NATALIE MCDONAUGH
You look like you saw a ghost.

MAX
Why haven't you told him about his father?

Natalie sits down, lighting a new cigarette.

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
His life, my life, would've been plagued by Benji's death forever. He'd be the kid who's dad was murdered after getting his teenage girlfriend pregnant.

MAX
That's understandable.

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
But there was more, too, Max.

Max sits down to listen.

NATALIE MCDONAUGH (CONT'D)
Benji wasn't... Benji wasn't a good kid. We met doing heroine in a rundown parking lot.

MAX
I don't understand. Every time I saw him, he looked great. He seemed happy.

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
We were doing drugs. We weren't depressed. He was a happy kid. Lonely sometimes, but aren't we all.

MAX
So why'd he get into drugs, how'd he get into drugs?

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
I don't know. I asked him a few times but he'd always deflect. His dealer was this guy, Willy Davis. Willy was always very odd. That's all I know though.

MAX
And you weren't with him that night?

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NATALIE MCDONAUGH
No.

MAX
Do you think Harold Binetti killed him?

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
They say Harold planned it. That's how he got executed. First degree. I dated Benji for almost a year. Never once did he ever mention Harold.

A car honks outside. Natalie peeks out the window.

NATALIE MCDONAUGH (CONT'D)
That's my ride. I gotta go.

Natalie gets up. Max follows.

MAX
You don't have a car?

NATALIE MCDONAUGH
Single income household. We got one car and Charlie needed it.

They exit the house.

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