

MATCH

Episode: "Lies"

Written by
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FADE IN:

INT. THERAPIST'S HOME OFFICE - FRIDAY MORNING

A HAMSTER spins on a wheel, somewhere important to go, no idea he's never going to get there. A FISH TANK rests next to the hamster's cage.

SERENITY (O.S.)
What's with the rodent, Doc?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
You're avoiding.

SERENITY PACE (17, stunning, knows it, doesn't care), bored out of her mind, sits in a comfortable chair, opposite DR. WILLIAM CADUTO (48, tired, Ivy League scholar attractive).

SERENITY
I mean, fish I get, but a hamster?
Just spinning away on that wheel
all day. Some sort of unconscious
symbolism there, William?

WILLIAM
What makes you assume it's
unconscious?

SERENITY
So, you're consciously implying
your patients are like hamsters?

WILLIAM
You know what I'm going to say --

SERENITY
"We're here to talk about you." And
you know what I'm going to say.

WILLIAM
You've got nothing to say.

SERENITY
No, I've got plenty to say. I just
have no need to say it to you.

Silence. She stretches out her amazing legs from under her too-short skirt, smiling at him as she does. He professionally ignores the provocation, but can't quite keep himself from stealing a quick glance.

SERENITY (CONT'D)
You bored, too, William?

WILLIAM

Not at all.

SERENITY

That's hardly fair.

WILLIAM

Well, I'm professionally obligated not to tell you, even if I was.

He shifts his glance from her legs - which are starting to open - to a picture of himself and his wife on his desk.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What do you think your mother would say about the fact that you just sit here saying nothing?

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SERENITY

Come on, William, is that what you really want to ask me?

WILLIAM

Keep it up. I doubt she would have any qualms about keeping you here all the way through college. How'd that be for boredom?

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SERENITY

I'm sure you'd like that.

WILLIAM

Regardless. It's your choice.

SERENITY

(grudgingly puts her legs down)

Fine. What would you like to talk about?

WILLIAM

Talk about why you're so angry.

SERENITY

Because my mother makes me come here for no reason. Done. Next topic.

Long pause. Where to go with this? He's kind of gawking.

SERENITY (CONT'D)

Do you look at all your patients like that, William?

WILLIAM

Like how?

SERENITY

(to herself)

So full of shit.

WILLIAM

Does it bother you somehow? How I
look at you, I mean?

(no answer)

What do you think people see when
they look at you?

SERENITY

That's a joke, right?

WILLIAM

Why would you think I'm joking?

SERENITY

Jesus, you think I can't see
through a lame-ass attempt to
examine my "sense of self?" I don't
have a self-image problem, William -

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WILLIAM

Dr. Caduto.

Long silence.

SERENITY

You know why I really hate coming
here?.. Because the world in here
is no more honest than the world
out there, but at least out there I
can walk away from it; here, I'm
stuck no matter what for an hour.

(silence, eyes locked)

And I know exactly what at least
half the population sees when they
look at me and so do you because
you see the same thing.

*

WILLIAM

Oh? What's that?

SERENITY

Like I said, so full of shit.

She looks back over at the hamster -- who seems like he has
finally had enough. William just stares at her... let's his
gaze wander down her body a little...