

ABSOLUTION

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Scripted

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REVISION 36

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FADE IN.

INT. VISITORS' ROOM, WOMENS' CORRECTIONAL FACILITY- DAY

A large steel door swings open and through it steps a woman, ROSE, of twenty-five in a black pull-over hoodie, loosely-fitting Arizona jeans, and a pair of beat up black-and-white Converse All Stars. Two men in uniforms guide her into a large room filled with tables and chairs, each of which houses a woman in a bright orange jumpsuit. ROSE scans over the lot and before long, her eyes fall upon those of a grey-haired woman in her late fifties, SUZANNE.

ROSE crosses the cold cement floor and sits opposite of SUZANNE, who smiles at her pleasantly.

SUZANNE

It's good to see you, Rose.

SUZANNE, aka Inmate #00746560917, moves forward to embrace ROSE, but a guard shifts to signal that physical contact is not allowed. SUZANNE nods and recoils back to her seat.

ROSE

Your lawyer called.

SUZANNE

My appeal?

ROSE

I'm sorry, Mom...

A pause.

ROSE

The sentence stands.

SUZANNE

I should have expected the worst.

She smiles again, but her eyes search the room sadly, knowingly. She looks back to her daughter.

SUZANNE

Have they set a date yet?

ROSE

The seventeenth.

SUZANNE

That soon?

Rose nods again.

SUZANNE

Not exactly how I expected to
celebrate my sixtieth birthday...

A GUARD comes on the PA system.

GUARD

Visiting hours are over. Inmates
back to your cells.

The other officers quickly move about the room, ushering
prisoners away back through a steel door at the rear
entrance to the Visitors' Room.

Rose nods sorrowfully, tears well up in her eyes.

SUZANNE

Don't, honey...don't cry for me.

ROSE

But it wasn't your fault! It's not
right!

SUZANNE

I have to answer for what I did,
Rose...we all have to, sooner or
later.

A female officer prods the older woman, beckoning her to
join the file.

FEMALE OFFICER

Let's go, Suzanne.

Just as she begins to turn away, Suzanne whirls about and
rushes into the embrace of her daughter, who receives her in
a flurry of tears. The FEMALE OFFICER hurries toward them
and disengages the pair with the assistance of a fellow
guard.

ROSE

No! No! Please...! Just one more
minute! Please!

ROSE grabs at the guard's lapel as she reaches out for her
mother in vain.

Suzanne looks back at the distraught figure of her daughter
and manages to cry out one last 'I love you' before
disappearing through the door.

INT. EXECUTIONARY VISITORS ROOM - 17 SEPTEMBER, 23:43

Rose sits, one hand clasped to that of another woman on her right, and the other to that of an even younger girl of about thirteen sitting on the other. No one speaks.

A door opens to reveal two armed officers escorting Suzanne into the room. One of them bends over to un-do her handcuffs. He then straightens himself up and casts an unapproving glance at the girls as they all stand and go to their loved one.

MALE GUARD

You got two minutes.

MALE GUARD backs away a few paces and joins the other guard in the corner of the room.

Suzanne's eyes fill with tears as she hugs all three of her visitors. The youngest, a chestnut-haired youth, begins to sob relentlessly.

SUZANNE

Shh....none of that now, Lily, I
need you to be strong for me
now...it's going to be alright.

She caresses LILY'S cheek and then looks back at ROSE.

SUZANNE

You look after your little sister,
and you...

She casts her eyes to the second woman and continues.

SUZANNE

Liz, you take good care of them
both, you hear?

They both smile as Rose exchanges a loving glance with Liz.

LIZ

I will.

Suzanne squeezes them all warmly and plants a kiss on each of their cheeks.

SUZANNE

Time to go. I'll see you all again
someday...

ROSE

Yes you will.

LILY
We love you, Mom...

MALE GUARD
Ok, time's up.

MALE GUARD puts his hands on SUZANNE's arm and ushers her toward the door.

SUZANNE
I love you, girls.

Lily sinks to the floor in a fit of tears. Liz goes to her and tries to console her, but the young girl, too distraught, cannot calm down.

ROSE
Stay here with her, will you? I'm going to go in there.

LIZ
Is that a good idea?

ROSE
I have to do this, Liz...she's my mother. I have to be there. I have to see her through this.

Liz regards her partner with an expression of sympathetic understanding and then nods.

Rose kisses Liz lightly on the lips and disappears through the door.

INT. EXECUTION VIEWING ROOM - 23:58

A small room filled with on-lookers, relatives of the victim, Rose presumes, receives the view of Suzanne strapped to a gurney behind a thickly-plated glass window. Suzanne gazes in their direction, her eyes transfixed on an olive-skinned woman sitting only a few seats from Rose.

A voice asks her over a loudspeaker.

VOICE
Do you have any last words, Mrs. Kent?

Suzanne swallows hard and then speaks up.

SUZANNE
Yes...I never thought it would come to this. My husband's family must learn to live on without him somehow, just as mine will learn
(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
to live on without me. It's an
even exchange. I love you, Rose.

She smiles at her daughter, whose eyes relinquish a torrent of sorrow-filled tears. The physician leans over and injects a clear liquid into a small tube running through a vein in SUZANNE's left arm. She watches ROSE intently for a few last moments and then closes her eyes as the toxin silently and peacefully takes her life.

INT. EXECUTION VIEWING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

At one minute past midnight, the EKG machine registering SUZANNE'S pulse begins to weaken and within a few moments, it surrenders to a thin, flat line.

The relatives all rise to their feet and slowly exit the room.

ROSE stares for several minutes at the peaceful, at-rest form of her mother, now dead, and watches as the medical team preps the body and wheels it away out of sight.

ROSE turns and leaves the room.

EXT. BURIAL SITE - LATER

ROSE, LILY and LIZ gather around the grave marker, each holds a small bouquet of flowers in their hands. One at a time, they place their bouquet on the marker. LIZ takes LILY by the hand and leads her away back to the car. LIZ opens the door for LILY and beckons her into the backseat, then turns and sees ROSE still lingers by the grave.

LIZ
(to LILY)
Wait here.

LILY nods. LIZ closes the car door and heads over to stand beside ROSE. She puts her arm around ROSE's shoulder and ROSE falls apart in tears.

ROSE
It's not fair!

LIZ
I know...I know it's not.

LIZ runs her fingers through ROSE's hair and continues to console her.

LIZ
Come on, let's go...Lily's
waiting...

ROSE nods tearfully and they walk back toward the car, hand
in hand.

LIZ
We have to be strong for her
now...

ROSE
I know.

ROSE and LIZ reach the car. ROSE takes the driver's side and
LIZ the front passenger seat. ROSE idles for a moment, takes
a deep breath, and then inserts the key into the ignition
and turns it. ROSE smiles at her sister LILY, and then at
LIZ, who returns the smile. LILY nods from the backseat, and
they drive away.

FADE OUT.