

EXT. LINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jim pacing around on the path through Linda's front lawn. Linda exits the house, alone. Stands on the porch. And they stare at each other.

LINDA

You know, you can come inside the house.

He looks at the end of his rope. She walks down to him.

JIM

(quietly)

Did you see the lawyer?

Oh. Well...

LINDA

Called him. We set an ap...

JIM

(almost a whisper)

Don't do this.

So vulnerable. The air comes out of her. We see how much she still cares for this man.

LINDA

You're saying, don't make our kid a football, don't put her through a war. But I'm doing this for her well-being.

JIM

Partly. But partly, you're mad.

Staring. At each other.

JIM

You know the Jordan wasn't really in danger. This is about Susan, and you're right, I'm disappointed in her learning curve, and...

LINDA

Slugs. Have faster learning curves. Trees, even.

He takes a breath.

JIM

(here it is)

I'm afraid she's going to walk.

LINDA

And I'm supposed to care.

He reaches out. Takes her hands.

JIM

(softly)

About me, yeah. Like I care about you.

She looks in his eyes.

LINDA

Like you cared about me three
years ago?

He shrugs. Looks saddened by that.

JIM

(softly)

Hey. You kicked me out.

And just this once. With all that's happened. Linda needs to
say...

LINDA

Maybe you should talk to your
daughter, about why. She seems to
have missed that part.

Now he looks ashamed. And sorry from his heart.

LINDA

(softly)

Forget I said that.

He has to tell her...

JIM

This thing with Susan. I need this.
I don't want to lose her. And I will
see to it that the Jamey doesn't suffer.
Help me, huh?

Help me.

JIM

I'd do it for you.

Yes, he would. Despite everything, she knows that.

LINDA

One last chance, don't make me
regret it...

Her voice tried to be tough. But the tension showed through.

LINDA

...or you will, too.

A last look. She walks slowly. Back toward the house.