

EXT:BRADY PUB: NIGHT

Steve, Bo and Max stand outside Bo car; they are looking at the Gardner file.

BO

The judge ordered me off the case.

STEVE

Can he do that?

BO

Officially no. He'd just make my life hell.

MAX

That's not right.

BO

Don't I know it. I've already talked to Joyce Gardner. She's expecting your call. If anyone asks, she's the one who contacted you.

STEVE

(Reading the file)

I can do that.

MAX

That's how I remember it.

BO

Good.

STEVE

(Pointing to the file)

You're not expecting me to memorize this?

BO

No. That's your copy. Joyce also told me that his family as a cabin. She didn't know where.

STEVE

(Reading more of the file)

Damn! Why wasn't this guy in jail?

BO

We did our best. His uncle-sheriff kept covering for him. Which is one of the reasons he has joint custody.

MAX

That sounds familiar.

(Looking over Steve's shoulder at the file)

I remember him from the Cheating Heart. He was a regular. Mean drunk. But he did have a couple of buddies that he hung with.

STEVE

Do you think you could find them?

MAX

Yea. Sure. They're probably there now.

STEVE

Let's go.

BO

Thanks guy.

STEVE

That's another one you owe me.

BO

Just put it on my account.

STEVE

It's adding up.

BO

Yea, Right. Call me.

STEVE

Whatever you say Beauregard.

MAX

Tell Stephanie that I'll call her.

BO

Will do.

Max and Steve walk off. Bo watches them drive off. Hope walks up and embraces him.

HOPE

You look worried.

BO

I am.

HOPE

He's been late bringing Garret back before.

BO

This is different.

HOPE

How?

BO

I talked to his boss and co-workers. Not only has Bernie has been hitting the bottle harder than normal lately, but he has been becoming increasingly unstable. One day he is everyone's best friend; the next day he is throwing chairs at clients and threatening to go postal.

HOPE

Drugs?

BO

I don't know.

HOPE

You're really scared.

BO

Yes. I am. I have a really bad feeling.

HOPE

Where did Max and Steve go?

BO

Cheating Heart. Max remembered Bernie and a couple of his buddies used to hang out there.

HOPE

Shouldn't you have gone with them?

BO

Steve's the best man for the job. They won't give up their friend to a cop.

HOPE

Steve does have a certain finesse when it comes to getting information.

BO

That he does.

HOPE

So you ready to meet your campaign staff.

BO

I'm still not sure it's the right thing to do.

HOPE

Brady, are you turning chicken?

BO

Me? Never! I'd just missing working with you every day.

HOPE

Good save.

(Pulling him back toward the Pub door)

Let's go

Reluctantly Bo goes with her.

CUT

INT: COTTAGE STUDY NIGHT

John is looking through the desk. Sami walks in.

SAMI

Find anything interesting?

JOHN

Not really? I thought everyone had gone to bed.

SAMI

I'm too wired.

(Looking around the room)

Stefano really does think he's all that.

JOHN

All what?

SAMI

All powerful. Master of the universe. The master puppeteer striking fear into the hearts of all men.

JOHN

Is that why you are having trouble sleeping?

SAMI

Partly. John, now that Stefano's awake, how safe are we? Really? What will he do when he finds out that Johnny isn't his grandson? Or that Lucas isn't in prison?

JOHN

(Uncomfortable)

What can I say that will make you feel better?

SAMI

Tell me that's going to okay.

JOHN

It's going to be okay?

SAMI

You don't sound convincing. I need you to reassured me.

JOHN

Blondie's a lot better at that. Maybe you should talk to her. Where is she?

SAMI

She went for a swim.

JOHN

Where? There isn't a pool.

SAMI

In the lake.

JOHN

The lake? It's not safe!

SAMI

Mom's perfectly safe. She is a fabulous swimmer. A lot better than you. The only time you could catch her in the water is when she wanted you to. Forget that last part.

JOHN

Why?

SAMI

You weren't suppose to know.

JOHN

Why?

SAMI

You just weren't.

JOHN

Oh, really?

SAMI

You won't tell her that I told you?

JOHN

(Looking toward the lake)

No problem.

(Walking toward the patio door)

I'm going to make sure she's okay.

SAMI

You go do that.

John exits.

It's up to you Mom. If this doesn't bring the old John back, nothing will.

CUT

EXT: LAKE SIDE: NIGHT

The partial moon reflects off the surface of the lake. It is a beautiful summer night complete

with crickets, frogs and a warm summer breeze. Marlena is skinny dipping just off the dock. John walks to the end of the dock. For a moment, he stands and watches her.

JOHN

You shouldn't be out here by yourself.

MARLENA

(Startled)

John! You scared me.

JOHN

What are you doing?

MARLENA

Baking a cake. What does it look like?

JOHN

Why didn't tell me?

MARLENA

I needed time alone to relax.

JOHN

So take a hot bath or something.

MARLENA

Why are you out here?

JOHN

I just wanted to make sure you were safe.

MARLENA

I'm fine.

John starts to go back to the cottage.

Why don't you join me?

JOHN

(Going to the end of the dock)

I don't have a suite.

MARLENA

Neither do I

JOHN

You don't have a suit?

Marlena shakes her head.

Then what are you wearing?

MARLENA
Nothing.

JOHN
Nothing?

MARLENA
That's another think I miss about the old John.

JOHN
What's that?

MARLENA
I wouldn't have had to ask the old John. His clothes would have already been on the dock. He would have been in here with me.

JOHN
I was just kidding about getting naked.

MARLENA
It's too bad you don't remember all the good times we had together naked.

JOHN
He was a prude.

MARLENA
Prude? You're the one whose still on the dock.

JOHN
You're serious?

MARLENA
(Swimming away)
You'll just have to catch me and find out.

John looks back toward the house then at Marlena. Smiling he unbuttons his shirt as he kicks off his shoes. His shirt drops it on the dock. His pants follow. John dives into the water.
CUT

INT: CONSERVATORY: NIGHT
Renee stares at Tony.

TONY
I'm not dead.

RENEE
Andre, stop it!

TONY

No really. It's me. Renee, can't you tell the difference?

RENEE

You can't fool me any more.

TONY

I could never fool you. Remember that night. You said could always see the love in my eyes. We shared our love. You believed me then. Renee, look to my eyes. You'll see it's me, Tony.

RENEE

(Angrily)

Is there were you recite verbatim what we said? With all the lurid details of Tony's and my love making? How we touched? Did you take notes while you watched us?

TONY

Andre was watching? If he wasn't already dead, I'd kill him!

RENEE

Don't! Tony is dead.

TONY

Let me prove who I am!

RENEE

Why did you come back? There is nothing for you here. Why do you continue to tease me?

TONY

(Trying to embrace her)

There is everything for me here. You're here.

RENEE

(Backing away)

No! Don't touch me!

TONY

What can I say? What can I do?

RENEE

Nothing! There is nothing! I know that you murdered him that night!

TONY

No. That's not what happened. I-everyone through Andre murdered you.

RENEE

Another lie! I was never dead!

TONY

I saw you body.

RENEE

That never happened. After Tony left, father came. He told me that you murdered Tony. That I was next. He said--he said that he was too late to save you. But he could save me. So you see, you couldn't have seen my body!

TONY

It was a trick. One of Stefano's sick tricks!

RENEE

Father wouldn't trick me. He loves me!

TONY

God, I wish I would have know. All the time, we were so close.

RENEE

We were never close.

Tony walks to the window and looks out.

TONY

(Pointing at the island)

That's where Stefano held me. For the last twenty years I was held prisoner there, while Andre did despicable things to those I loved.

RENEE

(Sarcastic)

This story again. No wait let me tell it. You only told me once. But I still remember your Tony Crusoe story about building a raft.

TONY

I did build a raft. Why don't you believe me?

RENEE

I've heard it all before.

TONY

Let me prove it. Test me. Ask me anything.

RENEE

Anything? Before I married David, you told me that Stefano wasn't your father--

TONY

That's not how it was. I didn't arrive until after the ceremony. You were packing to leave on your honeymoon. I made you promise not to tell anyone. I didn't want Stefano to hurt my mother. You told me I was crazy. Then I kissed you and told you were going to be my wife.

Tony walks toward her; however, Renee backs away.

RENEE

How did I find out Stefano was my father.

TONY

Your mother wrote you a letter. You were the only one who called her Emily. Everyone else called her Lee. Marlina and Roman brought it to you at the cabin. We were hiding from the strangler. I was keeping you safe. Renee, would have done anything for you. But you wouldn't tell me. You read Lee's letter and everything changed. They took you back to Salem and nothing was ever right again until that night.

RENEE

Is that how long you had been stalking us?

TONY

Andre wasn't there. I was.

RENEE

(Crying)

How do you know--you couldn't. There has to be an explanation.

TONY

I was there. For all of it. Remember at Ridgecrest. We went to the nursery to see my daughter.

RENEE

You need to get your facts straight. She wasn't yours.

TONY

We didn't know that then. I told you the only way I would have other children is if I had you. We went to the nursery. Before you could say anything, the doctor arrived. She was so small and perfect. You commented on her dark hair.

RENEE

(Stopping)

I don't know what to believe any more.

TONY

(Walking up to her)

She was so red and wrinkled. You told me all babies are like that. I was so happy that I knew that Stefano wasn't my father for her sake. Renee, do you remember? I do. I hurt by saying. Your children would have to live with the stigma of being a DiMera. I promised to help you.

RENEE

If only it was true.

TONY

(Wiping away your tears.

Remembering kept me sane.

(Cupping her chin in his hand

I used to dream of you. All the time. I'd take you in my arms and we would make sweet love. Your death was just a bad dream that I couldn't seem to wake up from. I'd pray that when I awoke I would find you lying beside me with our children safely asleep in their beds.

Unseen Andrea Lee enters the Conservatory. In her late teens, Andrea petite with her long dark hair pulled back into a thick braid. She is petite, yet very athletic. In her hand, she holds a Rapier

RENEE

(Gently touching the back of his hand)

I would give anything if it was true. If all these years were just a bad dream.

ANDREA LEE

(Angrily)

But it's not! Hello Andre. Or should I say father?

CUT