

## Scene Seven

(Soon afterwards, Saturday night. Anna and Tom's house. ANNA has a glass of wine. Tom's gym bag is there. RACHEL bursts in. Urgent / at pace:)

RACHEL. Where's Tom?

ANNA. What are you -

RACHEL. Where's Tom?!

ANNA. The gym. Why?

RACHEL. Where's Evie?

ANNA. That's none of your -

RACHEL. Come on!

ANNA. Asleep. Upstairs.

RACHEL. What's wrong?

ANNA. Nothing.

RACHEL. Look, you don't like me. I get that. I'm not your biggest fan either, but you've got to get Evie and leave. Right now. Before he comes back.

ANNA. What are you talking about?

RACHEL. It's Tom! Tom killed Megan.

ANNA. Rachel, since Megan was found, you've been saying it was *me*. You told everyone you saw me in the underpass. My car.

RACHEL. It *was* your car.

If it wasn't you, it must have been Tom -

ANNA. You've concocted this whole thing.

RACHEL. No!

ANNA. The things you're capable of. You took my baby.

RACHEL. I didn't take her. I came round, the door was open, you were asleep on the sofa and Evie was crying. I picked her up to soothe her.

ANNA. Tom said you were standing on the railway tracks with her.

RACHEL. I was in the garden.

ANNA. But Tom said -

RACHEL. Tom lies. Anna. Tom always lies. And he gets you to lie.

*(Silence.)*

I just wanted to feel the weight of his baby in my arms.

*(A moment of understanding.)*

Don't make the same mistakes I did.

ANNA. ...

RACHEL. *(Decisively.)* Anna.

Who poured you that glass of wine?

ANNA. ...

RACHEL. That's how it started with me. Tom would pour me a glass and leave the bottle. He'd be gone for hours. Then come back and call me an alcoholic.

Tell me he isn't doing that with you.

ANNA. You don't know what he's like with me.

RACHEL. Was it him who said you needed Megan to help you with Evie?

ANNA. ...

RACHEL. You see? He tells you, you can't cope and soon you begin to believe it...don't you?

*(ANNA can't say – but we see her acknowledge that RACHEL's right.)*

ANNA. You don't understand. Since Evie, I've not been feeling...

RACHEL. Don't defend him. That's what he makes you do. Has he been working late recently? Telling you stuff's kicking off at work that only he can sort out. Phone calls.

You know something's wrong, don't you?

ANNA. I just found this phone in his gym bag. All these texts. There's no name. Just times, to meet. At the gym, at hers...here.

*(ANNA takes a phone from Tom's gym bag, passes RACHEL the phone. She scrolls through texts.)*

RACHEL. This is how I found out about you.

ANNA. He told me he was single.

RACHEL. When was the last text?

ANNA. Saturday night.

*(Beat.)*

*(RACHEL holds out her hand. ANNA reluctantly hands a phone over to RACHEL. RACHEL compares numbers.)*

RACHEL. It's Megan's number.

*(Silence.)*

ANNA. *(Still not wanting to face the truth.)* That doesn't mean he killed her.

RACHEL. I'll call the police.

ANNA. No -

(*RACHEL gets out her mobile and dials 999.  
ANNA stops her.*)

(*The sound of a car pulling up outside. Tom.  
They both hear it.*)

It wasn't him. (*Decisively.*) He was here. All night.

RACHEL. Don't lie for him.

ANNA. He didn't leave the house, not even for a second.

RACHEL. Why are you doing this?

ANNA. If you were a mother, you'd do anything to protect your family.

I was with him the whole time. You won't get me to say otherwise.

(*TOM comes in. Looks between them.*)

(*Reeling, scared, trying to act normal.*) Where have you been?

TOM. To the gym. I forgot my bag, so I -

RACHEL. You left my place before me; how come you've only just got here?

TOM. I...drove all the way there before I realised. (*To ANNA.*) What's all this about? Anna?

ANNA. She thinks it was you.

TOM. What?

ANNA. That it was you who killed Megan. But I told her you were here, all night. That you never left the house.

RACHEL. (*To TOM.*) I see what you've been doing. What you always did. Make me feel ashamed and guilty, and then tell me what I'd done, until I believed you.

TOM. What are you talking about?

RACHEL. The therapist, he said how we can construct memories. That's what you used to do to me! Telling me I'd had too much to drink while pouring me more.

TOM. No -

RACHEL. Like that time with the golf club. You put the club in my hands and showed me how I'd tried hitting you. But the only thing I actually remembered was fear. Because it was you, wasn't it? You who'd swung for me. And then you forced the memory on me until it became real.

TOM. *(To ANNA.)* She's making it up.

RACHEL. And that's what you just did at mine. You made me picture myself killing her.

TOM. That's ridiculous. Rach, you just admitted it was you.

RACHEL. You've been having an affair with Megan.

TOM. What are you talking about?

RACHEL. Anna found your other phone.

TOM. It's my work phone.

RACHEL. So why are there messages from Megan?

*(ANNA is holding the phone.)*

TOM. She used to go to the same gym. We sometimes met up. There was nothing in it.

ANNA. Her last text asked to meet you in the underpass Saturday night.

*(Beat.)*

TOM. Look. She asked, that doesn't mean I went.

RACHEL. *(To ANNA.)* Get Evie. We have to get out of here.

*(RACHEL goes to leave. TOM blocks her way.)*

TOM. You're not going anywhere until you've told the truth.

RACHEL. We know it was you. We both know.

TOM. She's just saying all this to deflect suspicion from her and Scott.

RACHEL. What?

TOM. I went back to get my keys the other night and find you two at it. You couldn't wait to get rid of Megan. Both of you.

RACHEL. But...it was you. I know it was.

TOM. Has Scott ever been threatening towards Megan?

*(RACHEL knows that SCOTT has been threatening.)*

That's why she ran away from him that night. He'd had her by the throat. And he left that vile message on her phone.

RACHEL. *(Spinning the web.)* What message?

TOM. He said he could kill her.

*(Beat.)*

RACHEL. How did you know Scott left that message on her phone?

ANNA. Tom...?

RACHEL. There's no way you could have known what message he left unless you were with Megan that night. You had to have been.

*(TOM stops RACHEL from leaving.)*

TOM. You're not doing this. You're not ruining my life again.

RACHEL. *(To ANNA.)* Ask him. Ask him why he killed Megan.

TOM. (*To ANNA.*) I didn't kill her. Yes, I'm sorry. I should never have let Megan get her claws into me. It didn't mean anything.

RACHEL. But she texted you on Saturday night and you went running to her.

(*To ANNA.*) And he's using you as his alibi.

ANNA. What did she tell you?

TOM. What?

ANNA. Megan. On the text message, she said she had to tell you something?

TOM. She said she wanted us to run away together. I said no. That I love my family. Then she said, she said she'd once murdered a baby. She threatened to harm Evie.

RACHEL. Megan didn't murder a baby, it was an accident.

TOM. (*To ANNA.*) Why would you believe her?

RACHEL. That's why she was in therapy.

TOM. She doesn't even know Megan.

RACHEL. I know Megan was pregnant. (*Realising.*) Is that what she told you Saturday night? That she was pregnant?

TOM. (*To ANNA.*) Don't listen to her.

RACHEL. They've done a DNA test on the baby. It's not Scott's.

(*TOM turns to ANNA.*)

TOM. Anna, all I want is for you and Evie and me to live how we said. Move away. Just the three of us. Like you always wanted.

(*TOM tries to take ANNA's hand but she doesn't let him. EVIE cries, offstage.*)

Okay, I did go to meet her. Just quickly, when I went to get our takeaway. I pulled up in the underpass. And

who should be staggering towards us, (*To RACHEL.*)  
the fucking state of you... Shouting at her -

RACHEL. (*Realising.*) It was you who hit me.

TOM. You were threatening Megan. All I did was push  
you off her.

RACHEL. You hit me over the head. (*Points to the cut on  
her head, to ANNA.*) Look what he's capable of.

(*EVIE cries again.*)

TOM. (*To ANNA.*) I'll make this right. I swear. It'll be just  
us. Where she can't find us. What you always wanted.

RACHEL. How could you bring Evie up with him?

TOM. I'm a good father. You know I am.

RACHEL. What kind of life would you have?

TOM. Evie loves me. She needs me. Go upstairs to her.

(*EVIE cries louder.*)

(*To ANNA.*) I swear to you, I didn't kill Megan.

RACHEL. Anna, please -

TOM. Go to her, darling. Go to our daughter. I'll sort  
this out.

ANNA. ...You'll sort it out?

(*She looks at RACHEL.*)

RACHEL. Don't leave me with him.

TOM. (*To ANNA.*) When you come back down, everything  
will be all right.

RACHEL. Please.

(*Beat.*)

(*ANNA goes to EVIE.*)

There's no point lying to me.



**TOM.** ...I told her to get rid of it.

I begged and begged but she wouldn't listen -

*(MEGAN appears. It's haunting.)*

*(TOM continues to address RACHEL, while MEGAN, in a separate world, responds. Their actions, their movements, in parallel.)*

*(TOM holds RACHEL. RACHEL wriggles free.)*

*(This is how he killed MEGAN.)*

**MEGAN.** I just had the twelve-week scan. She was sucking her thumb.

**TOM.** I was just trying to make her understand -

*(What TOM does to RACHEL, the same thing happens to MEGAN.)*

**MEGAN.** I'm not going to be anyone's secret anymore.

**TOM.** 'I won't let you destroy my family.'

**MEGAN.** My baby will not be someone's unwanted baggage.

**RACHEL.**

**MEGAN.**

Let me go -

Let me go -

**TOM.** I can't let you go until you see sense.

**MEGAN.** I'm not killing my baby!

*(TOM hits RACHEL over the head. She's knocked down.)*

*(MEGAN disappears. The sound of magpies.)*

**TOM.** *(Getting over RACHEL.)* If you weren't like one of those unwanted dogs that keeps coming back no matter how much you punish it...

If you hadn't come round that night, none of this would have happened... All of this, is your fault.

RACHEL. *(Groggy.)* No...

*(ANNA has appeared, with EVIE. TOM has not seen her.)*

TOM. Do you have any idea how boring you became?  
Too sad to get out of bed, too tired to wash your hair?  
You're just like Megan; you don't give me a choice.

*(TOM grabs his golf club to finish RACHEL off. Realises ANNA is there. Puts the golf club down.)*

There she is. There's my girl. Come to Daddy.

*(ANNA doesn't want to give the baby to TOM but doesn't want to provoke him. Pretending everything's okay, she lets TOM take EVIE.)*

*(RACHEL surreptitiously retrieves a corkscrew.)*

We'll go away. Would you like that, Evie?

ANNA. Tom...

TOM. Look, she's smiling.

ANNA. Let me take her. She needs changing.

TOM. *(Sniffing her nappy.)* She's fine.

*(We hear a train passing.)*

Shall we go see the trains?

ANNA. Give her to me. She's tired.

TOM. I've got her.

*(They go outside. Mist, rain.)*

ANNA. Where are you going?

TOM. Just to get some air.

*(TOM takes EVIE down to the garden.)*

ANNA. Where are you taking her?

TOM. To see the trains.

ANNA. Please. Let's go back in and we'll put her to bed.  
Together. You can do it if you want.

*(TOM goes closer to the train tracks.)*

Darling. Give her to me and we'll go back inside.

*(ANNA holds out her arms.)*

TOM. If you stand on the tracks, you can feel the vibrations  
from miles away.

*(TOM has climbed onto the train tracks with  
EVIE. EVIE is crying.)*

ANNA. Tom, please.

Give her to me -

TOM. It's all right, darling. Daddy's here.

ANNA. Give me our baby. Everything will be all right.

*(TOM does not.)*

*(RACHEL appears.)*

RACHEL. Tom. Tom!

You were right. It was my fault.

Give Evie to Anna. It's me who should be punished,  
not her.

Give your baby to your wife.

*(Beat.)*

*(ANNA steps closer. The sound of a train, in  
the distance, approaching.)*

I'll confess. They already think it was me.

*(Pause.)*

*(TOM gives the baby to ANNA.)*

*(ANNA comforts EVIE.)*

*(GASKILL appears in the distance. He holds a torch.)*

*(TOM is beaten. Holds his arms out to RACHEL.)*

TOM. Rach, I'm sorry. I'm so... *(Trying not to cry.)* Please.

*(RACHEL unsure of herself. Does he still have power over her?)*

ANNA. Rachel...

TOM. *(To RACHEL.)* It was always you.

You were always the one.

Hold me, Rachel. Please, hold me.

*(Beat. RACHEL joins TOM. She holds him.)*

*(TOM sees MEGAN.)*

*(TOM holds RACHEL tightly. It's more like a restraint.)*

RACHEL. No.

TOM. You did this to me.

You did this to me!

*(TOM tries to strangle RACHEL. RACHEL fights back. Retrieves the corkscrew from her back pocket. Stabs him. He's down.)*

*(The sound of the train getting closer.)*

Rach, Rach please... Please!