INT. DOM’S APARTMENT - DAY

Dom is in the shower when he hears the door bell ring. He rushes to open it.

    DOM
    Hold on!...Hold Up, I’m here.

He opens the door. It’s Dessa. She was about to leave.

    DOM (CONT’D)
    Hey.

    DESSA
    Oh, you’re home.

    DOM
    Yeah.

    DESSA
    Hi.

    DOM
    What are you doing?

    DESSA
    I, I just dropped off some leftovers. Some Turkey meatballs.

    DOM
    Turkey? Yum.

    DESSA
    Danny doesn’t eat beef.

    DOM
    All right, hey come on in.

    DESSA
    Are you sure?

    DOM
    Yeah, I’m just finishing getting dressed.

    DESSA
    Okay.

She walks in. A Beat.

    DESSA (CONT’D)
    Ray had asked me to check in on you.

    (MORE)
DESSA (CONT'D)
I’ve been trying to call you, and...ugh, you uh...Anyway, no one was answering, so...

DOM
Yeah. You been hanging out with Ray, huh? Your buddy Ray.

DESSA
I don’t know what’s going on with you guys. I just, um... Anyway, he’s worried about you.

DOM
Ah.

DESSA
He’s been complaining about being dizzy and lightheaded.

DOM
Uh, yeah, well, that’s what happens when you don’t see a doctor for 30 years.

DESSA
Well, I would check in on him if I were you.

DOM
Yeah.

DESSA
So you seem okay. You’re off your crutches.

DOM
Yeah, man. I feel like I did when I was 19 years old.

Dessa laughs

DOM (CONT'D)
How about you? How are you doing?

DESSA
Well, I took on another job. I mean, I’m not getting paid...

DOM
Oh, yeah? What?

DESSA
...but I’ve been really busy.
DOM
What?

DESSA
Um... I’m volunteering at the children’s hospital down at the hospital.

DOM
Good for you.

DESSA
Okay, you sound a little bit sarcastic.

DOM
No, I really mean it. That’s -- that’s good. That’s good for you.

DESSA
It is.

DOM
You want something? You want some water, or some tea?

DESSA
I’ll take some water.

DOM
Water.

Dome gets water as Dessa settles in. She sits on the couch and notices a manuscript on the coffee table. She picks it up and reads the title.

DESSA
“The History of Domenico Onofrio Tempesta. A Great Man from Humble Beginnings”
What is this?

DOM
It’s nothing. Put it down.

DESSA
Have you been writing?

DOM
Me? Uh, no. It’s my grandfather’s. It’s this stupid, ridiculous--
DESSA
“What the old monkey brought me the
deformed creature--

DOM
Just give it to me.

DESSA
--"how was I to love such a pitiful
thing?

DOM
Please.

DESSA
Wait. “Old sins have long shadows.”

DOM
Okay, give it to me.

Dom rips the pages from Dessa’s hands. Violently. The
manuscripts pages fly across the room./

DESSA
Ow!

DOM
I said, give it to me!

DESSA
You gave me a paper cut, you
fucker.

DOM
Sorry.

Dom picks up the papers. Dessa chooses her words carefully.

DESSA
Hey. What the fuck is wrong with
you?

DOM
Things are screwed up with me right
now.

DESSA
Is it Thomas?... Do you think-- Is
he getting any better?

Dom laughs.

DESSA (CONT’D)
I don’t know why that’s funny.
DOM
He’s not getting better. He’s fuckin’ cursed. We’re all fuckin’ cursed. My whole family.

DESSA
You’re not cursed, Dominick.

Dom scoffs.

DESSA (CONT’D)
You have a very sick brother. You’re not, you’re not cursed.

DOM
It’s true.

DESSA
Hey. I think you’re taking way too much of this on yourself.

DOM
Yeah, what other fucking choice do I have?

DESSA
Well... You can choose to take care of yourself. You can choose to let the professionals do their jobs.

DOM
Professionals.

DESSA
Maybe he can get better there. Maybe there’s a chance--

DOM
Not there. He’s not getting better there.

DESSA
I don’t-- How do you know?

DOM
I know.

DESSA
Maybe he’ll do better there.

DOM
You, you don’t know what you’re talking about.
DESSA
Okay.

DOM
You don’t. Believe me, you don’t know.

A beat.

DESSA
What I’m-- what I’m trying to say is that I, I think you’re trying to control something you cannot control, and I think you need to let Thomas go a little.

DOM
Let him go?

DESSA
No, I’m not-- That’s not what I meant. I’m just saying that maybe, maybe just let go a little bit and let him just be, be somewhere-- he’s safe where he is.

DOM
You don’t just give up on the people you love, Dessa. You don’t just walk away from people when things get tough for them. You don’t act like you had no history with them and start a new life. Okay?

Dom turns on the TV. Gets lost in it. Dessa is speechless.

END SCENE.