

Mike hangs up.

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Aston Martin pulls up. Mike climbs out, walks to the door, takes a deep breath and rings the bell.

SCARLET (o.s.)

Coming!

The door opens revealing Scarlet in her dirty yard attire.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

I've been dying to meet you. I've known your father since...(gasps)

Scarlet...SPEECHLESS...visibly stunned by the resemblance...

MIKE

Is something wrong?

SCARLET

(FLUSTERED)

No. It's just...you look like...No. I'm fine. Come in. Please.

44.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scarlet and Mike sit across from one another. Scarlet stares at Mike as if examining every pore on his face.

SCARLET

And you say Ed Freedman is your father?

MIKE

That's my dad. All 68 inches of him.

SCARLET

You don't look anything like him. If you don't mind me asking, who's your mother?

MIKE

My mother...she...she was...a...

Mike spies Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment on a table.

MIKE (CONT'D)

-a convict. In New Jersey. They met while dad was at Princeton. She was on parole. B&E, fist fighting, shanking. Nothing major. But she's dead now.

SCARLET

Oh? I'm sorry.

MIKE

I warned her about kite surfing during hurricane season. So how are things with you? Doing anything exciting? Dating? Flirting with Dom Johnson maybe?

SCARLET

Why would you ask about Dom? Did Ed tell you to say that?

MIKE

I mean do what you want. You're a grown woman but, word on the street is Dom's been spreading gingivitis all over town.

SCARLET

I'll keep that in mind, Mark.

45.

Scarlet can't take her eyes off Mike.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

It's crazy how much you like my
husband when he was a teenager.

Mike switches subjects, points to her dirty clothes-

MIKE

You doing some gardening?

SCARLET

I am. I'm a landscape designer.
I'm actually redoing the backyard.
I'll show you.

Scarlet stands, leads Mike to the french doors.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

It's a work in progress so you'll
have to use your imagination some.

Scarlet opens the doors, flips on the lights. The yard's
been cleaned up. Fresh blankets of sod rest in piles next to
stacks of limestone. HUNDREDS of unplanted plants, flowers,
trees and shrubs sit around the yard in strategic positions.

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE/BACKYARD - NIGHT

Mike and Scarlet step outside.

MIKE

I almost don't even recognize
it...er...if I had seen it before I
probably wouldn't recognize it.