Nicole #1

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.

Wow... that was a mistake.

How was that in any way a mistake?

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.

Sure that's a good idea?

(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.

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.

I thought you stopped taking those.

Caught, she sets the glass down.

I did. For a couple of weeks.

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

NICOLE

I know...

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.

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.

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 --

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.

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

Normal stress. Really?

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

You're changing the subject.

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

Marcus, wait --

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

NICOLE

What is it now?

He says Bin-Khalid's people found him.

NICOLE

Again?

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

What are you doing? (CONT'D)

Signaling the squad.

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

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

You're not his squad leader anymore, Bric.

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

NICOLE (CONT.D)

What?

No one's responding.

You just sent it out.

They just have to tap the screen to confirm.

Maybe they're not near their phones.

All of them?

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.

(to Nicole)
Get to the attic --

What is it?

Do it - CARTER

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 --

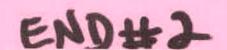
SPARE BEDROOM

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

Eric --

Nicole scrambles up.

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



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.

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

Nothing you have here, Isaac.

I meant Tylenol. But okay.

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

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

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

It's not that...

Then what?

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

The way she says that, he realizes --

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?

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 --

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.

