

COTTON KINGS OPEN AUDITIONS

MONOLOGUE THREE - "I DID IT FOR US"

You keep asking why I did it.

Like there's one clean answer that'll make everything easier.

I did it because I was tired of watching you pretend we were alright.

Tired of hearing you say you weren't hungry, when I knew there wasn't enough food for both of us. Tired of seeing final notices pushed under the fruit bowl like hiding them meant they'd disappear.

And I know what you're going to say.

You didn't ask me to fix it.

But somebody had to.

So when the money started coming in, I didn't care where it came from. I cared that the electric stayed on. I cared that you could breathe for once without worrying what the next envelope said.

Maybe I got carried away.

Maybe somewhere along the line, it stopped being about surviving and started being about proving something.

But don't stand there and tell me I did it because I'm selfish.

Everything I did... every risk I took... every lie I told...

I did it because I couldn't bear watching this place break you.

And maybe I've made things worse.

But for a little while, I thought I was saving us.