

My Life in Danger

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INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

A MAN and a WOMAN are sitting on a couch in a living room. It's the sort of situation in which he has invited her in for a drink and has assumed that her consent to that means she has consented to sexual intercourse. Her purse is on the coffee table, as are a couple of drinks. Music plays on his entertainment system. The scene opens as he begins to make moves; he leans close to her.

WOMAN

No - I don't -

She pushes him off.

MAN

Come on, it'll be okay.

He persists, pressing himself against her, pinning her to the couch.

WOMAN

No, I don't want -

She tries to get out from under him.

MAN

Sure you do.

He persists. As she grunts with the effort to get out from under him, reaching out to grab onto something for leverage, he laughs, dismissing her, not taking her seriously. But she is serious; there must be no ambiguity. She finally succeeds in grabbing onto her purse, and when she pulls out a gun, his face shows surprise. Serious surprise. Freeze on that frame; it becomes blood-spattered.

The rest of the film is voice over, her later conversation with her (male) LAWYER.

LAWYER

Look, you've asked me to represent you and I'm trying, but in order to claim self-defense, we have to prove that you believed your life was in danger.

WOMAN

He didn't have a condom and didn't seem too concerned about that.

LAWYER

You're suggesting he might have been HIV+?

WOMAN

(after a pause)

There's that.

LAWYER

Well, but you didn't have to -

WOMAN

(sharply)

How many chances am I supposed to give him?

LAWYER

But -

WOMAN

But I was also thinking I could have become pregnant.

LAWYER

Yes, but -

WOMAN

You don't think that puts my life in danger? Pregnancy puts you at risk for high blood pressure, diabetes, anemia, stroke, cardiac arrest. Over a thousand women die from childbirth each year. In the U.S.

LAWYER

Yes, but -

WOMAN

But that's not - everything I - school, travel, a career -
(beat)

my life - my life, as I plan to live it - would definitely be
in danger if I became pregnant. It would be - derailed.

FADE OUT