

## **SIDE 8: Annie and Paul**

**ANNIE.** (as she feeds him) Open wide. Such a good boy.

**PAUL.** What?

**ANNIE.** Nothing, it's nothing, nothing at all.

**PAUL.** Sure, sounds like something to me.

**ANNIE.** It's ridiculous, who am I to offer a criticism to someone like you?

**PAUL.** You won't be the first, go --

**ANNIE.** I know I'm only forty pages into the book...and it is brilliantly written but then everything you've ever written is brilliant –

**PAUL.** -- pretty brutal so far. Is it hard to follow? I know it jumps back and forth in time...

**ANNIE.** Well, it is, a bit, but it's not that...

**PAUL.** Okay... I know the hero isn't clearly a good or bad guy, I was striving for a moral complexity...

**ANNIE.** It's the swearing, Paul. There. I said it.

**PAUL.** The profanity bothers you?

**ANNIE.** It has no nobility.

**PAUL.** Well, these are slum kids, I was a slum kid, everybody talks like that.

**ANNIE.** They do not! -- what do you think I do when I go to the feed store in town? Do you think I say, 'Now Tony, give me a bag of that effing pig feed.' And at the bank do you think I tell Mrs. Bollinger 'Here's one big bastard of a check now get off your ass and cash the damn thing.' There! There! See what you made me do? I didn't want to spill it!

**PAUL.** I'm sorry.

**ANNIE.** Sure, you are! Oh, Paul. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Sometimes my temper just gets the better of me. Can you ever forgive me? Please. Please say you can.

**PAUL.** Forgiven and forgotten.

**ANNIE.** I love you, Paul. I love your mind. Your creativity. That's what I meant. (she exits)

**PAUL.** You might be in trouble here Paul.