

RELEVÉ DES DIALOGUES

DOUBLE BLIND

**un film de
SOPHIE CALLE
et
GREG SHEPHARD**

SOPHIE voix off : I met him in a bar in December 1989. I was in New York for two days on my way from Mexico to Paris. He offered me a place to stay. Upon accepting, he handed me the address, the keys and he disappeared. He returned two days later. I thanked him and left. The only thing I learned about him was from a piece of paper I found under the cigarette box. It said: " Resolutions for the new year: no lying, no biting. "

A few days later, I called him from France. After several conversations, we decided to meet in Paris and made an appointment for January 20th, 1990, Orly airport, 10 am. He never arrived, never called, never answered the phone. On January 10th 1991, I received the following phone call: " It's Greg Shephard. I am at Orly airport, one year late. Would you like to see me? "

This man knew how to talk to me. That's how it all began. A year later, I am in New York again. This time to cross America with him and make a video along the way. The plan is to drive his old Cadillac to California where I will teach for a semester. We were to leave January 1st, a few days after my arrival. But instead of meeting me at the airport, I found him asleep in his apartment. He hadn't left for a week. Nothing had been done. The car was not ready, the cameras not purchased, he had lost his driving license, not said goodbye to his friends, not cleaned the trunk, any excuse would do. I knew he didn't want to leave anymore, but, to protect my trip, I organised everything. Even if this is going to be a disaster, we'll go. At least for enough to bury Hervé by the sea. I didn't want to wait in Paris for him to die, choosing to take this trip was my way of believing Hervé would live. He died while I was in the plane, Friday, 27th December. I wasn't with him and won't be with him next Friday for his funeral. If we canceled this trip, it would be a double failure. That's why we must go. We left New York at 2am on Friday, 3rd January 1992, and without a word spoken arrived at 5am at the end of route 6 in Smyrna, Delaware. Greg stopped the car on a boat ramp and put his head in my lap. We stayed like that until morning him sleeping, me staring out at the water. This is the place where I am going to bury Hervé, at precisely the same time his friends bury him on the island of Elba. Greg promised to have me by the water at 9am. It is the first promise he's kept.

Suis-je en retard ? Est-ce qu'ils t'ont déjà enterré ? Hier au moment de la levée du corps, je me suis sentie si seule à New-York si loin de toi, qu'au moment même où ils t'emmenaient j'ai composé ton numéro de téléphone dans l'espoir d'entendre au moins encore une fois ta voix. Et tu as parlé.

REPONDEUR : Merci de me laisser un message

SOPHIE : Je n'ai pas pu raccrocher, je t'ai laissé un message : tu aimais les pivoinés, je n'en ai pas trouvé, et je ne sais pas pourquoi cette photo de Sainte Sara. Je me souviens du jour où tu t'es baigné dans l'eau de mon bain à Kyoto tu m'as dit que c'était l'expérience la plus érotique que tu aies jamais eu avec une femme. Je me suis toujours demandée si c'était vrai. Je n'arrive pas à me souvenir des derniers mots que tu m'as dit, sur le palier, devant chez toi la dernière fois. Au revoir Hervé.

De tous les lieux possibles pourquoi celui-ci. Bon, lequel d'entre nous parlera le premier. Est-ce qu'il me ramène à New-York ? Est-ce déjà la fin ?

GREG voix off : So we made it. I kept my promise to get her here. Now where ? Is making a movie really worth all this ? And there's no guarantee the material will even be good enough to use in the end. I've got to just do my best to get through this make something of it. Getting out of New York didn't make me feel better yet. I guess I should say something.

GREG : Like it has to end up... like if I leave that hole... I have to leave it... that's where the last one has to end up.

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce à moi qu'il s'adresse ? Au moins il a dit quelque chose.

GREG : Hmmm, I don't know?

SOPHIE : Le plus drôle quand même c'est que ... je parle à la caméra. Le plus drôle c'est qu'il joue au solitaire....est-ce un emblème du voyage?

GREG : OK that's where that one has to stay, so we'll just...

GREG voix off : Let's go. It's easier just to keep going.

GREG : So, are you ready ?

SOPHIE : Yes. Let's see if the car is stopping. Oh God, great.

GREG : I just. I'm so sorry. I fell asleep in that parking lot. I just forgot and then when I woke up we needed more gas. We must be close to something. Come on honey. I've never run out of gas before this.

SOPHIE voix off : Come on honey, ses premiers mots tendres, seulement ils sont pour sa voiture.

GREG : Ah, Sophie... I'm so sorry. One of us needs to stay with all our stuff.

SOPHIE : See you one of those days !

SOPHIE voix off : J'aurais dû garder les clés, s'il ne revenait pas.

I remember the last time I left for Paris, I wasn't sure to ever see him again so I demanded an hostage, to give me his most precious possession. It was a small French nineteenth century painting entitled *The Love Letter*, which represented a young girl with an uncanny likeness to me. I should have kept the keys.

STRANGER: God this car is beautiful!

SOPHIE : Yes.

STRANGER: You two have to stop by my house. It would be the perfect day. I have tons of art. I am an artist.

SOPHIE : Yes ?

STRANGER: But I don't do ducky.

GREG : End of Controversy ?

STRANGER: That's my wife, that's Lily.

VOICE : I'm Lily you see.

SOPHIE voix off : We also met Duke, Cub-scout, Minnie the Cat, and Arnold and Angus, Henry, Mona Lisa, Catoué, Dorothy and Bali. Then he showed us the inside of his fridge. We learned he won seven prizes in freestyle, played piano at 4 with the nuns, had the same boyfriend for ten years whom he met while hitchhiking with two dollars in his pocket, spent

6000 dollars in daffodils, is about to re-upholster in rose chintz, was a bar-boy for 16 nights at Studio 54, is an Aquarius. Then he spoke of the numbers.

STRANGER : 1+2 is 3, 3+9 is 12, 1+2 is 3, so I'm like 3 to the third power, it's like the worst thing, it's the best thing, it's the most karmatic thing you can be.
I can like read auras off of people real fast...

