

CARMEN BELL

INT. COMMON AREA - DEAKINS INSTITUTE - DAY

An ATTENDANT leads Heather and Ambrose into a common area where CARMEN BELL, late 30's, sits wearing an Ivy League hoodie and mismatched sweatpants. She appears totally unremarkable.

HEATHER

Miss Bell. I'm Heather Novack. I'm a detective with the Keller Police Department. This is my associate Harry Ambrose.

They all shake hands politely then sit at a lunch table. Ambrose studies her closely.

CARMEN BELL

This is usually my nap.

HEATHER

We won't keep you. We just wanted to ask you a couple questions about Doctor Sheldon Poole.

She blinks, something registering...

CARMEN BELL

Doctor Sheldon.

HEATHER

You tried to file a malpractice suit against him in 2002, is that right?

CARMEN BELL

I don't want to talk about that.

Heather and Ambrose trade a look.

HEATHER

Can I ask why not?

CARMEN BELL

Because I'm tired and this is usually my nap.

This is not going well. Ambrose jumps in.

AMBROSE

They must have you on Seroquel - always makes you tired in the morning.

Carmen arches an eyebrow.

THE SINNER

CARMEN

And Risperidone. Usually I stash half the dose. Too much and you're a vegetable. Not enough and it's...

Carmen trails off, not wanting to go there.

AMBROSE

My mother was on Lithium for years.

CARMEN BELL

For what, bipolar?

AMBROSE

Back then, they called it mania.

CARMEN BELL

Lithium is the worst. Swells your ankles and gives you nightmares.

AMBROSE

She was here on the fourth floor for years.

CARMEN BELL

Really. When?

AMBROSE

Until 1975.

Carmen relaxes a little.

CARMEN BELL

I was referred to Doctor Sheldon by the people I was living with. I guess you could call it a commune.

AMBROSE

Mosswood Grove?

CARMEN BELL

Yeah. How did you know?

AMBROSE

Only one in the area... Why did you see the doctor?

CARMEN BELL

It was supposed to be just a simple abortion but he took the whole uterus.

HEATHER
I'm sorry -- he removed your
uterus?

CARMEN BELL
The whole thing.

HEATHER
Why?

CARMEN BELL
Cheaper than repeat abortions.

Heather is stunned.

CARMEN BELL (CONT'D)
When I complained about it, he came
up with all kinds of paperwork
saying that I had consented to the
surgery.

HEATHER
But you hadn't.

Carmen's reliving the pain of this. She shakes her head.

AMBROSE
So what did you do?

CARMEN BELL
I went to the police. I gave a
deposition and everything. That's
when stuff started happening.

HEATHER
What do you mean?

CARMEN BELL
People following me. Going through
my stuff. Shooting words into my
head from the tops of buildings.

Ambrose falters. This is going off the rails.

HEATHER
Who was following you?

CARMEN BELL
All of them. The judge, the D.A.,
my mom, my dad, everybody. I just
wanted to go back to Mosswood and
pretend like it never happened.
But they wouldn't take me back.