

"FOOTPRINTS"
EPISODE #57
TIME FRAME: THE DAY
AFTER [#56](#)

TEASER

INT: DIANE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)
MIDDAY

TIM is sitting on the couch, flipping through a magazine, when DIANE enters.

DIANE: She's out like a light.

TIM: Good. She could use the rest ... she's awfully grumpy today.

DIANE: Tell me about it.

She heads towards the kitchenette.

DIANE (CONT'D): You want a drink?

TIM: No, I'm fine. Thanks.

Tim continues looking through the magazine while Diane is out of sight. Soon she returns, carrying a bottle of mineral water. She collapses onto the couch.

DIANE: I'm exhausted!

TIM: Having a newborn around - any kid, actually - is a difficult job. You're handling it pretty well, though.

DIANE: I am, aren't I?

She takes a sip of water.

DIANE (CONT'D): I can't thank you guys enough for letting Samantha stay here for the time being.

TIM: It's no problem, really. (beat) She's beautiful, isn't she?

DIANE: She is.

TIM: The moment you see that face, you're hooked for life.

DIANE: I know what you mean. I can't imagine having to say "no" to her about anything at any point in life. She's just so precious.

TIM: It's funny, I said the same thing when Travis was born - the minute you see your kid, there's no turning back. For some reason, I thought I wouldn't be as taken by surprise this time around, but sure enough, I was. (beat) I can't imagine having to be away from either of my kids, ever. It would be impossible.

DIANE: Now you know how I feel every day of my life.

INT: FITCH MANSION (DANIELLE'S ROOM)

MIDDAY

DANIELLE is straightening up some of the knick-knacks on top of a dresser when there is a knock on the door.

DANIELLE: Come in!

The door opens and ANDY enters.

DANIELLE (CONT'D): Just the person I wanted to see.

ANDY: What about?

DANIELLE: Do I need a reason?

ANDY: Not necessarily. (beat) So, what're you up to today?

DANIELLE: Believe it or not, I've gotta clean. I do have work to do here, after all.

ANDY: Yeah, I guess things are gonna be a little less crazy around here now that the big mystery is solved, huh?

DANIELLE: Maybe there won't be a mystery ... but I don't plan on letting things get uninteresting.

She plants a kiss smack on his lips.

INT: COFFEE HOUSE
MIDDAY

COURTNEY is sipping a cup of coffee at a small table when the jingling noise of the door opening is heard. She looks up and sees JASON entering. He approaches her.

JASON: Hey.

COURTNEY: Look who it is. (beat) Sit down and join me.

JASON: Fine by me.

He takes a seat across from her.

JASON (CONT'D): So, how have you been since we got home from Phoenix?

COURTNEY: Pretty good. There's been a lot less stress in my life, that's for sure.

JASON: I know. Shannon was causing such destruction in the lives of everyone around her. Having her locked up has been so peaceful.

COURTNEY: I'm glad she's out of the way, but I kinda feel bad.

JASON: Why? She deserved everything she got.

COURTNEY: Not for her - for you. You worked so hard to make it to Nationals, and then you manage to qualify and it turns out you can't go.

JASON: I would much rather be able to live a normal life without Shannon than go to Nationals with her.

COURTNEY: Yeah, I know. But aren't you a little disappointed that you don't get to go?

JASON: Yeah, but I can deal with it. It's not the end of the world.

COURTNEY: You're right ... I'm almost ready to get back to training now.

JASON: Yeah, I noticed that the crutches are gone.

COURTNEY: Exactly. (beat) And who knows? Maybe one day we'll make it to Nationals together.

She smiles warmly at Jason.

ACT ONE

INT: DIANE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)

MIDDAY

DIANE and TIM are seated on the couch. Tim is silent, wondering how to respond to Diane's claim that she lives in constant fear of living without her child.

TIM: I guess I know what you mean.

DIANE: It's just not fair, you know? I mean, I can see why you and Claire would want full custody ... Lord knows I didn't play fair in the beginning. But now that Samantha is here, I really feel as if I'm changing. She's made me a better person in just a few days.

TIM: That's what having a kid does to you.

DIANE: I know. It just hurts so bad to think that in a matter of days, I may never be able to see my daughter again.

TIM: I don't know what to say, Diane ...

DIANE: Please, just tell me you'll reconsider going after full custody. I want you to be a part of this baby's life, and Claire as well. But I need to be part of Samantha's life too. She needs to know her real mother.

TIM: I understand how you feel.

His discomfort is obvious; he is torn over how to answer her.

