

Cassie lowers her head, turns. Tears stream down her cheeks.

CASSIE

Why do you have to be that way!

JULIAN

What way?

(beat)

Look, does it really matter what I think of him?

CASSIE

You're my friend, of course it matters!

JULIAN

(clears throat)

Okay, like I said before, I don't like the guy. Alright? But I don't have to live with him.

She searches the air. Her face trembles. She tries to maintain control, but loses.

CASSIE

Oh Julian, I'm so confused. Part of me wants to believe that he can change--

JULIAN

Well, have you thought that maybe, just maybe, he doesn't need to change?

CASSIE

What?

JULIAN

Maybe it's you who needs to change. Maybe you shouldn't fall down any more stairs, run into any more walls--

A light moment. Cassie catches on, half-smiles.

CASSIE

I can change...there's always time.

She straightens. Tears descend her rosy cheeks.

JULIAN

It's time to stop hiding Cass. Now. It's time for the whole world to see who he really is.

CASSIE

I know, I know...I just don't want to hurt him the way he's hurt me. He hasn't exactly had an easy life...

CASSIE (CONT'D)

But God help me, I don't want to be one of those poor girls on the news who waited a day too late.

(beat)

Do you know what he said today?

JULIAN

I can hardly wait to hear.

CASSIE

He said that if I try to divorce him, he'll burn down our house...burn it down, before I see a penny!

JULIAN

(sarcastically)

Oh yeah, he'll change.

CASSIE

That's the thing. He has changed. He wasn't always like this.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

A friend signed me up for these self-defense classes. I went to a couple of sessions. I quit. I was so afraid that he would find out.

Cassie cups her head into her trembling hands.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I'm afraid all the time Julian. I'm afraid to sleep, and God help me, sometimes I'm even afraid to wake up...

Cassie lifts her head. Tears stream down her cheeks.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Oh Julian, sometimes I feel like Elspeth.

JULIAN

Elspeth?

CASSIE

Yes, sometimes I don't know who I am married to, the man...or the monster.

They fall into each other's arms. A tender embrace.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

What am I supposed to do?