

SCENE 17- QUANTICO DORMS/ARDELIA AND CLARICE'S ROOM

MUSIC 12A- ARDELIA'S JOG

Scene shifts Ardelia on phone. She drops it abruptly and begins to "run" to her room.

Music out.

ARDELIA

They found the ambulance in a parking garage at Memphis airport. The crew was dead. Lecter's killed a tourist, too. Got his clothes, cash. Clarice I'm worried about you.

CLARICE

Lecter won't come after me.

ARDELIA

Oh really.

CLARICE

He's waiting for the sequel.

ARDELIA

Well, you did the best anybody could have for Catherine Martin.

CLARICE

The worst part is that Bill is right in front of me. Lecter said everything I need to catch him is right here, in these pages.

She looks at the case file.

ARDELIA

Lecter said a lot of things.

CLARICE

He's here, Ardelia. I'm so close. So close.

ARDELIA

(interrupting)

Is this Lecter's handwriting?

CLARICE

(reading)

"Clarice, doesn't this random scattering of sites seem desperately random, like the elaborations of a bad liar?" *(beat)* What does he mean?

ARDELIA

Not random at all, maybe. Like there's some pattern to where Bill dumped the bodies?

CLARICE

There is no pattern. The bodies were found in random order. Except for that one girl from Belvedere Ohio. Frederica Bimmel. The one he weighted down.

Throughout this scene Ardelia becomes bolder. As they speak, they get closer and closer, drawn to one another...

ARDELIA

Why would he do that only once?

CLARICE

I don't know. Because...because he covets?

ARDELIA

I feel like we're getting close.

CLARICE

So close... something about coveting. Coveting what we know.

ARDELIA

What we see every day...

Clarice is ready for the kiss, but she instead freezes, and Ardelia turns front and sings:

MUSIC 13- CATHERINE DIES TODAY

YOU THOUGHT I WAS HERE FOR NOTHIN',
BUT I GOT A ROLE TO PLAY.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET TO DO SOME'MNN
IT'S MY BIG MOMENT, THE PART WHERE I SAY:
GOD DAMN CLARICE, HE KNEW HER!

The rhythm section kicks in, and Ardelia is joined by backup singers -- newscasters with microphones -- excited to be breaking the latest headlines. A "newsboy" crosses holding a newspaper and shouting.

NEWSBOY

Extra! Extra! Catherine Martin's still missing and in danger! I'm a Newsie!