

SADE

You ever love someone so much, you forget yourself? You pour everything into them, believing—no, *knowing*—they'll rise, they'll become everything the world said they couldn't? I did that. I did that for him. Benjamin wasn't supposed to be a phantom in my life. He was supposed to be the man standing beside me, the father my children could run to. But instead? Instead, I watched him disappear. First, into the streets. Then into his own mind. And then, one day, he was just... gone.

(Beat)

People judged me. They said I was a fool for waiting, for hoping. But they never saw him the way I did. The way he held my hand when we were much younger, promising me a future. The way he fought—not just in the ring, but for me, for us. Until the fight became too much. I don't hate him. I want to. God, I *should*. But hate would mean I stopped praying for him, don't still wonder if there's anything left of the man I loved. And that... that would be the biggest lie of all. I loved him. I lost him. And now? Now, I just have to find myself again.