

Daylight. Paul's room. He lies in bed.

Liberace sings softly.

Annie enters quietly.

ANNIE. Cant sleep all day, Punkin.

Paul barely stirs. He has been in bed all week.

Give us a smile?

PAUL. *(Giving her the finger.)* Here's one.

ANNIE. Such a cutie.

PAUL. *(And now the other finger.)* Here's another one.

No question, Paul is a lot stronger now than he has been.

ANNIE. No more jokes, Paul-it's time for you to get back to your writing- it's been more than a week and I've been patient.

PAUL. It's weird, but for some reason, a couple of crushed ankles haven't done that much for my creative juices. Now, as the French are so fond of saying, "get the fuck out of here."

ANNIE. The sheriff just paid me a visit.

Paul cannot help but look over at her.

Oh, that got you, didn't it. Well, news flash, Mister Man. The FBI thinks you're dead. It's just you and me now Paul.

Beat.

You owe me your life. I know you'll keep that in mind. You need to start writing again.

Pause.

PAUL. I figured out the ending. Want me to tell you what happens?

ANNIE. Be careful, Paul.

Annie looks at him.

PAUL. I think you're really going to dig this. Misery and Ian get into a big fight, I'm sure you know the drill; 'I never loved you, blah, blah, blah' She storms out and takes Barkley with her... you know, Barkley, her dog, her big Irish setter... well, they go to a hotel. An inn. At the bar, over a few drinks, she tells Barkley how awful Ian is. One thing leads to another, they head upstairs and well, can you guess what happens? She fucks her dog!

ANNIE. You are less than charming today.

PAUL. What are you going to do about it? Kill me? I dare you.

ANNIE. I'll drive a sledgehammer into your man gland if you're not nicer.

PAUL. Be my guest.

And he spreads his legs.

ANNIE. That is so disgusting- (*Then resolved.*) I can make you write it.

PAUL. Can you?

They stare at each other. Impasse.

After a moment-the sound of knocking on the porch door.

ANNIE. You say one fucking word.

Annie's hand goes over Paul's mouth as he lets out a muffled scream. She grabs Paul's arm. Annie takes the cap of a hypodermic needle.

He struggles with her- hand keeping her arm at bay, getting his hands around his neck to strangle her. But she's the more desperate, jams the needle in.

I don't understand you.

Paul continues to struggle until...

Paul's eyes close-whatever she injected him with takes effect.

When are we going to develop a sense of trust?

She checks him. He's out.

Annie tears out of the room-

-and the set moves.