

A PUSH TOO FAR

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The suburban footpath is desolate, apart from EMMA, 30, she walks dazedly along as if dosed to the max, an emotional wreck, she has a glimmer of craziness in her eyes.

Emma stops, turns towards an audacious two story mansion on the other side of the road. She looks up at a light on in the top story window.

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emma enters, slow, cautious. A moaning sound comes from the bedroom.

She takes out a revolver tucked into the back of her pants and cocks it.

BEDROOM

DAVIS, 31, a cunningly shrewd man who loves control, always knows how to work things to his advantage, lies in bed straddled by SOPHIE, 28, his heavily pregnant girlfriend.

SOPHIE

Screw me like you do the  
opposition.

They both moan, about to climax, when Emma walks in. She holds the gun pointed at Davis.

EMMA

I'm sorry.

Davis looks over at Emma.

DAVIS

What the f--

Emma pulls the trigger, blows a hole through his head.

Sophie screams. She jumps off Davis and backs against the wall, terrified.

Emma drops the gun, shocked at what she's done. She looks down at her hands.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Emma sits on the concrete floor and stares at the wall. She hugs her knees, rocks back and forth.

INT. EXECUTION CHAMBER - DAY

Emma lies on a gurney, hands and ankles restrained. Thunder rumbles from outside.

EMMA

God, please save my soul.

Emma flinches as a lethal injection IV is put into her arm. She closes her eyes.

A bolt of lightning hits the building. An electrical current surges down the IV and into Emma.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Emma?

EXT. CLOUDS - DAY

Emma stands in a never-ending blanket of white. She opens her eyes and gazes around, puzzled.

EMMA

Hello?...hello?

She searches for any signs of life, but there is none.

EMMA

Where am I?

WOMAN (V.O.)

Do you believe in redemption?

EMMA

Not really.

She looks around, but can't see anyone.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Feel like you screwed up your life? Like you should rot in hell for the things you've done?

EMMA

Yes.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Well, I'm here to give you a second chance.

Emma spins around. She looks for who's there, but still can't see anyone.

EMMA

Oh, come on, I've put up with enough trivial bullcrap to last me forever. Now where am I and what am I doing here? Please tell me!

WOMAN (V.O.)

You had a good heart once, filled with love and kindness. So, I'm giving one moment in time to change things. Get it wrong and I can't help you again.

Emma falls, as if being pushed, backward through the clouds.

EMMA

Wait!

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emma stands, invisible to the world, and watches from across the room as another version of herself, her OLD SELF, shoots Davis. Emma winces as the gun goes off.

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emma stands against the wall. She watches as her Old Self walks BACKWARDS down the hall.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Emma sits on a bench. She stares down at a gun in her lap.

INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Dilapidated; peeling wallpaper, chipped tiles. Emma sits in the bath with a razor to her wrist.

FLASHBACK - INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Emma and Davis, dressed in wedding attire, hold hands as they exchange vows.

EMMA

There will never be another.

DAVIS

For as long as we both shall live.

They kiss.

END FLASHBACK

She begins to slit her wrist when a bang on the door startles her. She drops the razor.

MAN (O.S.)

Hey! Remember the whole shared bathroom thing? Times up!

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Emma paces the kitchen, phone to her ear.

EMMA

He's taken everything. The house, the car, money, everything. I just...I really need your help. One more appeal. I know I can win this time. Just please...please help me?

She stops pacing to sit on the floor. She hangs her head and closes her eyes.

EXT. DAVIS' HOUSE - DAY

Emma and Davis stand on the lawn and confront each other.

DAVIS

I owe you nothing, so just give them to me.

EMMA

I'd get those brass balls dipped in gold, 'cause one day someone's gonna try to shoot them off.

She slams a set of house keys into his palm.

DAVIS

Is that a threat Emm's? Cause I'll add that to my ammunition for our next round of court.

She flips him off and storms towards a beaten up Barina on the side of the road.

INT. COURT - DAY

Davis stands to defend himself.

DAVIS

Therefore let the record show that the Plaintiff has never made a house payment or contributed to any monetary expenses.

Emma stands. Her LAWYER grabs her arm.

