

REQUITAL

By

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There's always a price to pay

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FADE IN:

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - RAINY NIGHT

Lights out. The television plays the last scene of The Notebook.

ASHLEY and EVELYN (both 21), sit Indian style under a blanket. As Ashley cries, Evelyn sporadically glances at her phone with frustration.

The ending credits play. Ashley flicks on the lamp closest to her. She pokes her lips out, turns to Evelyn. Evelyn, rolls her eyes, gets up and takes the DVD out. We now see Evelyn ISN'T a small girl.

ASHLEY

...And some tissue too, thank you Ev.

EVELYN

Really? Every time Ashley?

ASHLEY

It was my moms favorite movie.

EVELYN

But you've literally seen it a hundred times since--

A THUNDEROUS KNOCK startles the girls.

Ashley peeks out the window, no cars in sight.

ASHLEY

Who is it?!

No response.

Evelyn brisks in, holding a Chucky knife. They approach the door cautiously. The knocks are getting more intense. Continuous.

Just as Ashley's cracks the door, Evelyn's phone beeps. She drops the knife on the bookshelf by the door and runs back to the living room; Leaving Ashley on her own. Too late for Ashley to close the door --

A MAN, shielding his head with a garbage bag, attempts to walk in.

MAN
(head down)
What took so long?

ASHLEY
Ev!

The mans head lifts. Confused.

Evelyn comes running. Knife in hand. Man lifts his hands in surrender.

MAN
Whoa! Whoa! Hold up.

He takes a couple steps back.

MAN
This isn't 88 Monitor?

He glances at the mailbox. Assumes he has the right house. He reaches in his inside pocket.

Evelyn holds the knife to his face.

MAN
Chill it's just my phone.

He slowly pulls out his phone. Brings up a conversation. Hand's the phone to Ashley. She reads.

EVELYN
What is that?

MAN
A girl I met online. Tracy. Told me meet her here. This was her address. Parents out of town.

ASHLEY
Bad joke. You need to leave.

He's not too pleased but with a large knife in his face, compliance is his only solution.

Evelyn leaves the door cracked. Enough to see him head to his car and enough for him to see her holding that knife -- In case he gets bold.

Still walking, the Man turns back

Evelyn holds up the knife. She watches him get into his car; It's parked in front of the house next door.

As he speeds off, Ashley's Dad pulls into their driveway. Evelyn closes the door.

INT. ASHLEYS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The girls settle in. Ashley lays across her bed. Flips open a photo book. Evelyn lays beside her. Phone in one hand pizza in the other.

EVELYN

After tonight I'm going on a liquid fast. You know pizza my weakness.

Evelyn's phone beeps. She's instantly submerged in it.

ASHLEY

Tomorrow can't come fast enough.

Evelyn glances at the clock. It's 10:30pm.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Two and a half more hours. You ever think how much your life is gonna change?

Text alert -- Evelyn's phone.

ASHLEY

Sometimes. But I just want to be smart. This doesn't... I don't know. I want to make my mom proud. You won't change on me right?

She waits for a response. Evelyn's gaping at her phone.

ASHLEY

Ev!

She looks up.

ASHLEY

Rob again?

EVELYN

Be honest with me. Promise?

Evelyn faces her.

EVELYN

Like if you were this popular guy, swagged out, star basketball player and had tons of women on your jock,

(MORE)

EVELYN (cont'd)
 would you date me? And be honest.
 Me feelings won't be hurt.

ASHLEY
 What is it with you? You're
 beautiful.

EVELYN
 ...For a big girl.

ASHLEY
 For any girl Ev.

EVELYN
 We're gon have to find you a man
 soon. Rob has a lot of cute
 friends.

ASHLEY
 After graduation... Maybe.

EVELYN
 Oh and, I hope you won't be mad...
 I invited him over.

ASHLEY
 To do what?

EVELYN
 Hang out. Ya dad won't be mad will
 he?

WHAM!!!

FROM DOWNSTAIRS WE HEAR A DOOR SLAM SHUT.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
 Ewww too late. Sounds pissed.

ASHLEY
 Dad?!

Ashley's perplexed.

Beep! Text alert. By now we know where her focus goes.

ASHLEY
 All night Evelyn?

EVELYN
 (re: Rob)
 Just till he gets here.

Ashley rolls her eyes and flips on the tv. Nick at Night or some other late night sitcom. She browses through the photo album. Thinking back on memories.

CUT TO:

Leather shoes moving at a leisurely pace up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLEYS ROOM/HALLWAY - CONT'D

Ashley gets out the bed. She peeks out her door. The stairs are right there.

ASHLEY

Dad?

Ashley steps out her room -- At THIS MOMENT -- her throat is clenched by a gloved hand. Ashley makes every effort to yell but she can't utter a sound. Gripping silence.

She's THRUST through her door.

INT. ASHLEYS ROOM - CONT'D

Wham! She hits the floor hard. Evelyn charges the MASKED MAN. He evades her rush; She LANDS into the closet door.

He whisks out the Chucky knife. Ashley locks eyes with him; He's a lunatic.

