

REMORSE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- PENNSYLVANIA-NIGHT

LINDSAY CARMONT(40s) slender, dirty blonde hair, housewife look. She sits on her sofa drinking red wine.

She takes a drink. Re-runs on her TV.

Lindsay fiddles with her wedding ring.

She looks out at the fire place, eyes going loose as she is intoxicated.

She stays in smalltown Pennsylvania.

CUT TO:

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- MORNING

Lindsay awakes on her sofa, eyes bloodshot, hair roughed up.

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- KITCHEN-MORNING

Lindsay pours herself a coffee, smoking a cigarette.

Lindsay then looks out her window. A woman and child walking to school. She takes a drag.

MAN ON THE VOICE MACHINE

(V.O.)

Hello, Mrs. Carmont. We hope you are available six o'clock this evening as that is the expected arrival time of your son. He will be escorted safely to your home.
(beep)

Lindsay grabs her coffee and leaves the kitchen.

Later in the day

EXT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

A coach is pulled up outside Carmont's household.

LUKE CARMONT(18)shaved head, skinny build, wearing a camo uniform. Luke makes his way down the drive. A stern look on his face.

The coach pulls away. Luke approaches his door, dragging his suitcase along and a sports bag over his shoulder.

He knocks.

CUT TO:

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

Lindsay answers the door. She sees Luke standing there and gives him a faint smile.

Luke walks in.

LINDSAY CARMONT

Hey.

Luke nods to his mother.

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Luke sits on the sofa a stern look on his face.

Lindsay prepares food in the kitchen she watches Luke from afar.

Luke turns his head to her and they share looks.

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- KITCHEN-NIGHT

Luke and Lindsay sit opposite one another. They eat a steak meal that Lindsay has prepared.

Lindsay has her red wine. Luke has a water.

LINDSAY CARMONT

(swallowing some food)

How was it?

Luke twitches at the mouth a little.

LUKE CARMONT

It was okay.

Lindsay nods slowly.

LINDSAY CARMONT

You've been gone for a long time,
Luke. You've been wearing that a
long time (nods to his uniform).

Luke shakes his head, he takes a drink of water.

LUKE CARMONT

I'll take it off when I want.

Lindsay seems taken back by this. She drinks some wine.

LUKE CARMONT (CONT'D)
How was dad?

Lindsay holds her head. She sighs.

LINDSAY CARMONT
Ahm, Luke...

LUKE CARMONT
I just want to know.

LINDSAY CARMONT
He was... Your father loved you a lot, Luke. He wanted you to know that.

LUKE CARMONT
He loved me? Why would he do this to me then?

LINDSAY CARMONT
Luke, you know. You know how bad you were! You needed to go.

Luke sighs, shaking his head.

LUKE CARMONT
You. You sent me to the harshest military school you knew of. I found out that he died. They didn't let me go home. They didn't let me mourn, they fuckin' beat me. Made me run, said I was a cry baby... I'm not one any more.

Lindsay becomes teary-eyed.

LUKE CARMONT (CONT'D)
Don't cry.

LINDSAY CARMONT
I'm-...

LUKE CARMONT
If I was taught anything, it's that... That you can't, you can't hang on to what's happened.

LINDSAY CARMONT
What? What are you talking about, Luke?

LUKE CARMONT
Stop crying. Acting confused. You don't need to fake your emotions for me.

LINDSAY CARMONT
We both loved you, Luke.

LUKE CARMONT
Stop lying, mom. You couldn't stand me. That's why you sent me away. You couldn't bare me for another second. Too weak to help me.

Lindsay is disgusted at her son's attitude. She frowns.

LINDSAY CARMONT
Luke...Please.

LUKE CARMONT
Because of you I missed my own father's death. I missed my own good-byes. He won't ever see me for who I am now...

Lindsay stares at Luke teary-eyed.

LINDSAY CARMONT
And who are you now?

LUKE CARMONT
Someone better than I was before.

The two share a look.

LINDSAY CARMONT
I don't know if you're better.

Lindsay takes out a cigarette and smokes at the table.

Luke acknowledges this.

LUKE CARMONT
When did you start smoking?

LINDSAY CARMONT
(Exhaling)
When your father died.

LUKE CARMONT
Smoking has more disadvantages than it does advantages. It's an efficient way to deal with stress. Try yoga or walking.

Lindsay smokes, looking at Luke in disbelief.

She exhales.

LINDSAY CARMONT
Don't tell me how to live my life, Luke.

Luke stares at her. He drags his hand over his bald head.

LUKE CARMONT
I'm done here.

LINDSAY CARMONT
You haven't even touched your food.

Luke stands up and walks off.

Lindsay looks at his perfectly assorted food.

She necks down her red wine.

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Lindsay sits on the sofa once again with a bottle of red wine. She seems very drunk.

Luke watches her from the doorway.

She catches his eye.

LINDSAY CARMONT
(slurring)
What the fuck do you want?

LUKE CARMONT
Still heavy on the drink?

LINDSAY CARMONT
You have changed so, so much, you
don't even look like you fucking
CARE about me, Luke!

Luke stares, stone faced.

LUKE CARMONT
I won't show remorse for you,
mother. You're goin' about this all
wrong. You're a mess.

LINDSAY CARMONT
And if you woulda' seen your father
the way he was, you would be too!

LUKE CARMONT
That's right. Blame Dad...

LINDSAY CARMONT
(slurring)
I will.

LUKE CARMONT
Blame Dad like you did before. Or
blame me. Anyone but yourself.

LINDSAY CARMONT

(Sobbing)

I don't know why you're doing this.

Luke walks across the room. He peaks through the window.

LUKE CARMONT

I think I'm going to join the military... They said I'd make a good soldier.

Lindsay licks her lips, gripping her wine bottle tightly.

LINDSAY CARMONT

The thing is. I don't know whether that'd make me happier or more sad.

Lindsay stares at Luke, anger in her face.

LUKE CARMONT

If I was shot dead. That'd be the last of us. You could start again.

Lindsay shakes her head, crying.

LINDSAY CARMONT

You're talking like a goddamned pyscho, Luke.

LUKE CARMONT

I'm not. I'm just being real.

Luke turns to Lindsay and blinks, his face; stone.

LINDSAY CARMONT

You aren't my son. You're acting like some fucking freak.

LUKE CARMONT

This is what you wanted. For me to be different. Stop complaining. Whining.

Lindsay slams her wine bottle down, smashing it.

Luke jumps slightly, he watches Lindsay approach him.

Lindsay powers up to Luke she pokes her finger into his chest, shouting.

LINDSAY CARMONT

(Shouting)

You don't do this! Stop acting stone-faced because you aren't!

Lindsay raises her hand and smacks Luke across the face. He stays still, rubs his cheek.

LINDSAY CARMONT (CONT'D)
 (Shouting)
 I have been alone! I have been
 crying! Drinking! I have-...

Luke forearm smashes Lindsay. She stumbles back holding her nose.

She looks at Luke, completely mortified. She cannot believe it.

LINDSAY CARMONT (CONT'D)
 (Her voice breaking)
 You get-... Get away.

Luke has tears in his eyes, he is shaking. He cannot believe it either. He tries to speak. He stops.

Lindsay begins to cry, turns and runs upstairs.

EXT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- PENNSYLVANIA-NIGHT

Luke paces down the drive. He has his hands in his jacket pockets. He has tears in his eyes still.

Cars drive past. Luke keeps his head down.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODLANDS- DAY

The Morning After

There is a tree house in the woods. It starts to have noise coming from it.

Branches crack as footsteps move around the tree house.

Lindsay walks towards the tree house.

Luke appears from inside, he looks down on his mother. The two share an emotional look.

LUKE CARMONT
 You found me.

LINDSAY CARMONT
 I didn't think I would.

Luke thinks for a second.

LUKE CARMONT
 Why's that?

Lindsay sighs.

LINDSAY CARMONT

I thought you lost any inklings of yourself. I knew if you were here. You'd still be the same old son I remembered. The son who I used to find up here smoking pot with his buddies or hiding after smashing someone's car window through... Now you're the kid who's here after smashing my nose through.

LUKE CARMONT

I-... I didn't mean to.

Lindsay bops her head.

LINDSAY CARMONT

I shouldn't have hit you. I shouldn't smoke, drink or-...

LUKE CARMONT

No. I-... I understand. I'm just mad. I'm mad like I was before. Now instead of smoking pot or smashing things I vent by being spiteful, telling myself lies that I'm stronger than anyone else whilst I tell the truth to everyone except myself.

Luke snuffles, he wipes his nose.

LINDSAY CARMONT

It's cold out here, Luke.

INT. CARMONT HOUSEHOLD- LIVING ROOM-DAY

Lindsay sits on the sofa. Luke sits on his Dad's old chair.

They watch a game show together.

LUKE CARMONT

Mom.

LINDSAY CARMONT

Yes?

LUKE CARMONT

I'm going to join the army.

Lindsay is taken back. She frowns.

LINDSAY CARMONT

But I thought you were. You seem okay now?

Luke gulps, he watches the TV with a frown.

LUKE CARMONT
I don't think I want to live any
other live.

Luke shakes, he bites his nails.

LUKE CARMONT (CONT'D)
I don't think I trust myself to be
normal, Mom.

LINDSAY CARMONT
Luke-... I-...

Luke looks over to her. She to him.

They share one last look.

LINDSAY CARMONT (CONT'D)
Okay.

Cut to black

The end.