

**MARGOT:** Oh, *fuck off!* No, *you* fuck off! *You* are the reason people say the publishing industry has gone to pot. You and your *Feng Shui for Beginners!* I mean, for Christ's sake, Theo, whatever happened to learned memoirs by men of letters? What ever *happened* to men of letters...? Oh, I see. They're all writing *Feng Shui for Beginners...* And what was that I heard from a little birdie: *Eddie Murphy, Man or Myth?* This from a publishing house that once made its name on the *Dialectical Definitive in Gender Relations*. How do you sleep at night...? No, no I'm working hard. [*Lolling, enervated, on the daybed*] I'm working *very* hard... Stop worrying! I *am* working hard, it's just taking a little longer than I thought... Haven't you got some little hack scribbling chick-lit from some Irish garret? Shopping. Sex. Men are hopeless. 'Juggling'. Honestly, if I hear that word one more time. Fucking *juggling*. Find someone else to fix the company's woes... I *am* working, I told you. [*Ingeniously and casually divesting herself of her bra as she talks without taking anything else off*] You'll get it when you get it... Well, that's *your* problem... No, *that's your problem...* Well, it's just not 'flowing'... [*The bra comes free and she flings it aside.*] I'm not sure why not... It's hard to put into words... Yes, even for me. [*Beat. Slightly trepidatious*] There's this little concept that keeps popping up, Theo: *stagnation*. There's just a tiny, tiny flicker of concern that finally I'm... Well—I'm bored by the sound of my own voice. Ridiculous, I know... Of course, it's absurd. Who's more interesting than *me?* Who's *ever* been more interesting than me...? *Exactly*. I'll be in the city on Thursday... Well, is that any of your business...? All right, a teeny-weeny oil I'm interested in. Didn't sell at Sotheby's... very pretty... very *very* pretty and the possibility of picking it up for a song... Fine. I'll stop by the office and we can go on from there. And this time don't take me anywhere cheap and ethnic. Hello?