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Period-1/2

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**A Broken Past**

**Prologue:**

*(Lights come up. A man is sitting at table in an orange jumpsuit, center stage. He is obviously very nervous, upset. He fidgets with his hands. An attorney enters stage left carrying a briefcase)*

**Attorney:** Hello,Marcus. My name is Danielle O'Neil, Dani for short. I’m your court appointed attorney. (*She extends her hand. They shake. She sits down in the chair across from Marcus. She takes out a laptop and turns it on, logs in, etc. while she is talking)* Before we begin, I want to ensure you that as your attorney, everything you say to me will be kept confidential and cannot be used against you. But in order to properly defend you, it’s important that you are very honest with me, understand?

**Marcus:** Yes. (*nods half heartedly)*

**Attorney:** Good.I’m here to help you. (*She smiles at Marcus)* Now...what happened? From the beginning, please.

**Marcus:** *(Sighs)* I was the mistake my parents never wanted. I was reminded everyday of the burden I was on their lives…When they weren’t yelling at me, they were taking their anger out on me in more physical ways...

**Attorney:** *(Stops typing, looks up at Marcus)* So they were abusive? *(Marcus nods)* Verbally, emotionally, physically…?

**Marcus:** Yes, but it’s not something that I like looking back on.

**Attorney:** I see. (*Types some notes)* Sorry, I have to ask, do you remember your... youngest... time of abuse? When did it begin?

**Marcus:** Begin? (*He’s quiet, thinking for a moment)* I don’t remember a time when they were ever kind. One of my earliest memories was when my dad was smacking me while telling me how pathetic and stupid I was. I guess I was about 3 years old. That day really stands out in my memory because my mother lost her ash tray so she branded her punishment into me with the end of a lit cigarette.

**Attorney:** *(Typing)*How long did the abuse last?

**Marcus:**  It continued until I was finally lucky enough to get out of that hellhole. I was maybe twelve or thirteen. I was removed from their home by CPS and placed in foster care. My foster family was really nice. One day they took me swimming and when I took my shirt off, my foster mom saw all the scars. Of course she freaked out and took me to a therapist, and that’s how I discovered that I had PTSD, *(attorney looks confused)* you know, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Attorney:** Yeah…..I know what PTSD is, but I thought that was only associated with war veterans?

**Marcus:** *(Laughs bitterly)* Sometimes I felt like I had been through a war... but no...it’s also common in victims of abuse.

**Attorney:** Makes sense. So did you get help?

**Marcus:** I went to therapy for years and it really helped. I learned what my “triggers” were and what to do if I...snapped. But one day, I just stopped going.

**Attorney:** *(Looks up from typing)* Why?

**Marcus:** The same sad reason why alcoholics don't go to AA; you want to be in control and going and getting help meant that at some point, you lost control. I wasn’t ready to admit that I was like my parents. That my anger could get the best of me...that I could lose control. *(Lights go down. Marcus and Attorney exit stage left.)*

**Parados:**

*(Chorus enters stage right. Lights come up)*

**Teen Boy:** When Marcus met Julia his life turned around,

he fell deeply in love, and *knew* he found

the one to make him happy, the one to make him laugh,

the one he wanted to spend forever with, the relationship he wanted to last.

**Teen Girl:** He trusted her with his secrets, all he’s dealt with in the past.

Marcus knew that Julia was made for him, they fell for each other fast.

But he suffers from a disorder called PTSD.

For many it’s hard to understand, and hard to see.

Julia knew that he had a few issues, and yet she didn’t care.

She had so much love to give to him, and so much love to share.

**Teen Boy:** Julia knew that there would be bumps in the road

But she trusted that she was up for the test.

She knew there was a chance that he might explode,

And Julia promised to always see his best.

Sometimes he was ‘triggered’ by people yelling in his face.

Still she loved him too much, and knew he couldn’t be replaced.

**Teen Girl:** He vowed to be the best father, promised never to get mad,

so that they wouldn’t have to grow up with the same problems that he had.

All Marcus wanted was for them to never succomb,

To the problem that he’ll always suffer from.

