

# A&F

QUARTERLY





**DEAR SAVAS,**  
**FRIEND! THIS IS ALL I WAS ABLE TO DO IN THESE**  
**CRAZY CIRCUMSTANCES! FEEL FREE TO USE ANY**  
**OF MY COMMENTS, OR NOT USE THEM, AND YOU**  
**CAN ALSO USE JUST PARTS OF MY COMMENTS!**  
**ALL BEST, SLAVOJ**



DEAR **SLAVOJ**, ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND THE  
IMAGES FOR OUR BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE.  
WE'VE NEVER HAD A PHILOSOPHER WRITE THE  
TEXT FOR OUR IMAGES BEFORE, SO WRITE  
WHAT YOU LIKE. WE'RE LOOKING FOR THAT  
"KARL MARX MEETS GROUCHO MARX" THING  
YOU DO SO WELL! THANKS, SAVAS





**SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK** IS A MAN WHO WILL TELL  
YOU SOMETHING ABOUT ANYTHING. A SLOVENIAN  
NATIONAL, ALL HEAVY EASTERN EUROPEAN  
ACCENT AND NERVOUS ENERGY, HE'LL EXPOUND ON  
LACANIAN-MARXIST THEORY OR GET CAUGHT  
UP WITH WHY HE THINKS LINDA FIORENTINO IS SO  
SEXY. SOMETIMES BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.  
ŽIŽEK'S *THE SUBLIME OBJECT OF IDEOLOGY* AND  
*THE PLAGUE OF FANTASIES* ARE ALREADY  
CANONICAL CLASSICS. HIS ESSAYS COVER  
EVERYTHING FROM ALFRED HITCHCOCK TO WAR  
AND TERRORISM IN A SERIES OF PARADOXICAL  
(SOMETIMES CONTRADICTIONARY) ARGUMENTS THAT  
BORDER ON COMEDIC GENIUS. HE'S WIDELY  
CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHER  
WORKING TODAY, BUT HERE AT A&F WE LIKE TO  
THINK OF HIM AS OUR OWN ACADEMIC-AT-LARGE.  
SO WHAT BETTER TIME TO CONSULT HIM  
THAN AT **BACK TO SCHOOL?!**

WE TRACKED DOWN ŽIŽEK DURING A WHIRLWIND  
THREE DAYS IN LONDON TO GET HIS INPUT...



















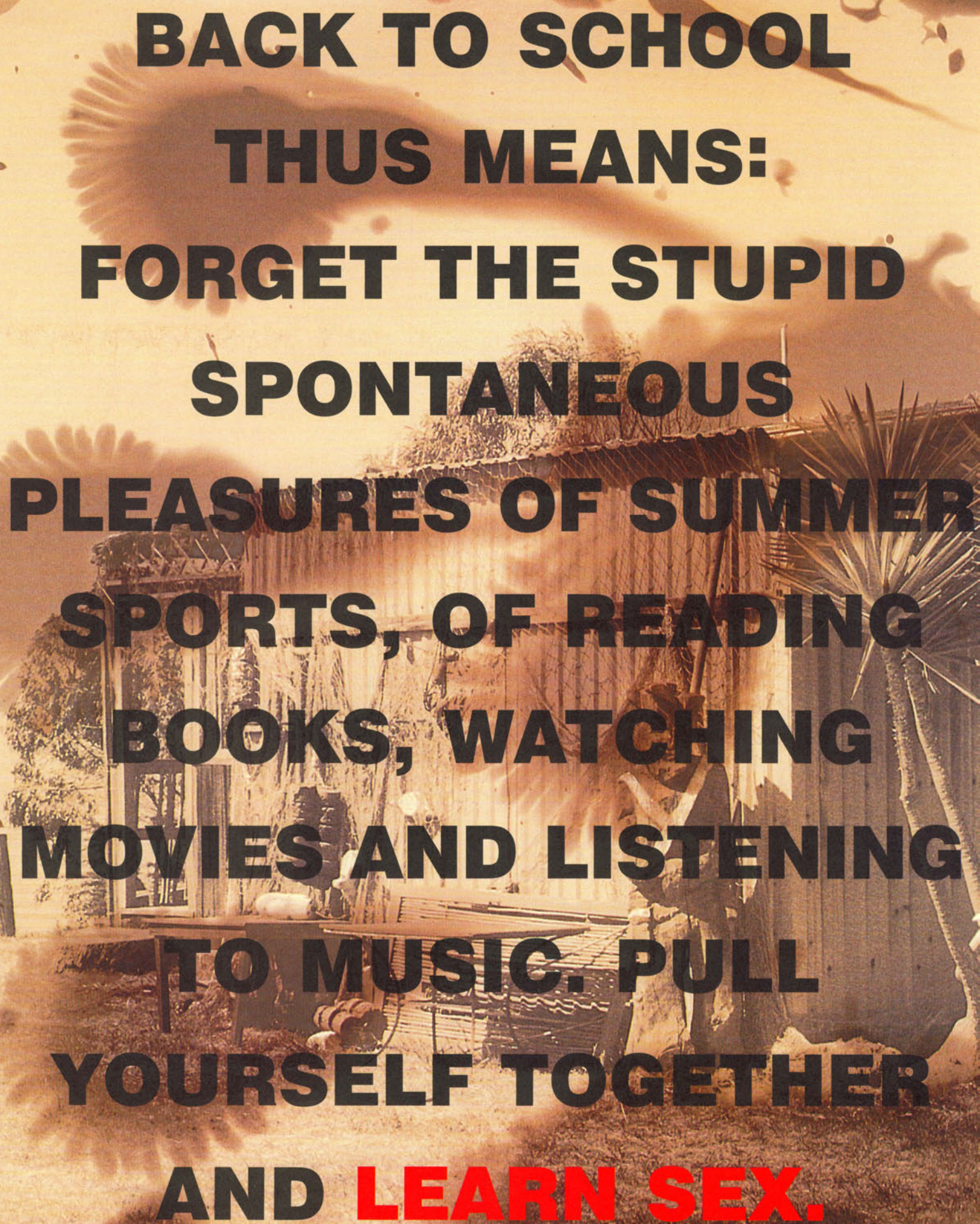
# Abercrombie & Fitch

## BACK TO SCHOOL 2003

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**BACK TO SCHOOL  
THUS MEANS:  
FORGET THE STUPID  
SPONTANEOUS  
PLEASURES OF SUMMER  
SPORTS, OF READING  
BOOKS, WATCHING  
MOVIES AND LISTENING  
TO MUSIC. PULL  
YOURSELF TOGETHER  
AND **LEARN SEX.****

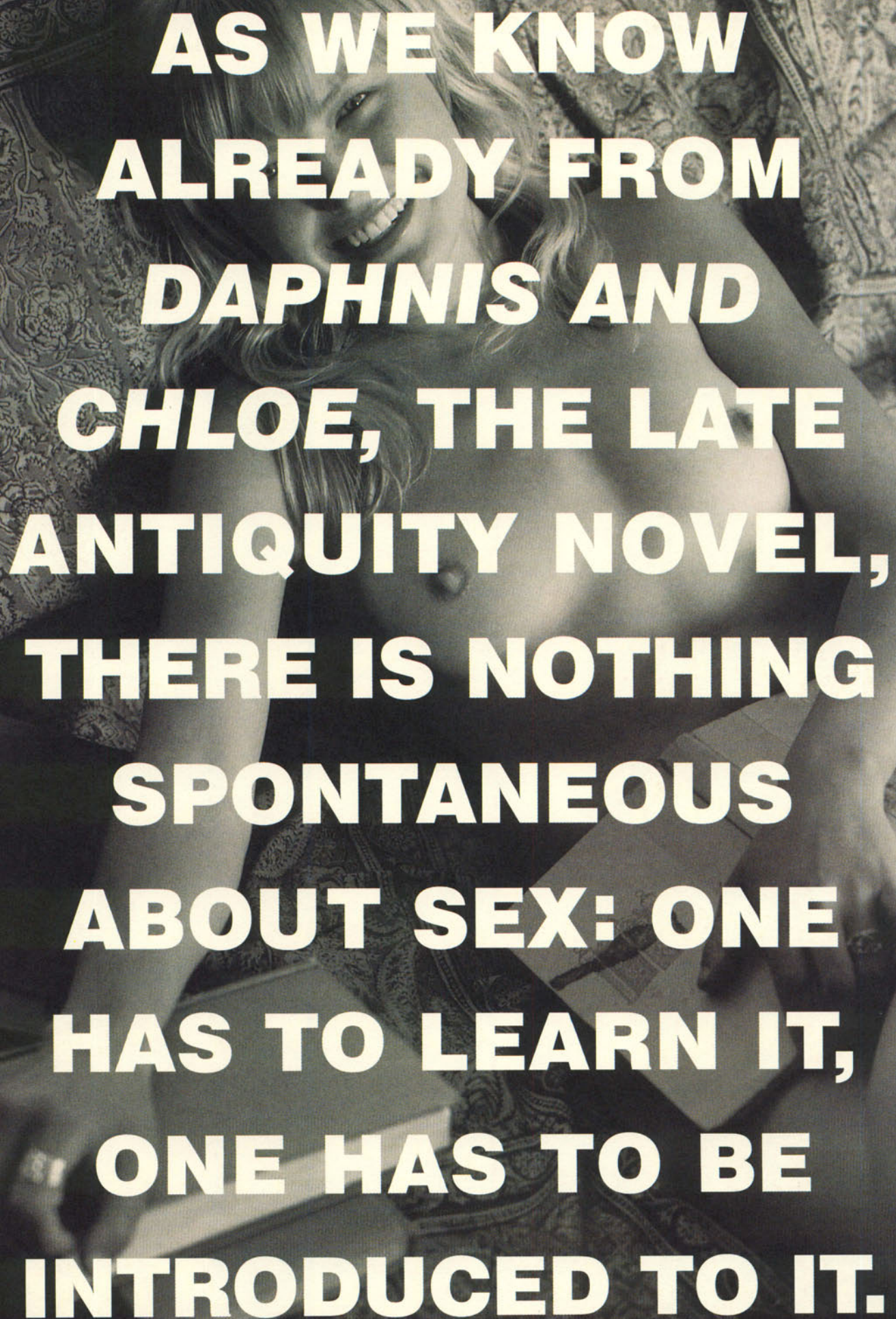












**AS WE KNOW  
ALREADY FROM  
DAPHNIS AND  
CHLOE, THE LATE  
ANTIQUITY NOVEL,  
THERE IS NOTHING  
SPONTANEOUS  
ABOUT SEX: ONE  
HAS TO LEARN IT,  
ONE HAS TO BE  
INTRODUCED TO IT.**

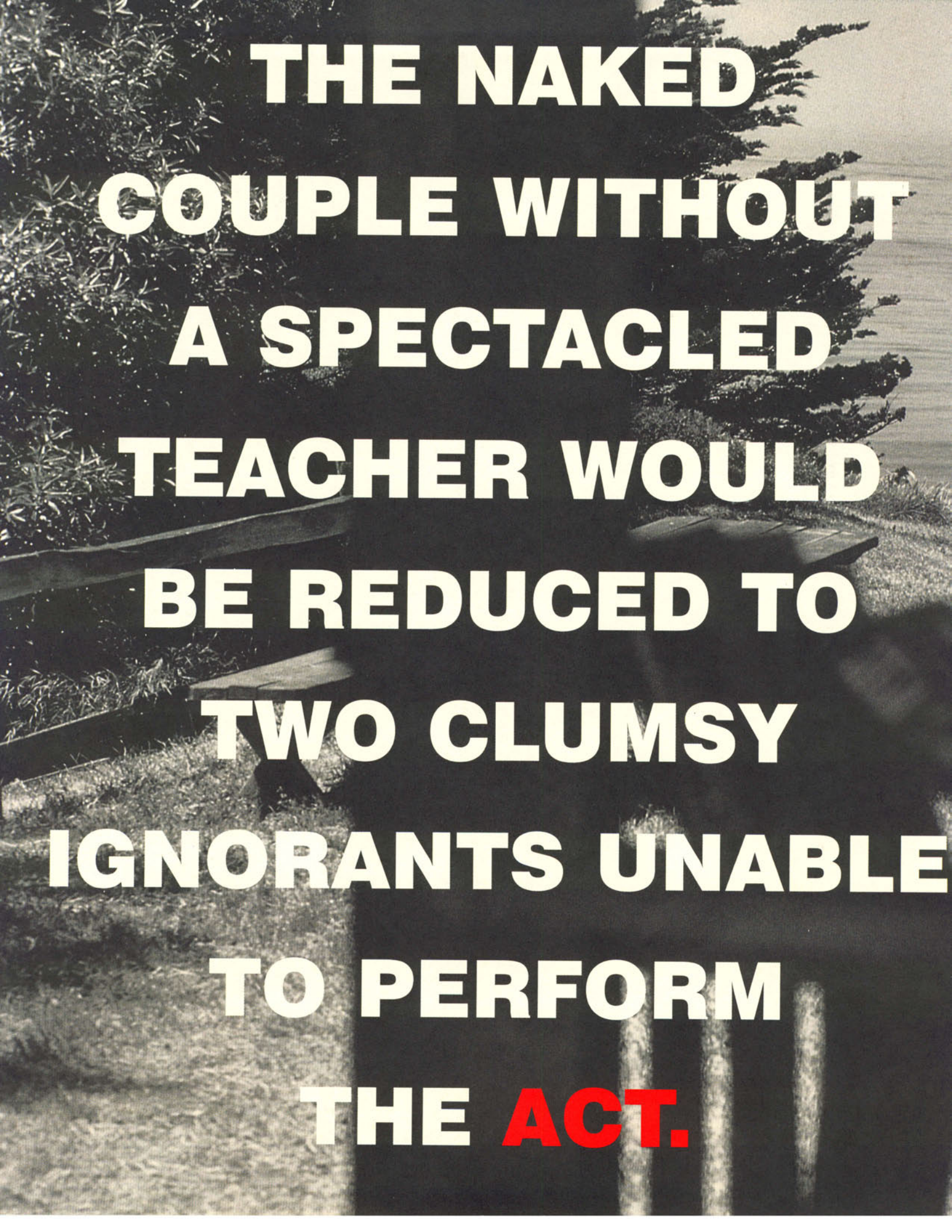












**THE NAKED  
COUPLE WITHOUT  
A SPECTACLED  
TEACHER WOULD  
BE REDUCED TO  
TWO CLUMSY  
IGNORANTS UNABLE  
TO PERFORM  
THE ACT.**























A vintage photograph of a room, likely a parlor or study, with a dark wooden piano in the foreground. A child is sitting on the piano, their hands on the keys. In the background, a white dress hangs on a rack, and a small house-shaped object is visible on the left. The text is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters.

**A MELANCHOLIC  
NOSTALGIA FOR THE  
GOOD OLD  
VICTORIAN DAYS,  
WHEN IT WAS STILL  
A TERRIFYING  
TRANSGRESSION IF  
A MUSIC TEACHER  
SEDUCED THE  
DAUGHTER OF THE  
FAMILY....**

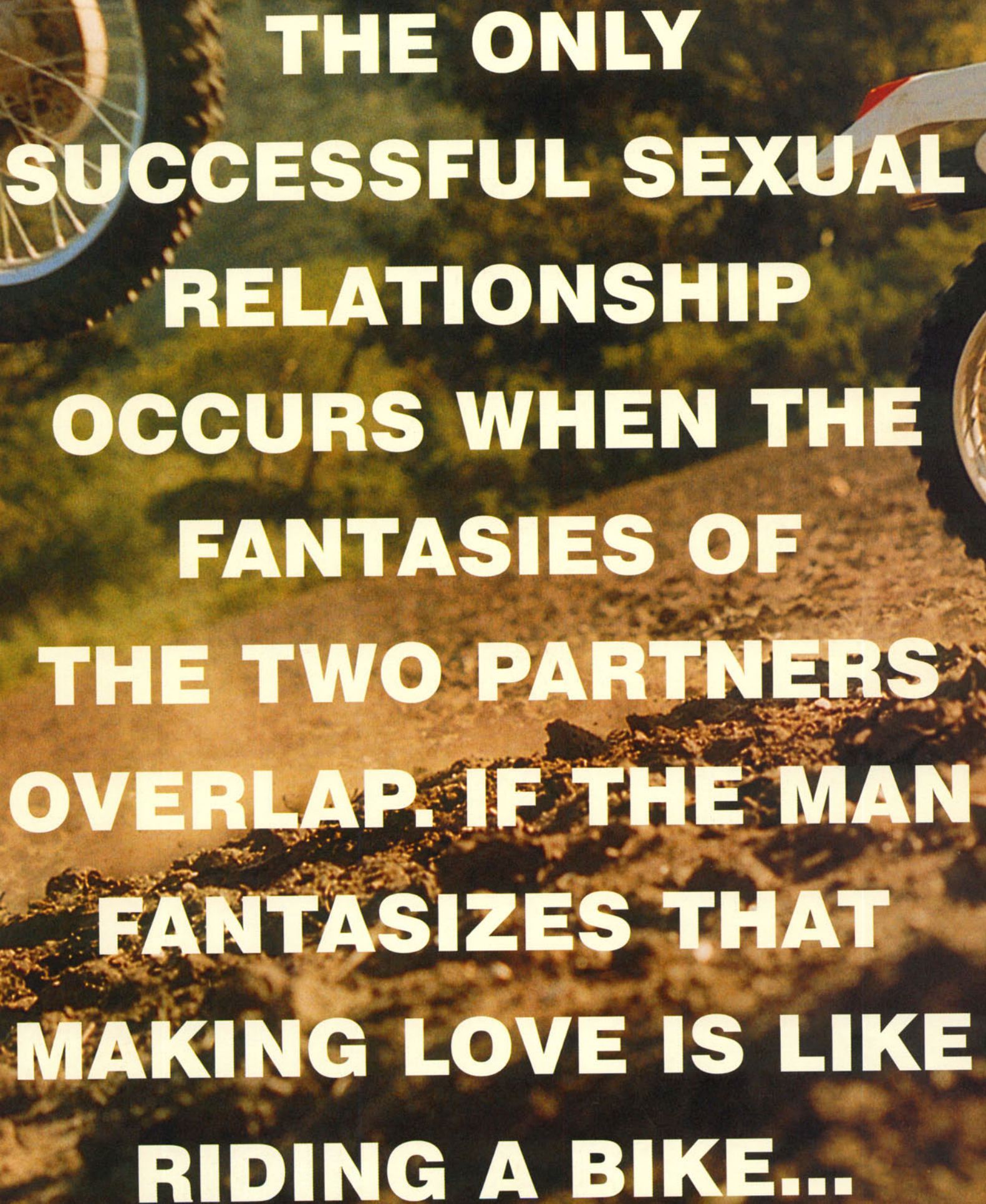










A dirt bike is shown from a low angle, riding on a muddy trail. The front wheel is on the left, and the rear wheel is on the right. The background is a dense forest with green trees. The text is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters.

**THE ONLY  
SUCCESSFUL SEXUAL  
RELATIONSHIP  
OCCURS WHEN THE  
FANTASIES OF  
THE TWO PARTNERS  
OVERLAP. IF THE MAN  
FANTASIZES THAT  
MAKING LOVE IS LIKE  
RIDING A BIKE...**

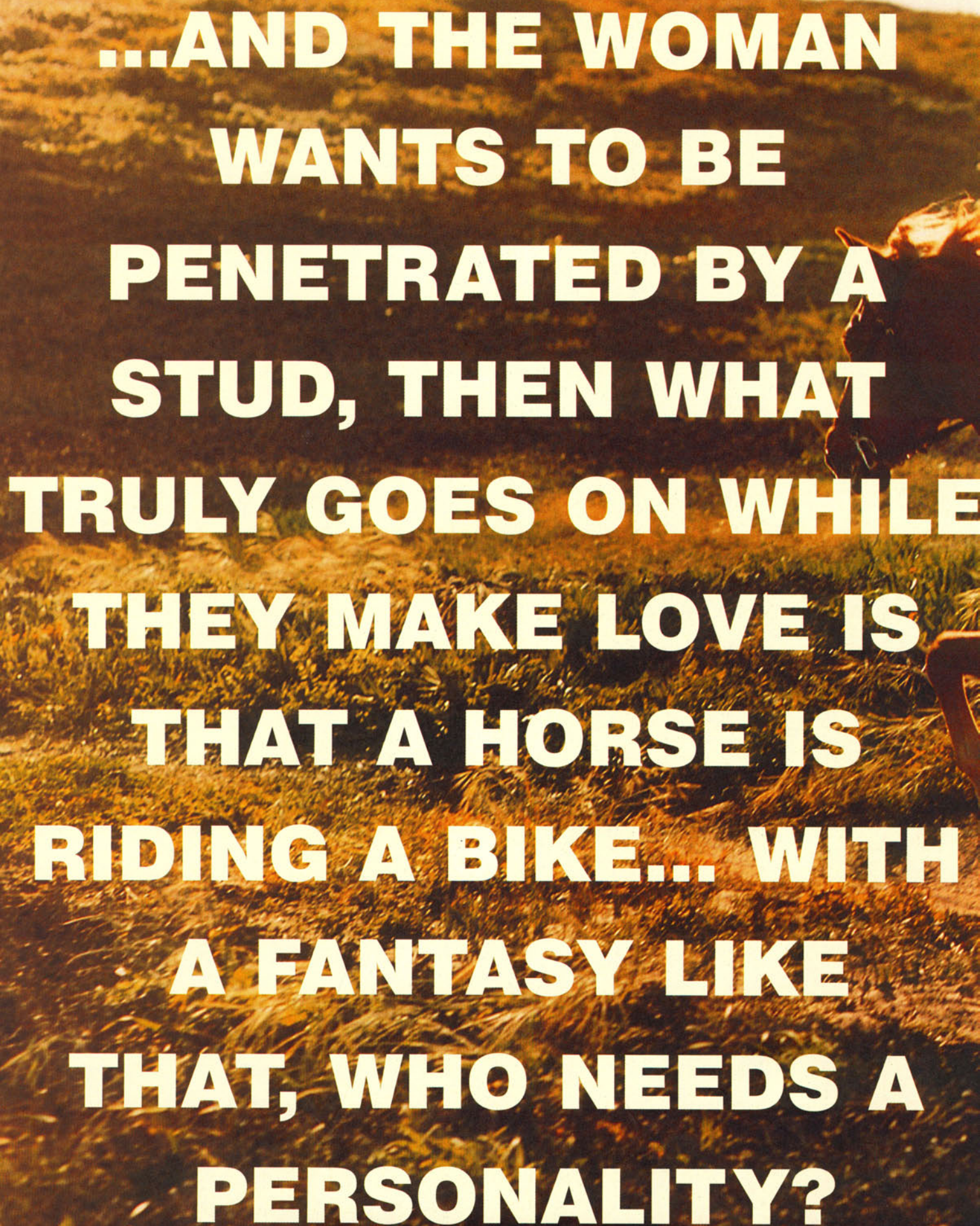










A person is riding a horse in a field of tall, dry grass. The horse is dark-colored and is moving towards the right. The rider is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background is a hilly landscape with more grass and some trees in the distance. The overall tone is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning light.

**...AND THE WOMAN  
WANTS TO BE  
PENETRATED BY A  
STUD, THEN WHAT  
TRULY GOES ON WHILE  
THEY MAKE LOVE IS  
THAT A HORSE IS  
RIDING A BIKE... WITH  
A FANTASY LIKE  
THAT, WHO NEEDS A  
PERSONALITY?**





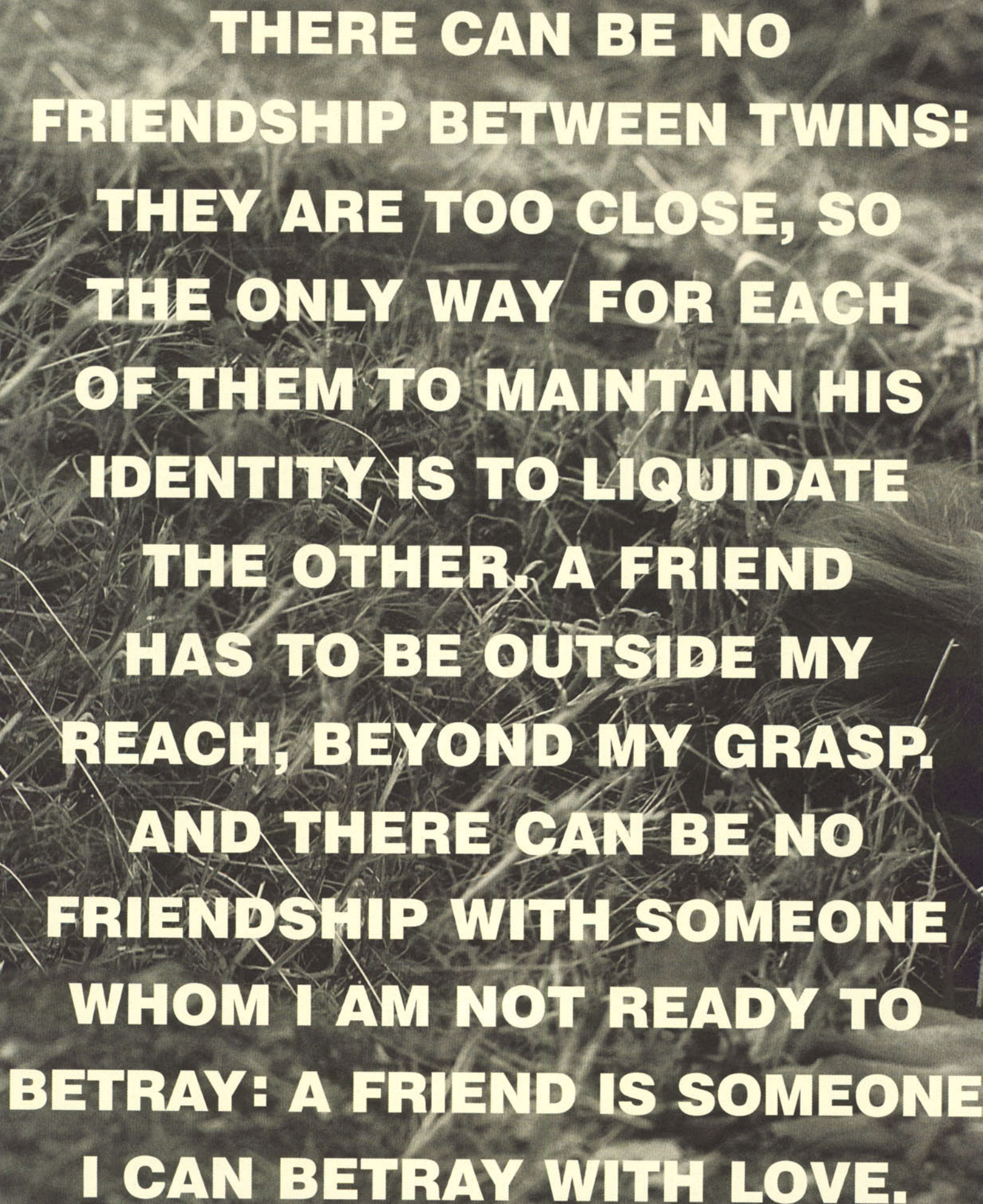












**THERE CAN BE NO  
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWINS:  
THEY ARE TOO CLOSE, SO  
THE ONLY WAY FOR EACH  
OF THEM TO MAINTAIN HIS  
IDENTITY IS TO LIQUIDATE  
THE OTHER. A FRIEND  
HAS TO BE OUTSIDE MY  
REACH, BEYOND MY GRASP.  
AND THERE CAN BE NO  
FRIENDSHIP WITH SOMEONE  
WHOM I AM NOT READY TO  
BETRAY: A FRIEND IS SOMEONE  
I CAN BETRAY WITH LOVE.**

