

EXT: CABIN: NIGHT

In the background, the remains of the cabin are burning. Pieces of the cabin lay burning on the ground. Max has carried Garret far enough away to be safe. Garret is crying; he is scared but not hurt. Unconscious, Bernie lies face down in the dirt a few feet away. Steve leans against a tree: his knuckles are scraped and bruised.

STEVE

The kid okay?

MAX

(Checking Garret for injuries)

He seems to be.

(To Garret)

You scared?

Garret nods.

Me too.

(Wiping his tears)

I'm going to take you back to your mom. Would you like that?

GARRET

Yes. Please.

MAX

(Startled)

Yes. Please.

(Comforting him)

This wasn't your fault.

(To Steve)

How about you? You okay?

STEVE

Oh me. I'm fine. My knuckles hurt a little.

MAX

No doubt, Bernie will be saying the same about his face.

STEVE

His face will be hurting more than a little. Actually, I regret hitting him that hard.

MAX

Only because you had to carry his sorry ass out.

(Looking at the prone figure)

You could have left him.

STEVE

Now you tell me.

MAX

So do we wait for the cavilry or drive back?

STEVE

(Pointing at Bernie)

Do you want to carry him to the car?

MAX

Like I said, we'll wait for them here.

STEVE

That's what I thought you said. If you gave good directions, they should be here in no time.

(Waiting)

You did call?

MAX

Ah, ya. Plus I turned on Onstar and asked them to forward coordinates to Salem PD.

STEVE

They're good people.

MAX

You look please with yourself.

STEVE

I made a difference.

MAX

(Wiping the dirt off Garret's face)

Yea, we did.

Garret clings to him.

STEVE

It feels good.

(Looking at Bernie)

I don't understand it. How could any father want to hurt his own kid?

MAX

I don't know what I would happened if you and Kayla hadn't found me.

STEVE

Kids get hurt or go missing every day.

MAX

Maybe we should do something about it?

STEVE

Like what?

MAX

Like this?

STEVE

You want to blow up more cabins in the woods?

MAX

No. But we could help save them. Do what John Walsh does only better.

STEVE

You want to put this face on TV?

MAX

No.

STEVE

(Teasing)

Why not? My face is just as pretty as yours.

MAX

On the drive up I was thinking.

STEVE

Is that why you were so quiet? I thought my driving was scaring you.

MAX

Get real. Even Stephanie could have lapped you twice.

STEVE

That was uncalled for.

MAX

We could help find them. I got lucky when you and Kayla found me.

STEVE

(Become serious)

I know where you are coming from.

MAX

I know you do. I remember the hearing the stories.

STEVE

If I could save just one kid--

MAX

It would make up for a lot.

STEVE

Yes, it would.

MAX

Ever since Pop died, I've felt out of place.

STEVE

I always thought you'd go back to racing.

MAX

I thought about it. Ma has needed me.

STEVE

She's wants you to be happy.

MAX

I had offers--it's just not the same. At first, I thought I lost my nerve after the accident.

STEVE

That wasn't it.

MAX

No. It's hard to explain. Coming back made me realize how homesick I'd been. Just how empty I felt. Racing was an adrenaline high. But you have to come down sometime. When I did, it was just lonely. Racing would keep me away more than I would be at home. I want roots. I want more than the trophies. I want to give back for all the blessings that were given to me.

The lights of multiple cars are seen racing down the road toward them.

STEVE

I hear ya.

(Seeing the lights and standing)

I think the cavilry is here.

MAX

You in or out?

STEVE

I went all in when Bo first asked me to find him. You're not the only one who as been feeling useless. .

MAX

Everyone else seemed to have a purpose.

STEVE

(Extending his hand)

To steal a line from the movies--this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

MAX

(Eagerly shaking his hand)

The Racer and the Pirate--Johnny Depp eat your heart out.

STEVE

The Pirate and the Racer.

The police vehicles pull into the driveway.

We'd better keep it to ourselves. Or we'll be fighting Bo for top billing.

MAX

Works for me.

(To Garret)

Let's get you back to you mom.

GARRET

Yes, please.

STEVE

(Laughing)

Polite little rugrat.

CUT

INT: AVA'S HOSPITAL ROOM: NIGHT

Ava lies in bed. Miles opens the door. EJ walks in; immediately he walks to Ava. He takes her hand and kisses her.

EJ

Darling, you had me so scared.

(To Miles)

How is she?

MILES

(Confused)

She's fine. All her vitals are normal.

AVA

I'm right here. You can ask me.

EJ

(Startled)

Darling, how are you? I was so afraid. He told me there was no hope.

AVA

I couldn't leave you. Not now.

MILES

I'm confused. All the tests--

.

EJ

Either the tests were wrong or you're incompetent. Which is it?

AVA

Don't please. EJ, please don't.

EJ

I want another doctor.

MILES

That is your prerogative.

AVA

No. Don't. I don't want another doctor.

EJ

Darling, he completely misdiagnosed you.

AVA

I'm all right. Isn't that the only thing that matters?

EJ

Yes, but that's not the point.

MILES

I don't understand it. The test showed that--

The camera zooms into Ava's eye and the sound around her becomes muted. In the darkness, Ava is bound by bands of light. Lee walks around her.

AVA

What are you doing?

LEE

You lied. My daughter is dead. I will use your body to fulfill my curse.

AVA

But I didn't. I saw her. I give you my word.

LEE

The word of a DiMera?

AVA

What makes you different from Stefano? You're using others to get what you want. EJ and I did nothing to you!

LEE

You would have died, if it wasn't for me.

AVA

I was dying because of you.

LEE

You lied.

AVA

(Very slow and deliberate)

No. I didn't.

LEE

This is a pointless conversation. Here you are. Here you will stay.

AVA

What are you going to do?

LEE

(Implying a threat)

Why my dear, I'm going to take very good care of my new husband.

AVA

You can't! EJ!

Lee laughs. The camera zooms back out to a bright light scanning back and forth as Miles checks her pupils. EJ is holding her hand.

AVA

(Annoyed)

What are you doing?

(Pushing Miles' hand away)

Stop it!

EJ

Darling, you were just staring into space.

AVA

(Thinking quickly)

Like either of you noticed.

MILES

Your eyes were fixed.

AVA

Neither of you were listening to me.

EJ

I'm sorry.

AVA

I want both of you to go away.

MILES

I need to run some tests. I need to know why--

AVA

I'm tired. I hurt. Does that answer your question?

MILES

Ms Vitali--

AVA

DiMera. My name is Ava DiMera.

MILES

You need to remain calm.

AVA

I'll calm down when you go away. Both of you. I just want to sleep.

MILES

Fine. I will have another doctor assigned to your case. Until then, I'll send a nurse in with something for the pain.

Miles leaves.

AVA

You too.

EJ

Darling, I--

AVA

Stop it. I'm not your darling. If it wasn't for you. I wouldn't be here.

Stunned, EJ stares at her.

Am I not speaking English? I want to be alone. I need to think.

EJ

How selfish of me.

He tries to kiss her; she turns away. He looks at her strangely and leaves.

AVA

(Watching the door close)

I have plans to make. First on my list is finding Stefano.

CUT

INT: HOSPITAL HALLWAY OUTSIDE AVA'S ROOM: NIGHT

Miles is at the nurses' station. EJ rapidly walks up.

EJ

There is a problem with Ava.

MILES

I've already made arrangements with another doctor.

EJ

She's different.

(Pointing at the room)

That isn't Ava.

MILES

I'm too tired for your games. What exactly are you accusing us of?

EJ

I'm not sure.

MILES

You're not sure. Then what the hell do you want me to do about it?

EJ

Keep her here.

A nurse walks out of the back room with a tray with a syringe on

MILES

Trust me. She's going anywhere. Not only is she still weak from the surgery, but also that nurse is going to sedate her.

The nurse walks down hall.

EJ

What room is Celeste Perrault in?

MILES

Why?

EJ

I have to talk to her.

MILES

It's after visiting hours.

EJ

Visiting hours be damn. Tell me or I'll search every room until I find her.

MILES

What could be so important?

EJ

You wouldn't believe me if I told your.

MILES

Let me guess. Evil spirits.

EJ
You know about that?

MILES
I was being sarcastic.

EJ
Which room?

MILES
No room. She went home.

EJ
(Walking toward the elevator)
Why didn't you just say that?

MILES
The whole family's crazy.

CUT

INT: BRADY PUB: EARLY MORNING

Caroline and Pete are working the breakfast crowd. Max walks in. Caroline sees him and walks from behind the bar to meet him.

CAROLINE
The hero of the hour.

MAX
Wow! The news gets around fast.

CAROLINE
Why is it that Bo had to tell me?

MAX
I didn't want you to worry.

They walk to the bar and Max pours himself a cup of coffee.

CAROLINE
You look tired. You could have only gotten a couple hours sleep.

MAX
I actually I didn't get any. By the time I finished giving my statement, I barely had enough time to shower and changed.

CAROLINE
You're not scheduled.

MAX

Keith Olbermann is doing a book signing at Baker's Books.

CAROLINE

Since when are you a fan?

MAX

I'm not. Chelsea is.

CAROLINE

Don't I know it. It's all she's talked about since Mandy put the sign up in the window.

MAX

She was nervous about meeting him. So she made Stephanie and me promise to go with her. We're meeting here.

CAROLINE

If you time it right, you'll miss the crowds. She's bringing him here before the signing for breakfast.

Stephanie and Chelsea walk in.

MAX

You might not want to mention it.

CAROLINE

What are you up to?

MAX

Me? What could I be up to?

CAROLINE

The list is endless.

Max meets Chelsea and Stephanie

MAX

I thought we'd have breakfast first.

CHELSEA

I'm too nervous to eat. Hi Grandma.

CAROLINE

Chelsea, Stephanie. What a surprise.

STEPHANIE

(Going to the bar to get coffee)

Morning. I need coffee.

CAROLINE

It seems to be going around.

STEPHANIE

(To Chelsea)

You owe me big time.

Stephanie, Max and Chelsea sit at a table.

CAROLINE

Aren't you excited to meet Mr. Olbermann?

STEPHANIE

I'd be a lot more excited later this morning. The signing doesn't even start for another two hours.

CHELSEA

We want to be first in line.

MAX

You want to be first in line. We're just going along cause of you.

STEPHANIE

I still don't see what the big deal is.

CHELSEA

He is a big deal! Think of all the people he's interviewed. I love his worst persons in the world segment.

MAX

I get it. You're a fan.

CHELSEA

It's more than that. I want to know how he crossed over from sports to politics.

CAROLINE

When did you get into politics?

CHELSEA

It's not the politics. I just like how he makes a difference. He digs in and gets to the heart of the story.

MAX

Isn't he a commentator?

CHELSEA

Yea, but he was also a sports reporter and a news anchor. That's what I want to do.

MAX

You and sports?

CHELSEA
No. Reporting.

STEPHANIE
I thought you wanted to work in business like me.

CHELSEA
I wanted to talk to you about that. It's boring.

STEPHANIE
No, it's not.

CHELSEA
Yes, it is Steph. It's the same thing every day. Suits, ties and endless meetings. I want to be a combination of Olbermann and Geraldo Rivera

CAROLINE
I can see you doing that. You had the courage to stand up for your sorority sisters by exposing Ford Decker. I was very proud of you.

STEPHANIE
Max?

MAX
Don't look at me. I'm with her. I hated the business part of the garage.

CAROLINE
Doesn't Victor own a few TV stations? He could help you get a start.

CHELSEA
I've already talked to him about an internship this summer. I'm going to be a gopher for the news editor. He also thought it was a good idea if I got some technical experience.

STEPHANIE
We won't be able to take classes together.

CHELSEA
We can hang out after.

CAROLINE
Anyone want breakfast?

STEPHANIE
I'm too tired to eat. I studied for finals most of the night.

CHELSEA
I'm too excited. Do you think we should get in line?

STEPHANIE

(Sitting at a table)

Not me. I'm staying here until the doors open.

CHELSEA

Come on Steph.

STEPHANIE

We just came in. Did you see a big line forming at the bookstore door?

CHELSEA

No. But I want to be the first to meet him.

MAX

(Pointing toward the door)

I don't think that will be a problem.

Keith Olbermann walks in with Mandy Baker. In her mid to late 30's, Mandy Baker is a woman of contradictions. Her body language gives the impression that she is on equal footing with Olbermann, yet there is a fear in her eyes that she cannot hide.

CHELSEA

(Loudly)

Oh my God.

KEITH

No. But Bill O thinks of himself that way. I'm just a humble commentator.

CUT

INT: BEDROOM IN DIMERA COTTAGE: EARLY MORNING

Although the bedroom is very lavish, it is also very impersonal and cold. Lucas is in bed. Marlena is has just finished examining him.

MARLENA

Lucas, you need to be careful. You pulled a few stitches and there was little bleeding.

