

33 EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - NIGHT 33

James sits alone on his back porch, overlooking his spacious backyard. He nurses a beer and thinks. After a moment, Stacey emerges.

STACEY

The kids are asleep. Florie said they were angels.

James says nothing.

STACEY

I'm pretty tired myself. I think I'm going to head up and --

JAMES

(interrupting)

The first time I saw you. Freshman year at Madison. Econ 101.

STACEY

(laughs unsurely)

What's this about?

JAMES

(continuing)

You walked in -- I was already there, of course, because I arrived everywhere 15 minutes early freshman year -- and I thought to myself that if I could sit across from that girl and have a cup of coffee...that my life would be perfect.

STACEY

You got more than a cup of coffee.

JAMES

I know. But my life isn't perfect. Stacey looks at him unsurely.

STACEY

What's wrong? Are you nervous about your interview tomorrow?

JAMES

No, I was just thinking about

seeing you that first time. And wondering if my boss felt the same way. The first time he saw you.

Stacey stares at him. But does her best to betray nothing.

STACEY

What are you talking about?

JAMES

You...you were sleeping with him. That necklace you had yesterday. He gave it to you before he died, didn't he?

STACEY

Jamey...

JAMES

Don't call me that, okay? Don't talk to me like you love me.

STACEY

But I do love you...

JAMES

Answer me. Were you having an affair with him? And I'll respect you a helluva lot more if you tell me the truth.

(beat, then forceful)

Stacey. Answer me!

A long beat, then...

STACEY

Yes.

James nods. His worst fears confirmed.

STACEY (CONT'D)

(gently)

At least you can't say I'm a liar.

JAMES

No, I am. Because I don't respect you one bit.

James walks past her. As he does, she clutches at his arm.  
But he pulls away.

STACEY

Wait. Where are you going? Jamey?  
Let's talk about this. James...  
don't walk out on me.

He stops, stares at her.

JAMES

I may be leaving. But I'm not the  
one who walked out.

James walks past her and down the driveway. As the tears  
run down her face...

STACEY

(calling after him)  
James. Wait. James!

We HEAR his car start and peel off. He's gone. As James  
disappears into the night, we...SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO