

You waited in line an hour to see this movie. Incredible opening! Heart-stopping action! Unbelievable tension! This is going to be ... a great ... a great ... oh no. Seated directly behind you. A talker. You can withstand many things. People who drive 55 in the left lane. People with 10 items in the 8-items-only checkout. But here you draw the line. Talking in movie theaters is

sacrilege!

You paid seven bucks for this ticket. Seven bucks!

To the voice you say, "Could you please keep it down?"

Mistake. The voice gets louder. "Let's move," you hiss to your girlfriend. "No," she says. "Come on," you implore. "No," she says. "I've had it with talkers," she says. She reaches into her bag. Drops a squat metallic object on her lap. What the...? **Out of the corn r of your y ,**

you see her squinting, slowly, surely screwing two pieces together.

A... a... silencer? Geez! This is a side of her you've never seen before.

You think, momentarily, that should this case go to a jury, it will

be important to have movie lovers on the panel. She lifts the weapon

from her lap. What's it going to be? A Colt .45? A derringer?

You force yours lf to look.

It's sleek. It's smooth. It's small. It's a... PDA? She's going to

threaten the voice with a personal digital assistant? She quickly

touches some keys, leans forward. "Computer," she says tersely to

the little machine. Great. Now your girlfriend talks to inanimate

objects. What's next? **Lunch with ali ns?**

She whispers something else to the machine. Wonderful. She's

decided to catch up on work during your date. Suddenly, miracu-

lously, the voice behind you stops. Weird-like, in mid-sentence.

You glance back. What the...? It's long. Round. Pointy. A... cone...

of... silence? "PDA with a silencer," your girlfriend mutters.

Damn, that's good software.

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