*(Lights go down. Chorus exits stage left. Table with briefcase from previous scene moved off stage)*

**Scene 1:**

*(Set changed to kitchen scene. Pots, pans and other cooking gadgets are out. Julia enters stage right. Lights come up, Julia is standing center stage, preparing food. Marcus enters stage left, carrying briefcase, dressed for work.)*

**Julia:** Hey, honey. You’re home.

**Marcus:** *(Distant)*Yeah. I am. *(Looks around)* Where are the kids?

**Julia:** *(distracted, still focused on cooking)* Abby is at Kayla’s house and Jeffrey went to the movies. *(pauses)* So….*(adds an ingredient to pot)* how was your day?

**Marcus:** I really don’t want to talk about that right now.

**Julia:***(Stops. Looks at him with amusement)* Oh it couldn’t have been that bad. *(Rolls her eyes and laughs)*

**Marcus:** *(hurt and mad at himself, not yelling)* But it was Julia. (*His voice is like ice*) Today was *that bad.*

**Julia:** *(Calm, but concerned)* Marcus, what's wrong? Did something happen at work? (*He turns away from her. Shakes his head)* Marcus, I'm your *wife.* What’s wrong? You’re scaring me...

**Marcus:** I got fired. I lost my job.

**Julia:** *(Shocked)* What? Are you serious? Why? Marcus, why would they fire you? You were-

**Marcus:** *(Interrupting her, visibly getting more upset)*Look Julia, I said I don’t want to talk about it right now**.** *(Begins pacing)* It was really hard to accept and I’m still figuring it out. I worked so hard. *(Sadly)* I just can’t believe I actually got fired.

**Julia:** *(Visibly upset, but trying to stay calm)* Did they tell you why?

**Marcus:** *(Shakily speaking/slightly nervous)* Paul, my boss, caught me yelling at a client....and since it wasn’t the first time, he said he had to let me go.

**Julia:** What do you mean “not the first time”?! Marcus what did you say?

**Marcus:** *(evading the question)* Paul knows I’m not a bad guy, I just get a little stressed that’s all. It was the client’s fault anyway....I’m the one helping him, right? I mean, the least he could do is show up on time! But he was an hour late!!! I could’ve come home early, spend some free time with the kids, but *(exaggerating)* nooooo, I had to wait an hour for that asshole. So yeah, I was mad and when he finally showed up and didn’t even apologize, I lost it.

**Julia:** *(Calmly yet angrily)* Marcus! I can’t believe you yelled at a client! And of course Paul fired you...especially if this happened before! Marcus, what were you thinking!?! And why didn’t you tell me that you had been feeling agitated at work? Your past is just that...your past...*unless* you let it continue to affect you in the present and in the future. Marcus, you know that!

**Marcus:** *(Beginning to get angry)* Well, I guess it doesn’t really matter anymore, does it? *(Glares at her)*

**Julia:** (*Stunned, she just stares at him)*

**Marcus**: Besides...I’ll get another job. *(Comes up behind her and hugs her.)* It was time to find something else anyways, Jewels. They never appreciated me and I was responsible for most of their smaller sales last year. Selling houses under $500,000 may be beneath Paul, but it was the main source of income for that office. I’ll start looking tomorrow. With my experience and contacts, I’ll get hired quickly. Maybe it’s a good thing too because I can spend more time with the kids like you’ve been wanting...

**Julia:** *(Calm once again, turns and faces him. Gives him a big hug)* I’m sorry, Marcus. You’re right. We’ll get through this.

**Marcus:** I’m just so afraid of what might happen to our family, to the kids. *(Starts to get louder slowly, fearfully)* I don’t want to end up like them. Penniless, bitter, resentful until one day all of the stress makes you snap! Julia, I can’t turn into them. I can't turn into my parents. I can’t- *(He buries his face in his hands)*

**Julia:** It’s okay Marcus, it’s okay. (*She touches his shoulder)* Like I said, we’ll get through this. *(She takes a deep breath and returns to her cooking)* Why don’t you get a nice hot shower? The kids are out and I’m making a new recipe for dinner. Let’s end this day on a good note. Ok?

**Marcus:** *(Smiles at Julia)* Okay. Thanks, babe. That sounds great. *(He exits stage left, pauses)* I love you, Julia.

**Julia:** Love you too. *(Smiles at him*, *but as she turns back to the audience, her smile vanishes as she returns to her cooking. Her expression is troubled, haunted then audio plays of the pot boiling over)*

*(Lights go down. Julia exits stage left.)*

**Chorus 1:**

*(Chorus enters stage right. Lights come up.)*

**Teen Boy:** When the past is stifled and secrets are buried

it doesn’t matter how long the couple has been married.

Lives led in secret can never result in good things

even when vows were spoken with the exchange of rings.

**Teen Girl:** Now he’s jobless and filled with fear

Constantly afraid that his past will come creeping near.

Replaying constantly in his mind

Is the pain his parents have left behind.

**Teen Boy:** He tries to be brave, but courage won’t work

For in the dark his monsters still lurk.

Instead of tears in the corners of his eyes

Is the glint of experience in covering the truth with lies.

**Teen Girl**: Instead of being brave and admitting he needs assistance

he pretends he’s not worried and meets his wife’s concern with resistance.

*(Chorus exits stage left, lights go down. Kitchen set from previous scene taken off stage)*

**Scene 2:**

*(Kitchen transformed into reunion. Tables and people in background. Balloons and banner that says 'Class of 1995 - 20 year Reunion” hung up. Marcus and Julia enter stage right)*

**Julia:** *(Beaming, super excited)* Oh wow...it's great to be back! It hasn’t changed a bit! Go East High Wildcats! *(She laughs)*

**Marcus:** *(laughs at her enthusiasm, but is obviously uncomfortable)*

**Julia:** Hey...Are you going to be okay, Marcus? If you feel uncomfortable we can leave. It’s silly, really. I don’t...

**Marcus:** No, no... I'll be okay. You haven't seen these people in 20 years. I don't want to take that away from you. I’m just dreading the whole, “So Marcus, what do you do?” conversation that’s bound to happen over and over again.

**Julia:** Just tell them you’re in between jobs. It’s the truth. It’s only been a month, Marcus. We still have enough left in savings to last us for a while. You’ll find something soon. I can feel it. In fact, I think your luck is going to change right here, tonight!

**Marcus:** *(Smiles at her, relieved)* You’re the best, Jewels, you know that, right?

**Julia:** I've been told that, yes... *(smiles and laughs. Ted enters stage left)*

**Ted:** Julia? Oh my god, Julia. Wow! Look at you! *(Takes her by both hands and holds her out and away from him to admire her beauty. He gives a low whistle)* You’re still just as beautiful as I remember.

**Julia:** Ted! *(Looks embarrassed, but gives him an awkward hug)* It's great to see you too! Um Ted, this is my husband, Marcus.

**Ted:** *(faint, but obvious disappointment)* Oh hey, Marcus. Nice to meet you. It doesn't surprise me that you snapped her up fast. Smart man. She's definitely a keeper. *(Small smile)*

**Marcus:** *(faint discomfort)* Oh yeah, that she is. *(pause)* So...how do you two know each other? *(Sounds confused)*

**Julia:** *(Laughs uncomfortably)* Oh uh, we were...

**Stacey:** *(interrupting)* Oh my god! If it’s not the “cutest couple” from the class of ‘95 - Ted and Julia! C’mon, you guys, you have to let me take a picture- *(Marcus’ face goes from confused to serious instantly)*

**Julia:** Oh hi, Stacey**.** Um... Actually..

**Stacey:** I can’t believe you’re still together after all these years! That’s so sweet! But it’s not surprising. You were so in love!

**Julia:** Um... Actually..Ted and I broke up just after graduation. *(She turns towards Marcus)* I'm happily married to my husband Marcus... *(nervous laugh, marcus “Shifting” uncomfortably in the background)* We have two kids, a boy and a girl, Jeffrey and Abby..hard to believe they’re teenagers now... *(Marcus gets an uneasy look on his face and tries to smile. Ted smiles)*

**Stacey:** Really? *(Sounds surprised)* Oh that’s too bad! I mean, we were young, but everyone thought you and Ted would last! You guys seemed so perfect together and-

**Julia:** *(interrupts her)*That was just a silly little high school relationship. It doesn't mean anything now, right Ted?

