

"FOOTPRINTS"
EPISODE #59
TIME FRAME: A FEW
DAYS AFTER [#58](#)

TEASER

INT: FISHER HOME (LIVING ROOM)
LATE MORNING

The living room is empty, but the television has been left on. As a Spice Girls video plays on MTV, the doorbell rings.

JASON enters. He crosses the room and opens up the door. COURTNEY steps inside.

COURTNEY: Hey!

She gives him a peck on the cheek.

JASON: It's good to see you.

COURTNEY: I was hoping you'd say that.

She leans in and gives him another peck before her attention is diverted by the TV.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): So what are you doing?

JASON: Actually, I had the house to myself, so I figured I'd do some work for school. I just finished a paper, so I was gonna try and relax. I turned the TV on, and this--

He motions toward the cavorting Spice Girls on the screen.

JASON (CONT'D): --is what I wound up with.

Courtney squeezes his cheeks.

COURTNEY: (sarcastically) You poor baby.

She releases his face.

COURTNEY (CONT'D): What do you have going on for the rest of the day?

JASON: Not much. My big goal was to get that damn paper done.

COURTNEY: Well, it's done now -- which means it's time for some fun.

JASON: What'd you have in mind?

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a keyring containing two keys, which she dangles in front of his face.

COURTNEY: My mom thought it would be a good idea for us to have some time to hang out, so she gave me the keys to our cabin.

JASON: Are you serious?

COURTNEY: Totally.

He grabs a sweatshirt off the back of the couch and heads for the door. As he is putting his shoes on, he looks back at her.

JASON: What are you waiting for? Let's go!

INT: TIM'S OFFICE
LATE MORNING

TIM closes a file folder and places it on top of a stack of similar work. Almost simultaneously, there is a knock on the door.

TIM: Come in!

The door opens and in steps DIANE.

DIANE: Hey. How's it going?

TIM: Not bad. I'm trying to get a couple of things wrapped up before I take off early for the weekend.

DIANE: You and Claire are going away, right?

TIM: Yeah, I made reservations at Pine Forest Lodge. It'll do us some good to spend some time away

from everything.

DIANE: You guys deserve it. It'll be good for you.

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

DIANE: Look, Tim, I know I made some really bad decisions in the past, but that's behind me now. Believe me, I'd like nothing more than to just put all that behind us and get along -- all three of us.

TIM: I'm even happier to hear that.

DIANE: It's what's best for both Samantha and Travis.

TIM: You're right. Claire is even beginning to consider splitting custody.

DIANE: Good! I hope we can all just get along from now on.

TIM: I have a feeling everything will work out fine. (beat) So you don't mind if I leave before lunch?

DIANE: No, not at all.

She smiles sweetly at him.

DIANE (CONT'D): I should get outta here. I've got stuff to do.

TIM: All right. See you later.

DIANE: If I don't see you before you leave, let me just say one thing: Have a good weekend.

TIM: Thanks, Diane.

DIANE: Bye.

Tim waves as she exits the office.

INT: OFFICE HALLWAY
LATE MORNING -- CONTINUOUS

DIANE steps out into the hallway and pulls the door closed behind her. She pauses in thought.

DIANE: (sotto voce) It doesn't matter what time you leave the office, Tim. This little weekend retreat of

yours is never even gonna get off the ground.

A sinister smile manifests itself on her face.

ACT ONE

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

LATE MORNING

PAULA hangs up the phone as CLAIRE enters the room, carrying a bundled-up TRAVIS.

CLAIRE: Who was that?

PAULA: Jason -- he said he figured I'd be here. He's going somewhere with Courtney for the day, and he just wanted to let me know.

CLAIRE: They've certainly gotten their act together, haven't they?

PAULA: Yeah, they really have. It's amazing how having Shannon out of the way has strengthened their relationship so much.

CLAIRE: She was hell-bent on destroying them, and it almost worked. It's lucky that Andy and Danielle figured out what was going on before it was too late.

PAULA: Thank God for that. (beat) I'm hoping this weekend will do the same for you and Tim. I know things haven't been perfect between you since Diane came into the picture.

