

MASON
4 PGS.

EXT. JEREMY'S APARTMENT - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Caitlin walks down a flight of stairs towards the street. Almost makes it there, too, before MASON suddenly appears in front of her, causing her pull up short. Surprised - in a bad way...

START →

MASON

I thought you were staying at school to study.

Sc. 1

Looks like she just found the right time to break up with him.

CAITLIN

(beat, caught)

I lied.

MASON

Yeah, I know. This is your second date with him.

CAITLIN

How did you...? Forget it. I don't even want to know. You've changed, Mason. You're nothing like the guy I started dating.

(beat)

It's obvious you're not happy either, so let's just say it's over.

MASON

Don't be so dramatic. I don't care if you keep seeing your rocket scientist, but to the rest of the world, you and I are still a perfect couple.

CAITLIN

I'm not going to pretend to be your girlfriend. Why would I do that?

MASON

Because I'm with Ava now.

Caitlin is taken aback.

MASON (CONT'D)

You know how my mom feels about her family.

(MORE)

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"PERFECTION IS IT?"

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

MASON (CONT'D)

Claire has to think you and I are still together until Ava has a chance to prove to my parents that she's more perfect for me than you are.

CAITLIN

That's so not my problem. Grow a pair and stand up to your parents.

She turns, but he GRABS her and spins her around.

MASON

Actually, it is your problem.

Before she can respond he shows her a PHOTO on his phone: Caitlin's mom, SENATOR MARY ANNE PARK-LEWIS.

CAITLIN

(annoyed)

Why are you showing me a picture of my mom?

MASON

Swipe.

Caitlin hesitates, then reaches out and swipes to the next photo on his screen: her mom, naked, making out with a shirtless man!

MASON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry you had to see this, but your mom is cheating on your other mom. I don't want to use it, but I will if I have to.

(beat)

Guess two moms don't always make a right.

← END

Off of Caitlin, reeling from the shock of her mother's affair and Mason's threat.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (N5)

Sc. 2

A small structure, stripped for technological warfare. A standing desk with three MONITORS, a vertical one just running code. KEYBOARDS and CABLES and several SERVERS.

We see a BLONDE woman opening the refrigerator. Across the room Mason collapses into a chair.

START



MASON

I broke up with Ava.

The Blonde, beer in hand, turns to him. And we realize this is the woman we just saw a photograph of. OMG! Taylor Hotchkiss isn't dead-- she's living like a unabomber.

TAYLOR

Maybe once this is over you can explain you did it to protect her.

So Mason's not an asshole!

MASON

After what I did today. She'll never believe anything I say again.

TAYLOR

You're my brother. Nobody knows you better than I do. When this is all over I'll help you pick up the pieces.

MASON

Taylor, tell me we're making progress.

Taylor reflexively glances towards her computers.

TAYLOR

Hotchkiss has begun changing their security protocols every half-hour. I can still grab a feed and throw it to your phone, but nothing's stable and nothing sticks.

None of this is good news. Mason rises. Paces.

MASON

What can we prove? Now?

TAYLOR

That they're using Beacon Guard to spy on a select group of students.

(MORE)

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TAYLOR (CONT'D)

That's something, but we need the
why to bring them down.

Mason takes that in. Then nods. Only one solution:

MASON

We can't do this by ourselves. We
need help.

TAYLOR

No. Mason...

MASON

I know someone we can trust.

TAYLOR

We've talked about this. It's way
too dangerous to...

MASON

... do nothing. I think this can
work.

← END

With fear and hope in her eyes, the Blond goes to Mason and
hugs him. Clearly whatever he's contemplating is a big - and
dangerous - move. We HOLD ON THEM a beat before we CUT TO: