

THE ENCOUNTER

Meow Meow.

In a nonchalant evening, LISA walks down the path with her boyfriend, AZAD. She has been interrupted by a call that we don't get to hear. She gets off her cell phone.

LISA

My grandma died. I have to head on over home.

AZAD

Oh.. Lisa, I'm so sorry.

LISA

Don't be. It's nothing anyone could have done anything about. She was laying practically in a coma for the past month - my family had decided to take her life support off. It's gotten too expensive..

AZAD

I'll walk you home, okay?

Lisa and Azad's footsteps crunch over the rubble. While light traffic blares on in the background, the alley has a few garbage bins and dumpsters to colour the otherwise stark path beneath the tall buildings.

LISA

.. she was one of the most eclectic people you'd get to know. As a child, she had these collection of knives in her cabinet. Not kitchen knives, but specialized knives - some with curved blades, and some whose edges are so sharp they'd pierce the air with a high-pitched whine. She'd tell me old tales about how at my age, she went on secret missions for Germany, how she had stabbed men in other countries with these knives. Looking back, it was weird how I thought that was normal.

AZAD

Was she some kind of spy or somethin'?

LISA

No, she was a seamstress. My mother said she always had a knack for inventing wild tales from the monotony of sewing dresses.

AZAD

Wow.. that would have been really cool if your grandma was really telling the truth. With spies, they would always hide their real identities behind a cover --

LISA

It's called serial murder. Killing isn't something to be proud of.

AZAD

Not even when serving your country?

LISA

That's different. What matters is in everyday living - you don't go out and stab people you don't know, in foreign places of all things..

Ahead, hiding behind a dumpster is KEVIN. He had trailed Lisa, who he feels has betrayed his heart for Azad. He pops out into view.

KEVIN

Lisa. Don't delude yourself about this fool you were walking with. Open your eyes, he is just using you!

AZAD

(to Lisa)

Is that your ex?

LISA

Yes. Just do what he says..

KEVIN

Lisa! Has it come to this point where you talk like I'm not even here? I cared for you for the past three years. I gave you everything! All the hours in my life, dreaming of starting a family with you! Now you've thrown me away for this creep.. I refuse to believe you are that thoughtless, Lisa.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I want to think there's a part of you that can still hear me out - walk away from him, Lisa, for your own good.

Azad, aggravated at the stranger's claim on his girl, steps in front of Lisa like her shield. He can practically taste Kevin's breath.

AZAD

Who do you think you are, bud? She's my girl now and you need to be out of her life. You're the one who needs to do the walking away--

Kevin brandishes his knife. Azad and Lisa are frozen with fear.

KEVIN

I would think real carefully whether you truly meant what you said. Your girl? Really? You thrust your nose in over Facebook, in a time when Lisa and I were going through issues, and somehow you've both painted me as the bad guy, behind my back. She wasn't YOUR girl to begin with, Azad. I'd rather not have to use this, but you are forcing me into a corner..

AZAD

What corner?! You're the one holding a knife out towards us--!

Lisa nudges Azad, interrupting him.

LISA

L-let's take it easy. Please, nobody needs to be hurt today. Put the knife down, Kevin. We can settle this over a cup of coffee; the cafe's just a block away.

Kevin pauses, considering her offer. To him, it's a paltry surrender in light of all the emotional turmoil she'd put him through.

KEVIN

Oh, Lisa, don't try to fool me. I know you - when you're pushed, you weasel away and flee.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

No one's watching us here, so why not talk now? Have you gone mute all of a sudden? Can you even talk to me?! Say something!

Lisa considers Kevin, all while tensing up. She's about had it with this ghost from her past.

LISA

Kevin, that's enough. I've had enough of all your games. I don't care about you anymore. You wonder why I left you? It's not because Azad happened to be there at the right time, but because you are such a resentful little child, who cannot put aside his conceit for the sake of others. You have no aspirations of providing for me, let alone any children we might have. I thought you were a much better man, and even held out hope that you'd grow out of being a fool. But how you've let me down, and how you deserve only my pity..

Kevin struggles to conceal his outrage.

KEVIN

You fucking -- This is how you look at me?? After those times where we laughed together, where I held you in my arms whenever you felt sad? Where I poured my heart out to you in words and actions, and listened to you in turn? You're worse than a whore, or an animal for that matter. You really have NO soul, stupid bitch..

Kevin is crying. His knife-bearing hand shudders under his emotion, while Lisa looks upon her former lover coldly.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Azad, you can keep her. I don't care anymore! Just enjoy your happiness while it lasts..

Kevin walks away.

AZAD

Wow..

LISA

It's whatever. Not even a knife will make me respect him. The opposite really - he has to bring a weapon like it's a bargaining chip.

AZAD

That was actually really mean though. Of you. Like I actually began to feel bad for him..

Lisa raises an eyebrow over Azad's remark.

LISA

Really, Azad? Don't listen to a word he's said. You should know he's a liar too. Come on, let's forget about my ex..

Azad hesitates for a moment, looking back where Kevin had stormed off, while Lisa beckons him to get a move-on.

THE ENDx