



CLARA (29)

You felt the ropes binding you tighter and tighter. Once again you feel like you're suffocating. Just like you did years ago with Veronica. Why is Anna smothering me? Why must she spoil something so beautiful? Why can't everything stay as it was between you two? Free, undefined, no commitments. Her words resonate in your head. "You can't stop time, Clara." You took a deep breath and opened your eyes. You heard the murmur of the

sea in the distance and the sunbeams peered into the hotel room through the curtains. Next to you, Daniel muttered something in his sleep. You looked at him and suddenly you wished that someone else was lying there. You thought of her face and felt like crying. Anna! What am I doing... again? Why am I here? It's me, me destroying everything. Like so many times before. Like with Veronica. But not this time, this time you just won't let your fear take Anna from you. You got up quietly and sneaked out of the room.

Clara hates commitment. No, that's not exactly it. She's terrified of commitment. She's afraid that it kills everything that's spontaneous and beautiful between two people. She saw it around her so many times that she can't even begin to imagine that it could be different. Freedom is everything for her. Every time she feels that someone is pressing her into a relationship that would mean losing even a little bit of her freedom, **she does something stupid.** For example sleeps with someone else. She's not doing it to hurt her partner. She just wants to reassure herself that she can still be spontaneous. And it always destroys her relationship. But she just can't help herself. She's like a moth that needs to fly but is burned by the light in the end.

Fragments from her life

Seven years ago Clara dated Veronica. Clara loved Veronica and was very happy with her. Until Veronica started **talking about marriage.** Clara should have stopped her right away, but she just couldn't. Veronica was so happy that she didn't listen to Clara's hints that she was not ready to get married. Clara still thought it would sort itself out in time but then it was too late. The wedding was just a few weeks away and Clara knew she wouldn't be able to back out. She started to suffocate. And so she went to the nearest bar, got together with the first guy that talked to her and took him home. She often wondered if it was just a coincidence or if she subconsciously knew that Veronica would come home and find them there. Clara won't ever forget the look on Veronica's face. She knew she hurt her terribly and nothing could mend that. She hurt her even more that night, when she told her everything. That she felt like she was suffocating. That she couldn't continue. That she couldn't stand how Veronica depended on her. That she couldn't bear her demands. That she had never wanted to get married. That she had been saying it all the time, Veronica just hadn't been listening. Then Clara packed her things, **left town and never saw her again.**

There were a few years of shorter or longer relationships. Sometimes with women, sometimes with men – that didn't matter. They all had the same ending. It started with Clara feeling like she was suffocating, then came the cheating, the tears, the blame and then the escape.

Two years ago, Clara met Anna and fell in love again. Anna was sweet, sensitive; she was like a rock in the sea, a rock the impulsive Clara has been seeking for a long time. They started living together and after about a year **Anna slowly started to speak about marriage.** It could have ended like every other time, but Anna took it easy and every time Clara felt like it was too much for her, Anna backed off. Yes, sometimes they did argue, sometimes Clara even went away for a while to clear her head, but in the end she always returned to Anna. The thought of marrying Anna slowly became less terrifying. And then Anna raised the stakes.

Recent events

Two months ago, Anna told her that she wants to have a baby. She's already thought everything through and she wasn't going to change her mind. She had even arranged an appointment with a specialist in assisted reproduction. Clara found herself trapped. She's never wanted children and she thought Anna knew that. The worst argument of their relationship followed and it lasted long through the night. Before Anna woke up, Clara packed her things and **left for the Canary Islands.** She needed time. And freedom.

During her first night there, **she met Daniel in a bar**. He was funny, interesting and most importantly, he didn't ask anything from Clara. They spent a night together. And not only a night. During the day they went to the beach, drank cocktails or looked for pretty hidden places across the island and they spent their nights making love in Daniel's room. Clara felt free again. **That lasted a week, but then Clara realized how much she missed Anna**. She left without saying goodbye, leaving only a made-up phone number for Daniel.

On the way back, Clara thought about what she would say to Anna. In the end she decided **she needed more time**. When she got home, she apologized to Anna and suggested she too would go to the assisted reproduction examination. They might find out it would not be possible and that would be that. Clara would find some way to explain it to Anna. Or she would get used to the thought of being a second mom to Anna's child. They both went to the examination a few days ago and now they're waiting for the results that should come any minute. They'll see what the results say.

Two weeks ago, Anna announced that she'd have to go for a business trip to a city where her friend from the past lives. She suggested they could go together and arrange to meet her. It was clear that Anna would be very happy if Clara met Sabine and her family, and so she agreed. After all, she still feels a bit guilty about her recent escape to the Canaries.

Questions for the night

"How did you two meet?" – Clara knows that Sabine and Anna have known each other for a long time, but it might be time for stories from the past.

"Veronica, how do you know Daniel?" – if you wanted to stir things up a bit

Who to talk to

You don't really want to talk to anyone, but you probably won't be able to avoid talking to Veronica (try persuading her not to drag your old history to light in front of Anna) or Daniel.

Relationships

Anna (37)

Anna is very important to Clara. So much so that Clara is willing to set aside her freedom, for now. How far will Clara be willing to go? How much more is she willing to sacrifice for Anna? And would she still be herself if she did that? Clara doesn't want to lose Anna but she still needs her space and her freedom.

Veronica (35)

Veronica is a painful chapter of Clara's life. Clara is well aware how much she hurt Veronica all those years ago and, should they meet again, an apology alone won't set things right. The experience with Veronica is also a lesson for what she's going through now with Anna.

Daniel (26)

If it weren't for Anna, the week with Daniel would be just a pleasant memory. She might even have stayed with him longer. But Anna is here and so Clara sees the affair with Daniel as a secret that should stay hidden forever.

Characters not present in the game

Helen is a doctor. Anna approached her regarding the assisted reproduction. She examined Anna and Clara a few days ago and promised to call soon with the results.