

#108 "Broken Home" STUDIO Draft 9/9/10  
CONTINUED: (2)

15.

SARA

SE 1

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.

START

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)

CONTINUED:

SARA

(winces, embarrassed)  
I must seem like a total bitch,  
huh? It's just, with Lillian,  
everything's about Lillian, even  
Nikki's death. You heard her --  
how she gave up everything; what is  
she going to do now?

(then, sadder)

My sister's dead... and still my  
mother just thinks about herself.

PETER

(after a beat)

You said you left five years ago.  
Same time your father died.

SARA

(nods)

Once he was gone, there was no  
buffer between me and my mom. I  
embarrassed her one too many times.  
She threw me out, cut me off. I  
don't exist here anymore.

PETER

I'm sorry. That's rough.

SARA

Best thing that ever happened. I  
started traveling, tramped around  
the globe, discovered there was a  
whole world out there not centered  
on money, club memberships or  
wearing the proper hat to tea...

Then Sara stops, tenuously points to a doorway.

SARA (CONT'D)

Nikki's room.

INT. FIELDING HOUSE - NIKKI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sara hangs back, doesn't enter -- it's too soon. Peter  
enters, looks around -- bed, a reading chair by the window,  
stacks of books...

Then Peter's eyes land on the WINDOW DRAPES. They're  
ornate... trimmed with thick DECORATIVE SILK CORD. He goes  
over, examines one of the lengths that hang down.

(CONTINUED)

SARA

That's what she used. She tied a piece over the beam...

Peter looks up to see a beam running the width of the room.

SARA (CONT'D)

Nikki was amazing, the best of the three of us by far. The only regret I had about leaving was that I couldn't take her with me...

(then)

We tried to stay in touch. We e-mailed, talked on the phone sometimes... Last few weeks, she started sounding really depressed, despondent... That's why I came back home from London. I was hoping I could cheer her up.

(beat)

I thought I had...

Sara's eyes well up with tears. OFF Peter --

STOP

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - AUTOPSY ROOM - NIGHT

Megan's alone over Nikki's body, doing the NECK DISSECTION. Tedious. Time consuming. Behind her, Kate and Peter appear.

KATE

Hey.

MEGAN

(not looking up)

You're back.

PETER

And we brought you a present.

MEGAN

Wouldn't happen to be eggplant parmesan from Remy's, would it?

KATE

Not exactly.

Megan turns to see Kate holding an EVIDENCE BAG. Inside, a LENGTH of THICK SILK CORD, looped and knotted into a NOOSE.

MEGAN

Oh... I'll pull the skin flap down and we can compare...

(CONTINUED)

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SARA

35.

Sc 2

SAM

You strangled Nikki, then tried to  
make it look like a suicide.

SHANE

Uh-uh, never happened.

SAM

You were in her room. Right after  
that, she's dead!

SHANE

She was alive when I left, I swear.

PETER

And we should just take your word?

SHANE

Ask that other girl, the sister.  
She was there, she walked in on us.

Sam and Peter react, not something they expected to hear.

EXT. FIELDING HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

START

Peter and Sam stand with Sara as she confirms Shane's story.

SARA

It's true. I was out that evening.  
When I got home, I went up to  
Nikki's room. We'd gotten in the  
habit of talking at night, looking  
at old photos. It was like we were  
kids again.

SAM

What time was that?

SARA

I don't know exactly. Close to ten.  
(then)  
Anyway, when I got to Nikki's door,  
it was closed. I didn't think for a  
minute anything was going on, so I  
walked in.

PETER

And Shane was there?

SARA

They weren't... doing it, thank God.  
It was after, they were just snuggling.  
My first reaction was anger.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA (CONT'D)

What the hell was he doing to Nikki in her condition?

(beat)

But then I looked at Nikki. And for once, she seemed happy.

SAM

What'd you do next?

SARA

I gave Shane a minute to dress, then I walked him out of the house.

PETER

Why didn't you mention him when we talked before?

SARA

I threw him out. He couldn't have done it.

SAM

(beat)

You said that was around ten. What happened next?

Sara nods, but starts to look a little reluctant. Peter reads her.

PETER

What, Sara? Did something happen after that? You need to tell us.

Another beat. Then --

SARA

I guess Billy must've seen me leading Shane out. 'Cause when I went back inside, he was upstairs. He was yelling at Nikki and he sounded really pissed.

OFF Peter and Sam --

SOP  
FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

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SHANE (CONT'D)

She was pretty bitter about  
scraping by when her family had so  
much cash...

SAM

And your job in this was what?

SHANE

Just to cozy up to Nikki...

SAM

And convince her to will all her  
money to the fake rainforest  
foundation Sara set up.

SHANE

(nods)

Sara told me everything I needed to  
know about Nikki -- her favorite  
books and foods, the kind of music  
she liked -- all that stuff, so  
getting tight with her was easy.  
And the environment was already her  
thing, so... piece a' cake.

SAM

If that's the case, all you had to  
do was wait for Nikki to die -- the  
money would've gone right to Sara.

(then)

But you didn't wait. Why? What  
happened?

Shane goes silent... On the other side of the glass --

Megan suddenly puts it together --

MEGAN

Nikki changed her mind.

(turning to Peter)

She wanted to change charities.

That's why Billy was looking to  
have the beneficiary reassigned...

Megan turns, heads off. Peter follows --

START

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sara waits in a holding area, looking utterly put out. She  
glances smugly at Peter and Megan when they approach.

MEGAN

I know why you killed her now.

(CONTINUED)

SARA

Sc 3

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CONTINUED:

MEGAN (V.O.)

Maybe you gave her one last chance to change her mind, or maybe you walked in intent on murder... but that's when the two of you killed her.

Sara grabs Nikki, holds her. She shouts at Shane, and suddenly his hands are around Nikki's throat.

MEGAN (V.O.)

I'm guessing you held her down, while Shane strangled her. That's how you got kicked. Even sick and dying, Nikki struggled to stay alive. She fought desperately.

We see Nikki struggle. Her foot kicks out, striking Sara high on her bare upper arm...

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

Megan lifts up both of Sara's sleeves, revealing a WOUND on her left arm.

INT. FIELDING HOUSE - NIKKI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Nikki's body lies limp on the bed. Sara goes to the window, grabs a length of the cord...

MEGAN (V.O.)

Once Nikki was dead, you took a piece of cord from her window, and tied it over the beam...

We see Shane PICK UP Nikki's unconscious body --

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

Megan goes at Sara still, while Peter looks on.

MEGAN

Then you lifted her into the noose, and let everyone think she hanged herself.

Sara's eyes are wet. She looks rattled.

START

---

MEGAN (CONT'D)

What was it like, to watch your sister die? It took longer than you expected, didn't it. Her body convulsed and struggled...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARA

(finally cracks)

It was just supposed to be a con,  
not murder. But she had to ruin  
it.

(off Megan and Peter)

She wanted to give her money to her  
disease. To research.

MEGAN

She wanted to help other people so  
they wouldn't suffer like she did.

SARA

People she didn't even know. I'm  
her sister.

(seething resentment)

Do you have any idea how much money  
my family has? And I was cut off,  
like I never even existed...

Then Sara sighs, her shoulders fall.

SARA (CONT'D)

Besides, she was dying anyway...  
All I did was quicken the process.

Sara looks back up at Megan and Peter... Then MOTION to the  
side causes her to turn... *STOP*

BILLY FIELDING is standing there, having heard Sara's  
confession. He and Sara eye each other for a beat, then  
Billy turns around and walks away.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - VIEWING ROOM - DAY (DAY 4)

Finally, Nikki's funeral. MOURNERS fill the room. Nikki's  
laid out in the casket, looking frail, but beautiful.

Find Megan and Peter as they step up to the casket.

PETER

Déjà vu. Here we are, right where  
we started.

MEGAN

No. Nikki's got justice now. She  
wasn't just put in the ground  
without the truth being known.

Megan takes another beat, a silent goodbye. Then they step  
away from the casket. Across the room, Megan spots --

(CONTINUED)