

SCENE 2

NAOMI LEEDS

So you quit? Just like that.

NICK

Yep. I told him I couldn't do it.

NAOMI LEEDS

But why? I don't get it. It was an easy day, no heavy legal lifting.

You went to a party. You were following in your Dad's footsteps, doing your "dream job." Why quit?

NICK

Honestly? After all those years of doing pro bono work, it was all too easy. It was all too perfect.

A MOMENT PASSES. Naomi smiles with a sense of CONQUEST.

NAOMI LEEDS

You know, Mister George? Your story is what sounds too easy. Your story is what sounds too perfect.

NICK

It's what happened.

NAOMI LEEDS

No, it's not. For one thing, you haven't mentioned Jeremy's arrest for human trafficking, an arrest that was conveniently deleted from the precinct's logbook, thanks to you, but about which one honest cop kindly had the balls to inform me.

(off Nick's look)

And -- you haven't mentioned how Juliet O-D'd, a little detail several guests at that absurdly expensive party were happy to provide me with long before I sat down across from you tonight.

(off Nick's look)

See, Mister George, you can sit there and smile all you want and make life with the Darlings seem like a walk in the clouds...

(after a beat)

But that doesn't change the simple fact that you -- are not telling -- the truth.

NICK
(after a long beat)
Well. If you really want to talk
about "the truth," Ms. Leeds...

NAOMI LEEDS
Yes, Mister George?

Now Nick smiles -- and hits PAUSE on the DIGITAL RECORDER.

NICK
Why don't you tell me where you
really got that ring?

Naomi didn't see that coming. She TAKES A BEAT to regroup.
And we go OFF NICK, knowing he just played his trump card.
Naomi's unnerved.

NAOMI LEEDS
What do you mean, where I "really"
got the ring?

NICK
Exactly that. Where did you get it?

NAOMI LEEDS
(after a beat)
I told you, Mister George -- an
antique dealer in Union Square.

NICK
But that ring -
was designed in 1922 by a
jeweler at Cartier expressly for
Tillie Kemper Van Kirk -- the
mother of Letitia Van Kirk Darling.

Naomi takes A BEAT and then AMIABLY cops to the story.

NAOMI LEEDS
Alright, you caught me, Mister
George. Bravo. I have an ongoing
obsession with the Darlings that's
maybe gone just a little beyond the
limits of strict journalistic
integrity. I saw the ring at
auction, I liked it, I bought it.
(after a beat)
Okay?

NICK
Okay.

NAOMI LEEDS

Now how about you tell me why
you're here representing the
Darlings tonight, since the last
thing you told me was you quit.