

Kara stands frozen by the door, holding her purse.

MALIK

See? Even when you try to run...
You'll always find yourself back here.

KARA

(firm, guarded)
What are you talking about?

MALIK

I'm talking about us. About how, no
matter where you go, we find our way
back. You think that's coincidence?

MALIK

Tell me the truth. Do you dream about
me?

Kara doesn't answer, but her silence says enough.

Malik stepping even closer.

MALIK

I do. All the time.
(leans in,)
Dreams where we don't make it to the
bed. Where I've got you pressed up
against the wall, and you're clawing
at my back like you used to. Where you
scream my name so loud the neighbors
know you belong to me.

Kara's chest rises and falls, fast, betraying her.

Malik brushes a hand down her arm, gentle at first.

MALIK

See? You remember. Don't lie you feel
it.

Kara shuts her eyes, trembling, torn between disgust and the
part of her that once craved him.

KARA

I loved you once. God help me, I did.
But not anymore.

Malik's smile fades.

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KARA

This? Tonight? It was closure. That's all. You need to understand --- I'm moving on.

She takes a step back, putting space between them.

KARA

And I need you to let me go.

Malik studies her in silence.

Then, without warning, he lunges in and steals a kiss.

Kara shoves him hard, breaking free.

KARA

No!

Malik stares at her, his face twisted.

MALIK

You don't get to tell me no.

He SLAPS her across the face. Kara stumbles, hitting the floor, her purse spilling open.

She gasps, holding her cheek.

Malik towers over her.

MALIK

You think you can just erase me?
Replace me with him? After everything?

Kara scrambles backward, fear in her eyes. Malik paces like a caged animal, running a hand over his head, breathing heavy.

MALIK

No. You don't walk out on me. Not now.
Not ever.

Kara's is scared.

KARA

Malik... please...

Malik stops pacing, glaring down at her.