



LEADER

Bernard Mersier

BLACK SCREEN:

"The key weight people don't use as they should is, 'Will the person who knows I'll put everything on the line for them, do the same for me?'"

~Bernard Mersier~

FADE IN:

**INT. SUITE - NIGHT**

The suite is a study in cool modernism: black marble floors, minimalist furniture. Floor-to-ceiling windows frame a glittering CITY SKYLINE. The only light is coming from the cityscape and a single lamp in the corner.

The LEADER, who will not be seen, is sitting on the loveseat, staring out the open sliding door, listening to the positive chants from the people below.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O.)  
Everybody wants to be the leader. It doesn't matter how big or small the organization is, everybody wants to be the leader of the pack, for the simple fact, nobody likes taking orders from anybody. But... What is a leader? Aside from what you were taught and read about. Do you really know what a leader is?

Covered by a black leather glove, the Leader takes a sip of Scotch from the glass they're holding.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
The first thing you need to know is leaders are bred. Just like with anything else, you don't know shit until you can comprehend things on every level, and from that point, you can decide if you'll be a follower or a leader. But, the person breeding you will make sure you're the Leader, so you can accomplish what they couldn't. It's a bitter road of losing self-identity, humanity and dignity. But... Fuck it. What does any of that matter if you're about to be the Leader of whatever you see fit?  
(Soft laugh)

You'll question yourself at night,  
but... the torment your breeder put you  
through will quickly make you forget  
the dread of becoming something you  
didn't have intentions on becoming.

(Clicks tongue)

That right there should let you know a  
'Leader' is actually a 'Follower' if  
they were bred. You have to be able to  
distinguish that on your own.

The Leader takes another sip.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)

Now... You have people who already  
believe they're the leader, not  
knowing they're a follower. If that  
went over your head, this is what it  
means. You have people who'll make you  
think they're siamese or identical  
twins, from the looks all the way down  
to the characteristics, how deeply  
they imitate a leader.

(Soft laugh)

I know that one was deep, but who  
gives a fuck? That's why shit is all  
over the board. People love talking  
about bullshit, just to turn around  
and complain about real shit. They'll  
stand up, speak loud and try their  
hardest to defend bullshit, but remain  
silent and still on real shit, letting  
their finger-bullets speak loud on the  
internet. That's why people don't take  
shit seriously, unless it comes from a  
true leader. And why should they?  
Bullshit is so entertaining, it allows  
real shit to go unpunished, and by the  
time it is noticed it's too late to do  
anything about it because the  
scenarios will have been copied and  
taken to perfection, with a different  
twist. But... Let's get back on track.  
What is a leader? As you look at the  
environment I'm in, it's apparent that  
I'm the leader.

The Leader takes a sip.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)

The first thing a leader has to do is

find a group that'll listen to them, whether it's bullshit or truth. You gotta form your shield, so that way when people come after you, all you have to do is sit back and let them do the work. Yeah, you have to do things to reassure them you have their back, but nothing too extreme that'll endanger you. Certain things in life are so basic, but people overlook the basics because they're focused on their leader, and that's fine. Your leader is focused on you, too. As long as you keep me relevant, I'll keep your thoughts on my truth or bullshit relevant. It makes you wonder why leaders only help the devoted followers, instead of helping every single one of them. Something else you have to filter out on your own.

The Leader takes one last sip before picking up the bottle, pouring another round.

With a fresh glass, the Leader gets up from the loveseat and moves over to the sliding door, stepping outside.

#### **EXT. TERRACE - CONTINUOUS**

Looking at the massive support below, the Leader takes another sip.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (CONT'D)

This is why leaders don't give a fuck if you like them or not. Do you see this support? The few peons who disagree mean nothing because your following outshines them on every level. No matter what their beliefs are... You are their God, and nothing you say or do can be wrong.

(Chuckles)

It's amazing how the words from a person can outshine what you believe in? You can argue about it, but you know it's true. If it wasn't, people like me wouldn't be idolized, knowing you shouldn't idolize or put anything before what you believe in.

(Soft chuckle)

Of course... Death is the only way to be

solidified as a true leader. It can come from something you did or said, and someone finally caught up with you. It can come from a person filled with envy. It can even come from someone you just knew supported you, and you never had an inkling about them getting rid of you so they can take your place or if they were in cahoots with your enemy. Either way... Death is the only option to stamp and approve your leadership. Here's the catch that'll let you know your fate.

The Leader climbs up on the terrace.

The people below gasp.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
Your followers will let you know.

The Leader turns around, facing the suite.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
Your message is your own opinion, and only you know if you truly stand behind your words and actions, or if you did or said things so you can have control. The opinion of your herd is the only thing that matters.

Without a second thought, the Leader steps backwards and begins their fall towards the ground.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
Being loved while you're alive is fine, but being worshiped in death makes death exquisite. And when the curtains close...

The Leader closes their eyes, and there's a loud thud, followed by deep gasps.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
There's no regrets. You don't care about repercussions. From here on out, you're God in the eyes of the world. But...

The Leader slowly opens their eyes, and when the vision clears, they're staring at the people surrounding them with a

look of concern, releasing heart-felt sighs of relief.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
If your herd is loyal, they'll die  
before they let you die, unless  
they're absolutely sure there's  
someone a hundred times more  
relentless than you, to replace you.  
And the funny part about that is...

Automatic gunfire fills the air, along with screams of the people falling to the ground, and ducking for cover.

The Leader falls to the ground.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
If they decide to throw it all away  
for you, they'll automatically think  
it's the people who hate you trying to  
murder you, not knowing if you had  
your own death planned, or if its  
fellow members of the herd who decided  
enough was enough. Ah, well.

The leader closes their eyes.

When their eyes reopen, we're back at the beginning of the movie.

LEADER (FEMALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
Anything can happen in a day. So, I  
ask...

The Leader takes a sip.

LEADER (MALE VOICE) (V.O. CONT'D)  
...Do you really know the leader you're  
following?

The Leader takes another sip, and then stands up and walks toward the open sliding door as the screen fades to black.

BLACK SCREEN:

"The followers are far more deadlier than the Leader and their message."

~Bernard Mersier~

END CREDITS: