

Rosewater

**PETER
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Woman, Two men – One of them taking notes.

- 16 **BRAND** **One:** Alright then Rosewater, relax. How's it going?
- Rosewater:** It is going well, sir, I have made contact.
- One:** How many times?
- Rosewater:** Seven times, sir.
- One:** With increasing levels of intimacy?
- Rosewater:** Increasing.
- One:** Excellent. Please describe the seven gradations.
- Rosewater:** First eye contact, second speech, third accidental meeting, fourth accidental meeting, fifth accidental meeting, sixth planned meeting by river, seventh planned meeting in room.
- One:** Where intimacy increased.
- Rosewater:** Yes intimacy increased in room.
- One:** And by river?

Rosewater: In seven stages.

One: Describe the seven stages of increased intimacy by river.

Rosewater: First conversation, second revelation, third silence, fourth silence, fifth silence, sixth sighing, seventh separation.

One: All this while walking?

Rosewater: All this while walking on path by river.

Two: Describe the scene.

One: It is unnecessary to describe the scene.

Two: Beg to differ. Not possible to know in advance of conclusion, what details will or will not appertain thereunto.

One: Alright then. Rosewater – describe scene.

Rosewater: Two miles of slow-moving river varying between twenty-five and thirty feet in width, patches of reeds, bank fringed with alder and willow. Geese, morehens, coots, One crested grebe.

Two: With young?

Rosewater: Without. Sky clouded but without precipitation. Temperature mild.

One: Alright then?

Two: Yes.

One: Describe the revelation.

Rosewater: Revelation unfolded in seven stages. First hesitation, second mumbling, third rapid but coherent speech, fourth silence, fifth withdrawal, sixth silence, seventh repetition of revelation.

Two: Of what?

One: At this point content is irrelevant.

Two: How can content be irrelevant?

- One:** It is him we want, not what he knows! Understand that? Just take down, can't you? Take down!
- Two:** Alright.
- One:** Now room.
- Rosewater:** Yes, room.
- Two:** Room.
- One:** Where intimacy increased.
- Rosewater:** It increased.
- One:** Describe increase of intimacy in room.
- Rosewater:** Intimacy in room increased in seven stages. First observation, second silence, third reminiscence, fourth praise, fifth trembling, sixth undressing, seventh passion.
- Two:** Observation?
- Rosewater:** What horrible curtains.
- Two:** Irrelevant!
- Rosewater:** I agree.
- One:** *(to Two)* Are you getting the hang of it?
- Two:** I think so.
- One:** Describe the praise.
- Two:** Why?
- Rosewater:** Praise proceeded in seven stages. First I like your shoes, second I feel so calm, third you are brave, fourth you know everything, fifth you are kind, sixth you are a cave painting, seventh you are the tomb of Tutankhamun.
- One:** Describe the trembling.
- Rosewater:** The trembling increased in seven stages. First the trembling of the intestines, second the trembling of the fat, third the trembling of the small bones of the ears, fourth the trembling of the skull, fifth the trem-

bling of the air, sixth the trembling of the hairs of the ears, seventh the trembling of the veins of the hands.

Two: Describe the undressing –

One: Forget the undressing! Describe the passion!

Rosewater: The passion progressed in seven stages. First the passion of heat, then the passion of cold, third the passion of remembering, fourth the passion of inventing, fifth the passion of leaping, sixth the passion of collision, seventh the passion of boiling.

Two: I don't see what that tells us!

One: It is necessary information. But the last stage is everything. Rosewater, what was the outcome?

Rosewater: The outcome revealed itself in seven types of terrain. First jungle, second tundra, third desert by night, fourth desert by day, fifth mediaeval city, sixth future city, seventh the surface of the sun.

One: So was trust established?

Rosewater: No.

One: Never mind. It was a beginning. We have learned something, thank you, Rosewater, and I am confident that in time we will learn everything. Alright, Rosewater, we have got to go through procedure 2DZ, haven't we?

Rosewater: Naturally.

One: She knows the ropes, this One! Rosewater, the subject to whom you have been assigned, is not a pleasant human being.

Rosewater: No.

One: Married, violent to wife and children, bigamist, traitor. In sixty-five days from this date, to be arrested, tortured and executed. Finish. Alright? Just keep that in mind.

Rosewater: At all times.

One: And carry on doing what you're doing! With all your

heart! The more you put into it, the more we get out!
You're our best, Rosewater. Isn't she great? Incredibly
highly trained, a procedural encyclopaedia!

Two: She's wonderful. A challenge to live up to her.

One: Yes – if anyOne's likely to blunder, it's us, not her, but
we'll keep on doing our very very best, and if you feel
we're slipping, you'll tell us, won't you, Rosewater?

Rosewater: I certainly will.

One: Right. Mustn't keep you any longer in the presence of
irrelevance. Your time is precious, you are a jewel, a
jewel in the mud of the world, Rosewater!

Exeunt.

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