

SIZE OF THE SACRIFICE

by

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BLACK

Quite sounds of a restaurant.

BILLY (V.O.)

Ah! (whispers) Someone just touched me! What is it? You should be able to see the food... So stupid. Worldwide sensation my ass. I need light to eat... You eating? Lily?

LILY (V.O.)

Mm-hm...

Sound of obstruct breathing. Troubled rustling.

BILLY (V.O.)

You okay?

LILY (V.O.)

(uneasy)

Can't... breath...

BILLY (V.O.)

Was it something in the fo.. (yells)
Hey! Excuse me! Where are you, shit?
Somebody?

WAITER (V.O.)

Is everything okay, miss?

BILLY (V.O.)

No! Call the ambulance!

WAITER (V.O.)

What happened?

BILLY (V.O.)

My friend can't breathe.

WAITER (V.O.)

Is she allergic?

BILLY (V.O.)

Are you a fucking doctor? Call the ambulance or give me my fucking phone!
(beat)
And turn the fucking lights on!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Bright lights. On the hospital stretcher lies LILY, 15. In the chair sits another girl BILLY, 15 too. Enters Lily's very pregnant and very concerned mother GRACE, 34.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRACE
How are you, honey?

LILY
(smiling tiredly)
I'm alright.

BILLY
(in a eureka moment)
Honey... It was honey!

GRACE
(to Billy)
What?

LILY
(to mother)
Where is dad?

GRACE
He can't make it.

Lily withdraws, stops smiling, and looks away.

INT. ELEVATOR

Elevator's door opens. Inside there is KATE, 30 and BEN, 35. Kate mends the short skirt, touches her hair. Ben hooks the belt on his jeans. Kate exits the elevator.

BEN
(jokingly serious)
So I think I'll go now...

KATE
(chuckles)
Common... The hat.

Ben picks up the stylish hat dusts it off and exits too. Kate and Ben walk in the floor hall. Ben rolls up the sleeves of his shirt. Ben's phone buzzes. He picks it up. Kate opens the door enters and lets Ben in. Kate walks fast into the room leaving her shoes behind.

BEN
Yeah. What? Is she okay? You sure?
Well...

Ben carefully looks inside the room where Kate went.

BEN (CONT'D)
Shit, I'm stuck here at the rehearsal.
You sure? Yeah, see you.
(shuts the phone, to Kate)
Lily is in the hospital.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ben drops the phone on the stand, loses the shoes, and reaches for the hat.

KATE (O.S.)
No, leave the hat.

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - DAY

The simple kitchen of a simple house. The owners are not exactly Rothschilds. Lily is eating breakfast. Grace drinks coffee near the counter. As Ben enters Grace tenses up and Lily shines. She anticipates a conversation, let's put it this way. Ben silently goes to the drawers and opens one of them. Then another. Grace is watching him with cold eyes.

GRACE
Morning.

BEN
Where are Oreos?

GRACE
I don't know.

BEN
(more to himself)
I never eat them.

GRACE
Eat something normal.

BEN
I'm knee-deep in the script.

LILY
(interested)
A new play, dad?

BEN
(not turning the head, grabbing waffles)
Yeah, and very demanding.

Ben starts to walk out with waffles. Lily turns to her food again. Grace glances at her.

GRACE
Ben!

Ben turns puzzled. Grace point to Lily with her eyes. Ben goes toward Lily.

BEN
(to Lily)
Hey, hospital, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lily starts shining again, she nods enthusiastically almost starting to talk.

BEN (CONT'D)
You feeling okay?

LILY
Yes.

BEN
(starts to walk)
Great. (turns to Lily) Stay away from
peanuts.

LILY
It was honey...

BEN
(saving the face)
Just to be safe!

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - DAY

From behind the door jumps JOHN, 35 with a fishing line wound around his face making him look like a creature from a horror movie.

JOHN
Argh!

GRACE
Aaaaaa!

Lily laughs. John awkwardly looks at Grace.

GRACE (CONT'D)
What the hell, John? You scared the
shit out of me...

Monster stands ashamed.

JOHN
Sorry, Grace.

Lily laughs again.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(squeezing the comedy)
I'm so-o-o so-o-ory!

Grace fights the smile.

LILY
How did you do that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN
Fishing line.

John starts to take it off.

LILY
Do you have more?

Lily walks to John. John takes it from his pocket and hands to Lily. Lily goes out of the kitchen with new toy.

GRACE
(yells to Lily)
If you ever scared me like this with
it I'll kill you!

John gets entangled with the fishing line. Grace comes and helps him.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Here, let me...

JOHN
Thanks.

John warms up his normal quite attractive face. John and Grace find themselves in front of each other. They snap out of it.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I need to get some coffee...

GRACE
I need to go... there.

INT. GOFFER'S LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Knock on the door. Grace opens the door. There is Billy.

GRACE
Hey, Billy. Come in. Lily is upstairs.

BILLY
Hi, Mrs. Goffer. I actually need all
of you.

Billy walks to the stairs. Grace closes the door and watches Billy intrigued.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Lily! Come down!

Billy turns back to Grace and smiles to fill the time. Little pause.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY (CONT'D)
How are you feeling?

Grace opens her mouth to answer and Lily comes down the stairs.

LILY
Hey.

BILLY
I've got a surprise! I get to write a review for "Cold fusion" and I can bring the party of three with me! Can you come?

Billy looks at Lily and then at Grace. Grace does not understand at first but then Lily with a smile on her face looks at her too with a question in her eyes.

GRACE
Oh, you mean us?

BILLY
Yeah! The whole Goffer family. (brings up added value) It's totally free.

GRACE
What's "Cold fusion"?

INT. COLD FUSION - DAY

Glassdoor of little ice-cream joint at the corner. The letters on the door read "Cold fusion" but we see them from behind. Billy opens the door with a bell sound. Lily, Grace, and Ben stand behind.

STEWARD (O.S.)
(a bit slow)
Welcome to "Cold fusion"! The future of ice cream!

BILLY
Hi. I'm here to write a review. Me plus a party of three.

She hands the voucher to the steward.

STEWARD (O.S.)
(nervous)
I'm sorry. It says a party of three.

BILLY
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEWARD (O.S.)
(unsure)
And it's four of you.

BILLY
I'm writing a review.

STEWARD (O.S.)
Thank you for your service! But...

BEN
Look, can we...

BILLY
I'm sorry. But I had an understanding
with the manager. Where is he?

STEWARD (O.S.)
I can get him on the phone...

BEN
Look, can you just take this voucher
and I'll pay for myself.

BILLY
Thank you, Mr. Goffer. I've had an
understanding...

BEN
I hate making a scene.

INT. COLD FUSION - DAY

Billy, Lily, Grace, and Ben sit at the table. In front of
them is ice cream. In front of Billy - a lot of ice cream.
They eat in tense silence.

GRACE
You've had to make a scene.

BEN
You sure you don't like pistachio?

GRACE
(cold)
Yes.

BEN
I remember you told me how your granny
always has had some for you in the
fridge.

GRACE
It wasn't me, Ben.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN

Maybe pregnancy messes with the
taste...

Grace looks at Ben as if she wanted his head to explode. Lily and Billy look at Grace. A moment of good old awkward silence.

BILLY

(suddenly)

I like that place.

Everyone nods in a different fashion without looking at each other.

INT. GOFFER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grace sits at the little table by the wall. The warm light of a table lamp shines on bills and papers in front of her. She is frowning. Ben enters and Grace interrupts his journey.

GRACE

We can't pay the next month's bills.

BEN

John's money won't help?

GRACE

(strict)

They won't, Ben.

BEN

(not raising the voice)

What do you want from me? Rub a
fucking bank?

GRACE

I want you to care.

BEN

I do. (beat) I'll see, maybe we can
still sell something.

Ben exits, feeling that he's solved the problem. Grace looks at him in a way that shows he clearly hasn't.

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

Ben stares at the picture in the middle of an antique store. In his hands, he holds a paper-wrapped rectangle. ARTHUR, 52 a man very much like Ben's older version stands next to Ben.

ARTHUR

You are a leech. You've lived off of
me your whole life. Even after I'm
dead you keep ripping me off. How much

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
of your father's stuff you're gonna
sell, you helpless loser?

CLERK (O.S)
Can I help you?

Ben turns his head to the sound. The store clerk is standing there with him and no one else.

INT. BEN'S NISSAN - NIGHT

Ben behind the wheel, taking an occasional sip from the bottle in the paper bag.

BEN
I sold my mother's favorite picture today. And for change too. It was an old lighthouse with the seagull on top. She could stare at it for hours, I've been told. After she died I stared at it too. Trying to see what she saw, trying to... But I didn't. I only saw a man inside. There was no man in the picture, but I knew there was a guy. And I envied that motherfucker.

INT./EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DUSK

Calm music.

The small window in the thick stone wall. Twilight. Storm. The sea slams against the rocks and thousands of little pieces of foam mix with heavy raindrops. The beam of light coming from above appears from the left slowly scans the horizon and goes away to the right. Against the rain and the wind, it pierces the darkness ahead.

BEN (V.O.)
Because in all that turmoil, in all the shitshow around him, with all the unbearable craziness the life and sea would throw at him. He only had one job. To keep the light on.
(pause)
To keep the light on... You see?

INT. BEN'S NISSAN - NIGHT

In front of Ben on the dashboard, there is a bobblehead of a smiling puppy with a big head, squinted eyes, and a tongue out. Its head moves slightly. Ben touches the head of a puppy and it wobbles. Ben holds out the bottle to the puppy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN
Wanna drink?

INT. GOFFER'S LOBBY - DAY

The front door opens and Lily and MATT, 16 enter holding hands and giggling.

LILY
I only take my coat. Wait here.

Lily takes a couple of steps as they hear a moan. Lily turns to Matt and blushes, they smile and listen. The moans start again now rhythmic and accompanied by a stomping sound.

MATT
Your parents?

Lily shrugs "probably".

MATT (CONT'D)
In the middle of the day? Cool...

LILY
I'll be right back.

INT. GOFFERS' HALL - DAY

Lily emerges from downstairs. She treads lightly not to disturb the floor. The moaning and exclamation continue. Lily passes the parent's bedroom discovering that the source of the sound is elsewhere. She moves toward John's room and the sound becomes louder. Lily strangely looks at the bathrobe laying just before the door to John's room. Lily sits down and examines it. Then throws it down stands up and storms down the hall.

WOMAN (O.S.)
Yeah! Fuck me! Fuck me!

INT. GOFFER'S LOBBY - DAY

Lily runs down the steps. Rushes through the lobby and to the door. She is teared up. Matt looks at her not understanding.

LILY
Let's go.

MATT
Where is your coat?

LILY
(closing the door behind them)
I don't need it.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Billy and Lily sit on the massive tree. Lily holds her head in hands with the elbows on her knees.

BILLY

It's easy to find out if a boy is into you. You know?

LILY

(detached)

How?

BILLY

It's the size of the sacrifice. You have to figure out what is he willing to sacrifice for you.

LILY

(sarcastically but still detached)

Like a cat?

BILLY

Yeah. (chuckles) No, I mean, you ask him to go out and he says

(mimicking boy's voice)

Oh, no. I can't. Tomorrow is my history test.

(in her own voice)

That means he cares about stupid tests more than he cares about you. You see?

(pause)

LILY

(sad and detached)

My father is always busy...

Billy glance at Lily trying to see if she is being sincere. Then Billy goes to her own thoughts for a bit.

BILLY

Yeah...

(pause)

Work is important, you know?

LILY

Yeah...

(beat)

I think my mom is cheating on my dad.

Billy looks at Lily looking for something to say. She extends her hand to touch Lily, hesitates, then touches Lily's shoulder very gently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY
(bluntly, with the hint of irony)
She sucks.

Billy is looking at Lily waiting for her joke to sink.

LILY
(seriously)
Yeah, I think she does.

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Lily sits at the table and picks her meal with a fork. Grace is at the sink washing something. She looks at Lily over the shoulder.

GRACE
Is it good?

LILY
(under her breath)
Tastes like cunt.

GRACE
What did you say?

Lily looks at Grace sharply. Grace walks to the table.

LILY
Are you fucking John?

GRACE
(shocked)
What?... It's none of your business.
And watch your tongue.

LILY
Seriously? The guy who lives in the
house? Right here?

GRACE
Keep your voice down.

LILY
Why? Is that hormonal? Can't control
your vagina?

GRACE
Shut your mouth!

LILY
(after a beat)
You have to tell dad.

GRACE
Are you crazy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
You have to tell him.
(swallows)
Or I will.

GRACE
Are you giving me an ultimatum?

LILY
(looks at the table)
It really does taste like cunt.

Lily walks out.

INT. BEN'S STUDY - DAY

Ben is shuttling in the room back and forth. Arthur sits in a chair. Ben is more annoyed than angry.

BEN
I don't know what to do. Should I
punch him?

ARTHUR
You're a coward. You've never punched
anyone.

BEN
In college, I was in a couple of
fights...

ARTHUR
No you weren't. That what you tell
people.

BEN
I should punch him in the nose.

ARTHUR
If you were a real man.

BEN
Can he stay? He is an income...

Ben looks at Arthur and Arthur's face is full of disgust and shock. Ben hesitates, sighs, and then walks to the door.

INT. GOFFERS' HALL - DAY

The door to the study opens and Ben walks out of the room. We see the chair where Arthur was is now empty.

We follow Ben through the hall to the door to John's room. He raises his hand to knock, but instead just opens the door.

INT. JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

John sits at the typewriter. He raises his head as Ben walks in. For a moment Ben is undecided about what to do, he looks around the room. He looks lost.

BEN
You have to go.

JOHN
(after studying Ben's face)
Okay.

BEN
I mean move out.

JOHN
Okay.
(pause)
We can talk if you want to.

BEN
But you'll pay for the whole month.

JOHN
Okay.

Ben turns to the shelf with the troll dolls collection all smiling at him with their different colored hairs all up. He punches the nearest troll in the face with his index finger. Troll falls on the back. Ben exits the room.

EXT. GOFFERS' PORCH - DAY

JOHN, 35 sits on the stairs. He smokes. Near him lay the old typewriter and a couple of big sports bags. Lily walks down the stairs and sits next to John, looking away. John glances at Lily.

JOHN
You mad?

LILY
(looking at John)
At you? A little. I'm mad at mom.

John nods "yeah, all right". Lily looks at the bags.

LILY (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

JOHN
To the trailer park.

Lily nods "yeah, all right".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
(like she is 50)
Life is a bitch.

John chuckles. Lily reaches out for the cigarette in John's hand. John takes it away.

JOHN
(surprised but calmly)
The fuck you're doing?

Lily stands up and walks to the front door.

LILY
You're no fun.

JOHN
(chuckles)
Yeah, right...

INT. LILY'S ROOM - DAY

Lily lays on the bed on her belly reading. Grace walks past, glances into the room. Comes back.

GRACE
Lily, clean your room, please.

LILY
M-hm.

GRACE
Lily!

LILY
Not now, mom. I'm reading.

Grace walks toward the bed.

GRACE
Oh, you're reading? What? Chemistry?
Math?

Grace grabs the book from tensed-up Lily.

GRACE (CONT'D)
"Elven blood". Great!

Grace throws the book on the bed.

GRACE (CONT'D)
You won't help when your mother is
asking you because you're reading that
trash.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
It's not trash...

GRACE
Is that what these books teach you? To
shit on your parents?

LILY
What books have you been reading?

GRACE
That's it. I told you to clean your
room and you'll do it. Get up.

LILY
Mom...

Grace grabs Lily by the ear. Lily's face clinches and she
gets up.

GRACE
Start with your books.

LILY
(scared)
No!

GRACE
Put them all in the bag. You'll put
them where they belong. Trash to the
trash.

LILY
(crying)
Please, mom...

GRACE
If you love your books more than your
mother, then you can keep them.

Lily looks at Grace bewildered and confused. Tears flow down
her cheeks. She walks out of the room bearing the fate on her
brittle shoulders.

EXT. GOFFERS' FRONT PORCH - DAY

Lily walks out of the front door dragging a big heavy garbage
bag. She cries. She walks to the garbage bin, opens it, and
puts the bag in the trash.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - DAY

Knock on the door. Door opens and in the opening there is
Grace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRACE

Hey...

Lily sits on the chair hugging her knees. Grace enters with a glass of lemonade.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I've made you a lemonade.

LILY

I'm not thirsty.

GRACE

(after pause)

I'm sorry, Lil. Don't be mad.

Lily doesn't look at Grace.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Have some lemonade.

LILY

I'm not thirsty...

GRACE

Don't be like that. I've said I'm sorry.

Lily looks at Grace.

LILY

And I've said I'm not thirsty.

GRACE

Just try it...

LILY

No.

GRACE

One little sip...

LILY

(losing patience)

I said no!

Grace pours the lemonade on Lily's head. Lily looks at her in shock for a moment. Then silently walks out of the room.

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dark kitchen. Ben enters walks to the fridge and looks inside.

LILY (O.S.)

Dad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ben turns around and sees Lily who sits on the kitchen chair hugging her knees. Ben turns back to the fridge.

BEN
What are you doing up?

Ben picks up the beer bottle turns and opens it.

LILY
Mom made me throw away all my fantasy books.

BEN
Does she know how much money is it?
I've spent a lot on them.

LILY
I know.
(pause)
Can I sit with you?

BEN
Doing what? I'm going to bed. Good night.

Ben starts to walk away.

LILY
Night.

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Lily drinks coffee at the table. Grace walks in with something behind her back. Lily looks at Grace with no expression. Grace walks to the table and puts on the table in front of Lily the book "Throne of Glass".

LILY
(surprised but defensive)
Throw it out yourself.

GRACE
(completely misunderstood)
No! I've borrowed it earlier...

LILY
(interested)
You've read it?

Grace nods with tears in her eyes.

LILY (CONT'D)
Did you like it?

Grace nods more saying with her expression "I shouldn't have, but I did".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRACE
Can you forgive me?

Lily cannot speak and nods. Grace sits next to her and holds her. Lily answers

GRACE (CONT'D)
Can I blame it on the hormones? I
can't control my temper...

They both cry and laugh together.

LILY
Yeah, you can't.

INT. GOFFERS' KITCHEN - DAY

Ben enters as girls hold each other. He goes to the fridge and takes an energy drink out.

BEN
Morning. I'm off.

GRACE
Can you take Lily with you?
(to Lily)
You want to?

Lily nods enthusiastically and looks at Ben with hope in her wet eyes. Ben hesitates.

GRACE (CONT'D)
(firmly)
You promised to spend more time with
her.

BEN
OK. You've got five minutes. I'll be
in the car.

These last words he says to Lily's back.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

Small theatre auditorium. Stage without any props is lit by bright light. Several actors in little groups seat and watch. Lily sits at the back. Director sits in the second row.

Ben and his stage partner LISA, 20's, are on stage.

BEN
I thought we'd go in a different
direction here. Instead of a shy
virgin kiss, we should do...

Ben takes Lisa by the waist pulls her roughly, french-kisses

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

her while he touches and rubs her body all over. Lisa plays along. Actors in their seats whistle and yell approvingly. Lily looks at all of it uncomfortably.

BEN (CONT'D)
Something like that.

Lisa laughs and looks at the director. Ben glances at Lily. Looks at the director.

BEN (CONT'D)
What do you think?
(pause)
Guys liked it. No?

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Lily sits alone on the seat at the edge of a row. In the room, to the side of the stage we hear glass clinks, loud voices, laughter bursts. The door to that room opens and people start coming out talking and laughing. Ben is one of them. Ben walks past Lily. Lily stands up.

LILY
Are we going home?

BEN
(slightly drunk)
No. Not yet.

Lily looks at the room near the stage.

BEN (CONT'D)
(acting off of Lily's expression)
It's an important part of a process.

LISA
(walking past)
Are you coming?

BEN
In a minute.

LILY
You and mom... You're okay?

BEN
Kind of. We decided to try again.

MAN 1 walks past Lily and smacks her on the ass.

MAN 1
Real actress's ass! Cool.

Ben smiles at the man. Lily freezes. She looks at Ben.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN

He's just goofing around...

LILY

I want to go home.

BEN

Not yet.

LILY

(firmly)

I want to go home.

BEN

Go then.

LILY

(confused)

I don't have any money for a taxi...

BEN

Walk then.

Ben walks away.

EXT. THEATRE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The loud crowd having a smoke. Ben is among them. Lily walks out of the door. She looks at Ben. Ben turned his head away. Lily starts to walk down the street. Ben looks at her back.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Lily stands under the lantern. She holds her arms because of the cold. She pulls the phone. Dials. Waits.

LILY

Can you pick me up?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Lily stands under the lantern. The taxi pulls up. The back door opens and we see that it's John who opens the door. Lily gets in. John looks at her. Lily looks at the seat in front.

JOHN

(to cabby)

Peabody cross...

LILY

(interrupting)

No. Can we not go home?

John and Lily look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN
Caravan park then.

INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT

Lily sits on a sofa in a blanket with a cup of steaming hot coffee in her hands. John enters with sheets and a pillow.

JOHN
Have you called your mother?

Lily looks at John and slowly shakes her head.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Are you going to?

Lily shrugs. John puts the sheets and the pillow on the sofa.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Do you want me to call her?

LILY
(with hope)
Would you?

John pulls the phone from his pocket and goes to the bedroom. Door closes.

INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT

Door opens. John comes out.

LILY
Is she pissed with me?

JOHN
She is pissed with both of us. But it's okay. I promised to bring you first thing in the morning.

LILY
Thanks.
(looks around)
It's nice.

JOHN
It's nice of you to lie.
(beat)
C'mon, go to bed.

LILY
I'm on my bed.

JOHN
No, I'll sleep here. You're sleeping in the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN (CONT'D)
(sensing hesitation)
I've just changed the sheets.

LILY
Thank you.

Lily kisses John lightly in the cheek and walks away.

INT. GOFFER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lily, John and Grace sit at the table. Tension in the air.
Ben enters.

BEN
(points at John)
What's he doing here?

GRACE
He brought our daughter home.
Something you've failed to do
yesterday.

BEN
About that... I'm sorry. Lily, I
should... I'm sorry.

Ben sits at the table. No one says anything for some time.
They exchange glances.

JOHN
I've got an idea. You guys need time
to figure out... whatever. What if
Lily stayed with me for a while?

BEN
Absolutely not.

GRACE
(with Ben)
It could work.

Ben looks at Grace. Lily looks at John.

BEN
What about school? It's a big commute.

JOHN
I'll pay for the taxi.

BEN
The hell you are. I'll pay...

LILY
I can bike.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN
Yeah. Or that.

GRACE
You'll visit?

LILY
Sure.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - DAY

Billy and Lily sit on the bed opposite each other.

BILLY
Brian says Mr. Norman knows.

LILY
Knows what?

BILLY
That I've copied your test... Brian says...

LILY
Brian who?

BILLY
Brian Kettler... It doesn't matter. I can't get caught. My father... You know. He will beat me again.

LILY
Maybe you should talk to somebody about that?

BILLY
No. It'll only make things worse. Will you cover for me?

LILY
How?

BILLY
You can tell it was you who copied my test. Your parents are cool.

LILY
Yeah...

BILLY
Would you?

LILY
I guess...

Billy hugs Lily.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

Thank you. Thank you!

Billy stops hugging Lily. Billy looks in Lily's face and then kisses her on the lips. Lily freezes.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(scared)

You don't like it?

After a beat Lily grabs Billy's face and kisses her on the lips.

INT. BEN'S NISSAN - DAY

Lily drives the car slowly. Ben watches the road. He is visibly uncomfortable.

LILY

Should you do something you don't like only because someone else likes it?

BEN

Can you watch the road?

LILY

I mean, if you like that person?

BEN

What are you talking about? You don't want to live with John?

LILY

No, it's not about John.

BEN

If you don't want to, you shouldn't.

LILY

You're about my question?

BEN

I'm about John. You're slipping. To the left!

LILY

I mean what if someone kisses you, for example...

BEN

Yeah, then we definitely not about John.

Lily glances at Ben.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LILY
What if it is John?

BEN
Don't be ridiculous.

LILY
Would you care?

BEN
Is he doing something?

LILY
What if he is?

BEN
Shit, is he or is he not?

LILY
He is.

BEN
Stop lying. Why do you say something like that? It's serious. You can't do that. I know John for 20 years.

LILY
(after pause)
You didn't know he'd fuck your wife...

Ben turns to Lily.

BEN
Stop the car.

LILY
Dad...

BEN
Stop the car!

Lily pulls over. Kills the engine.

LILY
I'm sorry...

BEN
We're switching.

Ben opens the door and exits. Lily too. They change. They buckle seatbelts in silence. Ben starts the engine.

BEN (CONT'D)
It's not safe. You're a shitty driver.

Ben drives. Lily turns to the window. Her eyes are full of

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

tears.

INT. KATE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

New age kind of living room. Dimmed light. Puffy sofa. Two people. Kate kisses ben very passionately. Kate starts to undress him. Between kisses Ben says.

BEN

I wanted to talk to you.

Kate continues to undress him.

KATE

(playfully)

Oh. yeah? Did you want to talk to me dirty?

BEN

No. Cleanly.

Kate sits on Ben's laps and they make out. She kisses his neck and we see Ben's confused face.

BEN (CONT'D)

Maybe we should talk...

KATE

We can talk later.

Kate reaches down his pants and Ben moans. He grabs her hand.

BEN

I'll be right back.

Ben pushes Kate out of the way and goes to the bathroom and Kate lays on the sofa confused.

INT. KATE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ben splashes some water on his face and looks in the mirror as the water is dripping down his face.

BEN

You promised. Remember? You should stop it right now. Gently. Don't hurt her feelings.

Ben turns to the door. Looks down his pants. Pauses.

BEN (CONT'D)

Sorry, I don't trust you.

Ben unzips his pants. Pants drop. Ben masturbates. Soon enough he starts moving faster and in the face of the inevitable, he looks around desperately. Picks up some small

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

towel and ejaculates in it. Coming to his senses now he desperately looks around to find a place to hide it. He sees the laundry bin and with his pants still down walks to it and hides the towel underneath some clothes.

INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT

John sits at the table with a typewriter. Lily enters. She holds on a stretched hand by thumb and index finger women's panties.

LILY

What is that? Is that mom's? She was here?

JOHN

I'm sorry, Li. I shouldn't have done what I've done. It was stupid. And now you're in pain.

Lily almost tears up.

LILY

Whatever... It's not like you've made her do it.

Lily realizes she still holds panties. Drops them.

LILY (CONT'D)

Which "li"?

John does not understand.

LILY (CONT'D)

You called me "Li". It's the first "li" or the second?

JOHN

Both.

INT. KATE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ben enters the room and Kate is completely naked on the sofa.

BEN

We really need to talk.

KATE

If you can.

Kate reaches down Ben's pants and stops.

KATE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN

Nothing. It's just... too much to drink. I think. Sorry.

Kate sits up. She looks puzzled. She grabs the cover and covers herself.

KATE

That's OK. What did you want to talk about?

Ben picks up his clothes.

BEN

We should stop.

Kate sits on the sofa and watches Ben collecting his clothes.

KATE

I love you.

Ben freezes.

KATE (CONT'D)

I dream about you. When you hug me the world around shines. I masturbate thinking about you. And I know, you love me too.

Ben stands up.

BEN

Kate, it's not that simple...

KATE

Do you love me?

BEN

Kate, my life right now...

KATE

Do you love me?

BEN

I just think, that...

KATE

Do you love me?

Ben goes to the sofa and sits near Kate. He takes her hand.

BEN

What I feel about you cannot be put into words easily. It cannot be boiled down to some worn-down phrases. Please do not make me dishonor you with such

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BEN (CONT'D)

commonness. You're special. What we've got is special and I hope you know that. But it was always temporary, right? You knew that I was married.

KATE

Yes.

Kate takes her hand from Ben, gets up, and goes toward her bedroom.

BEN

Kate?

KATE

I don't feel well, Ben. You'll manage on your own?

BEN

Kate, don't...

Ben looks as lifeless Kate walks like a zombie out of the room.

KATE

(without turning)

Night.

INT. CARAVAN, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lily lays on the bed fully clothed. She has earphones on. Her face is lit by the phone she holds with both hands.

BILLY (O.S.)

(telephone voice)

You touching yourself?

LILY

Yeah...

BILLY (O.S.)

My fingers will slip along the inner curve of the bare thigh as I tickle the buttons of your t-shirt undone with my tongue...

LILY

(to Billy's benefit)

Mmmm...

As Billy talks, we see Lily's phone from her POV. She texts Mom. Messages read something like "I miss you ("me too ("does John behave? :)", "he's cool)". Lily types "how's dad?" and then deletes the message.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY (O.S.)

I trace your jawline with both hands,
pushing your head back and biting your
bottom lip, slipping my tongue up and
lightly licking it, pulling away and
finding my way down to your stomach
and between your thighs...

INT. GOFFER'S LOBBY - DAY

The knock on the front door. Ben goes and opens it. DC PARKS,
female, 30s, stands there. She shows Ben the badge.

DC PARKS
Benjamin Goffer?

BEN
Yes.

DC PARKS
DC Parks. Can I talk to you?

BEN
What about?

DC PARKS
Kate Doherty. Where have you seen her
last?

Ben turns around and looks inside the house. Steps outside
and closes the door behind him.

BEN
(in a low voice)
Kate? What happened?

DC PARKS
Where have you seen her last?

BEN
I don't know... Yesterday at the
theatre, I guess. Is she okay?

DC PARKS
You two were close?

BEN
(nervously)
What do you mean?

DC PARKS
Where have you been yesterday night?

BEN
What's going on detective?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DC PARKS
Yesterday night, please.

BEN
Here! I was here at home.

DC PARKS
Can someone confirm that?

BEN
All right, I'm not going to answer any more questions. Good day.

Ben starts to turn away.

DC PARKS
Kate Doherty is dead.

Ben stops. Slowly turns back.

DC PARKS (CONT'D)
Found dead in her apartment today.

BEN
How?

DC PARKS
What can you tell me, Mr. Goffer?

Ben looks at the door.

BEN
Can we talk somewhere else?

DC PARKS
Let's go in my car.

INT. DC PARKS' CAR - DAY

Ben looks in the window silently and DC Parks talks and watches Ben.

DC PARKS
So, I've got that report I have to write. I can put suicide in it and we all will go back to our separate pity lives. But I can put murder there and well... I've seen it ruin people. Marriages. Lives. Conviction is possible though unlikely. But the investigation can last years. And you're in jail awaiting trial. So you have two options here.

BEN
I don't have money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DC PARKS
Then it's only one option.

BEN
(after a pause)
I need time.

DC PARKS
You have until the end of a week.

Ben gets out and closes the door.

INT. BEN'S NISSAN - DAY

Lily opens the door and gets in.

LILY
Hey.

BEN
Hey. (starts driving)

LILY
I was thinking movies.

BEN
We could stay at home and watch
something on TV.

LILY
I've got money.

BEN
What do you mean you've got money?
Where did you get it?

LILY
The usual: drugs, prostitution.

BEN
I'm serious, Lily.

LILY
(reluctantly)
John.

BEN
I see. Will saint John pay for your
college, by any chance?

LILY
Dad...

BEN
I'm not going to the movies. Take
John.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEN (CONT'D)
(pause)

LILY
(handing him money)
Here! Take it! It's not much, but
maybe it'll cover all the gas you
spent on me.

Lily throws the money at the dashboard with the smiling puppy bobblehead. Coins scatter all over, paper money falls down. Bobblehead wobbles.

THE END OF THE PREVIEW