

INT. COMMUNITY - DIONNE'S QUARTERS - DAY

DIONNE, LILY

DIONNE looks up to see LILY enter. It takes a moment for her to find her words as she's unsure whether to feel ashamed to be seen in such a state, or angry that LILY dare to enter uninvited. She sniffs in her tears and tries to bravely put on a front.

DIONNE

Who said you could come in here?

LILY shrugs, undeterred.

LILY

Nobody, I just thought you might need someone to talk to.

DIONNE

A leader doesn't need anyone.

LILY

You sure about that?

DIONNE attempts to wipe the tears away - evidence of her weakness, but she can see LILY isn't going anywhere.

DIONNE

The ritual is ruined.

INSIDE: LILY sits next to DIONNE on the bed.

DIONNE (CONT'D)

How am I suppose to make them all feel protected now?

LILY takes a moment to consider her next words.

LILY

It's just a necklace. You can make another one.

DIONNE looks at her, tears forming once more.

DIONNE

But that's it. It's not just a necklace...

LILY tries to understand. DIONNE looks at her unsure whether or not to open up to this stranger, but she can't contain it any longer.

DIONNE (CONT'D)

...It was my Grandmother's.

Now LILY gets it. Tentatively, she places a sympathetic arm around DIONNE's shoulders.

DIONNE (CONT'D)

She used to look after us. Until she died a few years ago. Since then, everyone has looked to me to make all the decisions. I didn't ask to be the leader. It just happened. The necklace was all I had left of her. It sounds stupid but somehow it's helped me stay strong.

LILY

Everyone needs to get their strength from somewhere...

DIONNE nods - grateful that someone understands her at last.

LILY tries to help DIONNE, treading carefully so not to offend.

LILY (CONT'D)

...And those kids get their strength from you.

DIONNE looks up at her.

DIONNE

What d'you mean?

LILY

Well the way I see it - this ritual, the necklace - it's all symbolic. It's you that those kids really believe in.

DIONNE

But what will they all think of me now? I've shown them how weak I am.

LILY looks at her aghast.

LILY

You're not weak! Far from it.

DIONNE looks at her as if she is crazy for not getting it.

DIONNE

I cried in front of them, Lily. What kind of leader does that?

LILY

A human one!

LILY stands to buoy DIONNE's spirits.

LILY (CONT'D)
Come on, it's not too late. Let's
get this ritual back on track.

But DIONNE looks doubtful.

DIONNE
I'm not sure I can.

LILY smiles confidently.

LILY
Well I am.

DIONNE smiles up at her new friend and stands.