

BIG LITTLE LIES EPISODE 1.5: ONCE BITTEN

CELESTE: He's in Chicago. He left this morning so I just, I decided to come in by myself.

DR. REISMAN: Okay.

CELESTE: It was Perry's idea to come in in the first place, so, I mean I think that's, that's a very healthy sign. Don't you think that's positive that he would want to come in?

DR. REISMAN: Why did he want to come in?

CELESTE: Well, because we're...just for the same...um. [Sigh] He's troubled, w-we're both troubled. The the the love making is tied up in, um, in anger.

DR. REISMAN: Why did you want to come in today?

CELESTE: I don't know.

DR. REISMAN: Something happened?

CELESTE: Um. Oh, just the usual, you know. Um, when he left this morning we made love. It's as if our, um, it's as if we turn each other on by rage.

DR. REISMAN: Hm.

CELESTE: And that's a problem, I think. Do you think that's a problem?

DR. REISMAN: Well, I'm encouraged that you at least think of it as love making, because sex isn't always that. Does the sex you have with Perry ever strikes you as violent?

CELESTE: No.

DR. REISMAN: Are you ever left with bruises?

CELESTE: Um, maybe, I mean, I don't really remember.

DR. REISMAN: Have you ever sustained bruises from something other than sex?

CELESTE: I don't follow.

DR. REISMAN: Your husband said he grabbed you too hard sometimes. Has he ever left a mark on you by grabbing you?

CELESTE: Oh, um, I mean, we have a very volatile relationship, and I...I've left the occasional mark

on him.

DR. REISMAN: By hitting.

CELESTE: Yeah.

DR. REISMAN: Really? Hitting him first or hitting him back?

CELESTE: I have to say, I'm beginning to feel a bit uncomfortable because this is, um, I think this is unethical,

CELESTE: truth be told... DR. REISMAN: How? How so?

CELESTE: Because you're treating us.

DR. REISMAN: And only you showed up so I'm treating,

DR. REISMAN: half the couple.... CELESTE: For what I know about your duty of care, you are ethically responsible... DR. REISMAN: I throw off the ethical chains when I sense a patient in danger.

CELESTE: What?

DR. REISMAN: [Sigh] He hurts you.

CELESTE: : Ah, no. I...no, I didn't...I mean, I didn't...I didn't say that. He's, I mean....

DR. REISMAN: I pick up on things. Not just from you, but from Perry.

CELESTE: : We both become violent sometimes. I take my share of the blame. I'm....

DR. REISMAN: He hurts you.

CELESTE: Look, I'm not a victim here. I'm not. I hit him. I throw things at him. I'm....

DR. REISMAN: What are you looking for from me.

CELESTE: Help. Help, that's what I want. I mean, we both acknowledge that this relationship is, is toxic. That's why we made the appointment to come in, because we, we know that. We know it and we want, um, we, we want to learn techniques, strategies, that's what we want, to make

CELESTE: him... DR. REISMAN: Him stop?

CELESTE: To make us, us stop, so...

DR. REISMAN: Are you physically afraid of him?

CELESTE: Oh. [stands up] This feels very wrong, I have to say, I can't, I, I mean, um, you're meant to be our doctor. You're treating us and you are demonizing him.

DR. REISMAN: Does he know you're here alone?

CELESTE: It's...

DR. REISMAN: Does he ever hurt the children?

CELESTE: No. God no. He would never hurt the children. [Sits down] This is, he, he's a wonderful father. I mean, he's the best, the best. I mean, I couldn't think of a better one, really. It's one of the reasons that I...

DR. REISMAN: The reason you don't leave him?

CELESTE: There are other reasons.

DR. REISMAN: Okay. Such as?

CELESTE: I'm madly in love with him. He adores me. He, he, he treats me like a goddess.

DR. REISMAN: When he's not hurting you.

CELESTE: Look, he's a great father. We have great sex, we, we make each other laugh, where....

There's, there's violence yes in the relationship and that's why we came in and that's an issue, but, I mean, all marriages are complicated.

DR. REISMAN: You think violence is normal in a relationship?

CELESTE: No!

DR. REISMAN: My apologies, I misread. When this violence occurs, have you ever been afraid you might die?

CELESTE: Never.

DR. REISMAN: Never? [CELESTE starts tearing up] That must have been terrifying. Did you think of leaving him then?

CELESTE: I thought of leaving him many times. But then I think about what we have, and we have a lot.

DR. REISMAN: Are there any weapons in your house?

CELESTE: No! No, it's not like that with...no. I mean the boys have some lightsabers. [Both laugh]

Listen, you see a lot of couples that have bad problems and after a while maybe that's all you can see.

Do you pause to consider what is great in a marriage, what is profoundly right?

DR. REISMAN: I do. Tell me what is most profoundly right about yours ?

CELESTE: We've been through so much together, I had a really tough time getting pregnant and...and I had 4 miscarriages. And when the twins were born they were they were born really early and they were in the hospital for a long time and that was, that was tough and he was there by my side every step of the way. He never...he was so good.

DR. REISMAN: I see.

CELESTE: No, honestly, I don't think you do see, because this is, this is.... It's special, you know, we, we, we're, we're bound by everything we've been through and the idea of breaking away from him it's like tearing flesh.

DR. REISMAN: How do you think the abuse impacts on your sons.

CELESTE: It doesn't impact on my sons. I'm telling you I, it, it.... None of this affect them. We never fight in front of them, they never see anything. They're fine, they live in a happy household, they have no idea. [Sighs]

DR. REISMAN: He will hit you again.

CELESTE: Yeah.

DR. REISMAN: Yeah.

CELESTE: Yeah, and I'll hit him again.

DR. REISMAN: And eventually the boys will know, if they already don't. Alright, our time is about up. We should make an appointment and come up with a plan.

CELESTE: A plan?