

**A THIN LINE**

Written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Stella, 29, is standing with a police man, she looks like she has been crying, her night gown is stained with blood. The police man is scribbling notes on his notebook.

A dead body in a body bag is wheeled past them. Stella stares sadly at the body.

POLICEMAN

Madam please can you tell us what happened here?

Stella looks away to another side of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

The living room is luxurious, not a mansion but a the house of a well to do family. CHIEF, 50, disabled, is on a wheel chair reading his news paper. STELLA, dressed in a nice suit walks in with a ADAM, 25, tall, good looking.

STELLA

Good afternoon Dad.

CHIEF

Hey dear, welcome back.

STELLA

(smiles)

I have only been gone for an hour.

CHIEF

And I missed you every minute of it.

STELLA

I know you did. Okay, this is the caretaker I told you about. His name is ADAM

ADAM

Good day sir.

Adam offers chief a handshake, Chief looks at him ignoring the handshake.

CHIEF

I did not know he was this, mature.

STELLA

Come on dad, this is a temporary arrangement. And after you made the last help I got quit. We needed someone tolerant. And we both know the only women who can tolerate you are me and Ann. Speaking of Ann, where is she?

CHIEF

In her room.

STELLA

(to adam)

Ann is my kid sister. I will go get her.

Adam sits, Stella leaves. Adam feels uncomfortable as Chief adjusts his glasses to examine Adam from head to toe.

Stella returns with ANN, 23, pretty but frail, no make up on, natural hair, looks sad.

STELLA (CONT'D)

This is Ann.

Adam stands up to shake her hand but she just stares away from him.

ADAM

I see nobody in this family likes handshakes.

STELLA

No no no. Ann is quite shy. And she doesn't speak. She hasn't spoken since the accident.

ADAM

I am so sorry.

STELLA

Don't be. So now that you have met everyone. Let me show you to your room.

ADAM

Okay. Thank you.

Stella sits Ann down and leads Adam away. Chief still looks at him funny as he leaves.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

Stella leads Adam in.

STELLA  
So this will be your bedroom.

Adam nods in approval.

STELLA (CONT'D)  
I hope you like it.

ADAM  
It will do, thanks.

STELLA  
I will let you settle in. By the way do not mind my dad. He is that way with new people. The accident changed him.

ADAM  
If I may ask, what happened exactly?

STELLA  
Well, I had just arrived from the states and they were on their way to pick me up. My dad, Ann and my mum. A drunk driver ran their car off the road. Mum didn't make it, and Ann hasn't spoken since then.

ADAM  
I'm so sorry.

STELLA  
It's fine. Settle down and come down stairs. Its almost time for dinner.

ADAM  
I will be right down.

INT. KITCHEN- MORNING

Stella is preparing breakfast. Adam walks in.

ADAM  
Good morning

STELLA  
Morning. Are you done with dad?

ADAM  
Yes. Just here for his breakfast.

STELLA  
Okay. Grab me that tray please.

Adam gets the tray and hands it over to her. He steps back as she dishes the meal.

STELLA (CONT'D)  
Do you cook?

ADAM  
Not really. I mean I do, but not that good.

STELLA  
(Laughs)  
That's okay, as long as you can microwave something for dad and Ann in the afternoons. I will be here in the morning and evenings to take care of things.

ADAM  
All right.

STELLA  
Okay take that to dad, I have to give Ann her meal before I leave for work.  
(looks at her watch)  
Shit! I'm almost late.

Stella runs out of the kitchen. Adam smiles, shakes his head and walks out after her.

INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING

Chief is on the dining picking out his drugs, Ann is on the couch watching TV. Adam brings a cup of water to chief. Chief takes a sip.

CHIEF  
Do you want to kill me?

ADAM  
(surprised)  
Excuse me?

CHIEF  
I said warm water, this is hot.

ADAM

But sir..

CHIEF

My friend go and add cold water.

Adam takes the water back in. Stella walks in.

STELLA

Good evening. Evening dad.

CHIEF

Welcome dear. How was work today?

Ann smiles as Stella comes in. Stella goes to sit by her and drags her close to her. Ann rests her head on stella.