TIM (CONT'D): I just don't know what I can do about that. It might be too late.

Diane cannot fathom being separated from her daughter. The pain is apparent in her expression as she glances down at the floor.

INT: COFFEE HOUSE
MIDDAY

JASON and COURTNEY are seated across from each other at a small table. The sounds of Jewel's "Hands" quietly fill the room.

JASON: I'd like that.

COURTNEY: I tell you, I can't wait to get back on the ice - for good. There have been so many false starts.

JASON: Yeah, really.

COURTNEY: I'm gonna have a lot of work to do, though. I saw that you guys had triple toe loops in your program - I'll be lucky to get my double Axel back.

JASON: You'll be fine. Don't worry.

Courtney takes a sip of her coffee.

COURTNEY: I'm just amazed by what a complete roller coaster our lives have been in the last couple of weeks. It feels good to be able to relax and have a chance to sort everything out.

JASON: ... Which brings up a question.

COURTNEY: What?

JASON: Now that Shannon is out of the picture and we're starting to put our lives back together, where exactly does that leave us?

Out on the hopeful expression on Jason's face.

ACT TWO

INT: FITCH MANSION (DANIELLE'S ROOM)
MIDDAY

DANIELLE and ANDY separate following a heated kiss.

ANDY: Wow. (beat) I definitely wouldn't mind having more of that around here.

DANIELLE: Get used to it, buddy boy.

ANDY: I'd be glad to.

He straightens his collar.

ANDY (CONT'D): I'm glad that whole Shannon thing is over, honestly. It was interesting, but it was completely draining.

DANIELLE: I know what you mean. It definitely had its upside, though.

ANDY: And what would that be?

DANIELLE: Without having that situation to deal with, who knows how long it would've taken for us to get to know each other?

ANDY: You've got a point, Ms. Taylor. We got it all taken care of pretty nicely, if I say so myself.

DANIELLE: Yeah, we did ... I'd have to say we make a pretty good team.

They exchange enthusiastic smiles.

INT: DIANE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)

MIDDAY

DIANE appears grief-stricken at TIM'S last words.

TIM: Diane, look ...

He puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

TIM (CONT'D): It's not that I don't want you to be with Samantha.

Diane looks up.

DIANE: Really?

TIM: Really. But as for Claire ... well, I don't know how she'd react to sharing custody. She's been pretty adamant that she doesn't want you to be actively involved in the baby's life.

DIANE: Too bad for Claire! In case she's forgetting, she's not Samantha's mother - I am!

TIM: I understand that, but sometimes it's not that easy.

DIANE: Why, Tim? Because of all the things I did to snare you? Believe me, that's all behind me. Having the baby really put everything into focus for me. (beat) Look at the two of us. Three weeks ago, we wouldn't have been able to be in the same room together, let alone have a rational discussion like this.

TIM: And that's important. Samantha needs to have parents who can get along.

DIANE: She also needs her real parents! (beat) Look, Tim, I've given up on that ridiculous goal of having you - I see how in love you and Claire are. But I would like us to be friends, to work together to raise our daughter.

TIM: I know, Diane. I want that too, in a way-

DIANE: I'm glad to hear you say that.

TIM: -But I'm not too sure how Claire would respond to it.

DIANE: Forget about Claire for a minute! I am Samantha's mother!

TIM: I'm aware of that, but can you really blame her - or me, for that matter - for wanting full custody? Take a look at all the schemes you pulled. That's hardly an environment for a kid to grow up in.

DIANE: Tim, I'm trying to change! You have to believe me!

TIM: I do. (beat) I just don't know if Claire will.

DIANE: Just promise me you'll talk to her about it, Tim. Please!

She grabs him by the shoulders and shakes him to exaggerate her point. Tim is silent for a moment.

TIM: I promise. I'll talk to Claire about it.

ACT THREE

INT: COFFEE HOUSE
AFTERNOON

JASON and COURTNEY are seated at a small table.

JASON: What does all of this mean for "us" -- if there is an "us"?

COURTNEY: Believe me, Jason, there is.

JASON: You sure?

COURTNEY: Positive. (beat) Why don't we just lay all our cards out on the table right now, get everything out in the open, okay?

JASON: Okay ...

COURTNEY: I think we both know by now that things are ... different between us than they were before Shannon came along.

Jason nods.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): In case you haven't figured it out, there's something I need to say. (beat) Over the last few months, I've had certain ... feelings. I wasn't sure what to do with them at first, or even what they meant, but I think I've finally got it sorted out -- at least in my own mind.