LUCAS

I picked up Johnny.

MARLENA

Didn't Miles give you a list of things you can and cannot do?

LUCAS

Mostly cannot.

MARLESA

You have to take this seriously.

LUCAS

I am.

MARLENA

Even with the pins, your ribs are still very fragile.

LUCAS

No lifting. No sudden movements.

MARLENA

No intimacy.

LUCAS

Yea, that too.

MARLENA

We're serious.

LUCAS

It's not an issue. Sami and I agreed that we weren't just going to pick up where we left off. There are too many things that have happened. We still love each other, but until we work things out, we're not going there. We have agreed to take it slow. We have to learn not only learn how to trust each other again, but to have faith.

MARLENA

How uncharacteristically sensible.

LUCAS

It's about time, don't you think.

MARLENA

I think you are both very passionate. Sometimes it has made you both say and do things that you regret.

LUCAS

Sometimes?

MARLENA

How do you feel about Sami?

LUCAS

I love her very much. I think I always will.

(Thinking)

If it wasn't for my mother and EJ

MARLENA

You and Sami would be happily.

LUCAS

But it all happened. The vendetta. The divorce. Sami marrying EJ.

MARLENA
EJ getting shot.

LUCAS
That too. Sami was trying so hard to make it up to her family for what she did in the past.

MARLENA
We've forgiven her for that.

LUCAS
Have you really?

MARLENA
What do you mean by that?

LUCAS
Think about it. When something happened, didn't everyone--including me--automatically think the worse? If it had been Carrie, instead of Sami that my mother set up with Brandon wouldn't Carrie been given a chance to explain. A benefit of doubt.

MARLENA
Carrie's different.

LUCAS
Yes, she is. Sami has a history. So has Carrie. What Sami has never done is cheat. The same can't be said of Carrie.

MARLENA
I know Carrie hurt you.

LUCAS
Yes. But she also cheated on Austin with Mike. But that's not my point. Carrie was forgiven and the slate was wiped clean. No matter how Sami has tried to change, her past is still there--not just for her family, but also for her. It was the guilt that made her agree to Stefano's terms. She was willing to sacrifice her happiness to proof to her family that she changed.

MARLENA
We tried to tell her.

LUCAS
You know Sami. She can't always trust what people tell her.

MARLENA
Especially when our actions contradict our word.

LUCAS
Exactly.

MARLENA

She's not the only one who sacrificed her happiness.

LUCAS

I don't know what you mean.

MARLENA

You're stilling lying to Sami.

LUCAS

I don't know what you mean.

MARLENA

I talked to Will. I know the truth.

LUCAS

It's over and done with.

MARLENA

No. It's not. Sami has to know the truth. She is miserable with out him.

LUCAS

I know.

MARLENA

They are both hurting.

LUCAS

I know that too. How do you think Sami would feel if she knew?

MARLENA

The guilt would be incredible.

LUCAS

After everything that's happened. It would be more than she could handle. Sami is like an oyster.

MARLENA

(Amused)

An oyster?

LUCAS

When Sami gets hurt, she doesn't deal with it directly. She wraps it up in anger, but she doesn't really deal with it. Just like an oyster does with a piece of dirt.

MARLENA

I'm going have to call you on that. When Sami's angry, everyone knows it.

LUCAS

True. She shows the angry--not the hurt or the guilt or any of her sadness. She simply doesn't deal with them. I had a lot of time to think in prison. About her and me. We have

both been so afraid of showing how other hurt us because we were certain that they would do it again. I kept waiting for the trauma of the rape to hit. When it didn't, my own issues-my fears kicked in. I thought maybe it wasn't rape--that Sami wanted him.

MARLENA

That wasn't true. Sami never would have--

LUCAS

I know that now. Burying it and making nice with EJ was Sami saving her family. It took me a long time to see it.

MARLENA

She still needs to know the truth.

LUCAS

How do you think Sami would feel if she knew her actions led Will to shoot EJ?

MARLENA

I think it would be more guilt than she could bear.

CUT

INT: OUTSIDE BEDROOM DOOR: LATE AFTER NOON

Sami is listening at the door.

LUCAS

(Off camera)

That's why you can't tell her.

MARLENA

You can't keep it hidden forever.

LUCAS

No. Just until she is strong enough to deal with it.

Crying, Sami backs away from the door and runs down the hall.

CUT