

Holden blinks, genuinely surprised. Okasek shifts in the bg.

Is that what he told you?

MIKE

The impression I get is she really loved him. She wanted to marry him.

HOLDEN

Good enough. You see a woman and a man together you know straight away what the temperature is. They were okay.

MIKE

You think not?

HOLDEN

Oh. Sure. I guess.

MIKE

He had a good thing going with Betty Jane.

HOLDEN

Butch is a good guy. I don't understand why this is happening to him.

MIKE

START

MIKE SOULT

MIKE (CONT'D)

Aw, man. I don't want to rain on his parade but...

TENCH

Are you saying he made the relationship more than what it was?

MIKE

She let him call her his girlfriend, but she wouldn't move in, and she never called him her boyfriend.

TENCH

He got the apartment for her, right?

MIKE

That was his big plan, get her to nest. We were glad to see him leave home.

HOLDEN

Who's we?

MIKE

Me and Cathy, my sister.

HOLDEN

Was Betty Jane already sleeping with him?

MIKE

I think he got something from time to time.

TENCH

From time to time?

HOLDEN

So he was capable of satisfying her.

MIKE

Depends what you call "satisfying."

HOLDEN

OK, I don't want to play games here.

MIKE

I don't think it was blowing her mind.

Tench sits up. Holden fights not to register excitement.

MIKE  
She said she wanted to.

HOLDEN  
Was she seeing anyone besides  
Butch?

MIKE  
He was nice to her.

HOLDEN  
Why was she with him?

MIKE  
Poor guy. He never got it.

HOLDEN  
Butch understand it that way too?

OKasek clears his throat.

MIKE  
What do you think?

HOLDEN  
Open? Well all right. Meaning what?

MIKE  
I'd say she was... open.

HOLDEN  
You think Betty Jane was hot to  
trot?

MIKE  
My feeling was she was on the  
lookout quite frankly.

He shares a smile with Butch. Tench watches this, annoyed.

HOLDEN  
That's certainly pretty true.

MIKE  
Not in so many words. But come on,  
when a chick is enjoying it, she's  
all over a guy.

HOLDEN  
Did she tell you that?

HOLDEN

"wanted to?"



TENCH

wait. Betty Jane told you she wanted to sleep with other men?

MIKE

Told Butch. He told me.

TENCH

Recently?

MIKE

'Bout a month ago.

Tench and Holden exchange looks. They have a motive.

Tench glances back at Okasek, who's looking grim... he clocked it, too. Tench turns back to Mike, casual.

TENCH

So your wife gave birth the night Betty Jane disappeared?

MIKE

I was at the hospital.

TENCH

We heard. How's all that working out for you?

HOLDEN

Bill here has a family.

TENCH

Ever miss the days you could do whatever the hell you wanted?

MIKE

Sure.

TENCH

It's fun at first, when you're newlyweds. But a kid changes things between a man and his wife.

Mike just looks at him.

TENCH (CONT'D)

Women have to start turning their energy to the kids.

END