

INT. MEG'S HOUSE

MEG and MARCO, who are together in a long-term relationship, sit across from one another at a table.

MARCO  
I just think... we need to talk. We need to--

A knock at the door as DANNY, Meg's older brother, lets himself in. Meg, jumps up, worried about her father.

MEG  
Hey, what's up? Is everything OK with dad?

DANNY  
Yeah, yeah. He's fine. I was just riding my bike past and thought I'd drop in.

He spies Marco.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Hey.

MARCO  
Hey, brother. How you doing?

DANNY  
Hey, listen. I wanna have a word with my little sister alone. Would that be okay?

MARCO  
Yeah.

Marco gets up. He crosses to Meg grabs her arms and kisses her on top of the head, forehead, side of the head... whatever.

MARCO (CONT'D)  
We'll finish talking later, yeah?

Danny plops down on the couch.

MEG  
Yeah. Be careful.

Marco exits. Meg watches him go. She turns to Danny.

MEG (CONT'D)  
Sorry it's so hot in here. My AC's out.

DANNY  
Yeah. He's a really good guy.

MEG  
Yeah. He is.

DANNY  
I'd fucking hate for him to have to  
find out about that.

He drops a hotel key on the coffee table.

MEG  
What is that?

DANNY  
That fell out of your bag when you  
were in the driveway.

She picks it up and inspects it.

MEG  
No, it didn't. It's not mine.

She stands up and tosses it back on the coffee table.

DANNY  
Yeah, that was in your bag.

MEG  
Maybe one of the guests dropped it  
in the driveway.

DANNY  
That was there after you dropped  
everything. It was sitting right  
there.

Meg looks at Danny and thinks for a beat or two.

MEG  
Did you take that from me?

DANNY  
No, I told you.

MEG  
At the hospital, did you go in my  
purse?

DANNY  
So it's yours?

MEG

What does it matter? I went to a hotel for one night because it was hot here. I have -- my AC's out.

DANNY

Come on. I heard you on the phone. Don't know who you were talking to. It wasn't Marco.

Meg wanders around a bit in her guilt.

MEG

You know what? You are so off base right now.

DANNY

Look, I'm not here to judge you. Okay? I'm saying you need to be careful because -- what if he finds out about this? What if he found this? How you gonna explain that?

MEG

I don't have to explain anything.

DANNY

No, you don't. Not now. But someday you might.

Long pause.

MEG

Why are you here?

He picks up and pockets the card.

DANNY

You said that Dad didn't disown me.

MEG

Yeah.

DANNY

But he still might. And you may have a say in that.

MEG

Are you seriously trying to threaten me?

DANNY

No, baby. I'm not threatening you. I am not threatening you.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I could fucking threaten you. I could do the big-brother thing. Bully around the little sister. It's never been our relationship, though, has it? I've always looked out for you. Even when we were little kids, I felt sorry for you because Dad hated me, but at least I got his attention. Now, I don't care if you're fucking around. I don't. I don't judge you. I got your back, Mister. I just hope you got mine.

Danny goes to leave, but then stops.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey, I wanna tell you something. You don't have to marry Marco.

MEG

I know that.

DANNY

No, you don't. And you may marry him because you think that's what Dad wants. I've watched you try to please him and try to please him. But you just -- you can't. You never will.

MEG

Why's that?

DANNY

Because you're not her.

Danny exits.