

FYI - SEVERAL
PAGES ARE FYI!!

TORA

6.

1/13

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

CATHY

You don't have to call him anything
if you don't want to.

Billy suddenly - abruptly - turns and HUGS his mom, tightly.
Surprised, she hugs back. Kisses him on the head.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Everything's going to be okay from
now on. I promise.

They stand there a moment, in the embrace.

19

INT. COULTER HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

19

CATHY unwraps the last of her AUDUBON DECORATIVE BIRD PLATES,
places it just so on the shelf. Looks around the kitchen.
Satisfied.

She opens a LAPTOP COMPUTER, types in a command.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

A website: "BIRDSHARE - A Forum for Avian Enthusiasts!"

Cathy types.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

*Birdgirl182: Just moved to new house. Looking forward to
sharing pictures!*

20

EXT. COULTER HOUSE - DAY

20

THE "SOLD" SIGN is pulled out of the ground by -

CATHY, wearing a coat and with a well-lensed CAMERA slung
around her neck. She disposes of the sign next to some
garbage cans.

The chirp of birds attracts her. She takes a few snapshots.
Adjusts her lens. Click. Click.

She peers through the view finder, turns to get a better shot
of a bird on the wing-

WHAM! SOMEBODY is blocking her lens, startling her!!

TORA WEEKS (40), standing there with a PIE TIN in hand.

Cathy lets out a startled SHRIEK, lowers her camera!

SC 1
START

561

2/13 TORA
7.

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

TORA

Aw hon, I'm sorry...didn't mean to scare you.

CATHY

I didn't see you there...

TORA

You like trees, do ya?

Cathy, puzzled at first --

CATHY

Excuse me?

TORA

Taking pictures of trees?

CATHY

No, no, the birds.

TORA

Ah, right right. Most of them are gone this time of year I thought?

CATHY

I like the ones that stay behind, you know...tough it out.

TORA

Survivors.

CATHY

Yeah. I guess they are.

Tora gives her a smile, an expectant nod. Waiting. Cathy looks uncomfortable.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Is there...something I can do for you?

Tora breaks out in a loud, guffawing laugh.

TORA

Look at me, standing here dumb as a post. I'm sorry, hon, hi--

She extends a hand to shake; they do.

TORA (CONT'D)

I'm Tora. Tora Weeks. Your neighbor next door?

3/13 TORA
8.

She gestures back to-

A CLAPBOARD FARMHOUSE

On the other side of the field.

TORA (CONT'D)

Well, practically next door anyway.

She holds out the box in her hands.

TORA (CONT'D)

I brought pie.

STOP SC 1

21

INT. COULTER HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

21

CATHY makes coffee as TORA slices the pie, serves it on a plate.

START SC 11

TORA

What on earth made you decide on Brattleboro?

CATHY

It was Richard's idea. He'd been looking for something in the area for awhile and I love it up here.

TORA

Up here? Where you from originally?

CATHY

Ohio. Near the Kentucky border.

TORA

Nice country there.

CATHY

And then when we got married last month, this place just happened to come onto the market. So we took it right away.

TORA

So your newlyweds, huh? I remember that feeling. Barely.

CATHY

You're married?

TORA

Once upon a time. I recovered. So how'd you meet him?

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

4/13 TORA 9.

SC 11

CATHY

It's a little embarrassing but...we met online.

TORA

(mock lasciviously)

Really?

CATHY

It wasn't like that. It's a website I belong to for people who like birds. Richard and I started chatting and one thing just sort of led to another and then, six months later, here we are.

BILLY

The light in my room doesn't work.

Tora glances over at the doorway, where BILLY is standing.

CATHY

Billy, this is Tora, she's our neighbor down the street.

TORA

Hello there, Billy

BILLY

Hi.

~~CATHY~~

~~Tora brought some apple pie, you want some?~~

~~TORA~~

~~Home made.~~

~~BILLY~~

~~I don't like apples. What about my light?~~

CATHY

Well, I'll take a look at it later, alright?

~~BILLY~~

~~It'll be dark later.~~

~~CATHY~~

~~Then we'll get you another light.~~

Billy gives Tora another look. Turns and exits.

HER HUSBAND'S BE TRAYAL

TORA 10. 5/13
SC 10.

TORA
Nice meetin' you, Billy.

No reply. Cathy sits, shaking her head.

TORA (CONT'D)
I take it you been married before?

CATHY
Sorry about that. This has been hard on him.

TORA
I'm sure you're doing your best. Is his daddy helping you out at all?

CATHY
He's not really part of our lives anymore.

TORA
You had some troubles?

CATHY
Honestly, I'd really rather not talk about it. It's over, you know? We've moved on.

Tora raises her cup for a toast.

TORA
Here's to movin' on.

CATHY
To moving on.

Cathy smiles, raises her cup.

STOP SC 11

22 EXT. COULTER HOUSE - NIGHT 22

Establishing. The sound of a PHONE CALL ringing at the other end of the line.

23 INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 23

CATHY checks in on BILLY, asleep on top of his bed. His bedside LAMP on. Still-wrapped FOOTBALL on the table.

We hear the PHONE CALL answered at the other end of a line.

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

TORA

82.

6/13

But it's not.

CATHY watches from TORA'S TRUCK across the street as -

* JOE MORGAN (60, beaten-down) (TORA'S DAD) walks toward the house. Grocery bag in hand. Neatly dressed, obviously a man who once had style.

Cathy gets out of her truck, approaches him.

CATHY

Excuse me?

JOE turns to see her. He looks at her suspiciously.

JOE

Yeah?

CATHY

Mr. Morgan?

Joe looks around, nervously.

JOE

You a reporter?

CATHY

No.

JOE

You working for a reporter?

CATHY

No.

JOE

You studying to be a reporter?

CATHY

No.

JOE

Everybody around here just knows me as Joe.

CATHY

Alright, Joe. Can I talk to you for a minute?

JOE

'Bout what?

CATHY

FYI

TORA

83.

7/13

She pulls out the picture of RICHARD -

CATHY (CONT'D)

I'm looking for a man who calls himself Richard Coulter.

He doesn't look at the picture - he stiffens at the name.

JOE

Who?

CATHY

He might also go by the name Warren Rusk or Jeff Harper--

JOE

What'd you say your name was? ,

CATHY

I didn't. It's Cathy. Cathy Coulter.

JOE

Well lemme tell you something, Cathy Coulter. I don't appreciate your sense of humor.

CATHY

I don't understand-

JOE

I know those names. But most people around these parts don't. I'd like to keep it that way. Have a nice day.

Dismissing her, Joe moves toward the house. Sets the grocery bag down, pulls out a sack of WILD BIRD SEED.

Cathy notes this; a way in.

CATHY

I always mix in some black sunflower seeds around this time of year.

JOE

I do too. When I can afford it. Most people forget about feeding the winter birds. But they're my favorites.

CATHY

Mine too. Survivors.

F41

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

TORA

84.

8/13

He gives her a look. Reconsiders.

JOE

Let's get one thing straight. I didn't mean to kill them kids.

CATHY

Of course not.

JOE

It was an accident is all. That part of it, I mean. I meant to burn down the bakery. Damn place was bleeding me dry. But the kids.

CATHY

I wasn't trying to--

JOE

People thought I was some kind of monster or something.

He sits on the step.

JOE (CONT'D)

Wasn't my idea, you know. Not in the first place.

CATHY

I don't understand.

JOE

It was that insurance man. Smart as a whip he was, knew all the ins and outs. Told me we'd split the money. Didn't tell me I was gonna have to take the blame.

Joe wipes at his eyes.

JOE (CONT'D)

I tried to tell the judge that, my lawyer too. But it was my word against his, and who was gonna listen to a guy like me? Nobody's interested in the truth, they just want to blame somebody and get it over with.

Cathy moves closer.

F41

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

TORA

103.

9/13

RICHARD

This all would have been a lot easier if you'd just signed the insurance policy in the first place. It's always worked before. You know I got the idea from my dad? He told me once that it was cheaper for the insurance company to pay out on a small claim that it was to spend the money to investigate it.

CATHY struggles with the ropes!

RICHARD (CONT'D)

So many lonely women out there. All ready to sign away their lives if only somebody would love them.

They get to the boat house. TORA uses a key on the padlocked door.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I thought you were one of those women, Cathy. But I guess I was wrong.

START SC III

195

INT. BOAT HOUSE - DAY

195

CATHY, hands tied behind her back, gagged, is led at GUNPOINT by TORA into the boathouse. RICHARD follows.

TORA

Say hi to your mom.

Cathy rushes to BILLY'S side, kneels - hugs him as much as she can with her bonds.

TORA (CONT'D)

Give me a hand, we'll tie them up together.

RICHARD

Together?

She puts the gun down, grabs a KNIFE from the wall, cuts a length of BOAT ROPE from a spool.

TORA

It's the least we can do.

