

## THE IMAGINARY / Alison / Audition Side 1

(Alison has discovered that her girlfriend is lying to her and involved with someone else. Alison tells the story to her friend, Chris. From THE IMAGINARY, *Part One, Chapter 9*)

ALISON

I guess, yeah, even what you said when you walked in here, there's some truth to that, about our apartments. I say that we're going between both places, but really, it's become more of me just going there. And an *awkwardness* started, sometimes in our conversation, sometimes in our making plans, sometimes in our touching each other, often when having sex, which was much less frequent. Things were somehow, between us, just suddenly self-conscious. Not tired or distracted, but self-conscious. There was more, *effort*.

And all that could have just been in my mind, so I put off doing anything. I waited and tried to sort of, ride it out. But one day, I decided to surprise Rhonda at work, and take her out when she finished, or just needed a break. Like I said, she worked late all the time and I had no reason to think that was wrong or dishonest. I'd surprised her other times and she was grateful and excited. But this time, I got there early and so I went to a park nearby just to wait. I figured that if I came later she'd be more likely to leave with me for the night.

It was still light out, maybe seven o'clock, and I sat on a bench and watched people playing with their dogs. The owners were laughing and telling dog stories, throwing balls. But then, behind them, parked on the street opposite from where I was sitting, I saw Rhonda's car. Inside, two people were kissing each other, holding each other, very closely. It wasn't awkward at all.