

MTL-011
101-1

NEW ADDRESS 101

PRODUCTION WHITE 2015-04-21

29.

ANDREW WALLACE

ACT THREE

START ①

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

24

Natalie paces, checking her watch when the door swings opens and ANDREW WALLACE (mid/late forties) enters.

ANDREW

Ms. Lawson.

NATALIE

Natalie.

ANDREW

Sorry to keep you waiting.

He steps forward, offering a warm handshake.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I'm Andrew Wallace -- new principal here. Have a seat.

NATALIE

Is this about Emma? I know she was late again. She struggles with her priorities, sure, but she's joined the triathlon team and I think she's a bit frazzled.

ANDREW

Actually I asked you here to talk about Romy.

NATALIE

Oh?

ANDREW

I guess my assistant didn't say.

Natalie takes a seat, a little worried.

NATALIE

Why? What's happened?

Andrew produces a test sheet -- its blacked-in answers creating an impressive geometrical pattern, deliberately made.

ANDREW

Six out of sixty-four.

(CONTINUED)

NEW ADDRESS (Block 1)

Andrew

Natalie looks at the test.

NATALIE
She tanked on purpose?

ANDREW
I spoke with her teachers. There's
a consensus Romy's... not adjusting
entirely well to her new school.

NATALIE
Which means... Other than this
test...

ANDREW
She doesn't engage in class, and
keeps mostly to herself.

Natalie sinks in her chair.

NATALIE
After I pushed so hard for her to
skip a grade.

ANDREW
I've seen her file, she was way
ahead of her peers last year.

NATALIE
She absolutely refused the gifted
school the Board recommended.

ANDREW
It doesn't always make things
easier, being gifted.

NATALIE
They should come up with another
name for it.

Natalie exhales.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Romy is not a bad kid.

ANDREW
I know. I spent time with her this
morning. Actually she reminds me of
this boy I taught a few years ago.

NATALIE
Do... I want to know how?

20/15
AW

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW

He gave me the same look -- like
the world moves too slowly for him.

NATALIE

I'm painfully familiar with that
look.

ANDREW

But he adjusted, eventually.

NATALIE

How?

ANDREW

An adolescent psychologist I know
was able to help him make sense of
things.

Natalie squints at where this is going...

ANDREW (CONT'D)

His name is Luke Carter, and if
you're willing to consider it, I
think he'd be good for Romy too.

NATALIE

She's not going to like that...

ANDREW

Ease her into it. It may take some
time to get an appointment anyway.

NATALIE

What should I tell her about the
test?

ANDREW

I wouldn't say anything for now.
I'll deal with her teachers. We'll
adapt gently.

Natalie appreciates his calm demeanor. Their eyes meet and
she smiles.

NATALIE

Saying nothing isn't really my
style.

Andrew smiles, scribbling a number on a memo sheet. He passes
it to her.

3 of 15
AW

(CONTINUED)

24

NATALIE (CONT'D)
The psychologist's number?

ANDREW
Mine. I'll reach out to the
psychologist for you.

NATALIE
Your number. And that would be
for...

ANDREW
Calling me. If you ever need to.

Flustered by this, Natalie turns to exit.

NATALIE
Right.

Narrowly avoiding a wall, she manages to stumble out.

25

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY

Striding down the hall, Natalie can't help but smile. Was
that flirting? She thinks it was...

25

26

EXT. LAW OFFICES - DAY

26

Rushing back from break, Maggie hurries down the street...
then stops in her tracks when she sees Simon at the entrance.

She plays it cool:

SIMON
Why are you ignoring my texts.

MAGGIE
Because. This is way too much work
for a one-night stand.

SIMON
That's what I'm trying to say. We
want it to be more.

MAGGIE
"We". I don't know what you told
your girlfriend about me and I
don't care. You want to spice up
your relationship? Buy some toys.

(CONTINUED)