Ashley, slides back to her bed; She's now sitting up. Voice still inaudible. Her eyes plead for her life.

CUT TO:

A SHORT TIME LATER

Eyes flutter awake.

A wider angle reveals: Ashley and Evelyn stand back to back, handcuffed to each other. Their sizable height difference causes Ashley arms to be slightly elevated.

The Masked Man enters carrying a bucket of water. He sets it in front of them.

EVELYN

What do you want?! Just take it.
Leave us.

He exits.

ASHLEY

Please stop. Please! I'll do
whatever. Just don't hurt us.

He enters carrying a wash cloth and soap.

EVELYN

(to Ashley)

What the hell is he doing?

He leaves again. We hear his footsteps creaking down the stairs.

Ashley SHAKES. She's more panicked than Evelyn. Her arms grow tired from being elevated.

EVELYN

My phones on the other side of the
bed. Maybe if we can get to it...

They do their best synchronizing walk, but Ashley misses a step and falls, leaving her arms almost above her head. Shrieks of pain escape her throat.

The Masked Man comes in holding a piano bench. He sets it down. He speaks; his voice disturbingly calm and FRIGHTENING.

MASKED MAN

Sit.

As Ashley proceeds to sit, she's held back by an erect Evelyn.

Ashley tries to jerk her down but her weight is no match.

EVELYN

We're not making this easy for you.

The look he gives her could send lambs to slaughter.

He tightens her cuffs. The pain brings her to her seat. She screams in anguish.

The Masked Man reaches for a remote. He turns the radio on. The music acts as a backdrop.

MASKED MAN

Defiance will get you killed.

The Masked Man opens Ashley's closet. It's full of clothes with tags still on them, countless shoes, bags from LV, Fendi and Neiman Marcus. This angers him.

MASKED MAN

(pissed)

Expensive taste for 21 year old college student. This is what your dad does with his money?

Ashley peers up. Confused that he knows her age.

Masked Man grabs a few pieces from her closet, tosses them on the floor. He takes out a bottle of pills from his pocket; Removes his coat lays it neatly beside her photo album.

ASHLEY

Do... do I know you?

EVELYN

Ashley just shut up.

SMACK!!! Right across Evelyn's face. Spit flies across the room. She falls to the floor, sending Ashley's head knocking into the ground.

LATER

Ashley's eyes flap awake to see: A clock that reads 12:22am. Beside it is a bottle of Tegretol.

Ashley gets a glimpse of the Masked Man's wrist. He's wearing an Alarm Medical watch as it counts down from 7 minutes.

Wider angle reveals they're laying on the floor; Individually handcuffed with their hands behind them.

Masked Man has his back to them. The front of his mask is lifted up.

Ashley catches a glimpse of his silhouette. Unfamiliar. He yanks the mask down and turns to to the girls.

Ashley makes a confused attempt at words.

ASHLEY

Why are you torturing us? If this is a joke, it's gone way too far.

He smiles, yanks Ashley up ferociously.

MASKED MAN
You, you deserve it. She happens to
be here.

Her eyes well up with tears.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Please. Just please.

He snatches her erect.

MASKED MAN
The hell you crying about?

He rises. Shifts his focus to the clothes on her bed.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)
Hard life? Designer clothes,
college, family and friends. That's
the struggle.

Beside the bench is a bucket of water, a towel and soap.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)
Stand up. Stand up!

Her efforts are unsuccessful. He hoist her up by her arms.
He leads her hunched frame over to the bench. Shoves her
down onto the bench. Holding her down as he turns on the tv,
turns the volume up.

He slides off her socks and submerges her feet and his bare
hands in the steaming water. She fights but her futile
efforts are no match to his grip. He enjoys the pain but her
suffering brings more joy. He cuffs her legs to the bench.

Ashley's screams of AGONY awake Evelyn. Her back is to them.

EVELYN POV: Her phone under the bed. Just a few feet away.

A SHORT TIME LATER

Pieces of scolding flesh float at the top of bucket. He legs
are no longer cuffed.

MASKED MAN
I'm purging you. From all
unrighteousness. You've committed
so many sins. I'm saving your soul
Ashley. Do you know what happens to
people who die in sin?

Out of nowhere she hurls a wad of spit into his eyes. He's
unfazed.

MASKED MAN

Is that your way of purging me?

A beat. He stands, heads over to the bed. Stepping ON Evelyn. He grabs her photo book and squats beside her -- Indian style.

From HERE ON Ashley will speak with a daunting, weak pant.

ASHLEY

No. Not that. That's my mom.

As Evelyn inches closer to the bed we hear...

MASKED MAN (O.C.)

I know whats going through your mind. What life would be like if I wasn't here. You'd get that huge check tomorrow. Get your mom the tombstone she deserves. Run off into the sunset. No care in the world... be set for life. And you'd have every thing you dreamed of.

FWHEOOOOO!!!! The high pitch whistle of a tea kettle. Evelyn freezes.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)

Don't move.

Masked Man exits. We hear him walk down the stairs. Evelyn frantically tries to slide under the bed. He breast won't fit. She debates trying another approach, but contemplates too long.

EVELYN

(whispers)

Ash. Ash? Hold on. You there right?

Ashley lets out a lifeless breath.

Evelyn slides her body under her bed but her breast prevent her from getting any further.

ASHLEY

He... he... he get's seizures.

EVELYN

What?

ASHLEY

(pausing between words)

Seizures. The medicine. My mom would take.

He storms in; Holding a tea kettle. Evelyn can't slide out fast enough. He violently drags her by the legs. Her kicks are pointless. Her shirt lifts up from the back; skin peels off her back; Blood shadows. Evelyn screams in anguish.

Evelyn and the Masked Man make brief eye contact; She freezes.

His watch is counting down from 3 minutes.

He rest the tea kettle beside Ashley.

ASHLEY

Please... enough...Just kill me.

MASKED MAN

Why would I consider your plea?
Death causes more pain to your
loved ones then it does to you. I
want you to feel every ounce of
pain that you put me through for
the last fifteen years.

EVELYN

She doesn't even know you! Let us
go!

He pours the boiling water inside the bucket. Ashley's feet are too numb to feel pain. He proceeds to wash them.

MASKED MAN

This world we live in is wretched.
No one cares about anyone unless it
benefits them. Those with a heart,
show compassion to the manipulators
and then we have people like you.
Who get rich at others expense.
Anything for a dollar. Lie, rip
families apart, deceive... all in
the name of a dollar. I was a
fairly wealthy man when I got
married and had children. I worked
damn hard at building my company.
Nineteen years of blood, sweat and
more blood. Thousands of man hours
being poured into a dream only to
have it snatched away by a lying,
deceitful cunt and her greedy
parents.

Ashley's eyes widen.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)

People that see an opportunity and try to seize it. Giving no thought to who it will affect. My wife left due to that accident. And it was just that -- an accident. She took our kids and I haven't see her since. I lost everything I built because your parents chose to turn down a half a million dollars. Lied to the judge, to the doctors... It cost me one million dollars in lawyers fee's. A MILLION DAMN DOLLARS. You tore my home apart. The judge didn't care that I had a seizure. He gave two shits about me never having one before. Or that what happened was beyond my control. All he saw was a little girl who they said would never walk again because an old ex convict ran her down. He didn't care that I had changed my life around.

His watch is counting down from 1 minute.

SMASH CUT TO:

It's DARK. Someone is confined in a cramped space. All we can make out and hear is their tussling.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM - CONT'D

ASHLEY

I'm so sorry. I didn't know.

MASKED MAN

There's nothing you can do to give me my family back.

EVELYN

She didn't make them leave.

He's had enough of her comments.

CUT TO:

He's walking a handcuffed Evelyn down the stairs.

The doorbell rings. Followed by knocking.

EVELYN
HELP! HELPPP!

Panicked, the Masked Man pushes Evelyn down the rest of the stairs. She wobbles down. Her fat saved her from serious damage.

The doorknob jiggles. The knocks grow louder and more fervent.

His watch is counting down from 45 seconds.

Someone's trying to ram through the door.

The Masked Man runs upstairs.

INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM - CONT'D

The bucket has spilled.

Ashley's under the bed. Her feet are lifeless. She holds Evelyn's phone behind her back. She see's him running to her. She backs up to a wall.

The Masked Man is on the floor reaching for Ashley but can't get a hold of her. He slithers under the bed -- almost close enough to reach her. HIS WATCH BEEPS.

STROBE LIGHTS FLICKER IN HIS FACE from Evelyn's iphone. He makes an unsuccessful reach for it.

His first reacton is to slide out but he's too far under this King Sized bed.

He FREEZES...His eyes POP OPEN... face goes BLANK... shakes calmly...slight foam seeps from his mouth...now his shake's are more violent AND uncnrtolable... His head beating againt the bedframe.

We hear SOMEONE BURST THROUGH THE DOWNSTAIRS DOOR!

Feet sprinting up the stairs.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
HELP! HELP!

Rob enters the room, see's Ashley's mangled feet; She's sliding out the best way a Handcuffed person can. Rob assist her.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - CONT'D

The rain has stopped.

Swarms of cop cars surround the house. The street is tapped off.

Her DAD is being pulled out the trunk of his car where he was held hostage.

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE - CONT'D

Evelyn is being consoled by Rob. A DETECTIVE walks to them.

DETECTIVE

(to Evelyn)

You two were very lucky girls. He's killed everyone involved with his case. We've been searching for this guy for years. You'll be alright --

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Where is he?!? I hope he's dead!
Where is he?!

They walk to the door where Ashley is being led out on a stretcher. Evelyn goes to her side. Ashley's Dad is standing in the doorway. They watch as...

A COP leads the bloodied, lifeless unMasked Man down the stairs. The seizure has taken a toll on him.

As he walks by the Detective, Evelyn spits on him. He lifts his head and his eyes meet Rob's.

There's something so familiar that they both recognize. This second seems like a minute as Rob blurts out --

ROB

Dad!

Their hearts STAND STILL.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK

FADE OUT