

LAST WISH

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Character: Rachel, 16 - 22

Synopsis:

Rachel visits her father, who is on death-row for killing her mother. He tries to explain what really happened.

INT. JAIL VISITATION AREA - NIGHT

RACHEL WALKS TOWARDS A MAN SITTING AT A TABLE. PETER, HER FATHER LOOKS UP AS SHE APPROACHES. HE TRIES TO STAND UP BUT REALIZES HE IS CHAINED TO THE CHAIR. RACHEL STANDS BEHIND THE CHAIR LOOKING AT HIM. THERE IS A LONG SILENCE.

RACHEL

They said you asked to see me?

PETER

Yes I did sweetheart. Sit down, please.

RACHEL

I'm fine where I am. What do you want?

Peter sighs. He thinks about what to say.

PETER

I wanted to get something off my chest.

RACHEL

Planned executions have a funny way of doing that to people.

Peter looks down from the coldness of her voice.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'm not interested in anything you have to say. I wanted to see you for myself one last time before they stuck you with a needle.

She turns around to walk way.

PETER

Rachel please. I need to tell you why I did it.

RACHEL

I don't care why you did it. You killed mom. You can go to Hell!

She turns to leave. Almost at the door Peter yells out.

PETER

She was going to kill you.

Rachel stops in her tracks.

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RACHEL

How dare you? Just because your going to die, doesn't give you the right to lie about my mother. She was a good woman, and you took her away from me, when I was just a baby.

PETER

No she wasn't sweetheart. She had a bit of breakdown after you were born. And she never really recovered.

RACHEL

I don't believe you.

PETER

She was bathing you, and your were not having any of it that day. You were crying and screaming, enough to scare the neighbors.

(pause)

You always cried when you had to take a bath. I guess something just snapped in your mom that day, and she just pushed your head under the water.

(pause)

The crying stopped. I came in to check on the two of you and...

RACHEL

Lies. All of this. Its a lie.

PETER

I grabbed her. Pulled her off of you. The floor was wet. She slipped, hit head on the sink. I didn't have a choice sweetheart. You have to believe me. It was an accident.

RACHEL

Why are you telling me this right now?! After all these years. Do you think its going to help?

Peter pauses for a moment.

PETER

(shaking his head)

I...I wanted you to know the truth.

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Rachel close to tears.

RACHEL

Stop messing with my head. You don't get the right to take away the memory of my mom! Don't you dare to that to me.

PETER

I'm so sorry, hun. I really am. I couldn't keep it in inside any longer.

(beat)

Rachel shakes her head not wanting to believe.

RACHEL

If this is true, why didn't you fight it? For me?

PETER

I tried. I tried like hell for years. No witnesses they said. My lawyer stopped fighting for me. He told me to make my peace. That you were safe now.

RACHEL

So what? I lose both parents? How is that fair?

PETER

It's not. None of this is fair. I just didn't want your last memory of me to be one of hate. I'm sorry.

Rachel walks towards the door.

RACHEL

Too late.

Rachel looks back at him,

PETER

I love you baby girl. Your the best thing to ever happen to me.

She turns and leaves.