The Hunger Games:

Catching Fire

President Snow and Katniss

Snow:

Such bravery. Such spirit. Such…contempt.

Katniss:

President Snow. What an honor.

Snow:

My dear, I think we can make this so much simpler if we agree not to lie to each other. What do you think?

Katniss:

Yes, I think that would save time.

Snow:

Sit down, please. I have a problem, Miss Everdeen. A problem that began the moment you revealed those poison berries in the arena. If that Head Gamemaker, Seneca Crane, had any brains at all, he would have blown you to bits then and there. But here you are. I expect you can guess where he is.

Katniss:

Yes, I think so.

Snow:

After that fiasco, there was nothing left to do but to let you play out your little scenario. And you were very good. That whole love-crazed, besotted schoolgirl routine. Impressive. Truly. You convinced the people in The Capitol. Unfortunately, not everyone in the district fell for it. I mean, you can’t know this, but several of them, people viewed your little trick with the berries as an act of defiance. Not as an act of love. And if a girl from District 12 of all places can defy The Capitol and walk away unharmed, what is to prevent them from doing the same? What is to prevent, say, an uprising? That can lead to revolution. And then, in a fraction of the time, the whole system collapses.

Katniss:

It must be a fragile system, if it can be brought down by just a few berries.

Snow:

Yes, it is, indeed. But not the way you imagine it.

Katniss:

How should I imagine?

Snow:

You should imagine thousands upon thousands of your people dead. This town of ours reduced to ashes. Imagine it gone. Made radioactive. Buried under dirt as if it had never existed, like District 13. You fought very hard in The Games, Miss Everdeen. But they were games. Would you like to be in a real war?

Katniss:

No.

Snow:

Good. Neither would I. Did your mother make these?

(referring to cookies he’s been eating)

Katniss:

Peeta.

Snow:

Oh. He’s a lovely boy. Tell me. At what point did he realize the depth of your indifference towards him?

Katniss:

I’m not indifferent.

Snow:

Don’t lie! You promised.

Katniss:

Why don’t you just kill me now?

Snow:

I don’t want to kill you. I want us to be friends. But if not friends, then allies.

Katniss:

What do I need to do?

Snow:

When you and Peeta are on tour, you need to smile. You need to be grateful. But, above all, you need to be madly, prepared-to-end-it-all in love. You think you can manage that?

Katniss:

Yes.

Snow:

Yes, what?

Katniss:

I’ll convince them.

Snow:

No. Convince me. For you, Miss Everdeen.

(He hands her a white rose)

Do convince me. For the sake of your loved ones.

(Snow exits while Katniss sees a hidden camera image of her kissing Gale from earlier that day on a monitor)

End