

RETURN TO PARADISE
SHERIFF and TONY (Escape Hotel Malaysia)

(Interior: Hotel in Malaysia. 2 hours before trial. Sheriff sits on couch, either smoking a cigarette, or having a drink. Tony enters Sheriff's hotel room to talk)

Tony: *(Tony knocks gently, walks into Sheriff's hotel room. The door is ajar)* Sheriff? *(Tony sees Sheriff, seated, completely distraught and crosses to him. Finally, after a very long silence)* What are we still doing here?

Sheriff: I wish it was that simple, Tony.

Tony: I think it is that simple. You know, I came back here. I came back here based on what she told me, ok? She gave me her word, and she lied.

Sheriff: *(Quietly)* Yeah.

Tony: How are we gonna trust her, Sheriff? *(No answer from Sheriff)* Sheriff, look, she drags us into this nightmare, Ok? And we find out it is her own personal nightmare, a woman **we don't know** from Adam, you know? I don't know her, you don't know her.

Sheriff: *(Sheriff turns to Tony, and just nods his head, says nothing)*

Tony: *(Confused by Sheriff's reaction)* What?

Sheriff: I know her. Like, **KNOW** her.

Tony: *(Tony can't believe what he is hearing)* Don't.....Don't even....don't. Fuck. *(slight pause, then the realization)* All right, I'm an asshole.

Sheriff: No, Tony. This time, I'm the fucking asshole.

Tony: Why didn't you tell me?

Sheriff: What the hell do I owe you to tell you something like that? It's not like it's been going on forever, all right? It happened.

Tony: Sheriff, listen to me...

Sheriff: *(Cuts Tony off)* Don't try and make it like I'm holding out on you, because I swear to God, I'm not holding shit out on you!

Tony: All right. Listen to me, Sheriff. This girl will do anything, to get you to do what she needs you to, all right? That's her brother in there. Her blood. She'll lie to you. She'll sleep with you. She'll tell you she loves you. She'll do anything. She'll get down on her knees and beg you. But don't believe it. It's a setup.

Sheriff: *(pause)* If we walk out of here, Tony, that boy hangs.

Tony: And if we stay, maybe **we hang**. But if we leave, **we live**. That's the one thing I know for sure right now.

Sheriff: *(Sheriff lets it sink in. Then finally gathers his things and leaves with Tony)*

END