

INNERLOCK

By

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OVER BLACK:

ECHOING DRIPS and LOW STATIC

FADE IN:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

fill this dingy room, the kind you see in the movies, like this one. Cold hard concrete lit by that lone bulb hanging from a bare wire.

A riveted steel door the only way in. In the middle of the door: AN LED LIT ALPHANUMERIC LOCK.

A RAT in the corner huddles in a puddle formed from DRIPS that fall from the ceiling.

Occupying the lone steel chair at the lone steel table is CHARLIE. He's unshackled. Free to roam. But he doesn't. He sits with this head down and hands folded before him.

The low static comes from a speaker in the center of the table, the kind of speaker you'd find from an old drive-in theater. It, too, has a bare wire that goes up to the ceiling. The speaker crackles and-

WOMAN'S VOICE FROM SPEAKER

Really, Charlie. No way you can define it?

Charlie adjusts his hands a bit, not looking up.

WOMAN'S VOICE FROM SPEAKER

Charlie? Come on. How long we been at this? Charlie? Far too long, that's how long, Charlie. The combination is easy. You don't have to stay here. You know that. Don't you know that, Charlie?

Charlie adjusts his hands again.

WOMAN'S VOICE FROM SPEAKER

You do know that, don't you?

Charlie looks over at the rat. The rat looks back.

CHARLIE

Yes, I know that.

WOMAN'S VOICE FROM SPEAKER

Then what's the problem? Define it.
 Push your emotions aside
 and just...define...it.

Charlie looks back at the rat, then the door.

On the lock are four BRIGHT RED LED placeholders waiting for the correct combination.

Charlie takes a deep breath and puts his hands palms down on the table. He looks directly into the speaker.

CHARLIE

If I loved you, really loved you, I would put you above my kids, where they live, where they stay, what they do. You would rate higher than my brothers and sisters and parents. You would mean more than money. Your worth more than my working lively hood. In all of that, you would be considered first in all my thoughts and actions about the above, and when I say consider, it means if something was happening in their lives, first and foremost I talk with you about what is going on, what I am feeling, what I have been thinking about and might want to do regarding any event involving other things in my life. I would do that because you are above all of those other things in my life. Considering you first is giving you the respect and honor that's inherent and due in a life partner. Considering you first is placing you above me.

KA-CHUNK!

That riveted steel door CREAKS open just a tad. It will take a hand to open it from here.

WOMAN'S VOICE FROM SPEAKER

You see? You do know.

CLICK! The static is gone. The speaker shut off. The speaker wire falls from the ceiling and piles on the table, leaving only the DRIP'S ECHO.

FADE OUT on the lock's LED's: L O V E.