

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN - PRINCIPLE SCENE

Cassie enters Dean Walker's Office

DEAN WALKER

Daisy.

CASSIE

That's me.

DEAN WALKER

Dean Walker. Please sit.

She does.

DEAN WALKER

My assistant said you are interested in resuming Med School?

CASSIE

That's right.

DEAN WALKER

May I ask what prompted your desire to get back to your studies?

CASSIE

I guess...I couldn't stop thinking about my time here.

DEAN WALKER

Yeah, it's an extraordinary place.
(beat)
It's an unusual request.

CASSIE

Yes, but I left under unusual circumstances.

DEAN WALKER

Oh.

CASSIE

I left because of what happened to Nina.

DEAN WALKER

Hm.

CASSIE

Nina Fisher. You don't remember her?

Dean Walker shakes her head, no.

CASSIE

Maybe you remember Alexander Munroe?

DEAN WALKER

Oh yes! Alexander Munroe! He actually just came back and gave a talk here. Oh, he's a really nice guy. Really smart. Are you a friend of his?

CASSIE

No. So you don't remember the accusations made against Al Munroe?

DEAN WALKER

I don't.

CASSIE

He took a girl. Nina Fisher, the one you don't remember, back to his room, where he had sex with her repeatedly, and in front of his friends. While she was too drunk to have any idea what was going on. She was covered in bruises the next day. Handprints, I guess you could say.

DEAN WALKER

Was it reported?

CASSIE

Yes.

DEAN WALKER

Do you know who Nina spoke to?

CASSIE

You.

(beat)

But you can't remember, so...You felt there wasn't sufficient evidence. You said it was too much of a 'he said, she said' situation.

DEAN WALKER

Well, you know we get accusations like this all the time. One or two a week. I'm sorry I don't remember your friend Nina but I can assure you at that time, that I looked into it thoroughly.

CASSIE

His friends were all watching.
Laughing.

DEAN WALKER
It's so hard. But you know also if
she was drinking and...and maybe
couldn't remember everything...

CASSIE
So she shouldn't have been drunk?

DEAN WALKER
I'm not saying that, I...

CASSIE
Sorry, I don't mean to sound
critical Dean Walker, I just want to
be clear.

DEAN WALKER
None of us want to admit when we've
made ourselves vulnerable. When
we've made a bad choice. And those
choices, those mistakes, can be so
damaging. And really regrettable.

CASSIE
Regrettable?

DEAN WALKER
Yes, I mean because...what would you
have me do? Ruin a young man's life
every time we get an accusation like
this?

CASSIE
So you're happy to take the boy's
word for it?

DEAN WALKER
I have to give him the benefit of
the doubt.

CASSIE
Of course you do.

DEAN WALKER
Because 'innocent until proven
guilty'.

CASSIE
No arguing with that!

DEAN WALKER

No.

CASSIE
Thank you for your time.

DEAN WALKER
Is your friend okay?

CASSIE
No, she's not. But Al Munroe is.
You'll be glad to hear he's doing
really well. He's getting married
actually, so...you know, I guess you
did the right thing. We have to give
these boys the benefit of the doubt.
That's why I know you won't mind but
three hours ago I picked your
daughter Amber up from school and
introduced her to the boys who live
in that room now.

DEAN WALKER
What?

CASSIE
She is really pretty, huh! She looks
a lot older than she is.

DEAN WALKER
I don't believe you.

CASSIE
I noticed they had a few bottles of
vodka in the room too, but I'm sure
they'll take good care of your
daughter. She seemed excited
actually.

Dean Walker picks up the phone to call her daughter.

It rings in Cassie's bag.

CASSIE
Oh wait, I have her phone! She'll be
wanting that later.

DEAN WALKER
You're crazy.

CASSIE
No.

DEAN WALKER

Tell me what room my daughter is in right now.

CASSIE

I told you, the same room Nina was in.

DEAN WALKER

I told you, I don't remember that.

CASSIE

Well that's a shame.

DEAN WALKER

What are you doing? She is a young girl.

CASSIE

I wonder if she looks so young to those guys.

DEAN WALKER

You better tell me what room she's in. Tell me what fucking room she's in! Now! You sociopath, tell me where she is! Please tell me.

(beat)

You're right okay. Is that what you want to hear? You're right. You're right.

CASSIE

Look how easy it was. I guess you just had to think about it in the right way. I guess it feels different when it's someone you love.

DEAN WALKER

Tell me where my daughter is please.

CASSIE

Relax! Dean Walker, do you really think I would do something like that? Luckily I don't have as much faith in boys as you do. Amber is sitting in a diner, waiting for her favourite boy-band to show up for a music video. It's the Castle Diner if you want to call and check. You should probably call actually or she may never figure out they're not coming. She's kind of an idiot, huh? Gorgeous though. Who needs brains?

They never did a girl any good.
Great to see you again Dean Walker.

Cassie leaves.