

CONTINUED:

Frankie charges down the walkway, greeting Cindy--

CINDY

Baby! Hi! Look at you.

Cindy gives her a big hug, but Frankie squirms free and runs to meet Dean as he lurches out of the car. He picks her up in his arms.

DEAN

Hi.

Cindy hurries up the front steps, directly past Jerry, who sits on the stoop--

JERRY

Are you OK?

CINDY

I don't want to talk to you.

Confused, Jerry turns from Cindy to Dean, who approaches with Frankie in his arms.

DEAN

I can't play right now, okay?

Dean hands Frankie to Jerry, walks past him towards the front door.

JERRY

What's going on, Dean?

(no response from Dean as he
goes inside)

Hey, leave her alone...

Dean shuts the front door behind him and locks it.

Jerry pulls on the handle. It won't budge.

JERRY (cont'd)

Hey! You can't lock me out of my own
house! I don't have my oxygen out here!

INT. HELLER HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - PRESENT DAY

In the kitchen, a distraught Cindy pours a glass of water from the sink. Dean appears in the doorway, keeps his distance. Long beat as he watches her. Finally--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEAN

You know, it's not just us, we got a little girl we gotta think about.

He leans his face against the door frame, finally erupting with tears...

CINDY

I know, I am thinking about her. I can't do this anymore.

DEAN

Baby, you're just thinking about yourself. What about Frankie? You want her to grow up in a broken home? Is that what you want?

CINDY

I am thinking about Frankie.

DEAN

You're not thinking about Frankie.

CINDY

I am.

DEAN

You're not. Is this how you want her to grow up?

CINDY

I don't want her to grow up in a home where her parents treat each other like this.

They both break down, crying. Dean slams his fist into the wall, pounding it over and over...

CINDY (cont'd)

(crying)

Don't...

DEAN

(sucking back his tears)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Baby, I'm sorry.

CINDY

I can't do this anymore!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The look of sheer desperation across Dean's face...

DEAN

I know. Baby I'm just fighting you know, fighting for my family. I don't know what to do, I don't know what else to do. Tell me what to do, tell me what to do.

CINDY

I don't know what to do.

DEAN

Tell me how I should be.

CINDY

I don't know.

DEAN

Just tell me, I'll do it, I'll do it.

CINDY

I don't know what to say, I'm so sorry, I don't know what to do anymore.

DEAN

Just tell me and I'll do it.

CINDY

We're not good together, we're not good anymore. The way that we treat each other!

DEAN

Don't say that, baby...

CINDY

I can't stop, you can't stop, I can't stop, I don't know what else to do.

DEAN

I can stop.

Dean crosses the kitchen, takes a hesitant Cindy's head in his arms, puts his lips to her forehead.

CINDY

No!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DEAN
(tenderly)
Come here, just come here...

CINDY
No, no, no...

Gradually she gives in, allowing him to hold her in his arms as they cry together in silence...

CINDY'S ROOM - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Wearing a white dress and visibly pregnant, Cindy examines her changed body in the mirror.

EXT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - DAY - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Looking dapper in a red and blue striped suit, Dean waits anxiously outside the courthouse.

Soon he sees Cindy approaching him on the sidewalk. She walks up to him, they gaze into each other's eyes...

INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - DAY - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Dappled in sunlight, Dean and Cindy sit together, hands entwined...

CINDY
What are you thinking?

DEAN
I just wish they'd hurry up so you can't change your mind. Let's go, lets go...

Dean presses his lips to her hand...

INT. HELLER HOME - VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS - PRESENT DAY

In the kitchen, a disheveled Dean pleads with Cindy through his tears...

DEAN
Baby, you made a promise to me, okay? You said for better or worse. You said that. You said it. It was a promise.

CINDY
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEAN

Now this is my worst, okay this is my worst, but I'm gonna get better. You just got to give me a chance to get better.

INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - DAY - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Hand in hand, Dean and Cindy enter the courtroom and walk towards the JUSTICE.

JUSTICE

Come here please. Please face one another...

BACK INT THE KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

Dean and Cindy embrace, holding onto each other for dear life...

CINDY

I'm sorry...

DEAN

I love you so much...

INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - DAY - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Through tears of happiness, Cindy declares her vows to Dean--

CINDY

I give you this ring...

JUSTICE

As a symbol...

CINDY

As a symbol...

JUSTICE

Of my solemn vow...

CINDY

Of my solemn vow...

JUSTICE

And everlasting love...

CINDY

And everlasting love.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTICE

For as much as you have consented in holy wedlock before God, I do, in the power vested in me, I pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

Cindy and Dean embrace with a long, deep kiss.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

Cindy disentangles herself from Dean's arms, pulling herself away...

DEAN

Baby, baby...

CINDY

You've got to just give me some space.

She leaves the kitchen.

INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - DAY - 6 YEARS EARLIER

Wiping tears of happiness from their eyes, a youthful, bright looking Cindy and Dean leave the courtroom...

EXT. HELLER HOME - DUSK - PRESENT DAY

Dean walks out the front door, passes Jerry on the porch. He crosses the lawn to the sidewalk.

Fireworks crackle nearby.

JERRY

Hey Frankie, come back!

Frankie comes chasing after him as he heads down the sidewalk.

FRANKIE (SCREAMS)

Daddy!

Frankie pulls on Dean's belt, playfully trying to stop him from leaving. Dean stops and turns to her, trying to hide his tears.

DEAN

Frankie, you got to go back, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE

Daddy, Daddy!

On the porch, Cindy appears through the front door. She turns to Jerry--

CINDY

Where is she?

JERRY

She ran after Dean...

Cindy hurries to the street, stops as she sees Dean and Frankie. In the near distance, fireworks blast upward into the sky like bolts of fire...

DEAN

Go back to your mom please. Go back to your mom.

FRANKIE

Just come back!

DEAN

You want to race?

FRANKIE

Okay.

DEAN

Ready, 1..2..3... go!

Frankie turns and races back towards Cindy. She scoops Frankie into her arms, turns back towards the house.

Slowly, mournfully, Dean walks away in the other direction.

Frankie begins to cry in Cindy's arms...

CINDY

Oh sweetheart, its okay, no, no, don't cry, its okay. Who's my big girl?

FRANKIE

I love him.

CINDY

I know... mommy's got you, don't cry, it's okay.

(CONTINUED)

In the background, Dean fades into the distance.

Fireworks explode in the night sky.

THE END