

7th HEAVEN

"Regret To Inform"

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Episode #7

Season 9

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WRITER'S DRAFT
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SEVENTH HEAVEN

"Regret to Inform"

PROLOGUE

FADE IN:

DAY ONE

1 EXT. POOL HALL - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 1

2 INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT 2

KEVIN is hanging out with LEIF and RICK, buddies from work, when MARTIN and MAC enter.

KEVIN
What's going on?

MARTIN
We were going to play some pool to
blow off a little steam after
studying, but it looks like all the
tables are full.

KEVIN
You can wait with us if you want.

MARTIN
Sure.

Kevin's cell phone RINGS. He answers.

KEVIN
Hello?

INTERCUT:

3 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT 3

It's LUCY.

LUCY
Hi, I know you're out with the guys,
and you should have some time to
spend with your friends, but on
your way home, could you pick up a
chocolate shake for me?

KEVIN
Of course.

LUCY
When are you coming home?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

KEVIN

I shouldn't be long. An hour or so.

She waits.

KEVIN

Or now.

LUCY

Perfect. See you soon.

She hangs up. The guys give Kevin a little grief as he calls for the check.

LEIF

She sure is keeping you on a short leash.

RICK

Doesn't your wife realize that this pregnancy thing is just as hard on you? You need your alone time, too.

KEVIN

The fact that you guys aren't married truly amazes me.

Just then VENUS, a young, good looking Bohemian-type woman, comes over and starts chatting it up with the guys.

VENUS

Hey, guys.

LEIF

Hi, Venus.

RICK

How've you been?

VENUS

I've been good.

She looks at Martin and Mac.

VENUS

So, you guys are new?

MAC

Yeah, we just got here.

She laughs.

VENUS

No. New on the job.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

MARTIN
We don't work here.

She laughs a little and heads over to Kevin, who is paying the bill.

VENUS
Looks like you're going to have
some fun breaking those new guys
in.

KEVIN
New guys?

She points over to Mac and Martin.

VENUS
They're coming out of the academy
looking younger and younger every
year.

Kevin gets it.

KEVIN
Oh yeah. You know rookies.

VENUS
The dark-haired one is kind of cute.

Kevin can't help but smile.

VENUS
Make sure you keep them in line.

KEVIN
Will do.

He drops his money on the table and leaves, patting Martin on the back as he passes.

KEVIN
Good luck.

Kevin exits. Mac looks at Martin.

MAC
What did that mean?

MARTIN
Who knows.

Mac and Martin head toward an open table and start racking balls. Mac sees Venus giving Martin a womanly look.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

MAC
(whispers to Martin)
Don't look now, but that woman is
checking you out.

Martin turns and looks directly at her.

MARTIN
What woman?

MAC
(shakes his head)
Smooth move.

Martin turns back to Mac.

MARTIN
She's not looking at me. She's like
five years older than us.

MAC
Whatever. She's looking at you.

Now Martin takes a stealthy look back. Venus is indeed looking
at him. He smiles.

FADE OUT.

END OF PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 4

5 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 5

UNDER CREDITS: ERIC is looking up numbers in a phone book, can't find what he's looking for, goes upstairs.

6 INT. MARTIN'S ROOM - NIGHT 6

Eric enters and looks around Martin's room, not really snooping, just looking. He exits.

7 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT 7

Eric checks the rooms, walks up the stairs, back down the stairs. END CREDITS. ANNIE comes out of the bedroom in her robe.

ANNIE
Martin's still not home?

ERIC
No sign of him, and he hasn't called.

ANNIE
Why don't you try him on his cell phone?

ERIC
Do you have his number?

She shakes her head.

ERIC
Neither do I. I've never had to call him before, so I guess I never thought to ask for it.

ANNIE
He's always been so great about coming home on time and doing his homework. I hope nothing's wrong.

ERIC
I'm sure he just lost track of time.

ANNIE
That's probably true, but you're still going to try to find him though, right?

He nods, oh yeah.

8 INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

8

The pool hall has started to clear out. Leif, Rick and Mac are watching Martin and Venus play pool. Mac is in awe, the other two can't stop chuckling. Venus looks at Martin.

VENUS

Don't pay any attention to them.

MARTIN

I'm not.

VENUS

Good for you. They try to make it hard for you, but they respect you more if you don't take everything they dish out.

Martin has no idea what she's talking about. He shrugs at Mac, who gives him a thumbs up. Venus makes a shot, clearing the table.

MARTIN

Good shot.

VENUS

Thanks.

(looks at her watch)

Where did the time go?

MARTIN

I know. It's kind of late. I should be getting home.

VENUS

You're taking me home, right?

MARTIN

You want me to take you home?

VENUS

Yeah, a friend dropped me off earlier, and she already left. I need a ride. Can you handle that?

MARTIN

Uh, yeah. I can handle it.

VENUS

I'm sure your friend can find his own way home.

She goes to gather her things. Martin hurries over to Mac.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

MARTIN
I'm giving her a ride home.

MAC
We're giving her a ride home?

MARTIN
Actually, I think she just wants me
to drive her.

Mac doesn't know whether to be impressed or mad.

MAC
What am I supposed to do? You drove
me here.

MARTIN
I'm sure one of Kevin's buddies can
take you.

Venus approaches.

VENUS
Ready?

MARTIN
Sure.

They cross off. Mac turns to the other guys, but they are no
longer there. He reacts, now what's he going to do?

9 INT. ATTIC ROOM - NIGHT

9

Eric enters. RUTHIE is in bed reading.

ERIC
I'm glad you're still up. I'm not
interrupting anything, am I?

She puts her book down.

RUTHIE
Just doing a little reading before
I go to sleep. But I'm willing to
postpone it for anything you might
need. Shoot.

ERIC
Do you have Martin's cell phone
number?

RUTHIE
No. Why don't you just snoop around
his room and get it yourself? That's
what I would do.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ERIC
I'm not going to snoop around his
room, looking for a phone number.

She looks at him.

ERIC
Okay, I couldn't find it. Do you
have his friend Mac's number?

RUTHIE
Nooooooo. He's too old for me,
remember?

ERIC
Do you have any idea where Martin
might be?

RUTHIE
I don't know. He's usually home by
now.

Eric looks concerned.

RUTHIE
Oh. The pool hall. He said something
about studying and then going to
the pool hall.

ERIC
The pool hall. Thanks.

RUTHIE
Glad to help.

He exits. Ruthie picks up her book again.

10 INT. POOL HALL/INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

10

The pool hall is almost empty. A new BARTENDER answers the
RINGING phone.

BARTENDER
Pool hall.

Eric is on the other end.

ERIC
Hi, this is Eric Camden.

BARTENDER
Hi, Reverend.

ERIC
I was wondering if you've seen Martin
there tonight.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

BARTENDER

I was in the back office most of the night, but I don't remember seeing him. Sorry. I did see your son-in-law earlier and a bunch of other cops.

ERIC

Thanks.

BARTENDER

You're welcome.

Eric hangs up, looks at Annie.

ERIC

No Martin at the pool hall, but Kevin was there.

ANNIE

Lucy's probably sleeping now, but if Martin isn't home in another half hour, we should go to the police.

ERIC

You mean Kevin, right?

She nods, of course.

11 INT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Martin and Venus enter.

VENUS

Thanks for the ride.

MARTIN

My pleasure.

VENUS

And thanks for walking me inside.

MARTIN

It was nothing, just a few feet from the car to the door.

VENUS

True, but you can never be too careful.

MARTIN

Now that I know you're safe, I think I'll be on my way.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

VENUS
What's the rush?

MARTIN
No rush, really, I should probably
just get home.

VENUS
Are you sure you don't want to stay
for a drink?

MARTIN
Thanks, but I don't drink.

VENUS
Coffee?

Martin shakes his head.

VENUS
Afraid it'll stunt your growth?

MARTIN
Nah, just don't like the taste.

VENUS
Also, it could make you jittery,
and in your line of work, you need
to keep your cool.

Martin reacts, my line of work?

VENUS
Then how about a soda? Juice? Water?
You were so nice to me, I should do
something to try to return the favor.
Come on, stick around for a while.

MARTIN
Okay, but just for a minute, then I
really need to get home and get
some sleep.

VENUS
Don't worry, I'll make sure you get
to your shift on time. I'm just
going to make some tea.

She starts to exit, turns back with a smile.

VENUS
You rookie cops are all alike.

She exits. Martin reacts, rookie cop?

12 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

12

Lucy is asleep. Kevin is dressed for bed, pouring himself a glass of water when there's a LIGHT KNOCK on the floor door. He opens it to find Eric. Eric sees a sleeping Lucy.

ERIC

(whispers)

Sorry to bother you, but Martin hasn't come home yet, and I was wondering if you had any idea where he was?

KEVIN

I was at the pool hall with him earlier. He was there when I left.

ERIC

Yeah, Ruthie told me about the pool hall, but I called, he isn't there anymore. Did he say something about going somewhere afterward?

KEVIN

He's probably with his friend Mac, hanging out somewhere.

ERIC

Everything on the Promenade is closed by now. Where else could he be?

Kevin thinks.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

13

Kevin watches Venus watch Martin.

VENUS

The dark-haired one is kind of cute.

Kevin can't help but smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT (RESUMING)

14

Kevin's not smiling now.

KEVIN

I'm sure he's fine.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

ERIC
He's never been late like this
before.

KEVIN
I'll make some calls.

ERIC
Maybe we should go look for him.

KEVIN
No. Let me make some calls first.

ERIC
Or we should call the station, see
if there have been any accidents.

KEVIN
Don't worry. It's nothing.

Eric looks at him.

ERIC
How do you know it's nothing?

KEVIN
Martin was talking to a girl. He's
probably just out with her.

ERIC
What kind of girl is out until this
time of the night on a school night?

KEVIN
Lots of girls.

Lucy is awake by now.

LUCY
Yeah. Lots of girls. Like the twenty-
something-year-old woman whom you
lead to believe that Martin is a
rookie cop.

Eric turns to Kevin, unhappy.

ERIC
Why would you do that?

KEVIN
She likes cops, she's always hanging
around. I'm sure she's figured out
the truth by now. It was just a
joke.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

ERIC

It doesn't sound very funny. Older women picking up younger men. Martin's only sixteen years old. Not only is it not funny, it's illegal.

Kevin feels thoroughly scolded.

ERIC

Don't you have some calls to make?

KEVIN

Yes. Go back to the house. I'll find him.

Eric exits. Lucy rolls over, looks at Kevin.

LUCY

I don't think it's funny either.

She rolls over again. Kevin picks up the phone.

15 INT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

15

Martin paces the room, he's in over his head. Venus reenters, wearing a robe, with two cups of tea.

VENUS

Sorry it took so long.

Martin can't control his shock to see how she's dressed.

VENUS

The minute I walk through the door, I have to change into my pajamas. Clothes are so confining, don't you think?

MARTIN

Yeah, confining. Look, when you called me a "rookie" earlier...

VENUS

Sorry about that. I'm not sure what the other guys call you nowadays: rook, meat, newbie, plebe --

MARTIN

You think I'm a rookie cop?

VENUS

It's kind of obvious, isn't it?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

VENUS (CONT'D)

You've got a real boyish thing that none of the other guys have. You couldn't have been on the force for very long, right?

MARTIN

Not exactly, I...

VENUS

Don't worry, it's not important. I know some of you guys don't like to talk about the job too much.

MARTIN

No, really, it's not that...

VENUS

My dad's the same way. He hates to talk about work. Not that he's a cop, but being a Marine --

Martin reacts.

MARTIN

Your dad's a Marine?

VENUS

In Afghanistan.

MARTIN

My dad's a Marine in Iraq.

She looks at him.

VENUS

Really?

MARTIN

I wouldn't lie about that. Master Sergeant Beau Brewer.

VENUS

Captain Tom Whitaker.

They smile at each other for a beat, then:

VENUS

It's hard, isn't it?

MARTIN

The worst.

VENUS

Being so far away from them.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Knowing that they're risking their
lives every day.

VENUS

Always worrying about them.

MARTIN

Dreading late night phone calls.

VENUS

And every single knock on the door.

MARTIN

And trying to watch reports on the
news, but...

VENUS

They're either too much to take...

MARTIN

Or not enough information.

VENUS

That it just drives you crazy.

MARTIN

And then there's trying to stay in
contact.

VENUS

Knowing that your e-mails are never
enough.

MARTIN

But they're all you can do because
they can't call that often.

VENUS

But when he does call, and I hear
his voice...

MARTIN

That's the best thing.

VENUS

Just to talk to him, and for a minute
things seem...

MARTIN

Normal.

VENUS

Like he's just down the street.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

MARTIN

Yeah.

VENUS

Only he's not.

MARTIN

No.

VENUS

But then the phone call's over.

MARTIN

And you remember where they are.

VENUS

And what they're going through.

A beat.

VENUS

I miss my dad.

MARTIN

Yeah. So do I.

They sit in silence.

16 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

16

Kevin is on the phone, trying to speak quietly.

KEVIN

...So you don't have Venus's
number?... Thanks anyway, and again,
sorry to wake you... Goodnight.

He hangs up. Lucy rolls over.

LUCY

No luck?

KEVIN

Not yet.

LUCY

Well, hurry up. It's not easy to
fall asleep like this.

She rolls over. Kevin dials again.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 16

INTERCUT:

17 INT. PHIL'S HOUSE - DAY 17

A phone RINGS. PHIL, a fellow cop, hurries to answer it.

PHIL
I've got a sleeping baby in the
house so this better be important.

KEVIN
Phil, hi, it's Kevin.

PHIL
Kinkirk? What do you want?

KEVIN
I was wondering if you have Venus's
phone number.

PHIL
Venus? Uh... I think I might have
it around here somewhere, hang on.

Kevin waits.

18 INT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT 18

Venus and Martin are still quiet.

VENUS
So...

MARTIN
So...

A beat.

MARTIN
Look, I...

The phone RINGS. Venus looks at Martin, with concern. He
nods. She picks up the phone.

VENUS
Hello?

INTERCUT:

19 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT 19

It's Kevin.

KEVIN
Venus, hi, it's Kevin. Kinkirk.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

VENUS
Hey, Kinkirk.

KEVIN
You wouldn't know what happened to
Martin, would you? You know, the
dark-haired rookie from tonight.

VENUS
He's sitting right across from me.

KEVIN
Could you put him on the phone?
It's important.

She hands the phone to Martin with a smile.

VENUS
Sounds like urgent police business.

MARTIN
(into phone)
Hello?

KEVIN
Do you have any idea what time it
is?

Martin looks at his watch.

MARTIN
Oh... It's late.

KEVIN
Yeah, it is. There better be nothing
going on.

MARTIN
What do you mean? We're just talking.

Venus cocks her head, curiously.

KEVIN
Get home. Now.

MARTIN
I'm on my way.

They hang up.

MARTIN
I have to go.

VENUS
I heard. Will I see you tomorrow
night?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

MARTIN

I don't know.

VENUS

Ooooh, do you have a special case
you're working on?

MARTIN

Something like that. I'd tell you
more, but I can't. Really, I can't.

VENUS

That's okay, I understand.

He starts to leave.

VENUS

Are you forgetting something? Aren't
you going to kiss me goodnight?

MARTIN

No, that wouldn't be right. This
was just a ride home, it wasn't a
date. In fact, I --

VENUS

I love a man who has a sense of
honor. That is so rare, except with
men like our dads, of course.

Now he's too guilty to tell her.

MARTIN

Goodnight, Venus.

VENUS

Goodnight, Martin.

He exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

20

Martin enters. Eric and Annie are waiting for him. He looks
at them.

MARTIN

It's a little late, isn't it?

ERIC

We were going to ask you the same
thing.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Are you waiting up for me?

ANNIE

Yes, we are.

ERIC

No one knew where you were, you should have called, we were worried about you.

MARTIN

You shouldn't have been. I was fine. I am fine.

They look at him.

MARTIN

I'm sorry I came home late, and I'm sorry you were worried about me. Venus and I got to talking, and I lost track of time.

ANNIE

Venus? That's the older woman you were out with?

Martin looks at them.

ERIC

Kevin told us about her.

MARTIN

Really? Did he also tell you this whole thing was his fault?

ERIC

"Whole thing," meaning?

MARTIN

Nothing happened. We talked, that's it. And it's not like I have a curfew.

ERIC

No, you don't have a curfew. You've always been responsible enough that we never thought you needed a curfew.

MARTIN

You're not my...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

ERIC

I know we're not your parents, but
your father trusted us with the
responsibility of making sure you
stay out of trouble.

ANNIE

Staying out late on a school night,
with an older woman... we see these
things as signs of trouble.

Martin looks at them.

MARTIN

This has nothing to do with "an
older woman." Now, if you'll excuse
me, I've got school in the morning,
and I need to get some sleep.
Goodnight.

He exits upstairs. Eric and Annie look at each other.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

DAY TWO

21 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY 21

22 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 22

Kevin enters. Eric and Annie are dressed for the day, waiting in the same places they were waiting for Martin.

KEVIN
Good morning.

They look at him.

KEVIN
I heard Martin come home last night.
Everything okay, I take it?

ANNIE
No thanks to you. You fixed Martin
up with that woman last night?

Now Kevin's in the hot seat.

KEVIN
I didn't fix them up, I just let
her think that Martin and Mac were
rookies.

ERIC
I still don't understand why you
would do that?

KEVIN
Because she assumed they were
rookies, and I didn't want to blow
it for them.

ANNIE
Blow what?

KEVIN
She hangs out with cops, she likes
cops. It was just kind of a goof.

ERIC
At her expense? Or Martin's?

KEVIN
Well, Martin didn't seem too upset
about it.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Eric and Annie react. He knows he just said the wrong thing.

ANNIE

Oh, well, if it's good for Martin,
it's good for everyone, right?

KEVIN

I didn't say that.

ANNIE

And what if it were an older man
and a sixteen-year-old young woman?
Am I to assume you'd see nothing
wrong with that either?

KEVIN

No, I'd have a problem with that.

ANNIE

So you see where we have a problem
with this as well.

KEVIN

Yes.

ERIC

This little joke has turned into a
big problem.

ANNIE

And I'm wondering who's going to
fix it?

KEVIN

I am.

They look at him, good.

23 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

23

Martin is at his locker. Mac approaches.

MAC

I had to walk home last night.

MARTIN

Sorry.

MAC

So, what happened with Venus?

MARTIN

I was out late, I came home late,
the Camdens were waiting up. End of
story.

(CONTINUED)

MAC

Sure. End of story. You got in trouble with the Camdens, but did you get in trouble with Venus?

MARTIN

It wasn't like that. We just talked.

MAC

Just talked? Sure.

MARTIN

But get this, she thinks we're cops.

MAC

You told her we're cops?

MARTIN

We were with Kevin. I guess she assumed we worked with him.

MAC

And you never told her otherwise.

MARTIN

I tried, but...

Mac smiles.

MARTIN

I'm going to tell her. I'll call her and tell her tonight.

Mac notices something down the hall.

MAC

You may get your chance sooner than that.

Martin turns. It's Venus.

MARTIN

(under his breath)
What's she doing here?

MAC

I don't know, but she's heading this way.

Venus approaches.

MARTIN/VENUS

(in unison)
What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

VENUS

I'm a substitute teacher. Mr.
Newton's out sick, so they called
me. What about you?

Martin hesitates.

VENUS

Wait... Are you undercover? Is that
it?

Martin and Mac just look at her.

VENUS

Narcs, right?

MAC

(before Martin can answer)
Right. Narcs.

VENUS

Wow. How very Starsky and Hutch.

MAC

Please. It's nothing like you see
on TV. Most of the time the job's
pretty tedious. But when the action
goes down, it's an adrenaline rush
you can't believe.

Martin looks at Mac, unable to tell him to shut up.

VENUS

Yeah, so I've heard. Well, don't
worry. Your secret's safe with me.

She looks at Martin.

VENUS

I had fun last night.

MARTIN

(sheepishly)
Yeah, I did too.

VENUS

Call me. You know. About tonight.

And she walks away. Mac looks at Martin.

MAC

Fun? I thought you said you didn't
get into any trouble?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (3)

23

MARTIN

I told you, we talked. About our
dads. Her dad's in Afghanistan.

MAC

So you have something in common.
That's great.

MARTIN

"An adrenaline rush you can't
believe?"

MAC

Did you like that?

Martin looks at him.

MARTIN

I'm telling her.

Mac reacts, noooo, don't.

24 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

24

Rick, Leif and Phil are there, pouring coffee.

LEIF

Kinkirk called you looking for
Venus's number, too?

RICK

I had a message on my machine from
him when I got home, but I didn't
want to get him in any trouble, so
I didn't call him back.

LEIF

Yeah, neither did I. Clever use of
the kid, got to hand it to him.

PHIL

What are you talking about?

They look at him.

RICK

Kinkirk. Looking for Venus late
last night.

LEIF

You didn't give him the number, did
you?

PHIL

Yeah, I did.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

They look at him, shake their heads.

PHIL

What? My wife had her number. Venus babysat for us a couple times. I didn't see what harm could come from it.

RICK

Why do you think he wanted the number?

LEIF

He didn't need a babysitter, baby's not here yet.

PHIL

Oh come on, you don't think...

LEIF

She's the minister, he's just a lost little lamb.

PHIL

He's cheating on Lucy?

CAPT. MICHAELS overhears.

CAPT. MICHAELS

Are you talking about who I think you're talking about?

They look at him. Uh-oh.

25 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

25

Kevin is still getting what for from the Camdens.

ERIC

His father is counting on us.

KEVIN

I understand, and again, I'm sorry.

ANNIE

He looks up to you. There are enough bad influences for him out there.

Just then, BEN strolls in with his suitcase.

BEN

How's everyone doing?

Kevin looks at him, relieved to be able to change the subject.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

KEVIN

Back from your camping trip? How was it?

BEN

Great.

Ben looks at Eric and Annie.

BEN

I went camping with some of the guys from the station house. You know, firemen. Who fight fires. That's who I was camping with. Firemen.

Eric and Annie nod, great. Lucy enters, looks at Kevin.

LUCY

Why are you still here? Captain Michaels called looking for you.

Kevin looks at his watch, omigod, he's late.

KEVIN

Gotta go.

He exits. Lucy looks at Ben.

LUCY

How was your camping trip with the guys?

BEN

Good.

LUCY

I thought you were coming back last night.

BEN

Yeah, one of the guys wanted to stay a little longer, so... we did.

LUCY

That's nice.

(then)

Oh, someone called for you, too.

Eric and Annie watch this exchange like a tennis match.

BEN

Really?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

LUCY
Dr. Pearson.

Ben reacts.

BEN
Isn't that your doctor, the woman
doctor Kevin didn't like?

Lucy nods.

BEN
What did she want?

LUCY
She said to say she had a wonderful
time with you this weekend, call
her.

Ben smiles, caught.

BEN
Thanks.

LUCY
I'm very uncomfortable when a Kinkirk
lies to me. If you could lie about
something, Kevin could lie about
something, and that's not a very
good feeling right now.

BEN
Sorry.

He goes to give her a hug. Lucy exits. He turns back. Eric
and Annie are staring at him. He exits too.

26 INT. POLICE STATION - CAPT. MICHAELS' OFFICE - DAY

26

Capt. Michaels is doing paperwork. Kevin enters.

KEVIN
Smitty said you wanted to see me,
sir.

CAPT. MICHAELS
Have a seat.

Kevin sits.

CAPT. MICHAELS
How is everything going with Lucy?
How's everything at home?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

KEVIN

Lucy's great. Everything else is fine, too, except that the Camdens are giving me a hard time.

CAPT. MICHAELS

About?

KEVIN

It's this stupid thing with Venus. Obviously, you've already heard about it.

Capt. Michaels is shocked.

CAPT. MICHAELS

Eric and Annie know?

KEVIN

Yeah, and they're not very happy about it.

CAPT. MICHAELS

I would imagine.

KEVIN

I made a mistake. I'm going to fix it.

CAPT. MICHAELS

How are you going to do that?

Kevin shrugs.

KEVIN

I'll talk to her.

CAPT. MICHAELS

I don't think you should do that. In fact, I'm going to give you an order not to talk to her or go near her. Got it?

Kevin reacts, not sure if he gets it.

27 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

27

Ben is following Lucy around the apartment, trying to get her to talk to him.

BEN

So, you hate me, but what do you think about Miranda? Dr. Pearson?

LUCY

I just met her the one time when she filled in.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

BEN

I hope you're going to use her for the delivery. I think I'd be more comfortable with that. She's very professional.

Lucy reacts.

LUCY

While it's nice of you to worry about things you shouldn't worry about, Kevin and I decided to go back to our regular doctor.

BEN

Dr. Kline?

LUCY

How do you know that? You and your doctor talked about our doctor?

BEN

It's kind of funny, actually. Dr. Kline is Miranda's ex-husband.

Lucy reacts.

BEN

So you see, you really can't go back to him now. It's kind of a conflict of interest.

LUCY

For you, maybe, but not for us.

BEN

Okay, I'll just come clean and tell you the truth, since you're into that. Your doctor is really not a nice guy.

LUCY

What do you mean?

BEN

They went to medical school together, started a practice together, had kids together, and now he wants his freedom. He's gone out and bought himself some fancy condo, and he's dating.

LUCY

Well, Dr. Pearson... Miranda... is dating, too.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

BEN
I'm the first guy she's gone out
with.

LUCY
So she went on a three-day out-of-
town date with you?

BEN
I'm trying to help you guys out
here.

LUCY
How?

BEN
You don't want that sleazy ex-husband
delivering my niece, do you?

Lucy considers.

LUCY
Well...

BEN
Don't worry. I'll talk to Kevin
about it. I'm sure he'll see things
my way.

He exits. She reacts.

28 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

28

Ruthie is walking down the hall, about to round a corner
when she sees Mac talking to a group of GUYS.

MAC
You know that substitute teacher in
Mr. Newton's class? Martin's going
out with her.

The guys are blown away.

GUY #1
Really? How did that happen?

GUY #2
She's hot.

MAC
I know. They met at the pool hall
last night. He was over at her house
until late. Really late.

Ruthie reacts and backs away.

29 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

29

Martin is getting his stuff for practice out of the back seat. Kevin pulls up.

KEVIN
Martin, we need to talk.

Kevin gets out of the car.

KEVIN
Look, I never meant for you to go off with Venus last night. She's older than you are, and she's... much more experienced than you are.

MARTIN
I know that. We didn't do anything. We were talking. That's it. Talking.

KEVIN
Good, because if you actually did anything, it would be against the law because you're under age.

MARTIN
You know what else is against the law? Impersonating a police officer. But thanks to you, I'm guilty of that now.

KEVIN
That was a joke. I figured the cop thing and the age thing would come out naturally in the course of the evening.

MARTIN
Well, you figured wrong.

KEVIN
Did you tell her you're only sixteen?

MARTIN
That conversation actually never came up.

KEVIN
Okay, but if --

MARTIN
You know what? I'm sick of the whole Camden family acting as if they're the only moral people on the planet.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I answer to me. And to my dad. And that's it. I don't answer to you or anyone else, and I can be friends with Venus if I want to. It's none of your business.

KEVIN

Fine, then I'll talk to her.

MARTIN

No, you won't.

(then)

I'll tell her when I see her tonight.

Kevin reacts.

MARTIN

That's right, I'm going to make plans to see her tonight. Actually we made plans already, because she's substitute teaching. Here. She thinks I'm undercover. A narc.

Kevin looks at him.

MARTIN

I'm going to tell her I'm a sixteen-year-old student, okay? Just give me time. I like talking with her. If I tell her too fast, she'll just take it the wrong way, and I'll lose a friend I have something in common with.

Kevin looks at him.

KEVIN

You have until midnight. If you haven't told her by then, I'm going to do it.

Martin takes his gear and exits. Kevin reacts.

30 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

30

Ben is twirling around in Kevin's chair, looking at stuff on the desk, goofing off, when Capt. Michaels approaches.

CAPT. MICHAELS

You're Kinkirk's brother, right?

Ben jumps up.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

BEN

Yeah. Ben. Kinkirk. I was just waiting for Kevin. I need to talk to him.

CAPT. MICHAELS

And this can't wait until he gets home?

BEN

It's not the kind of conversation I want to have in front of Lucy.

A nearby cop hears that, it's just more fuel for the fire.

CAPT. MICHAELS

Well, this isn't the kind of conversation I want to have in front of everyone here. Step into my office.

They exit into the office.

31 INT. POLICE STATION - CAPT. MICHAELS' OFFICE - DAY

31

Capt. Michaels closes the door.

CAPT. MICHAELS

This behavior isn't like Kevin, and frankly, I find it quite concerning. I hope that as his brother, you are not doing anything to encourage Kevin with this sort of activity.

BEN

Of course not.

CAPT. MICHAELS

A person can do one wrong thing and it makes you start questioning his entire character.

Ben nods.

CAPT. MICHAELS

I've known Lucy since she was a baby, and the thought of Kevin cheating on her, well... there's no excuse for it.

Ben considers, this is news to him.

BEN

I'll talk to him.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

CAPT. MICHAELS

I've got him working tonight. I
thought it'd keep him out of trouble,
give him time to come to his senses.
But he's got to put a stop to this,
and sooner or later, he needs to
tell Lucy the truth.

BEN

Yeah, she's a stickler for that.

They look at each other.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

32 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 32

33 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 33

Eric is preparing dinner. Martin enters, heads for the stairs.

ERIC
How was practice?

Martin stops.

MARTIN
Fine.

They look at each other.

ERIC
About last night...

MARTIN
If this is about my coming in late
or about Venus, you don't have to
bother. I've had enough lectures
for the day.

ERIC
I don't want to lecture you, I just
want to --

MARTIN
Tell me what I can and cannot do?

ERIC
Your father trusted us to take care
of you. That's what I'm doing, the
only way I know how -- by treating
you like my own son.

Martin reacts.

ERIC
I don't want to give you the "my
house, my rules" speech, but...
When you're living in my house, you
have to live by my rules.

Martin reacts.

MARTIN
Then maybe I shouldn't live in your
house anymore.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Eric reacts, what?

MARTIN

You won't have to worry about me much longer. I'll be just fine on my own.

ERIC

You can't just go off and live by yourself. Do you think your father would give you permission to do that?

MARTIN

I'm going to become emancipated. It's something my dad and I talked about a while ago, but decided not to go through with. But now it seems like it might be a good idea.

ERIC

Emancipated?

MARTIN

With my father overseas and my aunt in New York, it makes sense. What if something were to happen to my father? What if something were to happen to me? I should be able to look after myself and make decisions for myself.

ERIC

Don't you need to have an income to become emancipated?

MARTIN

I do have income. My mother had life insurance that she put in a trust for me. I get a check every month. It's not a lot, and it's been going into my savings, but it'll be enough for me to take care of myself.

Eric looks at him, thinking about what to say.

MARTIN

I know what you are going to say.

ERIC

Do you?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

MARTIN

You're going to say I haven't thought this through. You're going to say that I'm making a mistake. You're going to say that I'm too young to make all these decisions on my own.

Eric reacts, that's pretty much what he was going to say.

MARTIN

Believe me, I've thought about those things. I'm almost seventeen. In thirteen months I'll be eighteen. What, in thirteen months I'm going to become a responsible adult, but until then, I'm just a stupid irresponsible kid? What's going to change in those thirteen months? Why is some arbitrary date going to make me responsible for everything I do, but now, I can't do anything without the approval of my family, which I don't know if you've noticed, isn't exactly nearby to lend a hand, or you, who I don't know if you've noticed, aren't exactly my family.

Eric looks at him.

MARTIN

If I need a piece of paper to say I'm an adult, then I'm going to get that piece of paper.

Martin exits upstairs.

34 INT. MARTIN'S ROOM - NIGHT

34

Martin enters, grabs a duffel bag and starts packing his things. Ruthie enters.

RUTHIE

What are you doing?

MARTIN

Packing my things.

RUTHIE

Are you moving in with your girlfriend?

MARTIN

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

RUTHIE
I heard you're dating a substitute
teacher.

MARTIN
Where did you hear that?

RUTHIE
It's going around school.

MARTIN
Mac.
(then)
She's not just a sub, she's a friend,
and I'm not dating her.

RUTHIE
You're moving out to move in with
this friend who you're not dating?

MARTIN
I'm not moving in with her.

RUTHIE
So you're just moving out?

He doesn't say anything.

RUTHIE
Dad will never let you do this, you
know.
(then)
I'll see you at school.

She exits. He watches her go, finishes packing and steps out
into the hall.

35 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

35

SAM and DAVID are there in their pajamas.

SAM
We just wanted to say goodnight,
Martin.

DAVID
And goodbye. We'll miss you.

MARTIN
Did you hear everything?

SAM
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

DAVID

Good luck with your teacher.

SAM

We like our teacher, too.

DAVID

Yeah, but we would never leave Mom
and Dad to date her.

Martin has had about all he can take.

MARTIN

I'm not dating...
(looks at them, softens)
Bye, guys.

He exits down the stairs.

36 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

Annie is now with Eric as Martin enters, heads for the door.

ANNIE

Martin, we don't want you to leave.

MARTIN

Sorry, Mrs. Camden, but I have to
go.

ERIC

Why does it have to be tonight? Why
can't you sleep on this for a night,
a week, longer?

MARTIN

Things aren't going to change in a
night or a week or longer. This
decision has been coming for a while.
It's not going to matter if I leave
tonight, tomorrow, next week or in
a month, I'm still going to leave.
I might as well get it over with.

ERIC

Look, I know we're not perfect, and
our own kids certainly aren't
perfect, but all families argue and
confront challenges and...
(sees he's getting nowhere)
Have we been so horrible to live
with that we've ever kept you from
anything you've wanted to do? Have
we ever done anything but try to
help you?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Martin looks at him.

MARTIN

It's not that I don't want your help, it's that I don't need your help.

ERIC

Don't you think you're trying to grow up a little too fast here, like overnight?

MARTIN

I'm already grown up. Do you think I wanted to grow up this fast?

Eric doesn't say anything.

MARTIN

I didn't want my mother to die. I didn't want my father to be fighting a war on the other side of the world. I didn't want any of that. I grew up because I had to, not because I wanted to.

Martin looks at Annie, then leaves. Annie turns to Eric.

ANNIE

We can't just let him go.

ERIC

He'll be back.

ANNIE

What makes you so sure?

ERIC

Where is he going to go?

ANNIE

Thanks to Kevin's help, I think he knows someone he can stay with. At least for a night.

Eric reacts.

37 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

37

Ben and Lucy are there.

BEN

Are you hungry?

LUCY

No.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

BEN
Thirsty?

LUCY
No.

BEN
Because if you are hungry or thirsty,
I can run out and get you something.
Anything.

LUCY
Thanks, I'm fine.

BEN
Are you sure I can't get you
anything?

Eric knocks and enters.

ERIC
Where's Kevin? I thought he had the
night off.

LUCY
Something came up. He had to work.

BEN
He's really working. I know he's
working because Captain Michaels
told me he's working, so he's not
lying about working.

Eric and Lucy look at Ben, what?

BEN
He's working.

ERIC
Okay. If you hear from him...

BEN
At work.

ERIC
Right, if you hear from him when
he's at work, will you let him know
I need to talk to him?

LUCY
Sure.

Eric leaves.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

LUCY
What was that all about?

BEN
Nothing. Kevin's working.

Lucy picks up her phone and dials.

INTERCUT:

38 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

38

Kevin answers.

KEVIN
Kinkirk.

LUCY
Kevin, it's me.

KEVIN
Luce, I'm back at the station, but
I just made an arrest. I can't talk
now. I'll call you later, okay?

LUCY
Okay.

KEVIN
Sorry.

He hangs up. Lucy looks at Ben.

LUCY
Did you talk to Kevin when you went
down to the station this afternoon?

BEN
No, but I talked to Captain Michaels,
and he told me, I swear, that Kevin
is working tonight.

LUCY
I know he's working, but I want to
know why you're making such a point
of telling me that he's working.

BEN
(shrugs)
No reason.

LUCY
Where is your girlfriend doctor
tonight?

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I just spent three days with her, I can't see her every night. Besides, I came here to spend time with you and Kevin, so I'm spending time with you and Kevin.

LUCY

You spent the last three nights away from me and Kevin.

BEN

I can't see you guys every night either. I can't see anyone every single night of my life. That's why I'm not married.

LUCY

I find it hard to believe that's the reason you're not married.

BEN

No, it's true.

She thinks about that, then:

LUCY

Do you think Kevin asked to work tonight to get away from me?

BEN

Oh no, no, no, Kevin is working because Captain Michaels asked him to work.

LUCY

Why did he ask him to work?

BEN

I don't know.

LUCY

Yes, you do.

BEN

I swear, I don't.

She gets her coat.

BEN

Where are you going?

LUCY

Down to the station to talk to Kevin face to face.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

BEN
I'll go with you.

LUCY
No, you won't.

She exits. He picks up the phone, dials. Kevin answers.

KEVIN
Kinkirk.

BEN
Kev, it's --

KEVIN
(snaps)
I'm busy.

He hangs up. Ben calls him back. Kevin answers.

KEVIN
I said I'm busy.

He hangs up again. Ben thinks about it for a minute, picks up the phone, dials.

INTERCUT:

39 INT. DR. PEARSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

39

DR. PEARSON answers the phone.

DR. PEARSON
Hello?

BEN
Hi.

DR. PEARSON
I was wondering when you'd call.

BEN
This weekend was great.

DR. PEARSON
I thought so too, but the funniest thing happened when I got back.

BEN
What's that?

DR. PEARSON
My ex-husband decided to come home.
He wants to give us another shot.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

BEN

I thought you said he was a bad guy.

DR. PEARSON

I was probably exaggerating, you know, getting all the pent-up anger out of my system. But what it all comes down to, is that we're a family, and now we're back together.

BEN

(a bit disappointed)
That's great.

DR. PEARSON

And we have you to thank for it.

BEN

What do you mean?

DR. PEARSON

When my ex picked up the kids and got one look at you, he realized he was wrong. So thanks. Thanks for everything.

BEN

(not meaning it)
You're welcome.

He hangs up the phone.

40 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

40

Kevin is at his desk, filling out paperwork while a handcuffed PERP sits nearby. Lucy enters, and every cop backs away as if a bank robber has just entered the premises. Lucy approaches Kevin and the perp.

PERP

Who's that?

Kevin turns to see Lucy.

KEVIN

What are you doing here?

LUCY

What's going on?

KEVIN

Nothing. Except for me doing my job. You should go home.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

She looks around, notices that everyone else is watching her and Kevin. Kevin is kind of taken aback from the guys' reaction to Lucy, too. Lucy looks at Kevin, he looks at her.

PERP

He's cheating on you. Some chick
named Venus.

Kevin looks at the guy, what? The rest of the guys run. Lucy starts to cry, she runs out.

KEVIN

Lucy, wait.

He starts to run, but can't, because the perp is sitting there, smiling at him.

PERP

Marriage is tough, isn't it?

Kevin reacts.

41 INT. MARTIN'S CAR/EXT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

41

Outside Venus's house, Martin is sitting in the car, trying to decide if he's going in. He looks at the house, looks away, takes a look at himself in the rearview mirror. He starts to climb out of the car but stops, looks at himself in the mirror again. On the street, a black car passes where he's parked and pulls into Venus's driveway. Two Marines get out and head to the front door. Martin reacts, there's not a member of an armed forces family in the world who doesn't know what this means.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

42 EXT. VENUS'S HOUSE/INT. ERIC'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT 42

Martin is standing, leaning against the car, tears streaming down his face. The black car is still in the driveway. He thinks a moment, pulls out his cell phone, dials. Eric answers the phone.

ERIC

Hello?

MARTIN

Reverend Camden.

ERIC

Martin, I'm so relieved you called.
Come home, we'll talk.

MARTIN

I can't... I need your help.

Eric reacts.

43 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT 43

Ben is watching TV when Lucy enters, he turns the TV off.

BEN

(before she can say
anything)

You can't go to either Dr. Pearson
or Dr. Kline.

LUCY

What?

BEN

Miranda broke up with me to get
back together with her no-good
husband. Ex-husband. Husband.
Whatever. You need a new doctor.

LUCY

Sorry if I can't worry about which
doctor is going to deliver my baby
right now, I've got to plan to raise
my daughter as a single mother.

BEN

What?

LUCY

Kevin's cheating on me with some
girl named Venus.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

Ben nods, oh.

LUCY

You knew?

BEN

I heard a rumor when I was down at the station today, but I haven't had the chance to confront Kevin yet.

LUCY

I just confronted him.

BEN

What'd he say?

LUCY

I ran out before I had to listen to any of his lies.

BEN

I'm sure there's an explanation. Kevin would never do anything like that to you. You're everything to him.

She reacts.

BEN

If there's one thing the Kinkirk men are, it's loyal. Sometimes we fib a little, well I do, Kevin doesn't, but we're loyal.

LUCY

You can't be with the same woman every night, you said so yourself. If you're an example of Kinkirk loyalty, what does that say about your brother?

BEN

It says Kevin's a luckier man than I am. I've never been able to find the right woman, or when I did, she didn't see me as the right man. But Kevin did find the right woman. He found you. He would never cheat on you. I don't care what anyone says. Don't believe it.

Lucy reacts.

LUCY

You did.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

BEN
Yeah, but... I'm not that smart. I
had to sit with the information
awhile before I realized it wasn't
true.

Lucy reacts.

44 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

44

Ruthie is there. Eric enters, grabs his car keys.

RUTHIE
Martin? You're going to find Martin?

ERIC
(nods)
His friend got some bad news. She's
going to need him.

RUTHIE
Then why are you going?

ERIC
Because he needs me.

Ruthie reacts. Eric exits.

45 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

45

Lucy and Ben are there. Kevin enters, looks at Ben.

KEVIN
I need to talk to my wife.

Ben nods, gets up, heads toward the door, looks at Kevin.

BEN
After that, we need to talk about
your doctor.

KEVIN
Get out.

BEN
Okay.

Ben leaves. Kevin looks at Lucy.

LUCY
It's been an interesting evening.

KEVIN
What do you want me to say?

(CONTINUED)

LUCY

I want you to say that those Venus rumors aren't true. I want you to say that you're never going to leave me and our daughter. I want you to tell me you'll love me forever.

KEVIN

All those Venus rumors aren't true. I'm never going to leave you and our daughter, and I am going to love you forever.

LUCY

And I want it to be the truth.

KEVIN

Lucy, it is the truth. How could you even believe something like that?

LUCY

You're a cop, isn't she like a cop groupie? And with what everyone was saying, I don't know... maybe it just felt like familiar territory for me. I know you aren't cheating. I know you'd never cheat on me.

KEVIN

Just so you know how the rumor got started, when I was calling around trying to get Venus's phone number last night to track down Martin, the guys thought I wanted to track her down for a different reason. I guess they started talking.

LUCY

I swear, you guys gossip more than old ladies.

(smiles)

Do you want me to go down there and tell each and every one of those guys that I trust you?

KEVIN

Not really, no, I think I can handle it.

They smile and kiss. The phone RINGS. Lucy answers.

LUCY

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

INTERCUT:

46 INT. POLICE STATION - CAPT. MICHAELS' OFFICE - NIGHT 46

It's Capt. Michaels.

CAPT. MICHAELS
Lucy, it's Captain Michaels. Did
Kevin make it home?

LUCY
He did.

CAPT. MICHAELS
And did he explain how everything
was all just a big misunderstanding?

LUCY
He did.

CAPT. MICHAELS
And did he get to the part where he
apologizes for me for helping to
spread such a nasty rumor, even
though, in my defense, I did it
only to stop something I now know
never happened?

LUCY
He hasn't gotten to that part yet.

CAPT. MICHAELS
Oh. Well, then I guess I'll apologize
for myself.

LUCY
Apology accepted.

CAPT. MICHAELS
Have a good evening.

LUCY
Goodnight.

Lucy hangs up.

47 EXT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT 47

Eric is now with Martin. Martin can't take his eyes off the
black car in the driveway. Eric waits for Martin to speak.
Finally he does.

MARTIN
You always expect that knock on the
door. You have to. You hope it never
comes, but you have to expect it.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

MARTIN (CONT'D)

That way, when every deployment ends, and your dad comes home, it's such a blessing. You thank God for every day you get to spend with him, because you know it won't last. He'll get the next call and have to spend six months, a year, two years, far, far away from you. So you tell him you love him, and you send him on his way. And then you start waiting for the knock again.

He looks at Eric.

MARTIN

You expect the knock, but you're never ready for it.

Eric looks at him.

ERIC

My father was a casualty assistance officer in the Marines. He's had to knock on more doors and tell more wives, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers that they've just lost a loved one than I can even imagine. It's an awful job. I've had to do it quite a few times myself, when there's been a car accident or a suicide or a sudden death in a family, but the most important thing is what happens after I leave, the people who come forward to lend a hand or a shoulder to cry on. What you were saying earlier is true, in a lot of respects, you are a grown man, and this is your friend, and I can go in with you, if you want, but she's expecting you, her friend whose dad is a Marine. Can you handle it?

Martin looks at him.

MARTIN

I think I can. It would be easier if I hadn't lied to her.

Eric pats him on the back.

ERIC

It still wouldn't be easy.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

Martin looks at Eric.

MARTIN

Thanks for coming over here.

ERIC

You should know by now, I'd do anything to help my family.

MARTIN

(thinks, then)

555-2592.

Eric looks at him, doesn't know what he's talking about.

MARTIN

My cell phone number. In case it's late, and I'm not home.

Eric nods. The Marines exit the house, get in the car, and pull away. Martin looks at Eric.

ERIC

We won't be waiting up for you tonight. You come home when she's okay, when someone else can take over or she wants to be alone, okay?

Martin nods, gathers his courage, and heads toward the house.

48 INT. VENUS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

48

Venus is on the couch, shaken up. A KNOCK on the door. She doesn't move. Another KNOCK. She still doesn't move. Martin opens the door, enters. She looks straight ahead.

VENUS

The last time I answered the door, something terrible happened.

He takes a seat on an opposite couch, not sure what his role is yet.

VENUS

This probably isn't the best time for you to be here.

MARTIN

I was outside. I was waiting for them to leave.

He considers his words, then comes clean:

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

I'm not a cop. I'm only sixteen years old.

VENUS

I know.

MARTIN

You do?

VENUS

I pretty much figured it out at school today. I didn't figure a narc would brag about going out with a substitute teacher.

MARTIN

Oh. Mac. Yeah. Well, I just wanted everything to be out in the open, and for you to know why I'm here. I'm here for you. As the son of a Marine, and as a friend.

She looks at him for the first time, and the tears start to fall. He crosses to her, holds her.

VENUS

Why him? Why did he have to die?

MARTIN

He died with honor, the way all Marines do, fighting for what they believe in.

She holds him tighter.

VENUS

I miss him already.

And as they continue to hug, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW