

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

The gallery is empty and on the walls are twenty of Ingrid's prison collages. Composed of words and images torn from magazines, defaced snapshots and small fine drawings they express a savage anger. Astrid stares up at them, a tortured expression on her face, then tears of rage suddenly fill her eyes and she quickly walks out.

INT. FRONTERA PRISON - VISITING ROOM - RAINY DAY

We hear PEOPLE TALKING. A grim look on her face, Astrid stands at the window looking out at the rain.

INGRID (O.S.)
(excited)
Astrid?

As Astrid turns, CAMERA SHIFTS to include Ingrid who has come up behind her. Ingrid's smile fades.

INGRID
What is it? What's wrong?

ASTRID
I'm back in Mac. Did they tell you?

INGRID
No...

ASTRID
They gave me a day pass last week to see your show. It's really great. So strong. So brutally honest. Just like you.

Ingrid waits, knowing something's coming.

ASTRID
But art isn't everything, is it.
(hard, accusing)
Claire's dead. She killed herself.

Ingrid takes a deep breath, then looks away.

INGRID
I'm sorry.

ASTRID
No, you're not. You poisoned her too, only this time you used words.

(CONTINUED)

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INGRID

What are you talking about?! I just told her what she already knew! So you'd see what she was! A strong person wouldn't have listened to me!

ASTRID

(disgusted)

You were just jealous.

INGRID

Of course I was jealous! I live in a cell with a woman who has a vocabulary of twenty-five words! But that didn't have anything to do with it!

(raging)

Why do you think they wanted you?! To create a perfect, happy little family?! People get babies to do that, not young women recovering from bullet wounds! You weren't their child, you were on suicide watch! And don't think this is the first time she tried it either, it's just the first time she pulled it off! You would never have been happy with a woman like that! What could she teach you? A hundred different ways to lose? She was a victim!

ASTRID

(heartbroken cry)

No! She was nice! Something you don't know anything about! She knew my favorite food, the kind of soap I liked, she asked me what my day was like! She discovered me! Not you! You were always too busy discovering yourself! I was just your audience!

(in tears, choked)

I used to think you were everything...

(pause, heartbroken)

Maybe Claire was weak... but all she needed was for people to be nice back...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASTRID (CONT'D)

(sudden, cold)

I'm not coming back. I wanted to tell you that in person. I wanted to see your face when I told you. I don't need you and I don't want you and I'm going to leave you alone in here. That's the only reason I came. To tell you that.

She suddenly shoves past Ingrid and heads for the door.

INGRID

(sharp cry)

Don't do this, Astrid! I know you think I'm cruel but I'm only trying to protect you from those people!

Astrid quickly turns back.

ASTRID

(disgusted)

Those people.

(bitter cry)

Those people are not the enemy, Mother! We are! You and me!

(in tears)

They don't hurt us, we hurt them. So you can't protect me. Nothing can protect me from us.

EXT. MacLAREN HALL - TRACK - DAY

As they talk, Astrid and Paul walk along the track, CAMERA TRACKING WITH them.

ASTRID

(sharp)

I don't want to go to New York with you, okay?!

PAUL

(frustrated)

But the woman I'm living with has hundreds of cats and she doesn't clean up after them. You could get the plague. I can't stay there and I'm not coming back here.

(CONTINUED)