

Ella Mae darkens. Involuntarily twitches.

ELLA MAE

-- Stop that.

(to herself)

We're safe here. We're safe here.

Almost a prayer. Then,

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)

She's had her burdens removed.

Arnette turns, faces Lucky, and we SEE -- the fresh, jagged scar on her temple.

Arnette betrays no recognition. Turns away.

Lucky clenches her fists in her lap, as

A FLASH OF BLACK flits across her periphery -- Lucky starts -- but... nothing's there. She breathes. Then

Her EYES scan modes of escape:

THE NURSE at the desk -- KEY RING on the wall behind her...

The DOOR to the DAY ROOM -- a PATIENT knocks -- AN ORDERLY OPENS it, lets her out...

The WINDOW -- no bars -- but a few floors up...

AS

A WOMAN, white, 40's, DOCTOR'S SMOCK, enters our field of view -- this is DR. MOYNIHAN.

DR. MOYNIHAN

Mrs. Emory. The sedatives are working.

Lucky instinctively revolts at the sight of her,

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

(looks around)

Once you calm down, this place can be a... refuge, don't you agree?

Ella Mae interjects,

ELLA MAE

We're having a fine visit today, Dr. Moynihan.

BEHIND Dr. Moynihan -- a WHITE ORDERLY, MALE, 30's -- flashes  
a warm glance Lucky's way as he goes about his rounds --

NICE ORDERLY  
Hello, Mrs Emory.

DR. MOYNIHAN  
(to Lucky)  
I've been told you still won't eat  
anything, Lucky...

ELLA MAE  
(re: Jello)  
She told me I could have this, Dr.  
Moyn --

LUCKY  
(corrects)  
-- Mrs. Emory. When can I see my  
family?

Dr. Moynihan sighs,

DR. MOYNIHAN  
We've been through this. What did  
we say about getting excited? And  
what happens when that happens?

Lucky tries to tamp it down.

LUCKY  
I'm not. Getting... exc --

DR. MOYNIHAN  
That's a good girl.

Then, to Ella Mae,

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)  
Each one, teach one, Ella Mae.

Dr. Moynihan goes on her rounds,

ELLA MAE  
(calling after)  
I'll mind her, Doctor!

Then,

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)  
Mind, Lucky. You have to mind.

OFF Lucky, fuming...



At the door to Lucky's room now --

NICE ORDERLY (CONT'D)  
Some advice. Take it or leave it...  
the Lady Doctor likes things  
nice... and quiet.

He leaves.

OFF Lucky --

CUT TO:

8

INT. CALIFORNIA CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL - DR. MOYNIHAN'S  
OFFICE - DAY

8

Dr. Moynihan, behind her desk, degrees on the wall behind,  
talks right to us --

DR. MOYNIHAN

She's very lucky...

She allows herself a small smile at her pun,

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

The authorities in North Carolina  
confirmed your story... such a sad  
story.

REVEAL Henry, across from her.

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

Prison isn't the place for your  
wife. This is a medical condition,  
not a criminal one.

HENRY

My wife doesn't need to be in here,  
Doctor. I promise. I can help her.

DR. MOYNIHAN

Oh, Mr. Emory. I've seen this  
behavior before. I specialize in  
it. Do you know: we've had several  
other negro women -- some in far  
worse shape than your wife -- come  
in here, after doing...

(decorum)

Well. Terrible things. My treatment  
has proven very successful.

Henry lets this land.

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

What won't help, is you coming here, every day, trying to see her.

HENRY

She needs to know. I'm not... upset... I... *understand* why she...

DR. MOYNIHAN

In time. You can tell her. Now? It will only agitate her.

Henry starts to protest,

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

This is an involuntary hold... you do understand what that means?

HENRY

That you can keep her as long as you want.

DR. MOYNIHAN

As long as she needs. So we can help.

HENRY

My little girls. They need to see their --

DR. MOYNIHAN

-- After what they witnessed? I read the... I'm not a child psychiatrist, but I promise you: that would be devastating.

(then)

Your focus should be on those girls of yours. Who's looking after them?

HENRY

They're with their Auntie. Their aunt.

DR. MOYNIHAN

How are they holding up?

Henry shrugs, *how the hell do you think?*

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

Children are resilient...

She rises, signals that this meeting is over -- Henry rises, too. Red tape. Bureaucracy. Powerless against this system.



DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

I'll make sure and tell her you've come. And that you and the girls are hanging in there. But you: focus on healing...

As Henry exits -- occurs to him to ask,

HENRY

Doctor... what procedure? You said there was a...

DR. MOYNIHAN

Honestly? I listen, mostly.

She smiles at Henry. He leaves. Once outside the door, he hesitates. Looks down the hall. TWO BIG (White) ORDERLIES flank the only other door. Henry leaves.

PRE-LAP: WHIR... WHIR... WHIR...

9 EXT. MARTY AND NAT DIXON'S HOME - DAY

ON Marty, yanking the cord to his lawnmower. Won't start. Been at it a while. He yanks the cord a few more times. Rises. Looks at the mower. Stomps it. Kicks it over.

A look around the neighborhood. Betty's house. The Emory house. *Fuck this place.*

He walks back inside to --

10 INT. MARTY AND NAT DIXON'S HOME - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Reaching into the fridge for a beer --

NAT (O.S.)

No, nothing. Zilch.

(then)

Who could blame her? If she did... you saw the way Clarke treated her...

(whispers)

Between you, me and the back gate post: Marty thinks the coloreds kidnapped Betty.

(beat)

I know. But once he gets something in his...

(beat)

5/9

MARTY  
Maybe not yours...

HENRY  
What do you mean?

MARTY  
That wackadoodle wife of yours...  
Everybody knows she killed a little  
baby...

HENRY  
That's not what happened.

MARTY  
It came with the house?

HENRY  
You wanna know what happened?

Marty raises an eyebrow, well?

HENRY (CONT'D)  
Some peckerwood motherfuckers  
killed our child... that's what  
happened.

Even Earl heard that -- he looks at Marty, who laughs,  
tousles Henry's head.

MARTY  
Okay, Buck. Okay...

CUT TO:

26

INT. CALIFORNIA CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL - DR. MOYNIHAN'S  
OFFICE - NIGHT

26

\*  
\*

Orderly flanks the door inside the office, while Lucky makes  
her case --

\*  
\*

LUCKY  
These women. I'm beginning to  
think... there's something. After  
us.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DR. MOYNIHAN  
Please calm down.

\*  
\*

6/9

LUCKY

Doctor? Don't you think it's odd --  
that there's a bunch of colored  
women -- from Compton -- all of  
them tried to hurt their families.

DR. MOYNIHAN

All of them did harm their  
families, Lucky. So did you.

Beat. A small thing, but --

LUCKY

I've asked you to call me Mrs.  
Emory.

DR. MOYNIHAN

I call all my girls by their first  
name.

LUCKY

I'm not one of your girls.  
(then)  
I know... why I'm here. And I know  
I'm not crazy.

DR. MOYNIHAN

No one in here is crazy, Lucky.

LUCKY

There's something after me. Us. I  
don't know exactly what it is, but -  
-

DR. MOYNIHAN

This "something" made you dig up  
the corpse of your dead child,  
preserve it, and carry it across  
the country?

Lucky flashes --

DR. MOYNIHAN (CONT'D)

This "something" made you wave a  
gun at your neighbors? When you  
were admitted -- in quite a state I  
should add -- you were rambling  
about how "He" made you try and  
kill your other children... With an  
axe, I believe?

LUCKY

Listen. Listen. I know how all that  
sounds...

7/9



DR. MOYNIHAN

Does it sound like a healthy woman?

LUCKY

Goddammit.

ORDERLY

Easy.

LUCKY

Goddammit...

(calm down girl)

Okay. Okay. Let me see my family.  
Let me warn them.

DR. MOYNIHAN

Lucky... can't you see they're...  
safer with you in here?

LUCKY

Let me see them. Please. Just so I  
can --

DR. MOYNIHAN

They won't come to see you, Lucky.

This stops Lucky --

LUCKY

What?

DR. MOYNIHAN

They're frightened of you. Frankly  
I can understand it.

LUCKY

Bullshit... how do you...

DR. MOYNIHAN

I spoke to your husband on the  
phone. He agreed with my  
assessment. That it's best not to  
disturb you.

LUCKY

No.

DR. MOYNIHAN

Yes.

Lucky seethes. Then --

LUCKY

What are you doing to these women?



Dr. Moynihan puzzles,

LUCKY (CONT'D)

Some of these women are walking  
around like... they... don't even  
exist anymore.

DR. MOYNIHAN

Lucky. I've cared for dozens of  
negro women. It's my specialty. I  
understand that the pressures  
facing you are... different than a  
normal woman's --

LUCKY

Listen to me, you bitch --

The Orderly is off the wall now -- fist around Lucky's arm --

LUCKY (CONT'D)

I know what I know -- and my  
baby... maybe what I did was wrong,  
but I never hurt my child...

Orderly starts dragging her off,

ORDERLY

Okay now.

LUCKY

It was a white bitch just like you  
who killed my baby, just didn't  
have a coat on...

As Lucky is dragged out --

DR. MOYNIHAN

I'd hoped you weren't this far  
gone, Lucky.

OFF Dr. Moynihan, brow-furrowing as the door closes...

LUCKY (O.S.)

Let me see my family!

CUT TO:

27

INT. EMORY HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

27

Ruby watches Marty and Earl eat as she shoots glances Henry's  
way.

SEE Marty's .38 on the table.

9/9