

44 **INT. SIMONE'S ROOM**

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Simone and Curtis lie in bed as he massages her feet.

SIMONE

Where'd you find him?

CURTIS

Poker tournament with a sixty dollar
buy-in. He was wearing a collared
shirt with a missing button.

SIMONE

And you ordered him a Woodford.

Curtis smiles. She knows him too well.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
What's he need the money for?

CURTIS
He believes it will set him free.

SIMONE
I'm asking a serious question.

CURTIS
I'm giving an honest answer.

SIMONE
I just want to make sure you know what
you're getting into.

CURTIS
Don't worry, he's a good guy.

SIMONE
That's what you said about George.

CURTIS
You mean Jorge? What do you have
against Jorge?

SIMONE
His name was George. And he was a liar
and a thief.

CURTIS
He was not.

A beat.

SIMONE
What's in this for you?

CURTIS
The journey is the destination,
sweetheart.

SIMONE
That's not an answer. It's a bumper
sticker.

CURTIS
There's nothing in it for me.

SIMONE
So what then? After New Orleans.
What's next?

Curtis thinks for a beat, then--

CURTIS
You should come with us.

SIMONE
Shut up.

CURTIS
I've never been more serious.

SIMONE
You know I have school.

CURTIS
So play hooky.

SIMONE
Curtis...

CURTIS
We could have a great time.

SIMONE
I have different priorities now. I
can't just hit the road on a whim.

CURTIS
Didn't your mama ever tell you you can
do anything you want?

SIMONE
No. She didn't.

CURTIS
Well then I'm saying it for her.

Beat. Simone decides to call his bluff.

SIMONE
Okay.

CURTIS
Okay?

SIMONE
I'll come with you.

CURTIS
Great.

Simone yanks a suitcase out of the closet, tosses it on the bed.

SIMONE

What should I pack for this little mystery tour?

CURTIS

Whatever you want.

SIMONE

Jackets? Will I be cold? How bout a bikini? I love the beach. Will you help me pick out some dresses? Is there a gym where we're going? Suppose I'll need my running shoes.

She starts throwing everything into the suitcase. Manic. Curtis just watches.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Oh, can't forget my heels. What about condoms? Will I have to work on this journey, or will you be providing a per diem?

CURTIS

That's enough.

Simone tosses another stack of clothes onto Curtis. They sit facing opposite directions on the bed.

CURTIS (CONT'D)

I'll come back.

SIMONE

Don't bother. I'll be gone.

CURTIS

Where?

SIMONE

Not sure yet. Maybe Peru. It's the one place I know you'll never be...