

CHARLOTTE. That's not why I'm here. Listen, I know you know it, but this lawsuit's changed things. In one of the stores today, I ran into Jenny. I said hello. She turned away from me. Yesterday, Doris acted like she didn't know me. Actually hurt my feelings.

CATHERINE. That wouldn't have bothered the old Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE. Yeah, well, the old Charlotte was younger then. How they treating you?

CATHERINE. Most of the neighbors aren't talking to me, either. Except for the occasional insult. Lizzy said I should be ashamed of myself. A guy at Tom's work asked him why he can't control his wife. Said this is what he gets for having a wife that worked.

CHARLOTTE. Father Mackey said that we're wrong. For doing this. For backing you. That we're just asking for trouble. That we're embarrassing the town. That the company was the best thing to happen to this place and that what you're doing, what we're doing, ruined it for everyone.

CATHERINE. When did everyone we know become strangers?

CHARLOTTE. You know what they all think, don't you?

CATHERINE. I think I know, but tell me anyway.

CHARLOTTE. They say you just want money.

CATHERINE. There isn't any money. Or don't they read that part.

CHARLOTTE. I think they ignore it. They're saying you want the publicity.

CATHERINE. It would be funny if it weren't so insulting.

CHARLOTTE. That you want sympathy.

CATHERINE. There are easier ways, they ever think of that?

CHARLOTTE. That you want to be thanked. That you want pity.

CATHERINE. Maybe the headlines make it seem that way.

CHARLOTTE. Maybe.

CATHERINE. They want me to want sympathy, pity. Because I think they're scared of what I really want.

CHARLOTTE. Tell me what that is. Because when I get up in the morning and put my body back together, I pray you know what you're doing. (*Catherine thinks for a second, then ...*)

CATHERINE. (*Firmly.*) I want to win.

CHARLOTTE. I'd have a backup plan.

CATHERINE. Well, at least I'll go down swinging.

CHARLOTTE. I put you up to this.

CATHERINE. I lost a bet, fair and square.

CHARLOTTE. I'm sorry. I knew it would be hard. I didn't know it would be horrible. I'm so sorry. I just ... I want to apologize.

CATHERINE. It was up to me. I chose this.

CHARLOTTE. The old Katie wouldn't be able to do it.

CATHERINE. She was younger then, too. (*A beat.*)

CHARLOTTE. Catherine Donohue?

CATHERINE. Yeah?

CHARLOTTE. You're my hero.