

EXT. APARTMENT - MORNING

HAL, middle aged, sits on the stoop outside his city apartment. CARS are heard speeding down the street. CHILDREN are heard laughing and playing.

Hal is cold, dressed in dark apparel reflecting his gloomy mood. He stares off, as if the busy world around him doesn't exist.

STEVE, mid twenties, walks over to the stoop. He leans on the steps also watching the world pass by.

STEVE

Cold out today.

Hal nods.

STEVE

You holding up ok?

Hal looks at Steve.

HAL

I'm doing the best I can.

STEVE

If you ever need to talk, I'm here. I don't know what it's like to lose someone like that, but I can offer my advice and some kind words.

HAL

I appreciate it, but I haven't lost her.

STEVE

You know what I mean, man. Beth may not come home Hal.

HAL

I can't count her out yet.

STEVE

I guess that's the best way to look at things. Have you heard anything from the cops?

HAL

They're going to keep looking for her until the end of the month then it's up to her family. I don't know what I'm going to do.

Hal looks away from Steve.

STEVE

Keep your head up. If she's out there, somebody will find her. I'm sure they're doing the best they can.

Steve looks towards the apartment door.

STEVE

Are you cooking something in there?

HAL

What do you mean?

Hal looks at Steve.

STEVE

I smell something...funny.

HAL

It must be this damn city.

Steve chuckles.

STEVE

You're probably right. Well, I have to get home. Taking Crash out to the dog park with the kids. You want to come along?

HAL

Not today. Beth always loved the park, wouldn't be a good idea for me to go. Our first huge fight was there.

STEVE

Try to think about the good times,
Hal.

HAL

There were so few, to be honest. She
bitched too much. I loved her...I mean
I LOVE her, but we had our issues.

STEVE

Well...we all have our own ways to
cope. When she comes back I'm sure
you guys will be able to work things
out.

HAL

I know we will.

Steve pats Hal on the back.

STEVE

Take it easy Hal. Hold on to your
memories.

He walks off.

APARTMENT LIVINGROOM

Hal enters a cozy room, its large couch facing a wall. A
shelf holding up framed photographs sits high up on the
wall. A small TV mounted on a coffee table BLARES the news
as he sits down on the couch. He grabs a bottle of Jack off
the table and downs a swig. Sitting on the table next to
the TV is a bottle of pills.

Hal looks past the TV at the shelf. Pictures of Beth, his
wife smiling beautifully.

He takes one final swig from the bottle, and places it back
onto the table.

Pictures of Hal and Beth holding hands downtown outside a
skyscraper.

Hal stands and walks over to the first image of Beth. He runs his fingers over her picture. He holds the framed memory to his lips savoring her one last time.

Violently, he thrusts the picture across the room, SMASHING it up against the far wall.

His rage begins to surge through his veins. He demolishes image after image.

Suddenly, his attention is drawn to door leading to the garage. He cautiously approaches the door, watching it as if it were about to explode.

As he reaches the door, he runs his fingers over the handle, turning it slightly...

GARAGE

Hal steps into the garage and flips on a light switch. Sitting in the center of the room is an old, tattered freezer.

Slowly, he approaches the freezer.

He grips the lid...

INT. GARAGE - FLASHBACK

Hal and Beth argue. She tosses a glass against the wall screaming at a quiet Hal...

REALTIME GARAGE CONT'D

Hal flips open the lid. Inside the freezer are ice packs, which hide the true treasure buried underneath.

INT. GARAGE - FLASHBACK

Beth slaps Hal across the face, angering him for the last time. He quickly turns back at her and grabs her by her neck. He pins her up against the wall of the garage, gripping her tighter and tighter as she struggles.

REALTIME GARAGE - CONT'D

Hal tosses the ice packs behind him in a flurry as he viscously digs deeper and deeper into the freezer.

Sitting underneath the final pack is Beth's head, dismembered from the rest of her body. Hal, now joyous, is smiling from ear to ear as he looks down at the head.

INT.GARAGE - FLASHBACK

Beth finally suffocates, her face blue and bruised. Hal lets her slide down the garage wall. A HAND SAW glimmers on a shelf.

Hal walks over to the saw and grabs it, his cruel intentions clearly visible. He walks back over to Beth's dead body, and begins sawing off her head, BLOOD spurting back onto him.

REALTIME GARAGE - CONT'D

Underneath the head are more ice packs. Alongside it are baggies each containing other objects such as fingers, toes and ears.

He runs his fingers through her hair, smiling in ecstasy as he does. Placing his hands on the sides of the freezer, Hal stares down into it, grinning yet again.

HAL

I'm so glad you could stay. I was becoming very lonely, and all I ever wanted was for you to stay here with me. I didn't mean to hurt you. I just wanted to keep you.

BETH'S voice radiates from the freezer..

BETH

(VO)

You stupid prick! You'll never be good enough for anyone!

Hal's anger grows.

BETH

(VO)

I'll always be here-mocking you! It's the same damn thing every day Hal! You open me up and then bitch about me being here! This is your fault.

Hal slams the freezer shut.

HAL

Get it under control Hal. She's dead. You killed her. Just keep the freezer closed.

He looks down at the freezer, fighting his urges to open it.

Hal reaches into his pocket and pulls out a bottle of pills. He spins it open and throws a few pills down his throat.

HAL

The doc says these work. The doc says these work.

He struggles to convince himself.

His eyes travel back to the freezer, sweat begins to bead on his forehead.

HAL

Leave it alone, Hal.

He begins rocking back and forth, unable to control himself.

Finally, he gives in and reopens the freezer.

Beth's laughter echoes.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END