

MARY AND DIONYSUS

Written by  
Iannis Aliferis

Copyright (c) 2021 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced  
for any purpose including educational purposes without the  
expressed written permission of the author.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE SEA - DAY

The calm sea, wide, deep and endless.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

MARY, a woman in her mid-thirties, walks through the front garden of a large but abandoned looking country house.

She has a suitcase in hand and she's wearing an old, worn-down dress. Visible on her arms are cuts and marks. She has slippers on her feet, her toenails in general are long and dirty and her pinkie nail is broken and bloody.

Mary comes upon the front door and stops, she opens the suitcase - which is filled with bottles of vodka, a scattering of clothes and some packets of crackers - takes out a vodka bottle and starts drinking from it.

She tries the key to the door but finds that it's already unlocked, so she opens it and walks in.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

She walks through the entrance hall, passes by the living room and goes up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

She enters a bedroom, drops her suitcase down and with the bottle in hand, exits and walks downstairs.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary enters into the living room, only to find a naked man drawing on a big canvas.

She drops the bottle and lets out a CRY, which in turn startles the man and makes him turn around.

The man, DIONYSUS, is in his mid-forties, handsome but uncombed and unshaven.

MARY

What is this, what're you doing?

DIONYSUS  
Oh hello there.

MARY  
What'd you want here?

DIONYSUS  
I'm painting.

MARY  
This is private property. This is  
my place. You shouldn't be here.

DIONYSUS  
How do I know this is your place?

MARY  
How -- I - I've been coming here  
since I was little. This was my  
parent's holiday home. You are  
trespassing and would you please  
put some damn clothes on.

Dionysus puts on trousers.

DIONYSUS  
I was just exhibiting my natural  
state of being. There, feel better  
now?

MARY  
Please leave this house!

DIONYSUS  
No, I don't think so. I've been  
living here for two years now. This  
is my home.

MARY  
It's my home.

DIONYSUS  
I claim squatters' rights. You  
can't just kick me out.

MARY  
Yes, I can. You can't claim  
squatters rights after 2 years,  
it's gotta be 10 or more at least.

DIONYSUS  
Let's agree to disagree.

Mary tenses up in anger and her hands mold into fists.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Easy there love, you might burst a vessel.

MARY

Do - do you want the police to get involved?

Dionysus puts a brush in paint.

DIONYSUS

Go get them if you want to. I'm not going anywhere.

MARY

Look - listen to me. I've come here to - to be alone. I really need to be alone.

DIONYSUS

Why?

MARY

What do you mean why? Because!

DIONYSUS

Well, I won't interfere with your quest for solitude, not one bit. I myself have come here to escape the horrors of modern society and this place has been really good for me. It's out of the way, it's surrounded by gorgeous nature and it has inspired me to be creative again. Sorry but I am not leaving it.

MARY

But you got to leave. This is madness. Please just leave.

DIONYSUS

No, sorry.

Mary goes right up to Dionysus.

MARY

Get out of here!

DIONYSUS

No.

Mary is inches away from Dionysus and stares angrily into his eyes. He just looks back at her in a calm way and smiles slyly.

MARY

Fuck!

Mary turns around in rage and storms off.

MARY (CONT'D)

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary walks out the front door and starts pacing up and down in anger. Soon her frustration gives way to desperation and she starts to cry.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary comes back to the room as Dionysus is getting fully dressed. She is trying very hard to stay composed.

MARY

Will you please go now?

DIONYSUS

Nope.

Mary sighs.

MARY

OK, OK, this is what we are going to do. You don't want to leave, fine, stay but stay the hell away from me and do not interfere for a second with the things I do. Do you understand?

DIONYSUS

Yes, that's no problem, no problem at all. I thank you for your hospitality.

MARY

Don't. Just stay out of my way and do not cause me any further grief.

Mary turns to leave.

DIONYSUS

I'm Dionysus.

Mary turns around.

MARY

What?

DIONYSUS

It's my name. I thought since we are going to be living together we might as well introduce ourselves.

MARY

What kind of a stupid name is Dionysus?

DIONYSUS

It's the name of the God of wine, ecstasy, and theatre.

MARY

I don't care about any of that. And we're not going to be fucking living together. You will keep your space and I will keep mine. We'll stay the hell out of each other's way. Do you understand me?

DIONYSUS

So, how long has it been since you last came here?

MARY

Do you fucking understand?

DIONYSUS

Why such hostility?

MARY

Please tell me you understand what I'm saying to you.

DIONYSUS

I understand.

MARY

OK, finally.

DIONYSUS

So, what's your name?

Mary turns around and once more starts walking away in anger.

MARY

Cunt.

DIONYSUS  
That's your name?

MARY  
Fuck.

She exits the living room.

DIONYSUS  
(Calling after her)  
I don't mind paying rent. Actually,  
I do. I don't have much money left,  
you see but - I guess I could put  
aside a bit each month. Maybe.  
Hello? Miss - hello?

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The day comes to an end and Mary is in bed rolling tobacco into a cigarette. She lights it with a match and sits there smoking away until tears appear running down her face and she buries herself in a pillow. She starts punching away at the bed as her crying becomes wilder.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting at the table and is ready to devour the plethora of food that is in front of him.

The table is perfectly set with cutlery and candles and there is plentiful of red wine in a big jug. Dionysus begins eating his meal. He takes his time, really savouring every bite, and drinks a good amount of the wine too.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up with a bad cough and finds daylight hitting her across the face.

She looks pale and tired as she gets up and walks slowly and dizzily to the window.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY/EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Just as Mary is about to pull the blinds shut she sees a shocking sight: Dionysus is in the garden by a tree and is urinating with a big grin on his face. Mary pulls the blinds shut in anger and disgust.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary - wearing the clothes she slept in - is lying on the floor of her bedroom looking up to the ceiling. The room is dark and she takes sips from a vodka bottle.

Suddenly, the *Carmina Burana* starts being HEARD coming from a distant room, and Mary sighs and downs a large amount of alcohol.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is in the living room working frantically and furiously on his surreal painting, his movements in entrainment with the loud music.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary BANGS the bottle on the floor, repeatedly, but the music persists.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary - still in the same clothes - is in the kitchen, sitting on the floor eating crackers and washing them down with vodka.

The room is dark, but for a lit candle that's on the table.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is in the living room, in his underwear - native sounding MUSIC blasting from a mini, battery-powered music player - and is dancing ecstatically to what seems to be a native dance.

Light is arranged around him ceremoniously.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary closes her eyes as the MUSIC and the CLACKING noise of Dionysus dance start getting on her nerves.

She gets up and BANGS on the kitchen wall repeatedly.

The noise continues.

MARY

For fuck's sake, just stop it!

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus seems oblivious to Mary's pleas as the MUSIC and dancing reach fever pitch levels and he seems totally lost in the moment.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary starts pacing up and down the kitchen, getting angrier by the second.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fueled by rage, she heads for the living room to confront Dionysus but suddenly stops, turns and heads back.

She quickly reaches the kitchen sink and throws up.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary is sitting on the toilet seat and is smoking a cigarette. The ashtray is by her feet and it's full of smoked buds.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Dionysus is riding a bicycle through the field that is positioned further up ahead along the property.

He is challenging himself by riding on difficult terrain and he manages to fall off. Unhurt he mounts the bicycle again with childlike laughter and continues his ride.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is in bed and is holding on to a vodka bottle which she slowly sips from.

She places the bottle down, then digs the nails of her left hand into her right arm.

INT. DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is in his bedroom and he is doing some light stretches.

He gets in bed and blows off the big candles that are by his bedside table. He closes his eyes to sleep but soon opens them again and lights the candles with a lighter.

He opens the drawer of the bedside table and takes out a book of erotica.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary - her arm full of red marks - squashes the end part of her cigarette in an ashtray that's on her bedside table.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is sitting in the living room meditating on a cushion on the ground. Around him are some burning candles and incense.

Mary walks in with a cigarette in her mouth and sighs.

MARY

What's that bloody smell?

Dionysus keeps meditating while Mary looks through the large bookstand that is filled with books.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hell is that?

Dionysus continues meditating and Mary goes right next to him, the smoke of her cigarette now getting in his face.

MARY (CONT'D)

Dionysus!

Dionysus opens his eyes.

DIONYSUS

What?

MARY

What's that smell?

DIONYSUS

Maybe it's that cheap tobacco you're smoking.

MARY

No, it's not this cheap tobacco I'm smoking. It's that crappy stuff you've got burning. It's giving me a headache.

DIONYSUS

It's called incense and it has a rather pleasant smell. If your head hurts it might be due to heavy intoxication and the absence of a decent meal.

MARY

I'm not drunk and I'm not hungry, so screw you.

Mary walks to the bookstand.

MARY (CONT'D)

Get the hell out of my house.

DIONYSUS

I am going to choose to ignore that remark.

Mary picks a book out, then pulls out another one and lets it fall to the ground with a THUMP.

She walks off.

Dionysus closes his eyes to meditate once more.

He opens them again and sighs in frustration:

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Great, there goes that.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary enters her bedroom and lies belly-down on the bed. She opens the book she picked up and starts reading it.

Suddenly, she closes the book in anger, turns and throws hard to the wall.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary stands by the sidewall of the house and is smoking.

Dionysus goes her by carrying two big buckets of water.

MARY

What're you doing?

DIONYSUS

I've been getting water for us all morning.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

There's no running water so I usually get some from a stream nearby. I need to get more now that the lady of the house has returned.

MARY

Don't be doing me any favours.

DIONYSUS

It's no burden for me.

Dionysus walks to the house.

MARY

Mary.

Dionysus turns around.

DIONYSUS

What was that?

MARY

My name, it's Mary.

DIONYSUS

It's a beautiful name.

MARY

Just - get on with it, OK?

Dionysus smiles.

DIONYSUS

OK then.

He turns and walks into the house.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up to find that she slept in her clothes and that she has vomited on the bed.

She sits up, dazed and confused and holds her head.

She breathes in deep, slaps her thigh, then her face.

She picks up the bed cover, throws it to the ground and gets undressed.

She picks up a new bottle of vodka from her suitcase and new clothes and carries them to the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

She walks in only to find the shower occupied by a SINGING Dionysus who is using a bucket to wash himself with.

MARY

Fuck.

DIONYSUS

Oh.

Mary quickly turns, walks outside and KNOCKS hard on the door.

DIONYSUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Just finishing off. Won't be long now.

CUT TO:

Time has gone by and Mary, her right leg shaking anxiously, is still standing outside the bathroom door, naked and holding on to the bottle and her clothes.

