 AUDITION SIDE - COUNSELOR

IN MY PAIN

Written by Bobby & Renee Peoples

CHARACTER  
DESCRIPTION:

The Counselor is calm, emotionally intelligent, and deeply compassionate. She works at the recovery home and challenges Sharon to confront the pain she has spent her life running from. The Counselor is honest without being harsh, nurturing without feeling weak. The actor should bring warmth, wisdom, patience, and emotional grounding to the role.

Open Race Female

Age Range: 40s-60s

INT. RECOVERY CENTER - DAY

Sharon sits across from the Counselor during one of their first sessions together. Sharon is guarded and emotionally shut down.

COUNSELOR  
Why are you here?

Sharon shrugs without making eye contact.

SHARON  
Court said I had to come.

The Counselor nods calmly.

COUNSELOR  
That's why you walked through the door.\n

A beat.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
That ain't why you stayed.

Silence.

Sharon shifts uncomfortably.

SHARON  
I don't belong here.

COUNSELOR  
Why not?

SHARON  
These people... they not like me.

The Counselor studies her.

COUNSELOR  
You sure about that?

A beat.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
Pain got a way of makin' everybody  
look different on the outside.

That lands slightly.

SHARON  
You don't know what I done.

The Counselor nods slowly.

COUNSELOR  
Maybe not.

A beat.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
But shame sound the same on  
everybody.

Silence fills the room.

Sharon finally looks at her.

INT. RECOVERY CENTER - NIGHT

Sharon sits alone after a difficult group session. The Counselor approaches quietly.

COUNSELOR  
You disappeared out that room  
pretty fast.

Sharon wipes her face quickly.

SHARON  
I'm fine.

The Counselor sits beside her.

COUNSELOR  
No, you not.

A beat.

SHARON  
I don't like talkin' about my past.

The Counselor nods.

COUNSELOR  
Most people don't.

Silence.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
But you can't heal somethin' you  
keep hidin'.

That hits Sharon hard.

SHARON  
Every time I think about it... it  
feel like I'm right back there  
again.

The Counselor softens her tone.

COUNSELOR  
That's because your body remembers  
what your mind been tryna survive.

A beat.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
You spent your whole life runnin'  
from pain.

Sharon looks down.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)  
Maybe it's time to stop runnin'.

A long silence.

Sharon begins crying quietly.

The Counselor stays beside her.

No judgment.

No pressure.

Just present.

SELF-TAPE NOTES:

Actors auditioning for the Counselor should:

Bring calm authority and emotional warmth

Avoid sounding preachy or overly dramatic


Character should feel grounded, safe, and trustworthy

Strong listening and subtle emotional reactions are important

Performance should feel natural and emotionally mature

SUBMISSION INFO

Please send headshot, resume, and self-tape to:

 [TPNCasting@gmail.com](mailto:TPNCasting@gmail.com)

Subject Line:

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