

SUZANNE BEDFORD SIDE

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Was my mother seriously so important to you that you would risk getting arrested?

DAMIEN POND

Everybody that I take care of is important to me. Especially when it comes to this. I've been watching my whole world crumble in front of me...

(starting to break down)

Hell, I don't even know if I'm gonna have a job by the end of the month. Or a life worth living!

SUZANNE BEDFORD

Yeah, well, welcome to the club.

DAMIEN POND

(starting to tear up)

Did you even listen to the letter? Did you even hear how sorry she was for what she did?

SUZANNE BEDFORD

Yes, I heard what she had to say but why should I care? Why should I sit back and listen to some kind of apology from a woman who only ever brought me pain and sorrow? My whole life - my whole, entire life - I had wondered why she had forgotten me. After my father and brother passed away, she was a different person. She had absolutely no strength. I mean, I've had to block out some of my memories in order to simply get by. When I was old enough, I felt like I had to leave, it was the only option for me. It was a defense mechanism.

DAMIEN POND

Yeah, but then part of it is on you! You can't blame her for the actions that you took for yourself!

SUZANNE BEDFORD

Oh yeah, Bigshot? What would you have done if the men that your Mama brought back home would beat you? What would you do if all your Mama said to that was, "They're just getting to know you," or, "Stop telling lies!"

(near tears)

What would you have done if nothing you said mattered at all!? What would you do??

DAMIEN POND

Look, I'm not trying to say that anything you did was wrong. I'm sorry. All I'm trying to say is that -

SUZANNE BEDFORD

What!? What are you trying to say!?

DAMIEN POND

I'm sorry that you went through that! I really am. Nobody deserves that at all. Nobody! All I'm trying to say is that you have the opportunity here to see her perspective. You have the opportunity to understand what went on in her mind. No, this doesn't change what happened, but it can change how you see it. It can change your judgements and thoughts about her.

SUZANNE BEDFORD

(barely holding it together)

As far as I've been concerned, she's been dead since the day my father and brother passed. I didn't want to believe that she had simply forgotten about me. So it was easier to pretend that she was just gone.