

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

by

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EXT. DESERT - DAY

CINDY is pinned to a cactus. REN circles her while talking.

REN

I'm not a bad man...I do things  
the way they need to be done. Do  
you think I'm a bad man,  
Cinderella?

CINDY

I do.

REN

You've always thought of me that  
way.

CINDY

I have.

REN

I've never been one to give a good  
first impression. I think I have  
some positive attributes.

CINDY

Such as?

REN

For starters, I help the poor.

CINDY

Your way of helping the poor is  
uncivilized.

REN

Not the way I view it. I offer  
choices. They can work for me or  
be sent away.

CINDY

What gives you the right to play  
God?

REN

Oh honey, we all have pieces of  
God in us. Isn't that what they  
say? Besides, I've made the  
streets better for common folk.

CINDY

Murderer.

REN

If I am a murderer...what are you?

CINDY  
I've changed.

REN  
Changed? No darling, our kind  
doesn't change. It's too deep.  
It's within. It's in the  
bedrock...our kind can't change.

CINDY  
I've started a new life, Ren. Far  
away from everything.

REN  
You see now, that's the issue I've  
come here to take up with you. One  
doesn't just decide to pick up and  
leave.

CINDY  
I have.

REN  
I know you have but you can't do  
that sort of thing. Not without  
permission.

CINDY  
Permission?

REN  
All you ever had to do was ask.

CINDY  
Ren, can I have my new life?

REN  
Nope. Too little, too late I'm  
afraid sweetheart. If you had  
asked me sooner, I most probably  
would have said no anyway. There's  
a very small teenie weenie bit  
chance I would have said yes,  
depending on the day you caught me  
but after the fact, well, after  
the fact you really don't have a  
prayer in hell honey buns.

CINDY  
My brother will come looking for  
you.

REN  
I know. I know he will.

CINDY

He won't stop coming at you.

REN

Oh, I know, I know. He's got a lot of love in his heart, don't he? It's alright. I'd be kind of pissed off and lost for hope too if I was tied up to a tree in the middle of the desert. Can I ask you something? Hey, hey there Cinderella dear...may I ask you something?

Cindy nods.

Do you think I can put one in your head from two hundred yards?

Cindy spits at Ren.

I've always valued your opinion. I'll give it a shot and we'll see how she goes.

CINDY

Ren, please...don't do this.

REN

You know the rules baby girl.

CINDY

I never loved you. I only used you.

REN

Is that all you got as parting words? I expected more from a gal like you.

CINDY

I'll give you something...how about a news flash?

REN

Whatch ya got?

CINDY

...I killed three of your kids. You hear me? THREE!

REN

How?

CINDY

You're so stupid. You always thought I miscarried when it was always forced. Do you think for one second that I would ever consider bringing one of yours into this world?

REN

But the doctor said---

CINDY

The doctor said what I told him to say.

REN

Even if that were true, won't change nothing. Why bother telling me now?

CINDY

Because I know it stings. You won't show it, but it stings so bad in you right now, throbbing hot with venom all through your weak pathetic body. You could have had three of your own. But you got nothing.

REN

That was quite a bite sweetheart. I must say, that throbbing you spoke of is in full affect. That's the Cinderella I know.

Ren paces two hundred yards away from Cindy.  
Smile for the camera!

Ren takes aim and fires.