CLAIRE: No, they haven't, but this marriage is definitely worth fighting for.

PAULA: You just keep that attitude and everything will be fine.

CLAIRE: I hope you're right.

PAULA: Diane's cooled it with her little stunts, hasn't she? Since she had the baby, things have been awfully quiet.

CLAIRE: It looks like that baby might actually be good for her. We're considering dividing up custody with her.

PAULA: That would be good for Samantha.

CLAIRE: I know. I just wanna be sure I can trust Diane. (beat) It's so good of you to take the baby for the weekend.

PAULA: It's no trouble at all. We love having this little guy around.

She takes her grandson from Claire's arms.

PAULA (CONT'D): We're gonna have a great time, aren't we, Travis?

CLAIRE: I'm sure he'll enjoy it.

PAULA: So when are you leaving for the lodge?

CLAIRE: Tim called and said he'd be leaving within the next hour, so any time now. I've gotta finish getting a couple of things ready ...

PAULA: I'll get out of your way then, all right?

CLAIRE: Okay, Paula. Thanks again.

PAULA: It's no problem, really.

She picks up two large bags of Travis's things.

CLAIRE: You need help?

PAULA: No, I can manage. Lest you forget, I've been through this four times already.

CLAIRE: Good point. (beat) Okay, then, I'll see you later.

PAULA: Okay.

She takes Travis's hand.

PAULA (CONT'D): Say goodbye to Mommy!

The baby waves. His mother returns the gesture.

CLAIRE: Mommy loves you, Travis! We'll be back soon!

She opens up the door for Paula.

PAULA: Bye!

CLAIRE: Have a good weekend, Trav!

Paula lugs the baby and the bags out the door, which Claire closes. She leans against it.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): (sotto voce) I certainly hope we will.

INT: DIANE'S OFFICE
LATE MORNING

DIANE enters and closes the door behind her. She locks it and then double-checks the lock to be sure that no one can enter. Once she is sure of this, she makes her way over to the phone and dials a number which she reads off a nearby notecard.

WOMAN (OS): Pine Forest Lodge, Karen speaking. How may I help you?

DIANE: Hi, I'd like to inquire about a reservation I have for later today.

WOMAN (OS): Can I ask your name?

DIANE: (smiling wickedly) Claire Fisher.

The expression on her face practically announces that she is up to something devious.

ACT TWO

INT: CHASE CABIN
MIDDAY

The cabin is anything but rugged-looking. Its contemporary furnishings are those of a comfortable retreat, suggesting chilly nights spent huddled around the fireplace. It has obviously been cared for over the years.

The doorknob turns and the door swings open. COURTNEY steps inside, followed by JASON. He looks around, furrowing his brow in surprise.

JASON: I take it you guys redecorated.

COURTNEY: Yeah, after my grandpa died, my mom put some new stuff in here. It was kinda drab before.

She closes the door.

JASON: It looks great! (beat) When was the last time we were here together?

COURTNEY: We must've been like ten.

JASON: If I'm not mistaken, that was the time you fell in the lake.

COURTNEY: I wasn't the only one.

JASON: I didn't fall in! I was smart enough to be able to stand up for five minutes without toppling over.

COURTNEY: Not you! Remember, my dad fell in after I did?

JASON: You're right!

This shared memory sends them both in torrents of laughter. It takes several moments for them to calm down.

JASON (CONT'D): That was the best weekend. I can't believe it was so long ago.

COURTNEY: Can you believe that it was almost ten years ago?

JASON: That's crazy. (beat) We had some good times when we were kids.

COURTNEY: And we can have some good times now ...

She kisses him. It begins slowly but soon swells to a high level of intensity. After nearly a minute, they separate.

JASON: Are you getting at what I think you're getting at?

Courtney runs a hand through her hair seductively. Jason looks at her with an eyebrow raised, partly in amusement and partly in anticipation. She runs a hand over his chest.

Suddenly Courtney drops her hand back to her side and resumes her normal posture, snapping out of the seductive state. A playful grin spreads across her face.

COURTNEY: Not even close, buddy - I'm gonna make lunch.

Jason smiles at her, enraptured by everything about the girl with whom he grew up.

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE - ENTRANCE AREA
MIDDAY

CLAIRE enters the lobby, where a few small groups of people are quietly chatting. She approaches the front desk, pulling behind her a rolling suitcase. On duty is a young WOMAN.

CLAIRE: I need to check in.

WOMAN: Name?

CLAIRE: Claire Fisher - it should be under my husband Tim's name.

The woman scans the reservation book briefly.

WOMAN: Here we go. Room 3-C.

She turns and removes a key from a hook on the wall. She hands this to Claire.

WOMAN (CONT'D): Here's the key to your room.

Claire takes the key.

CLAIRE: Thanks.

She turns to walk away. The woman shuffles around a few items on her desk and looks back up.

WOMAN: Ms. Fisher!

CLAIRE: What?

WOMAN: There's a message for you - from your husband.

CLAIRE: Okay.

She takes the slip of paper from the woman and reads it. It says, "Meet me in the dining room - I'll be there soon. Love, Tim."

She holds up the key.

CLAIRE: Why don't I leave this here, just in case he comes in and wants to run his stuff up to the room first? I'll keep mine with me.

WOMAN: No problem.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): Thanks again.

She walks off, a smile on her face.

ACT THREE

INT: BRIAN'S CUBICLE

MIDDAY

BRIAN is typing a document when DIANE enters the cubicle.

DIANE: Hey.

He swivels around in his chair.

BRIAN: How's it going?

DIANE: Not bad, I have to say. I just went down to the daycare place to see Samantha.

BRIAN: Is it hard to be apart from her when you're at the office and stuff?

DIANE: Yeah - which is why I need to keep custody of her. I love her so much; I don't think I could bear to lose her.

BRIAN: Do you think your little talk with Tim the other day helped?

DIANE: It seemed to get through to him a little. And I know I made points with both him and Claire when I went to ask for help with the baby the other night and I had to talk to Claire.

BRIAN: Has Tim left for their little getaway yet?

DIANE: I think he left like ten minutes ago.

BRIAN: I take it you've given up any crazy ideas about sabotaging their weekend.

DIANE: Not quite ...

BRIAN: Oh no.

DIANE: Let's just say I've got a little something up my sleeve that's sure to put a spark in their weekend.

INT: CHASE CABIN (KITCHEN)
MIDDAY

COURTNEY is making sandwiches when JASON enters.

JASON: Ah, the fateful meal is almost ready.

COURTNEY: What's that supposed to mean?

A playful tone is evident in their exchange.

JASON: Nothing ... nothing at all. It's just that-well, last time you cooked something and we ate together, you almost got hit by a car.

The playfulness disappears as the discussion shifts.

COURTNEY: That was weird. I was having those dreams then ...

JASON: It just kinda stopped, you know?

COURTNEY: Yeah, it was strange. One day I thought I was going crazy, and the next I was perfectly fine.

JASON: That was really scary, though. I thought you were gonna die, I swear.

COURTNEY: And luckily, you came to my rescue.

JASON: You were two seconds away from being run over and smashed to pieces.

COURTNEY: Boy, that's an appetizing thought. (beat) I'm surprised it wasn't Shannon driving that car.

JASON: That's about the only thing she didn't do.

COURTNEY: I'm sure there's plenty more that we don't know about.

JASON: You're probably right.

COURTNEY: To think I could've been killed-

JASON: (cracking a grin) It just goes to show what kind of terrible things happen when Courtney cooks.

COURTNEY: Shut up!

She thrusts the knife forward, sending a glob of mayonnaise onto his shirt.

JASON: Really smooth, Court.

He grabs a sponge to wipe it off, but he still can't stop laughing. Courtney joins him again.

Their laughter is in full swing when it is suddenly interrupted by the sound of breaking glass. Both their heads turn towards the back of the cabin.

ACT FOUR

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE - ENTRANCE HALL

MIDDAY

TIM enters. He approaches the reception desk, where a different WOMAN, slightly older than the last, is now seated.

TIM: Hi. I'm here to check in.

