

INT. LOST CAUSE SALOON An exhausted Erin has come in for a drink. A MAN (CHARLES EMBRY) comes over and sits opposite.

CHARLES

Hey. Don't I know you?

ERIN

(to herself) Oh no.. (to him) Uh..no..I..I don't think so-

CHARLES

Sure. Sure..I saw you at that barbecue in Hinkley. And the firehouse.

ERIN

Oh. (disinterested) Were you there?

CHARLES

Sure. Sure..I watched you. I had my eye on you..ha, ha...

ERIN

Oh....how nice..

CHARLES

I saw ya...saw ya talking to everybody..writing stuff down..ha, ha..I said to myself..something about her..I really like that girl...Can I buy you a drink?

ERIN

I'm actually on my way out..

CHARLES

I feel like I can talk to you too. Like you're a person I can say anything to..

ERIN

You know, I'm really not.

CHARLES

Listen. Would it be important to you if I told you that when I worked at the Hinkley Plant, I destroyed records?

Erin stares blankly. She forgets to breathe. Her mind races.

ERIN

Uh..I don't know uh...(doesn't know his name)

CHARLES

Charles.

ERIN

Charles..Maybe. Would you. excuse me a moment - I just have to go to the bathroom.

CHARLES

Sure babe.

ERIN

Don't go away.. She calmly exits. Erin Re enters

ERIN

So..Chuck. ..can I call you Chuck?

CHARLES

Sure. Sure.

ERIN

Would you like another drink?

CHARLES

I'm good.

ERIN

So what happened here - you were telling me about records...?

CHARLES

Yeah. Those fuckers? I was with that plant for 15 years. They made me sick and gave me a fucking watch.. ?.. I was working in the compressor, and out of nowhere the supervisor calls me up to the office and says, we're gonna give you a shredder machine, We want you to get rid of all the documents stored out there in the warehouse..

ERIN

Did you get a look at the stuff you destroyed?

CHARLES

There was a lot of dull stuff ? vacation schedules, the like.

(beat)

But then there were a few memos about the holding ponds. The water in them. They had readings from test wells, stuff like that.

ERIN

And you were told to destroy those?

CHARLES

That's right?. Course as it turns out, I'm not a very good employee.

ERIN

What do you mean?

CHARLES

Well. There were a few documents that I somehow didn't get around to shredding. (beat) That I kept instead. At the time, I thought, I got three kids, some of 'em want to go to college. I can't afford to lose my job. I told myself I was being honorable. But there's nothin' honorable in what I did. Maybe that's why they picked me for the job. Maybe they knew what kind of man I was.

Pause.

ERIN

Charles. Will make a declaration stating all the things you've told me?

He looks at her.

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