

*Almost Famous* – Key Quotations So Far

Go over these lines from what we've watched so far to review the characters and plot.

**Elaine Miller:** Atticus Finch, oh that makes me feel so good.

**William Miller:** I like him.

**Elaine Miller:** Why?

**William Miller:** Well, he's honest, he stands up for the right things, and he's a good father.

---

**Anita Miller:** First it was butter then it was sugar and white flour, bacon, eggs, bologna, rock 'n roll, motorcycles. Then! It was celebrating Christmas on a day in September when you knew it wouldn't be commercialized! What else are you gonna ban!?

**Elaine Miller:** Honey, you want to rebel against knowledge; I'm trying to give you the Cliff Notes on how to live life in this world.

**Anita Miller:** We're like nobody else I know!

**Elaine Miller:** I am a college professor. Why can't I teach my own kids? Use me!

**Anita Miller:** Darryl says that you use knowledge to keep me down. He says I'm a "Yes" person and you are trying to raise us in a "No" environment.

**Elaine Miller:** Well, clearly "No" is a word Darryl doesn't hear much.

**Anita Miller:** I can't live here! I hate you! Even William hates you!

**Young William:** I don't hate her.

**Anita Miller:** You do hate her! You don't even know the truth.

**Elaine Miller:** Sweetheart, don't be a drama queen.

**Anita Miller:** Feck you!

**Elaine Miller:** Hey!

**Anita Miller:** This is a house of lies!

**Elaine Miller:** Well there it is, your sister used the "F" word.

**William Miller:** I think she said "feck."

**Elaine Miller:** What's the difference?

**William Miller:** The letter "u."

---

**Anita Miller:** You've robbed him of an adolescence.

**Elaine Miller:** Adolescence is a marketing tool.

**Anita Miller:** [to William] Honey, I know you were expecting puberty, but you're just going to have to shine it on for a little while.

**Elaine Miller:** Who needs a crowd? Who puts such a high premium on being typical? [to William] You're unique. Take those extra years and do what you want. Go to Europe for a year. Take a look around. See what you like. Follow your dream. You'll still be the youngest lawyer in the country. Your dad was so proud of you. He knew you were a predominantly accelerated child.

**Anita Miller:** What about me?

**Elaine Miller:** You are rebellious and ungrateful of my love.

---

**Anita Miller:** This song explains why I'm leaving home to become a stewardess.

**Elaine Miller:** We can't talk? We have to listen to rock music?

---

**Anita Miller:** [last words to Young William before leaving home] One day, you'll be cool.

---

**Lester Bangs:** Jim Morrison? He's a drunken buffoon posing as a poet. Ah, give me the Guess Who. Come on, they've got the courage to *be* drunken buffoons, which makes them *poetic*.

---

**Lester Bangs:** So, you're the kid who's been sending me those articles from your school newspaper.

**William Miller:** Yeah. Yeah. I've been doing some stuff for a local underground paper, too.

**Lester Bangs:** What, are you like the star of your school?

**William Miller:** They hate me.

**Lester Bangs:** You'll meet them all again on their long journey to the middle.

---

**Lester Bangs:** You like Lou Reed?

**William Miller:** The early stuff. In his new stuff he's trying to be Bowie. He should just be himself.

**Lester Bangs:** You take drugs?

**William Miller:** No.

**Lester Bangs:** Smart kid. I used to do speed. Like twenty-five pages of dribble just to fuckin' write. [*lengthy beat*] I can't just stand here all day talking to my many fans.

---

**Lester Bangs:** You know 'cause once you go to L.A., you're gonna have friends like crazy, but they're gonna be fake friends. You know, they're gonna try to corrupt you. You know, and you've got an honest face, and they're gonna tell you everything. But you cannot make friends with the rock stars.

**William Miller:** Okay.

**Lester Bangs:** If you're gonna be a true journalist—you know, a rock journalist—first, you'll never get paid much. But you will get free records from the record company. [*Looks at William*] Nothin' about you that is controversial, man. God, it's gonna get ugly, man. They're gonna buy you drinks, you're gonna meet girls, they're gonna try to fly you places for free, offer you drugs. I know. It sounds great. But these people are not your friends. You know, these are people who want you to write sanctimonious stories about the genius of rock stars, and they will ruin rock and roll and strangle everything we love about it. Right? And then it just becomes an industry of . . . cool.

---

**Lester Bangs:** Hey, you have to make your reputation on being honest and . . . you know, unmerciful.

**William Miller:** [*taking notes*] Honest. Unmerciful.

**Lester Bangs:** And if you get into a jam, you can call me. [*beat*] I stay up late.

---

**Elaine Miller:** Look at this—an entire generation of Cinderellas, and there's no slipper coming.

---

**William Miller:** [*on meeting Stillwater*] Russell. Jeff. Ed. Larry. I really love your band. I think the song "Fever Dog" is a big step forward for you guys. And you guys producing it yourselves, instead of Glyn Johns, that was the right thing to do. And Russell, Russell, the guitar sound... is incendiary. Incendiary. Way to go. [*He turns to leave. The band members regard one another for a moment*]

**Russell Hammond:** Well, hey man, don't stop there!

**Jeff Bebe:** Yeah, come back here! I'm incendiary, too, man!

---

**Jeff Bebe:** Some people have a hard time explaining rock 'n' roll. I don't think anyone can really explain rock 'n' roll. Maybe Pete Townshend, but that's okay. Rock 'n' roll is a lifestyle and a way of thinking . . . and it's not about money and popularity. Although, some money would be nice. But it's a voice that says, "Here I am . . . and fuck you if you can't understand me." And one of these people is gonna save the world. And that means that rock 'n' roll can save the world . . . all of us together. And the chicks are great. But what it all comes down to is that thing. The indefinable thing when people catch something from your music.

---

**Penny Lane:** How old are you?

**William Miller:** Eighteen.

**Penny Lane:** Me too! How old are we really?

**William Miller:** Seventeen.

**Penny Lane:** Me too!

**William Miller:** Actually, I'm sixteen.

**Penny Lane:** Me too. Isn't it funny? The truth just sounds different.

**William Miller:** I'm fifteen. What's your real name?

**Penny Lane:** I'll never tell.

---

**Penny Lane:** Call me if you need a rescue; we live in the same city.

**William Miller:** I think I live in a different world.

**Penny Lane:** Speaking of the world, I've made a decision. I'm gonna live in Morocco for one year. I need a new crowd. Do you wanna come?

**William Miller:** Yes! Yeah. Yeah.

**Penny Lane:** Are you sure?

**William Miller:** Ask me again.

**Penny Lane:** Do you wanna come?

**William Miller:** Yes! Yes.

---

**Penny Lane:** I always tell the girls: “Never take it seriously; if you never take it seriously, you never get hurt; if you never get hurt, you always have fun; and if you ever get lonely, you just go to the record store and visit your friends.”

**William Miller:** So, you and Russell—

**Penny Lane:** No. Russell has a girlfriend, and I can’t even say her name.

---

**Penny Lane:** It’s all happening, and I’ve got you as protection.

---

**Polexia Aphrodisia:** [*to William watching Penny Lane*] Act One, in which she pretends she doesn't care about him.

**Polexia Aphrodisia:** [*sees Russell strumming his guitar and staring at Penny*] Act Two, in which he pretends he doesn't care about her, but he goes right for her.

**Polexia Aphrodisia:** [*Russell goes to Penny*] Act Three, in which it all plays out the way she planned it. She'll eat him alive.

**William Miller:** We’ve gotta stop them.

**Polexia Aphrodisia:** Stop them? You were her excuse for coming here.

---

**Lester Bangs:** Stillwater?! Beware, beware of *Rolling Stone* magazine because they will change your story, they’ll rewrite it, you know, turn it into swill.

**William Miller:** But besides that. What would be wrong with it?

**Lester Bangs:** You’ve got starry eyes, my friend. Uh, look, uh, do the story. Who cares, you know, it’ll be good for you. Remember this: don’t do it to make friends with people who are going to use you to, ah, further the big business desire to glorify worthless rock stars like Stillwater. You know, don’t let those swill merchants rewrite you.

---

**Jeff Bebe:** I’m worried, man.

**Russell Hammond:** No, you can trust him. He’s a fan.

**Jeff Bebe:** But it’s *Rolling Stone*. He looks harmless but he does represent the magazine that trashed “Layla,” broke up Cream, ripped every album Led Zeppelin ever made. Don’t forget the rules, man. This little shit is the enemy. He writes what he sees. [*beat*] Although it would be cool to be on the cover.