JASON: Do you mean--?

COURTNEY: Yeah.

She takes a deep breath.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): Wow. I never thought I'd actually be saying these words, that we'd actually be having this conversation.

Jason grins awkwardly.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): Jason, we've moved beyond friendship. I think we both know that.

JASON: You're right.

COURTNEY: There's something there that I've never felt before. At first I was scared of it; I was afraid of what it might do to the relationship we already had -- our friendship. So that's what I need to know now: Exactly how do you feel about me, Jason?

INT: TIM & CLAIRE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)
AFTERNOON

CLAIRE is drinking a can of soda as she watches television. The sound of a key turning in the front door is heard; enter TIM.

TIM: Hey.

CLAIRE: Hi ... How'd it go?

TIM: It was fine. Samantha's doing great.

CLAIRE: I'm glad to hear that.

There is some tension remaining between them from their argument the day before. Although both are trying to deny it, their spark has been replaced by a distinct sense of unease.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): You know, it won't be long until she's really a part of our family. I can't wait to get to know her.

Tim pauses a moment.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): What is it?

TIM: There's something I really need to discuss with you, Claire.

Claire's features tighten in anticipation of more bad news.

ACT FOUR

INT: TIM & CLAIRE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)
AFTERNOON

TIM nervously prepares to broach a dangerous subject with CLAIRE.

CLAIRE: What is it, Tim?

TIM: It's just that ...

He notices her distressed expression.

TIM (CONT'D): It's nothing.

CLAIRE: Somehow I doubt that.

TIM: (caught off-guard) What do you mean?

CLAIRE: Lately there isn't anything that's just "nothing." Nothing is that simple anymore.

TIM: I know. That's why I don't wanna cause any more confusion than there is already.

CLAIRE: Just go ahead and say it, Tim.

TIM: It's fine, really--

CLAIRE: Just tell me.

He hesitates, shaken by her iciness.

TIM: It's about Diane.

CLAIRE: I had a feeling.

TIM: Just hear me out, please.

CLAIRE: Go ahead.

She motions with her hand for him to continue.

TIM: I've been spending all this time with her, and ... things have just gotten very different lately.

CLAIRE: Oh, God.

She grabs her head with her hands.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): This better not be what I think it is.

TIM: What's that?

CLAIRE: Are you leaving me for Diane?

Tim's open-mouthed reaction shows that he is shocked she would even think of this.

TIM: Of course not, Claire! It's just about splitting custody with her!

The astonished look on Claire's face is a clear indication of how ridiculous she finds this idea.

INT: COFFEE HOUSE
AFTERNOON

COURTNEY awaits an answer from JASON.

JASON: I ...

Although he has been anticipating this conversation for some time, Jason still feels awkward discussing his feelings, especially with Courtney. His inexperience is apparent as he stumbles through his answer.

JASON (CONT'D): I guess you could say ...

He pauses, arousing Courtney's interest.

COURTNEY: Just say it, Jay. We've been such good friends for so long -- the last thing I want any of this to do is get in the way of our being able to talk to each other. We just need to get this all out in the open so we know where we stand and where we're gonna go from here.

JASON: I know, Court. It's just hard to say it.

COURTNEY: To say what?

JASON: To tell you ... to tell you I love you.

Courtney is taken aback by the sudden intensity with which he says these words and by the powerful meaning behind them.

ACT FIVE

INT: FITCH MANSION (ANDY'S STUDY)
AFTERNOON

ANDY stands over the desk, sorting a pile of papers, when DANIELLE enters, carrying her cleaning supplies. As soon as Danielle speaks, the playful demeanor between them is unmistakably present. Sexual tension hangs heavily in the air as well.

DANIELLE: So we meet again.

ANDY: I presume you're here to clean up after me.

DANIELLE: Yeah. If you're busy, I can go on to another room and just come back when you're done.

ANDY: No, don't worry. I'll be done in a second, and then I'll be out of here.

DANIELLE: I never said there was any need for you to leave.

ANDY: Oh, really?

DANIELLE: Of course not. (beat) Just sit back, relax, and give me something to keep my mind off this cleaning.

ANDY: (sarcastically) So, that's all I'm good for, eh? Looking at?

DANIELLE: Oh, there's a little more that I can use you for, I'm sure.

She drops her cleaning supplies and grabs him. As she pulls him into a kiss, it is plain to see that Danielle has no intention of stopping there.

ANDY: You certainly seem ...

He searches for the right word.

ANDY (CONT'D): ... active tonight.

DANIELLE: Active I am. Come here.

She draws him into another kiss, this time running her hands over his chest. She begins to unbutton his shirt.

ANDY: Danielle ... not here.

DANIELLE: Why not?

She steps away for a brief moment to close the doors fully.

DANIELLE (CONT'D): Is that good enough for you?

ANDY: Plenty.

They once again dive at each other. Danielle resumes removing Andy's shirt as they kiss passionately.

INT: FITCH MANSION (HALLWAY)
AFTERNOON

KATHERINE heads down the hallway towards Andy's office at a brisk pace, carrying several envelopes. Upon reaching it, she notes the closed door. Though puzzled, she motions to knock, but then pulls her hand down. She turns the doorknob instead and slides the door open.

INT: FITCH MANSION (ANDY'S OFFICE)
AFTERNOON

The door opens just a crack and KATHERINE peeks in. Consumed by their passion, ANDY and DANIELLE fail to see her as they continue to kiss. A shocked Katherine quickly slips the door closed noiselessly.

INT: FITCH MANSION (HALLWAY)
AFTERNOON

Having closed the door, KATHERINE stares at the opposite wall in a daze. Her expression quickly shifts from one of shock to one of pronounced anger.

INT: TIM & CLAIRE'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)
AFTERNOON

CLAIRE cannot believe what TIM just blurted out.

CLAIRE: That's ridiculous!

TIM: I feel bad, Claire. Samantha is her daughter, and she's done a great job with her so far.

CLAIRE: You're supposed to feel bad. That's her whole game, Tim.

TIM: I don't think she's just trying to manipulate me here. I think she's actually afraid of losing her daughter.

CLAIRE: Yeah, but not out of real love -- out of fear that she'll lose her one remaining link to you!

TIM: Just consider it. Please -- for me.

CLAIRE: I refuse to allow a crazy woman like Diane to have a part of this child's life!

TIM: It's her child, too! In fact, it's her child, period. Hers and mine.

CLAIRE: So what are you saying?

TIM: What I'm saying is that, as the father, I feel she has a right to be with her daughter part of the time. Can you at least respect that?

CLAIRE: I guess I'll have to. Let me just ask you a question, Tim.

TIM: What?

CLAIRE: Which is more important to you: Diane's feelings or your marriage?

Tim is unable to answer.

TIM: It's not that she's more important, Claire. It's called compassion. Not to mention the fact that I think it would be best for my daughter.

CLAIRE: Is this really worth tearing your marriage apart for?

TIM: I didn't think so, but the more I look at it, this marriage isn't at all what it once was. It's just become a tug-of-war for power. (beat) And you're hardly acting like the woman I married.

CLAIRE: Well, then, maybe we need to rethink this entire situation!

TIM: Sounds good to me.

He gets up and heads for the door.

CLAIRE: Where are you going?

TIM: I don't know.

He opens the door, but pauses.

TIM (CONT'D): Not to Diane's. At least I would still like to have faith in this marriage.

CLAIRE: (exasperated) Just go.

TIM: Fine.

He exits, slamming the door behind him.

Claire stares at the blank door for a moment before crumbling onto the couch.

INT: COFFEE HOUSE
AFTERNOON

COURTNEY absorbs the weight of JASON'S words. He seems to barely believe that he actually said them.

COURTNEY: Do you mean that?

JASON: Absolutely. (beat) I mean, we haven't had time to build on any of those feelings at all, but I do. I love you -- as more than just my best friend.

COURTNEY: I don't believe this.

JASON: That I said that? I can barely grasp it, either.

COURTNEY: Not only that. There were so many times that I thought I'd never be able to hear those words from you, or to say them to you myself.

JASON: Really?

COURTNEY: Really. I love you too, Jason.

Jason is speechless.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): You gonna say anything?

He opens his mouth to speak, but no sound comes out initially.

JASON: Hopefully this will say everything for me.

He lays a hand on her cheek and leans in. As they near, months of unresolved feelings and tension vanish. Finally their lips lock, sealing the powerful bond that has developed between them.

As their kiss continues, Faith Hill's "This Kiss" blares over the speakers of the coffee house:

"It's the way you love me,
It's a feeling like this;
It's centrifugal motion,
It's perpetual bliss.
It's the pivotal moment,
It's -- uh -- so unthinkable ...
This kiss, this kiss -- it's unsinkable
This kiss ..."

Out on Jason and Courtney, oblivious to the happenings around them as they sustain the passionate liplock, creating, at least for a short time, a perfect world as far as they are concerned.

END OF EPISODE #57

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