

SYNDROME

Written by

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Closed eyes. A crescendo of noise: distorted female voices arguing, blood rushing, a fast heart beat, a female scream.

The eyes snap open and RONNIE (32) gasps as if coming up for air from underwater. The noise stops abruptly and is replaced by the beeping of a heart monitor.

Ronnie is lying in a hospital bed, the walls fully drawn. Either side of the bed are DETECTIVE STEPHANIE THOMPSON (42, in a trouser suit with no-nonsense shoes) her face is set and grave, and DOCTOR JENNIFER CLARKE (38, still in surgery scrubs) holding her ground.

DOCTOR CLARKE

We had to operate, we stopped the bleeding but--

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

I need you to answer some questions, Ronnie.

Ronnie stares at the ceiling. She blinks as she adjusts to the neon lights and reality.

DOCTOR CLARKE

She is clearly not fit for questioning--

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

I need to get a clear picture of what happened.

DOCTOR CLARKE

Nothing will change if we let Ronnie get some rest and--

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

(To Ronnie)

I can't help you unless you tell me what happened.

Claire's face, frozen with shock.

Her hands, covered in blood.

3 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 3

Ronnie continues to stare at the ceiling, tears in her eyes.
Her hands grip the bedsheets.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON
Let's start at the beginning. How
long had you been together?

4 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 4

RONNIE'S POV:

Fingers intertwining.
The smell of her hair.
Claire smiling- content.

5 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 5

Ronnie smiles at the memories.
Detective Thompson and Doctor Clarke exchange glances.

DOCTOR CLARKE
Ronnie?

RONNIE
Where's Claire?

Doctor Clarke places her hand on Ronnie's shoulder, smiles
reassuringly.

DOCTOR CLARKE
You're safe now.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON
She's at the station giving a
statement. I need to hear your
side.

6 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 6

RONNIE'S POV:

A fist punches a wall.

7 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 7

Ronnie flinches.

DOCTOR CLARKE
Are you okay?

RONNIE
I want to see Claire.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON
She's made some serious
allegations. Claiming self defense.
They often do.

RONNIE
I want to see her...

8 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 8

RONNIE'S POV:

Claire staring numbly past camera, intercut with Claire
laughing. We hear Claire crying throughout.

RONNIE (V.O.)

I just want us to love each
other...

9 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 9

Ronnie rubs her eyes, erasing the memories.

DOCTOR CLARKE
Ronnie, your injuries are serious.
You shouldn't let her get away with
what she's done.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON
I don't think this was a one off.
Our records show lots of call outs
to your address.

10 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 10

Claire shouting, intercut with her clutching her own bloodied
and bruised face.

RONNIE

I'm so sorry. I love you so much.

11 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 11

Ronnie cries.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

Claire's injuries... Self defense?

12 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 12

Claire's bloodied hands press down on Ronnie's wound.

Her face is bruised, tear streamed.

CLAIRE

I wanted you to stop...

Ronnie collapses on the floor.

13 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 13

Ronnie catches her breath, nods at the detective.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

It had happened before- the abuse?

14 INT. WALTHAMSTOW FLAT 14

RONNIE'S POV:

Ronnie punches Claire repeatedly.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I just wanted you to stop...

15 INT. HOSPITAL WARD 15

Doctor Clarke passes Ronnie a tissue, moves her hair from her face.

Ronnie wipes her eyes, composing herself.

Nods at Detective Thompson.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON
I need you to confirm that it was
Claire that stabbed you.

Ronnie stares straight down the camera as she nods.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (CONT'D)
Had Claire been abusing you?

Ronnie, still looking straight to camera, pauses for a moment as she makes her decision. We hear the same noise as in the opening sequence.

Ronnie opens her mouth to speak and the noise stops abruptly--

END.