

(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.