She KNOCKS on the door even harder.

Dionysus opens the door, fresh and wet, with a towel wrapped around his midsection. He smiles at a naked and angry Mary as he passes by her, then stops and turns to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Oh, good lord, you definitely need to shower. You've vomit stuck to your hair.

MARY

Go fuck yourself, Dionysus.

Dionysus turns around and walks away whistling happily to himself.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting by the table having a glass of wine and reading through a spirituality magazine.

Mary enters the kitchen and stands in front of him.

MARY

I want a word.

Dionysus puts down the magazine.

DIONYSUS

Yes.

MARY

I'm really - I mean, not really but  
- just that-

DIONYSUS

I'm so sorry, is this going to take  
long?

MARY

No, it's not going to fucking take  
long. You have not for a second  
obeyed the one rule that we have  
agreed upon regarding coexistence  
in this house. You are constantly  
tramping on my personal space and  
disturbing me with your loud,  
flamboyant, annoying, extravagant  
and utterly ridiculous lifestyle.

DIONYSUS

Lies and wild exaggerations. I've  
been most courteous and  
gentlemanly. I'm accusing you in  
turn of slander and wrongful  
prosecution.

MARY

This is not a fucking game. Just  
leave already.

DIONYSUS

Are you aware that you have quite  
the tongue on you? A lady shouldn't  
curse as much as you do. Why you'd  
make a sailor blush.

MARY

Don't tell me what I should or  
shouldn't do, you damn idiot.

Mary throws Dionysus' glass on the floor.

MARY (CONT'D)

You're not listening to me. Find an  
area other than the living room to  
practice your pointless, artistic  
endeavors in. I don't know, like  
your fucking bedroom maybe.

DIONYSUS

My bedroom's not big enough for-

MARY

Just fucking do it. Stop making  
such a racket and...

Mary starts to weep.

MARY (CONT'D)

Just do it. Please.

Dionysus lowers his eyes.

DIONYSUS

I'm sorry. I am very sorry, you are  
right. You are the lady of the  
house-

MARY

Stop saying that.

DIONYSUS

-and I have acted like a damn fool.  
I am truly sorry. I will change, I  
promise.

Mary wipes away the tears.

MARY

You better or else you have to go.  
I do not, I repeat, do not, ever,  
want to have to converse with you  
again. I don't even ever want to  
stand in your ugly presence again.  
OK? - OK?

DIONYSUS

Absolutely.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary, looking furious, is standing in front of a naked  
Dionysus who is standing on a chair in a position reminiscent  
of classical Greco-Roman statues.

He is doing a good job ignoring Mary who is offering him his  
clothes.

MARY

Don't ignore me, damn you. Stop  
this nonsense and put your bloody  
clothes on.

Dionysus stops being a statue and grabs the clothes Mary is  
holding for him.

DIONYSUS

What do you want? I'm not in the house. Why are you giving me trouble for?

MARY

You cannot continue going around naked. It's very disconcerting and - downright disturbing.

Dionysus starts getting dressed.

DIONYSUS

It's natural.

MARY

It's not, it's weird. Do it somewhere where I cannot see you.

Dionysus is now fully dressed.

DIONYSUS

Look, this is an outcry. You're trying to take away my basic human rights. I came here so I could get away from that big dictatorship that's modern society. I will not be a caged bird, I am a free man.

MARY

You are an idiot.

DIONYSUS

And you are a Nazi.

MARY

I really want to punch you right now.

DIONYSUS

If it'll help release stress and anguish go right ahead. I present myself as a sacrificial lamb.

Mary tenses up and makes a fist but then let's go.

MARY

What is up anyway with all this ridiculous fascination with antiquity?

DIONYSUS

You wouldn't understand. It's to do with the ideals of the past. With freedom, truth, and love.

MARY

Is that why you use that stupid name?

DIONYSUS

It's not stupid. Dionysus was the man-God of pleasure and sex and wine. He inspired ritual madness and ecstasy. Known as Bacchus, he was the patron deity of agriculture and the theatre. Known also-

MARY

Shut up, I don't give a shit. Just shut it.

DIONYSUS

You asked.

MARY

I don't care. Just leave me alone.

DIONYSUS

You're the one always coming after me when I'm naked.

MARY

Go fuck yourself.

Mary turns and walks angrily away.

DIONYSUS

What is it with you wanting me to always do that to myself?

Mary is further away now.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

(Calling after her)

Is it like a Freudian thing?

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is lying in bed in her dress and is smoking.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

MARY

No.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)

It's only me.

MARY

Go away!

The door opens revealing a smirking Dionysus holding a bottle of wine.

DIONYSUS

How's the lady of - how is Mary doing tonight?

Mary sits angrily up on the bed.

MARY

What're you doing? This is my room. Go away right now.

DIONYSUS

Wanted to see if you wanted some wine.

MARY

I don't want anything of yours. I never ever will. Leave me be.

DIONYSUS

OK, I'll go. There's just one thing I want to tell you. It'll put a smile on your face.

MARY

If you don't leave I will kill you. I swear I will.

DIONYSUS

No, listen, listen a second. There is a guy who wakes up and is really late for work. Now, this man's got an important presentation so he's desperate to get there.

Mary falls back on the mattress.

MARY

Oh God.

DIONYSUS

So he is rushing through the traffic, driving like a mad man and he reaches his destination but there's no parking space at all. So he's sweating and panicking and looking desperately around but nothing. So he looks up and says: God if you give me a parking space I'll be a new man. I will never lie, I'll help strangers, I will be at church each and every Sunday.

MARY (O.C.)

Fuck off.

DIONYSUS

So right then, out of nowhere, as in a miracle, a parking space appears. So the man looks up and says, never mind I just found one.

Dionysus bursts out laughing but a vase hits the wall next to him and shatters, cutting his laughter short.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

OK, good night.

Dionysus hastily exits.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is at the dining table, by a bright lamp, drinking wine and writing in a notebook.

Mary comes over with a cigarette in the mouth, and sits at the table on the opposite side.

Dionysus continues what he is doing, purposely ignoring her. Mary is about to say something but she stops herself at the last moment.

She composes herself and tries again.

MARY

Excuse me.

Dionysus ignores her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Excuse me!

Dionysus picks up his glass and sips the wine without looking Mary's way. Mary stands up and is about to explode in rage but just manages to control her nerves at the last moment.

She sits down again.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm not here to pick a fight with you.

Dionysus continues to write.

DIONYSUS

That's a bloody surprise.

Mary sighs.

MARY

Just listen to me. I don't want to argue or yell. I'm here as one soul reaching out to another for - some assistance.

Dionysus looks at her.

DIONYSUS

Go on.

MARY

I'm running really low on the vodka so I was wondering if I could have some of your wine today?

DIONYSUS

You want some of my wine?

MARY

Yes. May I have some?

DIONYSUS

No.

MARY

Why not?

DIONYSUS

Because you are not very nice.

MARY

Oh, fuck you.

DIONYSUS

Yes, that's the way to go about this.

MARY

Asshole.

DIONYSUS

Go away.

MARY

This is my bloody house. This is my kitchen. You aren't even paying any rent. The least you can do is offer me some wine.

Dionysus thinks about it.

DIONYSUS

OK, but only if you promise to be more civil in your attitude towards me.

MARY

I promise.

DIONYSUS

OK then.

Mary reaches for the bottle.

MARY

Thanks.

She starts downing the wine.

DIONYSUS

Hey, no, hey wait one freaking minute here.

Mary ignores him, so he gets up and takes the bottle from her.

MARY

What are you doing? You said I could have some.

DIONYSUS

Pour yourself a glass like a normal human being. God knows what diseases you carry.

MARY

I don't carry - OK, I'll get a glass.

DIONYSUS

And I never said you could have the whole bloody thing.

Mary gets a glass from the cupboard and comes back to the table.

MARY

Glass, see?

She pours wine into it.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm following your stupid instructions. I don't want to argue with you. I am tired of it.

Mary takes out some tobacco and paper and begins rolling a cigarette.

MARY (CONT'D)

Want one?

DIONYSUS

No, thank you.

Dionysus reaches into his pocket and takes out his own tobacco.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Have my own. This is from the Pinar del Rio province of Cuba.

Dionysus takes in a deep breath.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Ah, beautiful. I could roll you one if you want.

MARY

Why're you trying to show off? You think you are better than me, is that it?

DIONYSUS

I'm not trying to show off. It's what I have on me. I thought you promised to be nicer to me.

MARY

I'm trying but you're not making it easy for me.

DIONYSUS

OK. I'm just going to continue with my poetry.

MARY

Poetry?

DIONYSUS

Yes?

MARY

Nothing.

DIONYSUS

OK then.

MARY

Fine. Good.

Mary gets up and grabs her glass.

DIONYSUS

You can sit here and drink with me if you want. If you promise not to attack me at any point.

Mary sits down.

MARY

You think I like talking to you? Because I don't. I really do not. I - I'd rather talk to a big fat roach to be perfectly honest with you Mr. Dionysus, Mr. Poetry Man.

DIONYSUS

Either be quiet or head for the basement, there are plenty of cockroaches there. Lots of mice too for that matter.

MARY

Fine, no talking.

DIONYSUS

Great.

MARY

Fantastic.

Dionysus stops himself from answering back.

They sit in silence.

CUT TO

Mary and Dionysus are sitting at the table embroiled into a heated discussion. There is a new bottle of wine opened and a lot of smoked cigarettes.

DIONYSUS

But Mary, it's silly. It's such a ridiculous concept.

MARY

So you're saying I'm ridiculous? Thank you for that.

DIONYSUS

No, don't twist my words. I'm saying that the concept of God is ridiculous.

MARY

Hell do you know about anything? You're hiding from everything, pretending you are some goddamn 'avant-garde', wanna be intellectual'. So pathetic.

DIONYSUS

I could say a lot here, a lot, but I won't because I don't wish to scoop down to your savage and barbaric level.

MARY

Oh yeah, you think you're so good eh? Go on; say what's on your mind. Come on, you fuck, give me your best shot.

DIONYSUS

No, there's - no. You're just incapable of sustaining an adult conversation.

MARY

You are. You're so closed minded, it's ridiculous.

DIONYSUS

Am I? Look, an external, separate from our nature, all mighty God is a concept for simple-minded people, for sheep only.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Like Marx said: religion is the opiate of the people. Can't believe you can't see that. What is wrong with you?

MARY

What's wrong with you? Most people believe in some God. But no, you just got to be so different. You are not a sheep; you don't follow what everybody else does. You are just so special, aren't you?

DIONYSUS

Personal attacks. A clear sign that your argument is so weak.

MARY

Fuck you.

DIONYSUS

See what I mean?

MARY

You're really annoying me.

They go quiet for a few seconds.

Then:

DIONYSUS

Wouldn't have pegged you for the religious type.

MARY

Didn't use to be, never cared one way or the other. But then one day I became a believer. My eyes were opened.

DIONYSUS

What happened?

Mary stands and leans close to Dionysus.

MARY

Trust me there's a God - and I hate his fucking guts.

Mary throws her chair to the floor and walks away.

DIONYSUS

(Calling after her)  
You're so very mature.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is pacing up and down in her bedroom.

She picks up a bottle of vodka and starts drinking from it.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on his bed and looking intently at a framed picture of a WOMAN.

He suddenly stands up in a flash of anger, goes to the window, but struggles to open it.

Once successful, he throws the picture out.

He walks back to the bed.

DIONYSUS

There, should have done that ages ago.

He sits down.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Feels right, good.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is sitting in the middle of the bed drinking from the vodka bottle.

She slaps her thighs.

MARY

Such - a - weakling.

She slaps herself again.

MARY (CONT'D)

Good - for nothing.

And again.

MARY (CONT'D)

Worthless.

One more time she slaps her thighs.

MARY (CONT'D)

And so much more.

She drinks.

MARY (CONT'D)  
So - much - more.

Tears appear in her eyes.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on his bed but suddenly looks towards the window.

He gets more and more agitated.

He stands up.

DIONYSUS  
Ah, damn it.

He runs out of the room in a hurry.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is preparing a big casserole dish and a Greek salad, while Mary is smoking away and nibbling on some crackers.

Dionysus waves his hand in the air, annoyed by the cigarette smoke.

DIONYSUS  
Must you smoke in here?

MARY  
Yes.

DIONYSUS  
Just checking.

Dionysus starts glancing at Mary as she is standing there, nibbling and smoking. He notices how pale and skinny she looks. He starts singing a TUNE and tries to keep his wits up.

He looks back at Mary, smiles and keeps humming the tune.

He looks at her one more time.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Oh for crying out loud, let the  
crackers be this instant.

MARY

Fuck off.

DIONYSUS

No, I won't fuck off. Listen to me. Let's make a deal here. If you agree to stop nibbling like a little mouse and have the food I'm making; I will let you have all the wine you want.

MARY

All the wine I want?

DIONYSUS

Within reason.

MARY

What the hell does that mean?

DIONYSUS

We open two bottles.

MARY

Three.

Dionysus thinks about it.

DIONYSUS

OK but you also help me with the dishes.

MARY

Is that a joke?

DIONYSUS

No dishes no deal. I wash, you wipe. OK?

MARY

Whatever.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (LATER)

Mary and Dionysus are having dinner at the table.

Dionysus devours with relish the feast that he has created, Mary, by contrast, is barely touching her meal and concentrates on drinking the wine and playing with her matches.

She takes out her tobacco and rolling paper.

DIONYSUS  
Don't even think of smoking now.

MARY  
I'm going to roll one for later.

DIONYSUS  
Eat something, damn it.

MARY  
Not hungry in the least.

Mary continues rolling her cigarette.

DIONYSUS  
We had a deal. You have to eat now  
or I am going to take the wine  
away.

MARY  
Oh Fine.

Mary in an overly theatrical way picks up a piece of *feta* cheese from the salad bowl, puts it in her mouth and chews it in an overly exaggerated manner.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Happy now?

Dionysus' face turns red.

DIONYSUS  
Go - go and fuck yourself!

Mary is momentarily shocked by Dionysus' response.

MARY  
Fine, I'll have some more. Jesus,  
calm down.

CUT TO

Dionysus is in the kitchen washing the dishes. Next to him stands an annoyed and fidgety Mary, unwillingly holding on to a towel.

Dionysus hands her a washed plate and she proceeds to dry it in a hurry.

She puts it aside half-wet.

DIONYSUS  
Can you please do a better job?

MARY

No.

DIONYSUS

We had a deal.

MARY

I'm doing it, aren't I? What'd you want from me?

DIONYSUS

I want you to stop acting like you are an extra from a George Romero movie.

MARY

Just get on with it, I don't want to be here all night.

Dionysus hands Mary another plate but as she starts wiping it, it slips from her hand and breaks on the floor.

DIONYSUS

See; see what happens when you don't even try?

Mary throws the towel away, dips her hands in the sink, picks up a load of soapy plates and slams them on the floor.

She walks away as Dionysus tries to hold back his anger.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

They're your plates you know.

Dionysus grabs the wine bottle and starts drinking.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is in her bedroom and is looking through her luggage, scattering clothes and her belongings around the room.

A rope becomes visible as she looks through her suitcase and finds a very small bottle of vodka.

MARY

Goddamn it.

Mary downs the drink in one go then throws the bottle hard on the wall and sits on her bed.

She slaps herself hard.

She pulls hard on her hair with both hands and starts crying.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

Mary is startled, then she wipes her tears.

MARY (CONT'D)

Fuck off.

The door opens slightly and a hand holding a white handkerchief pops through.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)

Don't throw anything. I just want to have a word, if I may.

MARY

No Dionysus, go away, go away now.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)

Just be a second.

Dionysus pops his head through and Mary lowers her head to her hands.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

I just wanted to apologise about earlier on. I was out of line with my behaviour. Never meant to use the 'f' word and I didn't mean to yell at you for breaking the plate. I've been under stress lately but that is no excuse for me to take it out on you.

Dionysus waits to see if Mary says anything but she just keeps on having her head lowered in her hands.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

OK, I said what I came here to say so now I shall bid you a good night.

He swings the door to close but at the last moment changes his mind.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Oh wait, I nearly forgot. I have another joke to tell you.

Mary looks up in shock, disbelief, and hopelessness.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Think you will like this one. It's a bit naughty but bloody good.

(MORE)

## DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Now listen before I start, I have to tell you it's not a racist joke. I'm not a racist. I learned this joke from an Irish friend I used to know. OK. Just a harmless joke, that's all.

Mary continues looking at Dionysus in silence and disbelief.

## DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Here goes. So there's an English man, a Scotsman, and an Irish man and they are in the jungles of the Amazon exploring and all that when they get caught by a tribe of cannibals. The cannibals explain to them that they only got one chance for freedom. Each one of them will have to go in among the trees and get one kind of fruit and stick five pieces of it up their bums. Whoever makes no sound while all five pieces go up there, that person won't be eaten. So in goes the English man and comes out holding apples. He puts one in, then with the second one he goes ouch. That's it; he'll be dinner. So it's the Scotsman's turn. He comes out with raspberries. He puts one in, two in, three, all going well, puts the fourth raspberry in but right then he starts laughing. He gets eaten too. Then, in heaven one day, the Englishman meets up with the Scotsman. The Englishman goes: 'too bad we were eaten.' 'Aye, a right shame', says the Scotsman. Englishman goes: 'But what happened, you were so close, why did you start laughing?' The Scotsman replies: 'Well, see now, right at that moment that I stuck the fourth one in I saw the Irishman coming out from the trees holding on to pineapples.'

Dionysus bursts out laughing. He looks at Mary but she is just staring at him, not saying a word.

Dionysus composes himself, nods and closes the door.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary is on her knees, hugging the toilet bowl and throwing up.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - DAY

Dionysus is awake in bed, looking through his erotica book and sketching figures on a note-pad.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary is searching through her room and gathering all the bottles of vodka but they are all empty.

As she searches, she opens a drawer and finds a *Mafalda* comic strip paperback. Mary stares at it, getting more and more distressed with each passing second, then quickly puts it back and closes the drawer.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Dionysus is at the front of the house, in the garden and he is meditating.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary is sitting in the corner of her bedroom, holding onto her knees and shaking. She starts to cry and bang slowly the side of her head on the wall.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

Mary - the top side of her head slightly bleeding - walks to the bathroom but finds the door locked.

MARY

Oh yeah, yeah, you think this will  
stop me?

Mary takes her panties off, squats to the floor, lifts her dress and urinates right on the spot, just outside the bathroom door. She finishes and walks away.

Dionysus comes out of the bathroom, freshly washed, with a towel along his waist and steps right in the fresh puddle of urine.

DIONYSUS

Ah, what fresh hell is this? Oh  
God, this is urine, isn't it? Oh,  
that's just disgusting. Shame on  
you, Mary. Shame on you.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on the ground, on a cushion and is  
meditating while listening to mystic sounding MUSIC.

Mary enters the living room, wearing the dress she always  
wears and walks up to him.

MARY

What're you doing?

Dionysus stays silent.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hello? What is this, are you  
meditating?

Dionysus sighs and looks at Mary.

DIONYSUS

Was trying to.

MARY

Why?

DIONYSUS

Because it's good for you.

MARY

Why?

DIONYSUS

It calms the mind, increases brain  
size; promotes overall health. You  
should seriously try it.

MARY

Don't think so. Where do you keep  
the wine?

DIONYSUS

Somewhere, why?

MARY

I want some.

DIONYSUS

You want some or you need some?

MARY

What's the difference?

DIONYSUS

Do you care to enjoy a nice glass of quality wine, to smell its aroma, to feel it warm your belly, to glow in the bliss of the aftertaste? Or are you just in desperate need to numb yourself from your surroundings and from your own being?

MARY

Obviously it's the second thing.

DIONYSUS

I don't think I should give you any wine then.

MARY

Stop being an asshole.

DIONYSUS

Flattery will get you nowhere.

MARY

Look, just want to have some of your wine that's all. I let you stay here rent-free, it's the least you can do.

DIONYSUS

You'll not let me be unless I concede, will you?

Mary nods her head Yes.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

OK, fine. A few things though. Give me an hour to finish up here and meet me at the front of the house. We'll have wine together with some delicious savouries and we will engage in a delightful conversation. This is non-negotiable.

MARY

Fine, whatever. We can eat club sandwiches and sing lullabies if you want, don't care.

DIONYSUS

Good. I'll see you in an hour.

MARY

Enjoy sitting on the ground doing nothing.

DIONYSUS

Thank you. Glad you dropped by.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting by the steps of the house smoking a rolled-up cigarette and looking out into the night.

Next to him is a bottle of wine, two wine glasses and a plate with bread, prosciutto, various cheeses, and olives.

Candles are lit all around.

Mary appears at the open door and comes over to join him. She sits next to him and Dionysus pours wine into the glasses and offers it to her.

They drink in silence for a while.

DIONYSUS

It's beautiful out here, isn't it?

MARY

What's so beautiful about it?

DIONYSUS

What? What's so... the smell for starters, clean and fresh.

Dionysus breathes in deep and exhales with joy.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

The millions of stars up there smiling down on-

MARY

The fucking bugs crawling all up your arse.

Mary slaps her leg in disgust.

DIONYSUS

You have to learn to appreciate what an absolute miracle this life is. There's boundless beauty all around you.

MARY

Can't we just drink in silence, is that too much to ask?

DIONYSUS

No, the deal was that we have a nice conversation.

MARY

That's impossible.

DIONYSUS

Only because you are not willing to try.

Mary sighs.

MARY

OK, can we at least not talk about stupid shit?

DIONYSUS

Well, what's your definition of stupid shit?

MARY

Anything along the lines of beauty all around or the miracles of life or anything of the sort.

DIONYSUS

OK, let's change the topic. What is your political point of view?

MARY

Couldn't care less.

DIONYSUS

I don't blame you, not one bit. These days there is no political movement one can truly belong to. It's all a joke. Everything is controlled by the mega-corporations and all the leading politicians just obey their wishes as if they were puppets. It's all just a circus of lies, of hypocrisy, of-

MARY

Christ! I'd rather you continued on  
about the fucking miracle of life  
and the smiling stars.

Dionysus waves his hands in exasperation.

DIONYSUS

You're not giving this a chance.

Mary downs the rest of her wine.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You're not getting any more.

MARY

Oh yeah?

Mary grabs the bottle, stands up and starts downing it.

DIONYSUS

You devil woman.

Dionysus gets up and tries to get the bottle from her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Give me that.

MARY

Don't you fucking put your hands on  
me.

DIONYSUS

This is not your bottle.

MARY

This is not your house.

She takes a big gulp of wine and throws the bottle at  
Dionysus who just manages to catch it.

MARY (CONT'D)

I told you to leave. I told you. I  
told...

Mary turns around as tears appear in her eyes and then walks  
back into the house.

INT. THE SEA - DAY

The endless ocean, vast and deep.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up startled from a bad dream and tries to catch her breath as if she's drowning.

She falls off the bed and takes deep breaths.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is on a bicycle and is approaching the house. He has a large brown bag at the pannier rack and two plastic bags on each of the handles.

Mary is by the front door, cigarette in hand as Dionysus parks the bicycle and unloads.

MARY

Did you get what I asked for?

DIONYSUS

Hi to you too.

MARY

Did you get what I asked for?

DIONYSUS

Yes, it wasn't particularly difficult to forget: Vodka and cheap tobacco.

Dionysus hands her the brown bag.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Now you have to keep your end of the bargain.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is standing in front of a blank canvas with a drawing pencil in his hand.

He is deep in thought and concentration and keeps looking back and forward from the canvas to Mary who is posing for him wearing a brand new dress that he got for her.

The dress looks odd on her, as she has made no effort to comb her hair or wear makeup and has adopted a look of dismay and futility. There is a bottle of vodka near her feet.

DIONYSUS

Would it have hurt you to have  
fixed yourself up a bit? Don't you  
own a comb?

MARY

Just get on with it, I have things  
to do.

DIONYSUS

Yeah, like what?

MARY

Like drinking and smoking, in my  
room, on my bed, in peace and  
quiet.

DIONYSUS

How exciting.

MARY

I like it.

DIONYSUS

Fine; let's begin.

Dionysus starts to work on the canvas.

CUT TO:

Mary is trying her best to stand still so Dionysus can paint  
her but she is also holding on to a bottle of vodka and  
occasionally drinking from it.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Can you not drink right now?

MARY

You said pose with new dress. You  
never said anything about not  
drinking.

DIONYSUS

How foolish of me.

They continue in silence for a while. Dionysus really  
focusing on Mary's facial features. Mary, in turn, is  
fidgeting on the spot, sighing and taking sips from her  
bottle.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

I have to say, your features are so  
classy. Like a Hollywood starlet in  
the golden age of cinema.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
It's the artist's eye speaking  
here. It speaks only the truth.

MARY  
Ha, sure. Me and Cary Grant would  
have made quite the pairing.

Dionysus looks at her and smiles.

DIONYSUS  
Ah, he's my favourite.

MARY  
Yeah, right.

DIONYSUS  
Honestly.

Mary looks from the bottle to Dionysus.

MARY  
Well, he's my favourite too.

DIONYSUS  
Oh, wonderful. Favourite movie?

MARY  
We're not doing this.

DIONYSUS  
Oh, come on, Mary.

Mary drinks from the bottle.

MARY  
Fine - don't know, *His Girl Friday*?

DIONYSUS  
Love it but I have a real weak spot  
for *Only Angels Have Wings*. I mean,  
I'm cra-

MARY  
More painting, less talking,  
Dionysus.

DIONYSUS  
OK, fine.

CUT TO

Dionysus brings a tray full of sandwiches and places it on a sheet that is laid on the floor of the living room where Mary is lying and drinking wine.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Tuna and cucumber sandwiches. Just  
like mother used to make.

Dionysus picks one up and digs into with relish.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Why aren't you eating?

Mary smiles in exasperation.

MARY  
Just not hungry, Dionysus.

Dionysus picks one up and offers it to her.

DIONYSUS  
Take it; it's nice.

MARY  
I don't want it.

DIONYSUS  
Come on, if you put some effort  
into eating one you will probably  
get your appetite back.

Mary gives him a demeaning look.

MARY  
You are such a huge dumbass.

They both go quiet as Mary looks away annoyed and Dionysus  
lowers his head.

Suddenly Dionysus starts laughing and Mary looks at him in  
surprise.

MARY (CONT'D)  
What's so funny?

DIONYSUS  
A dumbass?

MARY  
Yeah, what?

DIONYSUS  
Don't know; guess I just didn't  
expect to hear that word from you.

MARY  
My - husband was American. Used to  
say it all the time for fun.

DIONYSUS  
So you were married?

Mary tries to get up.

MARY  
Can we just finish off with the painting now?

DIONYSUS  
Wait, I'm still eating.

Mary lies back down.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Give me a few minutes here. Look the dumbass line back there. It's a compliment for me.

MARY  
Well, why wouldn't it be, you are one after all.

DIONYSUS  
No, listen. I love donkeys. Modern society regards them as stupid creatures and disrespects them both in art and literature. It's not fair.

MARY  
I like them. They do look quite stupid though but I still like them.

DIONYSUS  
They've gotten the wrong end of the deal, that's all. Did you know that even in mystic traditions such as Paganism and Gnosticism that a donkey had a negative connotation as it represented the lower, animal aspect of a person, the side that prevented them from becoming awakened? The ego if you may. For example, in Christian esoteric mythology, when Jesus is riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, that scene was symbolic of him having conquered his lower, mortal side, thus realizing his true divinity of the immortal Christ.

MARY

What the hell are you on about?

DIONYSUS

I don't think that it is fair;  
donkeys are special creatures in  
their own right too.

Mary looks at Dionysus with a bewildered expression.

MARY

You are truly bizarre, you know  
that?

DIONYSUS

Why thank you.

MARY

It wasn't a compliment. I think  
that you might be clinically  
insane.

DIONYSUS

Maybe.

MARY

You do talk crazy all the time.

DIONYSUS

Have a sandwich and I will not say  
another thing for a while. What do  
you think?

MARY

I think it's a good bargain.

Mary picks up a sandwich and after a slight hesitation, she  
bites into it.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - LATE EVENING

Dionysus and Mary walk through fields of wheat that surround  
the house; it is late evening and the sun is beginning to  
descend.

A bottle of vodka is shared between them as they sit on the  
ground under a tree.

They are silent for a while but then Mary begins to softly  
cry.

INT. THE SEA - DAY

The vast sea on a sunny day.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - LATE EVENING

DIONYSUS

If you want to talk about it; I'll  
listen.

Mary wipes away her tears.

MARY

Three years ago I was lying on the  
beach with my eight-year-old  
daughter, Ava. We were both  
sunbathing. I must have dozed off  
for what seemed like a few seconds  
but as I opened my eyes she wasn't  
lying next to me anymore. I looked  
towards the sea but couldn't see  
her. I - I started frantically  
calling her name. I - started  
asking everyone around if they had  
seen my little girl but no one had  
noticed her. No one. I rushed into  
the water looking for her, some men  
followed me in. We looked for ages  
but there was no trace of her. Two  
days later the local coastal police  
found her drowned body. One year  
later I was divorced. Tom couldn't  
even stand being in the same room  
as me. To be fair to him, he did  
try but he couldn't bring himself  
to forgive me and I couldn't  
forgive myself. I will never  
forgive myself.

They stay in silence.

DIONYSUS

I'm truly sorry.

MARY

Just pass me the bottle.

DIONYSUS

Just a sec.

Dionysus takes a gulp from the bottle and then hands it to  
her.

Mary drinks as well and gets up.

MARY  
Let's head back.

They walk back to the house in silence as the sun reaches the lowest part of the sky.

DIONYSUS  
Listen, Mary, I want to confess something.

MARY  
What?

DIONYSUS  
I didn't just come to this place to escape from the madness and sickness that is modern society. I didn't just come here to find myself and live a life of freedom and-

MARY  
Is this going to take long?

DIONYSUS  
Just listen.

MARY  
OK.

DIONYSUS  
I came here cause I caught my wife in bed with another man.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A slightly younger Dionysus, with a neat haircut and wearing a suit, opens the bedroom door only to be introduced to the scene of his wife ANNE, (the woman from his picture), having sex with a young man, TOBY.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)  
Thing is - I walked in on them close to the -- end of their act and they both seemed to be heading for a climax.

Anne and Toby are really going for it; granting and moaning.

ANNE  
Don't stop, fuck me; fuck me!

TOBY

Oh Jesus, oh shit, oh fuck.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)

I mean, they - you know, they actually freaking saw me standing there and for a few seconds just kept at it; kept humping away like damn dogs, with me the hopeless spectator.

A moaning Anne and a grunting Toby are both looking at Dionysus.

The act comes to an end while Dionysus stands there looking at them in shock and disbelief.

As the intensity subsides; there is a moment of silent contemplation.

Then:

ANNE

Oh shit, you came didn't you? You fucking came in me.

Anne jumps out of bed.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You fucking idiot; I told you to pull out at the last minute. I told you, you could have come on my belly. Fucking asshole!

TOBY

I'm so sorry - I didn't mean to.

ANNE

Screw your sorry.

Anne - all the while ignoring Dionysus - rushes to the adjoining bathroom.

Dionysus and the naked Toby are left there in true, uncomfortable silence.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus stand there quiet and looking at each other.

Mary bursts out laughing surprising Dionysus.

DIONYSUS  
Oh, you found that funny, did you?

MARY  
(While laughing)  
I'm sorry; it's just ridiculous.

DIONYSUS  
Well, it's my life. It's not funny.

Dionysus starts laughing too.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Who am I kidding, it's utterly  
pathetic.

The laughing ceases and Dionysus turns serious.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
That's not the end of it.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The younger Dionysus is in the middle of a serious conversation with Anne.

DIONYSUS  
Why don't you want to discuss  
things with me? Give us a chance to  
try and work things out.

ANNE  
There's nothing to discuss. I'm not  
going to apologize to you. This  
marriage has been a joke for many  
years now. You catching me fucking  
someone else was the best thing  
that could have happened really.  
It's such a relief.

DIONYSUS  
Look, I'm willing to put that  
behind us. All we need is to see a  
marriage counselor.

Anne laughs.

ANNE  
What the hell for?

DIONYSUS

What do you mean what for? To help us with our problems.

ANNE

Are you that blind? It's time for a new beginning for both of us. This is a good thing, it might not seem so but it is. Anyway, the writing has been on the wall for ages now. It was obvious that things were over between us.

DIONYSUS

Not for me, they weren't.

Dionysus approaches Anne and grabs her arm.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

One last chance, I love you.

ANNE

Well, I don't love you.

Anne gets away from Dionysus.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Please go.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dionysus is wearing his hat and coat and is holding on to two suitcases. He is looking depressed as he walks down a street.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)

See, even after what I had witnessed, I was still willing to stay with her. I was so pathetic, I didn't know if I could live without her. I didn't know if I could be on my own.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary hands the bottle to Dionysus who smiles and drinks from it.

They both look in each other's eyes and there is evident mutual affection and attraction. They seem to be about to kiss when Mary walks away and into the house.

Dionysus walks in too. Mary heads quickly to the stairs, turns and looks at Dionysus standing by the door.

MARY

Can you give me the bottle, please?

DIONYSUS

Sure.

Dionysus walks up to Mary and hands her the bottle.

Mary hesitates but then quickly walks up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus wakes up from a bad dream.

He lights the bedside lamp and composes himself. He quickly gets out of bed and rushes to the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT (LATER)

Dionysus comes out of the bathroom and notices Mary's door is ajar and some candlelight from within.

He goes over and KNOCKS on the door but there is no reply. Dionysus looks inside the room.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

Mary is not in the room. Dionysus starts feeling worried and runs down the stairs.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary.

Dionysus thinks about going outside but notices a light coming from the living room area.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He walks in to see Mary on a chair with a rope around her neck which is also tied to the chandelier.

DIONYSUS

No!

Mary pushes the chair from under her and starts to hang by the rope.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Jesus.

Dionysus rushes and grabs Mary by the legs.

MARY

Let me go. Let me go.

Mary struggles to get free.

DIONYSUS

Stop, please, stop it.

MARY

Leave, damn it.

Dionysus reaches out and unties the rope from Mary's neck and lets her down.

Mary slaps him hard.

She does it again but on the third attempt, Dionysus grabs her wrists and holds her close to him.

They start to passionately kiss and undress.

They fall on the ground and start having sex, with Mary on the ground and Dionysus on top of her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wait - wait.

DIONYSUS

Oh, sorry, sorry.

Dionysus tries to get off from her.

MARY

No, no, stay inside. It's my back; it hurts to be on the ground, let's switch.

DIONYSUS

Oh, OK.

Dionysus rolls to his back on the ground and Mary sits on top of him.

They continue having sex in a very intense way.

CUT TO:

They both lie exhausted on the ground holding each other.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus - towels wrapped around their bodies from a wash - are standing over the table and vigourously eating food.

They keep at it, occasionally glancing at each other and smiling.

DIONYSUS  
How're you feeling?

MARY  
Good, really, really good.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Mary is bent over the toilet bowl and is throwing up while Dionysus keeps her hair in his hands.

DIONYSUS  
You need to cleanse your system.

MARY  
You think?

She throws up a bit more.

DIONYSUS  
That's it; let it all out.

MARY  
Can you please shut up.

DIONYSUS  
Sorry.

MARY  
Make me coffee.

DIONYSUS  
No, not coffee.

MARY  
Why not, don't we have any?

DIONYSUS  
We have some excellent, Arabian coffee but you need green tea now.

MARY  
Green tea? No, coffee.

DIONYSUS  
You're getting green tea and that's  
final. Not another word.

MARY  
Dionysus?

DIONYSUS  
Not a word.

Mary sighs.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Mary is in bed sleeping.

Now a young girl, AVA, is in bed sleeping instead.

Mary is at the edge of the bed looking at Ava. The little  
girl opens her eyes and sits up.

AVA  
Mummy.

MARY  
Yes, sweetie?

AVA  
Are you OK?

MARY  
Yes, why do you ask?

Mary is now the one sitting up in bed and Ava is sitting by  
the edge.

AVA  
I'm not here.

MARY  
Why say that?

AVA  
I'm not.

MARY  
Ava, don't say such...

Mary stops in fear.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Ava?

The little girl is gone.

A KNOCK is heard.

MARY (CONT'D)

Ava?

More KNOCKING now.

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus enters into Mary's room, and Mary wakes up with a YELL.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

Mary looks at him confused. She is shaking, sweat pouring down her forehead.

Dionysus goes to her and holds her. He feels her back with his hand.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You're soaked. You have to change.

He places his hand on her forehead.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You have a fever.

He gets up and gets clothes for her.

He helps her into dry clothes.

He puts a wet cloth on her head.

INT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on the ground and is sipping from a bottle of wine.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus comes out of Mary's room holding to a tray with a full plate of food on it.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is lying his bed smoking.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dionysus enters into Mary's room and places a hot cup on the bedside table. Mary is sprawled out on the bed; drooling and still asleep.

Dionysus opens the blinds and lets the sun into the room, waking up Mary in the process.

MARY  
Mmm, no. No.

DIONYSUS  
Rise and shine.

MARY  
Get out!

DIONYSUS  
Time to get up. It's a marvelous sunny day outside.

MARY  
I don't care.

DIONYSUS  
You should care.

MARY  
I feel exhausted.

DIONYSUS  
Here, have this.

Dionysus picks up the cup.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Sit up now, and sip it.

Mary puts the pillows behind her and sits up.

She takes the cup Dionysus hands her and smells it.

MARY  
Fuck is this?

DIONYSUS  
Do you always have to curse?

MARY  
Smells like water.

DIONYSUS  
It is water. It's freshly boiled  
water. Careful you don't burn  
yourself.

MARY  
Why?

DIONYSUS  
It's hot.

MARY  
No, why water?

DIONYSUS  
It'll help cleanse you. The  
Japanese follow this procedure  
every day and they live like  
forever.

MARY  
I'm not Japanese and I don't want  
to live like forever. What's the  
point in being really old?

DIONYSUS  
Every age has its own beauty. Being  
elderly is a very special time.

MARY  
A time for soiling yourself all  
over again.

DIONYSUS  
Not if you've been healthy and  
drunk your warm water every day.  
Now drink up and we'll go for a  
long walk, enjoy the sun and  
recharge the batteries.

MARY  
I hate you.

Mary looks at the water with a dismayed expression on her  
face. She slowly brings herself to drink it.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary washes in the bathroom.

She combs her hair.

She puts makeup on.

She wears the dress Dionysus got for her.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is mixing colours and getting ready to continue working on the painting.

Mary appears fully made up and wearing the dress and Dionysus is surprised and taken back by her.

DIONYSUS  
You're beautiful.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in front of the sink and around them are bottles of vodka.

MARY  
Don't think this is a good idea.

DIONYSUS  
Look at it as a symbolic gesture,  
as a ritual. Be really present.

MARY  
Stop saying these things. You just  
sound stupid.

DIONYSUS  
It's nothing but common sense. This  
has to be done or you won't be able  
to move on.

MARY  
Maybe I can't move on.

DIONYSUS  
Yes, you can.

MARY  
Maybe I don't want to.

DIONYSUS  
I don't believe that.

MARY

Who cares what you believe. I'm not doing this; this is fucking stupid.

Mary picks up two bottles and pushes them hard on Dionysus' chest.

MARY (CONT'D)

You bloody do it.

She storms off.

Dionysus lowers his head and bangs the bottles on the sink's surface.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary - hands shaking - lights a cigarette and inhales deeply.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mary is looking at herself in the basin mirror. A bottle of vodka is on the sink. Candles illuminate the room.

She slaps herself while looking in the mirror.

MARY

Magic mirror on the wall, who's the biggest cunt of them all?

She slaps herself again.

MARY (CONT'D)

You are, Mary, you are.

She grabs the bottle and starts drinking from it without pause. She gulps it down, the drink spilling onto her clothes.

She stops and spits some on the mirror.

She looks at her distorted image staring back at her.

She throws the bottle at the mirror and shatters it.

She takes a piece of broken mirror glass, turns her arm over and places the sharp shard on her skin.

She cuts herself and blood appears sliding down her arm.

She starts crying and puts the piece of glass down.

She breathes in deep then puts her arm to her mouth and sucks the blood from the cut.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary picks up each bottle of vodka and slowly and carefully empties the liquid content down the sink.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is in bed awake.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

He opens and sees Mary standing there looking at him wild-eyed.

She rushes to him puts her hands on his face and kisses him. Dionysus pulls back and looks at her arm in concern.

DIONYSUS  
You're bleeding.

MARY  
It's nothing.

She kisses him again and Dionysus picks her up and takes her to the bed.

CUT TO:

Mary and Dionysus are in bed holding each other.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Never getting married again.

DIONYSUS  
O - K.

BEAT

MARY  
Don't want us to be a normal couple.

DIONYSUS  
What's normal about us?

MARY  
And just - I don't want...

DIONYSUS

What?

MARY

Don't know. Don't - take me for granted.

DIONYSUS

I won't.

MARY

And if you lie to me, lie good, so I never know.

Dionysus pushes himself up and looks at Mary.

DIONYSUS

I won't lie to you.

MARY

You're lying already.

DIONYSUS

Jesus wept!

MARY

What?

DIONYSUS

You're being - intense.

MARY

No, I'm not. I just don't want you to - have expectations.

DIONYSUS

Expectations? I just wanted to lie here and enjoy the afterglow of our lovemaking until the sandman arrived.

Mary gets up and gets dressed.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Where're you going?

MARY

My room to sleep.

DIONYSUS

OK.

Mary reaches the door.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Good night, Mary.

Mary turns and smiles.

MARY  
Good night, Dionysus.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the barren garden area.

Dionysus is trying to get Mary to ride the bicycle.

DIONYSUS  
That's unacceptable, Mary. Hop on,  
I'll help you learn.

MARY  
I am not getting on that thing.

DIONYSUS  
Come on, it'll be fun.

MARY  
Don't care, I'm not doing this.

Dionysus gets on the bicycle.

DIONYSUS  
OK. Look, sit in front and we'll go  
for a ride together.

MARY  
What?

DIONYSUS  
It'll be safe. Trust me.

MARY  
It looks like it's going to rain.

DIONYSUS  
Nothing wrong with a bit of water,  
hop on.

Mary gets on the bicycle in front of Dionysus and puts her hand around him. Dionysus starts peddling and they are off.

MARY  
I don't know about this.

DIONYSUS

Trust me.

They ride through the big garden and reach the little stony road and continue around the big field.

Rain starts springing down.

MARY

Told you it was going to rain.

DIONYSUS

Refreshing.

They continue riding the bicycle as the rain comes down harder.

MARY

God.

Dionysus loses control of the bicycle as it leaves the little road and goes into the field. They fall off and to the muddy ground and just lie there, letting the water wash over them. They burst out laughing and turn affectionately to each other.

They start kissing and touching each other and taking each other's clothes off. Dionysus starts kissing Mary's feet, legs and works his way to between her legs. Mary lies back, moaning.

The rain continues to fall on them.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus and Mary are in the living room. Mary is trying her hand at painting.

MARY

I'm going to be very bad at this.

DIONYSUS

No, you are not. Have some faith in yourself.

MARY

I don't know the first thing about painting.

DIONYSUS

I'll teach you.

MARY  
It'll take forever.

DIONYSUS  
I'm a good teacher.

MARY  
I'm a bad student.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Dionysus is riding through town on his bicycle.

CUT TO

He buys some bread from the bakery.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is painting in front of a canvas. She stops and lights a cigarette. She starts feeling anxious and soon has difficulty breathing. She storms out of the house.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

She takes a deep breath and composes herself.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary wakes up in fear from a bad dream, next to her sleeping is Dionysus. She gets up, picks up a candle, and walks out.

Mary is in her own bedroom now and lights a cigarette. She notices that her hand is shaking.

Mary sits on the floor, her back to the wall. Her hand grabs on the back of her thigh and her nails push into her flesh.

She stares at the desk.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Ava is sitting on a chair at the same desk, drawing on paper. Mary, youthful and bright, appears by her side.

AVA  
What do you think, mummy?

MARY  
It's beautiful.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is on the floor and is crying away.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus walks into Mary's room and finds her on the floor.

DIONYSUS  
Mary.

He goes to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Are you OK?

Mary opens her eyes as Dionysus puts his hands on her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Thank God.

MARY  
What are you doing? Let me go.

She pushes his hands away.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I can't breathe.

DIONYSUS  
Sorry. Do you want some water?

MARY  
No, I don't want no fucking water.  
Go away.

DIONYSUS  
I was just worried.

MARY  
Just let me be for a bit, please.  
Go meditate or stand naked or  
something.

DIONYSUS  
OK, OK, I'm going.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary comes back with a shopping bag. Dionysus is in the living room painting.

DIONYSUS  
How was it?

MARY  
I'm exhausted.

DIONYSUS  
I thought you got lost; you were gone so long. I got a little concerned. I'll warm some food for you.

MARY  
That's okay; I grabbed something while I was out.

DIONYSUS  
Do you want to have some tea, read some books together?

Mary shakes her head NO.

MARY  
I just want to be alone tonight, I'm so tired.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Mary is carrying two buckets of water, careful not to spill them, and is approaching the house.

Dionysus walks out of the front door.

MARY  
Keep the door open.

Dionysus does so. Mary reaches near.

DIONYSUS  
You went to the well?

MARY  
Very observant Dionysus.

DIONYSUS  
That's my duty.

Mary stops and carefully puts the buckets down. She breathes in.

MARY  
What do you mean?

DIONYSUS  
I've always done that.

MARY  
So, do you have the exclusive rights to the water gathering? Is it forbidden for me to get it?

DIONYSUS  
No, I just - I'm surprised that's all.

Mary picks up the buckets.

MARY  
Whatever.

She walks past him and into the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary walks into the house, lights a candle and finds Dionysus sitting down in the living room with a glass of wine.

MARY  
You're still up?

DIONYSUS  
Didn't feel like sleeping. I thought you'd be back sooner.

MARY  
I got lost.

DIONYSUS  
Have you eaten?

Mary shakes her head NO.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Do you-

MARY  
No.

Dionysus sips the wine.

DIONYSUS

You didn't use to like going out  
this much.

MARY

You say it like it's a bad thing.

DIONYSUS

I just like having you around, is  
that bad?

MARY

I don't exist for your fucking  
amusement, OK?

DIONYSUS

What the hell does that mean?

MARY

You're being possessive.

DIONYSUS

Am I? God forbid; that's one of the  
seven deadly sins, isn't it?

MARY

OK, you're clearly drunk.

DIONYSUS

What if I am, I can be drunk if I  
want to as long as I don't take you  
for granted.

MARY

You're acting like a child. I'm  
going to go to bed.

DIONYSUS

In your bedroom no doubt.

MARY

Drink some - boiling water and  
sleep it off.

DIONYSUS

I don't want to.

Mary walks up the stairs.

MARY

You're such a child sometimes.

DIONYSUS

You're a child.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus is in the kitchen with a young woman, ABELLE, who is dressed in very revealing clothes and lots of makeup. Abelle is sitting on a chair cross-legged and is smoking while Dionysus opens a new bottle of wine.

DIONYSUS

I am running out of bottles but as you are my lovely guest for the evening we have to celebrate and toast to love.

ABELLE

Is your name really Dionysus?

DIONYSUS

Is your name really Abelle?

ABELLE

Sure it is.

Dionysus pours wine and offers a glass to Abelle.

ABELLE (CONT'D)

So, what would you like to do then?

DIONYSUS

I would like to get to know you.

ABELLE

Oh, I see you like a bit of romance; a bit of illusion? Me, not so much.

Abelle lifts her right foot and starts rubbing Dionysus in the groin area.

ABELLE (CONT'D)

Like Elvis said: A little less conversation, a little more action, please.

Mary walks into the kitchen.

MARY

What the fuck is this?

ABELLE

That's more like it.

DIONYSUS

Mary, come join us.

Mary walks towards them.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Abelle, this is Mary, Mary, this is Abelle. Her name means bee, isn't that fascinating.

MARY  
Very. What the hell is she doing in my house?

DIONYSUS  
Having some wine.

MARY  
And rubbing your cock with her foot?

DIONYSUS  
Um, yes, there was a bit of that too, I guess.

MARY  
You went and brought a prostitute in the house? Are you mad?

ABELLE  
Hey, the politically correct term is whore, OK?

DIONYSUS  
I thought we could try something different.

Mary slaps Dionysus hard on the face and storms out. Dionysus goes after her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Come back here, why did you do that?

MARY  
Because you are a total asshole.

Mary walks towards the door.

DIONYSUS  
What did I do?

Mary stands by the door, her back to Dionysus.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
You're being immature and possessive Mary.

Mary turns around.

MARY

You're so fucking infuriating and stupid.

DIONYSUS

I don't understand why you are so upset, we're not a normal couple, are we?

MARY

We are not a couple at all Dionysus. Go fuck your - whore; I hope she shoves a large cucumber up your ass.

Mary opens the door, steps out and slams it hard.

Abelle appears in the living room.

ABELLE

I don't mind the cucumber thing if that's what you're into.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Mary walks down a stony path that is surrounded by nature. It is quite dark, the moon is the only thing providing some light. The night seems to have a calming affect on Mary and the tears and anger subside with each step she takes.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus and Abelle are lying in bed drinking wine. They still have their clothes on.

ABELLE

Have you learned enough about me yet?

DIONYSUS

I don't know anything about you.

ABELLE

I told you so much already.

DIONYSUS

You gave me a brief overview of your excessive sexual history.

ABELLE

I thought you'd like that.

DIONYSUS

Do you think she's alright? It's quite late and it's fairly dark out there.

Abelle gets up.

ABELLE

I know what will take your mind off her.

She starts undressing.

DIONYSUS

Oh, God, no, don't do that.

Abelle gets completely naked.

ABELLE

Don't you like it?

Dionysus gets up.

DIONYSUS

Of course, I bloody like it.

He kisses her on the forehead.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

I have to go.

He runs to the door.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Make yourself comfortable, do what you like, there's wine, there's food downstairs. I have to go.

ABELLE

You do?

He opens the bedroom door.

DIONYSUS

I'm sorry; I have to go after her.

He leaves.

ABELLE  
 (In French)  
 Wow, he really is romantic at  
 heart.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Dionysus is walking as quickly as he can through the stony  
 road surrounded by trees and darkness.

CUT TO

Mary is sitting on a bench at the train station.

CUT TO

Dionysus is in town looking around for Mary.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Mary wakes up in pain on the bench. She gets up and tries to  
 stretch.

A train is approaching the station.

Dionysus walks onto the platform as the train stops and  
 people start coming out.

MARY (O.S.)  
 Dionysus?

Dionysus turns around and sees Mary standing by the bench.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 How did you know I was here?

DIONYSUS  
 I've been looking everywhere, but  
 when I saw the station, I felt  
 something.

MARY  
 Did you feel that I would board a  
 train or jump in front of one?

DIONYSUS  
 Both.

MARY  
 You should have stayed with - the  
 bee woman.

DIONYSUS

No, that was - I was just being stupid. Please forgive me.

Dionysus walks up to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Please.

MARY

You're in luck. I'm too tired to stay mad at you.

Around them, people board the train, others say goodbye to each other.

Dionysus puts his hand on top of Mary's.

MARY (CONT'D)

Will we kiss now, like old lovers apart for too long?

They look in each other's eyes, then kiss as such.

MARY (CONT'D)

I don't think we can make this work Dionysus. We are worlds apart deep down.

DIONYSUS

We're more similar than you think. It - it happens that I have another confession.

MARY

How many of those will you fucking spring on me?

DIONYSUS

Last one. I promise. See, the real reason I came to the house was also to end my life. I used all my savings on wife, tobacco and good food. When the wine ran out was the day I would have done it, well, if you hadn't come along.

Mary smiles.

MARY

Would you have gone through with it, do you think?

DIONYSUS

Yes.

Dionysus re-thinks his answer.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Hell, no, I guess I would have  
chickened out.

The train's engine roars into life, startling them a bit.

MARY

So what now?

DIONYSUS

Let me propose that we simply ride  
this till the wheels drop off?

Mary now puts her hand on Dionysus.

MARY

OK, Dionysus. OK. Let's go home.

As they walk off, the train leaves the station.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is in his bedroom, looking at loose change and notes  
spread out on the bed. It isn't much. Mary is by the window  
smoking.

DIONYSUS

I'm going to try and sell a  
painting, hell, maybe take up  
fishing.

Mary is silent, looking outside.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary?

Mary throws the cigarette out the window and turns around.

MARY

I want to find work.

DIONYSUS

You do?

MARY

I need to be out of the house as  
much as possible, and I need the  
distraction.

DIONYSUS  
What will you do?

MARY  
I don't know.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is in front of a canvas painting and smoking. There is a KNOCK on the door.

Mary opens and finds Abelle standing there. She is holding a small, brown paper bag.

MARY  
Oh.

ABELLE  
Bonjour. Sorry to disturb.

MARY  
What is it? Dionysus is not here.

ABELLE  
No, I wanted to see you. I felt bad about the other night.

MARY  
No need to, everything's OK.

ABELLE  
Oh good. He really cares for you, you know.

The two women stand there unsure. Then:

MARY  
Sorry, would you like to come in?

ABELLE  
No, I - I'm in a hurry. Just wanted to give you some seeds. I noticed the yard, it looked - too barren.

Abelle hands Mary the bag.

Mary stares at it, surprised by the gesture.

MARY  
Thank you.

ABELLE  
My pleasure. Au revoir.

MARY

Au revoir.

Abelle starts walking away but turns back.

ABELLE

Maybe I come by sometime for a  
coffee?

MARY

I would very much like that.

Abelle smiles and leaves.

INT. GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the front garden, on the ground,  
their hands full of dirt as they're are planting seeds.

MARY

Do you think it's going to work?

DIONYSUS

Don't see why it wouldn't.

Dionysus and Mary stand up, their hands and clothes brown  
from the dirt.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

What's left?

MARY

Chilies, I think.

Dionysus stares at Mary's face.

DIONYSUS

Oh wait, you have something.

MARY

What?

DIONYSUS

Right - there.

Dionysus swipes his finger on her nose, leaving dirt trace on  
it.

MARY

Is it gone?

DIONYSUS

No, wait, there's more.

Dionysus smudges some more dirt on her face.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
There, much better.

He tries to contain his laughter.

MARY  
I've got dirt on my face, don't I?

DIONYSUS  
(smiling)  
No.

Mary places both her hands across Dionysus's face and swipes away.

MARY  
There, how do you like it?

DIONYSUS  
Quite an organic sensation,  
probably great for the skin.

MARY  
Oh, you think so?

DIONYSUS  
I do. I think you don't have  
enough.

Dionysus bends down to the ground and buries his hands in the earth.

MARY  
What are you doing?

He comes back up again.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Don't you fucking dare.

Dionysus puts his hands up and Mary starts running from him. Dionysus chases her across the yard.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Dionysus don't.

He catches up to her and they both fall on the ground, rubbing dirt on each other and giggling.

They soon start kissing.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are in the living room. The leftovers of bread and hummus on the ground. Mary is smoking and reading a book, Dionysus is practicing his juggling skills.

He drops all three balls to the ground.

Mary looks up at him.

MARY

I can't concentrate with you making that noise.

DIONYSUS

Sorry. I'm usually a lot better than this.

Dionysus continues but Mary feels a slight chill. She looks his way again.

MARY

You must sort out the fireplace and gather wood, it'll be winter soon.

A juggling ball drops from Dionysus's hand.

DIONYSUS

Damn it.

MARY

Did you hear me?

DIONYSUS

Yes, your highness, wood, fireplace. I'm on it.

MARY

You don't have to be so damn condescending?

Dionysus puts the juggling balls away and picks up a paintbrush.

DIONYSUS

Sorry, I was doing well and you made me lose concentration.

MARY

Oh did the little boy drop the ball? Well woo-hoo.

Dionysus smiles.

DIONYSUS

Shut it.

MARY

Want me to read you a bedtime story tonight?

DIONYSUS

Ah, piss off you.

EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is outside a house showing one of his paintings to a woman that is standing by the front door.

The woman shakes her head No repeatedly and walks back inside, shutting the door behind her. Dionysus wraps the painting back up, gets on his bicycle and paddles away.

INT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on an old couch in a small but cosy living room, which is full of books and old vinyl discs. An old man, JULES, brings over a tray with two cups of coffee and biscuits and serves Dionysus.

DIONYSUS

Ah, God bless you.

JULES

Just happy to have some company this afternoon. Always a welcome event.

Dionysus sips the coffee.

DIONYSUS

This is lovely.

JULES

Thanks. So, you paint?

Dionysus uncovers one of his paintings and shows Jules who examines it with great interest.

JULES (CONT'D)

I like it, you are quite talented.

DIONYSUS

That's good to hear, I was beginning to have huge doubts the past few days.

JULES  
Ah doubt, that sly old foe.

DIONYSUS  
So do you want it?

JULES  
Sure I want it. What can I exchange  
you for it? What do you like?

DIONYSUS  
Money might be good.

JULES  
No, no, not money. It is against my  
principles.

DIONYSUS  
It is?

JULES  
Of course.

DIONYSUS  
But I need money.

JULES  
No, you don't.

DIONYSUS  
I could pretty much make a solid  
argument that I do.

JULES  
No money. Don't prostitute your  
art.

Dionysus sighs.

DIONYSUS  
What can we exchange for it?

JULES  
Tell me, my friend, do you like  
wine?

Dionysus's mouth morphs into a big fat smile.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus reach the front of Jules' house. They are  
in evening clothes and Dionysus is holding a bottle of wine.

MARY  
Is it this one?

DIONYSUS  
Yes, told you it wasn't far.

Mary stops.

MARY  
How do I look?

DIONYSUS  
Fine.

MARY  
Is that one of the bottles he gave you?

DIONYSUS  
Yes.

MARY  
That is so cheap Dionysus.

DIONYSUS  
What can I do? We don't exactly have much money left.

MARY  
I suppose.

They walk to the door and KNOCK.

Jules opens.

JULES  
Mary.

Jules gives her a big hug.

INT. JULES HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary, Dionysus, and Jules are sitting around a table in the dining room. Roast beef and a vegetable platter are on the centre, the plates are served and wine is being had by Dionysus and Jules. Mary is drinking water.

Jules is not eating, he is happily looking at Mary. Mary is a bit self-conscious, she smiles at him awkwardly.

JULES  
Forgive me, love, I'm - I'm just so happy that I see you again.  
(MORE)

JULES (CONT'D)

It warms my heart to see people  
from the past.

He turns to Dionysus and makes a height gesture off the  
ground.

JULES (CONT'D)

I knew her since she was this high.

Dionysus smiles. Jules turns back to Mary.

JULES (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, how's your  
little one?

Mary's slightly caught off guard. She turns to Dionysus.

MARY

You - didn't...

Dionysus shakes his head NO.

JULES

Oh God, oh no.

Jules puts his hand over his face.

JULES (CONT'D)

I am so sorry Mary.

MARY

It's OK.

JULES

God. That's the worse...

Everybody lowers their head.

Jules gets up.

JULES (CONT'D)

My apologies. I ruined things.

MARY

Forget it.

JULES

No, the air now is too heavy, too  
sad. I need to fix this. Excuse me  
for a few seconds.

Jules goes over to a vinyl player and puts on traditional,  
upbeat French music.

He comes and sits back down. He waves his hands through the air and breathes deep.

Mary and Dionysus exchange a look.

JULES (CONT'D)  
OK, now we eat.

CUT TO:

Time has passed the plates are near empty and there are dessert and brandy on the table.

MARY  
That was wonderful Jules, thank you.

DIONYSUS  
Best meal we had in a while.

JULES  
It is I that should be thanking you. You are both wonderful company.

DIONYSUS  
You're very kind.

Dionysus looks at Mary, she looks absent-minded.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
So Mary mentioned you had a bookshop in town. Do you still run it?

JULES  
Yes, it's still open, though much fewer people go in now.

DIONYSUS  
Mary is looking for work, do you think maybe she can work there?

Jules turns and looks at Mary.

JULES  
Can you start tomorrow?

MARY  
Um - yes, of course.

JULES  
You're hired.

MARY  
Really?

JULES  
Yes.

MARY  
Thank you so much, Jules, that's  
very kind of you.

JULES  
Nonsense, I'm a selfish bastard. I  
want the company you see and I want  
to travel around soon. So I should  
be the one saying thank you.

Mary and Dionysus look at each other and smile.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Jules is showing Mary around the shop. It is a charming,  
small bookstore, the type of place where one can find old  
copies of the works of Jean-Paul Sartre and Henry Miller, old  
postcards and South American comic books.

Jules shows her the back room.

JULES  
We have a little fridge, you can  
keep lunch in there.

MARY  
OK.

CUT TO:

Jules presses buttons on the cash register and the till  
springs open.

JULES  
Very simple, no?

Mary nods Yes.

JULES (CONT'D)  
Good. OK, I go.

MARY  
You're leaving?

JULES  
Yes. I go to the pond and feed the  
ducks now.

MARY  
But it's my first day.

JULES  
You'll be fine. Don't worry.

Jules opens the door and exits.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary comes back into the dark house with a grocery bag.

MARY  
Dionysus?

Mary places the bag down and lights a row of candles that are near the door.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary chops some vegetables on a chopping block and lights a small gas cooker.

Mary places the vegetables in a saucepan, then sighs annoyingly.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary stands in front of the fireplace which seems unused and bare.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary is back in the kitchen, now with a sweater on, and is steering the vegetables.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary is sitting in the living room, a blanket over her feet, and is drawing in a sketchbook. The door opens and a whistling Dionysus comes into the house.

DIONYSUS  
Honey, I'm home.

He puts down his wrapped paintings, takes his jacket off and throws it on a chair.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Ah there you are, I have to tell  
you, I'm so excited.

He walks up to her. Mary keeps drawing.

Dionysus kisses her forehead.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Guess what?

Mary doesn't.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
I sold a painting today. For  
actual, real money this time.

He waits for Mary's reaction but it never comes.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

MARY  
I'm cold.

DIONYSUS  
Arrgg, the damn fireplace,  
completely slipped my mind.

MARY  
It's slipped for 2 months now.

DIONYSUS  
Oh come on, don't be like that, I  
had a nice day.

Mary puts the drawing down.

MARY  
Oh no, we wouldn't want to spoil  
your nice day, would we now?

DIONYSUS  
Look, this isn't even my fault  
really. I told you that we should  
have put the power and water back  
to use. We're not in a bloody Jane  
Austen novel.

Mary gets up.

MARY  
You said you liked it like this  
too.

DIONYSUS

I - I did at the time. But...

MARY

But what? Too much effort for you now, so you want the easy way out?

DIONYSUS

No, of course not. This is mad Mary.

Mary stares at him.

She walks away.

MARY

Sleep in your own fucking room tonight.

DIONYSUS

Gladly, happily.

Mary goes up the stairs.

MARY

Fucking child.

DIONYSUS

Potty mouth - fiend.

Mary's door is heard SLAM hard.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary is browsing through the shelves, checking titles out. She stops and picks out a copy of *Huis Clos*, and moves back behind the counter, as a WOMAN and a GIRL enter the shop.

Mary looks on as the Girl runs happily to the comic strip session. Then as her Mother catches up to her and pats her hair tenderly.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

A younger, bright-looking Mary is in the bookshop with an excited Ava who picks up a paperback copy of a *Mafalda* comic strip.

AVA

Can I have this one mummy?

Mary picks it up and looks through it.

MARY  
Sweetie, this is in Spanish.

Ava lowers her head in disappointment. Jules appears behind them.

JULES  
(in French)  
You speak French?

MARY  
Yes.

JULES  
I'm sure there's a French version.

Jules starts to look through the shelves.

MARY  
See honey, it'll be alright.

Ava smiles at her mother and hugs her.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

The Woman and the Girl approach the counter with their comic strip but find no one there.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus, holding a lamp, walks up the stairs.

DIONYSUS  
Mary?

He reaches the entrance to her room and finds Mary on the ground, a near-empty bottle of vodka and some vomit next to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Mary.

He runs to her side.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
Are you OK?

MARY  
Fuck off, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS  
What happened?

MARY

What do you think happened?

He puts his arms around her.

DIONYSUS

It's OK.

Mary tries to shrug him off.

MARY

No, get out, I don't want you here.

DIONYSUS

No.

She pushes him.

MARY

Yes.

Dionysus holds her again.

DIONYSUS

I got you, it's OK, we're OK.

Dionysus strokes her hair.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

It's OK to fall down sometimes.

MARY

Is it OK to have your hair sticky  
with vomit?

DIONYSUS

Yes, that's OK too.

MARY

Dionysus - leave me.

She starts to cry.

DIONYSUS

Never.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is listening to loud music and painting on a large  
canvas.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary, her back against the wall next to the entrance of the bookshop, is reading her book and smoking.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are in the same bed together and are both sound asleep.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary opens the bookshop, walks to the counter, and sits down, sipping her coffee. Suddenly she stands up and rushes to the toilet to throw up.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is in the bathroom, holding onto and staring in shock at a positive pregnancy test. Her facial features ease up as the sensation of hope returns to her after a very long time, only, a second later, to be chased away by fear.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

It is late afternoon, the sun is descending on the horizon, and Mary is smoking and pacing up and down. She finishes her cigarette and lights another one. The front door opens and Dionysus pops his head out.

DIONYSUS

Are you sure you're OK?

MARY

Yes.

DIONYSUS

It's cold, come inside.

MARY

I will when I'm bloody good and ready, OK.

DIONYSUS

OK, OK, relax woman.

MARY

Don't fu -- I'll be in soon.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary goes up to Dionysus who is sitting down in the living room with his legs up, sipping wine and listening to music. He looks at her, standing there unsure, not saying a word.

DIONYSUS

What?

MARY

I'm expecting.

Dionysus puts his feet to the ground.

DIONYSUS

Is it - mine?

MARY

Of course, it's fucking yours, what do - who's else could it be? Have you seen a herd of men parading outside my room each night?

Dionysus becomes elated.

DIONYSUS

Sorry, it's just the way you said it.

MARY

What about it?

DIONYSUS

We're expecting.

Mary sighs.

MARY

Fine, we're expecting. For now, anyway, don't know if I'll keep it. OK?

Dionysus gets to his feet.

MARY (CONT'D)

OK?

DIONYSUS

OK, yes.

Dionysus starts kissing Mary's belly.

MARY

What are you doing?

He can't stop himself.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Stop that.

DIONYSUS  
Just a bit longer.

MARY  
Dionysus...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Dionysus, whistling merrily away, is riding his bicycle, off to town to sell some more paintings.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary gives a customer his change as Jules puts the book and receipt in a bag and hands it to them.

JULES  
(in French)  
Thank you. Enjoy the rest of your day.

EXT. YARD - DAY

Dionysus has gathered some logs together and is holding on to an axe. He swings it on a log but the blade gets stuck in the front of the wood. Dionysus tries to get it out but can't.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary and Abelle are sitting opposite each other at the kitchen table, cups of coffee in front of them. They both light a cigarette at the same time and inhale.

MARY  
So, what is new with you?

ABELLE  
I have a new boyfriend.

MARY  
Is it serious?

ABELLE  
He wants me to quit my job, so yes.

MARY  
Will you?

ABELLE  
I haven't decided yet.

They sip their coffee.

ABELLE (CONT'D)  
And what is new with you?

MARY  
I'm pregnant.

ABELLE  
Oh wow, congratulations. Dionysus  
must be thrilled.

MARY  
To say the least.

ABELLE  
Will you keep it?

MARY  
I haven't decided yet.

Abelle looks at her cigarette.

ABELLE  
Maybe one day we give this up then?

Mary sighs.

MARY  
Maybe.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is working on her painting while Dionysus rides around  
the place naked on his bicycle.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on some rocks by the sea and has a  
fishing rod in his hands.

INT. GARDEN -DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the garden sitting on the ground  
with their eyes closed and meditating.

Mary suddenly opens her eyes and sighs in boredom.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Time has gone by and Dionysus has started getting restless as nothing is happening with the fishing line.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are working on the garden, taking bad weeds out, cutting grass and checking on the seeds they planted.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Dionysus has now fallen asleep on the rock where he is fishing.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are lying and holding each other on a carpet on the ground of the living room, in front of a warm fireplace.

MARY

Dionysus, tell me a joke.

DIONYSUS

Are you serious?

MARY

Yes.

DIONYSUS

I thought you didn't like me telling them.

MARY

It's different now.

DIONYSUS

I bet you still won't laugh.

MARY

Come on.

DIONYSUS

Oh alright. Hmm, OK, OK. A guy is sitting on his couch when he hears a knock on the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there is a knock at the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, "What the hell was that all about?"

Mary gives a half-smile.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

See, I knew you wouldn't laugh.

MARY

No, but I still liked hearing you say it.

She places her head on his chest.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary, Dionysus, Abelle, and Jules are in the kitchen playing strip poker. They are all down to their underwear.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are spread out on the ground, smiling, as they are staring at a tomato fruit developing on the vine.

MARY

It's beautiful.

DIONYSUS

Sure is.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are asleep together.

Mary awakes and sits up in worry and fear, waking Dionysus too.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

MARY

Something is wrong?

Mary pulls down the blankets, revealing excessive blood coming out of her and covering her nightgown and sheets.

DIONYSUS  
Oh, sweet God.

Dionysus gets out of bed.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)  
I'll get help.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Dionysus is racing his bicycle on the road.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus KNOCKS hard on the front door.

A puzzled Jules opens.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Dionysus and Jules are waiting anxiously in a small room. A DOCTOR comes in, and Dionysus and Jules rush towards him.

DOCTOR  
She's OK, she's OK.

Dionysus sighs in relief.

JULES  
Good, good.

DOCTOR  
It was what's called a complete miscarriage. Unfortunately common within the first few months of pregnancy. We performed an ultrasound and blood tests, her vitals were normal and there was no indication of ectopic pregnancy.

DIONYSUS  
Can we see her?

DOCTOR  
Yes. We will keep her here for the night, but she should be OK to go home tomorrow.

DIONYSUS  
I wish to stay with her.

DOCTOR

Um, OK, I'll get a nurse to bring you a blanket and a pillow.

DIONYSUS

I appreciate that.

CUT TO:

Dionysus and Jules slowly enter Mary's room. She is in bed staring off at the wall. She acknowledges them but then looks away, inconsolably.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary?

JULES

We're terribly sorry.

Mary stays quiet.

CUT TO:

Dionysus and Jules are at the front lobby of the hospital.

JULES (CONT'D)

I'll be back here tomorrow, OK?

Dionysus nods his head.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hang in there, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS

Thank you for your help.

Jules hugs Dionysus, puts his hand tenderly on the side of Dionysus's face. Then turns and walks out.

Dionysus walks into the men's room. He is alone. He stands there for a few seconds.

He explodes in rage, starts banging his hands on the sinks, the cubicle doors, the walls, growling as he does so, and as he stops exhausted, he grabs his hand in pain.

An agitated Nurse is applying a bandage on Dionysus's injured hand.

Dionysus is in Mary's room, sleeping on a couch chair, blanket over him. Mary though is pretending to sleep. She opens her eyes and looks over at Dionysus, then slowly and quietly gets out of bed and locates her clothes.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Mary is walking through the path that leads to her house. The sun is starting to rise on the horizon.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Dionysus wakes up in his chair. He notices the bed is empty and gets to his feet.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Mary is nearing the house now.

Dionysus is anxiously riding his bicycle.

EXT/INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary opens the front door, walks into the house, and goes up the stairs. She comes down the stairs holding on to the rope.

She goes to the living room, grabs a chair, and goes under the chandelier. She ties the rope around it and around her neck and pulls the chair from under her.

She starts to kick out with her legs and choke.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Dionysus is paddling on his bicycle with all his strength.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is getting strangled by the rope.

The chandelier starts to give way and dust starts falling from the roof. Mary is still choking.

The chandelier gives way and falls from the roof and Mary falls too.

Mary lies on the floor in pain with the chandelier on her.

Dionysus storms into the house.

DIONYSUS

Mary? Mary?

He rushes into the living room and sees Mary on the ground with the broken chandelier.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary?

Mary pushes the chandelier from her and slowly, painfully gets to her feet, holding on to her hurt stomach.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You OK?

Mary looks at Dionysus incredulously, then starts laughing away.

Her laughter gets stronger, and soon Dionysus starts laughing too.

As they both continue roaring merrily away, the sun rises fully on the horizon. Even though it is winter, it looks like it will be a warm day.

THE END