

CONSENSUAL

Evan Placey

DIANE:

I don't know how I got here. I mean I walked but. I didn't walk with the intention of arriving here. Did I come here before? I must have. But why? To drop off some missing work or - don't answer that. It doesn't matter. There's this student at school, Georgia, and she...I lost my job. Today. Because of you. Well, because of. Actually I'm technically suspended but I'll resign before they fire me. One of my colleagues reported me to the Board of Governors. The woman I was mentoring actually. Because that's what happens. The mentee, the student - they all grow up and have minds of their own. And everything you taught them they use against you. I guess it's my fault. I told her what happened. What did happen? Freddie? Because every time I. There's the way I remember things. The way I want to remember things. And the way things happened. And I don't think I can tell them apart. And maybe neither can you. The only thing I can absolutely remember is the first time I saw you. You'd come into the office with your tie loose and askew, your shirt untucked, and a pen in your mouth, drawings on your hands, and you said - 'I think we're gonna be stuck together for a while. I apologise in advance.' And you smiled. And I thought right then - or maybe it was later, maybe it's in hindsight that I thought what I think I thought then. I thought: 'If I were fifteen. 'So maybe I deserve all this. Because at the very least I thought it. And when you'd come see me I liked it. I liked that you needed me. Do you still smoke? Can I have a cigarette? For a long time I hated you. I still hate you I think. You knew what you were doing. Irrespective of me. But I once confronted a man on the street because he threw some rubbish on the ground. I was honestly gobsmacked. And his response was: 'So what? What difference will my one piece of litter do? The world is collapsing with or without me picking up that piece of litter. 'Whether or not you knew what you were doing, I... (*Starts crying.*) I... I need to...I'm sorry. I'm so very sorry...She's hysterical now. I'm so very sorry. I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm...No I don't want you to say anything.