

THE RAREST THING  
EP.21 - SCREEN

Written by

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INT. ABIGALE SULLIVAN'S OFFICE - DAY

We see JASMINE, seated in the office, opposite ABIGALE. This time, she's in there alone - no Logan.

Jasmine has a vacant look on her face. She is lost... miserable... depressed.

JASMINE

I just... I don't know how everything went so wrong.

(beat)

I mean... I thought it was that goddamn virus. The eight months we spent locked in our apartment, working from home... the risk of getting sick anytime we went outside playing on our minds.

(sighs)

But... I don't think it was that. I mean, lockdown obviously didn't help things. And maybe it made things come to a head quicker than they would have. But... I think things were bad before that.

She shakes her head in frustration.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

What did I do? What did I do to deserve this shit? I mean... is it karma? Am I a really shitty person and just don't know it?

Abigale shakes her head.

ABIGALE

Karma isn't real, Jasmine. It's something humans made up to give meaning to the difficulties we face in life. When we invoke something as... omnipotent, as whimsical as the notion of karma as a reason for the negatives in our lives, we're essentially passing the buck... we're avoiding blame for the choices we've made.

Jasmine frowns.

JASMINE

So... are you saying that all the shit that's happened to me is my fault?

(MORE)

JASMINE (CONT'D)

That MY decisions are what led my husband to cheat on me with my best friend?

Abigale shakes her head.

ABIGALE

No. Certainly not. But the first step we need to take before we can begin to gain control over our lives is to acknowledge that it is OUR decisions, OUR actions... OUR choices which ultimately determine the direction in which our lives take.

She leans in.

ABIGALE (CONT'D)

I want you to think carefully for me. Before the virus... before lockdown. How were things with Logan? And I don't mean how were things on the surface, I mean... deep down. What were your thoughts on your relationship? Were YOU happy? Did YOU have any misgivings?

Jasmine frowns, giving it some thought. After a few beats:

JASMINE

My thoughts... were that things were strained. That there were things we weren't talking about, things that felt... awkward to discuss. But I never did anything about it. Never said anything.

ABIGALE

Why not?

Jasmine shrugs.

JASMINE

I don't know. I guess... I didn't want to rock the boat. I didn't want to be confrontational.

Abigale nods.

ABIGALE

Would you say that you screened yourself from the realities of your relationship?

Jasmine nods.

JASMINE

Yeah, maybe.

ABIGALE

And what about now? You've gone through a lot in the last few months, more than most people could endure. So when you think about what's happened to you... What's your first thought?

JASMINE

(quietly)

I want to find someone to blame.

(beat)

Actually, no... that's not true. I have people to blame. It's Logan's fault he cheated on me. It's Ash's fault I went to jail... lost my job. It's the virus's fault that everything is so messed up. I just want everyone ELSE to acknowledge it. I want... validation for the way I feel.

She sighs.

ABIGALE

And when you stop, take a breath and look deep inside... does that desire for validation make sense?

Jasmine shake her head slowly, thoughtfully.

JASMINE

No.

ABIGALE

Why?

JASMINE

Because validation won't change anything. It won't fix things.

Abigale nods, happy that Jasmine has come to this conclusion.

ABIGALE

That's good. I think more than anything right now... you need to reclaim your life as your own.

JASMINE

I think... I'm afraid to do that.

ABIGALE

Why?

JASMINE

Because then... everything that  
does go wrong really is my fault.

Abigale leans in towards her.

ABIGALE

Remember when I spoke to you about  
our shadows? Our id?

Jasmine nods.

ABIGALE (CONT'D)

I want you to consider for a moment  
that there is a shadow within  
you... one that you're not even  
consciously aware of. It's a shadow  
that is made up of your fears, your  
worries... all those negative  
things that well up and try to  
control your life through their  
insidiousness. And then I want you  
to put up a screen. A screen that  
filters that shadow... that stops  
it from casting itself over your  
ego... your consciousness. A screen  
that stops your shadow from taking  
control.

Jasmine shakes her head in confusion.

JASMINE

And how do I do that?

ABIGALE

You do that by making decisions for  
YOU. By saying to yourself "I'm  
worth loving".

(beat)

You do it by literally loving  
yourself, Jasmine... and by living  
your life for YOU.

Jasmine looks contemplative.

JASMINE

Isn't that selfish?

Abigale shrugs.

ABIGALE

Maybe it is. So what? How are you supposed to love others or to do right by others if you can't love and do right by yourself?

Jasmine nods. After a few beats of contemplative silence:

JASMINE

I'll try.