STELLA

Work was good. Sorry I am late. I ordered dinner. Did they deliver?

CHIEF

Yes. We have eaten.

Stella looks at what is on the TV Ann is watching. A WOMAN IS STABBING A MAN.

STELLA

Why are you watching this, this is so violent.

CHIEF (O.S.)

I said warm water, what us wrong with you!

Stella looks over and sees Adam standing by chief looking confused, Chief looks furious.

STELLA

What is it?

Stella stands up and walks over to the dinning.

CHIEF

This boy is useless, he cannot give me ordinary warm water.

STELLA

Dad, you have to realize that Adam is not a maid. He is just here to assist you till we can get a proper help. So cut him some slack.

Stella takes the cup and sips it.

STELLA (CONT'D)  
 Ah ah, this is warm water daddy.  
 What more do you want?

Chief looks away angrily.

STELLA (CONT'D)  
 Adam thank you. I will take care of  
 this.

Adam leaves.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

The room is dark. Ann is on her bed. The door opens and someone tip toes into Anns bed. It is Adam. Ann seems agitated. He signals to her to be calm.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Stella comes down the stairs in her night gown, she goes into the kitchen and walks out with some lemons, a knife and a glass of water. She drops it on the centre table. Then there's a LOUD BANG on the door.

ARMED ROBBER  
 Open this door!! Who they there?  
 Open up!

Stella is alarmed. She peeps through the window and sees them. She quickly runs to Anns room and opens the door.

Adam is wearing his trousers while Ann is on the rumped bed, crying. Adam is as shocked to see Stella as she is to see to him.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Adam rushes down the stairs. Stella rushes after him.

STELLA  
 You fucking bastard!!!

Stella attacks Adam, crying.

STELLA (CONT'D)  
 How could you do this!! I trusted  
 you, you animal!!!

ADAM  
 I am so sorry.

ARMED ROBBER

Una think say we dey play for here?! If I break down this door. I go kill all of una for that place.

Stella stops beating Adam, Ann walks down the stairs. Wrapping a sheet over her naked body, looking terrified.

ADAM

(whispering)  
We have to open the door.

STELLA

(whispering)  
Fuck what you think!!! I am not letting armed robbers in. You freaking animal. Oh! Is this part of your plan. Did you invite them here?

ADAM

(whispering)  
Ofcourse not.

STELLA

(normal voice)  
Oh you are not a thief, you are just a rapist!

The armed robbers start to BANG on the door with something heavy. Trying to force it open.

ARMED ROBBER

I dey hear una for inside there. Una think say we dey play for here.

STELLA

(whispering)  
I am calling the cops. Where is my phone?

ADAM

(normal voice)  
I cannot let you do that.

STELLA

Watch me!

Stella grabs her phone and Adam tries to get it from her. They begin to struggle for the phone; Adam is overpowering Stella and she falls to the floor. The armed robbers are still trying to get the door open.

Someone stabs Adam from behind. He turns around, it is Anna. She had picked the knife Stella wanted to use to slice her lemons to stab Adam in the neck. Stella is shocked. She runs to hold Ann. Adam is choking in his own blood as blood gushes from his mouth till he falls. Ann starts to cry, Stella pulls her close still trying to comprehend the situation. The door flings open. And the robbers rush in. They see the scene, Adam on the floor, blood still gushing out.

ARMED ROBBER  
Wetin happen for here?

ARMED ROBBER 2  
Guy make we commot here sharply!

The robbers run away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Adam is still on the floor dead, Ann is on the couch shivering. Stella is trying to calm her down. Chief is with them, he is thinking.

CHIEF  
We have to get our story straight  
before anyone comes.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

A policeman is talking to Stella.

POLICEMAN  
Madam please can you tell us what  
happened here?

A body in a body bag is wheeled past them. Stella stares sadly at the body.

Stella looks over at her dad who is talking to another policeman. He looks back at her.

STELLA  
(Stuttering, crying)  
The robbers came in, they forced  
the door open. Adam tried to fight  
them when one of them was raping my  
sister and they killed him...

FADE TO BLACK.