



VERONICA (35)

You went up the stairs thinking about how to apologize to Clara for coming at her the way you did last time. If she doesn't like picking the wedding menu, that's ok, you'll do it on your own. It's supposed to be the beginning of your life together, not torture. You slipped the key into the lock – but the door wasn't locked. Did Clara forget to lock up again? She can be so careless sometimes. You started looking for the phone to call her, but then you heard muffled voices from the bedroom. One of them was Clara's. You opened the bedroom door and found yourself aghast at what you saw. The sight didn't even make sense! Clara? In your bed with a strange man? How could she do that to you? Was it all just lies? Why? Why? Why?

Veronica is a fighter. Nobody would describe her as one, but she is. She can go through a lot if she has something to fight for. **She loves Sabine and so she wages an everyday battle with her daughter Denise.** A battle that is not fought for Sabine, but rather for Denise herself. Veronica would really like Denise to like her. She likes Denise, though it's very hard sometimes. She's a fighter and she'll never give up until she wins or finally loses.

Fragments from her life

Veronica was in love once before. **Clara** was the first woman that Veronica thought would be her life partner. She seemed to be Veronica's complete opposite – wild, emotional, impulsive. It's what made Clara so attractive to Veronica. They were planning a future together, **they wanted to get married.** Or at least Veronica wanted to and Clara didn't object. Until that moment, **a few weeks before their wedding,** when **Veronica caught Clara cheating on her. With a man.** It turned into a very long night. Veronica kept asking why Clara did what she did, for so long that she finally got an answer. It was too late to realize she didn't want to hear it. Clara shouted everything into her face. That she was suffocating. That she couldn't continue. That she couldn't stand how Veronica depends 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 and vanished from Veronica's life.** That was seven years ago.

Veronica cancelled the wedding; she called all of her relatives and friends. Then she broke down. **She started to drink,** got fired from her job, and stopped leaving her house. She didn't want to live without Clara. Even now she's not sure how she got to the bridge from which she was going to jump. She just might have been too drunk and just doesn't remember it. But as she was looking down, she suddenly realized she didn't want to die. Not because of Clara. She hasn't touched alcohol since and even **went to rehab.** She promised herself that she would be happy. At first, it might have been just some kind of revenge on Clara, but in time Veronica realized she was doing it for herself. Clara slowly stopped being an open wound and became just an emotional scar, carefully hidden from the world.

Four years ago, Veronica met Sabine and fell in love again. Sabine was a widow, her wife had died of cancer several years before and Veronica could understand loss. They would probably have started living together much sooner, but Sabine had **a daughter, Denise,** who wasn't happy about their relationship at all. At first, Veronica thought Denise was afraid that she would replace her mother Lea. But she found out Lea wasn't the problem. **The problem was Anna.** The perfect, fabulous, flawless Anna. Veronica never completely understood the exact nature of the relationship between Anna and Sabine but it was clear that it was Anna that Denise imagined would take the place next to her mom. That started a fight that has, in fact, lasted until now. A fight where the main weapons are phrases like: "Anna would never do that;" "Anna would know what I like;" "You'd never understand that, only Anna gets it." But Veronica is a fighter and, in the end, she managed to persuade Denise that she and Sabine really love each other and so they married two years ago. However, she **hasn't managed to persuade Denise to love her too,** yet. And so **the conflict continues, hidden from Sabine's sight.**

Recent events

Sabine recently came up with the idea that she'll **run in the local elections.** It's very important for her and Veronica wants to support her in it.

For the last few weeks Veronica has been noticing that **something's not right with Denise**. She's looking sad, tired and once she even saw her crying in her room. She tried to find out what happened, but Denise quickly brushed her off with another "Anna line." Last week, she saw her roaming around the city **with a rough crowd**. Sabine hasn't noticed anything, as usual; she's too busy with her political campaign.

Two weeks ago, Sabine came home and was over the moon – Anna was going to come into town with her partner and Sabine invited her over for a visit. She said she was really looking to Veronica finally meeting Anna. Veronica's cousin Daniel is going to be in town at that time too so Veronica suggested they could invite him as well and have a small party. She could use the support, **she's much less happy about Anna's visit than Sabine and Denise**. Veronica doesn't want to spoil her visit so she's got everything ready for the party and she's awaiting the guests.

Questions for the night

"Did you go somewhere for vacation this year? We'd like to take a trip but we haven't had time to go yet."

– Veronica wants to stick to general topics of conversation and just get through the evening somehow. Without a drink, if possible. If Daniel does not mention it himself, Veronica should point out that he's recently been to the Canary Islands for a vacation.

"Anna, how long have you known Clara?"

Who to talk to

Denise - You can try to find out what's been bothering her.

Daniel - He doesn't seem to be himself -- why?

Sabine - Try to bring up that she should pay more attention to Denise.

Relationships

Sabine (46)

Veronica loves Sabine and she's very happy with her. If it weren't for the problems with Denise, she would be absolutely happy with her life. Veronica is used to the fact that Sabine never takes her side in fights with Denise. Actually, she doesn't take Denise's side either; she just turns a blind eye and pretends nothing is happening. Or she might really not see it.

Sabine knows that Veronica is a recovering alcoholic and she respects Veronica for never drinking alcohol. Veronica never told her anything about her reasons for drinking or about Clara.

Denise (17)

Denise is just so difficult. Veronica really loves her and she wants to help her very much. She sees that Denise is unhappy about something. She's also afraid that she might be in some kind of trouble; she really didn't like the look of the group from last week one bit. She keeps wondering if she should ask Denise about it. She doesn't want to tell Sabine; she's afraid that Denise would see it as a betrayal and everything would just get worse.

Daniel (26)

Veronica never really saw much of her cousin Daniel. He's quite a bit younger and his family lived in a different city when they were kids. In recent years, Daniel started going to their town on business and they became closer. Veronica likes him, it's nice to talk with him and he's always up for anything fun. That's actually how Daniel picks up girls but he won't have much luck in here, poor guy.

Veronica is happy he's here. When **he called, two months ago, from his vacation in the Canary Islands** to say that he'd be coming to town on business, they agreed on spending a few days together. At that time, Veronica didn't even know that the *divine* Anna and her girlfriend would be visiting so it's a good thing Daniel is here for moral support.