**Ted:** *(Obviously disappointed)* Right. (*Uncomfortable silence follows)*

**Stacey:** Well….I'll be going, then... Nice seeing you both and nice to meet you, Marcus. *(Aside)* Awk-ward*. (She exits stage right)*

**Ted:** So Marcus...what do you do?

**Marcus:** (*Exchanges a look with Julia. She looks away uncomfortably.)* I’m actually a realtor. I’m taking some time off right now. Reassessing what direction I want to head in next….

**Ted:** *(Pompous)* What a coincidence! I own my own real estate firm. We’re actually looking to add a few more realtors. *(Takes out his wallet and hands Marcus his business card)* You should give me a call or email me your resume.

**Marcus:** (*Takes the card, but looks coldly at Ted)* Thanks.

**Ted:** (*Noticing Marcus’ cool demeanor)* Ok. Well, I better get going. Julia, it was *so* good to see you. *(kisses her on the hand)* Marcus. (*shakes his hand, nods curtly and walks away stage right. He pauses and looks back at Julia one last time before leaving)*

**Marcus:** *(Watches him go and tears the business card in half. Glares at Julia)* We’ve been married for 17 years and not once did you mention your high school *sweetheart?*

**Julia:** But...it was nothing. I didn’t want to upset you over nothing…

**Marcus:** That? *(Points in direction Ted went)* *That* was not *nothing. (Marcus looks at Julia sadly before exiting stage left).*

**Julia:** *(Watches Marcus walk away, sighs, picks up two pieces of Ted’s business cards and puts them in her pocket before walking off stage left).*

*(Lights go down. All reunion props and sets moved off stage right.)*

**Chorus 2**

*(Lights on. Chorus enters stage left)*

**Teen Boy:** Things were already tense when a new problem arose

A previous lover has come to impose

his feelings still there after all these years

will cause Marcus undo stress and unjustified fear.

**Teen Girl:** Blinded by insecurity

All Marcus could see

Was the look in Ted’s eyes

Surrounded by possibility.

**Teen Boy:**  His pride makes him unable to accept any assistance

so he meets Ted’s offer with obvious resistance.

**Teen Girl:** He can’t imagine losing her, she’s the love of his life,

he wants to protect his family and avoid any unnecessary strife.

*((Chorus exits stage right. Lights off.)*

**Scene 3:**

*(Cafe scene set up. One table and two chairs are brought center, down stage. One coffee mug placed on table. Julia enters stage left and sits at the table. Lights come up. Ted enters stage right)*

**Julia:** Hey Ted. *(stands up, hugs him.)*

**Ted:** Julia. It’s so good to see you again so soon. *(They sit down)*

**Julia:** *(looks around)* Yeah...you’re probably wondering why I called…..*(Pauses)*

**Ted:** *(Flirty)* It definitely crossed my mind. *(Smiles at her)*

**Waitress:** *(Enters stage right with a pad and pencil)* Hello. What can I get you?

**Ted:** I’ll take a large coffee, black.

**Waitress:** Got it. I’ll be right back.

**Julia:** *(Looks around awkwardly)* Ted...I need your help...

**Ted:** *(Leans in closer and looks into Julia’s eyes)* Anything...what is it?

**Julia:** *(looks down)*I called you because Marcus lost his job. He was fired actually. *(Marcus reacts, is disappointed, but Julia doesn’t notice)* And he hasn’t been able to find anything else. We’re getting deeper and deeper in trouble financially. All of our credit cards are maxed out and my parents are no longer able to help. Can you help him, Ted? Please...I don’t know where else to turn...who else to ask... *(Waitress walks back on stage right handing Ted his coffee. He nods and smiles. The waitress pulls out her pad and pencil walking off stage left as if to go take another order)*

**Ted:** *(Trying to hide his disappointment)* Why did he get fired?

**Julia:** Marcus suffers from PTSD as the result of a…. traumatic experience during his childhood. He tends to lose his temper…...he… he was frustrated and he ended up yelling at a pretty important client…(*starts to cry a little. Gets a tissue out of her purse and dabs at her eyes)* I’m sorry...I’m fine. I’m just a little stressed out...

**Ted:** *(Reaches across the table and holds her hand)* Julia, are you happy with Marcus? Does he treat you well?

**Julia:** *(Pulls her hand away)* Yes, of course! He’s my husband!

**Ted:** Julia, I know we were young, but what we had was very special. *(She looks away)* I’ve never stopped….

**Julia:** (*interrupting him)* Ted, please, don’t…..I’m...I’m married.

**Ted**: But Julia…

**Julia:** (*She shakes her head at him)* No. I can’t...I love Marcus.

**Ted:** Okay then. *(Takes a deep breath)* How can I help? *(Marcus walks onstage left. He sees Julia and Ted and he shrinks back into the background. The audience can clearly see him watching Julia and Ted, but they don’t notice him)*

**Julia:** Can you meet with me again, say Friday at my house? (*Ted nods)*  I... I want to do this without Marcus knowing.

**Ted:** No yeah, I understand. It will be our little secret. *(Rubbing her shoulder)*

**Julia:** Okay... well I have to go pick up the kids from school so I’ll see you tomorrow. Bye, Ted.

*(Marcus looks shocked and exits stage left)*

**Ted:** Bye *(Julia gets up and exits stage right. Ted stares at her as she walks away then walks off stage right. Lights go down. Ted exits stage right.)*

**Chorus 3:**

*(Lights on. Chorus enters stage left)*

**Teen Boy:** Haunted by pressing financial troubles

Julia has an idea that rises like a bubble,

But this plan is delicate, and might eventually pop

Causing Marcus’ control to suddenly stop.

**Teen Girl:** With pure intentions, she tries to help find him work

but nagging suspicions could cause him to act like a jerk.

Jealousy may rear its ugly head

after Julia has gone for help from Ted.

**Teen Boy:** A confrontation filled with hate

an explanation that came too late

*(Chorus exits stage right, lights off)*

**Scene 4:**

*(Next day at the cafe. Ted enters stage right and sits down at the table. Only one mug on table. Lights come up. Marcus storms in stage left)*

**Ted:** Oh (*surprised, looks around for Julia*).... Hey Marcus. What are you doing here?

**Marcus:** *(Laughs darkly)* Oh I think you know why, Ted. I’m here to prevent you from stealing my wife!

**Ted**: Marcus, I don’t know what you’re talking about...

**Marcus:** *(Interrupts him and slams fists on table)* Don't lie to me, Ted!

**Ted:** Whoa, whoa... calm down. *(stands up, nervous. Looks around for Julia)*

**Marcus:** I can't believe you actually thought you were going to get away with this! *(clenches his fists)*

**Ted:** *(confused)* Get away with what?I honestly have absolutely no idea what you are talking about.

**Marcus:** Yes, you do, Ted! JUST ADMIT IT!

**Ted:** *(Baffled)* Admit what?! Marcus, what in the hell are you talking about?

**Marcus:** *(Angry/yelling)* YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I’M TALKING ABOUT,TED! *(Getting quieter. Still angry)* You and Julia yesterday right here.... I heard you guys, planning to meet..*(mocking tone)* Oh don’t tell him, don’t tell Marcus*.* *(Getting louder)* Well, I guess she doesn’t have to worry about you telling me now.

**Ted:** Marcus-

**Marcus:** *(Steps closer to Ted, grabs his shirt and gets in his face, quieter)*No. If you don’t keep your hands off my wife, I’ll knock your teeth in, understand? I don’t think you get it, I have real problems that I have to deal with--do you know what it’s like to deal with PTSD? To deal with the memories and scars of abuse? Those things stay with you forever, and if you come near my family again, I can’t promise that it’s not going to all come out. Except you’re going to be the one who gets hurt.

**Ted:** Is that a threat?

**Marcus:** *(great sarcasm)*Oh I don’t know, maybe... Now if you’ll excuse me, I have to go and repair my marriage.

*(Pushes him away and storms off stage right, Ted walks off stage left. Lights go down)*

**Chorus 4:**

*(Chorus enters stage left, lights come up)*

**Teen Boy:** Insecurity turns to anger

Then anger, turns to violence

Threats that hide his pain

make him end his silence.

**Teen Girl:** Thinking without reason

creates thoughts of treason

The tiniest act of betrayal

By a wife who was supposedly faithful.

**Teen Boy:** His anger makes him find

the truth that’s been left behind

But finding the answers doesn’t always guarantee

A conscientious that’s finally free.

**Teen Girl:** But inside his heart he knows

Over time her loyalty only grows

She’s never given him a reason to worry

or to draw a line that could be blurry.

*(Chorus exits stage right, lights go down)*

**Scene 5:**

*(House scene is set up, Julia is sitting on couch)*

**Marcus:** *(Storms in stage left)* Julia! Are you home?

**Julia:** Marcus? *(Turns towards Marcus)* What’s wrong?

**Marcus:** Do you care to explain why you were meeting Ted at the coffee shop?

**Julia:** *(Stands up slowly, nervously)*What do you mean?

**Marcus:** You and Ted planning to *(air quotes)* “meet”.

**Julia:** *(eyes wide, realizing what he mean)*No, no, Marcus it-

**Marcus:** *(angry)* Don’t give me that “*It wasn’t like that”* bullshit! I *heard* you!

**Julia:** But it wasn’t!

**Marcus:** Julia…….I don’t know how you can possibly explain what I heard...what I saw? You and Ted…..are having an affair...aren’t you? (*sounds so distraught, broken).*

**Julia:** Marcus, no...of course not. I would never do that to you….to us….to our family. I love you.

**Marcus:** Then what…

**Julia:** A job! I was asking Ted to help find you a job! I knew you would be embarrassed that I asked for his help...that’s why..

**Marcus:** ….you were meeting in secret.

**Julia:** Exactly.

**Marcus:** *(Takes a deep breath, realizes that she’s telling the truth)*Julia, I’m sorry, but you know how I feel about getting handouts, special treatment, asking for favors...I want….I *need* to do this on my own!

**Julia:** *(anger begins to build)* On your own? So I’m supposed to just sit back and wait as our money just slips through our fingers? All of our savings are gone. At this point the kids’ are going to have to take out student loans to pay for their college educations. What’s next? We lose the house?! *Our home?*

**Marcus: *(****pacing, getting agitated****)*** I said I’m working on it!

**Julia:** *(Sarcastically)* Is that what you call it? Forgive me, I didn’t see you *working* on anything. *(Starts walking off stage right)*

**Marcus:** *(Marcus grabs her hand)* Julia please...*(sits Julia down on one of the chairs)* I’m sorry. I’ll get better. I’ll even go back to therapy. Please, Julia. I know you’re upset, but give me another chance.. *(Pulling her into a chair to sit down)*

**Julia:** *(Not to accepting at first)* I’m sorry too, Marcus. I shouldn't have said some of the things I did.... I’m just really nervous about all this. How about this? I can get a job while you find another one and we move forward from there....

**Marcus:**  No, you don’t-

**Julia:** *(Forcefully)* I’m going to and that’s that.

**Marcus:** Ok fine. I’m ok with you getting a temporary job on one condition... I don’t want you going to Ted for help. At all.

**Julia:** Marcus...

**Marcus:** No Julia. After all this.. I just don’t want you going back to him. He is persistent and won’t leave you alone. For God’s sake he’s still in love with you. I just don’t want him being involved in any way with us...

**Julia:** Ok fine. I will not talk to him-

**Marcus:** *(Finishing Julia’s sentence)* At all.

**Julia:** At all. I promise. *(Lights go down. Julia and Marcus walk off stage right.)*

**Chorus 5:**

*(Chorus enter stage left, lights come up)*

**Teen Boy:** Believing in an unfaithful wife

And fear over his lost direction in life.

**Teen Girl:** He wants to attack with venom and anger

And quench his heinous thoughts of this stranger.

**Teen Girl:** He wants to believe in a marriage that lasts

but his anger boils over and grows too fast

**Teen Boy:** Can he beat this demon that resides within

And finally feel like he can actually win?

**Exodus:**

*(Set turned into living room. Julia walks on stage left. A couch is in the background. Lights come up. She is holding a broom and starts sweeping. There is knock on the door)*

**Julia:** *(Places boom down against couch and walks to the door stage left and answers it. Her eyes widen)* Ted...

**Ted:**Julia...how are you? Are you doing okay? I came over to-

**Julia:** *(interrupts)* I’m so sorry, Ted, but you shouldn’t be here. Really. *(Nervously looks behind her for Marcus)* I can’t talk to you here. I can’t talk to you now.

**Ted:** *(ignoring her/concerned)* Are you ok, Julia? Where’s Marcus now?

**Julia:** *(looks stage right)*He’s running an errand. He’ll be back any minute. *(disgust/worry)* Ted, really, you need to go..

**Ted:** Wait... Julia,I know it’s been twenty years, but I still feel close to you. You can talk to me, Julia. We can be friends. I know you want nothing more. I’m worried about you...you know, being with Marcus.

**Julia:** *(Annoyance)* Ted, he’s my husband. I love him. You don’t need to worry about me being with him. I’m fine!

**Ted:** But something tells me you aren’t fine, Julia. Something tells me that you’re scared of Marcus.

**Julia:**  Scared of Marcus? Ted, like I said before, Marcus is my husband. I love him. If you can’t get used to that idea, then you really *should* leave.

**Ted:** He’s dangerous Julia. He said he would bust my teeth in if I ever touched you.

**Julia:** Ted, he thinks you’re still in love with me and he thought we were having an affair. Most men would have busted your teeth in instead of just threatening you! Marcus isn’t dangerous, but I’m starting to think that maybe you are!

**Ted:**  Me? Julia I would never hurt you..

**Marcus:** *(enters stage right with a vase filled with flowers. He walks up behind Julia and she doesn’t see him)* Julia, what’s going on?

**Julia:** *(Turns around)* Marcus!

**Marcus:** What’s going on here? Why is *he* here?

**Julia:** I’m...I’m so glad you’re home. I was just telling Ted to ...

**Marcus:** *(shakes his head in disbelief)* How could you?!Julia, I told you not to talk to him!

**Julia:** *(Worried)* But Marcus it wasn’t like that! I was just...

**Marcus:** *(Menacingly)* Oh really? Then why are you so surprised to see me, Julia? I was, after all, running the errand you requested. Here are the flowers *you* asked for.

**Julia:**Yes, yes...I know...I just didn’t hear you come in*…*.and I was...scared. I mean startled. You startled me. And I was…just...

**Marcus:** I *startled* you? How did I do that? (*Begins to raise his voice)* What exactly were you two discussing when I came in?

**Ted:** *(defensively)* Hey Marcus, I think you need to calm down. You can’t just yell at her like that for no reason!

**Marcus:** *(angry)* Excuse me? But I can do whatever I want, Ted! *Especially* when it concerns you and my wife talking in my house!

**Julia:** Ted…. please…. just leave.

**Ted:** No, Julia! This guy is obviously hostile. He needs help! I don’t feel safe leaving you with him.

**Marcus:** *(starts yelling)* I don't need help! (*drops and* *breaks vase*) I can’t believe you think you have the right to say that to me in my own house! *(Turns towards Julia)* Why is he here? I told you I don’t want you talking to him!

**Julia:** I haven’t talked to him! He just showed up out of nowhere!

**Marcus:** *(Takes a deep breath and turns toward Ted)* You need to leave. Now. *(Trying to calm down, he bends down to pick up vase pieces)*

**Ted:** *(yelling)*So this is how you were raised, Marcus? Abusive, mean and controlling? That PTSD or whatever must really screw with you. This is ridiculous, I can’t let you push your wife around. And I can’t even imagine what your kids have witnessed or experienced themselves!

**Marcus:** *(standing up with glass shard in hand, enraged)* WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY TO ME? *(raises shard and goes at Ted)*

**Julia:** *(Quick to notice Marcus’ action.)* MARCUS DON'T! *(She gets in between Marcus and Ted while Marcus brings his hand down and strikes Julia by accident. She drops to her knees, a blank look crosses her face, then her eyes close and she falls to the side)*

**Marcus:** *(Mortified by his actions.)* Julia..? Julia? *(Falls to his knees over Julia)* Get up... Come on wake up. Please, wake up! JULIA, PLEASE...get up, get up... *(Takes Julia in his arms and cries into her dead body. Abby and Jeffrey enter stage left)*

**Ted:** (*Pulls cell phone out of his pocket and dials 911. We can hear phone ringing in the background)*

**Abby:** Dad? *(Marcus turns around to see kids. Abby and Jeffrey see their mother. Abby gasps in horror and covers her mouth with her hand. Jeffrey squeezes her shoulders and stares at their dad)*

**Marcus:** *(sees kids)* Oh god. Abby...Jeffrey...it was an accident. I didn’t mean to hurt her...*(Phone stops ringing)*

**911 Operator:** (*from offstage)* This is 911. What is your emergency?

**Ted:** *(never taking his eyes off Marcus. Marcus stares back, frozen in horror)* I’ve just witnessed a stabbing. Please send an ambulance quickly.

**911 Operator:** We have your location and were sending help. Stay on the phone, ok?

**Ted:** Yeah, I will…(*Police sirens can be heard faintly in the background. Marcus runs off stage left)*

*(Lights go down. Couch moved off stage right.)*

**Resolution:**

*(2nd chair brought on and table is moved down, center stage. Laptop set and briefcase set up in same positions. Attorney enters stage right and sits down. Marcus in jumpsuit enters stage left and takes same position)*

**Attorney:** So that’s it?

**Marcus:** *(nods)*

**Attorney:** *(Straight faced)* Look, you’re not a murderer. It was an accident.

**Marcus:** I deserve to pay for what I did.

**Attorney:** Is this really what you want? Do you want to go to prison? You’ll get life....and that’s if you’re lucky..depends on who you get to be the judge...you could even possibly be sentenced to death! Is that what you want?

**Marcus:** *(Teary eyed)* Yes.

**Attorney:** But Marcus, I can get you a lesser sentence...manslaughter, not murder, and if we plead insanity, you may even get out in 10 to 20 years with good behavior. You’d still have quite a bit of time left. You could still live a good life…

 **Marcus:** No... I... I deserve to live within these bleak walls remembering everyday what I've done to my family...to Jeffrey, to Abby... *(Starts to cry)* to her. I spent my whole life hiding from monsters I couldn’t see when I should have realized all along that the only monsters that exist are the monsters within us all. The monsters within me...and now there’s no turning back. She tried to help me. She told me over and over again. But I was too proud to accept her help...too proud to admit that I needed it...too proud to even admit that I needed her. And now….now I have become the monster I always feared and I have let the monster devour everything that I had...everything that I loved. Leaving me with nothing.

*(lights go down)*

**Chorus 6:**

*(Lights come up, Chorus enters stage left)*

**Jeffrey:** So this is it, we take our leave.

Our mother is gone, leaving us to grieve.

**Abby:** This is the end, you've seen it all,

our dad, the tragic hero, who has taken his fall.

**Jeffrey:** The monster within has now taken control,

Leaving our family in the deepest of holes.

**Abby:** Abandoned by his own, our father felt forced to leap,

Into this awful new world, where love doesn’t keep.

His own self judgment is the worst type of pain,

But because of it he has nothing to gain.

**Jeffrey:** Unable to escape the voice in his head

our father has chosen to live as if dead

Confined to a cell, he will never know

what might have happened if he had just let it go.

**Abby:** Our father no longer, only in name

We've done nothing wrong, he’s the only one to blame.

This is his tragedy, not yours, Jeffrey’s or mine,

Now it's our father’s responsibility to pay for his crime.

*(lights go down)*

**END**