RICHARD

We're not leaving the boy in here.

MURKIN

SC 111

104.

TORA

10/13

TORA

You have a better idea?

Tora ties them up.

RICHARD

We can't just...he's just a child,
we've never...taken care of the
kids before.

TORA

What do you suggest? We just drop
him off at grandma and grampa's like
the rest? He knows who we are,
Carl. He knows what's really going
on.

RICHARD

We'll just leave him in the cabin.
I can call her parents from the
airport to get him, we'll be long
gone by the time they get here.

TORA

And then what? Hmmm? Is he going to
keep our secret?

Tora kneels in front of Billy.

TORA (CONT'D)

How about it, sweetie. You going to
tell anybody about us? About what
we did?

Billy shakes his head violently.

TORA (CONT'D)

Uh huh. I don't believe you.

Tora stands up, moves for a GAS TANK on the work bench. But
as she does -

RICHARD is standing there with the GUN in his hand. Aimed at
Tora.

RICHARD

That's enough.

TORA

What are you doing?

RICHARD

I'm not going to let you kill them.

THEY - MURDER AND'S (SECRETARY)

Sc III

TORA

105.

11/13

TORA

Carl, put the gun down.

RICHARD

We don't need to do it this time. This was always going to be our last deal anyway. We've got all the money we need, let's just leave them here and go. We'll be in South America by tomorrow morning and none of this will matter anymore.

Tora smiles at him, warmly. Romantically.

TORA

Okay. Alright, honey, if you feel that strongly about it.

She moves toward him...

TORA (CONT'D)

We've come this far together, let's not start arguing now.

She gets closer - as if to kiss him.

TORA (CONT'D)

You're right, there's no reason to hurt them. We can do it your way.

Almost --

RICHARD

UGH!!

He looks down to see -

TORA has stabbed him in the stomach!

CATHY stares in horror! Billy is stunned!

TORA

Or we can do it mine.

She twists the knife!! Pulls it out!

RICHARD falls to his knees! Gasping!

RICHARD

Why..?

HER MUSSAN D'S BETRAYAL

HER HUSBANDS BEREAVABLE

TOR

106.

12/13

TORA

The fact that you even have to ask that tells me how stupid you really are.

Richard falls to the floor, bleeding to death.

TORA (CONT'D)

Did you really think I was ever in love with you? Did you really think I did any of this because of us?

She puts the knife on the work bench, opens up the GAS TANK and sprinkles some fuel around the boat house floor.

TORA (CONT'D)

My dad was a good man. He trusted your father. He thought they were in it together, a little arson among friends. But when the school caught fire and those kids all died - Joe Morgan was left hanging out to dry. I watched him rot in that jail for twenty years while you and your old man lived on the money.

She shoves the rag into the open mouth of the gas tank, sets it on the floor.

TORA (CONT'D)

Now it's our turn.

STOP SC III

She glances down at Richard as he dies. Picks up the GUN. Looks at BILLY.

TORA (CONT'D)

Second thought, I might need a little insurance for my trip.

She grabs BILLY and pulls him away from his mother.

TORA (CONT'D)

Say goodbye to your mother, kid.

CATHY screams behind her gag! Billy struggles, but Tora drags him toward the door.

TORA (CONT'D)

Sorry, Cathy.

Tora pulls a LIGHTER from her pocket. Flicks it to life.

F41

TORA 107. 13/13

Fyi

HER HUSBAND'S BETRAYAL

TORA (CONT'D)
In another life, we might really
have been friends after all.

She lights the RAG. It begins to BURN!!

Billy screams behind his gag as TORA yanks him out the door.
She slams it shut.

196 EXT. BOAT HOUSE - DAY 196

TORA replaces the padlock on the door. Locks it. Drags the
struggling BILLY up the dock toward the cabin.

TORA
Stop pulling on me or you're going
in the trunk.

197 INT. BOAT HOUSE - DAY 197

CATHY struggles with the ropes as -

THE RAG burns toward the gas can!

Richard, dead, offers no help.

Cathy looks around, sees -

THE KNIFE on the work bench!

THE RAG burns closer!

CATHY reaches out, kicks the work bench. The knife jiggles.
Moves closer to the edge. She kicks it again -

The knife falls!

Lands just out of reach!

THE RAG burns closer!

Cathy uses her leg to pull the knife toward her! She grabs
it, cuts the ropes!

Frees herself. She runs to the door of the boat house. It
won't open!

198 EXT. BOAT HOUSE - DAY 198

THE PADLOCK rattles, but stays locked.