

DEVIOUS DAUGHTER

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Very scenic. A cliff overlooks a valley. Lots of trees. A short stone wall is in poor condition. Sections missing and others crumbling. The view belongs on a postcard.

GIGGLING of young love comes near. It's a couple, holding hands as they dash over to the wall. CINDY (19) drinks in the gorgeous landscape.

CINDY

Would you look at that view.

Cindy pulls a cell phone out of her pocket.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Perfect place for a selfie!

DANIEL (21) presses against Cindy. They smile for the camera and she takes the shot. Both turn to the view.

CINDY (CONT'D)

I can't believe I've never been here before.

DANIEL

Candace and I used to come here a lot.

Cindy gives Daniel a hurt look. He notices.

CINDY

We had a deal.

Behind them, a human shadow creeps across the ground and stops.

Daniel rubs Cindy's back.

DANIEL

Sorry. We were together so long that it's hard to forget her.

CINDY

I'm not asking you to forget her. I just don't want to hear a word about that psycho.

DANIEL

I'll be good.

They kiss.

A pair of pant legs steps into sight, only a few feet away. The gender is unrecognizable.

Daniel senses something and turns to look. Recognition comes to his face, along with worry. Cindy also pivots.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What are you...

A pair of hands reaches out and shoves Daniel and Cindy hard. Caught off guard, both topple over the wall with a scream.

O.S. A distant THUD is heard.

We see the killer's back as he/she steps closer to the wall and looks down. A hooded jacket keeps us from seeing the hair.

Daniel lies a hundred feet down on the rocky ground, his broken body contorted in an impossible position.

Cindy clutches a root near the top as she dangles. She breathes hard as she struggles to maintain her hold. Her shoes dig at the dirt wall to no avail. She looks up in terror.

CINDY

Please help me!

The root slips further and further. Cindy's desperate attempts to climb higher fail. The root dislodges from the dirt and she falls out of sight. Her SCREAM rings out briefly before another THUD.

Both bodies lie together at the bottom, no sign of life.

The killer turns around, face still unseen. He/she walks out of sight.

EXT. PARK - BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

A boys' little league game in progress with blue team against red. The boys are in the 8-9 years old range. Blue team bats. A BOY smacks a single and takes his base.

IN THE STANDS

Interested PARENTS and FAMILY MEMBERS root their teams on. KERI MICHAELS (39) represents the epitome of motherhood. She watches the field action intently.

Next to her is her daughter MICHELLE LINTON (16), self-centered, and Keri's step-daughter JESSICA (JESS) MICHAELS (17). Jess wears a charm bracelet. Both girls have their noses buried in their phones.

On the field, BRADEN LINTON (8) totes his bat over to home plate. It's his turn to hit. Keri tugs on Michelle's shirtsleeve.

KERI

Braden's up to bat.

Attention still on her phone...

MICHELLE

Go Braden.

Keri's husband WILLIAM (WILL) Michaels (40), glasses and sophisticated, climbs the bleachers with a tray of snacks - four hot dogs, 2 trays of nachos, and two soft drinks. He sits next to Keri.

KERI

You're just in time. Braden's up.

Will focuses on the field action. Michelle and Jess each snatch a hot dog, a nacho tray, and a soft drink, leaving two lonely hot dogs on the tray. They dig in.

WILL

(sarcastic)

Good thing I bought enough for everyone.

Keri grabs a hot dog and eyes the field.

INTERCUT - FIELD AND STANDS

Braden settles into the batter's box and raises the bat over his shoulder. The first pitch. A ball.

Keri and Will are on the edge of their seats as they watch. The girls only care about their food and their phones.

The next pitch. Braden swings and misses. The UMPIRE indicates a strike.

UMPIRE

Strike one!

Keri grabs Will's hand and squeezes it.

KERI

Why does it have to be so stressful?

WILL

Maybe we should load up on Valium before games.

Keri gives Will a slight grin.

The next pitch. Braden swings and sends the ball soaring to right field. It zooms past the RIGHT-FIELDER to the corner of the fence. He gives chase.

The runner on first zips around the bases. His THIRD-BASE COACH waves him in. Braden runs around second and heads to third. The coach also waves him in.

The right-fielder retrieves the ball and throws it to the SECOND BASEMAN. He whirls around and sends it home.

Keri jumps to her feet, along with several other fans around her.

This will be close. The CATCHER catches the throw just as Braden slides into home. The umpire indicates safe.

UMPIRE

He's safe!

Half of the onlookers CHEER. Keri yells the loudest.

The game is over. Braden jumps up and receives a swarm of praise from his teammates. Major celebration. The teams line up to congratulate each other.

Jess and Michelle finally look up and are lost.

JESS

Did something happen?

Will shakes his head. He stands up and gives Keri's shoulders a celebratory squeeze.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Keri and Will walk with their daughters slowly toward the parking lot as other families disperse around them. Jess and Michelle still have their noses buried in their smart phones.

Will gives them a disapproving look and stops both.

WILL

Okay, time-out here.

Both girls look up, dumbstruck.

MICHELLE

What?

WILL

We came here to support your little brother. I seriously doubt either of you even know where you are.

Jess returns to texting.

JESS

He's not MY brother.

The comment brings hurt to Keri's face. It makes Will angry.

WILL

Being Keri's son makes him your brother.

JESS

Whatever.

Will snatches the phone out of Jess's hands. The action offends her.

JESS (CONT'D)

Hey!

WILL

I'm holding on to this until you learn to think of others beside yourself.

Will slips the phone into his pocket. Jess fumes.

JESS

This is so unfair.

WILL

I bet you'll think twice next time.

Jess's face tightens but she stays quiet.

Carrying his baseball glove, ball, and water bottle, Braden jogs over to his family.

KERI

There's that star player of the game.

Keri holds out her hand. Braden slaps it.