

Excerpt from *BEYOND YOUR COMMAND* by Ralph Pape

DANNY: We meet again. So. Hot enough for you? Oh, by the way, my name is Danny.

DIANE: Did my mother tell you that my father just went back to work after a three month layoff?

DANNY: No. She didn't.

DIANE: Would it mean anything to you if she had?

DANNY: Whoa, take it easy. What are you trying to say?

DIANE: I'm trying to say that I'd hate to see my mother spending money which we don't have on something we have absolutely no use for. That's what I'm trying to say.

DANNY: Your mother made it real clear to us before that she doesn't need a new vacuum, OK?

DIANE: Then why are you trying to sell her one?

DANNY: Whoa, whoa! *He* does the selling. I just do the lugging. Look, the only reason we're even here is that Mrs. Baker over on, uh, Pine Street gave us your mother's name as a lead. Just between us, I told Nick he's only wasting his time here.

DIANE: You told him that, did you?

DANNY: That's right.

DIANE: I don't believe you. But, unfortunately, my mother has this thing for trusting people. Sometimes the wrong kind of people. I have to go to the store. I don't want to come back here and discover that you and your friend have unloaded one of these things on my mother--

DANNY: Hey, wait a minute--

DIANE: Do you hear what I'm telling you? Yes or no?

DANNY: No. I mean-- wait a minute. He's not my friend, he's my old man's friend and I told you, I just work for the guy - and only another week at that.

DIANE: Then what? You going into business for yourself?

DANNY: You got to be kidding! God how I hate this job! I really come across like that?

DIANE: Well...

DANNY: I'm starting college, all right? Wow! You really think *this* is what I want to do for a living?

DIANE: Well...

DANNY: Gimme a break, huh!

DIANE: Look...if I'm guilty of having made a false assumption about you--

DANNY: Yeah?

DIANE: I apologize. *(beat)* Where are you going to college?

DANNY: Rutgers. I wanted to go out of state but -- hell, I actually applied to Yale.

DIANE: Doesn't hurt to try.

DANNY: I was hoping somebody up there'd make a mistake and I'd sort of slip in by accident.

DIANE: Can that happen?

DANNY: It was a long shot. One good thing. At least I'll be out of that house. Living on campus.

DIANE: I'm going to be right next door to you at Douglass. Only we can't afford the rates for the dorms, so--

DANNY: I don't know anybody who's ever been to college.

DIANE: Me either.