

HIS LOVER

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Blackness.

The sombre GONGING of a bell.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Winter. Frost covers the ground. A sprinkling of snow. A crisp WIND BLOWS.

A YOUNG WOMAN stands before a tombstone. Red-eyed. Holds a bouquet of flowers. This is THE MISTRESS.

Early thirties. Very attractive. Chic. Demure. Leather jacket. Hat. Scarf.

She snuffles. Kneels down. Places the bouquet gently at the gravestone.

She stands. Closes her eyes.

In b.g., an OLDER WOMAN steps into view.

Early forties. Sexy. But, trying too hard. A long, black overcoat to her ankles. A hat trimmed with fur. Leather gloves carry a single rose.

She notices the Mistress. Pauses for an angry moment. Then

Briskly walks over.

As she gets close, the Mistress opens her eyes.

THE MISTRESS  
I knew it was you.

The Wife halts.

THE MISTRESS  
The perfume.

The Wife's face steels.

THE WIFE  
I haven't forgotten yours.

A moment. Then

THE WIFE  
You never forget cheap.

The Mistress sighs. Takes a deep breath.

THE WIFE

We agreed.

The Mistress becomes solemn.

THE MISTRESS

I'm sorry. I couldn't stay away.

The Wife steps closer.

THE WIFE

You're not to be here again.

A moment. Then

THE WIFE

Ever.

The Mistress nods. Turns to walk off.

The Wife looks away as the Mistress walks past.

THE WIFE

How could you?

The Mistress stops.

THE WIFE

He was a husband.

A moment. Then.

THE WIFE

A Father.

The Mistress sighs deeply. Then

THE MISTRESS

He loved them-

The Wife sneers.

THE MISTRESS

And he loved you-

The Wife's face becomes a glacier.

THE WIFE

He broke his vows.

A moment. Then

THE WIFE

You don't betray the person you  
love.

The Wife turns. Walks toward the gravestone.

THE MISTRESS

You betrayed him-

The Wife turns with fury.

THE WIFE

I did not!

The Mistress half turns over his shoulder.

THE WIFE

Those were choices we made  
together. I simply didn't  
understand-

THE MISTRESS

You didn't listen.

The Wife scoffs.

THE MISTRESS

And you did?

A long pause.

THE WIFE

Listen? All you did was fuck him.

The Mistress winces.

THE MISTRESS

You're vulgar-

THE WIFE

And that's all you were.

The Mistress's lips tighten.

THE WIFE

A fuck.

The Mistress turns.

THE MISTRESS

If that were true, you wouldn't  
hate me so much.

A long pause. The Mistress starts to leave.

THE WIFE  
You ruined my family.

Her lip quivers.

THE WIFE  
You ruined my life.

The Mistress stops. A moment. Then

THE MISTRESS  
He was unhappy. You knew that-

THE WIFE  
Is that why?

A long pause.

THE WIFE  
Is it?

A moment. Then

THE WIFE  
Because that's the question I just  
can't seem to answer.

A long moment. Then

THE WIFE  
Why?

The Mistress says nothing. Walks on.

THE WIFE  
I didn't deserve this. Our son did  
not deserve this.

The Mistress stops.

THE WIFE  
And you knew.

The Mistress raises her chin.

THE WIFE  
You knew. And still...

She shakes her head.

THE WIFE  
You didn't stop.

The Wife turns her hear. About to head to the grave when,

THE MISTRESS  
I couldn't stop.

The Wife. Stops. Turns.

THE WIFE  
And neither could he.

The Mistress turns. They face one another.

THE MISTRESS  
You're wrong.

A long moment. Then

THE MISTRESS  
He broke it off. Before he died.  
Couldn't do it anymore. Not to you.

A moment. Then

THE MISTRESS  
Not to your child.

The Mistress turns and walks off.

THE WIFE  
Did you love him?

The Mistress stops abruptly. Turns.

THE MISTRESS  
Does it matter?

She turns and walks off.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The Wife stands along over the grave her dead husband. Alone.

FADE OUT