

THE CROSSING GUARD

INT. MARY'S HOUSE - DAY

(FREDDY tells the children goodnight.)

FREDDY
Goodnight sweetheart!

KELLY *(off)*
Goodnight Freddy!!

FREDDY
Humph... this... my own kids callin' me, Freddy.
You look wonderful.

MARY
Wonderful, I think would be pushing it.

FREDDY
No... you do... wonderful.

MARY
Thank you. So... how's business?

FREDDY
So-so. You know, it's a little jewelry store.
What can I say... business... What about you?
How's the real estate?

MARY
Well, it's a tough market right now. I'm still
representing some properties. Roger's been
doing so well; I've been able to back off some...
spend more time with the kids.

FREDDY

Well... a... that's wonderful... Really wonderful.
(pause) Mary there's something that you should know. It's the reason I came here

MARY

Freddy...

FREDDY

I got somethin' I wanna tell you.

MARY

You made me a promise, I hope you're going to keep it.

FREDDY

Two things. One, I made you a promise. That's one. And I have great news. That's two. Now are you going to let me speak or not?

MARY

(relieved) I'm sorry, what's your great news?

FREDDY

(nervously) It's really great news... it's spectacular news, I'm tellin' ya. You want to hear it or not?

MARY

Um-hmm.

FREDDY

You sure?

MARY

(smiles) Yes.

FREDDY

You ready?

MARY

Yeah.

FREDDY

He's out! John Booth is out! I'm gonna kill him!

MARY

Get Out Of Here, Freddy!!! Get Out!

FREDDY

I'm not going anywhere until I see you courageous enough to tell the truth.

MARY

The Truth!! What truth, Freddy? You promised you wouldn't...

FREDDY

Wouldn't... wouldn't what, Mary? Mention out daughter? Why? Why? 'Cause you'd blackmail me?

MARY

Blackmail you?...

FREDDY

If I ever, ever want to speak to the mother of my children... I must never mention my daughter.

MARY

Get out of my house!!

FREDDY

This is my house. By any natural law this is my house. If my children live here... my children... Who's to say I can't come here to see them any fuckin' time I want to?

MARY

You want me to call the police?

FREDDY

Call who-ever the fuck you want to.

MARY

Where do you get off calling them your kids?
You haven't been a father to them... you stopped
with our daughter.

FREDDY

Emily. Emily is her name!

MARY

Yes, Emily... Emily, and she is dead. But I owe
those two little boys upstairs all the love
I've got. And it kills you that I can give it
to them and you can't.

FREDDY

Tell the truth, Mary! Dammit! *(He grabs her)*
You want me to kill John Booth! That's my job
in life! And your job is to go on as if
nothing happened.

MARY

Freddy... *(Calming him)* Freddy let me go.
Freddy... I'll make some coffee...

FREDDY

Ok... *(pause)* no... You know what... I don't want
any coffee. It makes my heart... uh...

MARY

You just said you wanted coffee.

FREDDY

No... uh... I'm gonna go. I feel good.

(he goes out the door; and after a moment returns)

I just want to say this. I've done a lot of things for you, you know... a lot of things. And I think it's 'cheap' of you, that you won't hear me out on things. I really do.

MARY

Freddy... if you think I'm going to keep score with you on who's done what for who... you're very fucking wrong!!! And if you think that's 'cheap', then fuck you! Now, I don't know if you're serious or not about killing this man. But I do know this... it has nothing to do with our daughter. Our little girl is gone, Freddy, and she's not coming back; no matter what you do. *(pause)* You've never even been to the cemetery, Freddy. You've never even been to Emily's grave.

FREDDY

Why? Because I didn't go to your little party? Your funeral? In my own time, Mary... in my own time. In private... yes..

MARY

The you're a braver man that I thought. *(pause)* What's the inscription on the stone, Freddy? What color is it? Is it on a hill? Is it under a tree? Does it lie flat... or does it stick out of the ground? *(off his expression)* That's what I thought.

FREDDY

Well... well... Mary. When you read in the newspaper that John Booth has been shot dead. I want you to look in the mirror, and tell me if you don't see pride and relief. Pride and relief, Mary.