

ELENA

INT. EXECUTIVE CLUB - NIGHT

It's a busy night at the Executive Club's bar. The air is full of laughter and animated chatter.

BEN walks past booths and tables, scanning the crowd. He's looking for a familiar face among the Chrysalis executives and the male and female escorts entertaining them.

Finally, Ben notices a solitary figure sitting at the bar, a STUNNING YOUNG WOMAN in an expensive cocktail dress. Could it be her?

The Woman tucks her hair behind her ear and Ben's heart skips a beat when he finally sees her face.

It is her indeed. ELENA.

Ben takes a deep breath, gathering courage, and approaches her.

START →

BEN
Can I buy you a drink?

ELENA
Drinks are complimentary here.
Everything is.

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Ben takes the stool next to her and flashes a smile at her.

BEN
Sorry. I'm new.

Elena freezes when she finally sees him.

What the hell is he doing here? That's what she would love to ask him, but she can't. She has to keep the charade. Too many eyes and ears around them.

ELENA
I can tell. Haven't seen you
around...

BEN
Ben.

ELENA
Ben...

Elena lets the name sink in. A stranger's name with a familiar face.

ELENA (CONT'D)
Nice meeting you, Ben. Elena.
(beat)
Let me guess. Celebrating your
promotion?

Ben nods, taking her in. She's more beautiful than he
remembered.

ELENA (CONT'D)
(to the bartender)
Charlie, be a doll. Two martinis.

The Bartender puts to glasses on the bar and pours the drinks
in them.

Elena raises the glass. A toast.

ELENA (CONT'D)
To your success. You should be
proud. You must be the youngest
exec here.

Ben raises his glass too...

BEN
It wasn't easy.

... and Elena notices Ben's WEDDING BAND on the hand holding
the drink.

ELENA
I'm sure it wasn't.

Elena takes a sip of her cocktail and...

ELENA (CONT'D)
Should we take this celebration
somewhere more private?

BEN
Sure.

Elena gets up from her stool and guides Ben pasts the other
guests, towards a DOOR at the back of the room.

INT. EXECUTIVE CLUB - PRIVATE BEDROOM - NIGHT

The private bedroom looks like a luxury hotel suit. A massive
bed in the center, a full bar in one corner, a stand alone
bathtub at the other.

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As they walk into the room, Ben, excited to at last be alone with her, eager to touch her, reaches for Elena.

But when he puts a hand on her arm and she turns to look at him, he's surprised to find... coldness, defiance in her eyes.

ELENA

Ben, wasn't it?

BEN

Elena...

ELENA

So, do you want another drink or should I just go ahead and get undressed?

As she says this, Elena reaches for her dress, ready to unzip it, but Ben grabs her by the wrist, stopping her.

BEN

That's not what I'm here for.

ELENA

Why are you here then?

BEN

I'm here for you.

Elena takes his hand off her and walks away from him.

ELENA

Oh, that's cute, Ben. That's adorable.

BEN

I'm here to get you out.

ELENA

And throw away your new cozy little life? Why would you do that?

BEN

Because I love you.

Elena shakes her head in disbelief.

ELENA

Do you? Do you even know me anymore? Because I sure as hell don't know you, Ben.

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BEN

It's still me, Elena. Aaron. Ben's
just a--

ELENA

I don't care who you are. Ben...
Aaron... I don't need either of
them.

BEN

Do you have any idea how long it's
taken me to get here? The things
I've done? For you?

ELENA

No. Not for me. For yourself. To
ease your guilt. I told you to
forget about me, remember?

Elena opens the door for Ben, holding her gaze to him, hard,
defiant. She's not the young girl he remembered anymore.
She's become a strong, hardened woman.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Go back to your wife, Ben. Have a
happy life.

After a beat, Ben nods, defeated, and exits the room.

Elena closes the door behind him and leans against it,
conflicted, heartbroken. Was pushing him away the right thing
to do?

4/4

END