GREG : Really ?

GREG voix off : Then he sent us down the road to the Refuge Inn. We were given room 101. 1+0+1. What is that supposed to mean ? I need some sleep. Everything is washed out here. I'm stuck with no money. I thought I was supposed to get I before we left. Even if I wanted to leave, I couldn't. How have I let this happen? You know, I bet she asked for a room with only one bed.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night.

GREG voix off : I know she thinks I 'm writing to Kate.

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce qu'il écrit déjà à Kate ?

RADIO: ... Suicide notes...

SOPHIE : Ready ?

GREG : Lots of birds here. They're all looking for new homes after last night.

GREG voix off : Day Two. Good sleep. Better mood. Keep going. Why am I here ? She asked if I would stay to do this project but I don't know what the truth is or where to begin ? I guess habits have their own memories. I was an art dealer for fifteen years and one day I dropped out. I saw her show in Boston and I decided I wanted to follow her. I didn't know how or when but I knew I wanted to reinvent myself like she had. A week later I was in New York and a woman walks up and introduces herself. She had found me first. I didn't speak to her for a year. She violated my trust by looking through my papers. But she didn't see that way. Then I called her from an airport during a delay. She answered. Since then it hasn't been easy. But at least with Sophie there is a game that helps me keep my distance. Besides, I like driving.

GREG : She's got water in her tank from that storm last night.

SOPHIE voix off : Ce n'est même pas moi qu'il filme, c'est sa voiture.

SOPHIE : Do you feel like a king ? Do you think I look like a queen ?

GREG : Definitely.

GREG voix off : She's such a bitch.

GREG : You look like one and behave like one. Queen Sophie.

SOPHIE : Thanks.

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce un compliment ?

GREG voix off : Why does she ask me these stupid questions?

SOPHIE voix off : Ca commence bien, hier l'essence, aujourd'hui les essuis-glaces et le bouchon du réservoir. Il aurait pu s'occuper de ces choses avant le départ quand même. A deux heures dix il m'a dit " You got to promise me carwash honey ", seulement cette fois le honey est pour moi. Je me demande s'ils carressent autant leurs femmes.

GREG voix off : She wants to go to Miami to meet my father. What do I do ? I can't imagine being in the same room with him. He shouldn't get away with calling me a bastard any longer. I guess I should confront him. I don't need any more setbacks now. I guess I should tell her about how he retained these detectives for all those years to follow my mother around, about his obsession about catching her with other men, never any evidence. While he kept all those women for himself and called those his hobby. I could tell her about how he sent me to the island after a vision he'd had about catching her with the gardener, and when I got there she was in the garden but she was making him a sweater. I remember how disappointed he was and how I felt I'd failed him. I should tell her about the 3 members of his club, he John Wayne and Jesus. And how he disowned me at the divorce because of all the secrets I knew about him. I said nothing and still he spreads those rumours about me being the son of some sailor she was with on the beach, his mind can do that, nothing needs to be factual to be real. He admitted to me his only purpose in life was to prove that she was crazy and not him. Then he...

SOPHIE : What are you thinking ?

GREG : Nothing.

GREG voix off :... if she wants to go to Miami, I'll wait in the parking lot for her. Anyway I've still got some time to decide.

GREG : You want to read the first few pages of my script.

SOPHIE : Yes.

SOPHIE voix off : Again we hardly spoke to each other but today was a softer silence. We are like a pair of gun-shy convalescents. In the coffee shop, when I took a pen from his hand, Greg said, I love it when you are forceful. And I ask "Instead of fragile ?" Yes. Instead of fragile.... Happy New Year.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night.

SOPHIE : Was the call a collect call or do I have to stop at the office ?

GREG : Ah... No. I have to pay for that.

SOPHIE : I'll go.

SOPHIE voix off : Quand j'étais dans la salle de bains il a appelé Kate, le reçu indique son numéro de téléphone. Et me voilà en train de payer les 10 dollars de la communication.

GREG : How much was the call?

SOPHIE : 16 dollars.

SOPHIE voix off : Pourquoi ce mensonge ? Moi quand j'étais en France, il ne m'appelait pas, il ne m'écrivait pas. Je n'ai jamais eu de chance question lettre d'amour. Je me souviens lors de mon voyage en Russie j'en ai reçu une de Martial, juste une phrase sur une page blanche : "ma petite femme chérie", c'est tout. Etrangement 16 dollars c'est le prix que j'ai payé pour recevoir ma première lettre d'amour.

I have never received a love letter. So I paid a public scribe to write one. Eight days later I received seven beautiful pages of pure poetry penned in ink. It had cost me 100 francs. And the man said, "As to myself, without leaving from my chair, I was everywhere with you".

Pourquoi s'être arrêté ici ? Les promenades sur la plage c'est pour les amoureux.

GREG voix off : It's depressing here. I feel safe in the car. I want to stop only when we have to. I think she agrees with me.

SOPHIE voix off : Le dimanche soir c'était le soir d'Hervé, il venait chez moi à 7 heures, et je lui servais une soupe de légumes l'hiver, et un gaspacho l'été. Les deux seules choses que je sais faire. Je ne dois pas laisser ma mémoire le trahir. Je pourrais garder son numéro de téléphone dans mon carnet, ses photos sur le mur, un de ses livres toujours ouvert sur la table de nuit, je pourrais porter les colliers africains et les bijoux porte malheur qu'il m'a donné, et chaque dimanche soir à 7 heures...

GREG : We drove all day south and only for dinner in Charleston... by two am we arrived at the Mulberry Hotel in Savannah.

SOPHIE voix off : Lui avec ses shorts, et ce machin sur la tête, et moi dans mes caleçons, on ne peut pas dire qu'on fasse de gros efforts de séduction. Un peu triste, mais peut-être est-ce mieux ainsi. Je ne sais pas comment ça a commencé peut-être m'a-t-il demandé si Charleston m'avait déprimée, et j'ai dû répondre : non c'est l'échec qui me déprime. Il a dit alors que le mot était trop dramatique, que le fait d'être sincère avec moi n'était pas un signe d'échec, et je répliquais que de n'être pas désiré c'était un échec. Cela aurait pu être une conversation déterminante mais je me suis endormie. No sex last night.

