



**“SOONER OR LATER”**

**Written by**

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*Opening Credits* - Set as a photomontage of major series events scored to series theme "We Used To Be Friends", Season 3 Version.

FADE IN:

EXT. HEARST COLLEGE - DAY

CAMERA PANS across the main campus quad. CAMERA PUSHES IN on VERONICA MARS walking slowly across the campus.

PARKER

Hey, Veronica. Veronica! Wait up!

Veronica hears PARKER LEE calling out to her and purposefully continues walking. She quickly reaches into her SIGNATURE BLACK PURSE and takes out her CELL PHONE, acting as though she's receiving a call.

Parker runs across the quad catching up to her.

PARKER

Veronica.

Veronica holds up her index finger in the international wait a sec gesture and pretends to continue with her phone call.

VERONICA (V.O.)

(turning away from Parker, talking into her cell phone)

I've been avoiding Parker since classes started this week. Our friendship had never been particularly warm and fuzzy, and after her break-up with Logan it became pretty much non-existent. She left me a voice mail message earlier in the week saying she wanted to apologize for her behavior towards me after the Logan situation blew up, but I've had no desire to call her back. It's a nice gesture, but Parker and drama kinda go hand in hand and I have more than enough drama in my life as it is.

(sighing)

Guess it was inevitable I'd run into her eventually, especially since she's still rooming with Mac, but I really hoped it would be later rather than sooner. Well, here goes.

Veronica pretends to end her phone call and turns back to face Parker.

VERONICA

(steeling herself)

Hey Parker, sorry about that. How are you?

Parker smiles slightly, but appears uncomfortable and worried.

PARKER

Not so great, actually. I've been wanting to catch up with you all week, but I keep missing you. I left you a message on Monday.

VERONICA

(nodding casually)

Yeah, I got your message. I've just been so busy since getting back home that I haven't had time to catch up on much of anything. You know how it is.

PARKER

No worries. Anyway, like I said in the message, I really wanted to apologize for how I treated you at the end of the year. You didn't do anything wrong and I had no right to behave the way I did. I'm really sorry.

VERONICA

Yeah, well, the end of the year was pretty crazy all around. Don't worry about it. Really, no big deal.

Parker visibly relaxes her tone and body language as she responds to Veronica.

PARKER

I appreciate that. You really are a class act, Veronica.

(pausing briefly)

I do have another reason for wanting to talk with you. I think I've gotten myself into some serious trouble and I was hoping maybe you could help me find a way out of it.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Parker and drama continue hand in hand. Shocking! And so not anything I want to deal with.

Veronica smiles, giving her best expression of faux concern.

VERONICA

Oh, sorry to hear you're in a jam. I'd love to help you out, but I'm really in a rush right now.

Veronica starts walking again and silently points to her phone for reference before continuing to speak, as Parker follows her.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Just had a call from my dad and I need to stop by his office right now. Can we catch up later and talk about your problem?

PARKER

(somewhat dejected)

Sure. Maybe you can stop by tonight. Have dinner, or something, with me and Mac. We can all catch up and I can ask your advice about my situation.

(hurriedly speaking)

I heard that you and Piz broke up. Do you think you'll be getting back together with Logan?

Veronica continues to walk away from Parker, attempting to hide her growing annoyance.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Okay, so I lied. Dad's actually out of town enjoying a few days off from his duties as sheriff, but Parker doesn't know that and I really don't want to deal with her right now. If that makes me a terrible friend, so be it. I mean, really, she's not much of a friend either, so I'm not too broken up about it. And Piz and Logan? Really? She wants to go there. Sheesh.

(MORE)

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Yes, it's true Piz and I broke up before I left for Virginia. Just seemed like it was for the best considering everything that had happened. Piz is a good guy, but I know I never could have really loved him.

(sighing)

I learned a valuable lesson, if nothing else, from all of the craziness of last semester. No matter how much you may want to, your heart won't let you love someone if it's in love with someone else. Too bad hearts don't have any good sense.

Veronica begins walking a little faster, distancing herself from Parker as quickly as possible.

VERONICA

(hurriedly, glancing back over her shoulder)

Yeah. Maybe. I'll let you know.

Veronica quickly walks away and heads straight for her SATURN in the parking lot, as Parker stops following and simply yells back to her.

PARKER

Okay. Bye.

Veronica gets into her car, starts the engine, and quickly pulls out of the parking lot. She drives down the street and we see her begin to think.

VERONICA (V.O)

I have to admit to being just a little bummed that dad took off for a few days away, just a couple of weeks after I got back home. It was the only time that he and Alicia could both get away though, so I understand. They deserve their alone time, too. Yes, dad and Alicia Fennel are dating again. Didn't take me by total surprise when he told me over the summer that they were giving it another try.

(MORE)

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They did have a good thing going for a while and I'm totally happy for them. And on another happy note, yes, my dad did win the election for sheriff. Not by a landslide, but it was enough. Thankfully, a lot of people in town still love and respect him even with the headlines of the newspapers being what they were that morning.

Veronica parks her car on the street and walks towards her apartment.

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Anyway, it's all water under the bridge now. I managed to convince Jake Kane to have the charges against my dad dropped. Yes, I may have had to blackmail him to do it, but you gotta do what you gotta do. That's a whole nother story for a whole nother day, though.

EXT. HEARST COLLEGE - NIGHT

Veronica returns to campus later that night. CAMERA PANS from Veronica exiting her car to show her P.O.V. of CINDY 'MAC' MACKENZIE and Parker crossing the street.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Okay, I admit it, I couldn't resist finding out what Parker's current drama is. Damn my curiosity.

Veronica quickly walks towards the corner to catch up with Mac and Parker, who are right across the street from her.

VERONICA

Hey, Mac!

Mac turns toward Veronica and waves just as a car comes SQUEELING around the corner. All turn towards the car and we see a MASKED DRIVER aiming a LARGE HANDGUN.

VERONICA

(yelling)

Get down!

Mac jumps backwards into the LIGHT POST behind her, just as the BANG of gunshots rent the air.

Veronica rushes towards Mac and Parker. Both are down on the ground.

VERONICA

(concernedly, reaching down to Mac)

Mac? Mac! Can you hear me?

Mac is unconscious, but doesn't appear to have been shot.

Students and staff, including ELI 'WEEVIL' NAVARRO, in the nearby building, having heard the shots, rush towards the scene just as Veronica turns towards Parker. CAMERA PUSHES IN and we see Parker lying on the ground unmoving and covered in blood.

FRANTIC STUDENT

(hysterically yelling, running towards Parker's body)

Oh my god, she's been shot! She's dead!  
She's dead. Oh my god, she's dead!

Ignoring the screaming, and seemingly oblivious to anything going on around her, Veronica calmly takes out her cell phone and dials 911.

We see Weevil rushing towards Veronica when he notices her sitting on the ground next to Mac.

WEEVIL

V? You okay?

VERONICA

(ending her call and answering distractedly)

Yeah, I'm fine. What are you doing here?

WEEVIL

(answering in a duh tone)

I work here. Remember?

(raising his eyebrows at her with sincere concern)

You sure you're okay?

Veronica shakes her head slightly, in a brushing away the cobwebs manner, as she gestures towards Mac and Parker.

VERONICA

Yeah. Sorry. Just a little distracted.

WEEVIL

Yeah, okay. Understandable. You need anything?

VERONICA

No, I'm fine.

Weevil glances at her skeptically, as she casually picks up her cell phone.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I'm just gonna call Wallace to let him know what's happened, so he can call Mac's parents.

WEEVIL

(with continued skeptical concern)

Okay, well, let me know if there's anything I can do for you. I'll be around.

Veronica looks back at Mac and distractedly responds to Weevil as he begins to walk away from her.

VERONICA

Okay. Thanks.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

WALLACE FENNEL and Mac's family are sitting on couches arranged in a semi-circle around a table piled high with various newspapers and magazines.

Veronica slowly walks laps around the room. The entire assemblage is silent, as they await word on Mac's condition, with the only sound coming from Veronica's STEADY FOOTSTEPS.

WALLACE

(casually, to Veronica)

Girl, you're making me dizzy. Sit down already before you wear a hole through the floor.

Veronica pauses her pacing as she apologetically responds.

VERONICA

Sorry. Patience is not one of my virtues and walking makes me feel like I'm doing something. I just need to be doing something.



Wallace rises from his chair and slowly walks across the room. He lovingly places his arm around Veronica's shoulders, when he reaches her, stopping her in her tracks.

WALLACE

Yeah, I know, me too. Unfortunately, all we can do is wait and believe that she's gonna be fine. 'Cuz, she has to be fine.

Veronica slightly smiles at Wallace as she realizes just how upset he is.

VERONICA

Sorry, I know how much this is affecting you, too. I'm still getting used to the idea that you and Mac are dating.

Veronica hugs Wallace sympathetically.

VERONICA (V.O.)

It came as enough of a surprise that Wallace and Mac were both spending all summer volunteering with Invisible Children. The fact that they returned home a couple was a complete shocker. Never would have pegged that one, but I couldn't be happier for them. Not quite as surprising, but equally nice, was dad and Alicia rekindling their romance. Guess I'm the only one who didn't get any summer lovin'.

Veronica releases Wallace from her embrace.

WALLACE

She is gonna be okay, right?

VERONICA

Yeah, she is. And I'm going to find out who's responsible for this and make them pay.

(with steely determination)

No one messes with my friends and gets away with it.

Wallace leads Veronica towards the couch he had previously vacated. He casually places his arm around her shoulder, as they both sit, more to comfort himself than her.

WALLACE

No doubt you will and I'm gonna help you. No one messes with my friends either.

Veronica sits quietly for a few moments, but her nervous energy doesn't allow it to last for very long. Abruptly, she shrugs off Wallace's arm from her shoulder, stands, and proceeds to resume pacing the floor, just as LOGAN ECHOLLS rushes into the room.

LOGAN

(concernedly)

Veronica! I heard about the shooting. Are you okay?

VERONICA

(sardonically)

Well, I'm better than Parker.

Logan quickly walks across the room, giving Veronica the once over to assure himself that she is unhurt, before moving to embrace her, somewhat against her will.

LOGAN

Thank God, you're okay. When I heard you were involved in a shooting I thought you were hurt. What happened?

VERONICA (V.O.)

I should have expected that Logan would show up.

(sighing)

He always does. Still, I'm so not ready to deal with him right now. I've been avoiding him, as well, since getting back home. Guess that's over now.

Veronica pulls out of Logan's embrace and silently gestures for him to follow her into the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Veronica and Logan slowly walk to the far end of the hallway.

LOGAN

So, what happened?

Veronica waits to speak until they are out of earshot of the waiting room. Logan's presence has clearly unnerved her and she begins to speak a little too quickly.

VERONICA

(nervously rambling)

I'm not entirely sure. It all happened pretty quickly. I had just arrived on campus and was getting ready to cross the street to catch up with Mac and Parker when a car came flying around the corner. I turned away from Mac and Parker for just a second to look at the car and that's when the driver shot at them. Parker was the only one shot. I think Mac hit her head trying to get out of the way.

Veronica stops and takes a slow, deep breath to calm herself.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

They're running tests on Mac right now. It seems like it's been forever. When are they going to let us know how she is?

Logan moves in closer and wraps his arms around Veronica trying to comfort her. Veronica is slightly less resistant to his hold this time.

LOGAN

I'm sure her doctors are just wanting to make sure they know what's what before they say anything.

Logan hugs Veronica a little tighter and caresses her shoulder, as she relaxes into his embrace.

VERONICA

Yeah, you're probably right.

LOGAN

Don't worry. She's gonna be fine.

VERONICA

She'd better be.

DOCTOR BENNETT, Mac's attending physician, passes them in the hall and walks into the waiting room.

Logan and Veronica follow closely behind the doctor, as they walk back into the room.

DR. BENNETT

(gently, shaking each of Mac's parents hands)

Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie. I'm Dr. Bennett. I just finished reviewing your daughter's test results and the good news is that there aren't any fractures or any serious swelling. She's got a pretty nasty bump on the back of her head, and some scrapes and bruises, but other than that, she seems to be fine.

VERONICA

And the bad news?

The doctor turns towards Veronica, surprised by her interruption.

DR. BENNETT

I'm sorry?

VERONICA

You said that was the good news. Usually when someone says that, it means that there's also bad news.

Slightly embarrassed, Veronica silently walks towards the couch and takes a seat next to Wallace.

VERONICA (V.O.)

As soon as I opened my mouth, I'd wished I hadn't. I was totally out of line to interrupt the doctor like that, and it wasn't my place to question him, but when I'm stressed propriety is the furthest thing from my mind. And at the end of the day, I've got to be me.

The doctor turns his attention back towards Mac's parents.

DR. BENNETT

The main concern at this point is that Cindy hasn't regained consciousness, yet. It's not an uncommon thing with head injuries like hers, so I don't want to worry you unnecessarily.

(MORE)

DR. BENNETT (CONT'D)

Patients usually come out of it within twenty-four hours of the injury. We're moving her to her room now and we'll keep her continuously monitored throughout the night. Tomorrow we'll be able to have a better idea of how she's doing.

MRS. MACKENZIE

When can we see her?

DR. BENNETT

Just give the nurses a few minutes to get her settled in and then you can go right up. She'll be in room 504.

MR. MACKENZIE moves to shake Dr. Bennett's hand.

MR. MACKENZIE

Thank you, doctor.

INT. MAC'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Mac is lying in her hospital bed, wired to several monitors, still unconscious.

The Mackenzies, Wallace, Veronica and Logan are all in the room talking amongst each other when a nurse purposefully enters.

NURSE

I'm sorry, but visiting hours are over.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Oh, Dr. Bennett said we'd be able to stay with Cindy tonight. I don't want to leave her alone.

The nurse smiles at MRS. MACKENZIE, then glances at the assembled group before turning her attention back to Mac's mother.

NURSE

Yes, you may stay with her. We just have a limit of two overnight visitors per patient.

They all silently nod their understanding towards the nurse, as she turns and moves to leave the room.

Mr. Mackenzie gestures towards RYAN MACKENZIE, Mac's little brother, asleep in a large side chair in the corner of the room.

MR. MACKENZIE

(casually addressing his wife)

Honey, you stay tonight. I'll take Ryan home and we'll be back first thing in the morning.

Mac's parents briefly hug, then Mr. Mackenzie picks up Ryan and leaves the room.

WALLACE

Mrs. Mackenzie? I'd like to stay if that's okay.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Yes, of course, Wallace. You're more than welcome. I know Cindy will appreciate you being here when she wakes up.

Veronica tilts her head towards Logan.

VERONICA

Well, I guess that was our cue to leave.

Wallace rises from his seat and silently hugs Veronica, again more for his benefit than hers. Veronica happily returns his hug.

VERONICA

I'll be back, as soon as I can sneak in past the watchful eyes, in the morning. Call me if you need anything and let me know if there's any change, okay?

WALLACE

Will do.

Wallace releases Veronica from his embrace, somewhat reluctantly.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Going home alone tonight with only worry to keep me occupied may just drive me completely crazy.

(MORE)

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There's not much of anything I can do on the case just yet. I'll try to take a look at the scene tomorrow, and convince dad to let me see the reports when he gets back in town tomorrow night. Hopefully, there's a reliable witness who saw more than I did. I can't believe I didn't catch more of the scene, but I was so focused on Mac and Parker that I barely looked at the car and driver. If only dad were here now I could at least run things by him. I always think better that way, and it might help me remember something, but he's in San Diego for some much deserved down time and I don't want to worry him. He'll be home soon enough. And, I'll survive the night alone.

