

NIGHT BIRD

Written by

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INT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DAY (30 YEARS AGO)

A large house, beautifully and artistically decorated. On the kitchen table are lighted candles and dirty plates. The house looks like it is built in Victorian era. Painted pictures of nature, plants and sunsets decorate the hallway walls.

A BOY, 5, wet, covered in mud, is standing at the bathroom door, holding a ball.

There is a shaken voice crying from the bathroom.

VOICE

(crying)

Wake up honey. Please. We will get you through this. Everything will be okay. Please... Don't leave me. Please!

INT. ARCHIE'S BATHROOM - DAY (30 YEARS AGO)

A MAN, late 30s, is holding a YOUNG WOMAN in a bathtub. Her eyes wide open, not blinking.

BOY (O.S.)

Dad?

As man turns around and sees a boy, he slowly puts the woman's body back in the tub and rushes to the boy.

MAN

(shaking)

It is okay Alex, mommy is little tired. Go to your room, okay? I will be there soon. Okay, Alex?

INT. ALEX'S CAR - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

ALEX, 35, dark hair, beard, tired, drives a car with his family. LINDA, 32, beautiful blonde, is in a front seat next to him.

LINDA

Alex, you okay?

Alex is distracted, doesn't hear her.

LINDA

Alex?

ALEX
 (flinches)
 Hm? Sorry honey, I am a little tired.

Linda takes his hand and kisses it.

LINDA
 It is going to be alright.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Funeral. Alex is in a front row, holding hands with his wife. Next to a coffin, there is a picture of the man from the first scene, but now he is older. Very few people are present.

His hair and beard are silver colored, his eyes deeper, his wrinkles longer. Under the picture there is a written name: ARCHIE MORGAN.

A PRIEST, 30s, wise, dedicated, stands next to the coffin.

PRIEST
 O Lord God, who has created us and called us to come home to you Give us hearts of wisdom, that we may understand how short life is and thus receive every new day as a gift. Give us a living faith in your Son Jesus Christ, who suffered death for our sins, who rose from the grave to give us a hope and who lives for ever. Teach us daily to die from sin and to live according to your holy will. At the moment of our death, make us ready to depart in peace. And when the eternal day of resurrection dawns upon the graves of the earth, grant us grace to rise to eternal life. Amen.
 (pause)
 Now Archie's son, Alex will say a few words about his father.

As the priest moves a couple steps, Alex stands up.

ALEX
 (to the priest)
 Thank you.

Priest nods. Alex takes a deep breath.

ALEX

I wrote a speech. It isn't good.
Anything I say won't be good enough.
My father was extremely intelligent,
talented, loving. I am nothing like
him. He was painting a lot. He used to
say that painted pictures are living.

(pause)

When my mom died, he kept on painting
her. He said in that way she is going
to live forever. Unfortunately, I am
not a painter, I can't do that for
him. Even though he deserves it. I
lost my mom when I was very young and
he made me feel like she was with us
the whole time. She lived through his
pictures.

(starts crying)

Now when he is gone I have a feeling
that I lost both of my parents.

(pause)

He gave me so much. First time kicking
a ball, first time fishing, first
advice about girls...

Everyone smiles, including Alex.

ALEX

So many of my first memories are with
him, and what hurts the most is that I
didn't give him the last goodbye.

(pause)

I have a daughter myself and I will
try to be the father to her like my
dad was to me, because being like
Archie, means being the best. Goodbye
dad, I am going to miss you.

Alex puts his hand on the coffin, trying to stay on his feet,
but just a moment later he throws his body over it, with a
silent scream. Linda starts crying.

EXT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lost Coast, California.

Depressed and lonely place. Huge house, surrounded by
emptiness and cliffs, looking at the ocean. The air is clean
and birds are heard in the distance. There is no other house
around.

Alex and Linda park the car. He takes a breath of clear ocean air.

ALEX
I missed this place.

LINDA
(for herself)
I wish I could say the same.

INT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Even though 30 years have passed, house has remained pretty much the same. Victorian looking, clean, neat, but this time has a lot more pictures painted. They are showing Alex's mother smiling, playing with her son, reading...

Alex and Linda are coming inside.

LINDA
Juliet?

Juliet runs down the stairs and hugs her mother.

JULIET
(excited)
Mom!

LINDA
Hello honey. Did you have fun with Mary?

JULIET
Yes.

MARY BATHORY, early 50s, smiled face, good-natured lady comes in the room. She was Alex's nanny and later the maid in the house.

LINDA
(to Mary)
Thank you for taking care of her, Mary.

MARY
It was my pleasure. She is a sweetheart.

LINDA
She really is.

JULIET
Mom, can I show Mary my new doll?

LINDA
Sure, honey. If Mary wants.

JULIET
(to Mary)
Mary?

MARY
I would love to, let's go.

As Mary takes Juliet's hand, Alex, who until then was unaware of any event, stops them.

ALEX
Wait!

Both of them turn around.

ALEX
(to Juliet)
Honey, Mary and I need to talk about something. Can you go upstairs and tell mom about everything you did with Mary while we were gone?

JULIET
But I want to show Mary my doll.

ALEX
You will show her later. Now go with mum. Okay?

Juliet puts her head down, sadly looking at the floor.

JULIET
Okay.

Juliet lets go of Mary and grabs Linda's hand instead, heading upstairs.

Linda reluctantly leaves the room.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kitchen is mostly made of wood, so it looks very cozy.

Alex and Mary are sitting at the kitchen table. Alex seems nervous, looking down.

MARY
How are you?

ALEX
I am trying to be okay.
(pause)
Mary, why didn't you call me? I
should've been here.

MARY
You know your father, he was stubborn,
full of pride, didn't want anyone's
pity.

ALEX
Did he suffer?

MARY
No, it was quick and painless, he just
fell asleep.

ALEX
Mary thank you for being there for
him.

MARY
Of course.

Pause.

ALEX
Mary, we are going to stay here for a
while.

Mary's face lights up. She hugs Alex.

MARY
Alex that is amazing! I am so happy.
Finally some joy in this house.

Alex pauses, avoiding eye contact.

ALEX
Mary?

MARY
Yes?

ALEX
I can't afford to have you here.

Mary's smile drops.

MARY

What do you mean?

ALEX

I am so sorry, it's not that I don't want you here, I would love you to stay, It's just... I haven't sold anything for a long time. My publishers turned down my three latest works, we are almost out of money. Having housekeeper with all the expenses here... it's no possible. I am so sorry.

Mary stands up in a shock, not saying a word. When she is about to leave the room, Alex stops her.

ALEX

Mary, do you have a place to go?

Mary shakes her head, looking at the floor.

MARY

No, at the moment, I don't, but don't you worry about me.

ALEX

You can stay with us until you find something. You can always visit us. I want Juliet to know you.

MARY

Thank you, Alex.

ALEX

I don't really have any other choice.

Mary nods and leaves.

INT. ALEXE'S CHILDHOOD ROOM - NIGHT

Alex enters his childhood room. It is way bigger space than kid needs. It is dark, bedroom is lighted by the moonlight. Juliet is sleeping, he doesn't turn the lights on. He comes near shelf looking at his childhood books. There is a Harry Potter series, Gulliver's Travels, Oliver Twist. Next to the books there is a train, his favorite toy. Alex picks it up.

INT. ALEX'S CHILDOOD ROOM - 35 YEARS AGO

Alex is a 5-year-old kid again. His mother is playing with him. They are both sitting on the floor with a train toy and the USA map.

ADERYN

So where are we going next?

Alex points his finger on the map.

ALEX

Here!

ADERYN

Okay it is boarding time!

Aderyn takes a train and rides it over the map, until she hits Kansas.

ADERYN

And where do we live Alex?

Alex unsurely points Rhode Island, he is looking at his mother for approval.

ADERYN

Wow, I didn't know we live there. It is very nice place, right?

Alex nods.

At that moment Archie enters the room. Young and handsome, with his fingers still smeared with paint. Alex rushes to him and hugs him. Archie picks him up.

ALEX

Dad!

ARCHIE

Hey kiddo, what are you doing?

ALEX

Mommy is teaching me about the states.

Archie looks at Aderyn, kind of disappointed. He picks the map from the floor and folds it.

ARCHIE

(to Aderyn)

Aderyn, honey, you are forcing him too
(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
much. He is a kid.

ADERYN
Well, he wanted to play outside. This
is the only way to keep him still.

ARCHIE
(to Alex)
Oh, is that so? Do you want to go
outside with daddy?

ALEX
(thrilled)
Yes!

ADERYN
Archie, it is cold outside.

ARCHIE
We're gonna put jackets on. Please
mommy?

ALEX
(to Aderyn)
Please mommy!

Aderyn dishonestly smiles, well aware that now she needs to
approve.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - NIGHT

Now Alex enters another room. This is the room where Alex's
father used to paint. There is an easel, canvases of
different size, painting brushes, colors everywhere.

Alex walks around the room looking at the paintings.

On most of the paintings is Alex's mother - ADERYN MORGAN.
Details on the paintings are amazing. Her soft curly blonde
hair, mole under her left eye, her thin pink lips, her red
cheeks.

There is a painting of her sitting in a meadow with a flower
in her hair.

There is her holding baby Alex, reading him a book.

There are her and Archie on their wedding day, Archie is
carrying her while she smiles.

Alex comes closer to the painting. He slowly touches his mother's face.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY

DOOR BELL RINGS.

It is late morning. Alex flinches. He's still sitting on a chair in a studio room, alone. A paper stuck on his face. He pulls it off his face and little red color stays on his cheek. Drink is still in his other hand. But now the bottle is completely empty.

DOOR BELL RINGS again.

ALEX
(coughs)
Linda, door bell!

Linda doesn't answer.

ALEX
(tries to yell)
Linda!

No answer again. Drunk Alex slowly goes to the door.

EXT. ARCHIE'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Thin, middle-aged man is standing in front of the door, wearing glasses and briefcase.

Alex opens the door, still having a red paint on his cheek. He is bothered by daylight.

ALEX
Hello.

Man can't help but being distracted by Alex's look. Greasy hair, sweaty shirt, dark circle under eyes.

After a short shock he speaks.

MAN
Hello. I am Don Smith. I am MR.
Morgan's attorney. You are Alex?

Alex widely opens the door as a sign for Don to come in.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cozy and artistic room, like the rest of the house. Linda and Alex are nervously sitting, waiting for the attorney to speak. Mary brings a cup of coffee for Don.

DON
(to Mary)
Thank you.

MARY
You are welcome. I'm going to leave you alone now.

DON
(to Mary)
You are Mary Bathory, right?

MARY
Yes.

DON
In that case I want you here too.

Mary looks at Alex, Alex nods. Linda doesn't hide her disappointment about this decision.

ALEX
(to Don)
I didn't know my father had a lawyer.

DON
He came to me six months ago. When he found out about the cancer. We spoke occasionally after that. Sorry for your loss.

ALEX
Thank you.

DON
Mr. Morgan, are you aware your father had a will?

ALEX
No. Why would he? I am his only child.

Don takes out some paper out from his briefcase. He puts it at the table.

DON

He left the house to you, of course if you agree to take it, you understand you are obligated to pay off the debt.

ALEX

What kind of debt?

DON

You father owes 20 000 dollars to the bank.

Alex and Linda look at Mary. She stays quiet.

DON

You could pay it or the court would do the inventory of the property.

(pause)

Also, the paintings?

ALEX

Oh, don't tell me he sold them to someone?

DON

No, but he gave them to Mary.

Again, everyone looks at Mary, while she blushes completely ashamed.

ALEX

Is that all?

DON

One more thing. He wanted me to give you this.

Don opens his briefcase up again and takes out a CD and a small metal box with a code for opening. Alex sits at the table again. Don gives him the box and CD.

DON (CONT'D)

Don't be confused. A lot of people write a letter, or in this case make a video to say his last message or confess something to the closest one.

ALEX

You know what's on this?

DON
No. I'm not supposed to know.

ALEX
What about the code?

DON
You are supposed to know.

Alex stays confused, as Don starts packing the papers.

DON
Well thank you for your hospitality,
call me when you decide what are you
going to do.

Don hands down the visit card to Alex but he stares at the CD
not noticing him. Linda takes the card.

LINDA
(to Don)
Sorry. Thank you.

DON
You are welcome. Goodbye.

LINDA
I'll show you the way out.

Don leaves a room with Linda.

Mary and Alex are now alone in the room. Both avoiding eye
contact.

DOOR CLOSES.

Linda comes into the room again

LINDA
Mary, you knew about this?

MARY
Not for the paintings, I swear.

LINDA
What about the money?

MARY
I knew he owed some, I didn't know it
was this much...

ALEX
(to Mary)
You knew?

MARY
Not for the amount.

LINDA
(angry)
And you didn't bother to tell us
yesterday?

MARY
Alex was upset, I didn't know how to
tell him.

LINDA
I can't believe this.

ALEX
(to Mary)
How did he get into debt?

Mary takes a second, considering if she should answer the question.

MARY
(quiet)
He used to gamble.

ALEX
What?

MARY
After the two of you left, he became a
little depressed. He stopped eating
and sleeping regularly. He was
painting by day, gambling by night.

