

A SIMPLE PLAN

INT. MITCHELL KITCHEN - DUSK

Sarah and Hank have been talking, while preparing, eating or cleaning up after dinner.

SARAH

There's no way that money is from an armored car robbery.

HANK

This isn't a guess, Sarah. The guy from the FBI told me that's where it's from.

SARAH

But that doesn't make sense. A kidnapping makes sense.

HANK

He's searching for a plane full of money. You think there's more than one of those around here?

SARAH

It's hundred dollar bills, Hank. If it were an armored car, there'd be other denominations. There'd be fifties and twenties and tens..

HANK

Well, congratulations, Sarah. I guess you know more than the FBI.

Sarah starts to respond, then stops herself. Hank wants to finish this conversation. Before he can walk away --

SARAH

Did he show you his badge?

HANK

Why would he show me his badge?

SARAH

Wait. Oh, my God...

Sarah goes to dresser and retrieves the newspaper clippings. She shows him.

SARAH

It's the other kidnapper, isn't it? The older one, Vernon. He's looking for his brother. And a plane full of money.

HANK

The guy I met today was skinnier. He had a crew cut and a beard.

SARAH

Maybe he's lost weight. Maybe he cut his hair and shaved his beard.

HANK

He wouldn't be coming around here like this; it's too big a risk.

(A pause)

It doesn't really make a difference, does it? No matter who he is, I still have to take him to the plane.

SARAH

If we think it's him, you shouldn't go.

HANK

Why not?

SARAH

He'll shoot all three of you, Hank. As soon as he sees the plane. That's why he wants you to go, so he can get rid of the witnesses.

HANK

But if he's really from the FBI, it'll look suspicious if I don't go. It'll look suspicious as hell.

(Beat)

SARAH

I'll call the FBI in the morning. I'll ask for an agent Baxter.

HANK

That won't work. I'm meeting them at nine. The FBI won't be open before that.

SARAH

Then stall them for a bit. I'll call from here, then I'll call you at the station.

HANK

And if there's no Agent Baxter? Then what?

SARAH

Then you won't go. You'll tell Carl that the baby's sick and you have to come home.

HANK

And Jacob?

SARAH

Say he's hungover. Carl will believe that. No matter who this guy is, we don't want your brother there.

HANK

It sounds like a B.S. excuse.

SARAH

What do you want, Hank?

HANK

Well...

SARAH

You wanna just walk out there and get shot by this guy?

HANK

No! I don't want to get shot.

SARAH

I'm trying to come up with a plan here...

HANK

A plan?

SARAH

Yeah.

HANK

A plan. Like the one where we took the money back to the plane and then ended up killing Stephenson? Or the one where we taped Lou without him knowing and then 2 more people died? That the sort of plan you're thinking of?

Well, I've got a plan. I'm taking the money back. Right now. All of it.

SARAH

Hank!

HANK

I'm gonna put it back and everything'll be just like it used to be.

(As he goes into other room, to get his coat and the duffel bag:)

God Damn, that fucking money!!

SARAH

Is that what you think?

She stops him.

SARAH

Is that what you want? Walking off to the feedstore every morning for the next 30 years? Waiting for Tom Butler to retire or die so you can get a raise? And what about Amanda? You think she's gonna like growing up in somebody else's hand-me-down clothes? Playing with other kids' old toys because we can never afford to buy her anything new?

HANK

Sarah. Don't say any more.

SARAH

And me? What about me, Hank?
Spending eight hours a day with a
fake smile plastered on my face,
checking out books. Then home to
cook dinner for you, the same meals
over and over, whatever the week's
coupons will allow. Going out to
restaurants for special occasions,
on birthdays or anniversaries, and
even then watching what we order,
skipping the appetizers, waiting
till we get home for dessert? You
think that's gonna make me happy?

HANK

That's enough. You've made your --

SARAH

No, I haven't done Jacob yet. What
about your brother? Back to the
welfare office, the occasional odd
job, but with Lou gone, just
himself and his dog in that dirty
apartment? How long do you give
him, Hank?

HANK

Stop it!!

SARAH

Sounds wonderful, doesn't it.
Everything just like it used to be.

(End)

5/5