Logan shakes Wallace's hand and gives his regards to Mrs. Mackenzie before lightly tapping Veronica on her shoulder, interrupting her thoughts.

LOGAN

Veronica, I don't think you should be alone tonight.

VERONICA

(distractedly)

What?

LOGAN

You shouldn't be alone tonight. Is your dad at home or is he out working on the case?

VERONICA

Actually, he's out of town, but I won't be alone. I have Backup. He's dual purpose wonderful, both company and protection. I'll be fine.

LOGAN

Which is great, but I think you may need more than just Backup tonight.

VERONICA

(with slight annoyance)

I said I'll be fine.

WALLACE

(addressing Veronica with concern)  
I think Logan's right, V. You really shouldn't be alone tonight. We don't know what the deal is with the shooting. You may have been a target.

Veronica looks at Wallace with an expression suggesting she thinks he's crazy and shakes her head.

VERONICA

If I were a target he would have shot in my direction. Mac and Parker were across the street from me. No shots were fired my way at all.

WALLACE

Well, even if you weren't a target originally, you're a witness now. The shooter may know who you are and see you as a threat.

LOGAN

(concernedly to Veronica)  
Wallace makes a good point. Until we know more you shouldn't be alone. Your dad would agree with us.

Veronica alternates glances between Wallace and Logan with an expression of annoyance.

VERONICA

Look, this day has been stressful enough as it is. I really don't need the two of you ganging up on me about this.

WALLACE

We're not ganging up on you. We're worried about you. We just want you to be safe. Okay?

Logan places his hand on Veronica's shoulder to gain her attention.

LOGAN

(imploringly)  
Veronica, please. Please, just listen to us on this.

(MORE)



LOGAN (CONT'D)

Come home with me tonight and let me take care of you. I'd stay with you at your place, but I'll feel more comfortable at The Grand with all of their security. There's no reason for you to take any unnecessary risks.

WALLACE

Please, V. Go home with Logan. I'm worried enough about Mac right now, I don't want to be worried about you too. Please, for me.

MRS. MACKENZIE

They're right, Veronica. Better safe than sorry.

Veronica holds up her hands in submission and sighs.

VERONICA

Okay, fine, I don't have the energy to argue with all of you.

Veronica waves goodbye to Wallace and Mrs. Mackenzie as she and Logan walk towards the door.

VERONICA

(casually, to Logan)

We need to stop at my place first so I can feed Backup, take him out, and grab a few things, okay?

LOGAN

Whatever you need.

Logan and Veronica silently walk the rest of the way down the hall to the elevator.

VERONICA (V.O)

Great, this is just what I need. I've been intentionally avoiding Logan for the past couple of weeks and now I'm spending the night alone with him. What's wrong with this picture? There's so much we should deal with, and I'm so not ready to go there. Really, though, will I ever be ready to go there? Maybe it's for the best. No time like the present as they say.

INT. NEPTUNE GRAND HOTEL - LOGAN'S SUITE - NIGHT

Veronica and Logan are sitting on opposite ends of the couch, eating and silently watching television. After a few moments, Logan breaks their uncomfortable silence.

LOGAN  
(casually, gazing at Veronica)  
How's your burger?

Veronica continues staring at the television as she briefly responds.

VERONICA  
Fine.

LOGAN  
How are you?

Veronica continues to look at the television and avoid eye contact with Logan.

VERONICA  
Fine.

Logan shakes his head with exasperation.

LOGAN  
Fine? Is that all you can say?

Veronica glances at Logan briefly, then shifts her attention back to the television as she responds.

VERONICA  
What? I answered your questions. What else do you want me to say?

Logan moves from his place on the far end of the couch and reseats himself directly next to Veronica, as she sets her plate down in front of her.

LOGAN  
I want you to tell me the truth about how you're doing with all of this.

Veronica sighs and finally turns her full attention to Logan.

VERONICA  
(quietly)  
I told you the truth. I'm fine.

LOGAN

Veronica, it's me you're talking to. I know you and I know you aren't fine.

Veronica glares at Logan with annoyance.

VERONICA

Okay, whatever you say, I'm not fine. Happy now?

LOGAN

No, I'll be happy when you really are fine.

Logan places his arm around Veronica's Shoulders.

VERONICA

What do you think you're doing?

LOGAN

Comforting and protecting you.

VERONICA

(with annoyance)

Well, knock it off. I'm not in any danger and I don't need comforting. I told you I'm . . .

Logan caresses Veronica's shoulder, as he interrupts her rant completing her thought.

LOGAN

I know, you're fine. And we both know that's a lie. A very good friend of yours is in the hospital, unconscious, and you saw another friend shot to death in front of you. No one would be fine after that. Not even you, Veronica.

VERONICA

Technically, I didn't see Parker get shot.

LOGAN

Well, technically, she still died in your presence and that has to bother you. I know you. We have a lot of history, remember? We know each other better than anyone. And I know all of this has upset you.

Veronica shrugs slightly and responds with complete nonchalance.

VERONICA

Honestly, I never really cared much for Parker, so yeah it's a bummer, but I'm not really that torn up about her loss.

LOGAN

Veronica, don't do that. Don't brush it off like it's nothing. Even if she was your worst enemy you'd still be upset by what happened.

Veronica shrugs Logan's hand off her shoulder, ignoring his comment about Parker.

VERONICA

I am upset about Mac, though. It totally sucks that she was hurt because of Parker and I'll admit to being pretty pissed off about that.

LOGAN

What do you mean because of Parker? Do you know why she was shot?

VERONICA

I don't know why specifically, but I do know that Parker had gotten herself into some kind of trouble. She tracked me down earlier today and said she wanted to talk to be about some situation. I brushed her off, but my curiosity got the better of me and that's why I was there tonight. I wanted to find out what the deal was. Going to be more difficult to find that out now, but I will. Whoever is responsible for Mac getting hurt will pay for it.

Logan firmly places his arm back around Veronica shoulders.

LOGAN

Listen to me, Veronica. I know you're going to investigate this. I'd expect nothing else from you, but you need to be careful with this.

(MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

If Parker was in some kind of trouble, and she was killed because of it, you could be a target now. You witnessed the shooting. Saw the car and the killer. I want to help you.

VERONICA

I don't need help and I'll be fine.

LOGAN

Yeah, I know, you never need any help. You can't change who you are, right? And I can't change who I am either, so I'm not taking no for an answer on this one. I'm going to help you and have your back on this whether you want me to or not.

VERONICA

Fine.

LOGAN

We're back to that?

VERONICA

(exhaustedly)

What, I said fine. That's what you wanted, right? Logan, I just don't have the energy to argue with you tonight. You want to help, fine, you can help. Okay?

LOGAN

Yeah.

VERONICA

(her voice cracking)

Good.

Logan swiftly picks Veronica up and places her in his lap, hugging her tightly, as he sees the stress getting to her and her defenses beginning to crumble.

VERONICA

Logan!

LOGAN

What?

VERONICA (V.O.)

Great, just great. I so don't need to fall apart in front of Logan. I don't allow myself to cry in front of anyone and I definitely don't want to cry in front of him. Damn!

Veronica's tears begin to well up. She doesn't answer, as Logan caresses her shoulder and holds her more closely.

LOGAN

It's okay, I'm here. I love you and I'm not going to let anything bad happen to you.

VERONICA

(voice cracking)

I'm not worried about me.

LOGAN

You never are. So, I'm gonna worry about you for both of us.

Veronica rests her head on Logan's shoulder, completely exhausted. She continues to just barely hold back her burgeoning tears.

VERONICA

Logan, I'm really tired and I really don't want to talk about this anymore tonight. I just want to go to bed right now. Try to get some sleep, you know?

LOGAN

Whatever you want.

Logan releases Veronica from his embrace. He rises from his seat, gently setting Veronica on her feet. They both slowly walk into the bedroom and we see the door close behind them.

INT. MAC'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAWN

Mrs. Mackenzie and Wallace are both sleeping in side chairs, looking very uncomfortable. Mrs. Mackenzie is seated in the far corner of the room and Wallace is seated right next to Mac's bed, his hand resting on hers.

We see slight movement from Mac. Wallace quickly awakens and jumps to his feet when he feels Mac's hand move under his.

WALLACE

Mac?

Mac's hand moves again, slightly, but her eyes remain closed. Wallace shakes Mac's shoulder gently to rouse her.

WALLACE

Mac? Are you awake? Can you hear me?

Mac slowly opens her eyes.

Via Mac's P.O.V. the room gradually comes into focus.

MAC

Wallace?

Wallace leans down and tenderly kisses Mac's forehead.

WALLACE

Thank god, you're awake. You had us worried sick.

Mrs. Mackenzie awakens to their voices and rushes to Mac's bedside.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Cindy? Honey? Thank heavens you're awake. You had us worried sick.

MAC

(jokingly)

So I've heard.

Mac looks around the room with uncertainty.

MAC (CONT'D)

Why am I here? What happened?

WALLACE

Don't you remember?

MAC

(concernedly thinking)

Um? I guess not.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Don't worry about it honey. You just hit your head, that's all. I'll go tell the nurse you're awake so she can get your doctor. Be right back.

Mrs. Mackenzie kisses Mac on the top of her head and leaves the room.

WALLACE

What's the last thing you do remember?

MAC

I remember leaving class with Parker.

Wallace gazes at Mac with veiled concern.

WALLACE

Is that all?

MAC

Yeah, I think so. Why, what happened?  
My mom was obviously trying to keep  
something from me.

Wallace looks towards the door with uncertainty, for a brief moment, then turns back to Mac.

WALLACE

Maybe we should wait for the doctor to  
check you out first.

MAC

Wallace, please. Tell me what happened.  
What don't I remember and how did I end  
up in the hospital?

Before Wallace can answer, Mrs. Mackenzie and the same nurse from the night before walk into the room.

Wallace releases Mac's hand with an expression of relief and moves away from the bedside allowing the nurse to take his place.

NURSE

(writing chart notes)

Nice to see you back with us, Miss  
Mackenzie.

MAC

Thanks. Am I okay?

NURSE

Your vitals look good. You just need to  
relax and try to rest right now. Your  
doctor will be in shortly and he'll  
answer all of your questions.

The nurse finishes making notations in Mac's chart and leaves the room. As the nurse leaves, Mac alternately glances between Wallace and her mother.



MAC

Well, it would be nice if someone would answer them. Are either of you going to tell me what's going on?

Wallace and Mrs. Mackenzie exchange uneasy looks with one another. After a brief moment Wallace sighs and begins to hesitantly speak.

WALLACE

Well, it's like your mom said, you hit your head.

MAC

How? Why? When? Where?

WALLACE

Geez girl, slow down. I'm getting to all of that, alright? Man, I think you're spending too much time with Veronica.

MAC

(laughing)

Sorry, I guess I'm just really anxious to find out what's going on.

WALLACE

Well, like we said, you hit your head and that's why you're here. You've been unconscious since they brought you in last night and that's what had us so worried about you.

Wallace pauses with uncertainty and exchanges another uneasy glance with Mrs. Mackenzie. She nods her encouragement for him to continue.

MAC

And?

WALLACE

(sighing)

Someone shot at you and you hit your head trying to dodge the bullets. That's what we think happened, anyway.

Mac looks at Wallace with complete disbelief then glances at her mother, briefly. Mrs. Mackenzie silently nods her confirmation.

MAC

Someone shot at me! Why would someone shoot at me?

WALLACE

We don't know, yet. Our only concern has been you. Veronica's looking into it though, so you know it'll all be sorted out. She won't rest until it is. She never does.

Mac visibly relaxes at hearing Veronica's name mentioned.

MAC

That's for sure. Veronica always comes through for a friend.

WALLACE

That she does.

Wallace pauses again for a long moment.

WALLACE (CONT'D)

There is something else, but I'm not sure if I should tell you now or wait for your doctor to get here.

MAC

Well, your expression already says that it's not good. What is it? Tell me.

WALLACE

Are you sure you don't remember anything else?

Mac shakes her head with obvious concern.

MAC

Nothing. It's like you're telling me a story about something that happened to someone else.

Wallace hesitates for another brief moment then slowly continues speaking.

WALLACE

Okay, well, like I said, you were shot at, but you weren't alone. It probably happened right after you and Parker left your class because she was with you.

MAC

Well, that would kind of be a relief.  
At least that would mean I haven't lost  
too much of my memory. Where's Parker?  
Did she get hurt, too?

Wallace takes hold of Mac's hand and silently nods towards  
Mrs. Mackenzie. She moves to stand on the other side of  
Mac's bed taking hold of her other hand.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Honey, Parker was shot. She didn't make  
it.

MAC

What! What do you mean didn't make it?  
Are you saying she's dead?

MRS. MACKENZIE

Yes, sweetie. I'm so sorry.

Mac begins to cry uncontrollably.

MAC

Why?

Wallace sits on the side of the bed and takes Mac into his  
arms.

WALLACE

I'm sorry. I know you two were getting  
to be close.

MAC

(sobbing)

I just don't understand. How could this  
happen? How can she be dead?

WALLACE

I know it's a lot to try to deal with  
all at once. That's why I wasn't sure  
if we should tell you just yet. But,  
you deserve to know and I know you're  
strong enough to handle it.

(pausing with a slight smile)

And you've got me here to lean on. And  
your family. And you've got Veronica.  
Who will, as always, take care of  
everything. She was there, too, so  
maybe she can tell you more about what  
happened.

Mac lightly wipes at her tears as we see a new wave of concern envelope her.

MAC

Veronica was there? Is she okay? Was she shot, too? Where is she? I want to talk to her.

MRS. MACKENZIE

Slow down, honey. Veronica is fine. She wasn't hurt. But, it's only 5 a.m. and I'm sure Veronica is getting some much needed rest herself. She was here last night, but hospital rules only allow two people to stay overnight. She said she'd be by today and we'll call her in a couple of hours and let her know that you're awake and that you want to see her. You've been through a terrible stress. For now, you should just try to get some rest.

Mac tries to stifle a yawn as she wipes away her tears.

MAC

Yeah, maybe you're right, I am a little tired.

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Logan and Veronica are sleeping in each other's embrace, her head resting on his shoulder.

Veronica's cell phone RINGS, awakening them both. She quickly picks up the phone from the nightstand and answers, paying no attention to the caller I.D.

VERONICA

(sleepily)

Hello?

KEITH (O.S.)

(with concern)

Veronica, where are you? Are you okay?

VERONICA

Oh, hey dad. I'm fine.

KEITH (O.S.)

Why aren't you at home?

Veronica slowly sits up in the bed, propping a pillow behind her.

VERONICA

Because everyone insisted that I not be alone last night. Against my own better judgment, I listened to them.

KEITH (O.S.)

(voice relaxing)

Well, good you have friends with good sense. So, where are you?

VERONICA

At Logan's.

KEITH (O.S.)

Well, that's a surprise.

Veronica briefly glances at Logan who is now propping himself up beside her.

VERONICA

Yeah, isn't it. Anyway, what are you doing home already? You weren't supposed to be back until later today.

KEITH (O.S.)

Leo called and told me what happened, so we packed up and headed home.

VERONICA

He shouldn't have done that. You'd have been home soon enough.

KEITH (O.S.)

I'm glad he did. This is a serious situation and I was worried that you were home alone. I can't believe I'm going to say this, but it's good you're with Logan. He's very protective of you if nothing else.

Veronica briefly glances at Logan, again.

VERONICA

Yeah. Anyway, now that you're back I'll get myself together and head on home. See you in a little while.

KEITH (O.S.)  
Okay, sweetie. Love you.

VERONICA  
Love you, too. Bye.

Veronica ends the call and sets the phone back on the nightstand, stretching. Logan places his hand gently on her shoulder.

LOGAN  
Hey, how ya doin'?

VERONICA  
Tired, but fine. You?

LOGAN  
(jokingly)  
Tired, but fine.

Veronica shakes her head at Logan with feigned annoyance.

VERONICA  
Smart ass.

LOGAN  
Better than a dumb ass.

VERONICA  
(with a light laugh)  
Says you.

Logan slightly shrugs as Veronica continues to shake her head at him.

LOGAN  
It's true.

VERONICA  
Yeah, whatever. Anyway, I should get going. I really want to talk to my dad, and start sorting this all out.

LOGAN  
Okay, why don't you grab a quick shower and I'll order us some breakfast. Then I'll drive you home.

Logan and Veronica both ease out of bed still weary from the previous night's events.

VERONICA

Sounds like a plan.

CAMERA PANS following Logan as he puts on a pair of pants and then walks towards the living room.

CAMERA CUTS BACK to Veronica as she slowly walks into the bathroom.

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Veronica slowly undresses and steps into the shower.

VERONICA (V.O.)

It felt really good waking up in Logan's arms. Too good. Damn I miss him.

Veronica closes her eyes in reflection as the water streams down her back.

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you Veronica? You plus Logan equals heartache. Always has, always will. Give it up, girl. Toss the rose-colored glasses. He is who he is and you are who you are. It never works and it never will. Put aside any silly, romantic notions. You know better. Still, . . .

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Veronica exits the bedroom, her hair still damp, just as room service arrives. She smiles at Logan as he wheels the cart towards the couch.

VERONICA

So, what'd you get me?

LOGAN

Blueberry pancakes.

VERONICA

(with surprise)

Really?

LOGAN

(hesitantly)

I also ordered bacon and eggs. If you'd rather have that it's all yours.

VERONICA

No, the pancakes are perfect. Exactly what I was craving, actually. Weird!

LOGAN

Well, maybe I read your mind.

VERONICA

(smiling)

Okay, now that's just scary.

They both laugh as they sit down and Logan unveils the plates.

LOGAN

Bon appetite.

They eat silently for a few moments then Logan looks up and stares at Veronica with longing. We see her feel his gaze as she lifts her head and looks over at him.

VERONICA

What?

LOGAN

Nothing.

VERONICA

You're staring at me.

LOGAN

No I'm not.

VERONICA

Yeah, you are. Knock it off.

Logan silently looks back down at his plate. They both return to eating their breakfast and a moment later Logan returns to gazing at Veronica.

Veronica feels his stare, again, and turns back to him with feigned annoyance.

VERONICA

You're doing it again.

LOGAN

What?

VERONICA

Staring at me. Stop it, it's creepy.



LOGAN

Sorry, can't help it.

Veronica looks at him skeptically as Logan leaves his breakfast and moves to sit right next to her on the couch.

LOGAN

I miss you.

VERONICA

(nonchalantly)

I'm sitting right here. I don't think you can miss someone when you're sitting right next to them.

Logan tenderly takes hold of Veronica's free hand.

LOGAN

You know what I mean. I miss you, miss you. I miss us. You know?

Veronica is completely taken aback, as she sets her fork down on the plate in front of her.

VERONICA

Um? What do you expect me to say to that, Logan?

Logan shrugs slightly as he takes hold of Veronica's other hand.

LOGAN

I don't know, whatever you feel like saying.

VERONICA

Like, you're crazy.

LOGAN

(sighing)

Not really what I was hoping for.

Veronica raises her eyebrows questioningly, as she shakes her head and pulls her hands away from his.

VERONICA

What were you hoping for?

LOGAN

Maybe that you miss me, too.

VERONICA

Logan, I . . .

Logan interrupts her.

LOGAN

(emotionally)

Veronica, I could have lost you yesterday. You could have been shot. You could have died. And, if you had . . . well, I . . . All I would have is regrets.

VERONICA

What do you mean regrets?

LOGAN

All I could think about last night, while I was holding you in my arms, was what my life would be like if you were gone. Truly gone. If I lost you with things where they are with us right now, without us resolving everything, I'd be left with only regrets over you . . . over us.

Logan takes hold of Veronica's hand, again, and his eyes begin to well up with tears. Seeing his tears and feeling his emotional words, Veronica turns away from him to collect her composure.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Crap! I so don't need this right now.

LOGAN

(tearfully)

I can't live without you, Veronica. And I don't want to. I'm so sorry for everything. I'd do anything if I could take back all of the hurt I've caused you. I don't know how I can fix things between us, how I can make things right, but I want to try. I need to try. I want you back. I want us back. I just want us to have another chance.

We see Veronica struggling to hold back her emotions as she continues to look away from Logan.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

What can I do, Veronica? What can I do to get you to forgive me? How can I fix this? All I want to do is make things right. All I want is to have you back.

(pausing)

Please, just tell me what I can do.

Veronica steels herself, still holding back her own tears, and turns towards Logan.

VERONICA

Logan, we can't keep doing this. We've tried the couple thing time and again, and it never works.

(pausing and shaking her head)

We always just end up hurting each other.

Logan takes hold of her other hand, again.

LOGAN

We can get it right this time. We deserve a chance to get it right.

VERONICA

(firmly)

We've had chances and we never get it right. What would make this time different?

LOGAN

We'll just do things differently this time.

VERONICA

(sternly)

What things? What exactly would we do differently?

Logan turns away from Veronica as her responses get harsher.

LOGAN

(sadly)

I don't know.

Veronica sighs as she sees the obvious hurt and disappointment in Logan. She gives his hand a gentle squeeze, causing him to turn back towards her in response.

VERONICA  
(with a slight smile)  
I do.

LOGAN  
You do what?

VERONICA  
I know what we'd need to do  
differently, but I know you won't like  
it. And, I know you won't do it.

Surprised by her partial acquiescence, Logan perks up a bit.

LOGAN  
I'll do anything, Veronica. I'll do  
anything to get us back.

VERONICA  
(skeptically)  
Really? You really think you will?

Veronica pauses waiting for Logan's response.

LOGAN  
I will. Anything.

VERONICA  
Okay, we need to be completely open and  
honest with each other about anything  
and everything. Can you do that? Do you  
really want to do that? Because you  
didn't want to before. You purposefully  
lied to me when I attempted the whole  
put it all out there open and honest  
thing with you. Remember?

Logan silently nods, as we see their thoughts drifting back to their last breakup. Veronica can't fight back her tears any longer and they slowly begin to well up.

VERONICA (CONT'D)  
(tearfully)  
You lied to me about something that you  
knew would hurt me and then you said  
that the reason you lied was because it  
was something that I didn't have a  
right to know.

(MORE)

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how that made me feel? How much that hurt me?

(pausing, tearfully)

Way more than anything else you've ever done. That hurt me way more than what you did . . . Way more than finding out what you did from her rather than from you.

Veronica removes her hands from his and wipes at her tears fruitlessly. We see her heart breaking all over again, as her tears fall more steadily. Logan just sits silently, letting her say what she needs to say.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

Do you know what that said to me? What that one simple and completely hurtful comment told me? It told me that you didn't give a damn about me. That you had never given a damn about me. That it had all been a lie. Everything we had supposedly meant to each other was a complete and total lie. Of all of the terrible things people have said about me, said to me, in the past, none of them hurt me like that did. None of them hurt me like you did that night. I thought you loved me. I believed that you loved me.

Veronica lowers her head and rests it in the palms of her hands. She is no longer able to speak as her tears completely engulf her.

LOGAN

I did love you, Veronica. I do love you.

Logan reaches out for Veronica and she shrugs him off, still sobbing into her hands.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(tearfully)

Veronica, I'm so sorry for hurting you. I never meant to hurt you.

Logan reaches for Veronica, again, placing his arm around her shoulder.

Veronica doesn't resist this time as she silently lowers her head further into her lap.

VERONICA (V.O.)

I can't believe I lost it like this. How could I let myself fall apart in front of him? I can't believe I let his words get to me. I know better. I know better than to let him in. I know better than to let him get to me. Yet, I always do.

LOGAN

I do love you, Veronica. I've always loved you. And, I always will. You're everything to me.

Veronica pulls herself together and lifts her head slightly to look at Logan. Her tears have stopped flowing, but they are still on the brink.

VERONICA

How can you say that to me? Do I look like a complete idiot to you? Okay, I admit, when it comes to you I often act like an idiot. But, seriously, you expect me to believe you when you say you love me after all you've done to hurt me. You tore my heart out and then rushed right off and started dating a friend of mine. You didn't even give a damn that you hurt me. You just moved right on like it was nothing. Like I was nothing. And . . .

Veronica stops speaking mid sentence, as her tears start to fully flow down her cheeks again. Logan wraps his arms completely around her and pulls her into his embrace.

LOGAN

I'm so sorry I made you feel that way. Nothing could be further from the truth. That wasn't at all how I felt about you. How I feel about you. Not even close. You do mean everything to me. But, when you didn't call me back after we broke up, I assumed you really were finally done with me.

(MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

That I had done something completely unforgivable and that we were over for good.

(pausing with a sigh)

I thought that if I kept at arm's length that maybe we could at least find a way to be friends again. That we could at least have something. I didn't want to lose you from my life completely. I somehow thought that if I started dating someone that it would be easier, make you feel better.

Veronica is beyond angry at his words, but doesn't move from the circle of Logan's embrace.

VERONICA

Make me feel better! You are crazy! How the hell could you bouncing right off to bed a friend of mine make me feel better? Please explain how there could possibly be any rationale to that.

Logan lowers his head slightly as he responds.

LOGAN

I know it was stupid, now. I just thought that you didn't want me in that way anymore, and that you never would, and that if I was with someone that you'd feel more comfortable being around me without any worry that I'd push to try to get us to go back there again. I know it was stupid, okay. I know. But, you know I can do some pretty stupid things sometimes. That even with the best of intentions, I can totally screw things up.

Veronica sighs as we see her calm slightly.

VERONICA

No question about that.

LOGAN

I'm so sorry, Veronica. I can't apologize more for all the pain I've caused you.

(MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

For all of the unintentional hurt I subjected you to. I know I don't deserve another chance. I know I don't deserve you.

Logan releases Veronica from his embrace and moves away from her a bit.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(tearfully)

I'm sorry, Veronica. I guess you can never forgive me and much as I hate to accept that, I understand it. I'm sorry I hurt you and if you want I'll stay out of your life completely from here on out. I don't know how I'll survive it, but I'll do it.

(pausing)

I'm just causing you more pain right now and that's the last thing I wanted to do. All I wanted was to make things right and all I've done is make things worse. Figures. Story of my life. You'd think I'd be used to it by now, but somehow I always manage to surprise myself with my stupidity.

(pausing)

I love you more than anything, Veronica, and I'm so very sorry.

Logan lowers his head in resignation and we feel his pain.

VERONICA (V.O.)

What the hell is wrong with me? I know I shouldn't believe him? I know better than to even consider going there again with him. But, damn it all, I love him. I love him and I want to believe him.

We see the turmoil in Veronica's glistening, tear filled eyes as she feels his pain mix with her own. She sighs and takes hold of his hand. Logan is unmoving.

VERONICA

(emotionally, sniffing back a tear)

I forgive you, Logan.



Logan lifts his head with a questioning expression of uncertainty.

LOGAN

What?

VERONICA

(quietly, averting her gaze slightly)

I forgive you.

LOGAN

That's what I thought you said, but I figured I was imagining it. Just wishful thinking, or something, you know?

Logan gazes as Veronica skeptically, as she shifts in her seat uncomfortably.

VERONICA

No, you didn't imagine it. I do forgive you, Logan. I know you didn't mean to hurt me, but that doesn't lessen the pain any.

LOGAN

I'd do anything to be able to take away the pain I've caused you.

VERONICA

(sighing)

I believe you, but there's not really anything you can do take it away. You've apologized and I needed to hear that, and now we just need to put it all behind us. The only thing you can do to make it right, is to never do it again.

Logan squeezes Veronica's hand reassuringly as he gazes with heartfelt sincerity into her eyes.

LOGAN

(emotionally, voice lightly cracking)

I promise I will never, ever, hurt you again.

Veronica slightly smiles. She obviously desperately wants to believe him.

VERONICA

I believe you and I promise you the same.

(shaking her head)

I just don't know that either of us can manage to keep that promise to each other. I really don't know if we can make the changes we need to, to avoid future heartache.

LOGAN

We can. I know we can.

VERONICA

I really hope you're right, because there's one thing I know I can't handle and that's another Logan broken heart.

Logan lifts Veronica's hand and tenderly kisses it.

LOGAN

I promise you, you'll never have one. Never again.

VERONICA

(sniffing back a tear)

Good. You know, there is something you can do for me that will help me to put this all behind us.

LOGAN

(eagerly)

Anything.

VERONICA

Tell me it never happened.

Logan stares at Veronica quizzically, unsure of what she's asking.

LOGAN

What?

VERONICA

Tell me that it never happened. Tell me that she lied, that it was all a misunderstanding, whatever, just tell me that it never happened.

Now understanding what she's referring to, Logan is hesitant to respond.

LOGAN

But . . .

VERONICA

(interrupting him, imploringly)

Logan, tell me.

Logan stiffens and looks at Veronica with uncertainty for a moment. He then goes along.

LOGAN

It never happened. She lied.

VERONICA

(quietly)

I believe you.

Logan visibly relaxes.

LOGAN

You know, it's possible it really didn't happen.

Veronica glances at Logan with confusion.

VERONICA

But, when I confronted you about it, you said it happened.

LOGAN

I know. I believed that it did happen, but maybe she really did lie. Maybe she lied to both of us.

Veronica glares at Logan with a look of skeptical annoyance.

VERONICA

Exactly how would it be possible for her to lie to you about it? You were there.

LOGAN

Yeah, but I was totally wasted the night it supposedly happened. I don't really remember much.

Logan pauses for a moment and we see him thinking back, reflectively.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I had been thinking about you, missing you, and drank way too much that day. I don't really remember that night, don't really remember much from the entire day, actually. I just know that when I woke up in the morning Madison was leaving the room. I asked her what she was doing there and she joked about it apparently not being very memorable. I asked her what she was talking about and she said that we had sex. But, for all I know, she could have just walked into the room.

VERONICA

(skeptically)

If you didn't remember doing it then why did you say that you did?

Logan shrugs with clear uncertainty.

LOGAN

Because I believed her. I mean, why would she lie about it?

VERONICA

(disdainfully)

Because she's the evil spawn of the devil.

LOGAN

I couldn't imagine that I would do that with her, even though we weren't together at the time, knowing how much it would hurt you. I just really didn't think she would lie about it, so I believed her. But, considering, I'm thinking that it probably didn't happen at all. That's what I want to believe, anyway. So, how about we just go with that being the truth of it?

Veronica stares at Logan, wanting to believe him.

VERONICA

Nothing would make me happier, because the thought of it still makes me totally sick.

LOGAN  
(nodding)  
Yeah, me too.

They hug and Logan brushes away the remaining tears from Veronica's cheek.

LOGAN  
Are we okay?

VERONICA  
(nodding, with a smile)  
Yeah, we're okay.

Logan places his hands alongside Veronica's face and they tenderly kiss.

INT. MARS APARTMENT - DAY

Veronica and Logan enter the apartment. Logan sets Veronica's overnight bag down and BACKUP charges for him. He takes a slight step back as Backup begins to lick him.

Veronica shakes her head incredulously at the dog running to Logan before her.

VERONICA  
Nice.

Logan laughs and shrugs.

LOGAN  
Magnetism.

VERONICA  
Yeah, whatever.

Backup moves from Logan to sit at Veronica's feet. She reaches down to rub his ear. Veronica can't help but smile, as she bends down and pets Backup.

VERONICA  
Yeah, now you remember who feeds you.

Veronica lifts her head and looks down the hall at her father's closed door. She rises.

VERONICA  
Dad?

KEITH MARS, appears in his bedroom doorway and quickly rushes toward Veronica.

KEITH

(embracing her with a sigh of relief)

Hey, honey. Am I happy to see you.

Keith and Veronica hug tightly for a long moment. Keith then pulls away and gives her the once over as if to prove to himself that she's all in one piece.

VERONICA

I'm happy to see you, too. How was your trip?

KEITH

It was fine, but that's not really a priority topic considering what's happened.

VERONICA

(nodding)

No, but it's a better topic.

Keith nods towards Logan acknowledging his presence.

KEITH

Logan.

LOGAN

Sherriff Mars.

KEITH

Thanks for keeping an eye on Veronica last night.

LOGAN

My pleasure, I'll never let anything bad happen to her.

KEITH

Good to hear.

Veronica moves towards the couch and eagerly changes the subject away from herself.

VERONICA

So, dad, when will the reports be ready. I want to see everything.

KEITH

I'm sure you do, but you're not allowed access to that information.

VERONICA  
 (slyly smiling)  
 But I have an in with the Sherriff.  
 Doesn't that buy me some special  
 privileges?

Keith shakes his head as he and Logan both join Veronica sitting on the couch.

KEITH  
 Veronica, until I know more about this  
 whole situation I don't want you  
 getting involved with it.

VERONICA  
 (matter-of-factly)  
 I'm already involved with it. I was  
 there when it happened. Mac's in the  
 hospital and Parker's in the morgue.  
 Can't get much more involved than that.

Keith responds more sharply than intended at hearing Veronica's assessment of the situation.

KEITH  
 Veronica!

VERONICA  
 Dad! You know I'm going to look into  
 this with or without your help or  
 approval. Wouldn't you feel better if  
 we were on the same page with  
 everything and you knew what I was up  
 to, rather than me having to do it all  
 subversively?  
 (sweetly smiling)  
 You know you'll worry more if you make  
 me do it that way.

KEITH  
 (staring at Veronica)  
 How did you get to be so stubborn?

VERONICA  
 (shrugging)  
 I'm my father's daughter.

Keith slowly shakes his head in exasperation and submission.

KEITH

You are that. Alright, I'll go down to the office and check on the status of the reports, and the progress on the investigation. Just please promise me you won't look into anything right now.

(pausing in hopes his words would sink in)

Please wait until I have some more information.

VERONICA

I want to see the coroner's report, too.

KEITH

Did you hear anything I just said?

Veronica smiles and tilts her head coyly.

VERONICA

Don't look into anything until you have more information. See, I heard you.

KEITH

Yeah, you heard me, but did you hear me?

VERONICA

Yes, Dad. Actually, right now I want to head over to the hospital and check on Mac and Wallace.

Veronica's CELL PHONE RINGS.

VERONICA

Hello?

(beat)

Hey, Wallace. Is Mac okay?

(beat)

That's great news. Tell her I'm on my way.

Veronica kisses her dad's cheek and walks towards the front door.

VERONICA

Mac's awake, so you can find me at the hospital when you have some information to share.



KEITH

Yes, boss. Tell Mac and Wallace that I'll stop by a little later.

VERONICA

Will do.

Logan quickly follows Veronica to the door, seemingly eager to leave.

LOGAN

Okay, let's go. I'll drive.

VERONICA

Oh, I didn't realize you were coming with.

LOGAN

Well, I'm not letting you go alone. The shooter is still out there somewhere and could be after you, too. Remember?

Veronica responds with slight annoyance, as she opens the front door.

VERONICA

I've told you I'm not a target. I'm perfectly safe on my own.

Keith shakes his head with concern as he joins them at the door.

KEITH

Actually, we don't know that Veronica. We don't know anything just yet about who was targeted. And, you're a witness. That puts you in potential danger. I'd feel better if Logan were with you.

VERONICA

Whatever. Fine. Let's go.

INT. MAC'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Veronica and Logan enter Mac's room just as Dr. Bennett is leaving. They almost run right into him.

VERONICA

(to doctor)

Sorry.

DR. BENNETT

No Problem.

Veronica quickly crosses the room to Mac's bedside.

VERONICA

(smiling brightly)

Hey, Miss Mac. How ya doin'?

MAC

Honestly, I've been better.

VERONICA

Yeah, I hear ya. But, hey, you're awake now and you look way better, so that's all good.

MAC

(sadly)

Well, compared to Parker I guess I'm great.

Veronica doesn't respond, clearly unsure what to say.

Mac begins to tear up at the mention of Parker and quickly shifts her focus to Veronica.

MAC

So, Wallace said you were there when it happened. What, exactly, did happen?

VERONICA

You don't remember?

Mac shakes her head, as Veronica moves to sit in the chair at her bedside.

MAC

Nope, none of it. The last thing I remember is leaving class with Parker. Everything after that is a blank until I woke up here this morning.

Veronica looks at Wallace with an expression of slight annoyance.

VERONICA

Sorry, I didn't realize you didn't remember any of it. Wallace didn't mention that when he called me.

Wallace sheepishly moves to stand next to Veronica's chair.

WALLACE

Sorry, V. Guess it slipped my mind. I'm running on very little sleep here. Cut a guy some slack, huh?

VERONICA

(glancing at Wallace)

Sorry, didn't mean it that way.

(turning back to Mac)

Anyway, yeah, I was there. I didn't really see much, though.

Mac looks at Veronica skeptically.

MAC

You? You're like the best eyewitness ever. You don't miss a thing.

VERONICA

Yeah, well I guess now I know what those stressed out witnesses who claim to not have seen anything feel like. I always thought they were just idiots.

(shrugging)

Anyway, I saw the car and the driver, but it was kind of dark. I know he was wearing a mask, but the details are totally fuzzy. When I saw you and Parker were down I ran over to you and I guess kind of blocked out everything else. Hopefully, it'll come back to me more clearly after a while, but for now, not so much there.

Mac's disappointment is clearly evident.

MAC

Oh? Well, if anyone will remember the details it'll be you.

VERONICA

I hope so.

MAC

So, any idea at all why we were shot at? I mean, I don't think I have any enemies. At least none that would go so far as to shoot at me.

Veronica shakes her head slowly.

VERONICA

I'm not sure, but I think Parker was the target. I'm gonna look into it. I'll go check out the scene and take a look at the reports when they're ready. Hopefully, find some other witnesses who may have seen what happened. Don't worry, I'll find out who's responsible.

Mac smiles at Veronica, totally believing her.

MAC

You always do. So, why do you think Parker was the target? Who'd want to kill her?

VERONICA

It's just a theory right now. Nothing too specific, but I'll let you know when I know more. Did she mention anything to you about being in some kind of trouble?

Mac shakes her head with concern.

MAC

No. Why?

VERONICA

Because she tracked me down yesterday and wanted to talk to me about some situation. That's why I was there last night. I came back to talk to her about it.

MAC

Oh. Well, she didn't mention anything to me. She did keep a diary, though. Maybe she wrote something in there about it.

VERONICA

Really? That's great. Is it in your room?

MAC

(shrugging)  
Should be.

VERONICA

Your room has probably already been searched, though. I'll check it out. See if I can find it or if it's already in evidence.

MAC

She did a lot of writing on her computer, too, so there might be something there.

VERONICA

Well, they should have taken her computer for evidence, as well.

Mac smiles slyly and tilts her head towards Veronica, showing she's going to share a secret.

MAC

Yeah, but they probably didn't find her back up flash drive. She kept that well hidden.

Veronica raises her eyebrows and returns Mac's smile with interest.

VERONICA

But, you know where it is?

MAC

I do.

VERONICA

That's my girl. Tell me where and I'll pick it up when I look around.

MAC

She has an old pair of boots in her closet. The heel on one of them is broken and she keeps it in there.

Veronica stares at Mac with surprise.

VERONICA

Really? Pretty stealthy, and just a little over the top paranoid, for a girl next-door type from Colorado. Most people just keep them right out on their desk, or at the most in one of the desk drawers.

MAC

Yeah, I thought it was a bit much, but when I asked her about it she just brushed me off. Seemed a little paranoid to me too, but I didn't really think much about it after that.

Veronica holds out her hand to Mac expectantly.

VERONICA

Key?

Mac glances at her mother.

MAC

Mom, could you pass me my purse?

Mrs. Mackenzie brings Mac her purse. Mac quickly takes out her room key and hands it to Veronica.

VERONICA

Great. Okay, off to see what I can find. Be back later and let you know.

Veronica hugs Mac, as Logan steps forward.

LOGAN

Whoa, wait, you promised your dad you wouldn't do anything yet.

Veronica gives Logan a "yeah, right" stare.

VERONICA

Yeah, like he believed me. He knows me better than that. And so do you.

LOGAN

Yeah, I do.  
(sighing with resignation)  
Okay, I'm going with you.

Veronica shrugs nonchalantly.

VERONICA

Either that or give me your keys. You drove us here, remember?

LOGAN

And I plan to keep doing so. At least that way I can keep my eye on you.

VERONICA

Yes, because I can't be trusted to take care of myself.

LOGAN

You know that's not why. I just want to keep you safe, okay? What's wrong with that?

Veronica smiles at Logan a little too sweetly with a twinkle in her eye.

VERONICA

Nothing, Fred. Let's get going.

Logan eyes Veronica questioningly.

LOGAN

Fred?

VERONICA

Well, Wallace already took Shaggy, so that leaves Fred.

Logan laughs and shakes his head in total amusement.

LOGAN

And you are?

Veronica smiles and tilts her head coquettishly.

VERONICA

Daphne, of course.

LOGAN

(with a smirk)

You seem a little too smart for Daphne, but okay whatever you say.

Mac smiles at their playful exchange and can't resist joining in.

MAC

Well, I guess that makes me Velma.  
(shaking her head with feigned annoyance)

Figures.

They all laugh and proceed to say their goodbyes to each other.

INT. HEARST COLLEGE - MAC & PARKER'S DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

Veronica and Logan are searching through Parker's belongings. The room appears disheveled, indicating that someone has already been there.

We see Veronica standing next to Parker's closet with a BOOT in one hand and a FLASH DRIVE in the other.

VERONICA

Found it.

Logan glances over at her, impressed.

LOGAN

That was quick.

Veronica sets the boot back down next to its mate in the closet.

VERONICA

Well, doesn't take long to find a broken boot. I'm just glad none of the deputies noticed it. You find anything?

Logan closes the desk drawer that he had been sifting through.

LOGAN

Not a thing. Looks like her stuff has been pretty well picked over.

VERONICA

Well, the sheriff's department is running much more efficiently and intelligently with my dad back in charge.

Logan glances around the room.

LOGAN

They do seem to have been thorough.

Veronica places the flash drive in her purse and proceeds to move towards the door.

VERONICA

Thankfully, not thorough enough. Let's go see my dad and find out what was taken into evidence.



INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - DUSK

Veronica gestures to INGA, at the front desk, silently asking if her dad is free. Inga gives Veronica the wave okay, so she and Logan proceed back to Keith's office.

INT. KEITH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Veronica casually walks through Keith's open office door. Logan is following closely behind.

VERONICA

Hey, dad.

KEITH

(rising to hug Veronica)

Hey, sweetie.

(shaking Logan's hand)

Logan.

LOGAN

Sheriff Mars.

They all take a seat around Keith's desk.

KEITH

(casually)

So, what can I do for the two of you this fine evening?

Veronica gives Keith a "whatever" glance.

VERONICA

Yeah, like you don't know exactly why we're here.

KEITH

Hmm? Does it by chance have anything to do with that matter that I asked you to stay out of?

Veronica glances around the room innocently.

VERONICA

Possibly. So, what have you found out?

KEITH

(sighing with resignation)

Not much, yet. I was just looking over the inventory list of the items that were brought into evidence from the scene and from Parker's room.

Veronica almost leaps out of her chair and moves to stand next to Keith. She peers over his shoulder and scans the list of items.

VERONICA

No diary?

KEITH

(scanning the list again)

There isn't one listed. Should there be one?

VERONICA

Well, Mac said she kept one, and we didn't find it when we looked through her things this afternoon, so I figured it had been taken into evidence.

Keith eyes her with feigned annoyance and real concern.

KEITH

Veronica, why would you have been looking through Parker's things when I asked you to stay out of it until I know more.

VERONICA

Umm? Because I don't follow instructions well. Seriously, you didn't really expect me to sit around doing nothing, did you? You know me better than that.

KEITH

Yes, sadly, I do.

(shaking his head)

I guess I only have myself to blame for that. I've been a terrible influence on you.

Veronica lowers her head and lightly kisses Keith's cheek.

VERONICA

You've been the best influence on me.

KEITH

She says lovingly because she wants more information on the case.

Veronica laughs and makes a "who me" gesture, as Keith shakes his head at her again.

KEITH (CONT'D)

So, I'm not telling you, because I don't want you involved in this, that the rest of the reports won't be ready until Monday morning.

VERONICA

What about photos of the scene?

Keith just silently shakes his head without answering.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Nothing? You've got nothing for me.

KEITH

Seriously, Veronica, until I know more about all of this I'd really like for you to stay out of it. By the way, just out of curiosity, did you find anything in Parker's room?

Veronica glances at Keith coyly.

VERONICA

Umm? Possibly.

KEITH

And that might possibly be what?

VERONICA

Quid pro quo.

Keith points to his badge in an all business fashion.

KEITH

In case you haven't noticed, I am the sheriff. If you found anything it's evidence and you need to turn it over to me right now.

VERONICA

Well, in that case, I didn't actually say that I found anything, now did I?

Keith stares at Veronica sternly.

KEITH

Veronica! I'm serious! Just because you're my daughter doesn't mean I won't let you sit in a holding cell for a while.

VERONICA

Been there, done that. Anyway, you have no proof that I found anything. I'd win in court.

KEITH

Give me your purse.

VERONICA

You have no right to go through my purse.

Keith reaches towards Veronica's purse.

KEITH

You've given me probable cause. Hand it over.

Holding her purse closely to her side, Veronica acquiesces.

VERONICA

Okay, I may have found a flash drive.

KEITH

Leo said they turned the place upside down. How did you find a flash drive and they didn't?

VERONICA

You've taught me well.

KEITH

Veronica!

VERONICA

Well, in all fairness to Deputy D'Amato, it was pretty well hidden in the heel of a boot.

Keith eyes Veronica suspiciously.

KEITH

And, you just happened to come across it out of the blue.

VERONICA

(shrugging)

I may have been given some insight into where to look.

Keith holds out his hand to Veronica.

KEITH

I see. Hand it over.

VERONICA

Come on, dad. You know, I didn't have to tell you that I found anything, but I was honest with you about it. Just give me the rest of the weekend to look it over and I'll turn it in to you on Monday morning when you let me look at the rest of the reports.

(smiling hopefully)

Deal?

Keith sighs, knowing it's not worth the fight.

KEITH

Okay, I'll let you keep it for the weekend, but Monday morning you turn it in first thing. And, you promise to do nothing else on this investigation, other than review the contents of the drive, until I say otherwise. That's the deal. Got it?

VERONICA

(happily, kissing Keith's cheek)

Got it.

Veronica gestures towards Logan to follow her and quickly moves away from Keith's side, heading towards the door, hoping to make a quick exit before he changes his mind.

KEITH

And, Veronica . . .

Keith purposefully pauses to get Veronica's attention.

VERONICA

Yes?

Veronica stops midstep through the doorway to listen. Logan is right on her heels.

KEITH

I'm gonna be here late tonight. Actually, likely all night, with all there is to catch up on. I don't want you to be alone in the apartment until we're certain you aren't a target, too.

(MORE)

KEITH (CONT'D)

Either come back here later or stay at the hospital, okay? I've assigned Leo to keep watch on Mac tonight, so you'll be safe there.

Logan turns to Veronica hopefully.

LOGAN

Why don't you come back to my place, instead? It's more comfortable than the hospital and we can look over Parker's files together.

(turning towards Keith for support)

The Grand has an excellent security team. And I promise you I won't let anything bad happen to Veronica.

Keith eyes Logan with interest.

KEITH

Yes, I'm very well aware of The Grand's fine security measures.

VERONICA

(with slight sarcasm)

Aren't you just.

Keith ignores Veronica's remark as he addresses her with fatherly concern.

KEITH

Just call me when you get wherever, so I know where you are. Okay?

VERONICA

Will do.

Veronica turns back towards Logan as they exit Keith's office and begin to walk down the hallway. She doesn't speak until they are out of Keith's earshot.

VERONICA

(casually)

Actually, we still need to talk about a few things, privately, so your place probably is best.

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Veronica and Logan are sitting next to each other on the couch, as Veronica boots up her laptop, inserts the flash drive, and begins to scroll through Parker's files.

VERONICA

Well, she may have been creative with her hiding place, but not so much with her file names. Sheesh.

Veronica clicks on a file titled "Personal Business".

VERONICA

(slightly sardonically)

So, let's find out what our girl wanted to hide so badly.

There is a KNOCK at the door and Logan gets up to retrieve their room service dinner. Veronica sits silently and continues to read through the file.

VERONICA

Hmm?

We see from Veronica's P.O.V. that there are logged entries going back a couple of years. She stops at an entry dated only a month ago.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Well. Well. Well. What have we here?

Veronica looks over at Logan as he closes the front door to the suite.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

So, is there anything you'd like to tell me?

DICK CASABLANCAS walks out of his bedroom, still shower damp, as Veronica looks at Logan expectantly.

LOGAN

Dinner's here?

Dick saunters towards the room service cart.

DICK

Cool, do I have perfect timing or what?

VERONICA  
 (to Dick with annoyance)  
 He was talking to me.  
 (turning back towards Logan)  
 Anything else?

Logan shakes his head questioningly.

LOGAN  
 Umm? I don't think so. Why?

VERONICA  
 Well, seems our dear Parker was  
 pregnant. And, since you were the last  
 one to date her . . .

LOGAN  
 (interrupting her with strong  
 protest)  
 Whoa. Hell no. If she was pregnant it  
 wasn't by me.

Dick moves to stand next to Logan and lifts the lid to one  
 of the room service plates.

DICK  
 Dude, you got Parker preggers. Man,  
 thought you were more careful than  
 that.

Veronica stares at Logan with a look of disbelief, ignoring  
 Dick's comments.

VERONICA  
 You sure about that?

LOGAN  
 (firmly)  
 Yes, damn sure.

VERONICA  
 (shrugging)  
 Things do happen you know.

DICK  
 That's for sure. How well I know, man.  
 Not like I haven't been accused of  
 being a baby daddy before, but . . .

Logan interrupts Dick with annoyance and points him towards  
 his bedroom door.



LOGAN

Don't you have something else you could be doing? Playing in traffic or something? Anything?

DICK

Alright, alright. Don't need to tell the Dickster twice. I can tell when I'm not wanted.

(pausing)

Okay, don't try to stop me or anything.

(pointing towards his room)

I'll just be in my room if you all need me.

Dick removes a fry from one of the food plates and starts walking towards his room. When he gets to the door he turns back towards Logan.

DICK (CONT'D)

Paternity test, dude, that's all I have to say.

Logan walks to Veronica, ignoring Dick, and responds to her previous comment.

LOGAN

Yeah, things happen, but something has to have happened for those things to happen.

Veronica gives Logan a slightly mocking "you've got to be kidding" stare, as he sits down next to her.

VERONICA

What are you saying, you didn't have sex with her?

LOGAN

Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying.

VERONICA

Seriously, Logan? Come on, it's me you're talking to here. You? Date someone and not sleep with them? You don't really expect me to believe that do you? Aren't we supposed to be trying the open and honest approach to our relationship? This is not really a good start down that road.

LOGAN

Yes, we are doing the open and honest thing. And, yes, I do expect you to believe me. You and I didn't have sex the first time we dated.

Veronica eyes him curiously, yet still skeptically, knowing the truth of his statement about them.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I'm telling you the truth, Veronica.  
Parker and I never . . .

(pausing)

We never even came close.

VERONICA

You're serious.

LOGAN

Yes, I am. Open and honest, right?  
That's the plan to make our relationship work this time and I'm completely on board with that. No more lies. No more deceptions of any kind. That's what I promised you and I fully intend to keep that promise.

Veronica shakes her head somewhat in disbelief at Logan's statement.

VERONICA

I believe you.

Veronica pauses for a moment before quickly shifting the topic slightly.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

So, if it can't be you, and we've determined that it can't, any ideas who the father could be?

LOGAN

(relieved)

No clue.

VERONICA

Well, she stayed here in town all summer, right?

LOGAN

(shrugging)

I guess so. I mean, I heard she was staying, but I didn't actually see her.

VERONICA

You were both here all summer and you didn't see her at all?

LOGAN

(slightly annoyed)

No, I didn't. We were very broken up before summer arrived, as you well know, so no we didn't see each other.

Veronica hesitates for a moment before responding, somewhat taken aback by Logan's response.

VERONICA

(calmly)

That's not what I meant, Logan. Sorry if my question came across wrong, I just meant that it's a small town and it seems a little odd that you wouldn't have seen her around, that's all.

Logan silently nods.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Do you know what she was doing here all summer? Did she have a job or was she taking summer classes?

LOGAN

Honestly, I have no idea. Mac probably knows. She's the one who mentioned to me she was staying in town. I didn't ask for any specifics and she didn't share any with me.

VERONICA

Okay, well . . .

Logan interrupts her.

LOGAN

Sorry for overreacting a little there, I just thought you didn't believe me again and I'm trying really hard to be totally honest with you.

VERONICA

It's okay. It's just gonna take a little while for both of us to adjust to our trying to be together again, and to our new attempt at total honesty.

Logan wraps his arms around Veronica and kisses her cheek in understanding and apology.

LOGAN

(gesturing towards the food)  
You know, maybe we should take a little break and eat dinner before the food gets cold. We can pick this up after.

Veronica nods her agreement, but continues to read through Parker's "personal business" file, as Logan brings over the food and they begin to silently eat.

INT. CAMELOT MOTEL - NIGHT

CAMERA ANGLES on what appears to be a man shadowed in the corner of the darkened motel room. He's sitting on the edge of the bed his shoulders slumped. He jumps slightly as the TELEPHONE RINGS. The man turns on the bedside lamp, which only slightly illuminates the room, as he answers.

UNKNOWN MAN

(very annoyed)  
It's about time.  
(beat)  
I'll use whatever tone I like with you.  
(beat)  
Yeah, and you were supposed to call hours ago.  
(beat)  
Look, I did the job. Deal done. Now it's time for you to pay up.  
(beat)  
We all have our problems, don't we. Mine at the moment is you.  
(beat)  
No, I'm not threatening you. Not yet, anyway.  
(beat)  
Damn you, we had a deal. I should have already been paid and on my way out of town.

(MORE)

UNKNOWN MAN (CONT'D)

That's too long. I want my money now!

(beat)

No, it's not acceptable, but I'll be there. You'd sure as hell better be there, too!

The man hangs up the phone, turns off the bedside lamp, and lies down on the bed.

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - LATER

Logan and Veronica are still sitting on the couch, their eyes looking slightly exhausted, as they continue to review Parker's files.

LOGAN

(to Veronica, kindly)

If my eyes look as tired as yours do, maybe we should take a break.

Veronica closes her eyes briefly, realizing just how tired they actually are.

VERONICA

(smiling)

Yeah, you're probably right. I just want to take a look at one more file before I quit for the night. You can take a break, though.

Logan just silently watches her for a moment.

VERONICA (V.O.)

No matter how tired I may be, there's one file that I really need to look at before I can call it a night. I already copied it from the flash drive to my own personal files. Actually, I copied the entire contents to my computer. Okay, it's probably not entirely kosher, but there really should be a back up just in case something happens to the original. You never know, and as my dad is fond of saying, better safe than sorry. That's the rationale I'm going with, anyway. Of course, the real reason is that I want to have full access to the information after turning the drive over to dad on Monday.

Seeing that Veronica is clearly lost in thought, Logan rises from the couch.

LOGAN

Okay, you finish up, I'm gonna go take a quick shower.

Veronica glances at Logan as he walks towards his bedroom.

VERONICA

Okay.

LOGAN

You need anything?

Veronica is barely listening as she focuses her attention back on her computer screen.

VERONICA

No, I'm fine.

LOGAN

Okay, well, if you do, you know where to find me.

VERONICA

(absently)

Yeah, okay.

Logan looks at her curiously before walking into the bedroom. As soon as Logan is completely out of view, Veronica clicks on the file titled "Veronica".

Dick saunters out of his bedroom before Veronica can start reviewing the file.

DICK

Hey Ronnie, I'm heading out. Party time and it's not a party without. . .

(pausing)

Wait for it.

(pausing again)

Yeah, that's right.

(pointing to himself with a broad smile)

Moi.

Dick looks around the room curiously then turns back to Veronica who is doing her best to ignore him.

DICK  
Where's Logan?

Dick glances towards the balcony the quickly turns back towards Veronica.

DICK (CONT'D)  
You didn't pitch him over, did you?  
That would be so uncool.

VERONICA  
(sighing with annoyance)  
He's in the shower, Dick. Didn't you say something about leaving.  
(making a shooing motion towards him)  
Be off.

Dick gives Veronica a wink as he walks towards the door.

DICK  
Okay, I'm going, but just you remember this moment when you get lonely later.

Ignoring Dick's departure, Veronica turns her attention back to her computer screen.

VERONICA (V.O.)  
(scanning the file's contents)  
Well, I'll be damned.

Veronica has completely lost track of time reading through the file. She is totally enthralled by one attachment in particular. The shot is out of focus so we can't make out what is written on the DOCUMENT.

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
(shaking her head in dismay)  
Wow, just wow. I don't know why anything surprises me anymore. Just when I think I've seen it all, heard it all, something comes along and still manages to catch me completely off guard.

Veronica is so intently viewing the document on the screen that she doesn't notice Logan walking up behind her. Logan places his hand on Veronica's shoulder and she jumps, startled by his touch.

VERONICA

Geez, Logan, don't sneak up on me like that.

Logan casually walks around to the front of the couch and sits down next to Veronica.

LOGAN

(innocently)

I didn't sneak. You're just so into what you're reading that you didn't hear me. The building could have collapsed around you and you probably wouldn't have noticed.

(curiously, glancing at the computer screen)

So, what has you so entranced?

VERONICA

Just another file with some interesting documents attached to it.

LOGAN

Like?

Veronica closes the file and answers in a casual, matter-of-fact manner.

VERONICA

Like a paternity test, a blackmail letter, you know just little things like that.

LOGAN

Seriously?

VERONICA

Yep.

LOGAN

Well, that should help narrow down the suspects, right?

VERONICA

Well, at the very least it's a place to start.

LOGAN

So, are you going to tell me, or keep me in suspense.



VERONICA  
Tell you what?

LOGAN  
Who the father is?

VERONICA  
It isn't you.

LOGAN  
Cute, but I think we already knew that.  
So, who is it?

VERONICA  
Jake Kane.

LOGAN  
You've got to be kidding!

VERONICA  
Wish I were. Definitely not my favorite  
family to play with.

LOGAN  
So, now what?

VERONICA  
Now, we try to verify the authenticity  
of the document. This is just a scan,  
which in the digital age is pretty  
useless without the original. It might  
have been taken into evidence. I'll  
check with dad, but if not we can try  
to get a copy from the lab that ran the  
test. They're local, which makes it  
easier. Unfortunately, that's something  
we can't do until Monday. And,  
convincing them to give up such a  
document also a bit difficult. But,  
I've managed trickier things.

LOGAN  
So, sounds like we've covered all the  
ground on this that we can tonight.

Logan closes the lid of Veronica's laptop.

VERONICA  
Hey, I wasn't done. There are still a  
few more documents I haven't read yet.

LOGAN

Time for a break.

Veronica silently glares at Logan with exasperation and annoyance, knowing he's right.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

You've been at this for hours. Enough already. You can look at the rest in the morning.

VERONICA

(sighing with resignation)

You could at least let me properly shut down. The last thing I want is to lose any of this.

Veronica ensures that all of the documents are saved, then shuts down the laptop and sets it and the flash drive aside.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Happy now?

LOGAN

Ecstatic.

VERONICA

Smart Ass.

LOGAN

Still better than a dumb ass.

VERONICA

So you keep saying.

LOGAN

Anyway, you said we still had some things we needed to talk about.

VERONICA

Yeah, we do.

LOGAN

Okay, so you want to talk about them?

VERONICA

Um, yeah, we probably should.

Veronica pauses for a moment, and shifts in her seat slightly, before continuing.

VERONCIA (CONT'D)

Well, if we're going to try to be together again.

LOGAN

(interrupting)

Wait. If? I thought we definitely were.

VERONICA

Sorry, that was more of a generalized if.

Logan visibly relaxes and gestures for Veronica to continue.

VERONCIA (CONT'D)

So, if we're going to do this, we need to be really clear on some things. Most importantly, our commitment to the open and honest thing. If there's any doubt about your willingness to do that then we need to just put a stop to it all right now.

Logan shakes his head emphatically.

LOGAN

There's no doubt.

Veronica responds with cautious skepticism.

VERONICA

You're absolutely sure you can go there? Sure that you want to go there?

LOGAN

I'm absolutely sure that I will do absolutely anything to make this work.

VERONICA

Okay, good. At least we're on the same page with that. The other thing, kind of another big thing, is all of the past crap in our lives. I think we pretty well covered our last breakup, but if there's anything else that's bothering either of us from the past. Any old hurts that we can't let go of, we need to deal with them so we can let go of them and move on.

Veronica pauses briefly as if waiting for a response. Logan remains silent, so she proceeds.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

So, do you have anything you want to talk about?

LOGAN

Not really.

VERONICA

(somewhat disbelieving)

Nothing? With all we've been through? You're absolutely sure?

Logan briefly glances down at the floor, then back up at Veronica, before he responds.

LOGAN

Well, there is one little thing.

VERONICA

Okay, what?

LOGAN

Remember the night that I came to your place for dinner with you and your dad?

Logan pauses waiting for her answer. Veronica just silently nods.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Why didn't you let me answer most of his questions? I assume I know why, and it's the main reason I felt the need to end thing back then, but I want to hear from you the reason why.

Veronica sighs, lightly, in reflection. She still clearly feels badly for how things transpired back then.

VERONICA

(shaking her head)

Because I was stupid.

(sighing)

Before I tell you why, will you tell me what you think the reason is, so I can judge how far apart we are on this?

Logan lowers his head slightly, with clear sadness, and pauses a moment before answering.

LOGAN

Well, I pretty much told you already the day that we broke up. Because I was a disappointment to you. Because I didn't measure up to the person you wanted me to be. Because you felt that my answers would have been embarrassing to you.

Veronica reaches out and takes hold of Logan's hand as her eyes become misty.

VERONICA

Logan, I'm so sorry that I made you feel that way. And that couldn't be further from the truth. I can see it now from your perspective and see why you would have felt that way, but at the time I only saw it from my point of view. I actually thought I was protecting you. I know how stupid that is now, but at the time I totally didn't. My dad can be very overly protective when it comes to me and you and I had already had a pretty rocky past. I didn't want him to have any more reasons than he already had to not approve of you and of us being together. So, I somehow thought that keeping you from saying anything that he might deem less than worthy would be better. It was wrong of me and I couldn't be more sorry for it. It wasn't at all that I was disappointed in you, or that you didn't measure up to my expectations. I just didn't want you to not measure up to his.

Veronica pauses and Logan nods his understanding, but stays silent as if he's absorbing all she has said to him. She gives his hand a little squeeze of reassurance before she continues.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

You know, you once said that we needed to work on our communication. You said it in jest, but it couldn't have been more true. Every problem we've ever had with our relationship . . .

Veronica pauses for a moment, clearly in reflective thought.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Well, almost every problem, could have been so easily resolved if we had just been talking to each other. Really talking to each other. If only we had been open and honest with one another all along. If we had talked about things when they bothered us rather than just letting the anger over the little things build up until they reached a point of being seemingly insurmountable, we could have worked out pretty much anything.

(sighing)

We seriously need to do that this time around, if this is going to work. And, I do really want it to work. We really need to communicate better. We need to share anything and everything in a completely open and honest way, so we can build up trust in each other again. Without that, it's never going to work.

Logan immediately wraps his arms around Veronica in a tender hug of understanding. After a moment, they pull back slightly from the embrace and Veronica gently places her head on Logan's shoulder.

LOGAN

Thanks for telling me all that. I really did believe that I was a total disappointment to you. That you didn't love me and just wanted to change me. Amazing how two people can see the same situation so very differently.

Veronica nods slightly and continues resting her head on Logan's shoulder.

VERONICA

Yeah, it is. I never meant to make you feel like that at all. I never wanted to change you. I was just trying to get you to see the potential that I saw in you.

(MORE)

VERONICA (CONT'D)

For you to be able to see who I saw. I know I went about it totally wrong and I'm so sorry for that. And, I did love you. I do love you. I know I never told you that enough before. And, I see now how that put you in a place of complete uncertainty. That it made you think that maybe I didn't love you because I wasn't telling you that I did. I promise not to make that mistake again. I'm just not really good at opening myself up like that.

Logan nods and gently kisses Veronica's forehead.

LOGAN

It's okay. I understand.

VERONICA

No, it isn't okay. I promise you that I'll do better this time. I admit I've made some big mistakes and that changing isn't easy for me. And, I don't admit my shortcomings very readily, so that's big for me, too. I really will do better this time. Promise.

LOGAN

Me, too. We've both made some huge mistakes in our lives and in our relationships. We just need to put all that behind us and move on from here. Fresh start.

Veronica nods and lifts her head up, kissing Logan's cheek.

VERONICA

I'd love nothing more.

LOGAN

Good. So, we're good? Really good this time?

VERONICA

(smiling, with a little nod)  
We're good.

They silently sit for a short time, holding each other tightly, Veronica's head lightly resting back on Logan's shoulder.

LOGAN  
Veronica?

VERONICA  
Hmm?

Logan doesn't respond right away, so Veronica silently lifts her head and looks up at him inquisitively until he speaks.

LOGAN  
(hesitantly)  
Umm. I know this is totally not the right time for this, but I'm gonna do it anyway.

Veronica crinkles her brow, as she continues to silently stare at Logan.

LOGAN (CONT'D)  
I have something that belongs to you.  
Wait right here.

Logan releases Veronica from his embrace and quickly walks into his bedroom.

Veronica follows his moves with an expression of complete confusion on her face.

VERONICA  
Okay.

Logan returns a moment later and retakes his seat on the couch next to Veronica. He opens his hand and presents her with a small white velvet box.

LOGAN  
(holding the box out to her)  
This belongs to you.

Veronica looks curiously at the unfamiliar box, but doesn't take it from him.

VERONICA  
(shaking her head)  
I don't think so.



LOGAN

Yes, it does. I've had it for a while now, but didn't get to give it to you when I wanted to.

VERONICA

What is it?

Logan continues to hold the box out to Veronica, moving it closer to her.

LOGAN

Take it.

Veronica takes the box, cautiously, but doesn't immediately open it. We see her mind trying to process the item.

LOGAN

(smiling hopefully)

Open it.

Veronica very hesitantly opens the lid of the box, staring unbelievably at the contents.

REVEAL - A SPARKLING TWO-CARAT HEART SHAPED DIAMOND RING, nestled in the white silk interior of the box.

Logan gazes at Veronica, waiting for a response, as she continues to sit silently and stare at the ring.

LOGAN

V?

Veronica continues to sit silently, holding the box in the palm of her hand.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Veronica?

Veronica finally looks up from the contents of the box with an expression of utter dismay.

Logan smiles back at her, silently urging her to say something.

VERONICA

(very hesitantly)

It looks like a . . .

Veronica doesn't finish her statement and instead glances back at the ring.

Logan takes hold of Veronica's free hand and smiles, as he answers her unfinished thought.

LOGAN

It is.

Veronica looks back up at Logan, slowly.

VERONICA

(shaking her head)

I don't understand. Why, . . .

Veronica continues to shake her head in disbelief, as she once again gazes into the box. Logan just sits silently, allowing her to collect her thoughts.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

(looking back up at Logan)

Umm? Okay, I really don't understand.

If this is what I think it is . . .

Veronica once again pauses, for a long moment, with uncertainty.

Logan intervenes, trying to encourage her to continue with her thought.

LOGAN

And, it is.

VERONICA

Uh? When did you get this?

Veronica briefly glances at the ring, once again, before turning her attention back to Logan.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

You said you've had it for a while?

When did you get it?

LOGAN

This past New Year's Eve.

Veronica stares at Logan with confusion.

VERONICA

But, we weren't even together then.

LOGAN

No, we weren't.

VERONICA

So, why would you get it?

LOGAN

The usual reason.

VERONICA

But, I . . .

Veronica again pauses in mid thought. We see the complete uncertainty in her eyes.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

But, why then?

LOGAN

Because I loved you, and was missing you, and . . .

Now Logan pauses, unsure the best way to continue explaining his reasoning to her.

Veronica sits silently as Logan gets his thoughts in order.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I came back early from Aspen. I just didn't want to be there. I wanted to be home. Wanted to be closer to you. Even though we weren't together, it was, I don't know, comforting somehow to at least be near you. You know?

Logan pauses again and Veronica slightly nods.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, I had dropped my GRANDFATHER'S WATCH off at the jewelers to be fixed, before I left for winter break. When I got back I went to pick it up and somehow wandered over the engagement ring section while I was waiting for them to get it. Not sure how, or why, I ended up there. I don't remember it being a conscious decision at all. Well, whatever, I saw this ring and immediately thought of you. I had to buy it. So, I did. One of those kind of crazy, impetuous purchases, but it felt totally right.

Veronica shakes her head, still trying to understand, as she gazes back down at the ring in her hand.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Well, so, I bought the ring for you. Obviously. But, I think in a way it was more for me. Kind of my New Year's present to myself, you know? Sort of a way of putting out to the universe that I hoped we'd get back together. And then we did, and I couldn't have been happier. That night you came here, was probably the happiest night of my life.

Logan pauses for a moment, gently taking the box from Veronica's hand. Veronica looks at him curiously, still trying to process everything he's said, but remains silent.

Logan takes the ring out of the box and holds it in his hand as he places the box on the table. We can see him reminiscing as he nervously fingers the ring.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I was planning to propose on Valentine's Day. Hokey, I know, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. But I didn't want to wait even a short few weeks, so I decided to do it sooner instead. That dinner that I had planned the night that . . .

Logan begins to get choked up and pauses. He looks down at his hands trying to compose himself, as he continues to fidget with the ring.

VERONICA

(with realization)

Oh, Logan.

Logan looks back up at Veronica with a slight tear in his eye.

LOGAN

(sighing)

Well, obviously we didn't get to that part of the evening.

(handing her the ring)

There's an inscription.

Veronica just silently looks at Logan, her hands resting in her lap. She doesn't reach for the ring. When she doesn't move, Logan takes her hand in his and gently places the ring in her palm.

LOGAN (CONT'D)  
(emotionally)  
Please read it.

Veronica looks down at the ring for a moment before lifting it from her palm with her other hand. She slowly reads the inscription to herself.

VERONICA (V.O.)  
"V, Ever My Epic LoVe. L"

Veronica's tears immediately begin to flow as she re-reads the heartfelt words engraved in the band of the ring.

VERONICA  
Logan, . . .

Too choked up to say anything more, Veronica looks back down at the ring with sadness. Seeing she isn't responding further, Logan reaches over and gently removes the ring from the palm of her hand.

LOGAN  
Veronica?

Veronica looks up at him as he gently takes her left hand into his. Slowly, Logan places the ring on Veronica's finger.

LOGAN (CONT'D)  
I love you Veronica. Love you more than anything in this world. I always have and I always will. I know this is out of the blue, and I know how you feel about marriage. I just want you to know that I didn't do this to demean that in any way. It's not intended to diminish your feelings at all. I know you said you'd never get married, and I get your reasons for feeling that way. I guess I just hoped that you'd maybe make an exception for me.

For a brief moment, Veronica looks down at the ring now gracing her finger. She then quickly looks back up at Logan with a slight smile.

VERONICA  
Because I'm ever making exceptions for you.

Logan slightly smiles in return, with uncertainty in his eyes.

LOGAN

Yeah.

Veronica places her hand over her mouth and closes her eyes, unsure what to say. After a moment of reflection, she slowly opens her eyes and looks over at Logan with complete sincerity.

VERONICA

What do you expect me to say, Logan?

LOGAN

(smiling bravely)

How about yes?

VERONICA

You know I can't do that.

LOGAN

Yeah, I guess I was just hoping you might.

Veronica gently takes hold of Logan's hand, with loving sympathy in her eyes.

VERONICA

Logan, you've caught me completely off guard with this. I'm truly, totally at a loss here. And that's pretty rare for me.

(with a light laugh)

I mean, you know how I feel about marriage. It's become a what's the point endeavor for me.

Logan silently nods his head, his eyes misty.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I can't just completely shift gears all of a sudden. That's just not me. Can you understand that?

LOGAN

Yeah.

Veronica gives Logan's hand a little squeeze of reassurance.

VERONICA

Logan, I love you. I truly do.

Veronica shakes her head in disbelief at what she's about to say.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Can I think about it?

Logan looks over at her with complete surprise, unsure he heard her correctly.

LOGAN

Really?

VERONICA

(nodding her head)

You know, for me just thinking about it is a huge thing. It's a total mind shift for me and you know I'm not good with that. Once I make a decision about something, I'm pretty well stuck on it.

LOGAN

(smiling slightly)

Yeah, you can be pretty stubborn.

VERONICA

Hey, I'm trying here.

Logan wraps his arms around Veronica and lifts her into his lap.

LOGAN

I know you are. And it means everything to me.

VERONICA

(sighing)

I really will seriously think about it, but that's all I can promise you right now. I'm being honest with you about this, you know. I mean, I just don't know if I can make that shift or not. But, I promise you that I'll try.

Logan places a gentle, chaste kiss on Veronica's cheek.

LOGAN

I can't ask for anything more than that from you.

Logan stops speaking and we see him think for a moment before he cautiously continues.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Actually, can I ask for one more thing from you?

Veronica glances up at him and shrugs nonchalantly.

VERONICA

Sure. What the heck?

LOGAN

Will you at least wear the ring while you're thinking about it?

Veronica shakes her head firmly as she shifts slightly in Logan's lap.

VERONICA

Logan, wearing the ring gives the impression that I've agreed. I can't do that.

LOGAN

(eagerly)

You can wear it on your right hand. Then it doesn't indicate anything at all.

Veronica is silent as Logan glances at her with a sweet, puppy dog smile.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Please, V. It would really mean a lot to me if you'd wear it while you decide.

Veronica stares at him for a brief uncertain moment, contemplating. Finally she nods, seeing no harm in wearing the ring.

VERONICA

If it's that important to you.

LOGAN

It is.

VERONICA

(nodding and smiling)

Okay, then.



Veronica slips the ring off her finger and places it on the ring finger of her right hand.

LOGAN

(smiling)

Thank you.

VERONICA

Sure, I mean, I guess it's not a big deal, right?

Logan kisses Veronica before responding with heartfelt emotion.

LOGAN

Well, it is a big deal to me, but that's not the only thing I'm thanking you for. Thank you for everything. For loving me. For believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. For seeing the person that I really am when no one else ever did, not even me. I had spent so long building up walls of protection against everyone in my life, that I had lost sight of the real me. But, you never did. No one has ever truly loved me, for me. No one until you, anyway. And that's all I've ever really wanted.

(with a deep sigh)

I've never admitted this to anyone, not even to myself really, but between the abuse from my dad and virtually being ignored by my mom, I never felt loved growing up. After moving here and dating Lilly, I thought I finally found someone who actually loved me. I was a different person back then. I actually felt truly happy for the first time in my life. Then, finding out that Lilly never really cared about me, which deep down I guess I always knew, I just wanted it to be true so badly. Anyway, the realization that it had always only been about her, put me in a worse off place than where I started.

Logan pauses and takes a deep breath before continuing.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Because of all that I created this totally destructive defense mechanism to kind of make it okay. I figured if I made myself unlovable then at least there would be a reason for it, you know? I mean, if I acted like a jackass then I didn't deserve to be loved and that somehow, in my mind, put it on my own terms.

Veronica just silently nods, unsure what to say in response to his admission.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Then, we got together, and you really did love me, but instead of seeing it and appreciating finally getting the one thing I always wanted, I continued the destructive behaviors. I saw the faith and belief you had in me to be a better person solely as a means to change me into something I'm not, when actually all you were trying to do was get me to see the person that I really am. I'm so sorry for the misplaced anger I put on you over that.

(sighing)

Your love means everything to me and I promise you I will never take it for granted again.

VERONICA

Your love means everything to me, too. I love you so much and I have for so long, but I did a terrible job of expressing that in the past. I'm so sorry for all of my overly suspicious behavior towards you. The trust thing is just so hard for me. Putting that kind of faith in someone doesn't come naturally for me, but I really tried. I just didn't succeed very well. I truly am sorry and I promise I'll never again take your love for granted, either.

Logan wraps his arms around Veronica, more tightly, and passionately kisses her. After a long moment, they slowly come up for air.

LOGAN

I know it may take a while to sort this whole shooting investigation out, but when it's all over, we should take a little weekend getaway. You know, just the two of us. Reconnecting.

Logan pauses for a brief moment to gauge her interest.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I was thinking Catalina.

VERONICA

Catalina?

LOGAN

Yeah, well, we never did make that trip we had planned. Remember?

VERONICA

(wistfully, nodding her head)

Yeah, I remember. Was supposed to be our trial first date. You know, we never did really have a real first date.

Logan smiles as we see him thinking back.

LOGAN

No, I guess we never did. Just kind of jumped into our on again off again thing. Well, we need to have one then. Fresh start and all, getting things right this time, definitely requires a real first date.

VERONICA

(smiling)

Better late than never, I guess.

LOGAN

I think so. Well, what do you say we call it a night? I think we could both use some sleep. It's been a long couple of days.

VERONICA

You know, I'm really not feeling very tired. Cases always seem to invigorate me, but you're right we probably should try to get some sleep.

Logan raises his eyebrows and smirks.

LOGAN

Well, if you aren't tired, far be it from me to suggest that you sleep when there are so many other things we could do instead.

VERONICA

Such as?

LOGAN

(with a suggestive glance)  
Well, I'm sure we could find some way to celebrate our pseudo, sort of, maybe someday engagement.

Veronica shakes her head and laughs.

VERONICA

Well, that's certainly not something that gets celebrated every day.

They both stand and Logan offers Veronica his hand in a "shall we" gesture. Slowly, they proceed to walk hand in hand to Logan's bedroom.

INT. LOGAN'S HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Veronica is sitting on the couch, as we see the sun rising behind her, thoroughly reviewing the additional documents in Parker's files and making notes in a SMALL HANDHELD NOTEBOOK.

Logan enters from the bedroom. He sees Veronica intently staring at her computer screen and immediately makes his presence known to not spook her again.

LOGAN

(walking towards Veronica)  
Hey, what are you doing up so early?

Veronica looks up and tilts her head towards Logan with a smile.

VERONICA

Just looking through the rest of the documents that I didn't get to last night.

Logan sits down next to Veronica on the couch and glances at her with concern.

LOGAN  
It's awfully early.

VERONICA  
Yeah, I know. I couldn't sleep.  
Curiosity and all. And, I want to get  
an early start to go look at the crime  
scene. You know me.

Logan smiles, as he lightly kisses Veronica's cheek.

LOGAN  
Yes, I certainly do. You hungry?

VERONICA  
Starving, actually.

LOGAN  
What would you like?

Veronica has already immersed herself back in the open file on her laptop.

VERONICA  
(disinterestedly)  
Whatever you're having is fine.

Logan shakes his head, rises from the couch, and walks over to the phone to place their breakfast order. Veronica continues to silently make notes from her reading.

EXT. HEARST COLLEGE - DAY

Veronica and Logan arrive at the shooting site, which is still blocked off with yellow crime scene tape.

Veronica looks around. Seeing no one, she immediately bends under the tape, entering the cordoned off area.

LOGAN  
(shaking his head slowly)  
Doesn't the tape indicate you aren't  
supposed to go in there?

VERONICA  
How else am I going to search the area?

Logan sighs with resignation and moves under the tape to join her.

LOGAN

No idea.

Veronica is looking around, seemingly everywhere at once, taking in the entirety of the scene, as Logan follows her.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

So, what exactly are we looking for?

VERONICA

Anything? Everything?

(slightly shrugging)

I don't know. If there's something here, I'll know it when I see it.

LOGAN

Ah.

Logan stands back and lets Veronica wander about the area doing her thing. He watches her intently for a while, as seen through time lapse, in complete silence. Being early Sunday morning there is no one else around.

LOGAN

Anything?

VERONICA

(distractedly)

Huh?

LOGAN

(shaking his head)

Did you find anything? We've been out here for a while.

Veronica walks towards Logan slowly, with an air of exasperation.

VERONICA

Nope, nothing. Looks like they covered the scene pretty well.

LOGAN

So, can we leave now before someone sees us in here? Not really in the mood to get arrested today.

VERONICA

(slyly smiling)

Don't worry. I have an in with the Sheriff.

Logan moves out from the area, holding up the crime scene tape for Veronica to pass under. As they begin to walk towards his car, Logan casually places his arm around Veronica's shoulder.

LOGAN

Now what, Daph?

Veronica laughs before seriously answering.

VERONICA

Now, we go talk to Mac. See if she knows anything about what Parker was doing here this summer.

They get into Logan's car and drive away.

INT. LOGAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Veronica makes a few notes in her notebook as Logan drives.

LOGAN

So, you didn't tell me what else was in Parker's files. What'd you find this morning?

Veronica silently folds up her notebook and places it and her pen into her purse before looking over at Logan and responding.

VERONICA

Well, no diary record that I was hoping to find, but there was something interesting. She had several paternity tests scanned into the file.

Logan takes his eyes off the road for a split second and glances at Veronica quizzically.

LOGAN

What do you mean, several?

VERONICA

(shrugging slightly)

Just that. She had three different paternity test files, each with a different result.

Veronica tilts her head towards Logan with a sardonic smile.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I'm thinking it's pretty unlikely they're all real.

LOGAN

Yeah, not very. So, what do you make of that?

VERONICA

(shrugging slightly, again)

That she was up to something not good.

Veronica stares out the side window of the car with a faraway look. We can almost see the wheels turning as she ponders the possibilities.

LOGAN

Who are they?

VERONICA

(lost in thought, she quietly responds)

Who?

LOGAN

The other potential fathers.

VERONICA

(nonchalantly)

Oh. You and Dick.

LOGAN

What the hell!

Veronica just silently shrugs, as she continues to gaze out the window.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

There is no way that I . . .

Veronica interrupts Logan mid-sentence, as she turns her attention back towards him.

VERONICA

(nodding)

Yeah, I believe you.

INT. MAC'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Veronica and Logan enter Mac's room, which is still inhabited by Wallace and Mrs. Mackenzie. They all look tired.



Veronica strides purposefully towards Mac's bedside, as Logan moves to stand next to Wallace.

VERONICA

Hey, girl.

(concerned)

You look pretty tired.

Veronica looks at Wallace, then Mrs. Mackenzie, then back towards Mac.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Actually, you all look exhausted.

WALLACE

(yawning)

Yeah, hospitals aren't the best places to get rest.

They all silently nod in total understanding as Veronica turns her attentions back to Mac.

VERONICA

You up for a few questions?

MAC

Sure, anything to help.

VERONICA

You said that Parker had a diary, but apparently it wasn't taken into evidence and I didn't find a copy on the flash drive. Where did she usually keep it?

MAC

She kept it in a box in her top desk drawer.

VERONICA

We checked, it's not there. Is there anywhere else she may have stashed it that you can think of?

MAC

(shaking her head)

The only hiding place I know of is the boot. Sorry, I'm not being very helpful am I?

Veronica smiles at Mac encouragingly.

VERONICA

Every bit of information helps. You never know what may turn out to be important in the end. Do you by chance know what her summer plans were? I know she was planning on staying here all summer, but was she taking classes, working, what?

MAC

Both, I think. That was her plan, anyway. I was pretty much out of touch for the summer, so we didn't chat or anything while I was gone. We caught up a bit this past week, but we were both pretty busy with getting settled in and starting classes. She didn't mention anything about her summer class, so don't know for sure if she took it, or not. She did briefly mention enjoying her summer job.

VERONICA

And, what was that?

MAC

She worked at the company day care center at Kane Software.

Veronica looks towards Logan and they exchange a knowing smile.

VERONICA

Bingo.

MAC

What?

Veronica turns back towards Mac and shakes her head.

VERONICA

(apologetically)

Can't say right now, but that's very helpful information. Thanks.

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - FOLLOWING DAY

ALICIA FENNEL is walking out of Keith's office just as Veronica and Logan arrive. Veronica barely avoids colliding with Alicia in the doorway.

VERONICA

Oh, sorry.

ALICIA

(distractedly)

Oh. Hi, Veronica. Sorry about that, I wasn't paying attention. I just dropped off some lunch for your dad and now I'm off to the hospital to check on Mac and Wallace. He won't leave her side.

VERONICA

(nodding)

Yeah, he seems to have gotten pretty attached to her over the summer. Thankfully, she's gonna be okay.

ALICIA

Yes, thank goodness. Sorry to be rude and rush off, but I really should get going.

(holding up a bag of food)

More lunch deliveries to make. Apparently, hospital food leaves much to be desired. It was good to see you, Veronica.

Veronica and Alicia exchange smiles and a quick hug.

VERONICA

Yeah, you too.

INT. KEITH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Veronica walks into the office and moves directly to her father's side.

VERONICA

(kissing his cheek)

Hey, pops.

KEITH

Hey, sweetie.

(looking towards Logan)

Logan.

Logan nods towards Keith, in acknowledgment of his greeting, as he takes a seat across from him at his desk.

LOGAN

Sheriff.

Keith turns his attention back to Veronica and smiles at her innocently.

KEITH

So, to what do I owe the honor of this nice little visit?

Veronica looks at Keith silently, for a brief moment, giving him a "duh stare". As she responds, she tilts her head towards him with a sweetly innocent smile.

VERONICA

Like you don't know exactly why we're here.

KEITH

Hmm? Let me guess. Might it, again, have something to do with that investigation I asked you to stay out of? Oh, wait, I remember now. You were supposed to be bringing me something today.

Keith holds out his hand towards her and Veronica removes Parker's flash drive from her purse. She firmly places it in the palm of Keith's hand.

VERONICA

Here you go, as promised.

KEITH

(fingering the flash drive)  
So, what'd you find out?

Veronica glances at her father coyly and responds with a sly vagueness.

VERONICA

A few interesting things. Question first. Can you request a paternity test on the fetus of a murder victim? I have to admit I'm not sure about protocol on that one.

Keith stares at Veronica with a look of surprised curiosity.

KEITH

Parker was pregnant?

VERONICA

Did the coroner's report not mention that?

(sarcastically)

You'd think he would have noticed.

KEITH

Haven't received it yet. Something about printer issues. It should be here anytime now, though.

Veronica moves from her father's side and takes a seat next to Logan.

VERONICA

(crossing her legs determinedly)

We'll wait.

KEITH

(shaking his head)

Was there any doubt?

Veronica's only response is a sweetly innocent smile, as Keith places the flash drive next to the file on his desk.

KEITH (CONT'D)

So, what else did you find out?

VERONICA

Other than that she may have been pregnant, she also may have been blackmailing one of the potential fathers.

KEITH

One, of the potential fathers?

Veronica nonchalantly points towards the flash drive.

VERONICA

Yeah, she has files on there with several interesting documents. There are three paternity tests, each listing a different father, and a blackmail note to one of them.

KEITH

Sounds like some good motive there. Who's the blackmail note to?

VERONICA

Jake Kane.

Keith gazes at Veronica with both skepticism and concern.

KEITH

I hope you aren't serious.

VERONICA

Wish I wasn't.

KEITH

(sighing)

Not really the family we want in the middle of another murder investigation.

VERONICA

Yeah, no kidding.

KEITH

Okay, so I'm guessing one of the paternity tests must list Jake as the father?

VERONICA

(nodding)

Yep.

KEITH

And the others?

Veronica briefly glances at Logan, out of the corner of her eye, and then responds.

VERONICA

Logan and Dick.

LOGAN

(firmly interjecting as he looks at Keith)

But there's no way it could be me.

Keith gives Logan a concerned stare, slightly nods at him, and then turns back towards Veronica.

KEITH

The Casablancas kid? Wasn't he already in the middle of a paternity issue?

VERONICA

He was.

They all turn towards the doorway, as there's a FIRM KNOCK on the open door.

DEPUTY LEO D'AMATO enters the room carrying a file.

LEO

(handing the file to Keith)  
Sheriff, here's everything on the Lee investigation. The coroner's report just arrived. It's on top.

KEITH

Thank you, deputy.

LEO

Is there anything else you need right now?

Keith has already opened the file and started reading, but he looks back up as he responds to Leo.

KEITH

This should cover it for now, thanks.  
Go ahead and close the door on your way out.

LEO

Sure.

Before Leo exits the room, he quickly turns towards Veronica.

LEO

Nice to see you, Veronica.

VERONICA

(slightly smiling)  
You too, Leo.

Leo closes the door behind him as Keith continues to read through the coroner's report.

VERONICA

So, what does it say?

Keith glances up from the file with feigned annoyance.

KEITH

Would you mind giving me two seconds to actually read it before the questioning commences.

Veronica impatiently rises from her chair, strides across to Keith's side, and begins to read the report over his shoulder.

VERONICA

Hmm?

Veronica tries to turn the page of the report while Keith is still reading it. He places his hand on hers and closes the file.

KEITH

Sweetie, go sit down and let me read this. Thank you.

VERONICA

But I can read faster than you.

KEITH

And, I'm still the sheriff, and your father.

(gesturing towards the chair next to Logan)

Sit.

Grudgingly Veronica returns to her seat and impatiently stares at him waiting for a verdict.

VERONICA

Well?

Keith silently holds up his index finger in a "wait a minute gesture", as he continues to read the reports. After a few moments, he slowly closes the file and looks up.

KEITH

Well, according to this there is no indication that she was pregnant.

VERONICA

Interesting. What else?

KEITH

According to all of the reports, it seems there were only two shots fired. And, both hit Parker. She was hit pretty precisely in the head and abdomen.



VERONICA

(interrupting Keith)

A little too precisely for it to have been a random drive by I take it?

KEITH

Exactly.

VERONICA

So, it looks like she was the one and only target then?

KEITH

It would appear that way.

VERONICA

So, it must be related to the blackmail. Sounds like a professional hit from the precision of the shots, especially coming from a moving vehicle.

KEITH

Let's not jump to any conclusions just yet.

VERONICA

Come on, what else could it be?

Logan is just sitting silently, his eyes following each of them as they banter.

KEITH

Well honey, that's why we investigate, to find out all of the possibilities.

VERONICA

(with a "duh stare")

Thanks dad, I'm aware of that. I'm just saying it looks pretty cut and dry.

KEITH

And, sometimes things turn out to be nothing at all as they first appear.

VERONICA

(sighing)

Did you check the items that were brought in from her room? Was her diary found?

KEITH

No, no diary. No computer either, which seems odd.

(holding up the flash drive)

She has to have had one, right?

VERONICA

Yeah, she had one. A laptop.

KEITH

Well then, it seems that both her diary and laptop are unaccounted for.

VERONICA

Her room looked very thoroughly picked over. Did the report indicate that the room appeared to have been ransacked before the deputies arrived?

KEITH

It said the room was in disarray, but they just attributed that to it being a college dorm room.

VERONICA

(shaking her head)

No, Mac and Parker kept the place pretty neat. If it was a mess, someone had already gone through it. They were just leaving class when Parker was shot, so that would have been a perfect time for someone to go through the room without fear of them walking in on them. Easy enough to get their schedule and know that both of them would be gone for about an hour, and that they'd likely be heading back to the dorm along that route when the class was over.

KEITH

So, we find the diary and computer, and likely find whoever had her shot.

VERONICA

It has to be the Kanes. They're not fans of dirty laundry and a paternity scandal would not be something they would want to deal with. Much easier to just dispose of the problem outright.

KEITH

(firmly)

Veronica, listen to me. I want you to stay out of this from now on, okay? I don't want you getting involved with that family. I'll handle it.

VERONICA

Yeah, because you should be getting involved with the Kanes again.

KEITH

I'm the sheriff, it's my job to deal with them.

VERONICA

Yeah, it was your job the last time, too, and we all know how well that turned out.

Keith silently gives Veronica a stern glare.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Okay, I won't go anywhere near the Kanes, but I'm still going to keep looking into this. I might turn up something that leads in an entirely different direction.

Veronica rises from her chair and walks towards the office door, silently nodding for Logan to follow her.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

(turning back towards Keith)

By the way, Parker spent the summer working at the employee day care center at Kane Software. Someone there might know something about a possible relationship between her and Jake. Co-workers always have the juicy gossip.

KEITH

I'll look into it. And, Veronica . . .

Veronica holds up her hand in a "stop gesture" as she interrupts Keith.

VERONICA

I'll stay away from the Kanes.

Keith glances at Veronica skeptically, as he responds.

KEITH

Good.

(looking towards Logan)

Logan?

Logan silently nods towards Keith in acknowledgment.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Keep an eye on her and make sure she does.

LOGAN

Will do.

ONSCREEN: ONE WEEK LATER

INT. MARS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Veronica and Mac are sitting on the couch, each with a book in their lap, eating snacks and studying. The television is on in the background, but they are ignoring it.

NEWSCASTER

This just in . . .

"Breaking News" flashes on the television screen.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D.)

There has been an arrest in the shooting of Hearst College student Parker Lee.

Veronica and Mac each silently turn their attention to the television report at hearing Parker's name.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

A press conference is planned for 6:30 tonight and we will bring it to you live as it happens. In other news . . .

Veronica picks up the remote control and turns the television off, as Mac looks at her curiously.

MAC

Wonder who it is.

VERONICA

(answering aloud without intending to)

Candace Kerry.

MAC

Who?

Veronica closes her book and looks over at Mac.

VERONICA

Jake Kane's personal assistant.  
(slight pause)  
Emphasis on the personal.

MAC

Wait, I thought the shooter was a man?

VERONICA

It was, but she's the one who planned  
it out and hired him.

Mac closes her book and sets it on the table in front of  
her.

MAC

But why?

VERONICA

Well, like I said, emphasis on  
personal.

MAC

How long have you known?

VERONICA

I just found out earlier today.

MAC

Why didn't you say something sooner?  
We've just been sitting here studying  
like it's an ordinary day.

VERONICA

Sorry, I couldn't say anything until  
the arrest was made.

(pausing)

And, I really shouldn't be saying  
anything now . . .

Mac interrupts Veronica, imploringly.

MAC

Come on, spill.

VERONICA

(sighing)

Okay, but none of this leaves this room. Here's what happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

The man seen earlier at the Camelot Motel walks slowly to the dead end of an alleyway. Almost immediately, sirens sound and lights flash from an approaching sheriff's vehicle.

The vehicle stops and blocks off the only exit from the alley. The man panics and, in vain, tries to scale the brick wall behind him.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Someone called in an anonymous tip with the shooter's location.

INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - FLASHBACK - DAY

Sheriff Mars, CLIFF MCCORMACK, a county prosecutor and the hitman are all sitting in an interrogation room.

VERONICA (V.O.)

He was less than pleased at the tipoff and happily sang like a canary for a deal.

INT. MARS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mac is intently watching Veronica as she plays out the scenario.

VERONICA

He said that Celeste Kane had hired him to kill Parker.

MAC

(interrupting)

But, you said Jake Kane's assistant was behind it, not his wife.

VERONICA

(with feigned impatience)

I'm getting to that.

MAC  
(sheepishly)  
Sorry, go on.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KANE RESIDENCE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Sheriff's deputies are thoroughly searching the residence, in the background, while Sheriff Mars questions MR. and MRS. KANE.

VERONICA (V.O.)  
They found Parker's diary in Celeste's dresser drawer.

Deputy D'Amato hands the DIARY, sealed in an EVIDENCE BAG, to Sheriff Mars.

INT. MARS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mac silently stares at Veronica. She is completely enthralled.

VERONICA  
Turns out, though, that Celeste Kane had been out of the country for the previous month. She had just gotten back when my dad arrived to question her. Unlikely she would have been able to collect the diary and hide it in her dresser drawer from ten thousand miles away.

Veronica pauses and takes a sip from a can of soda on the table before proceeding.

VERONICA (CONT'D)  
So, it turned out there were two sets of prints on Parker's diary, her own and an unknown set. When it started to look like Celeste was being framed, they did a check of all Kane software employees and their household staff. Seems Candace didn't have a criminal record, apparently not even a parking ticket to her name, which was why the general databases were a wash. But, as luck would have it, Jake Kane is very thorough when hiring his staff.

(MORE)

VERONICA (CONT'D)

He has a full background check and fingerprinting done on all potential employees. When they cross checked the unknown prints with those in the Kane employee database, they found a perfect match. Candace. So, dad went to have a chat with her.

Veronica shakes her head with an expression of mock surprise.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

You'd think with all of the CSI shows out there that people would be smarter than that.

Mac lightly laughs at Veronica's comment, but says nothing, as Veronica continues telling the story.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KANE SOFTWARE OFFICES - FLASHBACK - DAY

Deputy D'Amato is searching through desk drawers, as Sheriff Mars questions CANDACE KERRY.

VERONICA (V.O.)

They found Parker's laptop in her desk, along with a note she had sent to Parker that said "Back Off Bitch". I guess it was the note that made Parker realize she had gotten herself into more trouble than she could handle and that's when she went in search of me.

(incredulously, shaking her head)

Why do people keep these incriminating bits of evidence in their possession?

Sheriff Mars cuffs Candace and walks her out the office door.

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(sighing with annoyance)

Anyway, between the prints and the computer, dad took her in on the spot and put her in a lineup.

DISSOLVE TO:



INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - FLASHBACK - DAY

We see five women standing in a line up.

VERONICA (V.O.)

Turns out, she had been stupid enough  
to actually meet with the hitman in  
person, claiming to be Celeste.

We see four of the women walking out of the room, leaving  
only Candace behind.

VERONICA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He picked her out of the lineup without  
hesitation.

INT. MARS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We return to our duo sitting on the couch, as Veronica  
points towards the now dark television set.

VERONICA

And, as you heard, she's now been  
arrested.

MAC

(shaking her head)

But, I don't understand, why'd she do  
it?

VERONICA

Well, that goes back to that personal  
part of her title. Apparently, Jake had  
been having an affair with her for  
about a year. Parker sent the blackmail  
letter to Jake's office, probably to  
avoid Celeste getting her hands on it,  
not realizing his relationship with  
Candace.

MAC

Wait, what? Blackmail letter? What  
blackmail letter?

VERONICA

Oh, sorry, did I not tell you about  
that?

MAC

You did not.

VERONICA

Well, Parker was trying to blackmail Jake Kane for paternity of her nonexistent, unborn child.

MAC

(sincerely shocked)

What?!

Veronica silently nods her head for a brief moment before continuing.

VERONICA

Anyway, I'll get back to all of that. Since Candace was responsible for all of Jake's mail, she opened it.

(sighing)

Stupid of Parker to not realize it wouldn't go to him directly, but whatever. Anyhow, seems that Candace thought she was the only one. She was less than pleased at finding out about Parker. So, she had the brilliant idea to kill Parker and frame Celeste for it, to get them both out of the way. She somehow still believed that Jake wanted her for more than just a mattress buddy.

Veronica sighs with total disdain as she shakes her head.

VERONICA

What a woman won't do for a billionaire these days. I'm amazed at how people's stupidity still amazes me.

MAC

Wait, so Parker was actually having an affair with Jake Kane?

VERONICA

(nodding)

Yep.

MAC

And she was trying to claim that he got her pregnant?

VERONICA

Yep, again.

MAC

What the heck was Parker thinking? Why would she do something like that?

Veronica slouches back into the couch and rolls her eyes slightly.

VERONICA

Well, apparently this wasn't the first time she tried to find herself a rich baby daddy. I did a little research on her past and found out that she'd gotten herself pregnant in high school and tried to blackmail the well-to-do exec. that she'd been having an affair with at the time. Seems it turned into quite the stress-filled scandal for all involved and Parker ending up miscarrying.

MAC

Wow.

VERONICA

Guess that explains her boy buffet when she first arrived here. Hunting for fresh, rich meat.

Veronica pauses for a moment, with an indecisive expression on her face, before continuing.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

When my dad interviewed her parents, the other day, her mother said she had been seeing a psychiatrist for her, um . . . Well, let's just call them her wealthy fantasy issues. Her mother said something not as flattering about it, apparently. Anyway, that was the main reason she didn't want her going away to college. She didn't think she was ready to be away from home and out of therapy. Seems she was right.

Mac shakes her head in total disbelief.

MAC

I guess. Man, you think you know someone.

VERONICA

(slightly nodding)

Yeah.

(sighing)

On a side note, Celeste has already filed for divorce. I guess finding out about two more mistresses was just two too many. More proof that marriage isn't worth the eventual heartache. But, in Celeste's case at least it will pay out well.

EXT. CATALINA HOTEL ROOM - BALCONY - DAWN - WEEKS LATER

Veronica stands on the balcony overlooking the ocean as the sun rises, immersed in thought, while the sea breeze lightly blows through her hair. She closes her eyes and we see her reminiscing to a montage of "memory clips" from the weekend.

VERONICA (V.O.)

I so don't want to go home today. I just wish this could last forever.

(sighing)

This has been the best weekend. I never imagined it would be this amazing. So perfect, so wonderful, yet . . .

Logan silently walks up behind Veronica, interrupting her thoughts. He places his arms gently around her and tenderly kisses the side of her neck.

VERONICA

(opening her eyes)

Morning.

LOGAN

(resting his head lightly against her cheek)

Morning. What are you doing up so early, standing out here in the cold?

VERONICA

It's not that cold.

LOGAN

(rubbing his hands along her arms)

You feel a little chilly to me.

Veronica looks at Logan and silently shrugs, before turning her attention back towards the sunrise.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(somewhat concerned at her lack of response)

So, really, what are you doing out here this early?

VERONICA

Just watching the sunrise and thinking. It's so beautiful here.

LOGAN

(gazing at Veronica)

It certainly is.

Logan gently turns Veronica around in his arms to get her attention.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

You okay?

VERONICA

(tilting her head at him)

Yeah. Great.

Logan is still clearly showing concern over her minimal responses.

LOGAN

You sure? You seem a little . . . I don't know . . . distant.

VERONICA

(smiling sweetly)

Sorry, just in my own world I guess. So easy to float away from reality here, you know?

LOGAN

Yeah, I do. It has been a pretty unreal weekend.

Veronica lightly kisses Logan's cheek.

VERONICA

It's been wonderful. Better than I ever could have imagined.

LOGAN

So, you'd call our, it's about time we actually had one, real first date, a success?

VERONICA

(smiling brightly)

Best, first date weekend, ever.

Logan kisses Veronica with a heartfelt smile.

LOGAN

Glad you've enjoyed it. Too bad we have to go back home today.

VERONICA

Exactly what I was thinking when you came out here. I could just stay here forever.

LOGAN

If only we could, but reality beckons.

VERONICA

(laughing)

Well, reality sucks. But, yeah, guess we must get back to our real lives.

(wistfully)

Paradise is fleeting.

LOGAN

(toying with strands of Veronica's blowing hair)

We'll just have to make our own little paradise at home, then. And, we can come back here whenever you want.

Veronica doesn't respond as she turns her attention back towards the ocean view. Logan glances at her with concern.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

So, is that all you were thinking about??

(caressing her shoulder)

You looked pretty lost in thought when I came out.

VERONICA

(still gazing over the ocean)

No, I was thinking about something else, too.

Veronica turns back towards Logan with a somewhat serious expression.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

I was thinking about you.  
(giving him a slight smile)  
About us, really.

LOGAN

Yeah? What about us?

VERONICA

(fidgeting with her ring)  
A little about our past, all we've been  
through, but mostly about our future.  
I've made a really important decision.

Veronica pauses with seeming uncertainty, as she continues to play with her ring, and her eyes begin to mist. Logan just silently stares at her with apparent growing concern over her behavior.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

This may be the hardest decision I've  
ever had to make. You know, I'm just  
not made for dependency and  
partnership. I've become very much my  
own independent person over the past  
few years and I like not feeling as  
though I need to rely on anyone for  
anything.

Veronica pauses again, as she gazes back out over the ocean. Logan is now thoroughly concerned and unable to stay silent any longer.

LOGAN

Veronica, what are you saying?

Logan's voice catches on the final word, as Veronica takes off her diamond engagement ring. As she holds the ring out to him, more tears begin to form in her eyes.

VERONICA

(trying to hand him the ring)  
Here.

LOGAN

(completely shocked)  
What? No.

Veronica continues to hold the ring out to him.

VERONICA

Logan, please.

LOGAN

(barely able to speak)

No. It's yours. Even if . . . if you  
never marry me . . . it still belongs  
to you.

Veronica takes Logan's hand in hers, gently places the ring in his palm, and folds his fingers in place over it, as her tears begin to flow. Logan seems almost paralyzed at her actions.

VERONICA

Logan, I want you to put the ring where  
it belongs.

Veronica gracefully presents her left hand to Logan.

LOGAN

What?

Logan gazes at Veronica intently for confirmation of what she said. Veronica silently nods as she continues to hold her hand out.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(with joyful uncertainty)

Really? You're sure?

VERONICA

(fully crying now)

I've never been more sure of anything.  
I love you, Logan, and I want to spend  
my life with you.

Logan sighs, and we see his entire body slightly slump with relief, as he places the ring on Veronica's finger.

LOGAN

I love you, Veronica. I love you more  
than anything in this world. I promise  
you, you'll never regret this decision.

They passionately kiss, for a few moments. As the kiss ends, Logan smiles and wraps his arms around Veronica, tightly.



LOGAN (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how happy you've made me?

VERONICA

(smiling and nodding)

Almost as happy as you've made me.

(kissing his cheek with a sigh)

You know that I swore to myself I would never get married. That it just wasn't worth the eventual grief. I can't even begin to tell you how hard it was to shift myself from that mindset to even consider marrying you. Especially after all we've been through.

(pausing briefly)

But, in a way, it was all that we've been through, that helped me to decide. That, and this amazing weekend. I've realized that at the end of the day, no matter what, I love you. That I'm completely, totally, in love with you. I know I can count on you to be there for me, just as I'll always be there for you. And, though we've both done some very hurtful things to each other over the years, ultimately, we've always been able to count on one another when it really matters. When things have been at their worst, we've been there for each other.

Veronica pauses, again, as she looks down at the ring on her finger, for a brief moment. She then glances back up at Logan, lovingly.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

You know I have an extremely hard time when it comes to trust. I've just been burned too many times on that front. But, despite everything, and maybe because of everything, I do trust you. It wasn't easy, and we both had to make some serious changes within ourselves and within our relationship to each other, but we've managed to find that place of ultimate faith in one another.

(MORE)

VERONICA (CONT'D)

It's a rare thing to share with someone that kind of trust, and I never imagined being able to do that with anyone. But, somehow, with you I can.

(sighing hopefully)

I know we haven't been back together that long, and honestly we've always been good at the honeymoon phase of our relationship, so only time will tell if we can really make this work for the long haul, but I believe we can. I believe in you, and I believe in us.

Logan silently shakes his head, with tears in his eyes, unable to speak for a moment. As he gazes lovingly into Veronica's eyes, he finds his words.

LOGAN

Veronica, I just don't even know what to say to all of that. I've never been happier than I've been this past month. You have given yourself to me in every way and I know how hard that's been for you. It hasn't been easy for me, either.

(sighing reflectively)

I've been burned on the trust front, too, way too many times, and it makes it really difficult to let yourself go there with someone. Makes it almost impossible to allow yourself to put that kind of faith in someone, to allow yourself to believe that they'll never hurt you and that, no matter what, they'll always do right by you. It makes me so happy that we've found that place with each other. No, it wasn't easy for either of us, but we got there. And, we know above all else, that we will always have each other's backs. There's something so beyond comforting about that and there just aren't words to describe what the thought of it actually means to me.

Logan pauses and kisses Veronica deeply.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I love you, Veronica. Love you more than anything, or anyone, ever, and I always will. You are my love and my life. We truly are epic.

VERONICA

(smiling slyly)

Yeah, well, do you think we could cut back on the ruined lives and bloodshed this time around?

LOGAN

(laughing)

Deal. What do you say we start to focus on the spanning years and continents portion of our epicness, instead?

VERONICA

(quietly)

Sounds nice.

They move to hold each other tightly, kissing passionately for a few moments. As they pull out of the kiss, Veronica laughs slightly breathlessly.

VERONICA

Do we really have to go home, today?

Logan smiles, as he brushes the blowing hair out of Veronica's eyes.

LOGAN

Unfortunately, we do.

(lifting her into his arms)

But we don't have to leave just yet.

Logan carries Veronica back into the bedroom.

CAMERA ANGLES on BALCONY DOOR closing shut behind them.

FADE OUT: