

TULE

Understanding

by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOME NIGHT

CAROL sits at a DINNING TABLE SET FOR A CANDLE LIT DINNER FOR TWO. Music plays in the background. Lit CANDLES are burned down half-way. Carol pours herself the remaining wine from a WINE BOTTLE and takes a sip. Carol looks up toward the sound of a door opening. BOB enters, notices the nice table setting, then Carol's anger.

BOB

I didn't know you planned something special.

CAROL

I told you last night,

Carol blows out the candles

CAROL

and again, this morning.

Carol turns off the music with REMOTE CONTROL

CAROL

You never listen to me!

BOB

I'm sorry. This is the soonest I could get here.

CAROL

Every night it's the same thing. I get home, make dinner and you come home whenever you feel like from that business of yours. Do know how that makes me feel?

BOB

I'm sorry, but it takes a lot of time to get a new business started. If I don't put in that effort now, it's going to fail.

CAROL

You don't get it do you? Your problem is not about your business. It's about us. You and me! I need to be first in your life.

BOB

You are first, I love you... very much. I'm working hard to make the business profitable for us, Carol. For both of us.

CAROL

There you go again; not listening to me. I'm talking about us and you're talking about your damn business and profits. I can't be around you right now.

BOB

Can't we talk about this?

CAROL

Damn it, Bob! That's what I've been trying to do for months, and you never listen to me. Just leave!

BOB

But...

CAROL

Leave now, before I totally lose it.

Bob leaves the dining room for the front door, turns toward Carol only to see her turn away. Bob leaves the house.

EXT. HOME NIGHT (cont')

Bob walking toward his CAR in the driveway/parking area confounded by what just happened. Carol opens the front door.

CAROL

Where are you going?

BOB

Uh... leaving? You told me to leave.

CAROL

Really? With me as upset as I am? You're going to leave?

BOB

Well... I, uh.... That's what you want me to do. Isn't it?

CAROL

No! I want you to listen to me and understand me. Did it occur to you that maybe I just wanted you to hold me?

Bob stands in silent confusion and desperately looks toward heaven for help. After a moment...