

SC

|

LILLIAN

#108 "Broken Home" STUDIO Draft 9/9/10

9.

CONTINUED: (2)

Peter glances around, grabs a TISSUE from the Makeup Artist's kit, hands it to Megan.

Megan rubs lightly to clean a spot on Nikki's neck, revealing an area of DISCOLORED SKIN.

She rubs harder, removing more of the makeup... uncovering a faint but unmistakable LINE across Nikki's throat.

PETER

A ligature mark?

MEGAN

So much for natural causes...

START

Just then, the Makeup Artist returns... led by a dark-suited FUNERAL DIRECTOR and LILLIAN FIELDING, 60. Lillian has all the dignity and refinement that comes with old money... but there's a very clear rage in her voice.

LILLIAN

What do you think you're doing to my daughter?

Megan turns to face her head on.

MEGAN

My condolences for your loss, Mrs. Fielding... But you're not going to bury Nikki today...

OFF Megan --

Continue to next page.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

CLOSE ON a GURNEY carrying Nikki's body as it's wheeled out of the funeral home toward a waiting M.E. VAN. Press CAMERAS have been backed down the driveway, but they're capturing every moment.

SAM BAKER joins Peter near the M.E. van.

SAM

You two can't wait for me to find the bodies? You have to go finding your own now?

PETER

You can take that up with Megan.

SAM

I'm not going anywhere near Megan right now.

FUNERAL HOME ENTRANCE --

START

Megan is still weathering Lillian's obvious displeasure.

LILLIAN

Have you thought at all about what you're doing to my family, Doctor Hunt?

MEGAN

I understand this has to be very upsetting for you.

LILLIAN

Three hundred mourners are due here in less than an hour. Do you have any idea the embarrassment this is going to cause?

Just then, Nikki's brother, BILLY FIELDING, 30, arrives, striding toward Megan with the same sense of indignation.

STOP

BILLY

This has to be a joke. I'm sitting writing a eulogy for my sister, and I get a call that you're seizing her body?

(CONTINUED)

Lillian

Sc 2

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CONTINUED: (2)

13.

MEGAN

I just gave you that much...

ETHAN

(suddenly proficient)
It involves repeated fevers,
inflammation... Symptoms include
abdominal pain, chest pain, joint
pain, skin lesions, all usually
treated with Colchicine, which,
incidentally, is derived from the
crocus flower.

MEGAN

Wow, Ethan, I'm impressed.

ETHAN

Actually, I just looked it up right
before I came in here.

Beat. Megan focuses on Nikki's ankles and knees.

MEGAN

She was living with a lot of pain,
horrible febrile attacks. Hard to
imagine what she was going through.

OFF Nikki's debilitated body --

START

LILLIAN (V.O., PRE-LAP)

Nikki knew she was dying...

INT. FIELDING HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING (NIGHT 1)

Kate and Sam sit across from Lillian and Billy in the
Fieldings' impressive home. Peter's on his feet, browsing
the shelves -- spies a PHOTO of Nikki alive in happier times.

LILLIAN

Her heart and kidneys were going.
That's how it finally gets you.

KATE

Was she taking Colchicine?

LILLIAN

Every day. But Nikki was one of
the small percentage of patients
who don't respond to it.

(then)

She got depressed and discouraged.
She had seen her father waste away
and die from the same disease.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

She always said she didn't want to end up like that.

~~BILLY~~

~~(off Kate and Sam)~~

~~I know what you're thinking, so before you go digging him up, he died in the hospital, surrounded by doctors. Almost five years ago.~~

SAM

I'm sorry. I have to ask. Who found Nikki that night?

LILLIAN

I did...

The subject overwhelms. She begins to cry. Billy steps in.

~~BILLY~~

~~It was about eleven o'clock. My mother went up to check on Nikki. I heard her scream. I ran up... and Nikki was hanging there. At first I thought I could maybe save her. I struggled to lift her up, tried to untie her...~~

~~(shakes his head)~~

~~But she was beyond saving...~~

SAM

What happened next?

~~BILLY~~

~~(pointedly)~~

~~I wanted to avoid all this. So we put her in her bed, covered up the mark on her neck and called Doctor Hargis.~~

KATE

Doctor Hargis didn't know Nikki died from hanging?

~~BILLY~~

~~Nikki died from her disease. Whether it took her heart or her kidneys or her hope. It was the disease that killed her.~~

Beat. Lillian's still overwhelmed, crying.

(CONTINUED)

LILLIAN

I just can't believe she's gone. I spent every day of the last two years caring for Nikki. I gave up everything to sit at her bedside... I don't know what I'll do now.

As Lillian cries, Peter see a YOUNG WOMAN (SARA FIELDING), pass through the hallway. She pauses, seems to roll her eyes at Lillian before moving on.

INT. FIELDING HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Peter comes out into the hall, catches up with Sara, 25. She's simply dressed, hair less arranged, much more of a free spirit than her mother or brother.

PETER

I didn't know there was someone else in the house.

SARA

Doesn't surprise me. I'm the one they don't talk about.
(offers her hand)
I'm Sara. Nikki's sister.

PETER

Peter Dunlop. I'm with the M.E.'s office.

(then)

'Spose I could see Nikki's room?

Sara shrugs -- "sure." As she leads Peter along --

PETER (CONT'D)

So you live here as well?

SARA

Me? No. I escaped this house five years ago. This is my first time back. And as soon as the funeral's over, I'll be gone again.

PETER

Troubles with your mother...
(off Sara's surprise)
I grew up with three sisters. Plus, I saw the look you gave her from the hall.

(CONTINUED)

Lillian Sc 3

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. FIELDING HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Lillian sets out tea for Megan and Peter. Billy, meanwhile, paces behind her, annoyed.

BILLY

We don't have to talk to them.

LILLIAN

I want to. The sooner this is done, the sooner we'll have Nikki back. We need to have her funeral.

(takes a seat)

So what can I tell you, Doctor Hunt?

MEGAN

Are either of you familiar with Munchausen-by-proxy Syndrome?

LILLIAN

I'm sure I've heard of it... but I couldn't say exactly what it is.

PETER

Parents, in some cases, will actually make their children sick in order to get attention...

BILLY

(instantly angry)

~~Are you going to say my mother gave Nikki F.R.P.? It's a genetic disease. Nikki was born with it.~~

MEGAN MEGAN

~~That's not what I was going to say... Not exactly.~~

(to Lillian again)

But you did get a lot of attention in your circle, didn't you, because of Nikki's illness? Everyone said, "You poor thing, Lillian." "You're a saint, Lillian..."

LILLIAN

(a little uneasy)

I'm blessed to have supportive friends, if that's what you mean.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

We checked with the pharmacy, Mrs. Fielding. You signed for all Nikki's medication personally.
(off Lillian)
So why didn't Nikki ever receive it?

~~BILLY~~

~~What? My mother was religious about Nikki's medicine. I saw her delete out the pills every night.~~

PETER

She gave her pills... but not the Colchicine Nikki needed. They were sugar pills. Placebos.

~~BILLY~~

~~That's ridiculous.~~

MEGAN

How could you do that to your daughter, make her suffer like that?

LILLIAN

(suddenly emotional)
I didn't want her to suffer. You don't understand.

MEGAN

I do understand. As long as Nikki stayed sick, everyone kept patting you on the back.

~~BILLY~~

~~All right, I've heard enough.~~

Megan ignores Billy, goes harder at Lillian.

MEGAN

Did Nikki figure it out, Mrs. Fielding, is that it? Did she threaten to tell all your society friends what you'd done to her?

~~BILLY~~

~~Did you hear me? We're done.~~

MEGAN

(still at Lillian)
Imagine the embarrassment. You had no choice but to kill her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILLIAN. The grieving mother is impeccably dressed, surrounded by countless other impeccably-dressed MOURNERS, all fawning and offering condolences...

~~PETER~~

~~Look at her. Still milking Nikki
for attention.~~

Lillian looks over, catches their eye. She excuses herself from the mourners, approaches Megan.

LILLIAN

You must think I'm a monster.

MEGAN

You're right. I do.

LILLIAN

You have to know, I loved Nikki very much. I'd do anything I could to have her back.

MEGAN

Honestly, Mrs. Fielding, I'm not interested. We're not here for you. We're here for Nikki.

Beat. Then Megan motions over Mrs. Fielding's shoulder.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

They, however, are here for you.

Lillian turns to see Sam accompanied by two UNIS approaching.

LILLIAN

What is this?

SAM

You're under arrest, Mrs. Fielding.

LILLIAN

You're doing this here. In front of all these people.

(looks around, sees Billy)

Billy. Do something.

Billy comes over, no hint of sympathy on his face.

BILLY

After what you did to Nikki?

LILLIAN

For our family.

(CONTINUED)