

Running De Guppy
94

118 CONTD

JONAH
You need anything else?

ANNIE
We're okay. I'm working for a G.P.

JONAH
How about cash?

ANNIE
Okay.

He empties his wallet of paper money. Folds it and puts it in her hand.

JONAH
If you'd give me some warning, I'd arrange to have more.

ANNIE
This is great.

JONAH
You always make me feel so guilty.

ANNIE
Why?

JONAH
You're living it.

ANNIE
(laughing ironically)
I guess I am. You're a good guy.

She kisses him on the cheek.

ANNIE (cont'd)
Jonah, I need you to make a phone call for me.

119 INT. DINING ROOM FRENCH RESTAURANT - DAY

119

Annie heads across the room towards an elegant white haired MAN in his mid-60s. She's very nervous. This is a very dangerous place for her to be. The man is reading the menu, so he doesn't see her sit down opposite him at the table for two.

ANNIE
Hi, Dad.

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PATTERSON

The man was blinded and paralyzed.

ANNIE

He wasn't supposed to be there! Don't you know that there were times I would have blinded and paralyzed myself to take that back?

PATTERSON

This is all Arthur's influence on you.

ANNIE

No, Dad, it isn't. It was my idea. I'm living with the consequences of my own choice.

PATTERSON

I don't believe it.

ANNIE

I can't help that.

PATTERSON

And your mother and me? Do you ever think of us?

ANNIE

Do you really have to ask that?

PATTERSON

Yes. I have to ask. The last thing I remember you saying to me was that I was an "Imperialist pig." That I was personally responsible for the war, for the spread of poverty and racism ...

ANNIE

(waving him off because
this is painful)

I was young.

PATTERSON

(quietly)

Yes. You were that. And beautiful. And talented. And so full of love. My God, Annie. Why did you throw it all away?

She doesn't answer.

119 CONTD

PATTERSON (cont'd)
Your mother misses you terribly. And
Danny.

ANNIE
Would you take him, Dad?

He doesn't answer.

ANNIE (cont'd)
He wants to study music. He's good.
They want him at Juilliard.

PATTERSON
Like they wanted you?

This time she doesn't answer.

PATTERSON (cont'd)
So you taught him. There's some irony
in this. Don't you think, Annie? I
mean here you are asking me to take
Danny back into a life you ran from
like a shot out of hell.

(pause)

You could have been a world class
pianist. You played like an angel.

(pause)

Is this what he wants?

ANNIE
I think so. He got himself to the
audition without telling me. He'll
need money and people to care for him.

PATTERSON
Don't you think that this is too much
to ask? We hardly know the boy. If
we take him there could be F.B.I. agents
following all of us everywhere we go.
You'll never be able to see him. We're
too old for this.

ANNIE
Yes. I think it's too much to ask.

He's quiet.

ANNIE (cont'd)
I have another son. He's ten. Harry.

119 CONTD

PATTERSON

I know. I heard about it on the news.

This is very hard.

ANNIE

I plan to turn myself in when he doesn't need me anymore. When he's old enough.

PATTERSON

And Arthur?

ANNIE

I can't speak for him. Please think about this. I don't want Danny to have to pay for my mistakes for the rest of his life. He deserves a chance to make his own.

(a little laugh)

Don't you think so, Dad?

He says nothing.

ANNIE (cont'd)

Look. I'd better go.

She starts to stand. He puts his hand on hers and stops her.

PATTERSON

Annie.

She looks at him.

PATTERSON (cont'd)

(quietly)

He can come to us.

She clings to his hand with much feeling.

ANNIE

Please tell Mom that I love her. That I've thought of you both often. Called out for you. I'm sorry I've caused you so much pain. I guess I'm about to see what it feels like. I love you, Dad.

Then she gets up quickly and walks across the room to the exit.

ON PATTERSON

Watching her go. He makes no move to follow. Tears stream down his face.

119 CONTD

He looks up and his face gets red but he doesn't speak.
He just stares at her.

ANNIE (cont'd)

I asked Jonah to set this up. You
can call the cops if you want to.

He says nothing.

ANNIE (cont'd)

Look. I'm sorry. This is hard for me
too.

A WAITER approaches and hands Annie a menu.

WAITER

The specials today are poached turbot
in champagne and truffle sauce and a
smoked chicken and endive salad with a
raspberry vinaigrette dressing. Will
you have drinks?

Patterson waves him away. He backs off.

PATTERSON

I wonder if you'll ever know what it's
like. Not to see your child for fourteen
years.

ANNIE

Dad ...

She can't stop him now.

PATTERSON (cont'd)

Not knowing whether she's living or dead.
Not knowing whether that child is respon-
sible for the death and mutilations of
other human beings. Not knowing whether
to hold yourself responsible for that death
and mutilation because it's your child
pulling the triggers and setting the bombs.

ANNIE

I didn't kill anyone! I didn't come here
to defend myself or to talk politics. If
you don't believe by now that what I did
was an act of conscience to stop the war
then there's nothing I can tell you that's
gonna make you understand.