

32 EXT. BACKYARD - KATIE'S COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

32

Katie and Abe step outside and spot Jason and Lawrence in a heated argument by the wood pile. They crouch down to listen.

JASON

...but I can't stop someone from sniffin' around my dad's Will. It's public record. And the Will isn't our only problem.

LAWRENCE

What?

JASON

There's a codicil I didn't know about it! It gives Debbie ownership of the building and the land to be used for community service should she become incapacitated or upon death.

LAWRENCE

But she's still breathing isn't she? 'Cause of your sloppy work.

Jason stares daggers.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Did you forget my investors bought your worthless land above cost so you looked legit to be the front for serious projects like the one you're gonna get done for me? I've got *much* ridin' on this. AI is the future. No more excuses or...

JASON

Or what?

LAWRENCE

Mess with my money and find out. And I guarantee, you won't be as lucky as Debbie.

Katie and Abe share a look.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Destroy the codicil and get that shelter condemned. We need every bit of that land. Only thing those losers will save is our hearing. If "Katie" and her crew get in our way, get rid of 'em.

Jason nods.

JASON

But I told you from the beginning... the size of the battery storage effects environmental impact and emissions. Then there's the approval hurdle to hook up to energy grid. It's tricky.

LAWRENCE

Listen, Captain Obvious, tricks are for kids. Figure it out.

JASON

Just sayin, I might hit a snag.

LAWRENCE

No snags! My overseas partners don't like bad news.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

You said you could deliver. That your guy knows *all* the players at the top. Remember?

JASON

Yeah, and he's gonna push the whole thing through next year...location, layout, zoning, but...

Lawrence grabs Jason by his shirt.

LAWRENCE

No buts, dumbass. You got a brick upfront. Now, you're on borrowed time.

JASON

I'll handle it!

LAWRENCE

You better if you plan on staying above ground. Demolition starts on schedule.

Larry releases Jason's collar, disgusted.

Larry stomps off. Seething, Jason spits through his teeth and follows.