

Marie-Lynn Hammond

"Shades of Grey"

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he was in the front row wearing jeans and an old
leather jacket
and I have to say that right away he caught my eye
and after the show he said I loved all your songs
but the one about your mother almost made me cry

and I thought hey, this is one sensitive man, and
besides he had these incredible eyes,
not blue, not green, but some mysterious colour in
between

so I joined him for a brandy and the talk flowed like
honey
we talked about music, and travelling, and kids
then he offered to walk me to the place I was staying
and as we walked I finally asked him what he did

[spoken] And he said, well, uh Im a major, then he
paused; so I said a major what? And he kind of
laughed and said no, what I mean is Im an army major.
And I thought huh? This is a man who told me he plays
classical piano; he listens to Paul Simon and Joni
Mitchell for heavens sake; he adores children; he got
all choked up over my rather feminist song about my
mother! How can he be in the army?

we want it black or white, we want it night or day
we want it wrong or right, not these shades of grey

so we walked and I fell silent and he said whats the
matter
and the moon was high and golden and I wished I didnt
know
his eyes were like the ocean, I could smell the sweet
salt smell of him
and I had to laugh at fortune for this neat little blow

and I said hey major, dont you know who I am
Im one of the ones who stopped Vietnam
Im a peacenik major, now dont you see
weve both just met the enemy

And he said not so fast now, I see my job as a
peacekeeping job too. And I said, yeah, Ive heard that
one before; and he said, hang on, do you really know
what youre judging here? And I said unfortunately, all
too well. You see

my father was a soldie

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