Alex stands up, goes to the shelf and grabs a whiskey. He takes one glass and starts pouring.

MARY
After he found out he had cancer, he
refused to take medications or go to
the hospital, he didn't even try.

Mary tears up.

LINDA
 (to Mary)
 Mary, can you leave us alone for a
 bit?

Mary blows her nose, gets up and leaves. Linda sits next to
 Alex.

LINDA
 (to Alex)
 It's not your fault.

ALEX
 So if we had stayed here...

LINDA
 We couldn't stay here. Look
 at this place, no one stays
 here. You wanted to become a
 writer, I wanted to be a
 photographer, we had to
 leave.

ALEX
 Look where that got us. He was right
 for not supporting me.

LINDA
 No, he wasn't.

ALEX
 Look at me, Linda. I am a failure.

LINDA
 Alex, I love your writing.

ALEX
 That doesn't mean it's good.

For the moment, Linda stays without words. She is
 disappointed her opinion doesn't matter.

ALEX
 Can you bring me my laptop, please?

LINDA
 Alex, we don't have to watch it right
 now.

ALEX
 Yes, we do.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex and Linda are alone in the living room. In front of them is a CD, a box and a laptop. Alex puts the CD in.

Video plays.

Screen shows Archie, same gray-haired man, from the picture at the funeral, sitting in his chair, nervously looking at the camera.

ARCHIE

(from the video)

Hello son. If you are watching this that probably means that my time has come.

(smiles)

It is okay. I have lived long. It is time for me to meet your mother up there. But before I do, I need to explain why she left. You always asked me that and I always said I cannot explain, but I knew, I knew very well.

(pause)

You see, she was very special. Beautiful, smart, elegant, I was crazy about her.

(takes a breath)

And I wasn't the only one.

(pause)

There was someone else who had the same feelings about her, maybe even stronger. Your mother told me one man acted inappropriate towards her. Naturally, I thought she overreacted. But she didn't. It wasn't just any kind of attraction. It was an obsession.

Archie tears up.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Archie, now young, handsome man, sits on a chair reading some notes.

ARCHIE (V.O.)

At one point on her nightstand I found messages from him. Signed as Emerson. Emerson Murray. Messages you never wish someone was writing to your wife.

ARCHIE'S POV

Archie looks at 20 pieces of paper in his hand. Starts reading one by one. As he reads, his hands start to shake. Pieces says:

- I never saw anyone beautiful as you. Emerson Murray.
- Never knew what love is until I looked into your ocean eyes. Emerson Murray.
- You don't deserve to be treated the way he treats you. Emerson Murray.
- I am the one for you, the only one.

END OF POV

ARCHIE (V.O.)

I started to believe that the two of them might sneak behind my back, that she was cheating on me.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Aderyn, early 30s, smart, beautiful, shouts at Archie about something.

ARCHIE (V.O)

That night we had a fight. She told me that he is scaring her and that she keeps the messages as a proof if something happens to her. I said a horrible thing, Alex. I said he wouldn't write those things if she didn't give him a reason to do so.

Aderyn throws a vase at the door. The vase breaks into tiny pieces.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Linda and Alex are still watching the video of Archie. On the screen, Archie takes a deep breath again, but this time he can't hold his tears. He starts crying.

ARCHIE

Oh God, I was so stupid... I didn't believe her. Messages started turning into threats. And she had no one to protect her. She was scared and alone.

(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

I failed. I failed, son.

(beat)

After her death, Emerson ran away. I have been looking for him for over 30 years. A couple of months ago I found out he lives in Rhode Island. I don't have much time left, Alex...

Pause.

ARCHIE

But you do. That is the man who killed your mother, Alex. That is the man who destroyed your childhood, that is the man who destroyed me too. The code is date when our lives stopped forever. If you want me to rest in peace, you will correct my mistakes.

Video ends. Alex and Linda are both in shock, both of them having tears in their eyes, both of them not speaking.

Alex is now taking the metal box. He starts spinning the numbers on it. Zero...Seven...Three...One... The box opens.

There is a gun. Alex knows what he needs to do.

INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dark bedroom. The only light comes from the lamp on Alex's side of the bed. Glass of whiskey, on his nightstand. He is watching at some notebook. Linda is sleeping.

Juliet enters the room, wearing her pajamas, holding her teddy bear.

ALEX

(notices her)

Hey girl, why aren't you in bed?

JULIET

Daddy, I am scared. Can I sleep here?

ALEX

Come.

Juliet comes into bed. He covers her with blanket. She notices the notebook.

JULIET
(points to the book)
What is that?

ALEX
It is grandpa's book. It has his
paintings. Look.

Alex starts turning the pages, showing the pictures from the book.

Alex as a baby on swings.

Aderyn holds him as a baby.

Aderyn poses in a light blue dress.

JULIET
(points at the last painting)
Who is that?

ALEX
That is your grandma.

JULIET
Wow, she is pretty.

ALEX
Yeah, you look a lot like her.

JULIET
I do? Am I that much pretty?

ALEX
Of course you are.

Alex kisses her.

JULIET
Are her and grandpa together now?

ALEX
I think they are.

JULIET
Dad, can you sing me a song?

ALEX
Which one?

JULIET

The one about a bird.

ALEX

The night bird?

JULIET

Yes.

Alex closes the book. He turns towards Juliet. Start singing. His voice is harsh because of the drinking.

ALEX

(sings)

One little night bird hurt her wing,
Now she is scared and don't wanna sing
She was sad and alone, crying on the
attic with a broken bone.

(pause)

Wrote a letter to her friend to come
and help her bone to mend. Friend than
came one rainy night, told a bird that
will be alright.

(out of breath)

Stayed with her until sunlight, now
both can take a flight. Night bird
now...

JULIET

(interrupts him)

Daddy?

ALEX

Yes honey?

JULIET

Your breath stinks.

ALEX

Okay, that will be enough for tonight.
Let's go to sleep.

Alex turns off the lamp. Complete darkness.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sun is rising, but the room is dark, drapes are closed.

Alex sits on the couch with his drink, stares into space.
Linda enters the room, wearing nightgown.

LINDA
You drink a lot lately.

Not a word.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Alex, you got to pull yourself
together.

Still silence.

LINDA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna make us some coffee.

As Linda is about to leave the room, Alex stops her.

ALEX
Why would he ask me to do that?

Linda gets back to Alex.

ALEX
I am his kid, I could go to the
prison. I could die. Was he that mad
at me? Did he love me?

LINDA
Of course he loved you. But he was old
and senile, he didn't know what he was
talking about. Don't overthink it.

ALEX
Why didn't he tell me before? He was
always convincing me that she was the
best mother. And sometimes...

Alex takes a break.

LINDA
What?

ALEX
Sometimes I didn't believe.

LINDA
Why are you saying that?

ALEX
She left us. She had dad and me and
still decided to do that and...for
many years I secretly blamed her. I
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
 didn't know.

Linda hugs Alex, not saying anything.

PHONE RINGS.

Alex takes it out. It is his publisher. He answers it.

ALEX
 (on the phone)
 Hello Lisa.

Linda jumps from the couch, excited and kind of scared.

ALEX
 (on the phone)
 You read it?
 (listening)
 Yeah, I haven't been myself lately.
 (listening)
 Anyway, thank you for reading it.
 Maybe next time.

Alex ends a call. Linda puts her hand on his knee, trying to smile.

LINDA
 Next time.

ALEX
 (to himself)
 Where am I going to find 20 000?

After a short moment, a sign of hope shows on Linda's face.

LINDA
 We can ask Mary to sell the paintings?
 Everyone can take a half.

ALEX
 No. We won't do that. That is
 everything I have from him.

LINDA
 Not everything. We can keep your
 mother's paintings.

ALEX
 I don't know if that is right. They
 are Mary's anyway.

LINDA

They are not hers, they are your father's and you always say she is like a mother to you. We can pay her back eventually. She will understand.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alex, Mary and Linda are all sitting at the table. Alex is pale and uncomfortable, avoiding eye contact with Mary. Linda gives him an encouraging look.

LINDA

(to Mary)

Mary, Alex and I would like to propose something. Alex?

ALEX

Mary, you know about our financial troubles.

MARY

I do.

ALEX

(hesitate)

I...We were wondering if you would be willing to help us.

MARY

Gladly, but how can I help?

ALEX

(unsure)

Would you allow us to sell Archie's paintings?

Silence. Mary is looking at the table.

LINDA

(to Mary)

It would be just for a while, we would pay you back eventually.

ALEX

(to Mary)

Yes, absolutely.

Mary stays quite for a moment longer. A slight villain smile appears on her face.

MARY

He was right. I can't believe he was right.

Linda and Alex are looking at Mary, confused. Mary's face gets wrinkles, her look intense.

MARY

He told me, you two would do this. I said there is no way your son would sell your paintings, but he told me you would.

LINDA

(to Mary)

I thought you didn't know about the will.

Mary ignores Linda.

MARY

(raising her voice)

When have you became so cold Alex? That man spent his life doing two things, raising you and painting. This is how you are repaying him? First you left him, then you came back to destroy the one thing that kept him alive after you and Aderyn.

LINDA

(to Mary)

Mary, we have a kid.

MARY

Yes, you do. And I feel sorry for her. Her parents would rather live from somebody else's work than actually get a job and provide for her.

Mary gets up and leaves angry, leaving Linda in shock. Alex looks at the table, ashamed.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - DAY

Small, neat room, old wooden cabinet and small bed next to the window. Mary sits on her bed looking through the window, opposite from the door.

Alex knocks, slowly opening the door.

ALEX

May I?

Mary stays quiet. Alex carefully takes one step towards her, closing the door. Mary wipes her tears.

MARY

I'll pack my stuff, I am leaving tomorrow.

ALEX

Where?

MARY

I am not sure yet. I'll find something.

ALEX

You cannot leave like that.

MARY

I can't stay where I am unwanted.

ALEX

Don't say that.

Mary's back is still facing Alex, he can't see her tears.

MARY

I thought you want to come back here, where you belong, I thought we are a family.

ALEX

We are a family.

MARY

It hasn't been a day...one day...and you told me you can't have me here. You might leave this place, create a new family, new life, but this...

As she speaks her voice becomes louder.

MARY

This has been my life for the past 40 years. This was my house and Archie was my family. And I lost him, I lost you, and now I am losing the paintings.

Mary wipes her nose.

ALEX

Mary I...

MARY

I don't care about the money, Alex. I never did. I just wanted to have a piece of my life with me, since I am left all alone.

Alex sits on the bed, next to Mary. He puts his hand on her shoulder, Mary starts crying even more.

ALEX

Mary, whatever I said, I didn't say it to hurt you. I just feel like...

(now he tears up)

I am failing and I didn't want to pull you down with me. You didn't deserve it. You were like a mother to me, you raised me, you should have a better life than this.

Now Mary turns to Alex and puts both of her hands on his face, smiling.

MARY

If you care about me, you won't leave me without the paintings, that is all I have from him, please.

These words change Alex's perspective for a second.

ALEX

(confused)

Mary, you loved him, didn't you?

Mary smiles through tears.

MARY

For 40 years.

Alex hugs her.

ALEX

No one is going to ask you to give up on paintings again, I promise.

MARY

Thank you, Alex.

New thought crosses Alex's mind. He stops the hug.

ALEX

Mary, can I ask you something?

MARY

Yes?

ALEX

Do you know who Emerson Murray is?

Mixture of fear and confusion shows up on Mary's face. Tears stop.

MARY

I haven't heard that name in years.
How do you..

But before she finishes her sentence, she realizes.

MARY

It was on the CD, wasn't it?

Alex nods.

MARY

What did he say?

ALEX

He told me the story about him and my
mother, and how she killed herself
because she was scared of him. And...

Alex takes a deep breath, preparing for hard words he is
about to say.

ALEX

And he wants me to kill him.

Mary gasps, stands up and goes to the window.

MARY

Oh, dear God.

ALEX

Since I heard I have had constant
nightmares. I can't sleep, I can't
eat, I can't think straight. Mary,
what should I do?

Mary stands by the window, looking at the yard, not saying

anything for a few moments.

MARY

I cannot tell you to do or not to do what he asked you to. I am not even sure if I believe Aderyn.

ALEX

What do you mean?

MARY

Archie loved Aderyn. I never saw love like that before. He wanted to believe that Aderyn was Emerson's victim, but

MARY

I am not sure she was. I...

(pause)

I think she might had an affair with him.

ALEX

No, that can't be. She was scared of him.

MARY

Maybe, or she was in love and couldn't handle to live with someone else.

Alex is now offended by Mary's disrespect.

ALEX

(raising his voice)

I know my mother! She loved my dad! No one else!

(pause)

You are just jealous Mary!

Mary lowers her head down, as she realizes she crossed the line.

MARY

I am sorry, Alex. I should've kept it to myself. We won't find out.

Alex pauses for a second.

ALEX

There is a way we could.

MARY
(hesitate)
Alex, if you went and if Aderyn was
telling the truth...what would happen?

ALEX
I guess I would find out there.

Alex goes to the door, grabs the door handle.

MARY
Alex?

He stops.

MARY
No one will blame you...
(pause)
whatever you decide.

Alex leaves the room.

EXT. BEACH - DAY (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Cloudy, foggy, dark weather. Juliet is drawing something in
the sand. Alex is couple of steps away.

JULIET
Look dad, I draw a bird.

ALEX
That's great honey, but we gotta go.
The storm is close.

Juliet stands up and looks to the right. She points her hand
towards a cliff in a distance.

JULIET
Dad who is that?

Alex looks to the right. Far away from them on the edge of a
cliff, an unknown woman stands, looking down at the ocean.

ALEX
(to Juliet)
Stay here.

He starts running towards the cliff.

ALEX
 (screams)
 Hey! Hey, you! Don't move!

Woman doesn't move, she is standing still, like a statue. Alex climbs up, now stands two steps from her. His hair and his clothes are completely wet. Crows on the cliff fly away.

ALEX
 It is okay, turn around. Give me your hand.

Woman turns around, now facing Alex. Alex's face freezes as he sees the dark eyes of his mother staring at him.

ALEX
 Mom?

ADERYN
 Help me.

Aderyn puts her hand forward but as Alex is about to reach her, she falls back down into the ocean.

ALEX
 (screams)
 No!

Alex is looking from the edge to the bottom of the ocean, but no one is there anymore. He suddenly remembers he left Juliet alone.

ALEX
 (to himself)
 Juliet.

He stands up. Cliff is very high, so he can see the whole beach, but Juliet is not there.

ALEX
 (yells)
 Juliet! Juliet! Juliet!

INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex wakes up, covered in sweat. His heart beats fast, his face is pale. Linda is sleeping next to him.

He stands up, leaving the room.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Early morning. Open drapes. Sunlight is coming into the room. Alex is sitting at the table with his laptop open, his morning whiskey and maps spread over the table. He is dirty, didn't wash his face. Back of his shirt is sweaty. He is writing something on the paper in front of him.

LINDA
Good morning.

ALEX
(not looking at her)
Morning.

LINDA
Did you sleep last night?

ALEX
No.

Linda comes closer to him, looking at the maps. Alex is still deep into writing, not noticing her.

LINDA
What are you doing?

Alex finally raises his head up.

ALEX
I think you know.

LINDA
I hope I don't.

ALEX
I need to find him.

Linda freezes in shock for a moment.

LINDA
No, you don't. It has been ages. You need to let it go. There are million people in Rhode Island.

ALEX
But there are 9 Emerson Murrays in Rhode Island. Which I manage to narrow down to 5 above 55 years of age. But three of them live there for their whole life so I crossed them out. That
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
is only 2 more left.

LINDA
How did you find that?

ALEX
Social network, illegal websites, all
night work.

LINDA
Alcohol?

Alex says nothing to that, keeps typing on his laptop.

LINDA
Alex, you are losing yourself! Even if
you find someone with that name you
can't be sure it is him.

ALEX
I will make sure it is him.

LINDA
How?

ALEX
I will ask questions, I will figure it
out.

LINDA
And what is going to happen when you
go there?

ALEX
I don't know, I just have to find him.

LINDA
Alex, you are not thinking of doing
anything illegal, are you?

ALEX
I won't do anything, I just have to
see him.

LINDA
Alex, I understand you want to know
about that man, but I am afraid it is
not healthy for you to go. It is
healthy for no one. It is too risky.

Alex looks in the space squeezing his glass.

ALEX

You don't understand me.

LINDA

I do understand you. But you have to think about us. What are we going to do without you? You have to think about Juliet. You are being selfish.

Linda's words became trigger for Alex. He is not calm anymore, his anger is stronger than ever. He takes his empty glass and throws it on the floor. Glass breaks. Linda gets scared for a moment.

ALEX

I am the selfish one? Oh I see. So one time I am doing something for myself, and not you, and I am the selfish one. Was I selfish when I moved from my town so you can pursue your career, in which, by the way, you failed? Was I selfish when I said I don't want kids right away, but we had Juliet one and a half year after we got married, because you wanted to? Was I selfish when I was staying awake nights and nights trying to write a story, so we can have food on the table? Was that selfish Linda?

LINDA

You are drunk! You don't know what you are talking about.

ALEX

Maybe I don't, but that doesn't matter because he knows. He always knew exactly what I should have done.

Linda looks at Alex in confusion he acts delusional. Alex has tears in his eyes and his face becomes red from anger.

ALEX

He was right about everything! Me failing like a writer, you like a photographer, moving out, you and me.

LINDA
 (interrupts him)
 You and me, what Alex?

Alex takes another sip of his drink from the bottle that was on the table, he went too far.

LINDA
 You and I shouldn't have end up together, is that it? Are you regretting you didn't listen to your father about that?

Alex now lowers his voice, thinking about what he is going to say.

ALEX
 (calmly)
 I have to go.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Alex is sitting alone in the train compartment. The train is from last century, old, but neat and clean. He is less drunk than before, but also not completely sober.

He is looking at his bag, opening a zipper. There is a gun inside. Next to the gun is a bottle, he takes it out of the bag. Takes a sip.

Suddenly door of the compartment starts sliding. Alex quickly hides the bottle.

BETH, early 40s or late 30s, tired, pale, holding a baby wrapped in a pink blanket. Baby is sleeping.

BETH
 Hi! Sorry everywhere else is full. Do you mind?

Alex kindly points to the seat.

ALEX
 Please.

BETH
 You don't have to hide it.

ALEX
 Excuse me?

BETH
A bottle. You don't have to hide it.

ALEX
I had a rough day.

BETH
I might had a rough day too.

ALEX
Sorry. Do you want some?

Alex carefully takes the bottle out of his bag, not showing the gun. He hands it to Beth. Wondering if it is wrong to give a bottle to a woman with a baby.

BETH
Well, cheers...

She waits for Alex to say his name.

ALEX
It's Alex.

BETH
Cheers, Alex.

Beth takes a good sip. She hands it back to Alex.

ALEX
(little scared)
You have a cute kid.

BETH
Oh, don't worry, I am not
breastfeeding.

ALEX
Oh no that isn't what I...

BETH
I am surprised someone still
takes trains like this. Why
are you not taking the
plane?

ALEX
I love trains. My mother was very
passionate about old trains. They
don't make them anymore. Plus, it is
cheaper. What about you?

BETH
My father used to be train driver. I
(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)
spent most of my childhood in them.
So, I guess this way of traveling is
just a habit now.

(pause)

Where are you traveling, Alex?

ALEX
Rhode Island.

BETH
Me too.

ALEX
You live there?

BETH
Sort of. I was born there but I spent
my life in Europe mostly.

ALEX
What brings you back?

BETH
The jerk of my husband. He gambles, so
I said either me, or that. Next day I
got the answer.

ALEX
Sorry to hear that.

BETH
What about you?

ALEX
I am the jerk of a husband.

BETH
(points to the bag)
Alcoholic?

She is joking, but Alex is a little offended.

ALEX
No. Just a natural jerk.

BETH
Well, you have a chance then. Women
are not used to high expectation from
men anyway.

ALEX
Thank God for that.

BETH
Why are you traveling?

ALEX
I am going to see one old friend.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Dirty, lonely, train station in Rhode Island. Train has just arrived. Alex is coming out of the train, checking the space. Beth comes next to him, holding upset baby.

BETH
You need help?

ALEX
I am looking for a taxi and some cheap motel.

BETH
You are not staying with your friend?
(now to baby)
Calm down, honey.

ALEX
Oh. He doesn't know I am here. I am about to surprise him.

BETH
Give me your phone.

ALEX
(confused)
What for?

BETH
(smiles)
To enter you the location for the cheap motel you can stay in.

ALEX
Oh, that! Thank you.

Alex gives the woman his phone. She starts typing.

ALEX
What is your name?

BETH

It is Beth. Here...

(gives his phone back)

Now you have a motel and my phone number in case you need something while you are here.

Alex is standing confused, trying to realize is she hitting on him.

BETH

See you, Alex.

Beth walks away, while he is still standing there confused, not saying a word to her.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is sitting on a bed in a dirty small room. He holds his laptop, typing the address. He taps few buttons and now his screen shows a picture of a street. It is the street of our first suspect. It is the small street, with only a couple of houses, almost abandoned, poorly looking.

Alex takes his phone out, typing the message for Linda. He types "I've arrived", but before he hit the button to send it, he deletes the message, and turns off his phone.

EXT. MAN'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Alex is in front of the house. The yard is a mess. Empty boxes and bags everywhere. One window is broken. It is hard to imagine somebody is living there. Even before he knocks, somebody opens the door.

MAN, in his 60s, overweight, in open robe, only wearing an underwear, rudely stares at Alex.

Alex becomes uncomfortable with man's restricting look.

ALEX

Hello.

Man stays quiet.

ALEX

I. .. I was wondering, if you can help me. My car has stopped. And I don't have any gas and my phone is dead.

MAN
(rude)
So what do you want from me?

ALEX
Can I come in?
(pause)
You know...to charge my phone or use
yours.

Man moves away from the door, unkindly giving Alex a permission to come inside.

INT. MAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dusty living room, old furniture. The place smells like takeaway food. There are boxes of Chinese food on the table with some soda cans next to the TV. Man sits down on his armchair continuing on watching the soccer game, while Alex stands, looking around.

MAN
(points to the corner of the room)
You have socket outlet there. You
brought charger?

ALEX
Yes.

Alex takes out the charger from his pocket and goes up to the socket outlet. Alex puts his phone there and now awkwardly standing.

MAN
Sit down.

ALEX
Okay...thank you.

Alex sits on the couch, sweating.

MAN
(points to sodas on the table)
Want to drink something?

ALEX
Water would be good.

MAN
Help yourself, I am watching the game.

Alex takes a small bottle of water from the table, drinks it in one sip.

ALEX
It is a nice place.

Man ignores him, watching the game.

ALEX
What is your name?

MAN
Why?

ALEX
No reason. I just wanna know who

ALEX
helped me.

Man says nothing.

ALEX
How long have you been living here?

MAN
I don't know. Couple of months.

ALEX
You moved before May?

MAN
I don't know. Why?

ALEX
I am just curious.

Man takes a good look at Alex. He notices Alex is nervous. Man starts being suspicious of him.

MAN
I think your phone is ready.

ALEX
You know, I used to visit this town before, when I was young with my mother. Her name was Aderyn.

Alex pauses for a moment to see if mentioning his mother's name will cause any effect. But man stays intact.

ALEX
Pretty name, ha?

MAN
I guess.

ALEX
I don't see any pictures here. You
leave alone?

MAN
(irritated)
Again. I think your phone is ready.

ALEX
Sorry, I can be chatty sometimes. Can
I just use your restroom before I go?

MAN
Down the hallway, then right.

ALEX
Thank you.

Alex stands up, going through the short hallway. In the end of the hallway there are two doors; one to the left and one to the right. Behind him, there is still a sight of a man looking at the TV unbothered.

This is Alex's chance. He goes through the left door.

INT. MAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Unclean bedroom. Bed is in a mess, socks are on the floor, dust everywhere. Alex starts searching the cabinet next to the bed.

Flashlight, screwdriver, medications, liquor, notebooks. Alex opens the notebook but there is nothing interesting in it, grocery list, stuff to do, some phone numbers. He leaves the notebook, keep searching the cabinet.

Then he finds a pile of porn magazines.

ALEX
Disgusting.

There is nothing in there. He starts putting the magazines back. Accidentally he pushes one of the bottles of liquor and liquid starts spreading all over the floor.

ALEX

Shit!

Alex quickly takes out tissues from his pocket. But something is wrong... Liquor is gone! The floor is almost dry.

ALEX

(to himself)

What the...

Now he notices...floor is hallowed! Alex takes the screwdriver from the cabinet and moves one of the floorboards. He finds a wallet and an envelope. Alex opens the wallet and finds 4 personal IDs. Same man, different year, different name on every ID.

Henry Maddison - age 35

Fred Finch - age 41

David Remington - age 56

And finally...

Emerson Murray - age 63

This man is not who Alex is looking for. This is a pedophile who hides from the law.

Alex takes the envelope from the hole and opens it. The envelope is full of the pictures of young children, mostly boys, around the age of 10, crying while standing in their underwear or without it. Alex is sweating even more now. Rapidly breathing. He puts the wallet and the envelope back in the hole and floorboard over it. Now he wants to get out as soon as possible. He opens the door.

INT. MAN'S HALLWAY - DAY

The other side of the door. As Alex closes the door and turns around, he suddenly faces the man starring at him, close enough so he can feel his junk food breath.

Alex looks at him nervously, pale like he is going to pass out in a moment.

ALEX

(smiles)

Wrong room.

The man punches Alex in the face so hard that Alex falls down

pushing an open door and find himself on the bedroom floor again. Man jumps on his chest and starts punching him. For a 60- year-old man, he is incredibly strong. Alex's nose starts bleeding. Man grabs his throat and starts strangling him.

MAN

Are you a cop? Are you a fucking cop?

ALEX

(breathless)

No. Please.

Man moves Alex's jacket and sees his gun. He takes it out with one hand while still has another on Alex's neck. He puts a gun on Alex's forehead. Alex tightly closes his eyes.

MAN

Then what is this, ha? Who send you here? Who send you?

ALEX

(shaking)

It was a mistake.

MAN

What did you find?

ALEX

Nothing. Nothing, I swear.

Alex is trying to reach a cabinet next to him.

MAN

You know what I hate? I hate pussies like you. I hate when you sniff on my stuff. But even more I hate when you have no balls to sniff. You can't play a detective without balls. You know what happens? You know what happens to the guys without balls? To the guys like you? They end up dead.

Alex finally reaches liquor from the cabinet and hits the man in the head with the glass bottle.

The blood starts dripping from man's head, as he drops the gun which slips away from them. Man falls into Alex, unconscious.

Alex moves man's body from him. Alex stands up, taking some air, coughing. Alex takes the gun from the floor and points

it on unconscious man. He wants to, but he can't pull a trigger.

ALEX

(angry)

Fuck! I can't do this, I can't do

ALEX

this. I am weak!

(crying)

Sudden urge for throwing up goes through his body. He runs to the bathroom.

INT. MAN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Small, dirty bathroom with almost nothing except soap in it.

Alex is throwing up in the toilet.

After he finishes, he sits on the floor leaning on the wall. Sweat runs down from his forehead.

Alex is washing his face. He looks at himself in a mirror, then lower his head to look at the gun which lies on a sink next to a soap. Just when he is about to raise his head again - SMASH! Man is punching his head into the mirror.

Mirror is broken now, soap on the floor, Alex's face bleeding. Alex drops a gun that slips away under the bathtub.

Man pushes Alex away and he hits the wall. Alex is barely aware. His whole face is in blood. He takes a lid of the dirty laundry bin and hits the man with it. His face spins to the left and blood from his mouth starts dripping.

As Alex is about to hit again, man manages to grab the lid from Alex and throws it away. Again, huge man jumps into Alex with all his weight and Alex falls on the ground. He punches Alex again.

Man takes his robe belt and wraps it around ALEX's neck, trying to strangle him.

Alex is staying without breath trying to reach the gun under the bathtub but it is too far away. Alex notices a sharp piece of glass on the floor. He grabs it and stab the man into right eye.

Man starts screaming. Blood starts dripping from his eye into Alex's shirt. Man stands up, screaming in agony with a huge

piece of glass still stuck in his eye.

Alex is holding the gun now, but he is shocked with a scene in front of him. Man is taking out a piece of glass from his eye. Now the blood splashing everywhere.

There is no scream, man is now rapidly breathing, like raging bull. Alex still stands there motionless. Man takes a step towards him, his bloody face looking down. But when man is about to make another step...SOAP. He steps on the soap, slips and his forehead hits on the edge of a bathtub. Dead.

Alex is still standing there, not a move, not a word.

INT. MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Day is coming to an end. Alex is cleaning the bathroom. He wipes blood from the floor with a bleach.

Alex washes his face, hands and hair in the sink. Alex pulls out the body to the hallway.

Wrapping the body into the dusty old carpet.

Alex puts his phone, charger and gun into pocket and throws away his water bottle into the trash can in the corner.

Alex takes the pictures of boys from man's envelope and light them up first. Pictures starts burning in his hand. He throws them in metal basket. They keep burning. He leaves the room.

In the living room Alex starts splashing alcohol over man's body wrapped into the carpet. After body is completely wet from liquor, he takes a match and lights it up, throws it into the body. Carpet starts burning.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is sleeping. Empty bottle in his hand. His face is still in multiple bloody scratches. One bigger than another. The biggest one is next to his right eye, it is in stiches.

He is dreaming...

INT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DREAM SEQUENCES

ALEX'S POV

Alex sees the light. Bright place. He looks at his hands, they are small, he is a kid again. Next to him is a woman. That is the woman from the paintings - Aderyn, his mother.

She is singing to Alex. The song about the night bird.

ADERYN

Friend than came one rainy night, told
a bird that will be alright. Stayed
with her until sunlight, now both can
take a flight.

She sings, but she isn't happy. She sings through tears.

PHONE RINGS.

END OF POV.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Motel room again. Alex wakes up. He feels the blood is
dripping from his stiches.

Phone still rings. Alex takes it out from his pocket. Linda
is calling him. He is looking at the phone not knowing if he
should answer it.

INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Linda is in her bedroom, getting ready for sleep. She holds
her phone, while biting her lip, nervous, waiting for Alex to
answer.

INTERCUT:

ALEX

Hey.

LINDA

Hey.

(pause)

Are you awake?

ALEX

Yes, I am now.

LINDA

Sorry I couldn't sleep.

ALEX

You okay?

LINDA

Yes, I am fine, you?

Linda is not fine. She barely speaks.

ALEX
I am fine.

LINDA
Good.

ALEX
Is Juliet okay?

LINDA
Yes, she is. She misses you.

ALEX
I miss her too.
(pause)
I miss both of you.

LINDA
(smiles)
Did you find him?

ALEX
No, not yet.

LINDA
Did you bring hm...you know?

This question irritates Alex, but he is trying to stay calm.

ALEX
No. I didn't. I told you I am not
going to do anything illegal.

LINDA
(relieved)
Okay. When are you coming home?

ALEX
I don't know yet. I am continuing my
search today.

LINDA
Okay, promise me you'll come home safe
and sound.

Alex hesitates for a moment.

ALEX
(unsure)
I promise.
(pause)
I'm gonna go now. See you soon.

Alex hangs up. Linda holds tears.

END INTERCUT.

Juliet suddenly runs into her mother's bedroom. Linda wipes her tears, but too late, because Juliet notices.

JULIET
Mom, why are you crying?

LINDA
I don't, honey. I just have some allergies.

JULIET
I made a pirate hat. Look.

Juliet pulls out a paper hat, poorly painted in black with a drawn scull. She gives it to her mom.

LINDA
Honey, it is wonderful. You will look like a real pirate.

JULIET
No, that is for you. Because you are sad. When I am sad I like to be a pirate. And I search for hidden treasure.

Linda figures out she didn't manage to hide her sadness. Juliet is looking at her for a moment than hugs her tight.

JULIET
You are going to be a good pirate mom.

While Juliet is hugging her, Linda feels freedom to cry again.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM - DAY

Alex is coming out of the shower, wearing a towel. Mirror is blurry from the aerated water. He cleans it with one hand and looks at his cuts.

He takes out his cologne and spray it on neck. Accidentally he touches the cut on his beard, and it starts burning.

ALEX

Shit.

Suddenly pictures start flashing in front of his eyes.

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS FROM PREVIOUS SCENES

- 1) Face of a dead man covered in blood.
- 2) Man hitting the edge of a bathtub.
- 3) His mother lying down in the bathtub.

Alex is now curled up in the corner of the bathroom. Crying. His eyes firmly closed.

ALEX

Please stop. I need it to stop.
Please.

Alex opens his eyes. Rapidly breathing. It is time to finish what he started.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY

Mary is alone in Archie's studio room. She walks around the messy room. Touches the brushes.

Mary moves in front of the huge paintings of Aderyn and Archie on their wedding day. There is something in the way she looks at it. It is not admiration; it is not dislike. She hates it. She wants it destroyed.

Mary reaches out towards her painted face, the moment before she touches it, her hand convulses. Mary takes a step back.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - NIGHT (35 YEARS AGO)

Archie, young artist, is painting his wedding. Coloring his face by looking at the mirror and candles next to him.

Mary, now a 17-year-old girl in her dark skirt and apron, enters the room. She is beautiful, but not like Aderyn, her body is still undeveloped.

She carefully knocks on the already open door.

ARCHIE

Yes?

MARY

Sir, you haven't eaten yet.

ARCHIE

I will eat later.

MARY

You have been here for hours.

ARCHIE

(raising his voice)

I said later, Mary!

MARY

I am sorry. I am just worried about you. You don't eat much these days.

Archie says nothing. Just when Mary is about to leave, Archie stops her.

ARCHIE

Mary?

MARY

Yes sir?

ARCHIE

I am sorry, I am short with patience lately. It seems nothing I do is right.

(softly)

Come here.

Mary smiles, she comes behind Archie looking at the picture.

ARCHIE

What do you think?

MARY

It is impeccable.

ARCHIE

Impeccable? No one has ever said that about my work before.

Mary blushes, she believes she just said something dumb.

MARY

I meant, it is really flawless, you know...True art.

ARCHIE

I wish.

(pause)

It is not good enough. It is not good at all.

Mary unsurely touches his shoulder. When he says nothing she puts both her hands on him.

MARY

You are being too hard on yourself, you are an amazing artist, sir.

ARCHIE

No. I am losing it Mary. I can feel it.

MARY

Maybe you just need a rest.

ARCHIE

If I don't paint, I will be as good as dead.

MARY

Well then, maybe you need another inspiration.

ARCHIE

You mean...to paint someone else?

MARY

(afraid)

Maybe.

Archie looks at the mirror and sees Mary's face.

ARCHIE

You mean you?

MARY

I would do anything to make you happy.

ARCHIE

(smiles)

Why do you assume I am not happy?

Mary blushes even more.

MARY

I just...

Archie stands up. He turns to Mary. She looks straight into his eyes, blushing. He moves her hair, behind her ear. Caresses her cheek. There is some tension between them.

ARCHIE

You say, you want to be my muse?

MARY

Anything you want me to.

Mary comes closer to him, grabs his face and kisses him. Archie doesn't stop her, he pushes her against the wall, but doesn't let her touch him.

When Mary is about to put her hand on his face, Archie grabs her hand and puts her arm above her.

Suddenly he stops the kiss, like he remembered something. Mary is embarrassed. Her bold red lipstick is all over his face. Awkward silence.

ARCHIE

Set the table downstairs, and don't come into this room anymore.

Mary rushes out with tears in her eyes. Archie sits down, erases the lipstick with his thumb and takes the brush again.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Mary is still alone, looking at the paintings.

LINDA (O.S.)

Mary? Come downstairs, I need you.

MARY

Coming!

EXT. STREET - DAY

Alex is sitting in a rented car in front of the house of the second suspect. This time house is located in much more lively street. It is surrounded by neighbors. All houses are similar to each other. Alex is trying to figure out which house he is looking for. People are passing by.

Alex opens his wallet. There is a picture of Juliet in it. He is looking at it for a second wondering if he should go inside.

Someone knocks at his window.

BOY, around 10 years old, skinny, pale.

Alex rolls the window down.

BOY

Sorry you can't park here.

ALEX

Sorry I don't live here.

Boy sees the gun on the seat next to Alex and immediately turns pale. Alex notices it and quickly puts his jacket over it.

ALEX

It is for work.

BOY

Oh...Okay.

ALEX

I am looking for Emerson Murray. You know which one of these houses he lives in?

BOY

Are you a cop?

ALEX

(after short pause)

Yes. Yes, I am.

BOY

Can I see your badge?

ALEX

No.

BOY

I don't know.

Boy turns around to get away.

ALEX

Wait!

Boy stops. Alex takes out 20 dollars from his wallet and shows it to the boy. As he wants to take them Alex pulls the money away.

ALEX
Which one?

BOY
(points to the house)
The pink one.

Now boy takes the money and runs away from Alex.

Alex looks at the house. It is the prettiest one. With huge windows with flowers on them, and big white porch, gathered with, for some reason, a really high fence.

EXT. SECOND SUSPECT'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex knocks on the wooden pink door. A WOMAN, late 40s, rough face, opens the door. She wears a sparkly wide pink dress, short curled hair and pink glasses. Alex is very uncomfortable with all that bright colors starring at him.

Woman is looking at Alex in a very unwelcoming way, probably because of his face covered in scars.

ALEX
Hello.

WOMAN
Hello.

ALEX
Does Emerson Murray live here?

WOMAN
(suspiciously)
Why?

ALEX
I would prefer to tell him that. Is he here?

WOMAN
I am his daughter.

ALEX
Oh well... can I see him?

WOMAN

Who are you?

ALEX

A friend.

WOMAN

I know all of his friends.

ALEX

I was his friend a long time ago.

WOMAN

Sorry he can't see you right now.

Woman starts closing the door, but Alex puts his foot inside and blocks the door.

WOMAN

(squeaky voice)

Move away! I will call the police!

ALEX

Just give me two minutes, okay? Just listen to me for two minutes. Here...

(moves his foot)

I will move.

Woman opens the door again.

ALEX

Thank you.

WOMAN

You have a minute.

ALEX

Alright, listen...Sorry what is your name?

WOMAN

(unfriendly)

Daisy.

ALEX

Listen Daisy, I am here because of my father. He used to know yours a long time ago. And I know that I might not look very trustworthy right now, but my father left me something to give to yours after he died and I have to do

ALEX

so. I have to honor his wish. You obviously care for your father, so you understand, right?

DAISY

To give him what?

ALEX

I have to give it in person.

DAISY

No, you don't. Give it to me I will give it to him. What is your father's name?

ALEX

It is Andrew.

DAISY

I do not recall any of his friend is named Andrew.

ALEX

I also have a message for him, so I have to do it in person.

Daisy is trying to calm herself down, but she has a very short temper.

