

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Cat's In The Bag

Written by

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INT. JAIL VISIT ROOM - DAY/NIGHT

An Italian man, BENONI, waits with a phone pressed to his ear.

CANDACE enters from the other side of the glass and stares at Benoni before sitting in front of him. Candace reaches for the phone.

CANDACE

Well I'll be damned. They told me I had a visitor, but this is unexpected. What are you doing here?

BENONI

(heavy sigh)

I need answers. I can't eat, I can't sleep. I thought that... maybe-

Benoni looks down at his lap, no longer wanting to face Candace.

BENONI (cont'd)

(gaining composure)

I don't know. I thought maybe I might be able move on after talking with you.

CANDACE

Hm. Well... here I am!

Benoni glares at Candace, repulsed at how charismatic and nonchalant she appears. Candace smiles awkwardly.

BENONI

(launching into it)

How do you sleep at night knowing what you did? You stole my life away from me and you don't even care! Do you have any idea how much damage you caused me-

CANDACE

Do you have any idea how much damage she caused me?

Benoni is taken a back by this. He straightens.

BENONI

To you? She didn't do anything but exist to you!

CANDACE

Ha! Yeah. She did *nothing* else.

Benoni stares impassively at Candace.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
Her constant nagging *all* the time,  
her neediness, her little toys  
everywhere that I'd keep stepping on.

BENONI  
She was child!

CANDACE  
She was annoying! I did what I had to  
do for my sanity.

BENONI  
(fuming)  
For your sanity? Did you even stop to  
think about what you were doing?

Candace is composed as she reflects on the event.

CANDACE  
Not really, no. It all happened so  
quickly.

Benoni is red hot.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
Oh, relax. Sure, call me selfish,  
call me the devil, whatever. I know  
what I did and I don't regret it.

Candace leans forwards with a bright smile.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
Plus, I'm happy here! They feed me, I  
don't have to do anything but my *one*  
chore. No cleaning the house, no  
taking care of you or your child.  
It's just me behind the bars and  
that's how I like it. Peace.  
Serenity.

Candace makes an "Om" sound with her fingers together.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
Total zen.

BENONI  
You're in jail, Candace. You're in  
jail because you murdered our child.

CANDACE  
That's a bit of a stretch.

Benoni clenches his teeth.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
Look, I know that you loved Lilith.  
The truth is, at one time I did too.  
But then she started to grow up and  
then she got a mouth on her, and I  
couldn't take it anymore. I snapped.

Candace pauses, thinking back on the whole situation.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
In hindsight, maybe I shouldn't have  
gone to the extreme I did. But, I  
hope you can move past this with some  
form of closure.

Candace puts her hand on the glass. Benoni glares at her hand.

CANDACE (cont'd)  
I miss you, Benny. Maybe someday you  
can find it in your heart to forgive  
me.  
(pause)  
When I get out of here, maybe we can  
try for another Lilith.

Benoni shakes his head.

BENONI  
Not a chance. The fact you think I  
would take you back after this proves  
that you are absolutely mental.

Benoni stands with the phone still to his ear.

BENONI (cont'd)  
Lilith was the best cat a man could  
ever ask for, and you took her away  
from me. I can never forgive you for  
that, Candace. Ever.

Benoni hangs the phone up and leaves Candace there with her hand still on the window. Candace watches him go in astonishment.

END.

