

NINA

Helen. Uh, what are you doing here?

HELEN

I was in the neighborhood, and I thought I'd stop by.

NINA

Oh. Oh, this neighborhood?

HELEN

Yeah, well, nearby. Can I come in?

NINA

Yeah, I'm... Yeah, sorry. I'm just... putting away some groceries and stuff. Uh, sorry. You... you want a drink or...?

HELEN

Uh, is Noah here?

NINA

No. No, he isn't.

HELEN

You know where he is?

NINA

Livingston, I assume?

HELEN

No, I don't think so, because I've been calling him and calling him, and his phone is turned off. It's been turned off all day, and there was a meeting today at Martin's school, and it was an important meeting, and he didn't show up, so I'm just... I'm... Do you think something happened to him?

NINA

What time was the meeting?

HELEN

Noon. Why?

NINA

Well, noon? Noon in the city, and... you made your way out to New Jersey hours later? You okay, Helen?

HELEN

Yeah, I'm just... He... you know, he... I'm concerned about him because he was stabbed, and now he's MIA.

NINA

Can I ask you a question?

HELEN

Yeah.

NINA

Why does he still matter so much to you?

HELEN

Because he's the father of my children, and he's blowing his last chance to have any semblance of a relationship with them.

NINA

I get that. I do. I-I really do. I understand about the kids, but maybe... maybe it's best for all of you just to... let him go.

HELEN

What?

NINA

My brother's fucked up, you know. He always has been.

HELEN

No, that's not true. He wasn't fucked up when I met him.

NINA

You never saw it. Right. After all those years together...Yet...wow.

HELEN

Yet what?

NINA

It's... it's actually... it's funny. It really is. I could never figure out if you were purposely ignoring who he actually was or you were just so narcissistic that you weren't paying attention.

HELEN

Excuse me?

NINA

My brother was shattered when you met him. Our mother had just died, and I don't know if you know, but... You know, maybe he hid it really well from you.

HELEN

I knew he was grieving, Nina. It's one of the things that drew me to him. I'm a caretaker. That's my archetype.

NINA

Helen, okay, look, I know you thought you found a diamond in the rough that you were just gonna polish and shape and place on your dainty fingers and-

HELEN

What? What-

NINA

You know, like he was some lost deer, and somehow you rescued him from obscurity and transplanted him into your... your little fancy life. Let me tell you what actually was going on. Noah was using you. He was using you to get the fuck away from us, and he knew the fastest way to do that was to marry some control-freak rich girl.

HELEN

What is wrong with you?

NINA

What is wrong with you? Didn't you find it odd how Noah didn't... didn't mind at all spending every holiday with your family, never once taking a vacation with us?

HELEN

Because it was difficult for him to be with Arthur.

NINA

Why?

HELEN

Because your father wasn't very nice to him, Nina.

NINA

Oh, why not?

HELEN

I don't know. Because he's an asshole.

NINA

No! Actually, he wasn't! He wasn't to me!

HELEN

Well... I'd... something must have happened between them.

NINA

Yes! Yes, something happened, and you have no idea what it is, and I find that... I find that so unfucking-believable.

HELEN

Okay, w-what... what was it?

NINA

It's not my place.

HELEN

Oh, my God. fuck you, Nina! fuck you!

NINA

My brother has been in pain, in pain for years, and you did not see it.

HELEN

You know, I certainly didn't come here to get all this resentment heaped on me. I'm sorry you're carrying around so much anger, but I have to go.

NINA

Hey, Helen. Who was driving the car that killed Scott Lockhart?

HELEN

As far as I know, Noah was.

NINA  
And you believe that?

HELEN  
He confessed.

NINA  
Hmm. Kind of crazy, though, huh? No  
evidence to convict him. He  
basically stood up in that court,  
and he... volunteered to go to  
prison.

HELEN  
Maybe he felt guilty.

NINA  
Where were you that night?

HELEN  
I was at home asleep. Thanks for  
your help. Take care.