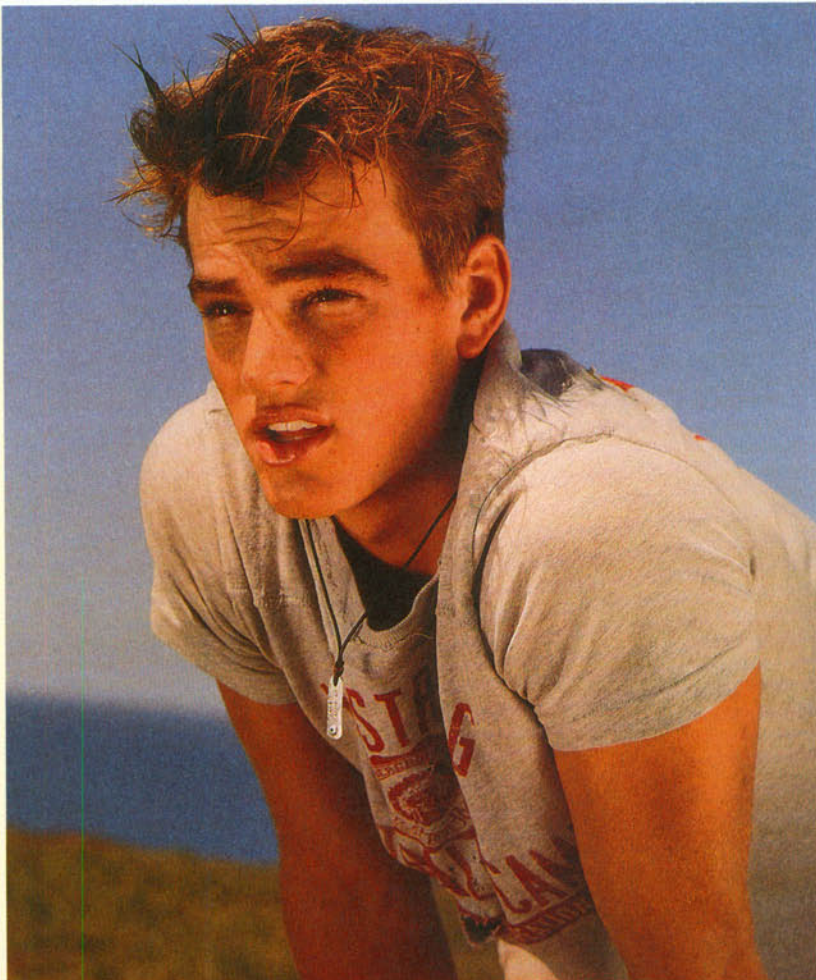
















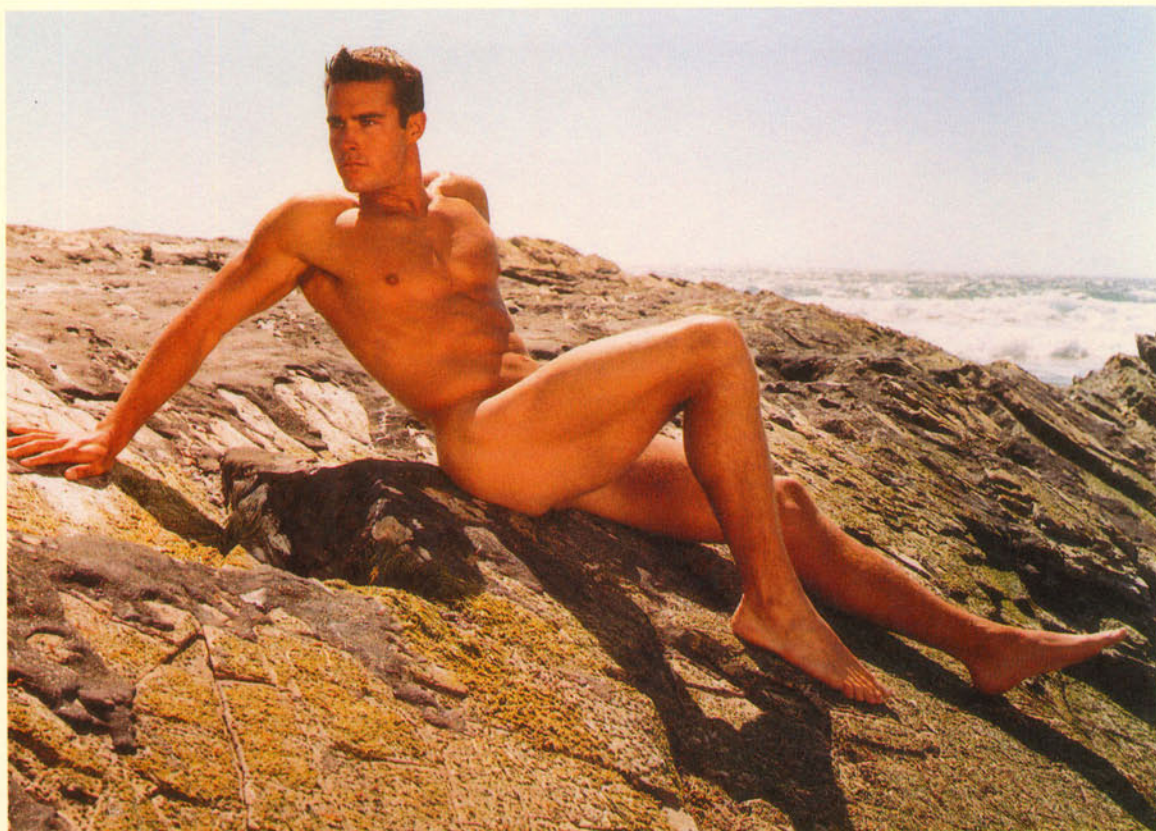












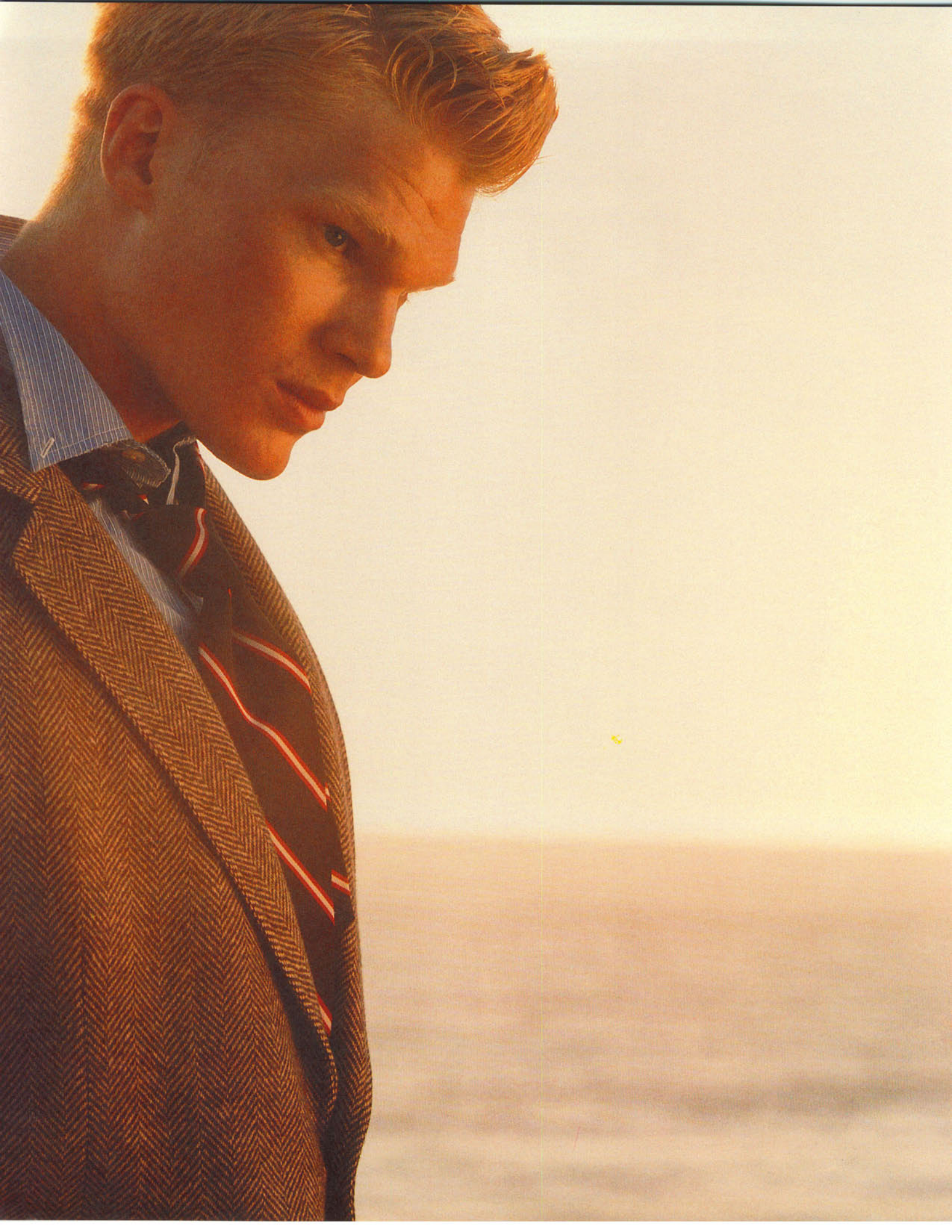
































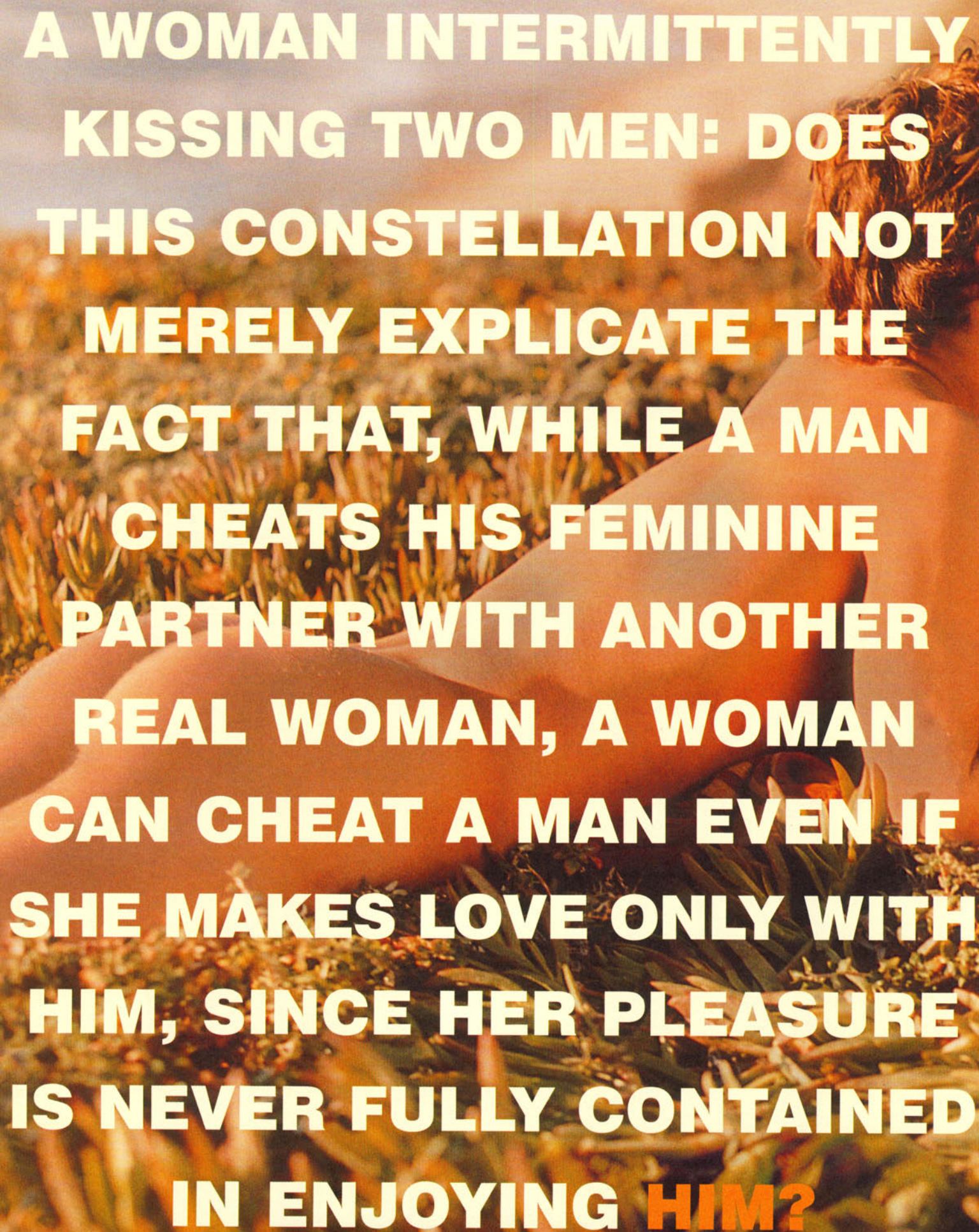










A woman with long, wavy brown hair is lying on her back in a field of tall, dry grass. She is seen from behind, with her arms crossed over her chest. The background is a soft-focus field of similar grass under a warm, hazy sky. The overall tone is romantic and contemplative.

**A WOMAN INTERMITTENTLY  
KISSING TWO MEN: DOES  
THIS CONSTELLATION NOT  
MERELY EXPLICATE THE  
FACT THAT, WHILE A MAN  
CHEATS HIS FEMININE  
PARTNER WITH ANOTHER  
REAL WOMAN, A WOMAN  
CAN CHEAT A MAN EVEN IF  
SHE MAKES LOVE ONLY WITH  
HIM, SINCE HER PLEASURE  
IS NEVER FULLY CONTAINED  
IN ENJOYING HIM?**

