

arm around his neck, pets him and whispers.

GRACE

I'll see you home... OK?



INT. CREEK HOUSE - DAY

Everything is being packed up. Robert is dressed for travel. Annie is taping up the boxes containing her computer equipment.

ANNIE

Are you going to stay in the city or go up to Connecticut?

ROBERT

Connecticut. I told the office I'd work out of there next week. When are you planning to start back?

ANNIE

Probably first thing in the morning. It's too late to start now. I'm going to try not to do too much driving in the dark.

ROBERT

May I have a suggestion?

ANNIE

Yeah, what?

ROBERT

Take your time.

ANNIE

(innocently)
What do you mean?

Annie looks up from the box to see Robert is calmly staring at her. His demeanor is different. Something's going on.

ANNIE

You look like something's wrong.

This is Robert's moment. He knows it. He takes a breath and hopes it comes out right:

ROBERT

I'll tell you something, Annie -- I stood there looking at what was happening to that horse... And, I swear, it felt like the same thing was happening to me.

ANNIE

I don't understa-

ROBERT

(continues)

And I have two choices. I can either fight the way things are, or accept them.

(Annie waits; he smiles)

See, I always knew I loved you more. Didn't bother me. I always felt lucky... a little amazed... that such

a vibrant, beautiful woman would want to be with a man like me... And I guess I thought as long as I did everything right -- if I was the best husband I could be, the best father... even being a good lawyer only mattered to me because of what it meant for us... if I could do all that, it wouldn't make any difference if we loved each other the same or not... I wasn't asking for more. I told myself I didn't need more.

(smiles)

But you don't know how you feel about me. You don't know... if you want a life with me anymore...

(bravely)

And I don't want you to come home until you do know...

(the hard part)

... one way or the other.

Annie cannot remember a time when she ever loved her husband more than in this moment -- knowing what it took for him to say this. She would not disrespect it with denials. Her throat is choked with tears, she swallows down. She nods.

Robert nods, feeling both pride and heartbreak in the same moment. He picks up his bag, kisses her goodbye and exits.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

Annie and Robert walk towards the car to find Grace, leaning against it -- looking depressed.

ANNIE

What's the matter, honey? Gonna miss Pilgrim?

GRACE

Tom's gone.

Both Robert and Annie are surprised.

GRACE

Smokey told me he left last night to look at some horses in Sheriden. He won't be back for three days. I can't believe he didn't want to say goodbye.

ANNIE

(hiding her own distress)

Well... honey... you know... that's just not his way. Maybe you can write him a letter or something. Say thank you... Don't think about it... You take care and I'll see you home.

She embraces Grace and, over her shoulder, watches Robert enter the car. Grace follows suit. The car drives off leaving Annie alone at the Double Divide.

EXT. CREEK HOUSE - DUSK

The ranch is still. Annie stands on the porch, her arms folded, vulnerable, looking at the ranch. All her boxes are packed and stacked in the room. She looks over to the Ranch