

EXT. FRONT STEPS - DAY

Abrupt cut to the front door of a house. CHASE ascends the steps and knocks, then waits patiently. He's a very average looking guy, around eighteen to twenty, wearing an unassuming beige suit. His hair is combed nicely and there's a kind smile on his face. The door opens and NANCY'S MOTHER stands there, grasping the door and staring at the man on her steps.

NANCY'S MOTHER
(Friendly)
Can I help you?

CHASE
(Pause)
Yes. Does Nancy live here?

NANCY'S MOTHER frowns in suspicion. The friendliness turns to confused worry.

NANCY'S MOTHER
Nancy left a while ago. (Beat) Guess she didn't need her mother anymore. Got too old. (Flash a fake smile) If that's all, I have baking to do, mister.

CHASE
(Placid persistence)
It's not... Where did she go?

NANCY'S MOTHER
(Irritation)
I don't know who you are, mister, but I'm sure as hell not gonna tell you where my daughter is. Unless you got a police badge to flash at me or something, you're invading my privacy.

CHASE nods his head and turns to glance back at his car, which is parked on the street. It's an older one, highly antiquated for the time. He looks back to NANCY'S MOTHER.

CHASE

I don't mean to be rude. (Pause) I'm very direct sometimes - don't like small talk. Nancy is a friend of my brother's - they go to school together - and I wanted to be sure she was alright. She hasn't been coming to school lately, he told me.

NANCY'S MOTHER

(Defused)

Oh, she dropped out when she left. (Nervous laugh) That girl's trouble, you know. Who's your brother?

CHASE

(Pause to think)

Richie.

NANCY'S MOTHER

(Furrow brows)

She never mentioned a Richie... She wasn't going out with him, was she?

CHASE

(Smirk)

I don't believe so.

NANCY'S MOTHER

You better ask him. My daughter's a menace to society. She tried sneaking boys home more times than I can count - I found men's underwear in her room once. Good lord!

CHASE

(Trying to get to the point)

I see... Funny girl. (Beat) Would you tell me where she went? My brother would certainly like to know that she's well.

NANCY'S MOTHER

Oh, well, since you're a friend of the family: she told me she was staying at a motel or something up by the old Ash Diner. (Chuckle) I dread to know what she's doing up there.

CHASE

Thank you, miss. I'll leave you to your baking. (Pause) My brother will appreciate this.

CHASE nods his head and descends the steps, walking back to his car. He rounds it and gets in, then glances once more at NANCY'S MOTHER, who is standing in the still-open door. He turns on the car, then waves as he pulls back onto the street.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

A radio is playing music. There are clothes scattered all over the place and suitcases tipped on their sides, spilling their contents. Steam is coming from the open bathroom door. LILIAN is standing in front of the window, peering through the shades. As the camera approaches, she turns away and crosses the messy room to the chair placed in front of the television. She sits and starts to watch it. We hear the voices of the program blending with the music from the radio. After a moment, we see NANCY emerge from the bathroom in the background. Her hair is wet and she throws a towel onto the floor, adding to the mess. She walks over and stands over LILIAN's shoulder, watching the television.

NANCY

What's this shit?

LILIAN

(Vexed)

I don't know.

NANCY watches for a minute, then turns to leave, crossing over to the door.

NANCY

I'm getting something from the machine. What do you want?

LILIAN

Nothing.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

NANCY leaves through the door and the camera follows. She shuts it, then starts walking along the outdoor walkway of the motel. We can hear things as she passes each room - some arguing, the muted sound of a television, etc. She reaches the stairs, but before she descends them, she turns and sees a car pull into the parking lot. She frowns, then continues, descending.

Now at ground level, she looks out at the car and watches a guy emerge from the driver's side. He notices her and walks over. He's clearly a jock, and looks her up and down as he reaches her.

DEREK

You alone?

NANCY

Go shove it.

She turns and continues, looking for the vending machine. He follows her.

DEREK

What's with the hostility?

NANCY

(Stop and turn)

Are you that son-of-a-bitch Lilian was talking about?

DEREK

(Hold up hands)

Woah, you know Lilian? (Beat) Two for one deal am I right?

NANCY

(Pause, staring at him)

I don't like you. Now get back in your shitty car and beat it.

She keeps walking. They're in the back now, away from public view. He doesn't leave.

DEREK

I like aggressive girls.

NANCY

I told you to leave. I don't like saying things twice, dickhead.

He speeds up and cuts her off. She pulls out a pistol from her belt and points it at his head. He ducks and falls to the ground, then crawls away whimpering.

DEREK

Holy shit! You crazy bitch, what the hell?

NANCY

(Calm)

I told you to leave. Now you're gonna leave in a bag.

DEREK

(Pleading)

NO! I'm leaving! Just let me go, okay! Jesus Christ, you crazy bitch!

He gets up and runs back the way they came, getting into his car and turning it on. He floors it and spins around, then leaves the lot. NANCY watches him go, then puts the pistol away.