

Nicole #1

3.

Finally, they collapse together, spent, and Carter rolls onto his back. They lie there breathing, sweaty. Happy. With no idea what's headed their way.

NICOLE

Wow... that was a mistake.

CARTER

How was that in any way a mistake?

NICOLE

I have to be at work in an hour, and I'm ready to go back to sleep. Least I can skip the gym today.

CARTER

Sure that's a good idea?

NICOLE

(slaps him playfully)

Watch it.

He laughs. A youthful, handsome face on a muscled frame. She glances at the clock.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Gotta go.

CARTER

You know, my shift doesn't start 'til 1:00. Why don't you call in sick?

NICOLE

I just got this job. Not gonna risk losing it.

She shrugs on a T-shirt, heads into the --

BATHROOM

Nicole fills a glass of water, takes out a blister pack of birth control pills from the medicine cabinet. She punches out the day's dosage, downs the pill, then turns to see Carter in the doorway.

CARTER

I thought you stopped taking those.

Caught, she sets the glass down.

NICOLE

I did. For a couple of weeks.

CARTER

So what's going on? You said you were ready.

I know... NICOLE

CARTER

It's been six months, Nicole. I get it hasn't been easy. Living in hiding, changing your name --

NICOLE
Eric, I'm fine. I'm just worried you're not.

He shakes his head, knows what she's talking about.

CARTER

Come on, the guy almost sideswiped us.

NICOLE
I thought you were going to run him off the road. Scared the hell out of me.

CARTER

I overreacted. I told you I was sorry.

NICOLE
It's not just that. You're barely eating, or sleeping. You're in the garage punching that bag at three in the morning --

CARTER

What do you want from me? What do I have to say?

NICOLE
I think you still need time. You gotta get past what happened over there.

CARTER

I'm fine, Nicole. All this stuff you're talking about, it's just normal stress.

NICOLE
Normal stress. Really?

CARTER

If I was so screwed up, would I be getting a promotion next month?

NICOLE
You're changing the subject.

CARTER

And you won't admit that things are good. We have a future here. It's about time we start acting like it.

Off Nicole, hearing him but her concern undimmed...

END # 1

CUT TO:

Nicole #2

11.



Marcus, wait -- **CARTER**

But Marcus has hung up. Carter lowers his cell, troubled.

NICOLE
What is it now?

CARTER
He says Bin-Khalid's people found him.

NICOLE
Again?

Carter taps an APP on his phone. As he enters codes --

NICOLE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

CARTER
Signaling the squad.

NICOLE
Tell me you're not taking Marcus seriously. How many times has he made this call?

CARTER
I'm just being safe. The guys'll text back that they're okay. Then I'll find Marcus and get him cleaned up.

NICOLE
You're not his squad leader anymore, Eric.

But Carter doesn't answer. He's staring at his phone.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
What?

CARTER
No one's responding.

NICOLE
You just sent it out.

CARTER
They just have to tap the screen to confirm.

NICOLE
Maybe they're not near their phones.

All of them? **CARTER**

Hard to argue with this. She watches, growing anxious as Carter gets up and goes to the window.

CARTER'S POV - THE STREET

A GREY UTILITY VAN is parked down the block.

BACK TO SCENE

Carter HEARS a SOUND to his left. He cranes his head against the window to see TWO MEN already at the front door. Carter backs away from the window.

CARTER (CONT'D)
(to Nicole)
Get to the attic --

NICOLE
What is it?

CARTER
Do it --

Carter whips out his cell and dials 911 -- DIGITAL WHITE NOISE is all he hears.

CARTER (CONT'D)
They're jamming the signal.

He grabs Nicole by the arm and hauls her into the --
HALLWAY

At the end of the hall, a SHADOW appears on the back door window. Only seconds to move, Carter pulls Nicole into a --

SPARE BEDROOM

And yanks on the cord to a CEILING ATTIC LADDER. He unfolds the stairs.

NICOLE
Eric --

CARTER
Go -- go --

Nicole scrambles up.

CARTER (CONT'D)
No matter what happens, no matter what you hear, stay up there -- don't make a sound.

END#2

Nicole # 3

43.

INT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE - SPARE ROOM

Nicole has been set up in a sparsely furnished room -- bed, bathroom, TV. She looks up as Isaac enters.

ISAAC

(re: her bandaged arm)
That hurt? Want something for it?

NICOLE

Nothing you have here, Isaac.

ISAAC

I meant Tylenol. But okay.

He's about to leave, she stops him --

NICOLE

I'm sorry. I appreciate you taking me in.

ISAAC

Even though this is the last place you want to be.

NICOLE

It's not that...

ISAAC

Then what?

NICOLE

Trust me, you don't want to hear it.

The way she says that, he realizes --

ISAAC

Cause it's about you and Eric.

(off her nod)

Nicole -- it's okay. You and me,
that's water under the bridge.

Which surprises her. Skeptical --

NICOLE
Really?

ISAAC
I say what I mean.

She hesitates... but her need to talk wins out.

NICOLE
Eric... hasn't been right since he got back. I thought it was because of what he went through over there, like some kind of PTSD.

A beat.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
But when he killed those men who came after us... I understood. It's not PTSD. He misses it. What he did this morning, what he's doing now... It's what he needs.
(beat)

The life he says he wants with me, it'll never be enough for him.

A woman facing the end of her marriage. Isaac not comfortable with all this emotion. The best he can do is --

ISAAC
All I can tell you is -- Eric was fine here, working for me. He took off cause of you. Cause he wanted you to have something better.
(beat)

And that part I get.

He says that with his eyes on Nicole, and you realize his feelings for her are still there.

END #3