

The Sweet Hereafter 6 (ON)

ALISON

Yes, we do know each other. I'm Alison Jones.

MITCHELL

Alison Jones.

ALISON

I was a friend of Zoe's. We went to school together. I used to come to your house.

MITCHELL

Yes.

ALISON

Ally. That was my nickname.

MITCHELL

Ally. That's right.

ALISON

How are you?

MITCHELL

I'm just fine, Ally. What about you?

ALISON

I'm fine. Still working with my father.

MITCHELL

And what does he do again?

ALISON

He used to work with you. Until you found out he was having an affair with your wife.

MITCHELL

Ally Jones.

ALISON
How is Mrs. Stephens?

MITCHELL
We're...not together.

ALISON
I'd heard that. But she's well?

MITCHELL
Yes...fine.

ALISON
I'm glad to hear that Zoe's okay.

MITCHELL
Are you still in touch?

ALISON
Not really. The last time I saw her was
at that clinic. That was a long time ago.

MITCHELL
Which one?

ALISON
Which one?

MITCHELL
Which clinic?

ALISON
I don't remember the name. It was near
a beach.

MITCHELL
Sunnyridge. That was a long time ago.

ALISON
So there were others?

MITCHELL
Other clinics? Oh sure. Clinics, half-
way houses, treatment centers, detox
units...

ALISON

Then...when did she get better?

MITCHELL

She didn't.

ALISON

But you said...

MITCHELL

That's where I'm going. To see her.

ALISON

She's in trouble?

MITCHELL

Yes.

(beat)

I've done everything the loving father of a drug addict is supposed to do... I've sent her to the best hospitals, she's seen all the best doctors. It doesn't matter. Two weeks later she's on the street. New York, Vancouver, Pittsburgh, Toronto, L.A. The next time I hear from her, it's a phone call scamming for money. Money for school, or money for a new kind of therapist, or money for a plane ticket home.

'Oh Daddy, just let me come home...Please, Daddy, I have to see you...'. But she never comes home. I'm always at the airport, but she's never there. Ten years of this, ten years of these lies, of imagining what happens if I don't send the money, of kicking down doors and dragging her out of rat-infested apartments, of explaining why that couldn't be my daughter in a porn flick someone saw...well, enough rage and helplessness, and your love turns to something else.

ALISON

(soft)

What...does it turn to?

MITCHELL

It turns to steaming piss.

(beat)

I'm...so sorry.

ALISON

That's okay.

(beat)

Well, it was nice meeting you again,
Mr. Stephens.

MITCHELL

It was nice to see you again, Ally.

ALISON

Alison.

MITCHELL

Alison.

ALISON

Say hi to Zoe.

MITCHELL

I will.

ALISON

I hope she gets better.

MITCHELL

I'll tell her that.