

## Sample P1

### Comfort in Sexuality on Screen

Though awkward, Carol and Therese's lunch together after Carol's gloves are returned (Carol 19:48 - 23:24), is an extremely transparent look into the characters' personalities and personas. Immediately off the bat, we are keyed into Therese's normal indecisiveness. When she is asked what she will order for dinner after Carol orders, she clumsily tells the waiter that she will "have the same". Her inability to make a decision is even stated by Therese herself when she is asked whether or not she wants to live with Richard. When evaluating this situation under the Queer Cinema Lens, these moments of hesitancy can be seen as a problem stemming from the uncertainty of her sexuality. Therese can never make a decision in her life because she is yet to make a decision on her sexual character. Therese's indecisive behavior is contrasted when Carol asks her to go visit her the next Sunday. When asked if she wanted to visit, Therese immediately responded with a yes. This lapse in her constant doubt may stem from a flicker of her acceptance of her sexuality. Carol on the other hand is extremely confident during her "date" with Therese. She immediately orders as soon as she is handed the menu and doesn't even falter when she says that she wouldn't of invited Therese out to lunch if she was a man. Contrasting Therese's indecisiveness, Carol is continuously straightforward and seemingly at ease during the duration of the lunch. But in the next scene when she goes out to a party with her soon to be ex-husband, she is extremely nervous and uneasy. She tries to get Abby to go in with her and begins to breathe heavily. Following the same analysis, the movie seems to be making a point that events that cause us to stray from our sexual orientation make us uncomfortable.

Complementing her indecisiveness, Therese's insecurity is displayed by the shiftiness of her eyes. Throughout much of the conversation with Carol, Therese's eyes are shifting between

Carol, the table, and off to the other customers of the restaurant. On the other hand, Carol generally keeps a very steady, normal gaze on Therese when she is talking to her. Carol's comfort in a lunch date between two girls can represent the objectives of the New Queer Cinema Movement. According to the analytical screen reader, *Queer Screen*, the movement was characterized by a "willingness to explore the uncomfortable or difficult terrain of preserve sexual desire." (Queer Screen 5). Carol's ability to display her sexuality in a composed way allows for the audience to get the message that it is ok to be comfortable with your sexuality: heterosexual or not.