

86 EXT. AERIAL - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DUSK 86

DRIFTING ABOVE a track home neighborhood with rows of identical houses. Symmetrical. Can't tell any of them apart. Lawns manicured, streets clean, middle-class. A suburban prison.

87 INT. MILNER HOUSE - VARIOUS ROOMS - DUSK 87

Quiet rooms around the house. THE ENTRANCE/STAIRWAY. KITCHEN. LIVING ROOM. Minimalist. Clean. WE MOVE IN ON A CLOSED DOOR.

88 INT. MILNER HOUSE - BASEMENT - DARK ROOM 88

The basement has been converted into a photo studio/dark room. CLOSE on a FINISHED GLASS OF WINE next to a WINE BOTTLE and a VINYL SPINNING our dark symphony music.

The woman photographer is GLOWING IN RED. THIS IS MARY MILNER (40s). She's a strikingly beautiful woman, but you can tell she's weathered a rough life. She's developing a LARGE PRINT in a LIQUID TRAY. Mary focused. The photo developing, revealing A BLACK & WHITE PHOTO of the THREE KIDS WITH THE PAPER BAGS OVER THEIR HEADS on the hillside.

THE UNSETTLING OMINOUS SYMPHONY ENDS and we--

HARD CUT TO BLACK.

CHAPTER TITLE OVER BLACK:

"MARY MAY I?"

Start

SOCIAL WORKER (O.S.)

There are concerns.

89 INT. SOCIAL WORKER OFFICE - DAY 89

A SOCIAL WORKER at her desk. Seated across are Mary and her husband, ROSS MILNER (50s).

SOCIAL WORKER

They aren't just my concerns.
You've been through the application
process with our agency before.

ROSS

Several years back.

SOCIAL WORKER

Two other agencies as well. May I
ask why tubal ligation?

The question, abrupt, sets the tone for the Milner's. The more personal the social worker gets the more uncomfortable this meeting feels, especially for Mary.

MARY

I had the procedure almost twenty years ago. I was young.

SOCIAL WORKER

But sterilization is an extreme measure.

MARY

I made choices before I knew I was meant to be a mother.

SOCIAL WORKER

You filed for separation. There were accusations of infidelity.

ROSS

That was six years ago. When you're having difficulties you see things that aren't there.

The social worker takes it in. Mary uncomfortable.

ROSS

We worked through it.

SOCIAL WORKER

Financially, things could be stronger.

ROSS

I've started a new job.

The social worker takes a long look over the application history.

Mary looking to and from the application and the social worker.

SOCIAL WORKER

Mrs. Milner, would you be opposed to a third party council?

MARY

Council?

A beat.

SOCIAL WORKER

For a psychiatric evaluation.

End