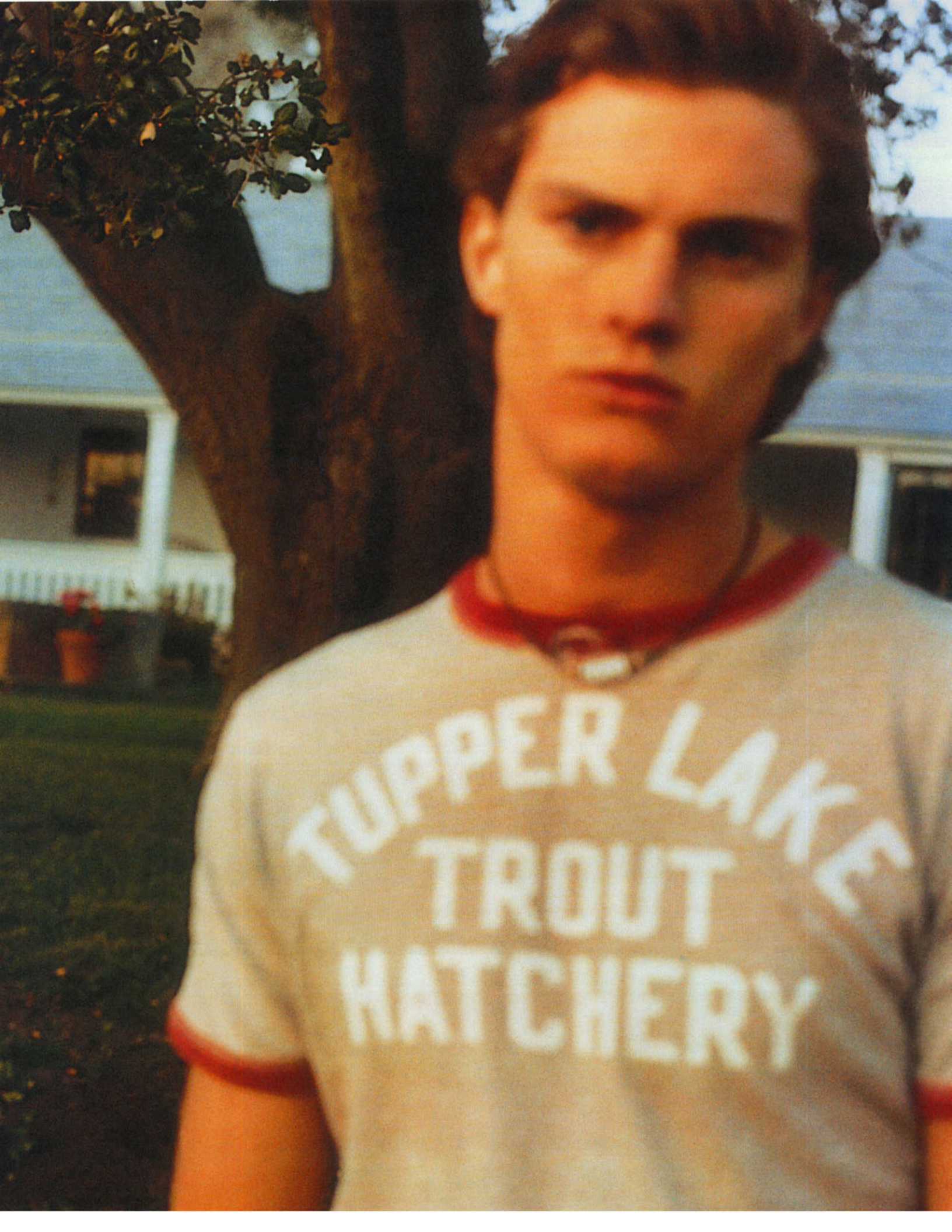












TUPPER LAKE  
TROUT  
HATCHERY





















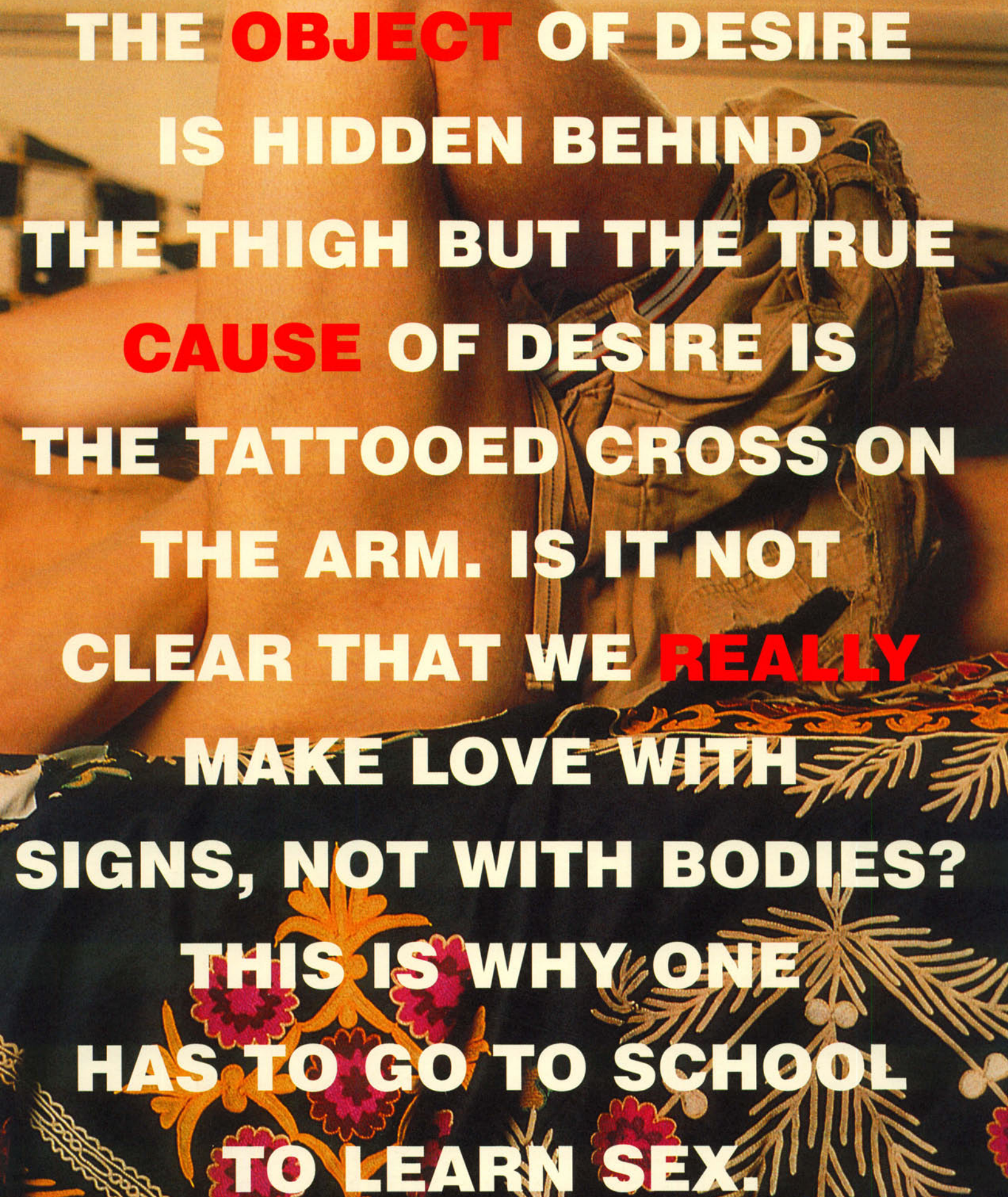












**THE OBJECT OF DESIRE**  
**IS HIDDEN BEHIND**  
**THE THIGH BUT THE TRUE**  
**CAUSE OF DESIRE IS**  
**THE TATTOOED CROSS ON**  
**THE ARM. IS IT NOT**  
**CLEAR THAT WE REALLY**  
**MAKE LOVE WITH**  
**SIGNS, NOT WITH BODIES?**  
**THIS IS WHY ONE**  
**HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL**  
**TO LEARN SEX.**









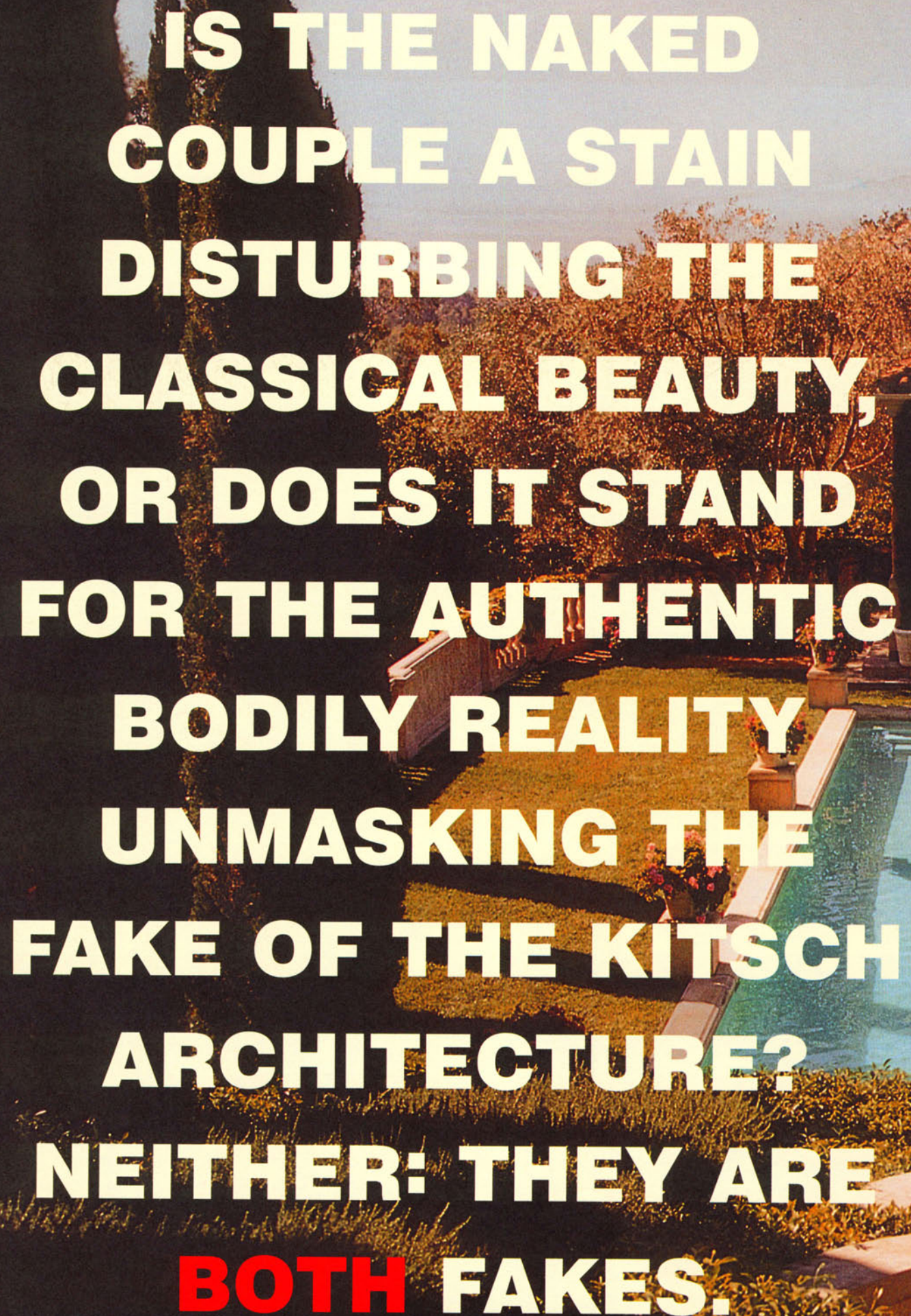










A painting of a classical villa with a swimming pool and a cypress tree. The villa has a red-tiled roof and a small arched entrance. The pool is surrounded by a low wall and has some potted plants nearby. A tall, slender cypress tree stands on the left side of the image. The overall style is reminiscent of a classical painting, with warm colors and a focus on architectural and natural elements.

**IS THE NAKED  
COUPLE A STAIN  
DISTURBING THE  
CLASSICAL BEAUTY,  
OR DOES IT STAND  
FOR THE AUTHENTIC  
BODILY REALITY  
UNMASKING THE  
FAKE OF THE KITSCH  
ARCHITECTURE?  
NEITHER: THEY ARE  
**BOTH** FAKES.**













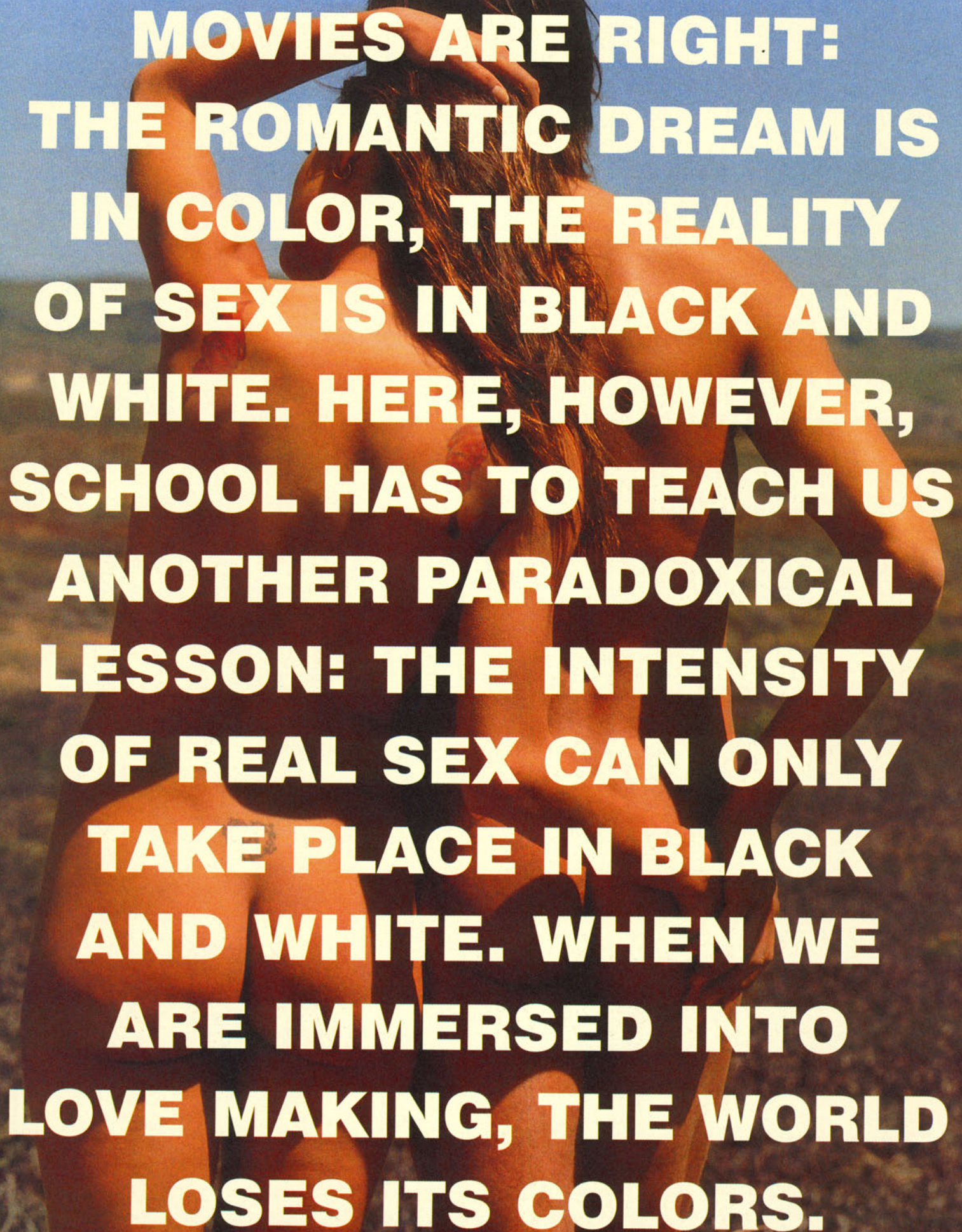










A photograph of a couple embracing in a field. The woman is in the foreground, seen from behind, with her arms around the man's neck. The man is behind her, also seen from behind. They are both shirtless. The background is a vast, open field under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**MOVIES ARE RIGHT:  
THE ROMANTIC DREAM IS  
IN COLOR, THE REALITY  
OF SEX IS IN BLACK AND  
WHITE. HERE, HOWEVER,  
SCHOOL HAS TO TEACH US  
ANOTHER PARADOXICAL  
LESSON: THE INTENSITY  
OF REAL SEX CAN ONLY  
TAKE PLACE IN BLACK  
AND WHITE. WHEN WE  
ARE IMMERSED INTO  
LOVE MAKING, THE WORLD  
LOSES ITS COLORS.**

















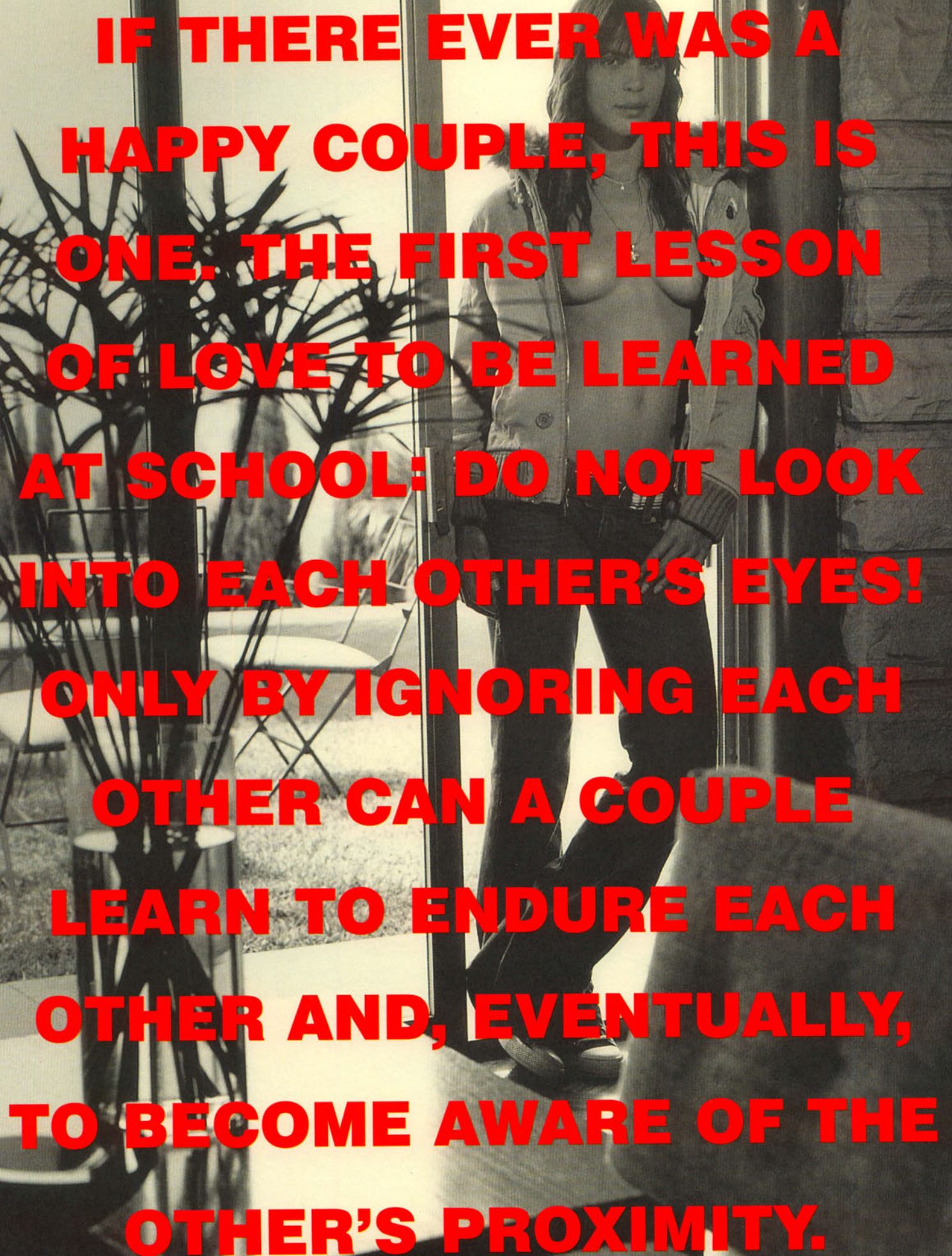










A black and white photograph of a woman with long dark hair and bangs, wearing a light-colored jacket over a dark top and dark jeans. She is standing in a doorway, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. To her left is a large potted plant with many thin, dark branches. The background shows a bright outdoor area with some furniture. The text is overlaid in large, bold, red capital letters.

**IF THERE EVER WAS A  
HAPPY COUPLE, THIS IS  
ONE. THE FIRST LESSON  
OF LOVE TO BE LEARNED  
AT SCHOOL: DO NOT LOOK  
INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES!  
ONLY BY IGNORING EACH  
OTHER CAN A COUPLE  
LEARN TO ENDURE EACH  
OTHER AND, EVENTUALLY,  
TO BECOME AWARE OF THE  
OTHER'S PROXIMITY.**



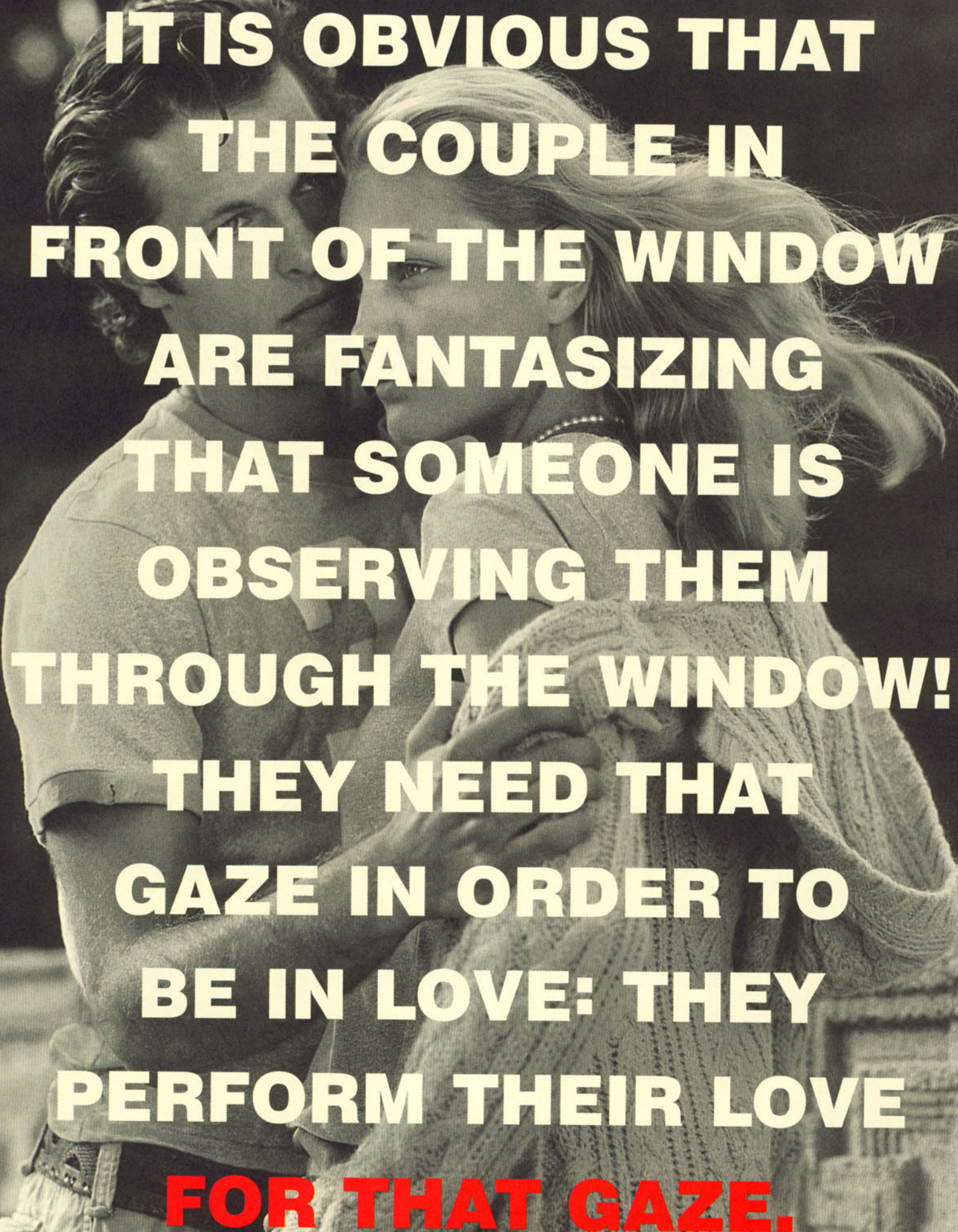






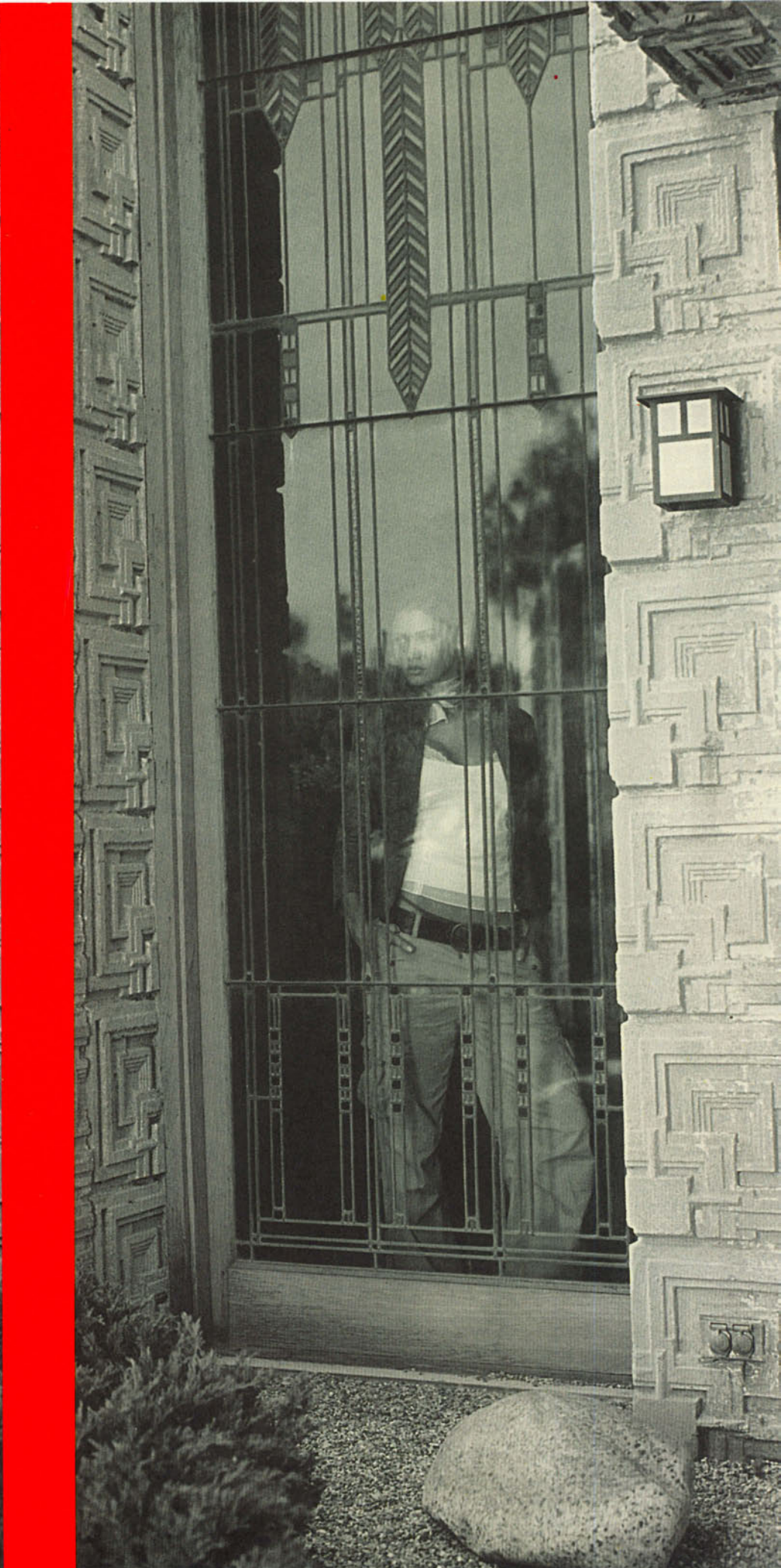
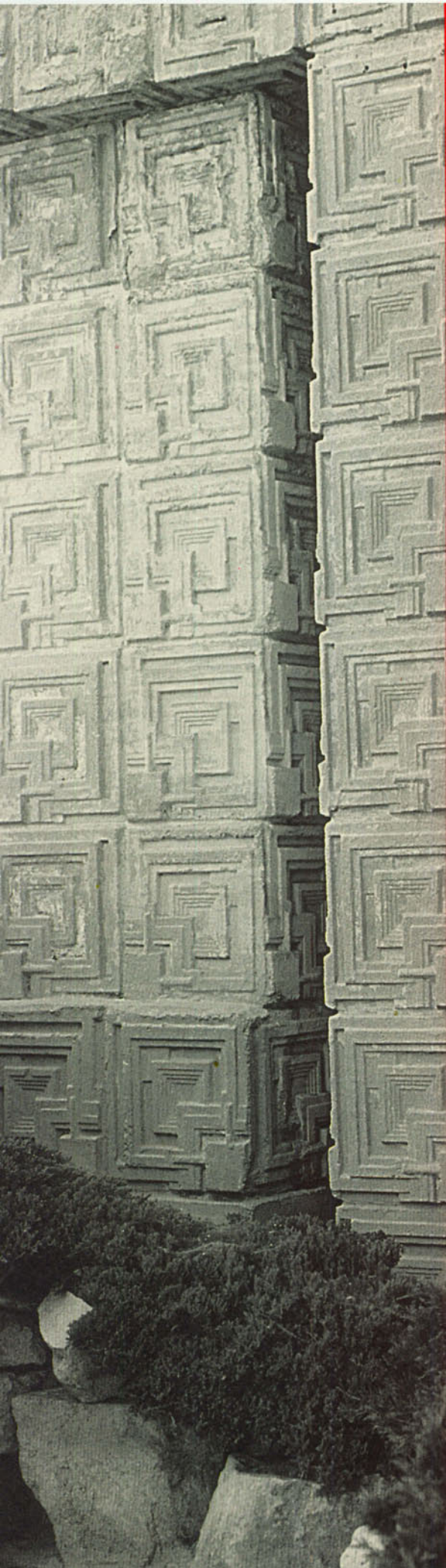
*I  
still dream*





**IT IS OBVIOUS THAT  
THE COUPLE IN  
FRONT OF THE WINDOW  
ARE FANTASIZING  
THAT SOMEONE IS  
OBSERVING THEM  
THROUGH THE WINDOW!  
THEY NEED THAT  
GAZE IN ORDER TO  
BE IN LOVE: THEY  
PERFORM THEIR LOVE  
FOR THAT GAZE.**

























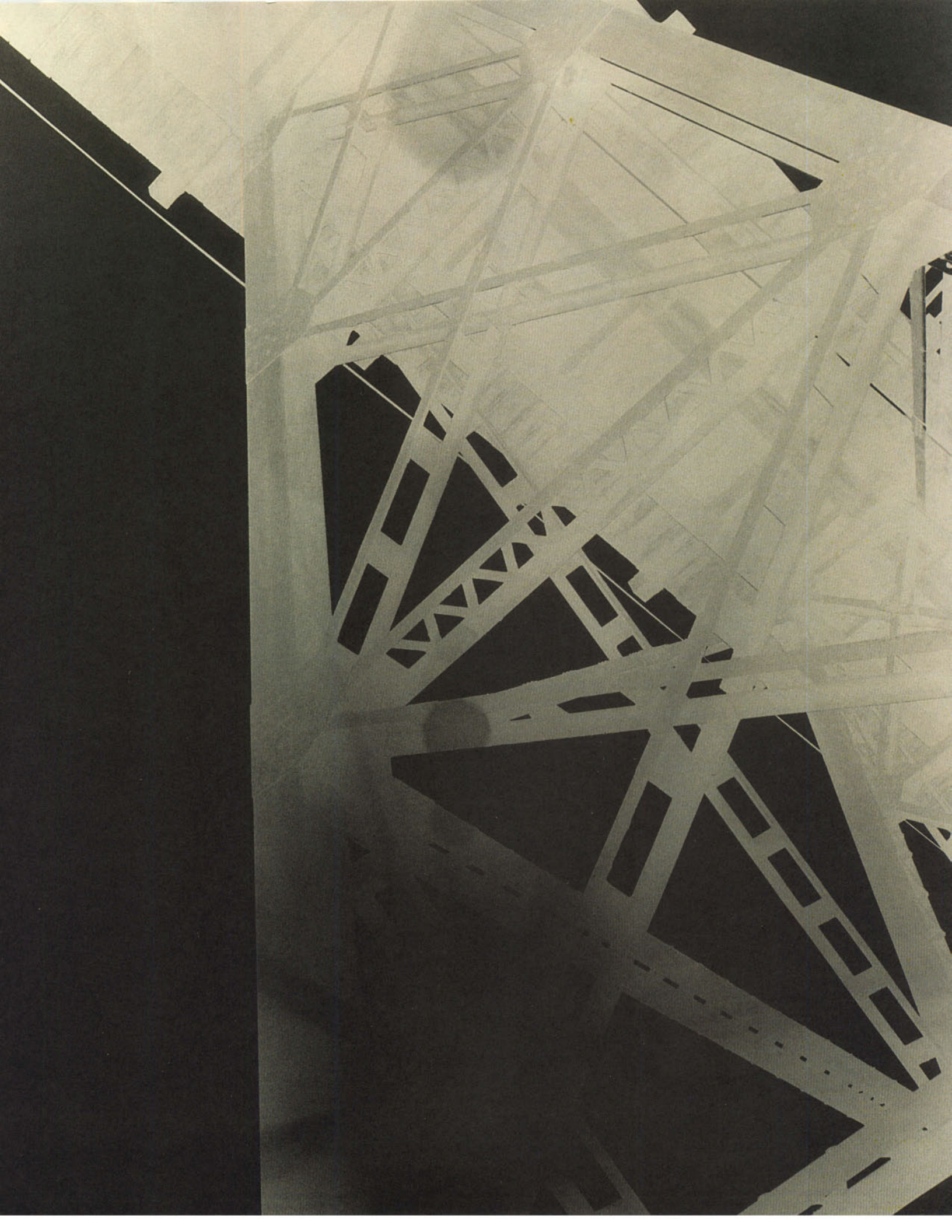








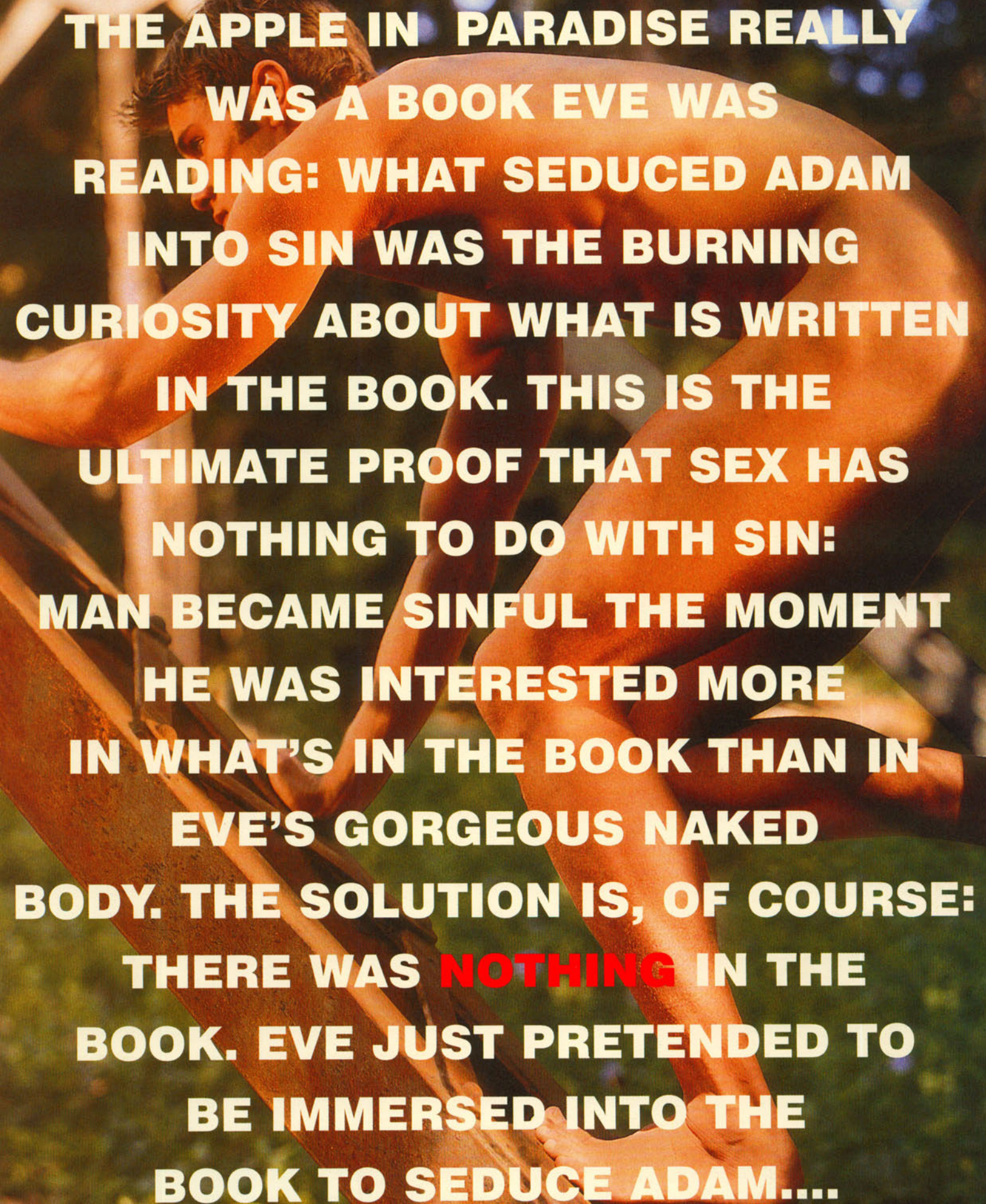










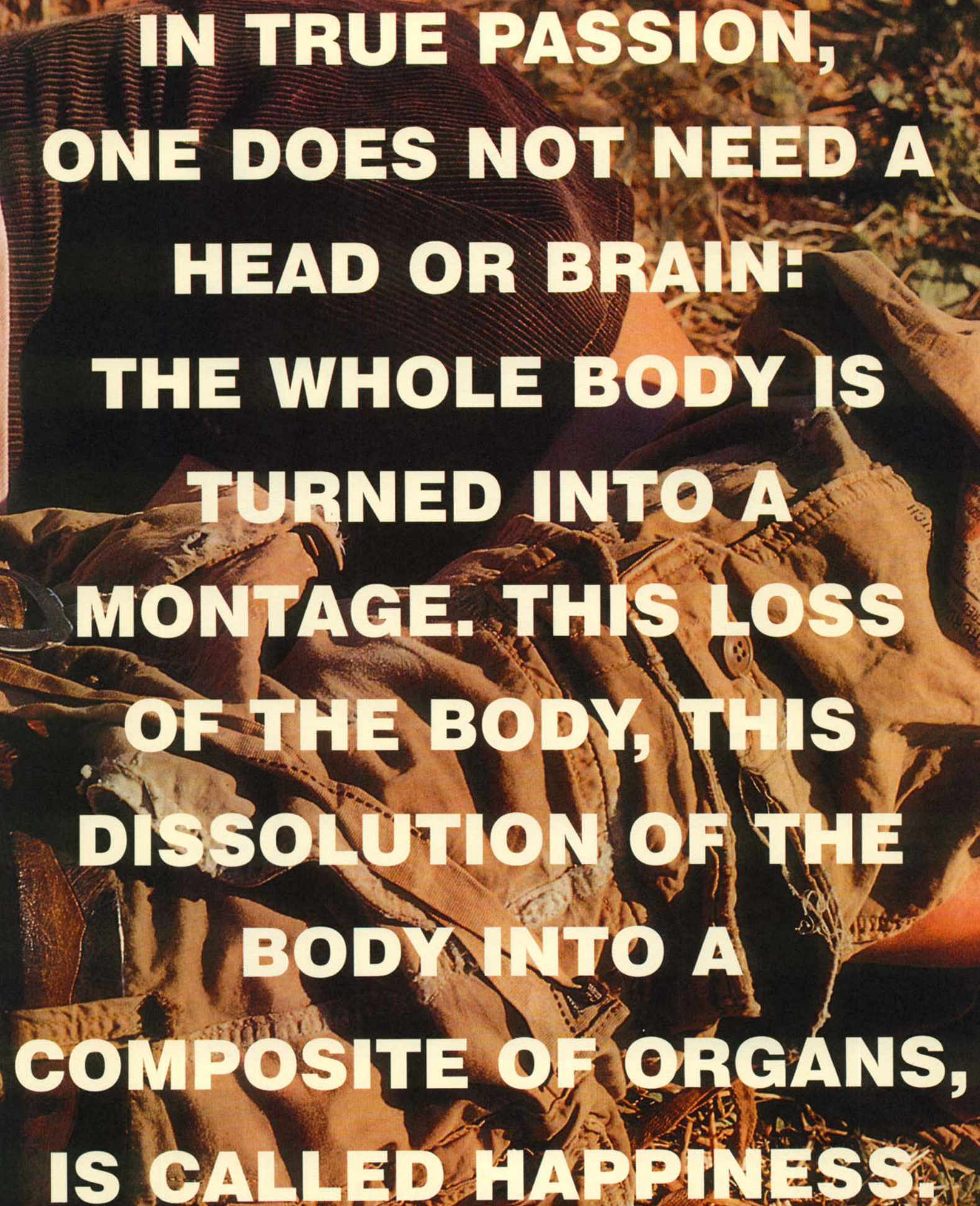
A photograph of a man in a crouched position on a wooden structure, possibly a playground slide or bench. He is shirtless and looking down. A woman's leg is visible behind him, also in a crouched position. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage.

**THE APPLE IN PARADISE REALLY  
WAS A BOOK EVE WAS  
READING: WHAT SEDUCED ADAM  
INTO SIN WAS THE BURNING  
CURIOSITY ABOUT WHAT IS WRITTEN  
IN THE BOOK. THIS IS THE  
ULTIMATE PROOF THAT SEX HAS  
NOTHING TO DO WITH SIN:  
MAN BECAME SINFUL THE MOMENT  
HE WAS INTERESTED MORE  
IN WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAN IN  
EVE'S GORGEOUS NAKED  
BODY. THE SOLUTION IS, OF COURSE:  
THERE WAS **NOTHING** IN THE  
BOOK. EVE JUST PRETENDED TO  
BE IMMERSED INTO THE  
BOOK TO SEDUCE ADAM....**







The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of a pile of discarded, worn-out clothing and fabric. The items are scattered on a bed of dry, brown grass and twigs. The clothing includes a dark, ribbed garment at the top left, a light-colored, possibly white or beige, jacket or shirt with visible buttons and straps, and various other pieces of fabric in shades of brown, tan, and orange. The overall lighting is warm and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day. The text is overlaid on this background in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**IN TRUE PASSION,  
ONE DOES NOT NEED A  
HEAD OR BRAIN:  
THE WHOLE BODY IS  
TURNED INTO A  
MONTAGE. THIS LOSS  
OF THE BODY, THIS  
DISSOLUTION OF THE  
BODY INTO A  
COMPOSITE OF ORGANS,  
IS CALLED HAPPINESS.**

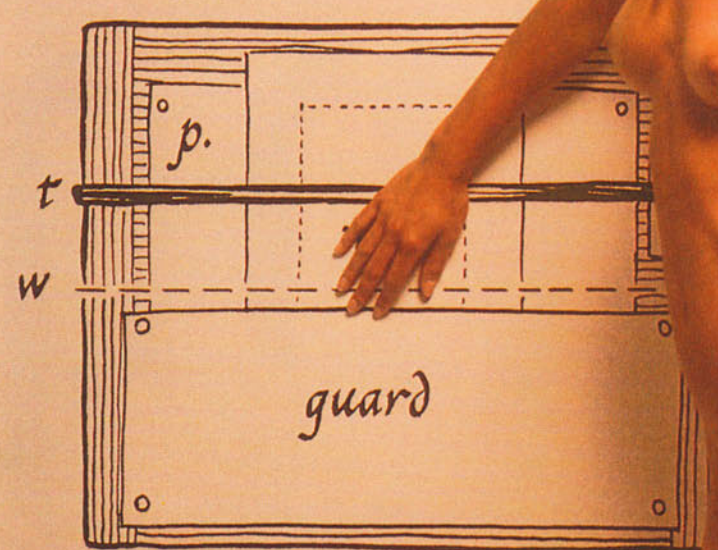
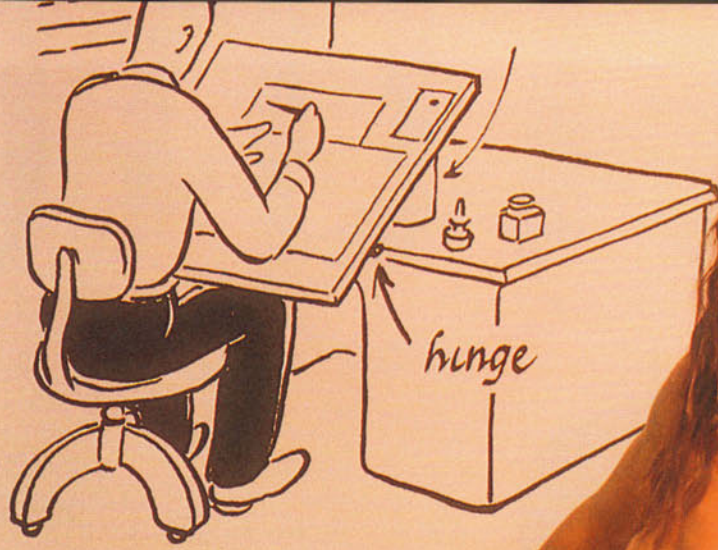




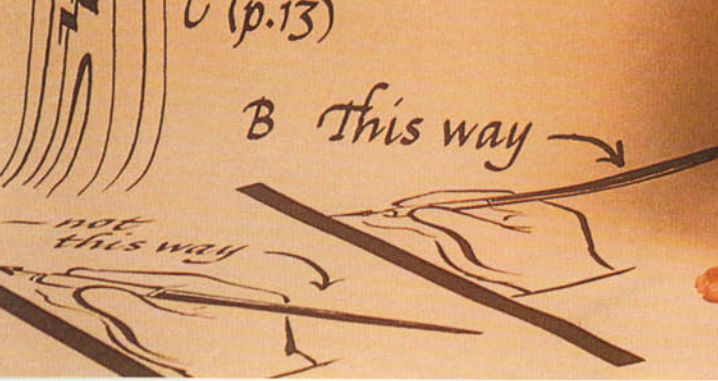
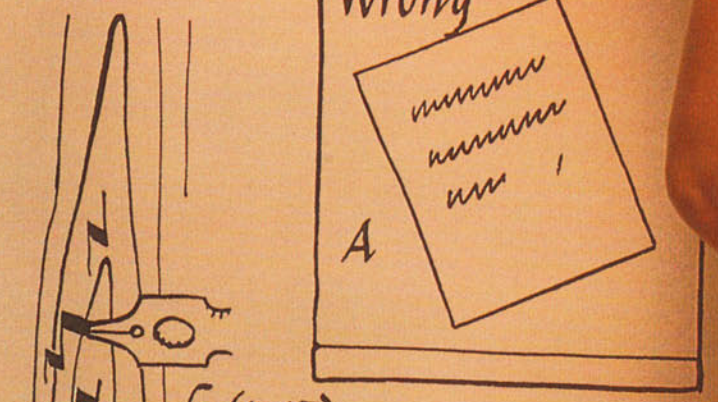








Wipe off a new pen with saliva to remove the oily film.



ke them seriously. ed with the light sou at the right, or vice versa drawing board should be either resting on the the lap or hinged t ppo ed by an object pla d (p) de of several s oftens the surface of th ced just below the wri a rest for the hands a the manuscript (ms.) or ped underneath the gua writing progresses. A ru t) holds the plate in place ar paper is needed for try The lettering plate may wn and from side to side ted on the board (A). Be is free of all dust ar ing to letter. Do k space with unn ition of the pen ouse, with the or sha wide pen letters does be when held at a the plate rather than to s press with





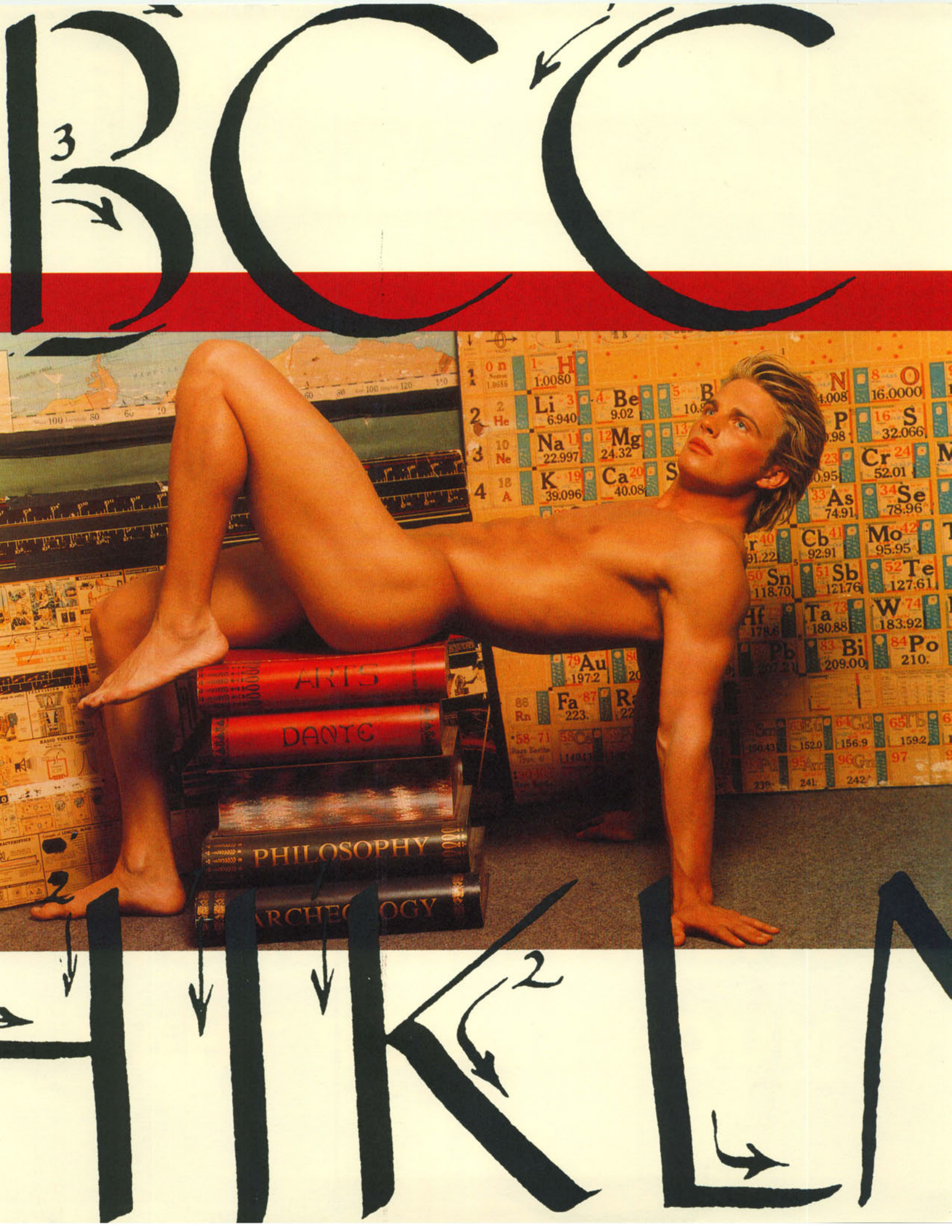


A A B

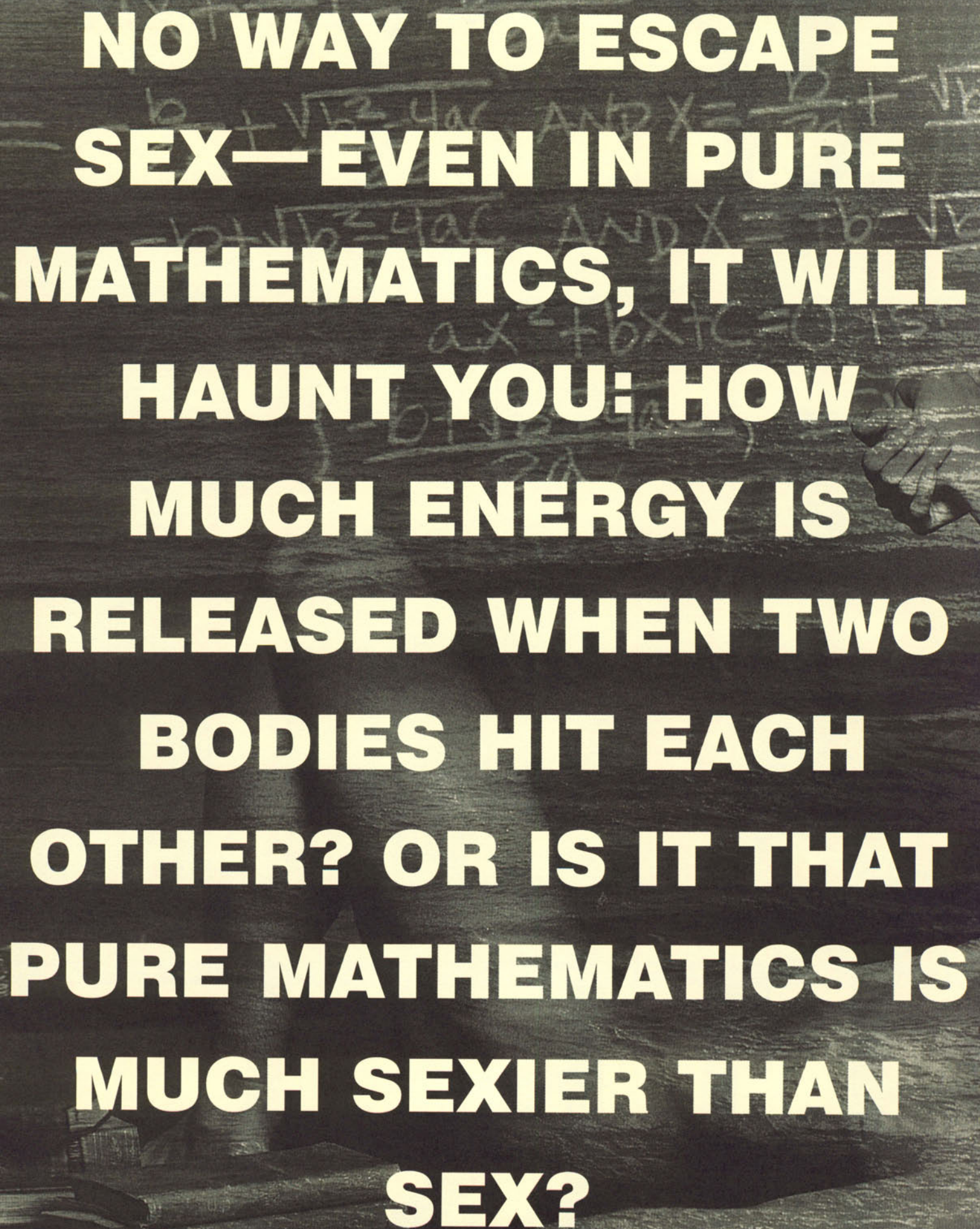


G H



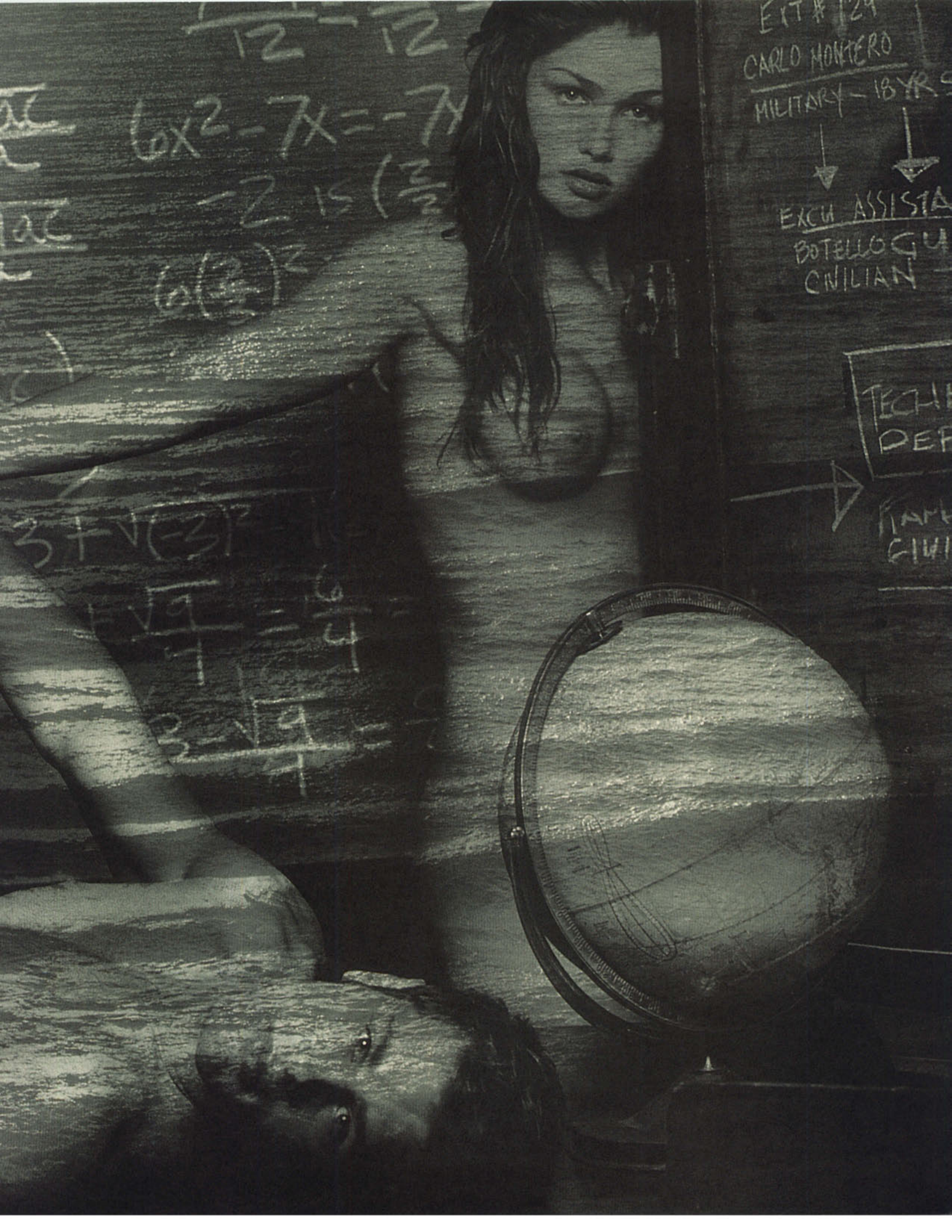




The background of the image is a chalkboard filled with handwritten mathematical formulas in chalk. The formulas include the quadratic formula  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$  and the general form of a quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ . A hand is visible on the right side, holding a piece of chalk and appearing to have just finished writing one of the formulas. The text is overlaid on this background in a large, bold, white font.

**NO WAY TO ESCAPE  
SEX—EVEN IN PURE  
MATHEMATICS, IT WILL  
HAUNT YOU: HOW  
MUCH ENERGY IS  
RELEASED WHEN TWO  
BODIES HIT EACH  
OTHER? OR IS IT THAT  
PURE MATHEMATICS IS  
MUCH SEXIER THAN  
SEX?**





EIT # 124  
CARLO MONTERO  
MILITARY - 18 YRS

↓ ↓  
EXCH. ASSISTANT  
BOTELLO GU  
CIVILIAN

TECH. DEF.

→ KIAN CIVILIAN

















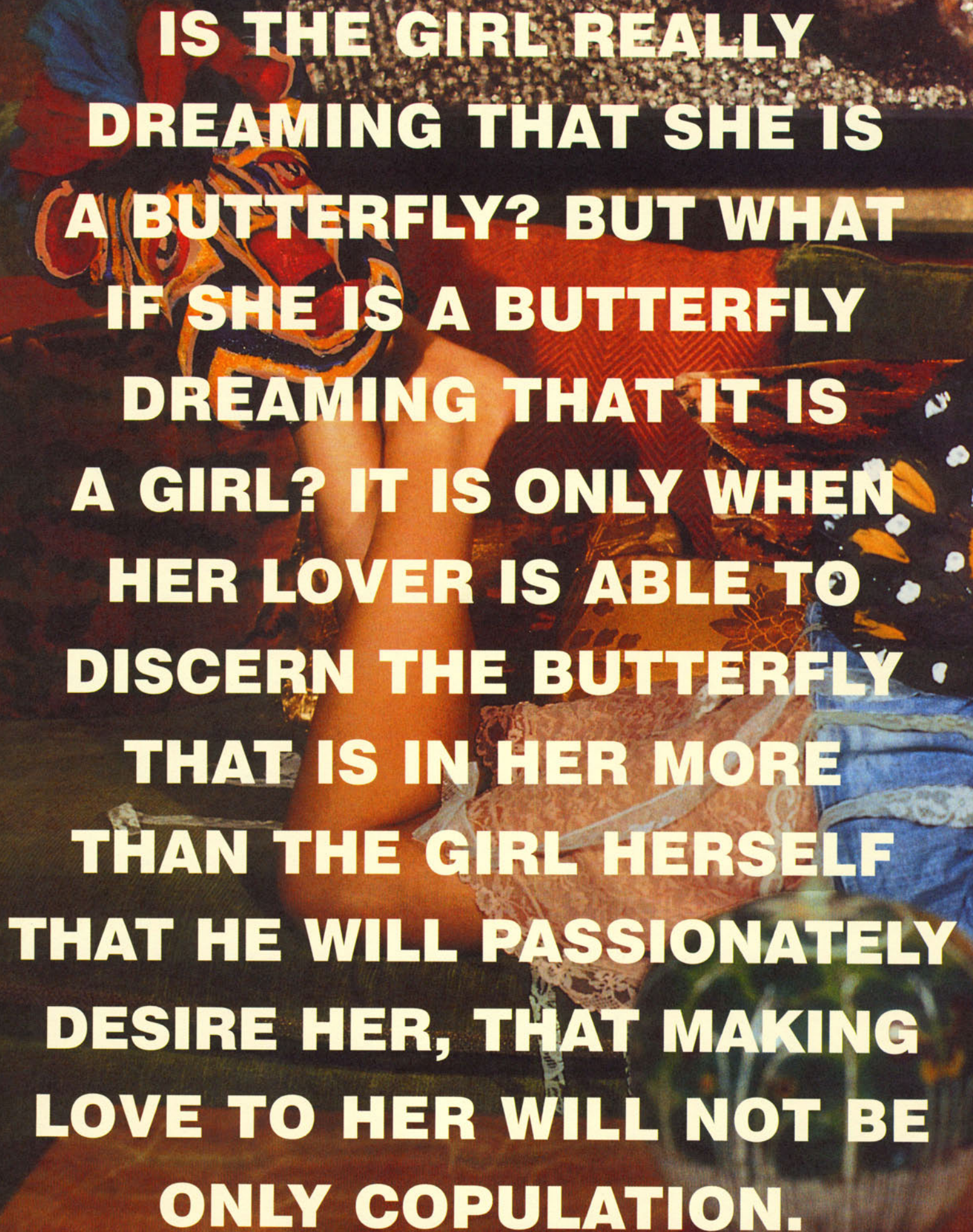










A painting of a woman in a colorful, patterned dress, possibly a butterfly, with a man's face visible in the background.

**IS THE GIRL REALLY  
DREAMING THAT SHE IS  
A BUTTERFLY? BUT WHAT  
IF SHE IS A BUTTERFLY  
DREAMING THAT IT IS  
A GIRL? IT IS ONLY WHEN  
HER LOVER IS ABLE TO  
DISCERN THE BUTTERFLY  
THAT IS IN HER MORE  
THAN THE GIRL HERSELF  
THAT HE WILL PASSIONATELY  
DESIRE HER, THAT MAKING  
LOVE TO HER WILL NOT BE  
ONLY COPULATION.**





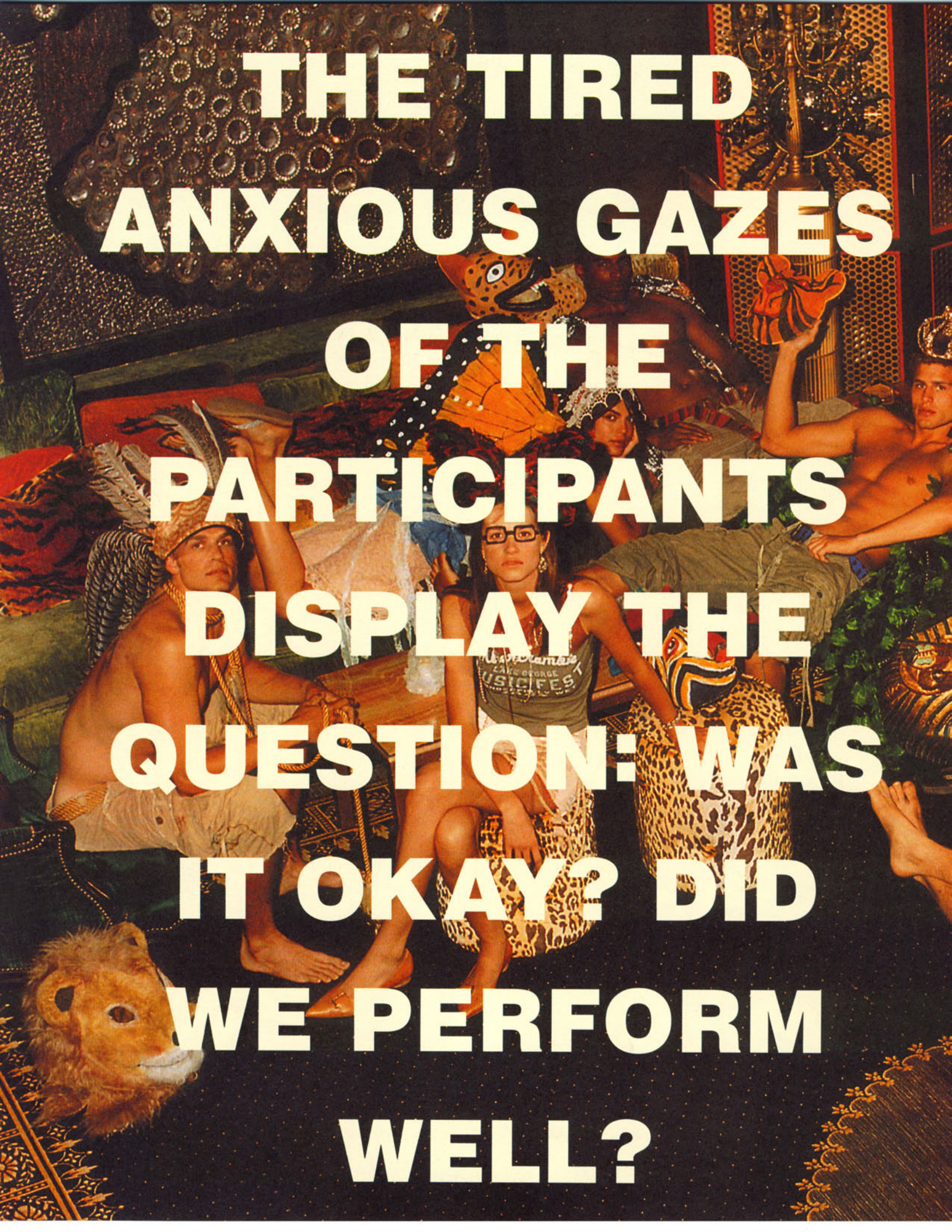












**THE TIRED  
ANXIOUS GAZES  
OF THE  
PARTICIPANTS  
DISPLAY THE  
QUESTION: WAS  
IT OKAY? DID  
WE PERFORM  
WELL?**





















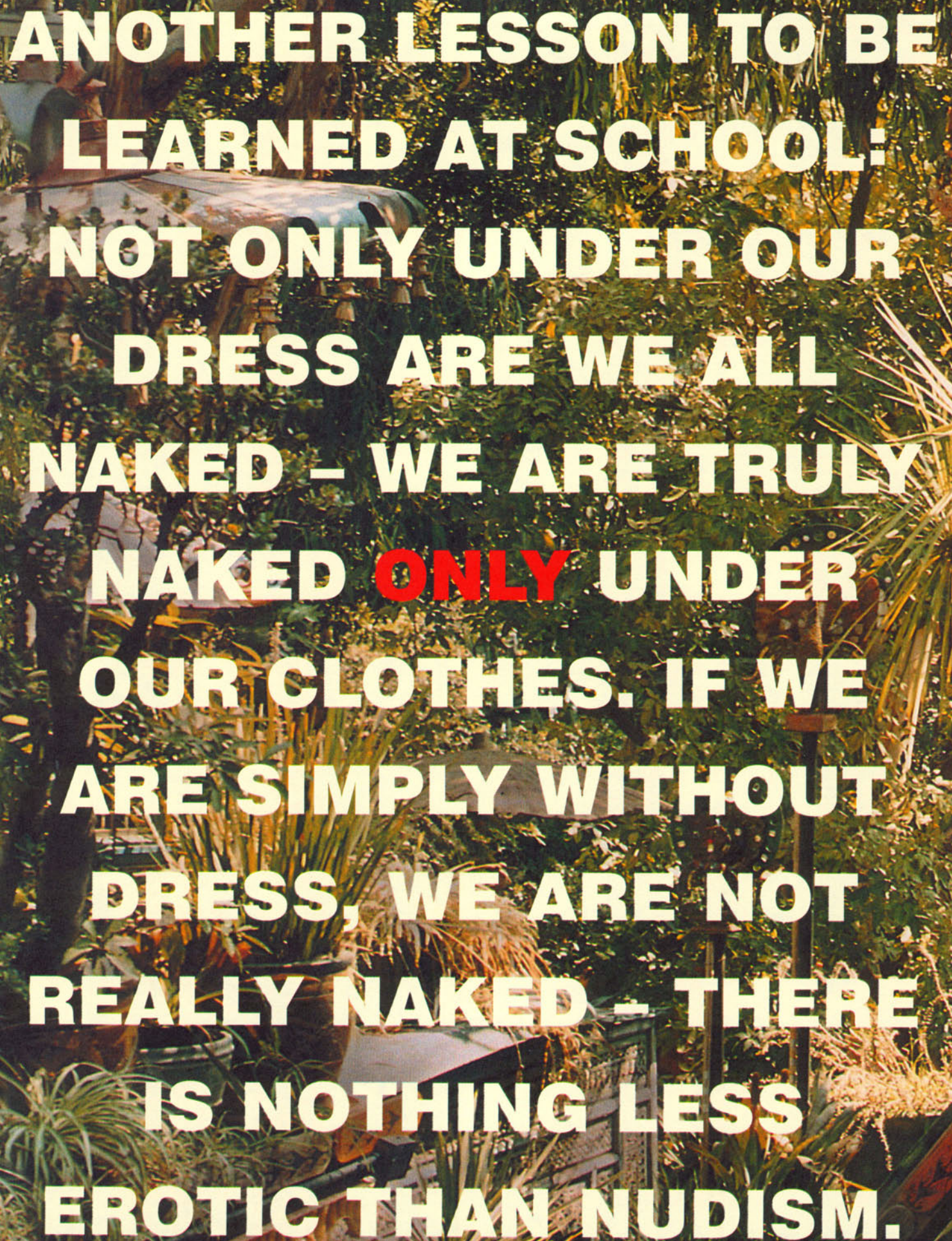






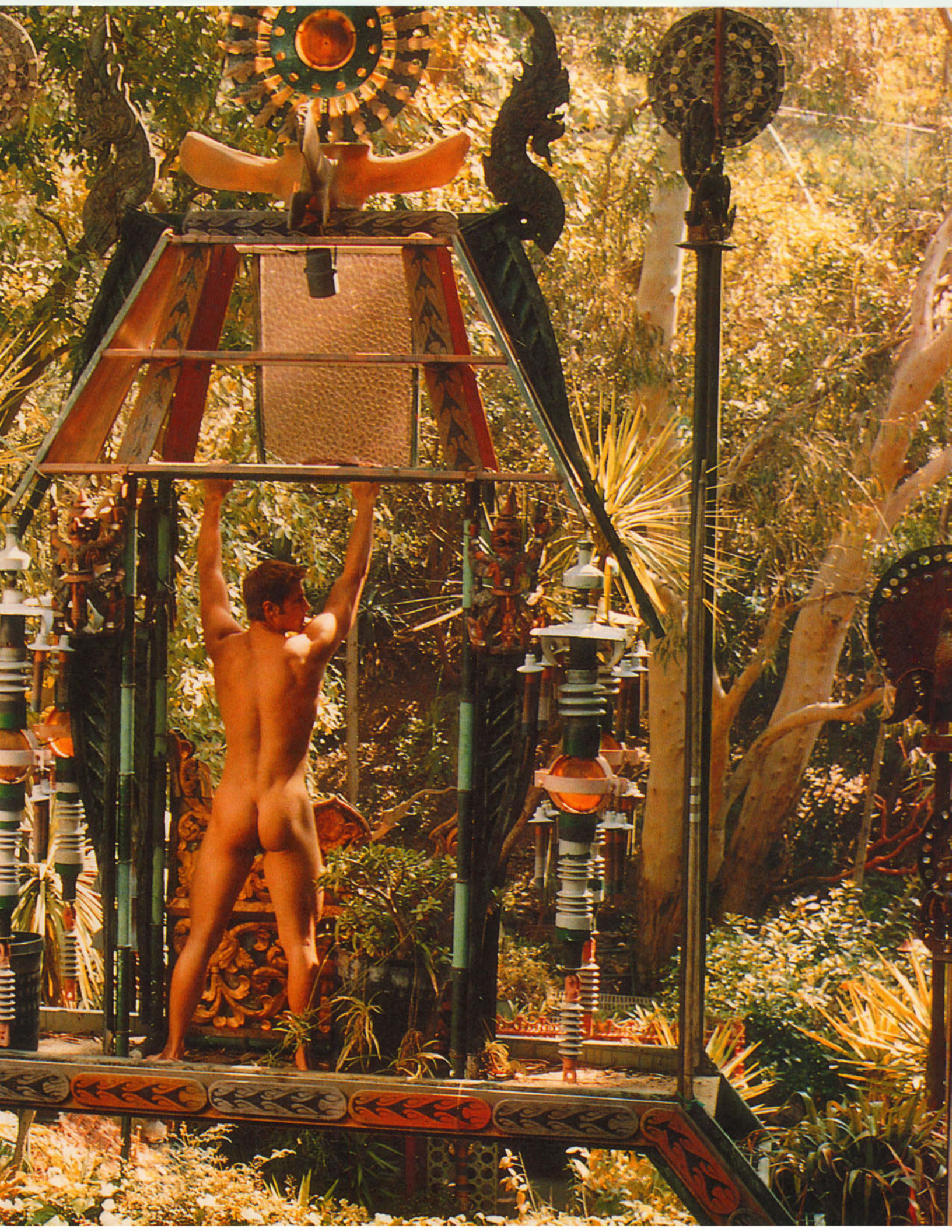




A dense garden scene with various plants, including tall grasses and leafy shrubs. In the background, a small, light-colored structure, possibly a shed or a small house, is partially visible through the foliage. The overall atmosphere is lush and natural.

**ANOTHER LESSON TO BE  
LEARNED AT SCHOOL:  
NOT ONLY UNDER OUR  
DRESS ARE WE ALL  
NAKED – WE ARE TRULY  
NAKED **ONLY** UNDER  
OUR CLOTHES. IF WE  
ARE SIMPLY WITHOUT  
DRESS, WE ARE NOT  
REALLY NAKED – THERE  
IS NOTHING LESS  
EROTIC THAN NUDISM.**

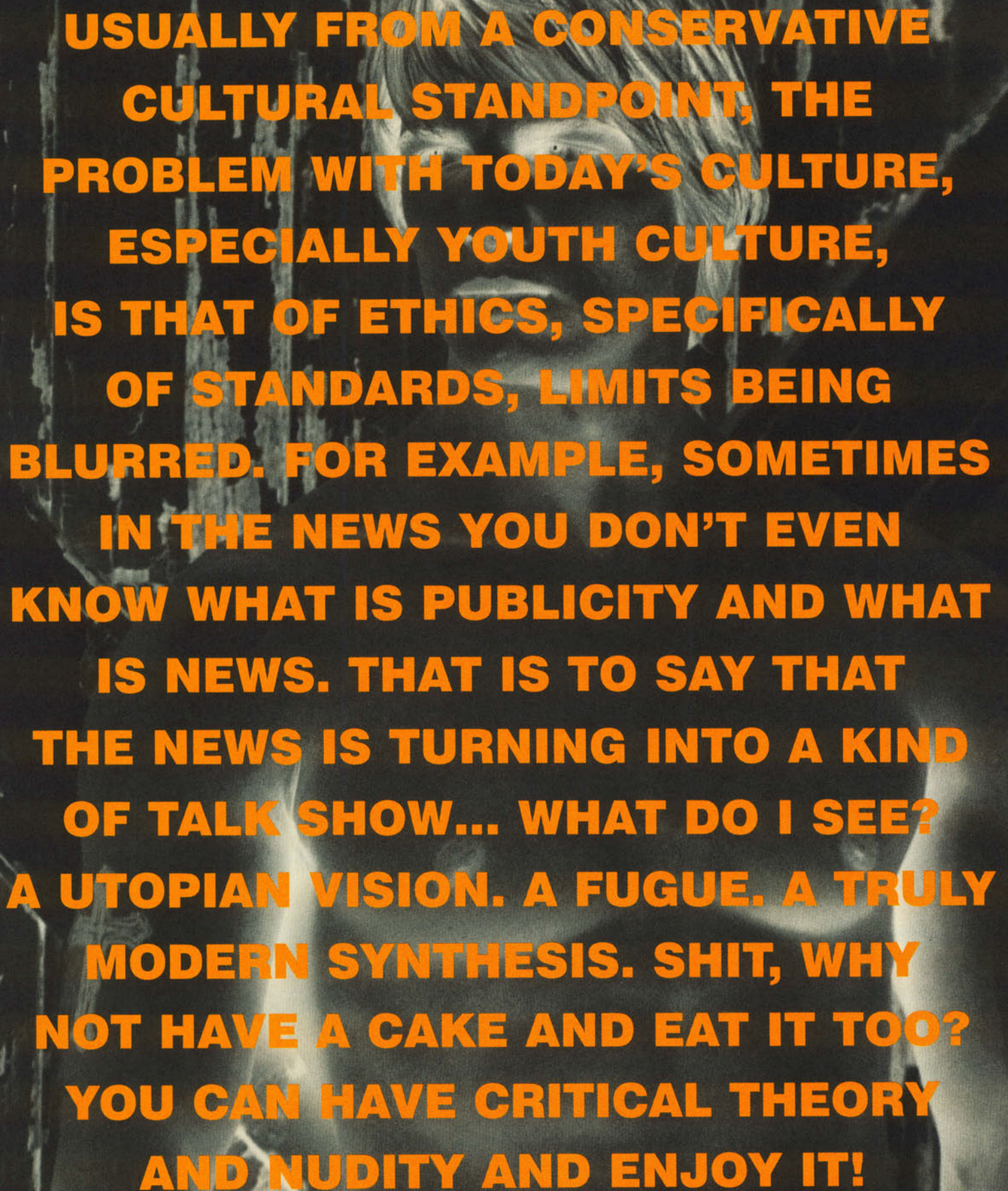












**USUALLY FROM A CONSERVATIVE  
CULTURAL STANDPOINT, THE  
PROBLEM WITH TODAY'S CULTURE,  
ESPECIALLY YOUTH CULTURE,  
IS THAT OF ETHICS, SPECIFICALLY  
OF STANDARDS, LIMITS BEING  
BLURRED. FOR EXAMPLE, SOMETIMES  
IN THE NEWS YOU DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHAT IS PUBLICITY AND WHAT  
IS NEWS. THAT IS TO SAY THAT  
THE NEWS IS TURNING INTO A KIND  
OF TALK SHOW... WHAT DO I SEE?  
A UTOPIAN VISION. A FUGUE. A TRULY  
MODERN SYNTHESIS. SHIT, WHY  
NOT HAVE A CAKE AND EAT IT TOO?  
YOU CAN HAVE CRITICAL THEORY  
AND NUDITY AND ENJOY IT!**

**SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK**





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