Marcus has been questioning Sam. Sam has been denying. Marcus is fed-the-fuck-up --

START >

MARCUS

I know you put the hit on me.

SAM

This is all a big mistake.

MICHELLE

Come on, Sam.

MARCUS

You went to my old neighborhood asking about me.

SAM

That's crazy. I don't even know where you're from.

MARCUS

My ex-wife saw you there. She remembers your face.

APRIL

Is that true?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Of course not. He's insane.

(then)

Why don't you tell him the truth,

Michelle?

Marcus looks at Michelle --

MARCUS

Tell me what?

SAM

That she's the one who wanted to purge you. She told me.

MICHELLE

What?

Michelle seems genuinely confused. Then, realization dawns on her face. She gets PISSED --

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Oh, fuck you, Sam! That was nothing and you know it!

MARCUS

What was nothing?

MICHELLE

Marcus, I promise It was nothing.

I forgot about it until he just
brought it un

MARCUS

What the fuck is he talking about?!

MICHELLE

You have to believe me. It was a dumb joke.

SAM

We were in bed together.

MICHELLE

Shut <u>up</u>, Sam!

SAM

She was complaining about you. And she suggested purging you.

MICHELLE

That's bullshit. He was complaining and I said it as a joke.

(CONTINUED)

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30

MARCUS

What did you say? Exactly:

Michelle hesitates. What she says next hurts her a lot --

MICHELLE

much, maybe you should quit
complaining and do something about
it." And he said, "You mean purge
him?" And I laughed.

(to Sam)

Bocause it was a stupid

Marcus is stunned from all this. He looks at Sam, at Michelle, almost like he's making a decision. Michelle clocks it. Pleads with him --

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Daby, he's lying to get out of this. You must see that. It was a shitty thing to even talk about, but I mean it.

Marcus weighs her with his eyes: Lying? Truthful? She's tearful, face full of remorse. Then, as he struggles with his decision, Sam goes too far --

SAM

She's lying, Marcus. Like your ex wife was lying about seeing me. That seems to be your type.

And that's the last straw. Marcus GRABS Sam by the scruff of his neck and drags him, chair and all, over to the stove.

MARCUS

Shut up!

Michelle hesitates for a second, then, rushes to help him. Marcus turns on the GAS BURNER and un-tapes one of Sam's hands. Shares a tearful look with Michelle. Then, she helps him by grabbing Sam's hand. Together, they hold his hand toward the flames --

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Admit what you did!

SAM

I didn't do anything, I told you it was HER!

Marcus looks at Michelle. There's no turning back now.

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Michelle nods to keep going. Marcus PULLS Sam's hand closer toward the BLUE FLAME.

Sam resists with all his strength. He's too strong for Marcus to do this by himself.

So, Michelle reaches in and gives Marcus a helping hand, DRAGGING Sam's arm closer to the heat --

MICHELLE

Just admit it, Sam.

Sam's arm is inches away from the flame. His flesh is about to burn when --

SAM

(out of breath) Fine! I did it! I took out the hit! I'll take it off, I'll do it. Please, just stop!

Michelle breathes a sigh of relief, releasing her grip.

Marcus shuts off the gas. Sam wilts as April tears up. It's over.

Off Marcus and Michelle. They got what they wanted: But at what cost?

THREE

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