

INT. BELLA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Bella sits at the table silently working on homework, her books spread out before her. The house is completely silent and spotlessly clean. Blankets are folded, counters are clean and the floors shine.

A moment later the SOUND of Charlie's car can be heard outside. Bella doesn't move.

A timer on the oven BEEPS and Bella stops writing, gets up, goes over to the oven and pulls out a homemade lasagna just as Charlie walks in the front door.

ENTRANCE

Dressed in his uniform, he surveys the house in its perfect condition and doesn't look very happy. He takes off his coat and gear and hangs it on a wall hook.

CHARLIE

Bella?

BELLA (O.S.)

In here.

KITCHEN

Bella sits back down at the table and looks up at Charlie. She smiles, somewhat superficially. Charlie furrows his eyebrows and tosses a bag of candy on the table.

CHARLIE

Picked up a bag of candy for the trick-or-treater's tonight.

BELLA

Oh, yeah. I forgot about that. I've got dinner made.

CHARLIE

You know you don't have to cook every night.

BELLA

I want to.

Bella remains focused on her homework, distanced from the conversation. Charlie SIGHS and opens the newspaper.

Bella finishes her homework and stacks up her books and papers. Charlie looks at her again with concern but doesn't say anything. She grabs the bag of candy and goes to the kitchen to get a bowl, dumping the candy in it.

She serves up slices of the lasagna and brings them to the table. Charlie moves his paper and smiles.

CHARLIE
Thanks. Looks wonderful.

Bella smiles superficially again and sits down.

CHARLIE
Do anything today?

BELLA
Just the usual.

CHARLIE
What about your friends?

Bella shrugs like she's just not interested. Charlie returns to his newspaper and they eat in silence.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Charlie watches TV and the SOUND of Bella cleaning up dinner can be heard from the kitchen.

There is a KNOCK on the door and Charlie gets up to answer.

ENTRANCE

Three costumed children stand at the door with baskets eagerly held out. JENNY (7) is dressed as a fairy. DAN (9) is dressed as a policeman. JOSH (8) is dressed as a vampire.

CHILDREN
(together)
Trick-or-treat!

CHARLIE
Happy Halloween! You look pretty Jenny.

JENNY
I'm a fairy.

DAN
I'm a policeman, just like you Mr. Swan.

CHARLIE
I see that. And you Josh?

JOSH
I'm a vampire!

Bella comes to the door with the candy. She looks at each one of the kids and smiles...then she sees Josh and her face drops and she closes her eyes. She wraps her arm around her torso, seemingly to hold herself together.

CHARLIE
Bella? You okay?

Bella takes a DEEP BREATH and does her best to pull herself together.

BELLA
Yeah.

She drops a few pieces of candy in the children's bags.

CHILDREN
(random)
Thank you!

Charlie LAUGHS as he closes the door.

CHARLIE
I remember when you...

Bella roughly hands the bowl to Charlie, her hands shaking.

BELLA
I can't...

She takes off upstairs.

CHARLIE
Can't what, Bella?

BELLA'S ROOM

Bella sits on the edge of her bed, WEEPING with her hands over her face. After a moment, she abruptly stops and stands up.

She goes over to her desk and aggressively goes through the drawers, her hands still shaking. At last she finds what she's looking for...a screwdriver.

Screwdriver in hand she leaves the room.

ENTRANCE

Charlie leans against the wall, in deep thought. He looks at Bella with surprise. On her way out the door she acknowledges him.

BELLA

I'm going out to my truck.

She SLAMS the door before he can respond.

INT. BELLA'S TRUCK

She sits in the truck with her hands clenched tightly around the steering wheel. She breathes steadily and looks at the radio.

She lets go of the steering wheel, picks up the screwdriver and plunges it into the radio with a YELL of satisfaction.

She pulls it out and plunges it in again. With aggressive determination, her fingers and the screwdriver she manages to get the stereo out.

Holding the radio in her lap she LAUGHS as TEARS run down her cheeks. Some of her fingers bleed.

BELLA'S ROOM

A black garbage bag sits on the floor next to Bella's closet. It isn't full but it does have things inside.

Bella kneels down next to the garbage bag, opens it and puts the broken radio inside it. She closes the bag and goes to sit on the edge of her bed.

She stares at the bag for a long moment before taking a DEEP BREATH and standing up.

INT. BATHROOM

Bella washes her hands, wincing at a couple cuts. She washes her face, dries off and brushes her hair.

She wraps an arm around herself and leans on the sink. Taking care to breath steadily, she stands up, looks at herself again and leaves the room.

LIVING ROOM

Charlie is still watching the game when Bella sits down near him. He looks at her with deep concern.

CHARLIE

Please talk to me.

She pushes her hair behind her shoulder and gets comfortable in the couch.

BELLA
(casually)
About what?

Seeing that it's pointless he turns back to the TV.

CHARLIE
If you change your mind, just know
that I'm here.

BELLA
Sure, dad. Good game?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

They both watch the TV without another word.