

INT. APRIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT (N2)

April takes a chicken out of the oven. She hears the front door open. Knows it's Mark. But after their fight, she doesn't look up when she says:

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APRIL

I'm sorry I snapped earlier. It wasn't about you --

MARK

I didn't think it was.

APRIL

I don't usually snap.

MARK

I didn't think you did. In fact, you seem like a pretty together person. Which is no small feat considering you've been raising a daughter all by yourself.

APRIL

Well... thank you. But I don't feel very together lately.

MARK

Welcome to my world. I've tried to embrace chaos as best I can.

APRIL

It's working for you.

MARK

For the moment. But it hasn't always been so easy.

He hesitates - something on the tip of his tongue. But is he ready to tell her? April senses this.

APRIL

You don't have to tell me your business.

MARK

I know I don't. The thing is... I would have liked to meet your friend, Harry. But working in a restaurant... I don't know if I can do that again.

(beat, then)

I'm three years sober, April.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

April reacts, tries to contain her surprise.

APRIL

Oh... I didn't know.

MARK

I tend not to lead with that piece of information.

APRIL

Do you go to meetings?

April's eyes flick to the open bottle of wine and almost empty wine glass on the counter.

MARK

Sometimes. I have a sponsor.

(re: wine)

Look, you don't have to lock up the liquor cabinet or anything. But working at a restaurant... every night, with the staff, it's kind of a scene. I'm not sure I'm ready to go back --

APRIL

No, it's okay. You shouldn't --

MARK

Not that I wouldn't make a great mixologist. See, my Dad poured me my first whiskey when I was 12...? Then taught me how to make all these drinks so I could bartend the swinging parties they'd throw. Anyway, thanks to him, I left home with a real marketable skill and a high tolerance level. And life was one big long party... Until it wasn't. Three years ago I woke up and realized I'd lost every job, every friend, every thing that ever mattered. I even lost the woman I thought I'd spend the rest of my life with. You were right. You don't just wake up in an RV one day. Sometimes you have to lose everything before you can start over.

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Close on April -- truly moved, and for the first time understanding why Mark is the way he is --