeing me and...

ANN:
Can you start tomorrow...afternoon shift?

GEORGE:
Yes!

(They shake hands)

END