

GO CASTING

EXT. SMU - CAMPUS/PARKING LOT - DAY - NINE YEARS AGO

Claire and Ryan walk along the campus to a parking lot.

Sc#1

Start →

CLAIRE

I didn't know about the eyes.

RYAN

It was withheld.

Claire takes a moment. Thinks about it. Ryan finds himself staring. Intrigued by her.

CLAIRE

Try Edgar Allan Poe. THE TELL-TALE HEART, THE BLACK CAT. Both have a strong eye allegory. The eyes are symbolic. The essence of identity.

Ryan gives this thought as they reach Claire's car.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You should talk to my husband. He knows that period really well.

RYAN

You're married?

Claire looks at him. He was flirting.

CLAIRE

Yes, I'm married, Agent Hardy. Why? Were you flirting?

She makes a joke -- it completely diffuses their tension.

RYAN

With this material? Not a chance.

They both smile. He was clearly interested.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. MATTHEW'S RESIDENCE - STUDY - AFTERNOON

Ryan and Claire have moved to the couch. He's filled her in.

Start →

CLAIRE

Joe is always teaching. It was ingrained in him. It makes sense he would find a student.

Sc#2

END

Claire

Int. Kevin Williamson Project - Inr-Fox

CONTINUED:

RYAN

There's evidence that points to Mexico. Would Joe go there?

CLAIRE

He would consider that beneath him somehow. Joe has accepted who he is. He's not looking for freedom.

RYAN

He wants to keep killing.

CLAIRE

He's quite good at it. Which wasn't the case with his writing. Artistic transference.

Ryan exhales. Tired. Frustrated. His cracks are showing. He doesn't seem to hide them with her.

RYAN

I need to find him, Claire. I don't know how...

He turns to her. A long silent stare.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't call.

CLAIRE

We both know it wouldn't have worked.

Another silence. It's loaded. Claire breaks first.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

So you're back with the FBI?

RYAN

No. Just for this. They can't wait to get rid of me. I think they're more afraid not to have me here. In case I get lucky again--

CLAIRE

It wasn't luck, Ryan. You figured him out. I was his wife, I didn't know. You put it all together. Where he was going that night. The sorority house. No one but you.

Ryan nods, appreciates her words. Her compassion. If things were different... Claire feels it too but...

CONTINUED: (2)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Is the girl safe? The last victim?

RYAN

Yes. She's under protection.
She's a doctor now. She's doing
good. She got beyond all of this.

Beat. As this resonates for both of them.

CLAIRE

I'm sure that pains Joe.

RYAN

Why?

CLAIRE

He fancies himself Edgar Allan Poe.
That was the impetus for his novel.
Poe died with an unfinished
manuscript. THE LIGHTHOUSE. Joe's
novel THE GOTHIC SEA was his way of
finishing what Poe started.

This registers with Ryan--

END