GREG voix off : Last night we heard a new noise under the hood. First stop today is a mechanic.

MECHANIC: Leave it alone. It should be all right.

SOPHIE voix off : On dirait qu'il assiste à l'accouchement de sa femme.

GREG : I'm suprised this happened.

MECHANIC: Have a good day now.

GREG : Thank you !

SOPHIE : So ?

GREG : Nice guy.

SOPHIE voix off : This time it was the power steering mount.

GREG voix off : We had a nice lunch at Mrs Wilks'. Later I turned West without thinking about it. We won't go to Miami. Like her, I ordered a hamburger. It was the first red meat I'd had in 11 years. She looks good with a cigarette. I wish I was more in love with her.

SOPHIE voix off : Je n'aurais pas dû manger ce hamburger, je suis déjà malade.

GREG voix off : We drove until 2 am until and reached Point Clear, Alabama.

SOPHIE voix off : This morning, Greg called Joe Newman, a man he hopes to meet who invented a magnetic moter and who lives nearby. They spoke for ten minutes about these machines and Greg cried.

SOPHIE voix off : Il pleure là dessus, mais où est-ce qu'il va donc chercher ses émotions ? Ca c'est un mystère.

GREG : I take my son into the backyard, show him the stars, and tell him he will be using his father's technology to fly to other solar systems in 20 years time. Newman says, I wouldn't tell him that if I didn't believe it.

SOPHIE voix off : Alors c'est ça le genre d'histoire qui le fait pleurer.

GREG : He's going to run for President after this announcement is made.

SOPHIE : And you behind him? Nice couple.

GREG : Nice couple ?

SOPHIE : Him and you. You should get somewhere. He's going to run for President and you are going to help it.

GREG : Are you being...? I don't know... I'm not quite.

SOPHIE : I'm being ironic.

GREG : You're being ironic. Yeah, should be good.

SOPHIE : Yeah.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night. We drove on and found lunch in Fairport, Alabama. A woman came to the table to explain that she was God's practical joke. Then she told us about her Picassos.

WOMAN: Picassos ! Picassos here !

SOPHIE : You have Picassos ?

GREG voix off : I should find a phone while she is busy.

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce qu'il croit aussi tout ce qu'elle dit.

GREG voix off : So far nothing has gone right on this trip. I wish I had met Newman but I didn't get a chance to. I should tell Sophie about how God speaks to him electromagnetically, that would really have got her going but she had enough fun at his expense already. Right now I'd settle for getting out of this depression.

GREG : The temepature is way up.

SOPHIE : Is it us that smells like that?

GREG : Yeah.

SOPHIE voix off : Quoi encore ?

GREG voix off : Pretend like it's no big deal.

SOPHIE voix off : This time the car over heated. Two hours delay. Later, we drove to New Orleans.

GREG voix off : We arrived at night and after a walk in the French district we took a room in the Hotel Provincial. The next day it rained and we didn 't leave the room. Each in our own bed, we privately spoke to our cameras and wrote in our diaries. We said little to each other.

SOPHIE voix off : When I asked Greg if he was including our sex life in his diary, he responded that no he wasn't, that it would be no more interesting that saying we had lunch. I said the difference was, we had lunch every day. He didn't laugh. Then he told me another version of his script. I simulated listening. No sex both nights. First stop was a garage.

GREG : Be as quick as I can.

GREG voix off : She knows I have no money but I am not going to ask her. I am reduced to stealing two dollars at every fill-up. You've become her hostage. Even if you left, how far could you go. Sleeping is the only escape. Anyway we're on our way to New Iberia because some stranger just told us to go.

WOMAN: No detour. See you got a cut-off, go straight. Then you have a cut-off go to right. Just keep straight, straight up that bridge. Keep straight.

SOPHIE voix off : Years ago, my father told me I had bad breath. He made an appointment for me to see a generalist. When I arrived, I realized it was a psychoanalyst. I could not believe my father had sent me to one, knowing the allergy to them. My first comment to the doctor was there must be some mistake, my father sent me to see a generalist because he said I had bad breath and the man replied, “ You do everything your father tells you to do ? ” I became his patient. Two hours later, we arrived in New Iberia, the town we were told to go to.

GREG voix off : It looks like every other place we've been. The light's on, the door's open. I need to take a piss. Can I leave her here alone ?

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce prudent d'aller au toilette avec tous ces types ?

GREG voix off : These guys make me nervous.

MAN: Where are you all from ?

GREG : The East coast. I'm from Massachussetts, she's from Paris.

MAN: She's from France ?

SOPHIE : Yeah she's from France.

MAN: What made you all come out this way ?

SOPHIE voix off : Le fantasme de me faire violer sur un billard.

GREG voix off : Good question!

GREG : We're driving to California.

GREG voix off : These guys are harmless.

MAN: You know... you know a bow and arrow, Robin Hood.

SOPHIE : Un arc, une flèche.

MAN: Une flèche? What's the name of that... We didn't know what it was.

SOPHIE voix off : Bon Dieu il est épuisant.

MAN: What is that old thing they call... a mule...?

SOPHIE : Une charette.

MAN: I'm trying to think of another word, une flèche...

SOPHIE : Une flèche oui... c'est une flèche

MAN : What about a wild cat ?

SOPHIE : Un chat sauvage.

MAN: What about a wild coon ass ?

SOPHIE voix off : C'est le moment de partir.

SOPHIE : We go ?

SOPHIE voix off : They invited us to their OTV and Greg accepted.

MAN: We are the wild coon asses of New Iberia, Louisiana and we have track-betting and you all are going to have a good time.

MAN: We ain't the best but the best don't mess with us.

SOPHIE : The black people on the other side and the white people on this side ?

MAN: Mostly black.

SOPHIE : Really ? And it's not the same bets ?

SOPHIE voix off : Il y a dix ans j'aurais fait un scandale, et maintenant j'écoute ces gentils petits racistes, sans dire un mot.

SOPHIE : What did you ask it ?

MAN: I'll tell you right now, I asked if Frenchwomen are better in bed than American women ?

SOPHIE : If Frenchwomen ? What did he answer ?

SOPHIE voix off : Ce crétin, qu'est-ce qu'il en sait ?

GREG voix off : I'm acting just like these assholes.

GREG : I ain't going to say.

GREG voix off : Let's leave while they are still friendly... I'm talking to her and she says nothing. I don't even know if she's listening at this point. I never know if her silence is sincere or if there is some tactic involved. It's hard. She pisses me off with her opinions, even if I agree with them. I'm getting tired of listening to her French in that camera. Say what you are thinking, just say what you want to say. I hope she wasn't serious about that idea of getting married in Vegas. You don't have to please her. I wonder if Hannah is interested in me.

SOPHIE : How much ?

GREG : Well, with taxes twenty five seventy eight.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night.

GREG : She still thinks I am writing to Kate.

SOPHIE voix off : Accélérer, ralentir, qu'est-ce que je peux faire d'autres pour qu'il cesse d'écrire. Je devrais lui parler de son script, ça le met toujours de bonne humeur. Quand est-ce que j'amène la conversation sur Las Vegas ?

GREG : So want me to read this to you ? The city for the 21st century, the big D to its admirers, Dallas somehow captures the myth of modern America.

SOPHIE voix off : We went to a rodeo. No sex last night... First stop was a mechanic. We left the car for a quick tune-up, it made Greg happy.

GREG : My biting started in Oklahoma. I realized that last night, this morning when I woke up. I stopped doing it, but I already... I stopped that finally, I made it my New Years' resolution, I finally stopped... the biting... I had been saying stop biting for years... and then I started over here, biting the hair over here, and that turned into being the whole arm and the hands and everything, and I remember living in a house and telling all the kids in school that I lived in the house next door...

SOPHIE : Why did you say you lived in the house next door ?

GREG : It was a nicer house and I told the kids.. but then I couldn't have any kids over, it was really weird... because of you I'm going to the place where all this stuff started... but I remember walking into... my mother was away... I remember walking into my parents' bedroom, the babysitter was in bed with my father...

SOPHIE : The babysitter was in bed with your father ?

GREG : Yeah. The one that taught me how to kiss. It was so... shocking. I just sort of left and pretended like it never happened.

SOPHIE : Is it the only woman whose mouth you share with your father ?

SOPHIE voix off : They told us we need a new carburettor. Life installs itself in the garage. Qui est ce H à qui il écrit ?

GREG : Tell me.

SOPHIE : What ?

GREG : You just said, " Let me tell you something, I hope it won't put you in a bad mood. "

SOPHIE : Yes.

GREG : And then you reach for your camera at the same time I reach for mine.

SOPHE : Well you know it's just a way of behaving with me, I would like to ask you something. Obviously, yesterday, when we were in that parking and you were very angry and all this you know, I knew when you left, ten minutes, I am not completely stupid, when you leave ten minutes and you say it was always busy, I know it's because... you go to call New York, I'm... It's an intuition but I know it's right, so the result is first that I know you are hiding it to me, so the idea of lying and then it's a very ugly place for me to wait, it's cold, depressing, so if you were like calling from another place when we are having lunch or dinner, first, maybe I wouldn't like you call, but I wouldn't... there I didn't like you calling, then I didn't like waiting in the cold in that ugly place and then I didn't like the idea of the obvious lie, so if you were calling just saying to me, I would have at least two things off, I wouldn't wait in the cold place in the car and I would not have the feeling that you are hiding it to me, so maybe I would not like but it would be less things that I did not like.

GREG : So my response to that ?

SOPHIE : Maybe. If you want .

GREG : If you'd like me to tell you whenever I call New York, call Kate, I will.

SOPHIE : No...

GREG : I went there, A, my first thing was biological, I was very frustrated because I was lost, I went in there to pee, that was the first thing I did, the second thing I did as soon I got on the phone, was I tried the number for the rodeo, it was busy, and it started doing that (sound) because I was dialling the one before the area code as we finally found out, and then while it was busy, I'm standing by a phone, I said this is a quiet, private moment I have, I said I'll call Kate so I call Kate collect, talk to her for three or four minutes, it's sort of a disaster, and then I try calling again, and then I came out, came to the car, and that's where we took up again. So if you would like me from now on to tell you when I call her, I will, the reason is I didn't is 'cos on the way down to Dallas and you apparently noticed as you just noticed what I was writing just now in your way of constantly searching through, and turning up evidence of things, and invasion of privacy which you and I both know...

SOPHIE : Specialize

GREG : Yeah which you specialize in and you were crying so my... mind went to well she's upset that I am writing Kate a letter, whether it's accurate or not, this is what I was going on, you were crying about something, so I'm going to call Kate and I'm not going to make a thing about it with Sophie. But I'm very willing, because I don't want to be secretive about things, I'm very very willing to tell you whatever.

SOPHIE : Yeah. Do. Because I feel it, so that's worse.

GREG : For the last three nights, I've slept with different women each night.

SOPHIE : Yeah ? What do you mean ?

GREG : Well I've dreamed about three different women and slept with three different women, two of them I've never seen before.

SOPHIE : What do you mean ?

GREG : Two of them I've never seen before, I mean, you know ?

SOPHIE : Do you think it is because you have such a busy sexy dream life that you don't have a sexy life in reality?

GREG : It's a possibility. Are you OK.

SOPHIE voix off : 7 hours. 600 dollars.

SOPHIE : Saturday.

GREG : Is it still Saturday ? Well here we go.

SOPHIE voix off : It took us two hours to find the house in which Greg's babysitter taught him to kiss. After a few minutes, he wanted to leave. Shortly after, the car started to shake. We had to stop. Greg left early for his Sunday visit to the garage... No.

GREG : Breakfast in El Reno.

SOPHIE voix off : Nous avons trouvé un restaurant avec vue sur le garage.

GREG voix off : 500 dollars, 3 hours. How am I going to tell her ?

SOPHIE : What is happening, tell me ?

GREG : Well, we'll sell the car as soon as we get to California.

SOPHIE : How much ?

GREG : I don't even know if we have enough, that's the problem.

SOPHIE : How long ?

SOPHIE voix off : Cet enculé, la seule chose qu'il avait à faire avant le départ c'était de vérifier la voiture.

GREG voix off : She's taking it better than I thought.

SOPHIE voix off : And the joke cost 700 dollars for a new transmission, and lasted 14 hours between garage, restaurant, garage, restaurant, garage, restaurant, garage...

WOMAN: Goodbye!

SOPHIE voix off : Hier je lui ai finalement demandé qui était cette Martha, qui lui a laissé un si tendre message sur le répondeur à New York. Il a répondu que c'était sa soeur Melissa. Je suis trop paranoïaque. Je me souviens de cette histoire qu'on m'a raconté un jour, l'histoire d'un homme qui avait découvert que sa femme le trompait, et qui a souffert en silence pendant seize ans. Enfin n'en pouvant plus, il a laissé éclater sa jalousie, et sa femme l'a convaincu, sans aucun doute possible, qu'il s'était trompé, alors il a quitté la pièce, il est allé se tirer une balle dans la tête.

GREG voix off : Sophie is no more ambitious than you, she's just upfront about it. She's just being herself and you're holding that against her. You're jealous because you're not as real as she is. Even if you don't agree with her unwillingness to be open you've got to realize you can't force her to act like your mother. It's not up to her to help you be yourself. Stop

looking for women to save you, that's it. She commits herself and you don't. I wish I could talk to her about these things. The first thing she does is make everything ironic. I'm afraid to talk to her about anything spiritual, she's so judgemental. I still feel guilty about my lack of desire. Anyway she seems to have lost interest. Maybe now it's OK. Her face is so peculiar, she's got those beautiful eyes, and that nose and the incredible mouth and then no chin. Strips of good and bad. The car still needs a tune-up. Let it go for now.

SOPHIE voix off : Il ne connaît pas Don Juan. Peut-être que s'il ne passait pas son temps à lire ses bouquins sur les vitamines, ou ses manuels du type : comment écrire un bon script, il en saurait plus sur Mozart. Je n'oserais jamais lui dire ça en face.

GREG voix off : She's been lost in that camera for two hours without saying a word. Like the perfect travelling companion.

SOPHIE : No.

SOPHIE voix off : Au moins aujourd'hui on va se débarrasser de son cadillac ranch, je n'en peux plus de cette voiture, et lui qui continue de l'excuser.

GREG voix off : It's good to have these destinations until you get there and then what ? Same with the house. After all those memories, what have you got left ?
I should at least get excited after all the fuss I made getting here. Then we picked up a hitchhiker because I thought it was a girl with a guitar...

SOPHIE : Ce type sent tellement mauvais, au moins si je conduis je serai plus loin de lui.

GREG : I don't understand, you want to drive or you don't want to drive?

SOPHIE : Yeah, I want to drive.

GREG : You want to drive or you don't want me to drive?

SOPHIE : I want to drive.

GREG voix off : Controlling bitch, what's her problem now ?

GREG : All right, that's fine with me.

GREG voix off : A few moments later, she picked up a highway patrolman. Let's see her con her way out of this one.

SOPHIE voix off : I told him I'm so happy you are my first Texas policeman. It worked.

SOPHIE : OK, so thanks for not giving me ticket and... I hope... thank you a lot...

GREG : So you got a polite warning. I can't believe he didn't even ask for the registration.

SOPHIE : Yeah.

SOPHIE voix off : Cette voiture est devenue ma maison, pourquoi est-ce que Greg a laissé rentrer ce type.

SOPHIE : What ?

HITCHHIKER: You understand ?

SOPHIE : When I think I was not even going to mention this to you because I thought well it's your hitchhiker and if I say something mean it would be like attacking your protégé... I even though you would think the smelling was a fantasy of mine.

GREG : How could it be a fantasy ? Sophie, please ! It was the most disgusting smell. I mean people... I have smelled people that bad like in New York on the streets and stuff but I have never sat in the car with them for three hours. Oh God! I didn't think it would have been a fantasy, but don't call them a protégé just because I offer them a ride...

GREG voix off : Later we visited Susan Rothenberg and Bruce Naumann's house. It was a beautiful evening and the first escape we had had from each other.

SOPHIE voix off : No. No.

GREG voix off : At dinner Sophie read an excerpt from about her work on unhappiness, the story of a man and his car.

SOPHIE voix off : It is an image of happiness which made me suffer the most in my life. It happened in 1964 on Montparnasse Boulevard one sunny Sunday morning. I had bought an American convertible car which was light blue. In the car was a woman I loved and our son who was wearing a yellow raincoat and as I was driving I realized how rare such a moment of happiness was although this image of happiness came back to me like a knife, as sharp as the death of happiness. It remained a painful image for years; I had the same dream every night. The woman I loved was not saying anything but it meant, I don't love you anymore. It was as clear as God the Father speaking on a cinemascope screen. I had this nightmare every night for 7 years, exactly as many unhappy nights as I had lived happy days. When I asked Greg what he thought of our hosts his reply was "they are in love". Next stop, Santa Fé.

GREG : How they feel Sophie ?

GREG voix off : She offered to buy me this hat but I asked for the 50 dollars to buy the kids something when we get to Taos.

GREG : I just realized I haven't been pissed with this car one time the whole trip. I'm thinking about that because I've been pissed at you every day for something.

SOPHIE : But you are in love with the car. When you are in love with something you are never pissed.

GREG : At least I am having a real relationship with you. I'm not having a real relationship with the car. You are one of the rare people in my life I'm allowed to be... a human being where I can get pissed at you, everything... So..

SOPHIE : So it's good ?

GREG : Yeah !

GREG voix off : When is she going to bring up her whole Vegas wedding idea that she had before the trip ?

SOPHIE : What are you thinking about?

GREG : The script...

GREG voix off : Later we arrived in Taos where a friend had loaned us his house.

SOPHIE : No.

GREG voix off : We spent the day with my sister and her kids. Sophie's no help, she knows I need those 50 dollars for the kids but I am not going to beg for it. She says nothing, there's just nothing in it for her. I've never been so humiliated.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night. At ten below zero, the car didn't start.

Greg a demandé 20 fois au mécaniciens : c'est le froid n'est-ce pas ? Pour être sûr que je comprenais que ce n'était pas la faute de la voiture. Je m'en fous de toute façon, j'en a marre de ce voyage. J'aimerais tellement oublier seulement conduire. Il y a 2 nuits il m'a obligé à lui dire pourquoi j'avais l'air si triste. J'ai répondu que moi même j'avais été contaminée par son manque de désir. Il a dit qu'il était simplement profondément déprimé, que je perdais vite courage, qu'il commençait à se rapprocher de moi alors que je m'éloignais, et puis après je ne sais plus mais il sanglotait comme un enfant. Alors je l'ai pris dans mes bras, et une fois de plus nous avons laissé là mes problèmes pour plonger dans les siens. Mais hier, avec Rebecca et les enfants j'aurais dû simuler l'intérêt. Ma lassitude était la plus forte, et déjà je savais que j'allais payer cher mon humeur. Je connais à l'avance ses reproches. Il me reste que 2 jours pour essayer d'avoir un bon souvenir de ce voyage.

MAN: Here we are.

SOPHIE voix off : It lasted three hours, cost 300 dollars. Greg chuchote dans sa caméra, quand il fait ça je l'imagine en train de dire les pires choses sur moi.

GREG voix off : I made shopping plans with the kids right in front of her but she still didn't give me the money. What was she thinking about ? This is not going to happen again. Just make sure she doesn't corner you in this position anymore. Admit it. The problem is you need her too much to like her. If only she'd take that camera off me.

GREG : I'm with you baby. I know your game inside and out and back again. That's what I say. I memorized your game in the dark.

SOPHIE : I never know if it's big or small.

GREG : No.

SOPHIE : No. I mean, I know if somebody asked me to tell them and I would go and look and maybe I would measure and I don't know I would figure out I guess but I forget to think about it.

GREG : You do ?

SOPHIE : So since I forget all the time I can't compare.

GREG : Yeah, yeah... that would be hard to compare.

SOPHIE : Some people who have memory and who would have looked, they can compare. Me to compare, I would have to have two penises side by side which I have never asked to men. I could one day. You know, when I think sexual life is over, that I think about something

else, I should try to get all the men I had once inside me, ask them to undress and for the first time look at their penis, with a way to compare, just realize who was... which was the big one, the nice one, to make a conclusion, since I am a sexual obsédée.

GREG : I like the way you eat chocolate as soon as you start talking about sex.

SOPHIE : I would like to remind you that I had a chocolate half an hour ago and we were not talking about sex.

GREG : No, that's exactly what I mean, there was a synchronistic moment that you picked up sex and bit down on a piece of chocolate as you were talking about the penis.

SOPHIE : Well I have to... How do you say, bit down ?

GREG : You bit down.

SOPHIE : I have to bit down on something,

GREG : Exactly.

SOPHIE : Chocolate is all I have.

GREG voix off : Greetings from Monument Valley.

SOPHIE voix off : No.

GREG voix off : The car seems to be running OK now. I can't let her find out that I spent the money she sent me to get it fixed before the trip. There's no way I'm selling it in California, it's the only thing I've got left. When is she going to bring up Vegas ?

SOPHIE voix off : Tuba City Garage: oil leak. Comment est-ce que je peux encore penser à épouser cette homme. Je ne devrais même pas aborder le sujet, il faudrait que je le quitte.

GREG voix off : Is she crying because of me ?

SOPHIE voix off : En attendant il faut que je l'oublie.

GREG : We could see a strip show, I don't know ?

SOPHIE : Yeah. We can see. And are we getting married in Las Vegas, or is it....

GREG voix off : Here we go, this is it...

SOPHIE :... something we forgot about ?

GREG voix off : How am I going to handle this one ?

GREG : Well, I hadn't forgotten about it. What are your thoughts ?

SOPHIE : I just asked you.

GREG : Did you bring your dress ?

SOPHIE : No.

GREG : Shucks. Well...

SOPHIE : You can rent everything.

GREG : Yeah but you really said you wanted to be... very disappointed if you didn't get married in a French wedding dress.

SOPHIE voix off : Il pourrait trouver une meilleure excuse...

GREG : You didn't bring the dress. Well !

SOPHIE : Were you going to talk about

GREG : What ?

SOPHIE : About this if I didn't ask you.

GREG : Definitely ! I was going

SOPHIE voix off : menteur.

GREG : Say something but we just stick that on the subject of Las Vegas. Las Vegas is now a reality to me, see it on the road signs, 110 miles.

GREG voix off : I'm glad she can't read my mind !

GREG : Well you hear him stuttering, you hear him stammering, you hear him groping in the dark for words, you hear him sweating, you hear him changing the subject.

SOPHIE : So you want to think about it ?

GREG : Yeah, let's think about it.

SOPHIE : It's 6.48. You give me an answer at 8.48 ?

GREG voix off : I can't believe she's making an appointment.

GREG : Ah... I'll say something at 8.48.

GREG voix off : I've got two hours to decide what I'm doing with my life.

SOPHIE : Did we reach a conclusion.

GREG : The conversation is still active, on the activate list, any time you want it to be. Oh God, imagine people selling their cars for money, when they run out of money. A little white chapel, 24h drive up wedding window. There's a drive up wedding window !

SOPHIE voix off : Voilà peut-être ma seule chance.

GREG : That would be the place we'd do it then.

SOPHIE voix off : Est-ce un oui ?

GREG : Drive-up wedding window. Let's get the car washed. OK, so we are not going to deal with the hotel until we deal with the marriage thing. Is that...

SOPHIE : That would be an idea, yes.

GREG : It would be an idea? Well it is an idea isn't it?

SOPHIE : Yes.

GREG voix off : It's going to be a long night. How do I get out of this one? It's going to be a real nightmare

SOPHIE : To be about precise, I think that if we get married we should spend the night in a place as kitsch as all this.

GREG voix off : God she's tenacious.

SOPHIE : If we don't, I don't care. And I think that definitely we should get married in the drive-in.

GREG : In the drive-in! Well if I get married, it would definitely be in the drive-in...

SOPHIE voix off : Il a dit si.

GREG : I would have to.

SOPHIE voix off : Welcome to Las Vegas. For us the first stop was the car-wash and the first friend, a freelance mechanic.

SOPHIE : Can I ask you something in exchange ? Don't invite him after...

GREG : No, no...

SOPHIE voix off : So Greg, will you marry me? Ca serait tellement plus facile de le quitter s'il n'était pas si beau. Twenty dollars. Forty minutes. Not bad.

GREG : So is our big question then is where we're staying based on what we're doing ?

GREG voix off : So we parked in front of the Mirage, the hotel Sophie thought would fit our wedding night the best. Then we discussed our future.

GREG : So...

SOPHIE : So.

GREG : Well.

SOPHIE : Well ? So ? Go on. What will you do ?

GREG : Well...

SOPHIE voix off : Mon amour, je n'ai jamais eu d'amour propre.

GREG voix off : She wouldn't let me go to a hotel till I gave her an answer. Why does she want so much to marry me? There's just no way I can do it.

SOPHIE voix off : Je ne me souviens plus. Les choses allaient-elles si bien entre nous pour penser l'épouser ? De toute façon maintenant ça ne peut pas être pire. Il fallait tenter quelque chose. Alors pourquoi pas le mariage. After many more hesitations and a few drinks, Greg finally said no. I lost. So we look for another hotel. We found the Circus.

GREG voix off : It's better this way.

SOPHIE voix off : C'est sûrement mieux ainsi. Ce matin au réveil, j'ai dit à Greg, quittons Las Vegas. Il a murmuré, d'abord marions-nous. Je n'ai pas dit un mot. Il était 12.48, jeudi 18 janvier 1992. No sex last night.

GREG voix off : During the night I wondered why I was so scared, so in the morning I asked her to marry me before I got a chance to think about it.

SOPHIE voix off : The first person we announced our wedding to was a mechanic.

GREG voix off : She looks happy. I hope I 'm doing the right thing. This morning, they were the first words out of my mouth. I don't think I was even awake yet.

WOMAN: Is that G R E G O R Y ?

GREG : Yes Ma'am.

WOMAN: Look it over and make sure everything is correct for you ?

SOPHIE voix off : Qu'est-ce qui l'a fait changer d'avis. Trop risqué de lui poser la question.

GREG : If I'd known they weren't going to ask for ID I would have given another name.

SOPHIE voix off : Je n'arrive toujours pas à y croire.

GREG : Next time, I'll know better next time.

GREG voix off : At least by waiting till this morning she had the chance to be asked

SOPHIE voix off : Ca aurait été charmant de porter une robe de mariée, mais un peu excessif.

GREG : OK what's next ?

SOPHIE : Food.

SOPHIE voix off : J'aurais dû répondre mariage d'abord. Maintenant j'ai peur d'ouvrir la bouche. Il pourrait changer d'avis à tout moment.

MAN: 1991: 55 weddings. 115 minutes.

GREG : 115 minutes ?

MAN: One every 15 minutes.

GREG : How many of them do you think are still together ?

MAN: National stats is about 50/50.

SOPHIE voix off : This is Greg Shepard a few minutes before his wedding.

GREG : I'm just over here to have a little bachelor party by myself, so...

SOPHIE : We should leave you alone. Bye. See you soon.

SOPHIE voix off : So. Greg's bachelor party.

GREG : So how are you feeling in your last moments of bachelorhood ?

SOPHIE : I am very happy to the idea to am becoming an honest woman as my mother said... and...

GREG : Are you glad you are being married here ?

SOPHIE : Yes.

GREG : You chose the place.

SOPHIE : Even the man.

GREG : And the man.

SOPHIE voix off : While waiting at the window, Greg remained positive about our future.

GREG : There's no way you can rescind the wedding due to non-payment.

WOMAN: They pay cash. A lot of people wake up the next morning and decide they don't want to do this.

GREG : So what to do they do ?

WOMAN: They have to go get a divorce or annulment.

GREG : Do you have another window for that ?

GREG voix off : Then the time finally came;

SOPHIE voix off : Merde, où est-ce qu'il va ?

GREG voix off : Am I really doing this ? Is this really happening ? It's OK, she agreed to the 3 month trial, with an option to renew.

SOPHIE voix off : Je m'en fous de son histoire de trois mois. Des conneries. On verra alors. Je ne comprends toujours pas comment il a pu changer d'avis. Est-ce parce que j'ai prétendu que le mariage était seulement valide dans le Nevada ? Il n'a pas pu avaler ça.

GREG voix off : She reminds me of my fourth grade music teacher. I don't believe she is really a Minister. I can't understand a word she is saying. Just watch her lips move and smile. At some point you just got to say yes. Stop it now and listen.

SOPHIE voix off : Ca y est c'est fait. J'aurais été mariée une fois, je ne serai plus jamais une vieille fille. Est-ce que j'ai fait tout ce cirque parce que ma mère s'est mariée trois fois, et que moi je n'ai été demandée en mariage qu'une fois et par un homme que je n'aimais pas. Un jour j'oublierai ce par quoi je suis passée, et tout ce dont je me souviendrai c'est qu'un homme m'a désirée assez pour m'épouser

GREG voix off : I should have gotten a hair cut.

SOPHIE voix off : Quel soulagement, je n'aurais jamais pensé que je voulais tellement me marier. Je me suis toujours moquer des autres, et maintenant voilà. Le plus incroyable c'est que c'est ce mariage dans la voiture qui l'a poussé à dire oui. Finalement je dois mon mariage à une Cadillac.

GREG voix off : That's it, I'm married.

GREG : How does it feel to be married ?

SOPHIE voix off : Je suis heureuse Greg. Merci.

SOPHIE : Without words.

GREG voix off : As a wedding gift, I had my palm read. The woman ordered Sophie to leave the room and proceeded to explain that I was in love with someone else.

SOPHIE voix off : I am married.

GREG voix off : She also knew Sophie was an artist and said she was too deep ever to be successful and should find something else to do.

SOPHIE voix off : Goodbye Las Vegas.

GREG : I'll never forget you.

SOPHIE : I'll never forget you.

GREG : It's amazing, it's like she's someone else now ; I wonder if talking to her will be the same power struggle.

SOPHIE : I think that in a certain way it is very good that we didn't find a hotel because to sleep in the car the day we got married in the car is like the only thing we could do. We got married with her. We do have to sleep with her the first night.

GREG : Good night Sophie.

SOPHIE : Good night, Greg.

GREG : It was a nice day today. I hope there is enough room on that front seat for you.

SOPHIE : I am very comfortable, but it is kind of paradoxical that for the first time husband and wife we sleep for the first time in two separate beds.

SOPHIE voix off : Ce n'est pas que ça change grand chose.

GREG : It's the same car though

SOPHIE : I hope that is not a bad sign.

SOPHIE voix off : Ce n'est pas un jour pour être cynique.

GREG : I see nothing wrong with separate beds for married couples.

SOPHIE : Ok. So Good night.

GREG : Sweet dreams. Turn off the ignition. We have Dante's view to wake up to tomorrow.

SOPHIE voix off : No sex last night.

GREG voix off : Mother, I met and married a lovely French girl named Sophie. She is strangely endearing to me but her worst reminds me of yours. You'll probably hate each other. All the best. Greg

SOPHIE voix off : Aude sublime, Greg délicieux, trop de beauté, rien à dire.

GREG : Marriage isn't so bad; At least we are getting along;

SOPHIE voix off : Une femme devrait savoir à quoi ressemble la queue de son mari.

GREG : Use that for some of the scenery, some of the beauty, not here, not like my penis.

GREG voix off : I never reall thought we'd reach LA, not that something would happen to us, but that somehow we would always just keep driving. It is so much a part of what we do now, it's easy to forget that there is an end to it.

SOPHIE voix off : Yes. But the car said no that day. The mechanic said her brakes were a death-trap, so we had to leave her behind and rented a reliable four-door white sedan to complete the trip to San Francisco. Goodbye Caddy.

SOPHIE : Are you falling asleep Greg ?

GREG voix off : We spent the night in the car.

GREG : What ? I got very turned on tonight, I was like, you're my wife and you're laying next me and you're... just the fact that we were married and you're laying there and I maybe want to take... just have you and not for one second did I want to ask or need to ask or feel I should ask I just felt I just want to take you, take you, I'm getting an erection just thinking about you.

SOPHIE voix off : C'est la première chose que le mariage m'ait apporté.

GREG : Sophie Calle.

WOMAN: Are you a student here?

GREG : No, a teacher, art department, this semester.

WOMAN: OK, have a nice day.

SOPHIE voix off : That's how it began.

SOPHIE voix off : I was happy. He had stayed with me and said now and then “ My wife Sophie ”. Our love life was just the opposite of what it once was. A few times he even told me, I love you. A month later, the car was back. My mother visited us. Greg learned how to cook. And I was in the rôle of a teacher. Then came the month of May. On the 1st, I received a call that informed me that my lover and friend the bullfighter Manuel Montoliu had been killed by a bull named Cavatisto in Sevilla. Then I found under Greg's typewriter, a love-letter addressed to H. When I confronted him about him, he answered that it would stop. Jealousy had entered my life; For the summer, we went back to France. I fulfilled my fantasy of wearing a wedding dress when we simulated a wedding on the steps of a church. I had never loved anybody for so long and one day when he threw in my direction a black phone that struck the wall and left a hole in it, I covered it with our wedding picture; In September we returned to California to finish editing the video. That's when I found under his seat in the car the black plastic bag. It contained letters, many letters, written throughout the year, all addressed to H. I don't know how they got there but I read them all. They were passionate letters. In the last one, dated mid-August, I read he said, 'I'll be free in October.' This time he told me that she was just a fantasy and that he had the letters back because he wanted to try to work things out with me. But he had destroyed my memories with him. Every time I look back, I see him writing a letter or thinking about her. I realize that all this year, we have been three, that he kept biting himself and lying to me and to learn these things, I had to sneak. Today, it's the 9th October and my 39th birthday. We are each writing our own endings. This is for me the occasion to tell him that I don't know whether I'll be able to forgive him and love him again.

GREG voix off : I was in trouble. I knew I had to do something. Sophie gave me the chance I needed and the movie kept us very close, but now, what will become of us? Things come to me. Sophie arrived. From that point she decided for me. It was easier because everything was a game. I figured the trip to California would give me a chance to make this project with her and to finish my script and then from that came what I know is love. I have never tried so hard to make a relationship work and so hard to make it fail but now I am in a predicament. I love Sophie but I still send love letters to another woman. It has become a matter of which truth to tell. I learnt lying was the easiest compromise and a way to be somewhere else. I never understood when someone was affected by me because in a way I was never really there. But I am tired of lying and living off of old lies. I have to deal all my life with a world run by confused male voices. But I can't blame them anymore. I have to stop looking to women to validate me. At least now I am giving myself a chance to for the first time to do what I have always wanted to do, to try to tell an honest story.