DAISY

Look sir, my father is a very old man and has a very fragile health and I won't let anything upsets him. Especially for someone who has no integrity for me.

ALEX

I promise I won't upset him. I just need to see him. If you could just think about it?

DAISY

Sorry but as I said you don't have any integrity for me so your promise means nothing. Goodbye sir.

ALEX

Please.

Daisy slams the door right into Alex's face. He keeps

knocking.

ALEX

Daisy! Daisy, come on!

No one opens.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Alex is at the cash register. He holds couple of energy drinks, coffee, foil wrapped sandwich.

CASHIER

18 dollars, please.

Alex is looking behind the cashier. Alex sees mini bottles of whiskey.

ALEX

(points to bottles)

Can I also get those two?

Cashier types the price.

CASHIER

Okay that will be 30 dollars.

Alex is checking his wallet.

ALEX

Oh shit, I only have 26.

CASHIER

Want me to bring those back?

Cashier takes the bottles, but Alex quickly grabs his hand.

ALEX

(loud)

No!

Cashier gets scared for a second. A woman behind Alex pulls her child closer to her. Alex realizes he was too loud.

ALEX

Sorry...I...I will return the sandwich and the energy drink please.

INT. ALEX'S RENTED CAR - DAY

Alex is sitting in the car, putting alcohol in his coffee. He

is looking at Daisy's house. Waiting for the Emerson.

Daisy is coming out at the balcony, watering her plants. Alex goes lower into his seat, so she can't see him.

Daisy takes her phone out of her pocket, answers a call. Now she is laughing. Alex starts wondering if she is the only person who lives there.

Daisy hungs up. She seems excited.

She is going back inside. Alex is waiting.

Nothing...nothing...nothing...and...There she is, she is out of the house! This is his chance. Daisy passes his car, as Alex holds the newspaper over his face.

When she is out of sight, he leaves the car and goes towards the house.

EXT. DAISY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Alex moves the doormat in hopes he will find the key, nothing. He starts moving plants, the first, the second, the third...JACKPOT - the key is there. He unlocks the door.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY

Linda is holding a glass of wine, looking around the room. DYLAN, photographer, Linda's former coworker, modernly dressed, takes photos of paintings.

DYLAN

They are amazing. Who is this woman?

LINDA

Alex's mother.

DYLAN

Wow, she is gorgeous.

LINDA

She was. She died when he was 5.

DYLAN

Oh... Sorry.

Linda says noting, drinking her wine.

DYLAN

Alex agreed to sell them?

LINDA

He did.

DYLAN

So, are you going to sell them?

LINDA

Not for now, but I want to know their worth.

DYLAN

Gosh, this place is so great. I bet you make photographs here all the time.

LINDA

No, I don't.

DYLAN

How come?

LINDA

Archie never wanted me to take photos here.

DYLAN

Why?

LINDA

According to Archie, a photography is just a failed attempt, an offence to the real art.

DYLAN

He told you that?

LINDA

Yeah.

DYLAN

What a jerk.

LINDA

Believe me, this, you taking pictures of his paintings, he felt this in his grave.

INT. DAISY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cozy room. The blue couch with feathered pillows. On the shelf are pictures of Daisy on the beach. On the coffee table

there is tea set with painted flowers on it. Alex starts moving through the house.

INT. DAISY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Pink, girly bedroom. Alex knows this isn't what he is looking for. He immediately leaves the room, going upstairs.

INT. DAISY'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex is on the second floor now. There is a closed door. He takes his gun out, pointing it towards the floor. Slowly opens the door, enters the room.

In a simple room with an exit towards the other smaller balcony. There is only a small TV and a bed. In the bed, there is an OLD MAN, skinny, pale, grey hair, sleeping, with mask on and medical equipment next to him. The only sound is from vital sign monitor.

Alex comes closer.

On a small cabinet there are pictures. He takes one.

On the picture are two young men with some woman, probably young Daisy, at her graduation. One of these two men is in a wheelchair.

He takes the second picture. It is a framed newspaper's article saying: "A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MR. MURRAY GETS FIRED FOR OPENLY TALKING ABOUT GAY RIGHTS IN HIS CLASSES."

Third picture he takes, shows the man in a wheelchair holding a baby girl wrapped in a pink blanket. This picture is around 40 years old, very bad quality.

This isn't the man we are searching for.

As Alex is about to put the gun back in his pocket, he accidentally misses it, and the gun falls down to the floor. He flinches and picks it up. While standing up he looks at the bed.

Man is awake.

Both of them now looking at each other, as man moves his sight from Alex to the gun, back to Alex again.

ALEX

Don't worry. I'm not going to hurt

ALEX
you. I am' going away.

Alex puts the gun back in his pocket. Takes a step back. Suddenly the sound from vital sign monitor becomes louder. Man's lungs start moving faster and faster. Man is losing air. Alex rushes to him.

ALEX
No! Please calm down! Can you talk?
No?

Man is now shaking.

ALEX
Is there something I can do? I swear I don't want to hurt you. It is a mistake. Please don't die! We will get you through this.

And suddenly again Alex starts having pictures in front of his eyes.

INT. ARCHIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Back to the first scene, when Alex's mother died.

Alex is at the door. He is 5. He looks at Archie who holds Aderyn, crying over her dead body.

ARCHIE
(shaking)
Everything will be okay. Please...
Don't leave me. Please!

INT. OLD MAN'S ROOM - DAY - RESUME

Alex is holding an old man for his shoulders not realizing that he is shaking. Man is almost out of air. In this moment Alex doesn't see the difference between the man he holds and his mother.

ALEX
Please don't leave me. Please...

DOOR DOWNSTAIR SLAMS!

Alex flinches, realizing he is going to get busted. Daisy is coming upstairs.

Moment later, door from the old man's room is opening.

Slowly lets one of the bars away. He almost falls down, but somehow still holds the bar with one hand. With the other hand he manages to reach the edge of the window. Carefully Alex swings from the fence and grabs window wall with both hands.

ALEX

Come on, please be open, please be open.

Alex takes all of his strength and raises his left hand to push a window above him.

Closed. Can't break it, it would make a noise.

ALEX

Fuck! Fuck!

(to himself)

Okay it is time to let it go. What is it, like 10 feet, broken arm, leg, might head. Come on.

Suddenly Alex notices that he is near to the corner of the house and that there is a gutter next to him. Again, he takes a deep breath and puts his right arm on the gutter. Now he needs to swing himself again.

He swings and somehow succeeds to hold his whole body with only one hand for a second. He grabs the gutter with both of his hands and start sliding down.

Finally ground! He holds his stomach, trying to prevent himself from throwing up. Moment after he reached his freedom he hears snarling. He looks at his right, and there is a huge, angry, dark rottweiler looking at him.

Alex freezes, dog starts drawling. Attack is possible every second. Alex looks at his right side and notices another door, with small window, looks easy to break in.

ALEX

(to dog)

It is okay buddy, I am on my way.

Dog is still staring at him. Alex takes few steps backward. Slowly. As he is going backwards, he accidentally knocks over one of the flowerpots. Flowerpot breaks.

ALEX

Fuck.

Immediately dog starts running towards him.

Alex rushes towards the door. Luckily, they are easy to break in. He pushes them with all his body and manages to go inside, instantly closing them. Dog starts jumping and barking from the outside.

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - DAY

Ground floor, pool room. Huge space, but not much stuff around. There is a huge deep pool, with a couple of lounge chairs. Dog is still barking, jumping. He can see him through small window on the door. Alex sits down by the door, trying to catch some breath. But we hear Daisy from a room upstairs.

DAISY (O.S)
Sugar? Sugar?

Daisy is coming downstairs, Alex is looking for a place to hide. There is nothing around. Pool, lounge chairs, giant green plant in the corner.

INT. DAISY'S HALLWAY - DAY

Daisy is in the hallway, she is coming to the door where the pool is. Door is stuck. She needs to push a little.

DAISY
(annoyed)
What is wrong with this?

As she pushes for the third time, she manages to open the door.

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - DAY

Daisy enters the room. There is no one there. Dog still barking from the outside. She comes to the backdoor and opens them. Dog runs past her. Starts sniffing the room.

DAISY
What happened Sugar? You already hungry? Or you want to swim in the pool?

Deep into the water, in the corner of the pool there is Alex, holding himself to stay on the bottom, while small bubbles coming out in the surface.

Daisy is still standing by the door. She notices the broken flower pot. Starts picking up the pieces.

The dog approaches the edge of the pool.

ALEX'S POV

Deep, unclear water. He looks up, there is blurry picture of dark animal standing right above him. He hears Daisy's voice. It sounds mutated under water.

DAISY (O.S)
 (to Sugar)
 Look what you did? Is this nice? To
 disrespect your mommy like that?

END OF POV

Daisy still cleans.

DAISY
 Why are you moody Sugar? Did your
 mommy make you mad?

Daisy finally stands up after picking the pieces of the pot and now she sees Sugar standing with her nose almost touching the water.

DAISY
 No, Sugar! Do not drink pool water.
 You are a lady for God's sake! Come
 on, come out.

Daisy holds the door, but dog doesn't move.

Alex is almost out of air.

Daisy approaches to a metal box with a red button on the wall. She pushes the button. Pool starts closing. Thin plastic layer starts covering the pool from the right to the left side.

DAISY
 (to the dog)
 Come now, girl.

ALEX'S POV

Alex sees blurry dog's silhouette moving from his sight. Suddenly, his view starts becoming darker and the shadow starts covering the pool.

Alex starts swimming up.

Halfway through it Alex's gun falls out from his pocket. He doesn't notice.

END OF POV

Daisy closes the door after dog leaves. She turns the lights off, leaving the room herself.

Alex swam to the top, his head hits the plastic cover. He has space from his chin to the top of his head that isn't in water. He starts rapidly breathing.

The pool still isn't fully closed. He starts swimming forward before cover hits the end.

Alex is almost by the end of the pool. He wont make it on time. He reflexively put his hand forward thinking he will stop the closing but cover pinches and crushes his finger. It starts bleeding.

Alex now lets out a low scream. He puts his other hand in the mouth and bites it hard in hope he will move the pain to the other side of his body.

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Hours passed... Alex is in a very awkward position with his hand stuck. He looks at his finger. Drops of blood and sweat dripping into the pool, making a sound that makes you go insane.

Alex is pale and blue at the same time. Shivering. He is looking in front of him. A dark silhouette seems to appear. Not sure what is it. He starts moving the water with his hand. Silhouette seems to start floating towards him. As the unknown thing comes closer, the water becomes darker. DARK RED. He feels something on his hand. It is blonde hair, stuck on his hand.

Alex realizes in the water with him is the body, close enough to him that he can touch it. He reaches it with his free hand and grabs it. It looks familiar. He moves the hair of the face and sees it. That body is his mother. Not just that. It is his mother and she have peace of glass stabbed in her right eye. Exactly the kind of one he used to stab the man from earlier.

Alex starts screaming. Hitting the metal above him.

ALEX
(yelling)
Help! Please help me!

He wakes up.

It is nothing. Only calm water around him. Dark. Echoes of his breathing around the pool. He suddenly remembers he has a gun. His hand reaches out, but his pocket is empty.

Now he is in trouble.

INT. DAISY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Sunny morning. Daisy is making margarita to start her day. In the background she plays a song "I feel good". She shakes her hips while mixing margarita.

DAISY
(singing)
I feel nice, like sugar and spice I
feel nice, like sugar and spice. So
nice! So nice! I got you!

Daisy sips margarita from the pot to her glass with sugar on the edges and lime on it.

Daisy serves her freshly prepared drink and starts walking towards pool.

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - DAY

Daisy enters the pool room. She puts margarita next to her chair. She takes of her pink dress. Underneath is pink one-piece swimsuit.

In the pool under her, there is Alex, listening her steps, trying to stay calm.

Daisy is walking. She presses the button and pool starts opening.

Alex flinches with the sound of the button. His finger gets free, he starts swimming as the cover moves.

Halfway there...

Phone rings.

DAISY
(to herself)
Who is it now?

Daisy leaves the room.

Alex is free. As the pool fully opens, he sees a dark spot on the bottom of the pool. It is his gun. Alex dives in and takes it out.

Alex gets out of the pool while Daisy is speaking on the phone in the hallway.

DAISY (O.S)
I know, she really is like that. You didn't hear it from me, but Nancy told me she saw her stealing from the supermarket. That woman is insane. Can't stand her.

Alex slowly moves to the door window.

ALEX'S POV

Blurry window. There is a dog licking his paws. Looking hungry.

END OF POV

Alex takes a scan of the room. Still hearing Daisy in the hallway. He slowly unlocks the door that separates him from hungry rottweiler. With quiet steps Alex starts going backwards to the giant plant.

Alex takes small rock from the pot and goes to the pool edge.

Alex is now by the edge, one feet away from back door, he takes a deep breath and throws the small rock in the backdoor window.

Window cracks quietly, but loud enough for dog to hear. Dog slowly pushes the door entering the pool room. Now Alex and dog are looking straight at each other. Dog starts growling.

With one quick move dog jumps into Alex and both of them fall into the pool.

