

45 EXT. EMERSON HOME - NIGHT 45

Melinda pulls up in front of the house. She's about to get out of the car when the garage door opens and an old sedan backs out. As it heads past her, Melinda sees Caitlin at the wheel. She starts the car and follows.

46 EXT. LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT 46

Caitlin comes out of the store with a brown paper bag. She crosses the street and gets into her car. She sits there a moment, then opens the bag, pulling out a bottle of whisky. She's about to open it when Melinda appears at her window.

MELINDA

I don't think you want to do that, Caitlin.

CAITLIN

(jumps; looks at her)
Where did you come from?

MELINDA

I followed you.

CAITLIN

Why?

MELINDA

Because I'm worried about you. And it looks like I was right to worry.

CAITLIN

Will you please just go away?

MELINDA

Sure, you just polish off the bottle and drive on home. That works for me.

A beat. Caitlin gets out of the car and starts to walk briskly away from Melinda.

CAITLIN

Fine. Have a car.

MELINDA

Caitlin, I know you're in pain --

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CAITLIN

You don't know anything! I just want it all to stop! I can't stand the things that are in my brain!

MELINDA

You don't erase them by erasing yourself. Think of the people you would hurt. Think of your father!

Caitlin laughs -- a harsh barking laugh.

CAITLIN

My father? He doesn't care about me. He hates me because I remind him of my mother. She left him when I was a baby, did Aunt Diane tell you that?

MELINDA

No.

CAITLIN

Protecting him, probably. Ever the big sister.

MELINDA

Diane loves you, and she's already lost a son. Do you really want to do this to her? Break her heart again?

Caitlin wavers slightly. Then tears fill her eyes.

CAITLIN

I just feel so... empty.

MELINDA

(the words resounding)
I know.

CAITLIN

If I could believe he was out there.

MELINDA

He is, believe me.

CAITLIN

I need proof!

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MELINDA

Sometimes we don't get proof.
Sometimes we have to take it on
faith.

CAITLIN

(angry now)

Well, I'm sorry but I can't do
that! I know you really want to
believe that you see ghosts and
things, but why don't you just face
the fact that you can't? That
they're not out there. That
nothing is out there except
nightmares and bad memories!

MELINDA

(firmly)

I know that's not true, Caitlin. I
know it for a fact.

(beat)

And okay, I will prove it to you.
All I'm asking is for a little
time. Will you please give me
that? Before you do something
you'll regret. Just give me a
little more time!

On Melinda's imploring face we

END ACT THREE

END

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