

1 THING

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FADE IN :

EXT. STABLES - DAY

IN FOCUS. SUPER:

"1 THING"

A BMW SEDAN parks beside the Stables.

THE DRIVER exits the vehicle, walks quickly toward the right rear, passenger door.

ALTHEA "TISSA" RAY (50ish), steps out of the vehicle cinematically, one leg at a time.

EXT. STABLES - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

A WOMAN. MISS JOY, (50ish) exits the STABLES and sees Tissa.

MISS JOY
Hi! Can I help you?

TISSA
(stops)
I'm looking for my daughter.

MISS JOY
Aren't you Tissa Ray? The actress!

Tissa offers her MOVIE STAR smile.

TISSA
Yes. I am.

EXT. STABLES - OUTSIDE SMALL ARENA - SAME TIME

A teenage girl named LUNA RAY (18) is seated on the wooden horse outside the SMALL ARENA watching a teenage boy perform GROUNDWORK, inside the small arena.

A WOMAN, MISS TINA stands beside the boy inside the small arena.

Luna jumps off the wooden horse and does a silly dance.

LUNA
(shouts)
Nice work, Cowboy!

EXT. STABLES - UPHILL/FROM SMALL ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Miss Joy stands uphill flanked by Tissa. They are about thirty yards away from the small arena.

MISS JOY
LU! YOUR MOM IS HERE!

Luna turns. She see's Tissa and the smile immediately washes off her face.

Luna cups her hands around her mouth, shouts.

LUNA
ASK HER TO COME BACK LATER, PLEASE!

Luna returns her attention to the small arena.

TISSA
What? Did she say?

MISS JOY
She wants you to come back later.

Tissa glares at Luna's back, removes her sunglasses.

TISSA
That's impossible. Is there anything you can do?

MISS JOY
I'll get her. You can wait over there.

Miss Joy points back toward the open SITTING AREA.

Tissa frowns.

TISSA
Is it air-conditioned?

Miss Joy looks amused.

MISS JOY
I'm afraid not.

Miss Joy descends the hill toward Luna.

EXT. STABLES - SITTING AREA - LATER

Tissa is sitting on one of the white, plastic lawn chairs lining the sitting area as Luna approaches.

Tissa scrutinizes Luna's carefree stride and warns.

TISSA
I don't have all day. Stop moseying
and come here.

LUNA
Hello, Mother.

TISSA
Sit. Let's not make a scene.

Luna moves a chair toward Tissa but she doesn't move it
close enough to touch Tissa's.

LUNA
Why are you here?

TISSA
I've decided it's time for you to
come home.

LUNA
You decided?

TISSA
Perhaps, I miss you.

LUNA
Shouldn't you be somewhere signing
autographs?

Tissa FLASHES a hard smile.

TISSA
It's so interesting how beloved I
am by other people.

LUNA
They don't know you.

TISSA
Luna-Bird --

LUNA
(mumbles)
Please, don't call me that.

TISSA
-- your words hurt.

LUNA
Sometimes, the truth hurts, Mother.
You taught me that.

TISSA
Truth is a matter of semantics.

LUNA
If The Truth is a matter of
semantics, then what is The Lie?

Tissa exhales.

TISSA
Days like today I truly miss your
Father.

LUNA
So do I.

There is a long pause between Tissa and Luna.

Tissa looks at Luna. She puckers up her lips and opens her
arms.

TISSA
Salutations Luna-Bird. Sqooch.

Luna leans toward Tissa.

Tissa gives Luna AIR KISSES, one to each cheek.

LUNA
How did you find me?

TISSA
It wasn't difficult.

LUNA
Maybe, I should ask... why did you
bother to look?

TISSA
I told you. I miss you.

Luna focuses on the LARGE ARENA, leans forward in her chair.

TISSA (CONT'D)
Sit up straight.

Luna automatically complies.

EXT. STABLES - SITTING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Miss Joy approaches. She hands a bottle of water to Tissa and
another to Luna.

MISS JOY
In case you're thirsty.

Tissa fans herself with her hand.

TISSA
Is it always so sweltering and
dusty out here?

Luna gives Tissa the SIDE-EYE.

Miss Joy shrugs kindly.

MISS JOY
Only in the summer.

TISSA
Do you happen to have any straws?

MISS JOY
I'm afraid we don't.

Miss Joy walks away.

Tissa glances toward her Driver, MICKEY ROSE, (45ish), who is standing beside the BMW.

Mickey Roses walks toward Tissa, removes a reusable straw from her inside pocket. She returns to her former position beside the BMW.

EXT. STABLES - SITTING AREA / LUNA & TISSA

Tissa extends her bottled water toward Luna.

TISSA
Open this, Luna.

Luna takes the bottle from Tissa. She cracks the seal on top and twists the cap. She hands both bottle and cap to Tissa.

TISSA (CONT'D)
I'd like you to come home but you
must agree to do everything I ask.

LUNA
In other words, do everything you
demand and keep my mouth shut.

TISSA
That's so unfair.

LUNA

Is it? It's always been ALL about you, Mother. Never me.

There is an awkward silence between Luna and Tissa.

LUNA (CONT'D)

You were supposed to protect me.

TISSA

Your accusations have been difficult to rectify, frankly.

LUNA

You're my mother.

TISSA

It all could've culminated in a scandal, had you not run away.

LUNA

I didn't run away. You told me to get out and never come back.

TISSA

You called the police and nearly destroyed my marriage.

LUNA

(softly)
Your marriage.

TISSA

You could've brought my entire career crashing down had you been available to testify.

LUNA

Is that why you threw me out?

Tissa replies in a quiet, measured tone.

TISSA

Reggie is better after months of rehab. Thank you for asking.

LUNA

He should be in prison.

Tissa takes a sip of water. She takes a long pause.

TISSA
 If you'd just remained silent like
 we asked but no -- you could not
 resist calling the police, even
 after I ordered you not to.

LUNA
 I told the truth.

TISSA
 Hmmph. Semantics.

Tissa scans the area.

TISSA (CONT'D)
 THIS is where you're living, now?

LUNA
 No.

TISSA
 May I ask?

LUNA
 With C.T., for now.

TISSA
 I assume, this C.T. person is your
 boyfriend?

LUNA
 He is.

Luna notices C.T. approaching the Large Arena gate.

LUNA (CONT'D)
 (toward Tissa)
 Would you like to meet him?

TISSA
 Not particularly. No.

Luna calls out to C.T.

TISSA (CONT'D)
 Remember who Tissa Ray is and STOP
 behaving like you were raised in a
 stable.

Luna avoids looking at Tissa as she plops back into the
 chair.

LUNA
 Jesus was BORN in a stable Mother,
 so being raised in a stable can't
 be all that bad.

TISSA
 Sit up straight, Luna Ray.

This time Luna hesitates before complying.

EXT. STABLES - SITTING AREA

C.T. (20), leads a horse toward Luna and Tissa.

C.T.
 (to Luna)
 Hey.

LUNA
 Hey you.

Luna takes C.T.'s free hand, squeezes it.

Tissa observes this, with a frown.

LUNA (CONT'D)
 Mother, this is C.T.--- C.T. This
 is my mother, Miss Tissa Ray...the
 FAMOUS Movie Star.

C.T releases Luna's hand, politely tips his hat toward Tissa.

C.T.
 Nice to meet you Miss Ray.

Tissa blinks melodramatically.

TISSA
 It's Mrs. Rollins.

C.T.
 Pardon?

TISSA
 Luna's father is DEAD. I am Mrs.
 Rollins, now.

C.T.
 Beg pardon, Mrs. Rollins.

C.T. notices the sadness in Luna's eyes. He gently taps
 Luna's boot with his.

Tissa scrutinizes their silent intimacy.

TISSA
Aren't you too short to ride that
horse?

LUNA
Mother!?

TISSA
It's simply an observation.

Luna is about to say something in C.T.'s defense when he
gently takes her hand.

C.T.
(to Luna)
It's okay, Lu. Haciendado is a big
boy. I get it.

C.T. Looks at Tissa.

C.T. (CONT'D)
To answer your question, Mrs.
Rollins-- respectfully--

C.T. gazes down at Luna.

C.T. (CONT'D)
--it's our relationship and the
trust we've developed...as well as
my control in the saddle--

Luna strokes C.T.'s hand with her thumb.

C.T. squeezes Luna's hand tightly.

-- My height never mattered.

TISSA
We are talking about the horse?

C.T.
(with a quiet smile)
Yes, Ma'am.

C.T. looks at Tissa.

C.T (CONT'D)
You have a great daughter Mrs.
Rollins. You should be very proud.

TISSA

I should.

(beat)

What is your highest level of education, C.T.?

LUNA

Mother?

TISSA

I'm your mother. I have a right to inquire.

C.T.

(to Luna)

It's fine, Lu. She's right.

C.T. looks into Tissa's eyes.

C.T. (CONT'D)

I graduated from high school at fifteen. I completed four years of College. So, I have my BA and I considered GRAD school but I decided to ride the circuit full time.

TISSA

How old are you?

C.T.

Twenty, Ma'am.

LUNA

He's a BRANIAC, Mother.

Tissa silences Luna with a look.

TISSA

(toward C.T.)

What do you mean by, ride the circuit?

C.T

Compete in Rodeo's. Travel to different competitions.

TISSA

Is that lucrative?

C.T

It can be.

TISSA
Has it been?

C.T
Sometimes.

TISSA
Sometimes?

LUNA
Mother. Stop.

Miss Tina calls out from the Large Arena.

MISS TINA
C.T. STOP COURTIN' AN' GET BACK TO
WORK!

C.T
(to Tissa)
Nice to meet you, Mrs. Rollins but
I have to get back to work.

C.T kisses Luna's hand before he jogs toward the large arena.

EXT. STABLES - SITTING AREA

Once C.T is out of earshot.

TISSA
I was right to come here and reel
you back in.

LUNA
Reel me back in? Like I'm a fish?

TISSA
It's a metaphor for God's sake.
You've always been TOO sensitive.

Tissa makes eye contact with Mickey Rose, who immediately
opens the passenger door.

TISSA (CONT'D)
I'm sure this has been an
experience but it's time to come
home.

LUNA
I am home.

Tissa stands. puts on her sunglasses. Her back is to Luna

TISSA

What is wrong with you?!

LUNA

Reggie raped me, Mother.

TISSA

That's enough! I'm not here to rehash your accusations. Luna. You and I. Like it or not... You cannot choose your blood. We're Family.

LUNA

Family is love. It's respect. It's home. Everything we never were.

TISSA

I will write you out?! What will you do then?

LUNA

Prob'ly keep working hard. Live paycheck to paycheck. My life is mine, now. Not yours.

TISSA

You were such a beautiful, obedient girl. What happened to you?

LUNA

Life happened, Mother and I grew up.

Luna stands, walks past her mother toward the Large Arena.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Mama.

Tissa watches Luna walk away.

Tissa turns, enters her vehicle without glancing back.

THE END