



Cellular Copperfield by Nick Holle

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Three late twenty-somethings—BILL, SAUCEMAN, and RONNY—are sitting in chairs. Bill faces Sauceman and Ronny, who sit next to each other.

SAUCEMAN

Bill, it's no secret around here about you and Tara Jepson.

RONNY

Exchanging pleasantries.

SAUCEMAN

—and bodily fluids—

RONNY

—for going on six weeks now.

SAUCEMAN

Beautiful girl, Bill.

RONNY

Gorgeous.

SAUCEMAN

Now, Bill, I know she looks like a catch.

RONNY

She looks like a Barbie. So does her sister.

SAUCEMAN

Her sister Sara. Sara and Tara.

RONNY

They're twins, practically from the same egg.

SAUCEMAN

Identical twins. They are from the same egg.

RONNY

Like I said, they look like a couple of Barbies.

SAUCEMAN

And they look like catches, Bill.

RONNY

But what me and Sauceman wanted to tell you—

SAUCEMAN

—Bill, is that we're concerned for you.

RONNY

Because you might not be privy to—

SAUCEMAN
—certain information.

RONNY
And it's our job as your friends—

SAUCEMAN
—to inform you. Because we love you.

RONNY
Not sexually.

SAUCEMAN
Of course not. Like brothers.

RONNY
Not incestually.

SAUCEMAN
Ronny, stop. But what you might not know, Bill, is that the Barbie twins have been around.

RONNY
Sexually.

SAUCEMAN
It's difficult to estimate with how many.

RONNY
Hundreds? Thousands?

SAUCEMAN
But it is a lot.

RONNY
Eight and ten at a time.

SAUCEMAN
Not to pass judgment, Bill.

RONNY
But we're worried about diseases.

SAUCEMAN
You know, Bill, AIDS related SIDS, SARS related AIDS, herpes, hepatitis, the clap.

RONNY
Epstein-Barr.

SAUCEMAN
Right.

RONNY
Hiv.

SAUCEMAN
Hiv?

RONNY
Yeah hiv.

SAUCEMAN
Whatever, Ronny. Point is, Bill—and there is a point here—

RONNY
Besides diseases.

SAUCEMAN
—your girlfriend was married to Kenny Porterhouse. You met him?

RONNY
Jealous type.

SAUCEMAN
Testosterone, football, thick neck.

RONNY
Homophobia.

SAUCEMAN
And Kenny was awfully protective of Tara.

RONNY
And he didn't like the fact that—

SAUCEMAN
—she nailed any guy who offered his hammer to her.

RONNY
And who'd foot her booze and coke tab.

SAUCEMAN
The sex she gave away for free.

RONNY
Which Kenny cashed in on.

SAUCEMAN
Then they married.

RONNY
And she nearly slept with the best man.

SAUCEMAN
So he cut her off: no more booze, no more bars, no more parties.

RONNY
No more sucking cock for a snort in the bathroom stall of Times Two at one in the morning.

SAUCEMAN
Ronny, please. Show some respect.

RONNY
Sorry about the sucking-cock part, Bill.

SAUCEMAN

Kenny wanted her to obey the seventh commandment.

RONNY

No more extramarital free-lance.

SAUCEMAN

If she wanted to go out it had to be to the circus, the ice-capades, and magic shows.

RONNY

She agreed out of love.

SAUCEMAN

Well, Kenny was betting she wouldn't be having adulterous affairs with ten-year-olds.

RONNY

He bet wrong.

SAUCEMAN

Not with a ten-year-old, Bill, but she did have an affair.

RONNY

Full of mystery and intrigue.

SAUCEMAN

With David Copperfield.

RONNY

Not from the Dickens novel. The magician.

SAUCEMAN

The illusionist, who she met at a show.

RONNY

The affair was not an illusion though.

SAUCEMAN

No, there was plenty of sex.

RONNY

All kinds.

SAUCEMAN

She's a tiger, Bill.

RONNY

You know as well as anybody.

SAUCEMAN

Full of sexual antics.

RONNY

And gymnastics.

SAUCEMAN

And Copperfield is a catch.

RONNY

A world-renowned catch.

SAUCEMAN

Though he's not good with cell phones.

RONNY

This is the catch.

SAUCEMAN

One day, Kenny borrows Tara's cell phone to make a long distance call.

RONNY

Unlimited nights and weekends.

SAUCEMAN

But Kenny's a smart guy and he checks her call history.

RONNY

And whose name pops up five, six times a day?

SAUCEMAN

So Kenny dials Copperfield, and Copperfield answers.

RONNY

Because it's his phone.

SAUCEMAN

And Copperfield starts talking in his Copperfield voice about putting his sword into her box.

RONNY

Sexually.

SAUCEMAN

Kenny hangs up and starts putting metaphors and Caller ID together, figuring out Tara's adulterating with *the* David Copperfield.

RONNY

Kenny's not the type who reads Dickens.

SAUCEMAN

So he's pissed and wants a divorce. Probably would've killed Copperfield if he could've found the slippery SOB.

RONNY

Tara tries to be Apologetic Barbie.

SAUCEMAN

And she begs for Kenny's forgiveness, blaming this all on her affliction.

RONNY

Acute nymphomania.

SAUCEMAN

Promises to keep it in her pants from here on out.

RONNY

Well, keep it out of her pants.

SAUCEMAN

So in a last ditch effort to save the marriage she goes to break it off with Copperfield.

RONNY

But he doesn't care.

SAUCEMAN

Copperfield's not the type of guy to put all his sperm in one basket.

RONNY

He was also sleeping with Sara. Sexually.

SAUCEMAN

Tara's twin.

RONNY

The Barbie Twins.

SAUCEMAN

Tara was shocked, betrayed.

RONNY

Copperfield was stoic, mysterious.

SAUCEMAN

Actually we're not even sure if Copperfield knew the difference between Tara and Sara.

RONNY

His publicist won't comment.

SAUCEMAN

That's probably why he didn't make his name on Tara's Caller ID disappear.

RONNY

It's hard to be discreet when you're the world's greatest illusionist.

SAUCEMAN

Devastated by Copperfield's disinterest, she went out and slept with the Lakers.

RONNY

No, it was the Clippers.

SAUCEMAN

And Kenny divorced her.

RONNY

Copperfield dumped Sara, went on to another Barbie

SAUCEMAN

Sara married Kenny.

RONNY

Who divorced her when he caught her end-over-backwards with Teller.

SAUCEMAN

And Tara ended up with you, Bill.

RONNY

And we wanted to make sure—

SAUCEMAN

—you knew what you were getting into.

There is a long silence.

BILL

Ronny? Sauceman? I appreciate your concern. I was unaware of Tara's previous marriage to Kenny and equally unaware of her sexual proclivity. I'm not sure what to make of it. I find it interesting, though, that two people such as Tara and I both have had torrid love affairs with David Copperfield, mine based purely on a need, deep down, to be satisfied by someone who can escape from chains from the sixtieth floor of a burning building in less than four minutes. Makes me so hot. And I—

SAUCEMAN

Wait a second, Bill, you slept with Copperfield?

BILL

Sure. Several times. Once on the sixtieth floor of a burning building.

RONNY

God, Bill, we never took you for a—

BILL

—Transgender Bisexual? Nobody does really.

RONNY

Uh...yeah.

SAUCEMAN

Well, we never took Copperfield for one anyway.

RONNY

Bill, can I ask you a question? What's Copperfield like in the sack?

BILL

A gentleman never tells, boys, a gentleman never tells.

SAUCEMAN

Well, fuckin' A. Who needs a drink?