WOMAN: What's your name?

TIM: Tim Fisher.

WOMAN: Oh, right. Okay, you're in room ...

She scans the list quickly.

WOMAN (CONT'D): ... 3-C.

She pulls the key off a hook and hands it to him.

TIM: Thanks.

WOMAN: Have a nice stay.

Tim walks over to the elevator and pushes the "up" button.

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE -- DINING ROOM
MIDDAY

The influx of guests for the lunch hour has depleted, and the restaurant is rather empty. CLAIRE sits alone at a table for two, sipping a glass of water.

CLAIRE: (sotto voce) Where is he?

She darts her eyes around the dining room one more time, but does not see her husband.

CLAIRE (CONT'D): (sotto voce) Maybe he just got held up at the office ... I hope.

INT: CHASE CABIN (KITCHEN)
MIDDAY

COURTNEY and JASON have just been interrupted by the sound of shattering glass.

COURTNEY: What was that?

JASON: I don't know ... Let's go check.

They leave the kitchen and walk down a hallway. Jason peeks in the rooms off the side of the hallway, of which there are two on each side. He turns up nothing, but upon looking in the last one, he gasps slightly.

INT: CHASE CABIN (BEDROOM)
MIDDAY

A window has been broken, apparently from the outside, in the comfortably decorated bedroom. Shards of glass lie on the floor; amidst them is a large rock.

ACT FIVE

INT: CHASE CABIN (KITCHEN)

AFTERNOON

COURTNEY and JASON have returned to the kitchen.

COURTNEY: What was that all about?

JASON: I have no idea. Something odd is definitely going on.

COURTNEY: Maybe it was just some kids playing a really stupid prank.

JASON: That's possible. (beat) Do you wanna head home?

COURTNEY: Yeah, that's probably a good idea. I just wanna call my parents first and see what we should do about the window.

JASON: Go ahead.

Courtney picks up the phone and listens for a moment, her face twisted in confusion.

JASON (CONT'D): What? What is it?

Courtney puts the phone down.

COURTNEY: The line is dead.

Both she and Jason seem to understand that this is not a mere coincidence.

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE -- HOTEL ROOM

AFTERNOON

TIM emerges from the bathroom, having taken a shower. He is now wearing sweatpants and a t-shirt. He has apparently expected his wife to be there by now, judging by his surprise upon looking around the

room and finding it empty.

TIM: (sotto voce) Where is Claire?

He sits down on the bed, drying his hair with a towel.

TIM (CONT'D): (sotto voce) Maybe she just got held up with the baby. I guess I'll just wait ...

He picks up the remote control and flips on the television.

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE -- DINING ROOM
AFTERNOON

CLAIRE, still sitting alone, appears very distraught. A WAITER approaches her as she continues lightly sipping her glass of water.

WAITER: Can I get you anything else, ma'am?

Claire looks up at him, almost shocked to be hearing another voice.

CLAIRE: No, you know what, I think I'm just gonna head up to my room. Thanks anyway.

WAITER: Have a good night.

CLAIRE: You too.

She rises and exits, pulling her suitcase behind her. Once she is gone, the waiter makes a sympathetic face, realizing this woman has just been stood up.

INT: PINE FOREST LODGE -- ENTRANCE HALL
AFTERNOON

CLAIRE enters and makes her way to the front desk. The receptionist is neither of the women seen before; it is a MAN in his early twenties.

CLAIRE: Hi, I need my room key. Room 3-C.

MAN: You're Mrs. Fisher, right?

CLAIRE: Yeah.

MAN: A fax came for you -- from your husband.

He hands her the slip of paper. Claire reads the following:

"I'm sorry, Claire, I just can't make it this weekend. Enjoy the room if you want -- take some time to relax. We need to talk later on. -- Tim."

Her jaw drops, partially due to shock and even moreso because of anger.

MAN (CONT'D): Shall I get you the key?

CLAIRE: (slowly) No ... no, don't bother. I'm not gonna be staying much longer anyway.

She shakes her head in disgust as she reads the fax over again, tears welling up in her eyes.

END OF EPISODE #59

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