Dog starts moving his paws quickly trying to hold himself into the surface. Alex sinks below dog, pulling the dog under water.

INT. DAISY'S HALLWAY - DAY

While the fight in the room next to Daisy is going on, Daisy still speaks on the phone.

DAISY

She swears and I believe her.

(listening)

Don't say! You are kidding? She told you that! What a liar!

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - DAY

Fight is not clearly seen because of all the bubbles and moving. Alex is trying to pull the dog all to the bottom of the pool.

Alex takes his gun out.

INT. DAISY'S HALLWAY - DAY

Daisy is still on the phone with her friend.

DAISY

No don't hang up. You didn't tell me everything.

(listening)

Okay call me the minute she leaves, alright darling? Alright.

Daisy ends the call.

INT. DAISY'S POOL ROOM - DAY

Daisy enters the room. Alex is gone. In the pool soaked in blood there is Sugar, with a bullet in his head, eyes open.

Daisy screams.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Alex is walking down the street. Sun is strong. Street is empty, probably because of high temperature.

He is barely alive. Hungry, thirsty. Covered in red water.

Finally, he walks up to his rented car. Alex enters it and finds his small bottles of whiskey he bought earlier. He drinks the rest of his whiskey, like an animal. This time he doesn't crave alcohol, he craves any sort of liquid.

Alex starts searching the car. Opens the car drawer and his phone falls out. Luckily it was in the car all the time. He grabs it but has no one to call. He is looking at it for a second than throws it on the back seat. Keep searching the car drawer.

Alex reaches one small candy bar. The previous owner forgot to take it. He is looking at the expiration date on it. It says: 12.07. 2022. It has been expired for over a year.

Alex opens the foil of candy bar. It has some dark grey spots on it. He puts all of it in his mouth. He is about to throw up. Quickly makes himself swallow.

Alex opens his wallet. The picture of Juliet is completely erased.

He drives away.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Early morning. Linda has her old camera with her. She is taking pictures of tulips on the table in the morning sun.

Juliet runs down the stairs, looking for Linda.

JULIET (O.S)

Mom!

LINDA

In here.

Juliet comes to her, wearing her pirate hat. Linda is busy, she moves the vase with tulips on the other side of the table, trying to figure out how they look the best. Without much of an attention, she listens to Juliet, who waves with some old letter.

JULIET

Look mom, I got a letter.

LINDA

Oh, that is nice.

JULIET

You know who is it from?

LINDA

(without interest)

No, honey I don't.

JULIET

Guess.

LINDA

One of your pirate friends?

JULIET

(excited)

No. It is from a bird. Night bird!

LINDA

From the song?

JULIET

Yes. I will write to her too, I will ask her to be my parrot.

LINDA

I am afraid that night bird isn't a parrot.

JULIET

Then what is it?

Linda is done with taking pictures, but still without interest in Juliet, she is looking at her camera.

LINDA

I don't know, some kind of nightingale, I think.

JULIET

Well, it wrote that it is a parrot. Look!

Juliet waves with her letter again, but LINDA is still looking at her camera.

LINDA

(faking interest)

I didn't know you know how to read.

JULIET

(offended)

I know! Here.

(she puts a letter on the table)

You can read it too.

Linda doesn't even look.

LINDA

Thank you, sweetheart.

Juliet angry, rushes upstairs. Linda's phone rings. Her focus finally moves away from the camera. She takes her phone. It is Dylan.

She answers it.

LINDA

Hey.

(listening)

That much? I knew it.

(listening)

No, we are not interested in selling,
at least not yet.

(listening)

Thank you so much Dylan.

Linda ends the call. Confusion on her face. Some things need to come clean.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Problematic street. Some muffled voices of people in the building fighting. Alex's car is parked between two buildings in dark where all the garbage is. He is asleep.

A HOBO, old, dirty, beard man, passes by, dragging the cart with some old stuff in it. He knocks on Alex's window.

Alex flinches and rolls down the window.

HOBO

Spare some change?

Alex checking out hobo's cart, might be something in it. He opens the door and gets out of the car. Alex pulls out his gun and points it toward the hobo. Hobo freezes.

ALEX

Don't move, alright?

Hobo listens. Alex starts moving dirty clothes from the cart. Alex finds a foil and starts unwrapping it. There are half eaten pieces of chicken inside.

Without saying a word Alex starts swallowing the pieces of chicken with such a speed that hobo opens his mouth in a shock. Alex is obviously hungrier than hobo is right now.

After he finishes, he wipes his mouth with a sleeve of his shirt, keeps searching the cart.

In the cart, Alex finds a crumbled-up scarf, starts unwrapping it. There is some money inside of it. He starts counting. Surprisingly there is a lot of money inside. More than 100 dollars.

ALEX

You stole these?

HOBO

No, sir, I was saving for a long time-

ALEX

(points gun to him again)

Don't lie to me. You stole it, didn't you?

HOBO

One part of it.

ALEX

That isn't nice.

Alex takes more than a half of the money and puts it in his pocket. The other half he puts back in a scarf and wraps it.

ALEX

Okay I am not going to take anything more. Now you are going to take your cart and I am going to count to five. Okay?

Hobo nods.

ALEX

When I start you run. After I finish counting, I shoot. If you are not out of the street, you die. Understand?

Hobo nods again. Alex pushes his cart towards him.

ALEX

One...

Hobo starts running with such a speed that, by the end of the street, he falls down over his cart. In a rush he picks himself up and runs away, leaving the cart. But Alex doesn't care anyway. He doesn't count further. He is not interested in him.

INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Alex is at the supermarket. He takes some body wash, some shirt, pants, and razor. There are some customers looking at him. He looks awful. His clothes are now dry, but not clean. He stinks from a mile.

EXT. RODE ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

Empty, lonely beach. There are showers outdoors. Alex is under one of them. It is quiet. There is no one around. The only sound is from water running.

Images flashing:

- 1) Stabbing his first suspect in the eye.
- 2) Grabbing Daisy's father and strangling him.
- 3) Shooting a dog in the head.

MARY (V.O.)

I am so proud of what you have become
Alex.

Alex is still under the shower. Covering his face with his hands. He doesn't move. Trying to make the water wash all his memories away. All blood, all mistakes.

Alex starts crying, but this time not silently. He cries like a baby. Letting his pain away.

EXT. RODE ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

Late night. Alex is sitting on the beach, dressed in the clothes he bought in a supermarket. Thinking. Gun is next to him. He failed and he knows it.

Alex grabs his gun and throws it in the ocean, as far as he can. At that moment, like a burden fell off.

Alex takes out his phone, starts listing phonebook names. Linda's name shows up. He looks at it for a moment. Not sure if he should call.

Finally, he dials some number.

ALEX

(on the phone)

Hey.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Crowded bar, pore lighted bar. Most people are drunk. Alex is sitting in a corner with beer in his hand. Next to him is a woman he met in the train - Beth. They are in a middle of a conversation.

BETH

No way! He kicked you out?

ALEX

Yes. And stole my money.

BETH

What a jerk. Have you called the police?

ALEX

No. He has some connections there, they won't do anything.

BETH

I can't believe this. You come all the way to see that friend and he kicks you out. Like why would he do that?

ALEX

Apparently, when you are nice to a woman for no reason, you hit on her.

BETH

You hit on his wife?

ALEX

I didn't hit on his wife. I am married, Beth.

BETH

Like that stops men.

ALEX

God, you really hate us.

BETH

Not all of you. Just you know...most of you.

Alex smiles at her, she smiles back.

BETH
What is his name?

ALEX
Who's?

BETH
Your friend's name?

Alex takes a sip of beer, giving himself a second to make up a lie.

ALEX
It is Emerson.

BETH
Disgusting name.

ALEX
Why are you saying that?

BETH
No reason.
(pause)
You made up with your wife?

ALEX
No. I don't think it will be that easy this time.

BETH
Why? What did you do?

ALEX
I. ..I listened only to myself. And never listened to her. And I failed. Turns out I am wrong.

BETH
Well, don't beat yourself up. All men are making the same mistakes.

ALEX
Yeah, but there is that one mistake where women just cut it off.

BETH
Don't let that worry you. We often say that but don't really mean it. Believe me, you have a plenty more room for your crap before she really cuts off.

ALEX

How did you know when you should cut off?

BETH

That's the thing, I didn't.

ALEX

You mean?

BETH

I am coming back to Europe next week.

ALEX

(happily)

You are? Congratulation.

BETH

Thank you.

ALEX

Listen...Now I feel kind of uncomfortable asking...

BETH

About money?

ALEX

How did you...

BETH

You told Emerson took yours, you called me in the middle of the night, you ordered a beer, so you are pretty confident I will lend you some.

ALEX

I am just in a rough place with Linda so I can't call her and I don't know anyone in the town...

BETH

Men will do anything just not to admit they were wrong.

ALEX

Right.

BETH

How much do you need?

ALEX

Just for the ticket back.

BETH

Okay, not a problem.

ALEX
Beth?

BETH
Yes?

ALEX
I also need a place to stay tonight.

BETH
Bench isn't good enough for you, ha?

ALEX
Well, I have my preferences.

BETH
Couch sounds good?

ALEX
Great. Thank you.

BETH
Oh, just a heads up, I stay at my
dad's, so be quite when you come
inside.

ALEX
No worries.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Beth and Alex are entering the house. Lights are off. Beth locks the door and turns on one of the lights.

Lighted hallway. House gives a cozy, family atmosphere. Alex is looking around.

BETH
(whispers)
Just be quiet. My dad is asleep.

ALEX
Okay.

BETH
Kitchen is at left, bathroom is first
door upstairs, in case you need it.

ALEX
Thanks.

BETH
Left is a living room where you are
going to sleep.

ALEX
Okay.

She goes to the cabinet, opens the bottom drawer and reaches
a pillow and a blanket.

BETH
Come.

Beth goes left and Alex follows her. She opens the door to
the living room. Room is in complete dark.

Beth turns on the lights, but light only flashes for a second
and it turns off, while sparkles from a bulb shoots outside.
Both, Alex and Beth flinch. Now room is dark again. The only
light comes from the hallway.

BETH
Shit!

ALEX
You need a new bulb.

BETH
(annoyed)
You think?

ALEX
It isn't important, I will use phone.

BETH
Well, it is good thing you are here,
you can fix this before you leave
tomorrow.

ALEX
No worries. It is the least I can do.

Beth gives pillow and blanket to Alex. He takes them.

BETH
Good night, Alex.

Beth turns around, but Alex stops her.

ALEX
Beth?

BETH
(turns to him)
Yeah?

ALEX
About the money... I will send it to
you as soon as I get home. I am taking
the first train tomorrow.

BETH
Alex, you are a good guy. I can see
that. I am not worried you are going
to steal from me.

ALEX
Not sure if I am a good guy, but I
won't steal.

BETH
You are.

ALEX
Thank you.

BETH
You are welcome. Come on, go to sleep.

ALEX
Good night.

Beth stops by the door.

BETH
Alex?

ALEX
Yes?

BETH
Call her. The sooner, the better.

Beth leaves the room, leaving Alex in dark.

Alex takes out his phone and dials.

INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Linda is lying in bed, looking at photos of tulips she
previously took. Her phone rings. She takes it and as soon as
she sees Alex's name. She answers it.

INTERCUT:

LINDA

Alex?

ALEX

Didn't expect you to answer so fast.

LINDA

Are you okay?

ALEX

Yes, I am fine. I am coming home tomorrow.

(unsure)

Is that okay with you?

LINDA

Yes. I'd like you to come.

ALEX

I am so sorry, for putting you and Juliet through this.

Alex starts tearing up.

LINDA

It is okay. You thought you were doing the best.

ALEX

Turns out... The only good thing I decided on my own, was proposing to you.

Linda starts tearing up too.

LINDA

So, it wasn't a mistake?

ALEX

The mistake was I wasn't better when you deserved it.

Linda wipes her tears off.

LINDA

Where are you now?

ALEX

I am staying with a friend.

LINDA
You made friends?

ALEX
Sort of. Just one.

LINDA
Is it a lady friend?

ALEX
Yeah, she is.

LINDA
Oh...okay.

ALEX
Don't worry. There is nothing going on. If I could, I would come right away.

LINDA
It is okay. I trust you.

ALEX
You do?

LINDA
Yes. Just come home safe.

ALEX
I will.

LINDA
(smiles)
Promise?

ALEX
I promise.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daylight enters the room. Alex sleeps on a gray couch, too small for him. There is a sticky note on his forehead. Room is small and modest. TV, some shelves with pictures on them, huge windows through which we can see nice vegetable garden.

Alex feels distracted by the daylight. He opens his eyes, looking directly into the note. He moves it from his forehead.

On the note, with messy handwriting is written: ,,Alex I went

to the store, I told my dad about you, so you can come out to meet him. Beth."

Alex rubs his eyes and stands up, he leaves the room.

INT. BETH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alex enters, small, wooden kitchen, with a nice, rounded table and 3 chairs.

BETH'S FATHER (B.F.), 60s, wise, diligent, standing next to the stove, preparing breakfast. He doesn't notice Alex.

Alex fakes cough.

ALEX

Good morning!

B.F. turns to Alex. Alex sees, B.F. has long silver eyebrows and glasses. He greets Alex with honest smile.

B.F.

Oh, you are finally up. Please sit.
Breakfast is ready.

Alex sits on the chair, as B.f. puts eggs, bacon and salad on the table next to him.

B.F.

These are my vegetables. I've grown them myself.

ALEX

I've noticed you have a very nice garden.

B.F.

Well, when man is alone like I am, he needs to find something to do, right?

ALEX

Yeah.

B.F.

Men think that having a children will make them less alone, but eventually we all end up like that.

B.f. smiles but Alex doesn't really think he is funny.

B.F
Do you have kids?

ALEX
I have a daughter. Juliet.

Alex starts eating. He tries bacon. His mood lights up right away.

B.F
How do you like it?

ALEX
You are a great cook.

B.F.
Thank you I am glad you like it. How old is your daughter?

ALEX
She is five.

B.F.
That is nice. Girls are better than boys. Although I must admit when I find out Beth is a girl I was little disappoint at first. But the way daughters care for their fathers is something else.

ALEX
You must be really happy you got a granddaughter than?

B.F.
Oh yes. She is a real angel. You saw her?

ALEX
Yeah, I saw her in the train when I met Beth.

Sounds of crying through baby monitor.

B.F.
Angel is calling. Excuse me.

B.F. stands up and goes upstairs.

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Linda sits at the table, distracted with her thoughts. Mary comes in.

MARY

I am going to get groceries, do you need anything?

LINDA

Yes, sit down Mary.

Mary sits at the table, confused.

MARY

Is everything okay?

LINDA

No Mary, it isn't. Bank called. If we don't want to live on a street, we have to sell the paintings.

MARY

Darling, I am so sorry, but I've explained situation to Alex, and he agreed that no painting will be sold.

LINDA

I won't let my child starve because of some stupid pictures, Mary.

MARY

She won't starve. I saw your photographs. You are very talented. You will earn from it, believe me. And until you do, we can sell something else.

LINDA

The only option is to sell a house, but we can't get much because of this location and who knows if it would be enough for another one and to pay our debt. I already sold my jewelry when Alex's book got rejected.

Mary looks at Linda's wedding ring.

MARY

Apparently not all of it.

Linda at this point can't figure out if Mary is joking or being serious.

LINDA
You can't be serious. It is my wedding ring.

MARY
An expensive one.

Linda is furious with Mary, but from the shock, she can't think of anything to say. Mary stands up, ready to leave the room.

MARY
You see, now we are on the same page. I can live on a street, but I won't give up on the paintings.

As Mary is about to grab the door handle, Linda stops her.

LINDA
I will give up my ring, Mary.

Linda takes off her ring and puts it on the table.

LINDA
If that is what it takes for my child to have a meal the next day, I will gladly give up on my life. But you... you will give up on the house.
(pause)
I want you out by tonight.

Mary leaves the room with no hesitation, like she knew this is coming.

INT. BETH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alex has just finished his breakfast. Sound of crying baby is still present. He is annoyed.

Beth's father is trying to calm the baby.

B.F.
(through the monitor)
It is okay my angel. Mommy will come soon. You want your toy? Here. Look at the little bear. Look!

Alex is already sick of it. He stands up and goes upstairs.

INT. BETH'S ROOM - DAY

Big room with a lot of light. Windows are open. Room is cozy with a lot of pillows on the bed next to the crib. B.F. is leaning over the crib, showing a teddy bear to the baby. Alex quietly comes in.

ALEX

May I?

B.F. turns to him.

B.F.

Oh please. She wants me to pick her up, but my back is stiffed. Can you?

Alex comes to the crib, he picks the baby up. She is still crying. He clears his throat and starts singing.

ALEX

(singing)

One little bird, hurt her wing, for many months she couldn't sing. She was scared and alone, crying on the attic with a broken bone.

Baby slowly starts closing her eyes.

ALEX

(singing quieter)

She wrote a letter to her friend, to come and help her bone to mend...

Alex slowly puts the baby back into the crib. She is sleeping. Alex and B.F. start whispering.

B.F.

I really can see you have a young daughter. Good job.

ALEX

(smiles)

Thank you.

B.F.

What is that song? I haven't heard it before.

ALEX

My mom used to sing it to me.

B.F.
She must be a lovely lady.

ALEX
She was.

B.F.
Oh sorry.

ALEX
It is okay.

B.F.
What was her name?

ALEX
Aderyn.

B.F.
That was my wife's name too.

Alex gets goosebumps from this.

ALEX
Really?

B.F.
Yes. Like a bird.

ALEX
Excuse me?

B.F.
Aderyn. It is a Welsh for bird. You didn't know that?

ALEX
No. I didn't.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Linda is smoking cigarettes. Her hand is shaking. Empty look. On the table there is still a letter Juliet left.

Juliet rushes into the kitchen. Linda flinches, trying to look normal now.

JULIET
Mom, have you read the letter?

LINDA
No honey, I haven't.

JULIET
Why not?

LINDA
I was busy.

JULIET
Can you read it now? Please?

LINDA
Fine.

She grabs the letter.

LINDA
Let's see what a night bird said to my
little pirate.

Linda opens the letter. Suddenly her face froze in horror when she realizes there are actual words written in it. Juliet didn't write this.

She starts reading.

JULIET
What did she say? Did she say she is a
parrot? I told you she is the parrot!

As she reads her heart starts beating faster, her breathing speeds, and her skin becomes pale.

JULIET
Mom?

LINDA
Juliet, where did you find this?

JULIET
The bird left it for me.

LINDA
Where?

JULIET
On the attic.

LINDA
What the fuck have you been doing
(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)
there?

JULIET
You said a bad word. You have to put a
dollar in a jar.

LINDA
Juliet!

Juliet gets scared. She looks at the floor now.

JULIET
I went there because of the song.

At this moment Mary comes in. She has her luggage prepared with her. Seeing her, Linda freaks out, jumps from her chair, holding the letter behind her back.

JULIET
(to Mary)
Mary, where are you going?

MARY
I am moving out dear.

JULIET
No. Why?

MARY
It is how it is supposed to be.

Juliet runs towards Mary and gives her a hug. Linda suddenly shouts.

LINDA
(shouts)
Juliet, come back here!

Juliet turns to her mother, coming to her scared. Linda pulls her close to her, grabbing her shoulder. Mary looks offended.

MARY
What is wrong with you, Linda? She
just wanted to say goodbye.

Linda is still rapidly breathing, saying nothing. Mary now notices she doesn't look good.

MARY
 (now softly)
 Linda, are you okay?

Linda says noting. Mary notices she hides something behind her back.

MARY
 Did you get some bad news? What are you hiding behind your back?

JULIET
 Mommy is mad I went on the attic and found a letter.

LINDA
 (yells)
 Juliet!

MARY
 What letter?

LINDA
 (to Juliet)
 Juliet, go to your room.

As Juliet rushes by Mary, Linda slowly takes a few steps back. Her back is pressed to the kitchen counter. Without looking she grabs a knife from the counter. Mary doesn't notice.

MARY
 What letter, Linda?

LINDA
 Just go, Mary.

MARY
 Show me what you got behind your back, Linda.

INT. BETH'S ROOM - DAY

Alex and B.F. are still in the room. They are looking at the baby.

DOOR BELL RINGS. It seems like Beth came home.

B.F.
 It is Beth. Will you stay here? Just in case she woke up again.

ALEX
Yeah, no problem.

B.F.
Thank you, Alex.

B.F. leaves. Alex starts walking around the room. He is looking at the shelves. They have some pictures on it. Weird. They seem familiar.

He takes one picture. There is some really beautiful woman, at her graduation about 25 years old. It can't be Beth. Beth is brunette. Picture seems old.

On the second picture is the same woman, preparing lunch in the kitchen.

Suddenly, in front of Alex's eyes something flashes.

INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex is lying in bed, showing the notebook to Juliet. In the notebook there is a painted picture of Aderyn.

JULIET
(points to the picture)
Wow she is pretty.

ALEX
Yeah, you look a lot like her.

INT. BETH'S ROOM - DAY - RESUME

Picture Alex is holding is exact painted picture of his mother. Blonde curly hair, mole, dark eyes.

Alex starts losing it. Sweat is coming off his forehead. He looks like he is going to throw up.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alex is looking at painted picture of Aderyn sitting in a meadow with a flower in her hair.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - RESUME

Beth is with her father. They are talking. Two bags of groceries are next to her.

B.F.
Again, it is too much, Beth. You have
(MORE)

B.F. (CONT'D)
no control with money.

BETH
It is food dad. We need it.

B.F.
No one needs this much. It is like I
am feeding two cows.

Alex rushes into the room. He is all sweaty. He is caring the picture of Aderyn. Beth sees him.

BETH
Oh hey, Alex!
(pointing to the bags)
Do you think this is too much?

Alex ignores her. He shows the picture to her father.

ALEX
How do you know this woman?

B.F.
It is my wife.

ALEX
No, it isn't.

B.F.
(confused)
I think I know whom I married.

ALEX
Where is she?

B.F.
She died.

ALEX
When?

Beth notices her father is being uncomfortable.

BETH
What is with all of these questions,
Alex?

ALEX
(now yelling)
When did she die?

BETH
Alex, calm down! What got into you?

B.F.
Nearly 40 years ago.

ALEX
Oh my god, it is you.

B.F.
What?

ALEX
You are the man who harassed my
mother! You killed her.

B.F. and Beth are looking at each other. Confused.

B.F.
I am sorry, I don't know what are you
talking about.

ALEX
Where did you get these pictures? Have
you followed her, you pervert?

BETH
Alex!

B.F.
I've never harassed anyone and that is
my wife, I took that picture of her,
because she asked me to.

ALEX
No that's my dad's wife. This is my
mother.

B.F.
Beth, will you call the police I think
your friend got confused?

Beth takes a step as Alex pulls out a knife from his back
pocket.

ALEX
No one fucking moves.

Baby starts crying, but no one moves.

BETH
Alex, please. What is going on?

ALEX
Beth this man harassed my mother.
Threatening her, sending messages,
following her.
(points at picture)
You stole these aren't you?

Alex waits for the answer, but Beth and B.F. are just looking at him.

ALEX (CONT'D)
She got scared so much of him that she
took her own life.
(points at B.F.)
Because of him.

Pause.

ALEX
(to B.F.)
I've found you, Emerson.

Alex is now completely lost, his eyes are red from anger, his shirt is wet. His hands are shaking.

Beth is now looking at her father, like the mention of this name will cause some strong reaction.

B.F. starts moving his collar, he can't breathe right. Alex feels like he knows the truth, he finally knows.

B.F.
How do you know about him?

ALEX
I know all about you. You killed my
mother! You did it!

Alex's anger turns into smile, a creepy smile.

ALEX
I knew it. I knew I am going to find
you. You are a fucking murderer,
Emerson.

B.F.
(yells)
Don't say that name into my house! Get
(MORE)

B.F. (CONT'D)
out! Get out of here!

BETH
Dad please!

Baby is crying louder.

ALEX
You might have changed it, but you
can't change what you did! You killed
Aderyn Morgan!

Alex, with a knife in his hands, rushes towards Beth's father
and puts the knife under his throat. Beth screams.

ALEX
Tell her! Tell her your name! Now! Do
it!

B.F. can't speak, he starts choking.

BETH
Alex, let him go! His name is Archie!
It is Archie Morgan!

Alex stops, moving a couple of steps away. B.F. starts
falling down to the floor. Barely breathing.

INT. ARCHIE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT (35 YEARS AGO)

Classy, romantic atmosphere. Silver, silken tablecloth, long
white candles.

There is young Archie dressed in a suit eating dinner with
his pregnant wife, Aderyn. Aderyn looks scared. He is looking
at her, but she is looking down at the steak and potato.

ARCHIE
More wine, dear?

ADERYN
(voice shaking)
No, thank you.

ARCHIE
Nonsense.

Archie comes to the other side of the table. Aderyn raises
her glass. Archie grabs her shaking hand and picks her head
up, forcing her to look at him. He pours wine into her glass,

then comes back to his side of the table.

ARCHIE
I feel like it is going to be a boy.

ADERYN
(distracted)
Hm?

ARCHIE
The baby. It is going to be a boy.

ADERYN
Yeah, I think so too.

A 17-year-old Mary enters the room.

MARY
You need anything sir?

ARCHIE
Mary, buy some flowers for my
beautiful wife tomorrow, will you?

MARY
Any special kind?

ARCHIE
Narcissus, yellow ones. Those are my
favorite.

MARY
I will, Sir.

Mary leaves the room. Archie and Aderyn are alone again.

ARCHIE
Is everything alright honey?

ADERYN
Yes, everything is fine.

Archie stands up again, comes to Aderyn.

ARCHIE
Come on. I want to paint you.

He extends his hand and Aderyn unsurely puts her into his.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - NIGHT (35 YEARS AGO)

Archie and Aderyn are in a dark studio lightened with candles. She is wearing a silk white robe. She looks like an angel. Archie comes closer to her, moving a robe from her shoulders. Aderyn grabs his hand and stops him.

ADERYN

Emerson...

Archie puts a finger over her lips, moves closer to her, enough that she can feel his breath.

ARCHIE

No, it is Archie, honey... your husband.

Aderyn starts tearing up, nodding.

ARCHIE

Say it.

ADERYN

You are Archie... my husband.

Archie pulls her robe down.

INT. ARCHIE'S ATTIC - DAY (30 YEARS AGO)

Dusty, empty place. Cobweb everywhere.

Aderyn moves to the corner of the attic. She puts the letter in small hole in the wood.

MARY (O.S.)

Miss! Miss where are you?

Aderyn rushes away, living the letter.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Linda and Mary are still looking at each other, very intently. The letter is still behind Linda's back, so is the knife.

LINDA

Mary, leave now. I am warning you.

Mary comes closer to Linda. Mary seems calm, Linda on the other hand, looks freaked out. She pulls out a knife.

MARY

(calmly)

Linda, let me explain, you are not going to hurt me. I know you. You are scared of killing a spider. Put down a knife.

LINDA

(screams)

No! I know you! I know what you did!

MARY

I didn't do anything.

LINDA

You and Archie kidnaped Aderyn. And you killed her, didn't you?

With other hand she shows the letter to Mary.

LINDA

She wrote everything. That is why he

LINDA (CONT'D)

has built the house here! That is why you want to keep the picture, you don't want people to know about her.

MARY

(calmly)

She killed herself because she was insane, Linda. Don't tell me you believe the words of the woman who killed herself. You are a smart woman. Give me the knife.

Mary slowly approaches Linda and starts pulling out a knife. Linda lets her for a moment, and then suddenly flinches and pushes Mary on the floor. As she does that, the knife falls out from her hand and falls behind the counter. The vase from the counter falls down and breaks into pieces.

Linda wants to run away, but at her first step, Mary grabs her leg and pulls her on the floor with her. Linda is trying to reach the knife.

Mary sits on Linda and starts slapping her face. Linda's nose starts bleeding.

MARY

Stupid bitch!

INT. JULIET'S ROOM - DAY

As Mary and Linda fight downstairs, Juliet hides in the closet. Silently crying. There is noise from downstairs. She has her mother's phone with her. She looks through the contacts, trying to find Alex's picture.

After a while, she finds it and calls the number.

Phone is ringing. Ringing...Ringing...

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Mary is still on Linda. But done with slapping. She stands up. Heavily breathing. She leans on the table.

Linda is barely aware of the situation. Partly passed out. But as she sees that Mary is standing up again, in the back of her mind she remembers that Juliet is upstairs.

Linda uses her last atom of strength and reaches the knife. As soon as Mary is up, Linda stabs her leg, as high as she can reach from the ground.

Mary screams and falls on her knees. Knife is still in her leg.

Mary grabs a piece of glass from the broken vase on the floor and without hesitation, cuts out Linda's throat. Blood starts splashing all over the white kitchen, all over Mary's face.

Linda is dead. This is how it ends. In her hand is still a letter.

Mary takes the letter and with her bleeding leg stands up while holding to the chair. She takes a lemon from the fruit bowl on the table. She puts it into her mouth and bites hardly. Starts pulling out a knife from her leg. Even though she bites a lemon we can still hear her screaming loudly.

MARY

Oh fuck!

She pulls it out. Takes a rag and wraps around her leg tightly. Finally, she opens the letter.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT (35 YEARS AGO)

Aderyn is in her car, driving. It is raining outside. It is dark, route is dirty and covered with mud. Next to her are all the notes Emerson wrote to her.

ADERYN (V.O.)

My name is Aderyn Morgan. I was kidnaped on November 17, 1988 on my way to report harassment from my mental patient Emerson Murray.

(pause)

Now is December...December 1993.

Car stops.

ADERYN

Fuck.

Wipers are still on. Nothing in front. Aderyn turns off the engine and turn it on again. They stop again. Lights on, lights off, lights on, lights off...

Suddenly someone knocks on her window. It is young Archie.

Aderyn grabs all her notes from the car seat in terror, sliding it in her raincoat pocket.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Aderyn sits on a boat with her eyes blindfolded and hands tied. Shaking.

Archie is moving hair from her face.

ADERYN (V.O.)

He took me over the ocean, but I never knew where. It seemed like we travelled forever. At that point, I thought it couldn't get any worse, but the real hell started when I arrived.

ARCHIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (35 YEARS AGO)

Aderyn comes into the house. She is wet from the rain. She is shocked by her pictures in Archie's house. Paintings are so realistic.

ADERYN (V.O.)

He wants me to call him Archie, like my husband. I thought he was fooling around, but he really believes he is Archie, and I am his wife. He believes I am.

Young Mary comes in, she holds a blanket. She starts wrapping Aderyn into it.

ADERYN (V.O.)

His housekeeper hates me. She is in love with him. His obsession towards me made her dumb teenage brain intrigues. She knows all the lies, and she gets along with it.

INT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DAY (30 YEARS AGO)

Aderyn plays with a five years old Alex. Archie is painting.

ADERYN (V.O.)

Emerson made me pregnant. Alex is 5 now. He is really smart. I will somehow teach him where the letter is. He will figure it out. I am getting scared.

Archie starts breaking the painting.

ADERYN (V.O.)

Emerson took his new identity well, but lately, the smallest mistake that breaks his illusion makes him mad. I don't know if I will get out of this house alive.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT (30 YEARS AGO)

The night when Aderyn dies.

Aderyn knits in the kitchen.

Archie is coming down the stairs. Yelling.

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Aderyn! Aderyn where are you?

ADERYN

In here!

Archie comes in. He throws the notes on the table. The notes he wrote to Aderyn.

ADERYN

What is wrong?

ARCHIE

Who wrote you this? You are cheating on me? Who is that bastard?

ADERYN

These are your messages, Archie. You wrote them to me years ago...remember?

ARCHIE

You think I am stupid? This are signed! Look! It says it is Emerson! Who is he? Tell me!

Aderyn holds her head, she starts crying. But these are not tears from sadness, these are tears from rage.

ADERYN

I can't do this anymore. They are yours. You wrote them. You are Emerson!

Archie slaps her. He regrets it immediately. Archie hugs her and starts crying.

ARCHIE

(soft voice)

Oh darling, I am so sorry, I am so sorry, forgive me. I would never hurt you, I am your husband, remember.

Aderyn pushes him away, angrier than ever. She grabs a vase from the table and throws it into the wall. Vase breaks.

ADERYN

You are not my husband! You are not Archie Morgan! You are a kidnapper and a rapist.

ARCHIE

Stop lying! You are not well.

Archie curls up like a little baby. He holds his head, shaking.

ADERYN

(screaming)

You are psycho! Your every touch makes me sick, every time you kiss me I want to vomit.

ARCHIE

Stop it! Stop it! I don't want to hear you anymore!

ADERYN

(screaming harder)

I do not love you! I do not love you.
I hate you, Emerson Murray. You ruined
me! You killed me! You killed me!

Archie had it enough now. He grabs her hair and pulls her away towards the bathroom.

INT. ARCHIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT (30 YEARS AGO)

Archie pushes her into the tub and grabs her neck.

Archie squeezes her neck with one hand and with other hand pouring cold water shower on her to stop her from screaming. Bubbles starts coming out of the bathtub...until they stop. Aderyn lies dead, eyes wide open.

ADERYN (V.O.)

But I will keep fighting for Alex and
Beth, until my last breath.

Archie stands in front of dead Aderyn. Suddenly he becomes aware there is a dead body in his bathtub. He pulls her body halfway out. He starts crying.

ARCHIE

(crying)

Aderyn! Who did this to you? Oh, my
wonderful wife. What did they do to
you?

(pause)

It was Emerson, Emerson killed you.

He hugs her body.

ARCHIE

Wake up honey. Please. We will get you
through this. Everything will be okay.
Please... Don't leave me. Please!

Suddenly a voice comes from the door.

VOICE

Dad?

Archie turns around and sees a 5-year-old Alex standing at the door frame.

INT. ARCHIE'S KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Back to the present.

Mary closes the letter. She takes out a lighter. Letter starts burning. With her bleeding leg, she stands up, goes upstairs.

INT. JULIET'S ROOM - DAY

Mary enters the room. Her leg still bleeding, wrapped in rug. She starts her search.

MARY

Juliet, are we playing hide and seek?

Juliet holds her mouth, not to make a sound. Phone is still dialing Alex.

Mary looks under the bed.

MARY

I thought you like playing pirates. I swear with those role plays you remind me of your grandfather.

Mary comes closer to the closet.

MARY

Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Mary notices the closet is a little open and phone flashes inside. She passes by it.

She takes one long bar with pirate flag stick on it and puts it over a closet handle. Juliet can't come out now.

Mary leaves the room.

INT. ARCHIE'S STUDIO ROOM - DAY

Mary enters the studio room. She carries a large bucket of gasoline.

She starts tearing up the painting. She takes the scissors from the table and starts stabbing the pictures, mostly Aderyn's face.

Room becomes a mess, every picture is ruined. After she finishes, she starts pouring the gasoline all over the room, moving towards outside.

At the door, she strikes a match, paintings start burning.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex's phone rings, no one moves.

He is standing, empty, looking at Beth who is trying to help her father stand up.

ALEX

No, no, no. My father is named Archie Morgan! He is a scam. A fraud!

Beth suddenly becomes unbelievably calm with Alex.

BETH

Alex how old are you?

ALEX

Why?

BETH

How old are you?

ALEX

Thirty-five.

Beth comes up to the bookshelf. She opens one old book, and takes out a piece of paper from it. It is an article. She hands it to the Alex.

BETH

Is this your father?

ALEX

Yes.

BETH

Read it.

In the article there are two pictures. One of them is Archie, one of them is Aderyn. The title says: "Horror on Rhode Island". After the title, it says: "Psychiatrist Aderyn Morgan got kidnaped, suspected is her mental patient Emerson Murray."

ALEX

It is not possible.

Phone stops ringing.

BETH

It is. My father is Archie Morgan. My mother is Aderyn Morgan and I think... I think you are my brother, Alex.

ALEX

No, my father married Aderyn. I saw the picture.

Beth stands up. She goes to the locker under TV. She takes one framed picture out and goes to Alex, handing him the picture.

BETH

I saw a picture too.

On the picture there is Aderyn in her wedding dress. She is carried by Beth's father.

Alex starts crying, he curls up, bury his head into his knees and sits against the floor. Still holding a knife at his hand. Beth comes to him.

BETH

You are my brother, Alex.

ALEX

No, no, no. Stop saying that.

BETH

You are.

ALEX

No, you all made this up. It is just a photoshop. My dad doesn't lie! He doesn't lie.

Beth's father notices Alex went completely insane. He slowly starts moving towards the coffee table. B.F. grabs Alex's phone, and starts dialing 911.

Alex crying suddenly stops. Not a word. Not a sound. Beth is trying to see his face, but he still looks down. Another memory comes in front of his eyes.

INT. ARCHIE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex's father is strangling Aderyn in the bathtub.

ALEX'S POV

His father holds his mother's neck with one hand. With another he pours water over her. She screams. So loudly.

END OF POV

He saw everything. He buried it inside. All this time he knew.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY - RESUME

Back into the living room. Alex is still curled up, his breathing comes to normal.

BETH

Alex?

ALEX

(calm voice)

That is not possible. Who told you I am coming?

BETH

What?

Alex stands up, he presses Beth towards the wall. Knife is on the floor.

ALEX

(yelling)

Who told you I am coming? You had to set this up.

BETH

(shaken voice)

No one. No one, calm down please.

ALEX

I didn't mean to kill him!

BETH

What?

ALEX

He fell on the soap! I didn't want to!

BETH

Okay, it will be okay, Alex.

ALEX

And an old lady too, I didn't mean to shoot her dog, he wanted to eat me!

BETH

It is okay.

ALEX

I am a good kid I never told what I saw in the bathroom. He didn't strangle her. She did it herself.

BETH

(almost without breath)

I trust you.

ALEX

You don't trust me.

BETH

I do. Of course I do.

ALEX

No, no one does. Linda doesn't trust me.

BETH

No, she does, she loves you. Just let me go and I will help you. I will help you solve everything.

ALEX

You will?

BETH

Yes I will. I promise you.

Alex smiles. From his lip there is a blood dripping.

Suddenly Alex falls down with a hole in his back. Behind him Beth's father stands, holding a bloody knife.

Alex is bleeding on the carpet. Silence.

Sound of police sirens in distance.

EXT. ARCHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Huge house is now destroyed. All windows are broken. Smoke still coming out. Firefighters are still working, but two of them are talking.

FIREFIGHTER 1

Too bad.

FIREFIGHTER 2
Yeah, it is a nice house.

FIREFIGHTER 1
How many people are hurt?

FIREFIGHTER 2
Only one. Woman, middle 30-s,
cutthroat. At least she didn't burn.
Her family will be able to bury her.

FIREFIGHTER 1
What about the man and the
housekeeper?

FIREFIGHTER 2
He probably killed her, had an affair,
classic story.

FIREFIGHTER 1
The kid?

FIREFIGHTER 2
I have no clue.

FADE OUT: