

INT. BRYN MAWR PREP SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - LATER

Grace stands on the stage with her coffee cup, looking around the auditorium. Even in her street clothes, as she prowls across the ragged high school stage, Grace is riveting to watch, calculating and careful in her gestures.

Behind her, Alexa tentatively waits in the audience.

GRACE

So you think you want to be an actress.

Grace takes a moment, staring at a nervous Alexa.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Okay so we can go over some basic stuff, movement, breath...

(smirking)

...your accent...or we can cut the bullshit and I can tell you how it really is.

ALEXA

Ummm...

GRACE

Your call. Life lessons with Grace or teen acting class.

ALEXA

Teen acting class?

GRACE

Great. Life lessons it is. What exactly was it you were doing up there?

ALEXA

Well, I was trying to show how Blanche feels about Stanley...

GRACE

Uh huh.

Alexa's face reddens, as if Grace has just spit on her.

GRACE (CONT'D)

And how does Blanche feel about Stanley?

ALEXA

She feels...threatened, afraid, but I think in a certain way she's still drawn to him. It's like his brute strength versus her femininity, like, her powers of seduction.

GRACE

You're definitely smart, so that's not the problem. Tell me though Alexa, have you ever felt threatened?

ALEXA

I kinda feel threatened right now.

GRACE

Ha, that's good. But no, I mean have you ever been afraid of being hurt, destroyed...raped?

ALEXA

No.

GRACE

Have you ever fucked anyone?

ALEXA

Excuse me? That has nothing to do...

GRACE

(Cutting her off.)

It has everything to do with it. You shouldn't be playing Blanche DuBois honey, you're a child. Acting is not about making up how you think someone feels. It's about having something to draw on.

Alexa looks at her blankly.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Feelings? Of your own? Haven't you ever been hungry for anything?

ALEXA

I'm not sure I know what you mean.

GRACE

Hungry, like wanting something,
needing something so bad you would
do anything to get it?

Alexa stares at Grace, shaken.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Look, life is gonna be easy for
you. You're pretty, you're smart,
you have it real good. Be a doctor.
Or a lawyer. Or even better, marry
one.

Quiet, seething rage begins to escape out of Alexa like air
from a balloon.

ALEXA

You have no fucking idea who I
am...

Alexa is unable to continue and turns her head down, her body
shaking, her hair shaken out of its ponytail.

Alexa's reaction is unexpected. Alexa has affected Grace.
Grace examines Alexa again carefully, some of the aggression,
in Grace's eyes begins to die down. She kneels down until
she is level with Alexa.

GRACE

Remember this...this is what's it
about. Right now. Feeling like you
want to slap the shit out of me.

Alexa looks up at her, face flushed.

ALEXA

(Firmly)

I can learn it. I'll start with
that Stanislavski book--what's the
exact title?

Grace looks up to the sky. This girl just doesn't get it.

GRACE

Honey, nobody in the world can
teach you how to feel. Maybe you
should start with not trying so
hard.

ALEXA

Look you recommended it to Johnny,
if a mindless asshole with a god
complex can get it, trust me, I
can.

GRACE

Is that really all you see in
him?...Listen, forget about the
scene and just worry about you.
Shake things up a little bit. Do
something you're afraid of...and
fail. Do all that, and if you still
wanna be an actress, god bless you.

Alexa is stunned, speechless.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Class is dismissed.