

Explicit Exchange

By

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A large CROWD is watching a sporting event.

BENITA, a girl who is around 17 years old with brown hair, is leaning up against a fence, looking down at her scarred wrists.

She quickly covers her wrists as she remembers that FRANK, a man with short dark hair who is around the same age as Benita, is right next to her.

FRANK
Hey, you alright? You kind of spaced out for a bit there...

BENITA
Oh, sorry.

Frank is looking down at a small notepad in his hands. He puts it back in his bag.

FRANK
So?

BENITA
Obviously I hope we win.

FRANK
(laughs)
It'd be bad if you didn't.

They both resume concentrating on the game.

FRANK
Look, um, it's pretty amazing how you're just getting on with your life.

BENITA
(confused)
I have no idea what you're talking about.

FRANK
I thought you knew...

BENITA
Knew what?

FRANK
Your mum was killed in an accident this morning.

Benita stares blankly ahead of her. She looks at Frank, tears beginning to well up in her eyes. She starts to run.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK
(yelling after Benita)
I'm sorry!

2 EXT. STREET - DAY 2

Benita is running down a street. She reaches her house, opens the gate and runs in the front door.

3 INT. BENITA'S HOUSE - DAY 3

Benita is frantic.

BENITA
Mum? Are you here?

4 INT. BENITA'S GARAGE - DAY 4

She runs into the garage. Car not there. She calls her mum on mobile.

5 INT. BENITA'S LOUNGE ROOM - DAY 5

Benita is crying uncontrollably.

BENITA
Come on, come on, come on.

FEMALE VOICE ON THE PHONE
The service that you are trying
to call is switched off or
unavailable.

She runs out of the door.

6 INT. BENITA'S MUM'S BEDROOM - DAY 6

BENITA is at her mum's bedside drawer. She knocks over a photo of her mum. A photo of her dad is already flat on the table surface. She pulls out a jar of pills. After initially struggling to open the lid, she finally succeeds and empties the bottle into her mouth.

She falls to the floor.

She lies motionless.

The front door opens. She looks towards it feebly.

BENITA
Mum?

FADE TO BLACK

7 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

7

A class of students is sitting down for morning notices.

TEACHER

Many of you know that Benita
struggled with depression and on
the weekend, she took her own
life. Counseling will be
available.

Frank is sitting near the back of the class. He takes out
a small notepad. On it is a list of names, the first two
of which are crossed out. Benita's name is the third on
the list. Frank crosses her name out and smiles to
himself.