

RULE 3. BUILD A HOLE INSIDE YOURSELF AND CLIMB INTO IT
He will be on top of you. He will be old enough to be your father.
He will smell like the woods, alcohol, and marijuana. He will
hold his hand over your mouth. You are a virgin. You are only fif-
teen. He will remind you that no one is coming.

Imagine you are dancing. Think of your favorite song. Re-
member your mother braiding your hair. Feel her kindly roughly
braiding hands. Hear her calling your name, "Marta, Marta,
Marta."

RULE 4. NEVER EVER OPEN ANY DOOR TO HIM

Reject the food he brings you. Refuse to eat his stupid fish. Spit
on it. Tell him your family would never eat fish out of the water.
When in public he will want you to smile and act like a proper
wife even though he is married to someone else. Never smile.
Roll on the ground in the ugly expensive tailor-made *pange* he
brings you. Never laugh at his jokes. He will be shoving himself
into you. He will do this two or three times a day. It will not be
painful after the first twenty times. Your insides will no longer
belong to you. He will sometimes wear cologne. Beware. That
smell will make you sympathetic. Do not give way to it. You will
begin to feel something for him. It's natural after six months. It
is nothing more than habit or accident. It has nothing to do with
Claude. By the way, never use his name. Only refer to him as
"him" or "you." "You, move over. You, leave me alone."

RULE 5. HIS SADNESS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

Sometimes he will seem so sad. All the bad things he has seen
and done. You will feel bad for him. You will feel everything he

feels and doesn't feel. You have been his slave for almost two
years. You will start to think there is no one else. This is your
life. He will be the only person who ever loves you. When you
start vomiting one morning, you will be sure he poisoned
you. Then it will pass, and then it will happen again, and slowly
you will realize you are pregnant with his baby. He will tell you
if you even think of aborting it he will kill you. Refuse to take
care of his baby.

RULE 6. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU GET CAUGHT, BETTER TO
DIE TRYING TO BE FREE

When the opportunity reveals itself, flee. Count on miracles.
When you run, you will take your baby because deep down you
know she's yours. You will take her clothes and nothing else.

You will start to run and your legs will be strong like a strong
person's legs and you will think clearer and better than you have
ever thought before and you will hear your mother calling
"Marta, run run run" and you will make the bus at the exact right
moment and you will not look out the window because you know
the four bodyguards who have watched you like a hawk for two
years are already there but you are in your hole and no one can
see you and you will hide with your baby inside a wall in your
cousin's house the place you would have stayed on your holiday
and Claude will come with the four other soldiers and they will
search and destroy everything and your baby will not cry and you
will be invisible and the next day you will make it to the boat and
as it is pulling out from shore you will not be breathing you will
see him and the other men on the dock asking and looking for
you and someone will point to the boat and you will know he has