

PSYCHIATRIST

1 OF 3

17.

ACT TWO

30 EXT. DETROIT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY 30

1961: ESTABLISHING SHOT of this imposing institution -

31 INT. DETROIT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY 31

- while inside Sonya, looking very emotionally vulnerable, approaches the front desk and tells the RECEPTIONIST:

SONYA

I need to see somebody. I have
Darkness I can't control.

The Receptionist shows immediate concern.

SONYA (PRE-LAP)

I spent most of my childhood in
foster homes.

CUT TO:

32 INT. DETROIT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL/THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY 32

Sonya sits in an office across from a PSYCHIATRIST who, pad
in hand, listens with interest.

SONYA

When Mr. Carson, my husband,
married me he gave me my ticket
outa there.

PSYCHIATRIST

How old were you?

SONYA

Thirteen.

(seeing his shock)

Oh, we were happy - for a while. We
had a lovely house, two beautiful
boys ---

PSYCHIATRIST

Then what?

SONYA

I don't like to talk about it.

Silence. He waits. Finally, she crumbles.

Start

PSYCHIATRIST

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18.

SONYA

He had another wife and kids. My life fell apart when I found out.

PSYCHIATRIST

When was this?

SONYA

Five years ago. I couldn't leave him - my boys needed their father and I didn't know how I was gonna make it on my own.

PSYCHIATRIST

Are you still together?

SONYA

I heard he was dealing dope, so the boys and I moved to Boston. I have a sister there. Then his other wife started signing my name to checks and ran through every cent I had. That finished the marriage for sure.

PSYCHIATRIST

Why'd you come back to Detroit?

SONYA

I got the house in the divorce and I kept it. I rent it out for income but I'm saving money in a cookie jar 'cause some day we're gonna move back in.

PSYCHIATRIST

How do you support yourself?

SONYA

I clean homes. I baby-sit. I can't do anything else. Nobody knows this but -

(a whisper; this is hard:)

- I'm so dumb, I can't even read.

And suddenly, she can no longer hold back her deep feelings -

SONYA

Sometimes I fear my boys are gonna turn out the same way. Nothing's gonna work out.

(MORE)

PSYCHIATRIST

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SONYA (CONT'D)

I fight these feelings - I don't show 'em to Curtis and Bennie - but lately - I can't stop them anymore. I even think about killing myself.

- as tears come spilling out, running down her cheeks.

PSYCHIATRIST

(moved by her plight)

Mrs. Carson, what would you say to checking yourself in with us? Just for a little while, just til you get on your emotional feet.

SONYA

I can't afford -

PSYCHIATRIST

(cutting her off)

Don't worry about money, we'll find the money. Do you have someone to watch your boys?

A beat; Sonya shakes her head, struggling with this.

SONYA

I couldn't leave them, they wouldn't -

PSYCHIATRIST

They'll be much better off with a happy mother than with one who's thinking of suicide. Don't you agree?

Sonya's torn. She tries to say no, but....

and

SONYA (PRE-LAP)

I'm going away.

CUT TO:

33

INT. DETROIT APARTMENT - NIGHT

33

Over dinner Sonya breaks the news to her boys:

SONYA

Just for a few weeks. Going back to Boston to see your Aunt Jean Avery.

CURTIS

Can't we come with you?