

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.