EMMA

I don't know how he's pulling this off, but its absolute horseshit!

Her Lawyer yanks her back down into her seat.

FLASHBACK - EXT. DAVIS' HOUSE - DAY

Davis pulls up the drive in a flash new sports car. Emma comes out the front door. Davis gets out and jiggles the keys in front of her.

DAVIS

Do you like it?

EMMA

Yeah, but can we afford it?

He snuggles up to her.

DAVIS

Well, I'm getting a good bonus  
this year, so I took it out of our  
savings for a little while.

She holds him at a distance.

EMMA

What savings? The money from my  
house?

He pulls her close again.

DAVIS

I'll replace it, trust me.

She pushes him away and storms inside the house.

END FLASHBACK

Emma grabs a hard cover book from the table and hurls it  
across the room at Davis. It hits Davis in the arm. Davis  
cries out.

DAVIS

Your Honor, This is exactly the  
type of aggressive behavior I was  
talking about earlier.

Emma scowls as Davis. The JUDGE scowls at Emma.

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Emma throws a lamp at Davis from across the room. He pleads  
with her.

DAVIS

Please. Settle down.

She throws an ornament from the mantelpiece at him. He cowers  
behind the couch. She grabs another ornament.

EMMA

I can't believe I wasted  
everything on you. I sold my  
house...

She throws the ornament at the wall, grabs another.

EMMA

...Gave you my money, my life,  
even my womb! You're a flat out  
lying, cheating Asshole who is  
gonna end up with nothing. Do you  
hear me? Nothing!

Davis stands up and looks her in the eyes.

Emma biffs the ornament as hard as she can at him. It hits  
him in the head, knocking him out.

INT. DAVIS' OFFICE - DAY

Davis and his RECEPTIONIST have sex on his desk until there's  
a knock at the door. They both look up.

EMMA (O.S)

Finished your little interlude?

DAVIS

Just a minute.

Davis and his Receptionist fix their clothes.

The receptionist unlocks the door and lets Emma in on her way  
out. Emma eyeballs her on the way past.

EMMA

Since when do you lock the door?

DAVIS

Since I care about who I'm seeing.

Emma gives him a sincerely hurt look.

EMMA

Do you even realize how much  
you've hurt me?

DAVIS

What do you want Emma?

EMMA

You don't, do you?

She drops a signed divorce paper on his desk and leaves.

INT. COURT - DAY

Davis stands to make a statement.

DAVIS

Your Honor, Miss Sophie Vice and I have just found out we're expecting and as she has no place of her own to reside, she will be staying with me. I will be taking care of her every need, so this is a crucial time for us. Now more than ever we need the extra support of knowing that my financial status is stable.

Emma's jaw drops. She looks between Davis and Sophie, shattered, enraged.

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emma sits on the toilet lid and cries. Davis stands with his arms pressed against the vanity.

DAVIS

We talked about this. Kids weren't in the agenda. That was something we both decided on.

He shakes his head, looks at her in a rage.

DAVIS

I can't believe you let this happen.

He storms into the...

BEDROOM

Emma chases after him. He pushes her. She falls onto the floor and sobs.

EMMA

I'm sorry, but what do you want me to do?

He points at her.

DAVIS

It's me or the baby. And if you walk out the door, you won't get a cent from me. I guarantee it.

EXT. ABORTION CLINIC - DAY

Davis pushes Emma through a crowd of PROTESTORS towards the front doors. Emma looks disturbed, worried.

DAVIS

You're doing the right thing.

INT. ABORTION CLINIC - DAY

A heart monitor attached to Emma beeps. She looks up at a DOCTOR beside her hospital bed.

DOCTOR

Problems with the procedure are rare, but can happen. Fortunately at present there is still a slim chance you'll be able to conceive again, but I can't make any promises.

Davis walks in with flowers. He puts them on the bed.

DAVIS

That's ok, Doc. We hadn't planned on kids anyway.

He holds Emma's hand.

DAVIS

Just you and me, hey kiddo?

INT. DAVIS' BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emma pops a few pain killers from a prescription bottle.

INT. DAVIS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Davis cuddles into Emma.

EMMA

I'm dropping out of Uni.

He strokes her hair.

DAVIS

That's a good idea. You know I can take care of the both of us. Just an everyday job. That's what you should do. When you're ready.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Emma lies with Davis in a bubble bath, her back to his chest. She sponges his leg. He kisses her neck.

DAVIS

I been thinking and...if you want to start trying, I think I can handle it now.

EMMA

I thought you didn't want kids and I don't even know if I can anymore. Why now?

DAVIS

Business is good. We're stable. And who's going to take care us when we're older, right?

EMMA

And you just figured this out? After you put me through what you did?

Davis gets out of the bath.

DAVIS

Way to ruin the moment, Emma.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

The DOCTOR sits behind his desk, looks over Emma's file then puts it down. He looks between Emma and Davis, waiting patiently on the other side of the desk.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, but it's not good news.  
The damage was extensive and  
irreparable. There's nothing else  
I can do for you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Emma rocks back and forth on a swing. She watches children play on the equipment, a deep sadness within her eyes.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT (NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING)

Emma sits on the bench staring down at a gun in her lap.

DAVIS (V.O.)

You're a worthless, pathetic  
excuse off a wife. You can't cook.  
You can't clean. Hell you can't  
even fuck properly anymore...

FLASHBACK - INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Emma holds an ornament aimed at Davis.

DAVIS

...If you ever land a poor sucker  
who wants you, he'll be regretting  
every moment he spent wasting his  
time with you. And you're wrong  
about me ending up with nothing...

END FLASHBACK

DAVIS (V.O.)

...I'm gonna bleed you dry and I  
know exactly how to do it. Plus, I  
guess now I'm free to find someone  
who can give me a family. Face it  
baby, you're screwed.

Emma looks up at stars in the sky. Tears run down her cheeks.

INT. DAVIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Emma does dishes at the sink. She watches some KIDS play on the street.

Davis cuddles into her from behind.

DAVIS

You don't want kids do you?

Emma replies a little unsure of herself--

EMMA

No.

DAVIS

See that's what I love about you.  
We agree on everything. You're so  
eager to please.

He kisses her on the cheek.

INT. HALL - DAY

Emma and Davis' reception; Emma and Davis put a slice of wedding cake into each others mouth. They giggle as the cake goes everywhere.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Davis chases after Emma along the beach. She smiles, running away from him, a football tucked under her arm.

Davis catches up with her and wrestles her down to the sand. He takes the football from her arm and holds it up.

DAVIS

Score.

Emma laughs.

INT. DAVIS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emma walks in and looks around.

EMMA

This place is nice.

Davis lies on the bed and taps the blanket. Emma takes the hint and climbs onto the bed next to him.

She takes a photo from her handbag and holds it up: Both of them smile for the camera at dinner.

EMMA

What do you think of our first  
date photo?

He takes the photo and begins to kiss her.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Emma walks along the path. She checks a map for directions. She stops and turns the map around.

INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Emma walks down a hallway with the map. She stops and contemplates which way. Davis walks up from behind.

DAVIS

You lost?

EMMA

Ah, yeah, kind of.

She hands him the map. He takes a quick look at it.

DAVIS

I'm sure I can help you out.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Emma unpacks her clothes into a dresser. Davis leans on the doorway.

DAVIS

So do you want to get drinks  
later?

Emma turns and looks at him.

EMMA

I barely know you.

DAVIS

Question is whether you want to  
get to know me?

Emma gives him a cheeky smile.

FAST REWIND TO - EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Emma watches her Old Self walk along the path with the map.  
Emma brushes past her Old Self.

She knocks her over then walks into a group of STUDENTS and  
disappears.

Emma's Old Self sits on the ground. She rubs her knee.  
Another student, TOM, bends down to help her.

TOM

You alright?

EMMA

I'm fine.

He picks up her map.

TOM

Here, let me help you.

He helps her up and takes her bag. They walk together into  
the university.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 10 years later.

Davis runs beside a large German Shepherd along the water  
edge. He listens to music on his ipod.

Down the other end of the beach; Emma and Tom sit and build a  
sandcastle with their one year old SON.

FADE OUT