

The Tenant
by
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INT. CBL PROPERTIES - THOMAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Leasing manager THOMAS STONE, scruffy looking, overworked, saggy eyes, messy hair (40s), writes frantically on a piece of paper at his desk. Two large green chairs sit in front of him while sunlight pours in through a cascade of large glass windows to his left.

Suddenly, the phone on his desk rings.

Thomas slowly reaches forward and presses a button.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
What is it Kathy?

KATHY (O.S.)
There's a man here requesting to see
you sir.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
Does he have an appointment?

KATHY (O.S.)
No sir, but he says it's urgent.

Thomas groans, looks to the giant pile papers to his left, and leans forward.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
Send him in.

Thomas removes his finger and resumes writing.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

Thomas sets down his pen as his feisty, red-headed secretary KATHY (30s) opens the door.

Kathy peers in as THE REAPER (30s) an unusually tall thin man with medium-length silver hair, wearing a jet black suit with a crisp red tie, glares at Thomas, carrying a briefcase.

THOMAS
Thank you.

Kathy walks away as The Reaper steps inside.

Thomas sits up and extends his hand.

The Reaper does the same.

THE REAPER

A pleasure to meet you, Mr.?

Thomas shakes his hand.

THOMAS

Thomas Stone, general leasing manager.

THE REAPER

Stressed?

Thomas groans, looks back towards the stack of papers on his desk.

THOMAS

The privileges of the job.

THE REAPER

Well put.

Thomas sighs, motions to one of the chairs.

THOMAS

Please.

Thomas sits back down as The Reaper takes a seat, places his briefcase on his lap, and clasps his hands.

THOMAS

My secretary said you had urgent business?

THE REAPER

In a manner of speaking.

The Reaper unlocks his case, takes out a series of papers, and sets them down on the desk in front of Thomas.

Thomas puts on a pair of glasses and slides one forward. A copy of the Monroeville Mall's lease plans stare back at him.

Thomas raises his brow.

THOMAS

Where did you get this?

THE REAPER

From your website, where else?

Thomas narrows his eyes at The Reaper, grabs a piece of paper at the top his stack, and slams it down in front of him.

THE REAPER

It took me over eight hours to find.

THOMAS

It could definitely use an update.

THE REAPER

Did you know that you could control a computer with just the tip of your finger?

Thomas chuckles.

THOMAS

The wonders of modern technology.

The Reaper scowls.

THE REAPER

More like a nuisance.

Thomas sighs.

THOMAS

I take it you want to lease than?

The Reaper places his finger down on a small space marked...

132A.

THE REAPER

This one in particular, if you don't mind.

Thomas picks up a pen, circles it.

THE REAPER

It is a tad small for me, however but...

THOMAS

Perhaps, maybe you'd like to pick something larger?

THE REAPER

Can't beat the location.

Thomas eyes The Reaper's suit, smirks.

THOMAS
A Stafford?

THE REAPER
A Coolmax, Big and Tall.

The Reaper tugs at his suit jacket.

THE REAPER
Perfect for all those hot summers.

Thomas smirks, grabs another piece of paper out from his stack, places it down in front of him, and scribbles a note onto it.

THOMAS
What made you pick Monroeville?

THE REAPER
I'll admit, I'm quite a sucker for zombie films.

Thomas raises his brow.

THE REAPER
One-stop, shopping, everything you need.

THOMAS
Right at your fingertips.

THE REAPER
You've seen it than?

THOMAS
It was part of the hiring process.

THE REAPER
How interesting!

Thomas sets down his pen, stands up and moves towards a large file cabinet near the wall.

THOMAS
Do you have any history prior to leasing this space?

The Reaper peers over his shoulder, grumbles.

THE REAPER
(to himself)
And we were on such good terms.

THOMAS
What was that?

The Reaper flips back around.

THE REAPER
Does that matter?

THOMAS
I'm afraid it does.

The Reaper huffs, looks up at the ceiling, squints at the lights.

THE REAPER
Bloomington, Tehran, Stratford,
Bangkok...

Thomas narrows his eyes at The Reaper.

THOMAS
Bangkok?

THE REAPER
CentralWorld, Thailand, 7 Floors of
Pure Wonder.

Thomas cracks open the filing cabinet, shifts through the files.

BOOM.

A rumble of thunder shakes the office.

Thomas's hands tremble as he pulls out a brown folder and stares out the windows.

The Reaper smirks.

THE REAPER
Quite a miserable day, isn't it?

THOMAS
Funny, it was just sunny a minute ago.

Thomas shuts the cabinet, walks back to his desk, and sits down.

THE REAPER
75% percent chance of thunderstorms,
didn't you know?

THOMAS
My son would be impressed.

THE REAPER
Oh?

THOMAS
He's studying to be a meteorologist.

THE REAPER
Congratulations.

The Reaper claps his hands.

Thomas smirks, opens the folder and slides the lease agreement forward.

THOMAS
It's good for one year. If you make
enough revenue by that point we'll
consider extending it further.

The Reaper takes a pen out of his pocket and clicks it open.

THE REAPER
That won't be a problem.

The Reaper signs his name with a flourish, and gently sets the pen back down.

Thomas grabs the paper and lifts it up to his face. The Reaper's eloquently written signatures stares back at him.

THE REAPER
In awe over my handwriting skills, are
you?

THOMAS
Well, it's certainly very refined.

THE REAPER
I learned only from the best, that
Gehenna has to offer.

THOMAS
Gehenna?

THE REAPER

A small town in Wales, just north of England, known exclusively for their pudding.

THOMAS

What exactly do you plan on selling?
If you don't mind me asking.

THE REAPER

Would you like a hint?

Thomas nods.

The Reaper reaches inside his suitcase, pulls out a small, ceramic skull and chucks it onto the desk with a loud THUD.

Thomas sets the paper down and picks it up.

THE REAPER

Be careful..

Thomas huffs and puffs, looses his grip.

The skull tumbles back onto the desk with a loud THUD.

THE REAPER

It's porcelain, very delicate.

THOMAS

Some kind of party trinket?

THE REAPER

Oh, wouldn't you like to know?

A flash of lighting quickly fills the room, illuminating The Reaper's rather perfect looking white teeth, curled up in a smile.

BOOM.

A rumble of thunder shakes the office.

INT. LEON'S CAR - DAY

HONK-HONK.

Rain hits the car windows of a beige sedan as clean-cut, shoulder-length hair, dressed to impress, LEON STONE, (mid 20s) honks his horn at the car in front of him.

In his pocket, his phone suddenly vibrates.

Leon pulls it out, answers it.

LEON
(into the phone)
Dani?

DANIELLE (O.S.)
Where are you?

LEON
(into the phone)
Still on the expressway, storm's got
everything backed up.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
Great. Well, the power's out at the
mall.

LEON
(into the phone)
Tch, figures.

Leon looks up at the traffic lights.

They blink a shade of red rapidly...

Back and forth...

Back and forth...

Back and forth...

DANIELLE (O.S.)
So, how'd your exam go?

The car in front of Leon drives forward.

Leon does the same.

LEON
(into the phone)
Why don't you take a guess?

DANIELLE (O.S.)
You got a perfect score?

LEON
(into the phone)
Try a B.

Danielle chuckles.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
Great job.

LEON
(into the phone)
Gee, Well, thanks Dani. I really
appreciate that.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
Your welcome.

Leon drives another inch forward.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
So, about tonight I was thinking...

LEON
(into the phone)
Yeah?

The line suddenly goes dead.

LEON
(into the phone)
Dani?

Leon, takes his phone out of his ear and lifts it up to his
face, when suddenly...

HONK.

Leon groans, throws his phone back in his pocket.

LEON
Alright, alright, I get it.

Leon speeds forward.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Leon exits the road and turns left.

In front of him, the MONROEVILLE MALL sits empty, its parking
lot sparsely packed, as the bright neon lights from the
JCPenney and Macy's signs on it illuminate the cracked
pavement below.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

Leon runs towards a pair of escalators, passing by several vacant stores and restaurants around him, some boarded up, others shut tightly by metal gates.

EXT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - DAY

DANIELLE JACOBS (20s) college drop-out, tall, blonde, paces outside the store entrance.

LEON (O.S.)

Hey.

Danielle turns around as Leon walks up and removes his hood.

LEON

It's raining like hell out there.

Leon shakes the water off his head and onto Danielle as the lights above them flicker.

LEON

Backup generator?

DANIELLE

Which fortunately, is working this time.

Leon, stares down into the empty corridor.

A line of empty, vacant stores stare back at them accompanied by Madonna's *Lucky Star*.

LEON

Place looks pretty dead.

DANIELLE

Yup, just the usual crowd.

Leon and Danielle watch as an ELDERLY COUPLE (70s) walk by at a brisk pace.

LEON

Where'd you think they're headed?

DANIELLE

Is that a bet, I hear?

LEON

Loser does cleanup?

Danielle smirks, narrows her eyes at the couple.

DANIELLE
The husband? Dicks, new khaki's.

LEON
And the wife?

Danielle stares at the woman's leggings, purses her lips.

DANIELLE
Ann Taylor, new leggings.

Danielle huffs, turns to Leon.

DANIELLE
You're turn.

Leon narrows to the couple, bites his lip.

LEON
Hollister.

Danielle giggles.

DANIELLE
Really? Both?

LEON
I mean, just look at those legs.

Danielle chuckles at the elderly woman's tiny legs, the man's shorts.

LOUANN (O.S.)
Well, look who finally decided to show
up.

Leon and Danielle turn left as their boss, LOUANN (50s), workaholic, quick-tempered, but with a heart of gold, stomps forward.

LEON
I got a little behind.

Louann stops, taps her finger onto her other hand.

LOUANN
A likely story.

LEON
Give me some credit Louann.

Louann huffs.

Leon looks over her shoulder, into the store.

LEON
We can't be that busy.

LOUANN
May I remind you that you and Danielle
are the only staff that I got?

DANIELLE
You mean the only staff's that's
left...

Louann shoots Danielle a glare.

LEON
Did you even look outside?

Louann grumbles, straightens her blouse with her hands.

LOUANN
Well, until power's restored, you'll
be straightening up the racks.

Louann points to Danielle.

LOUANN
And you, inventory.

Leon and Danielle groan, shift toe-to-toe.

LOUANN
Well? Don't dawdle.

Louann marches back inside the store as a rumble of thunder
shakes the building.

LEON
You'd think maybe she notice if I
tried ditching?

DANIELLE
You know who'd she call.

Leon waves over to the mall's security guard, JOSEPH (40s),
married, lazy, a real slacker, sitting on a bench, watching

YouTube videos on his phone.

Joseph waves back as Danielle trudges inside. Leon follows behind until, the lights shut off.

LEON

Great.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - STOREROOM - DAY

Danielle rips open a box with a box-cutter, flashlight in hand, as Leon tucks his own under his shoulder and opens his locker.

LEON

So, something wrong with your phone?

DANIELLE

Oh that? It's nothing really.

LEON

Really?

Danielle grabs a pen and clipboard off a table and reaches inside the box.

DANIELLE

You're probably too busy anyway.

Leon tosses his jacket inside his locker.

LEON

I've got no plans.

Danielle lifts up a miniskirt and makes a check on the paper.

DANIELLE

Well, I was cleaning out my closet the other day and...

LEON

You want to hit up Macy's.

Danielle sighs.

LEON

What? Surprised?

DANIELLE

How'd you guess?

Leon eyes Danielle's blouse.

LEON
Lucky and Co. ain't it?

DANIELLE
What are you? Some kind of fashion
connoisseur?

Leon shows off his Tommy Hilfiger T-shirt.

LEON
I wear it with pride.

Danielle smirks, reaches back inside the box.

DANIELLE
Then you know they're having this big
clearance sale.

LEON
75% percent off.

DANIELLE
TV, or radio?

Leon groans, throws on his name-tag.

LEON
TV.

Danielle pulls out a pair of stockings and makes another
check on the paper.

DANIELLE
After your 25th rerun of 24?

Leon raises the flashlight out in front of him and poses with
it like a gun.

LEON
I think I'd make a good Jack Bauer,
don't you think?

DANIELLE
You don't yell enough.

Leon unexpectedly rushes up to Danielle and points the
flashlight straight at her head.

LEON

Make a sound and I'll blow your brains
out all over the windshield.

Danielle shudders, she raises her hands.

DANIELLE

Damn.

Leon smirks, twirls the flashlight in his hands, and clips it
as the lights above them suddenly turn on.

LEON

Well, it's about friggin time.

DANIELLE

I bet Louann is thrilled.

Danielle sets down the flashlight as Leon slowly bends down
and whispers into her ear.

LEON

So, tonight than?

Danielle abruptly whips her head around.

DANIELLE

YES!

Danielle clumsily drops the clipboard.

LOUANN (O.S.)

Jacobs...

DANIELLE

Sorry!

Danielle picks up the clipboard as Leon stands to his feet.

LEON

6pm, don't forget the bathroom.

Danielle raises her small hands.

DANIELLE

Do you see these little hands?

Leon walks into the nearby bathroom, grabs a toilet brush,
and hands it to Danielle.

Danielle smirks, takes the brush as Leon gives her a kiss on

the lips and exits.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - DAY

Leon listens to Queen's I Wanna Break Free as he straightens several suits on a rack.

Leon whistles to himself and clumsily drops a suit.

Leon bends down, picks it up, and stands up only to come face to face with, The Reaper.

Leon screams, he jumps back, the suit flies from his hands.

THE REAPER

Forgive me, if I startled you.

Leon breathes a sigh of relief.

LEON

How long have you been standing there?

THE REAPER

You seemed just dying for a conversation, but I couldn't bear to interrupt your...

The Reaper puckers his lips and whistles to the same tune as Leon.

Leon sneers, bends down.

LEON

Cute.

Loen picks up the suit off the ground, stands up, and places it back on the rack.

THE REAPER

I don't believe that goes there.

LEON

What?

THE REAPER

They all go by size, correct?

LEON

You don't look like my manager.

THE REAPER

That jacket looks a tad thin.

Leon sneers, folds his arms.

LEON

Sorry, we're closed.

THE REAPER

Did you forget to lock up? Or have you somehow managed to scare everyone away with that scraggly face of yours?

Leon grumbles, clenches his fists, as The Reaper pulls out a maroon suit from the rack and shows it to Leon.

THE REAPER

Might you have this in an extra large, by chance?

LEON

Sure you don't want to try a small?

THE REAPER

I have a unique physique.

LEON

All just skin and bones right?

The Reaper's stares at Leon with his cold dark eyes.

Leon shudders, begins shifting through the hangers, as The Reaper turns to a pair of rather expensive designer shoes to his right and picks one up.

LEON

Wingtips.

The Reaper raises his brow.

LEON

Probably too big for your feet.

THE REAPER

What would you recommend than? Since you've established yourself as a self-proclaimed expert...

LEON

I'd go for some oxfords, real breathable, you know?

THE REAPER

I think I'll take a pair.

The Reaper sets down the black wingtip shoe and picks up a pair of white oxfords as Leon yanks out an extra-large maroon suit and hands it to The Reaper.

LEON

There, satisfied?

The Reaper takes it, holds it out in front of him, and nods.

THE REAPER

A real Giorgio Armani, wouldn't you say?

LEON

Sure, let's call it that.

The Reaper opens up the jacket and inspects the fabric.

LEON

Did you uhm, want to try it on?

The Reaper takes a bow.

LEON

OK.

Leon shakes his head and leads The Reaper towards a pair of fitting in rooms in the back of the store.

Leon pulls out a key, unlocks the door, and shoves it open.

LEON

If you need anything else let me know.

THE REAPER

I'm quite capable of dressing myself, thank you.

The Reaper steps in and slams the door shut with a THUD behind him.

DANIELLE (O.S.)

I've never seen so many a-lines in one shipment.

Leon stares at the fitting room as Danielle steps up to him from behind, carrying a stack of trousers.

DANIELLE

Hey?

Danielle reaches forward and touches Leon on his shoulder.

Leon screams, he jumps back.

DANIELLE

Geez,!

LEON

Sorry, got distracted.

DANIELLE

By...?

LEON

Manolo Blahnik.

DANIELLE

Who?

Leon grumbles, jogs back to the suit rack as Danielle rushes after him.

Leon shifts the suits as Danielle watches The Reaper step out of the fitting room and stop in front of a mirror.

DANIELLE

Hey, you see that guy?

Leon glares at The Reaper.

LEON

Yeah, what about him?

DANIELLE

He's tall.

LEON

Clearly.

Danielle watches The Reaper re-enter the fitting room.

DANIELLE

Thin too, guy could use a Happy Meal.

LEON

You'd just want the toy.

DANIELLE

They're real collectible you know?

LEON

Remind me never to visit your
apartment.

Danielle cracks a smile as Louann suddenly stomps forward.

LOUANN

Now, what are you two doing?

LEON

Relax boss, we're working.

Louann groans as The Reaper steps up to the register and
places the suit and shoes on top.

LOUANN

Has he been helped?

Leon bites his lip, sweat drips off his forehead.

Louann narrows her eyes at Leon's forehead, furrows her brow.

LOUANN

Is something wrong?

LEON

No? Of course not. Why do you ask?

Louann squints her eyes towards Leon's forehead.

Leon looks up as a bead of sweat hits his eyes.

Danielle snickers.

Leon wipes it off and onto his pants.

LOUANN

I don't pay you enough to afford a
time-out.

LEON

Listen Louann, I don't think...

Danielle jumps forward.

DANIELLE

I's just really hot in here you know;
from all that wool and polyester.

LOUANN

I better ask Mr. Stone than about the
A/C.

Louann narrows her eyes up at the A/C unit above her and
stomps away.

Leon relaxes and pats Danielle's shoulder.

LEON

Thanks.

DANIELLE

That'll cost you today's lunch.

Leon chuckles only for a familiar whistle to pierce his ears.

Leon freezes, turns to the register and watches The Reaper
browse a selection of chocolates.

DANIELLE

Leon?

Leon sweats, he clenches his fists.

Louann clears her throat, the whistling stops.

Leon relaxes, unfurls his fists.

DANIELLE

What was all that about?

Leon bites his teeth, marches forward.

Danielle walks back to the storeroom as Leon steps up to the
register. Louann stands behind him, marking up price tags
with a marker.

LEON

All set?

The Reaper slides the suit and shoes forward along with the
entire display of chocolate.

THE REAPER

I hope you don't mind.

Leon sneers, sets the display aside, and unfurls the suit.

LEON

Have we met somewhere before?

THE REAPER

This isn't my first time in the Quaker State.

LOUANN

Now there's a name I haven't heard in thirty years...

THE REAPER

You sure you could have fooled me.

Louann blushes, as Leon grumbles, folds up the sleeves.

THE REAPER

How long have you been working here?

LEON

I uh, just started actually.

Louann clears her throat.

Leon grumbles, folds the suit, sets it aside, grabs the pants.

LEON

About two years, give or take.

THE REAPER

You wear your experience well.

LEON

Thanks? I think.

Leon places the trousers over the jacket, pulls out a ginormous brown bag from underneath the counter, and sets it down on top.

THE REAPER

Are you all geared up for the fall season?

LEON

It's May.

The Reaper pulls out a business card from his suit pocket and hands it to Leon.

Leon takes the card, stares down at the fancy purple borders.

LEON

Nice borders.

THE REAPER

I'm opening up a new store here on the lower level.

Leon narrows his eyes towards the name.

G.R.'S EMPORIUM

LEON

G.R.'s?

THE REAPER

I named it myself, you see.

Leon flips the card around only to find, nothing.

LEON

Is it like, some kind of a hobby shop?

THE REAPER

More like antiques, if you would.

Leon sneers, narrows his eyes towards the register.

LEON

Cash or card?

The Reaper flips out a Kenneth Cole wallet, opens it, and pulls out a wad of cash.

Leon whistles, his eyes go wide.

LEON

You carry that much around with you?

THE REAPER

To appease the wretched filth that lurks within South Side Flats.

LEON

Pittsburgh?

THE REAPER

A great city, only ruined by it's shear lack of hospitality.

LEON

Bad experience?

THE REAPER

The cookie was stale.

Leon smirks, places the bills inside the register, and hands The Reaper his receipt.

LEON
Don't stretch it, it might break.

The Reaper shoves it into his pocket.

THE REAPER
The Grand Opening's tomorrow, Noon.

Leon places the suit, pants, and the chocolate display inside the bag.

LEON
That seems a little late, don't you think?

THE REAPER
It'll give me time to introduce myself to the rest of the tenants.

The Reaper takes the bag and exits.

LOUANN
Mr. Stone ought to be relieved.

Leon flips around.

LEON
Boss?

LOUANN
Do you know how many stores we've lost this past year?

LEON
I'm guessing like around 20?

Louann huffs, marks another price tag, it rips.

LOUANN
They ought to just tear this place down and turn it into a distribution center.

LEON
You think maybe they'd hire us?

Louann smirks, looks to the card in Leon's hands.

LOUANN

Well?

Leon leans back on the counter, stares at the card, purses his lips.

LEON

This place could really use some new business.

LOUANN

If you're thinking about taking time off...

Leon chuckles, looks out the window, sighs at the sight of a boarded up store in the distance.

Louann huffs, drops the marker, and storms away.

LEON

Where are you going?

LOUANN

To do my job Leon.

Louann stops, looks over her shoulder.

LOUANN

I suggest you do the same.

Louann storms into the back room.

Leon grumbles, shifts his eyes towards the 20% percent sales banner's, back down to the card, and tucks it into his pocket.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

Leon and Danielle (with her head down) sit across from each other with their lunches as they listen to Carly Simon's You're So Vain.

LEON

That bad, huh?

DANIELLE

I never want to see another button-up.

Leon looks around the empty court as Danielle slowly lifts her head and reaches for a wrap.

LEON

You remember how busy this place used to be?

Danielle sighs and turns towards a boarded up restaurant to her left.

DANIELLE

Orange Julius.

LEON

And Kenny Rogers.

DANIELLE

I could really go for a Strawberry Banana right now.

LEON

I got it! Let's get a DeLorean.

Danielle snickers and takes a bite of her wrap.

DANIELLE

Yeah, those were the days.

LEON

Doesn't seem that long ago too.

DANIELLE

You think maybe your Dad will try to do something too bring it back?

Leon scowls.

LEON

With what? A Dave and Busters?

Danielle snickers and takes a sip of her drink.

DANIELLE

So, how'd it go?

LEON

With?

Danielle glares at him.

Leon huffs, grabs his wrap and takes a bite.

LEON

Mr. Reaper.

DANIELLE

Mr. Reaper?

LEON

Kind of fits him, don't you think?

Danielle nods.

DANIELLE

All that was missing the cloak.

Leon grumbles as TIFFANY PAXTON (20s), tall, African-American, lover of all things Halloween, suddenly steps up to the table.

TIFFANY

Urgh, Subway?

LEON

Hey Tiff.

TIFFANY

Don't tell me A&W closed.

Danielle and Leon bite their tongues as Tiffany stares at a boarded up A&W restaurant.

TIFFANY

Guess I'll be adding that one to my list.

Tiffany grumbles, pulls out a chair, plops down, takes out a floorplan of the Monroeville Mall and a highlighter and crosses out the restaurant.

DANIELLE

So, how are things at Express?

TIFFANY

You mean how aren't things.

LEON

It can't be worse than we are.

TIFFANY

Do you want to know how I spent my morning?

Leon and Danielle watch as Tiffany opens her purse, lifts it up, and turns it upside down.

The couple's eyes go wide as a mountain of white clothing strings fall out.

DANIELLE
How many is that?

TIFFANY
I lost count around 100.

Leon's jaw drops as Tiffany shoves the strings back into her purse.

TIFFANY
I ought to just cut my losses and apply to like Wal-Mart or something.

LEON
As what? Maintenance?

Tiffany scowls.

DANIELLE
Oh, come on, you'll miss this place when it closes.

Leon narrows his eyes at the floorplan, raises his brow.

LEON
Is that a floorplan?

Tiffany smirks, scoots close to Leon, and begins pointing to several spaces marked with an X.

TIFFANY
Boscov's, Banana Republic, Charlotte Russe, Apple...

Leon chuckles.

LEON
Don't I miss that.

TIFFANY
Remember when we all waited in line outside EB?

DANIELLE
Black Friday, 2006.

LEON
I still got my Wii hooked up.

TIFFANY
Check out my ring-tone.

Tiffany taps on her phone.

Danielle and Leon lean in. They snicker as the tune of the Wii Shop Channel drones out.

LEON
Ain't that a meme now?

DANIELLE
They always try to make something out of anything.

TIFFANY
Oh, I just remembered.

Tiffany reaches into her pocket and holds up The Reaper's business card.

TIFFANY
Guess what's opening up?

Leon snatches the card from her hands.

LEON
No way.

DANIELLE
Leon?

Leon takes the card and stares down at it.

G.R's Emporium.

LEON
Where did you get this?

TIFFANY
By some weird creepy looking dude;
looked an awful lot like Pumpkin Jack.

Danielle does a little dance in her chair.

DANIELLE
(singing)
This is Halloween...

Leon shakes his head.

Danielle grumbles, stops as Tiffany claps her hands.

TIFFANY
Way to kill the mood Oogie.

Leon stares down at the card.

LEON
(to himself)
You're really intent are opening this
place, aren't you?

DANIELLE
Uh, Leon?

Leon sneers, rips the card in half.

TIFFANY
You owe me.

LEON
Trust me, you're missing nothing.

Tiffany groans.

TIFFANY
So, we all still on for that movie
tonight?

LEON
Yeah, about that.

TIFFANY
Let me guess, GAP?

DANIELLE
Ew.

LEON
Tiff...

Tiffany stands up.

TIFFANY
Well, I just got paid this week so...

Danielle grumbles.

DANIELLE
Tiff...

Tiffany nudges Danielle and struts away.

LEON
I promise, I'll keep her away from the purses.

DANIELLE
Please.

Leon and Danielle stand up and grab their trash.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - THOMAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Thomas stares at a picture of himself, down-to-earth housewife, VALERIE STONE (40s) and Leon (8) in front of him as rain and wind pound hard on the glass windows.

The phone on his desk rings.

Thomas reaches over and picks it up.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
This is Thomas.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Greetings Mr. Stone. How are you enjoying the weather?

Thomas looks towards the window.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
It's doom and gloom as usual Mr...?

THE REAPER (O.S.)
G. You may call me G.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
How can I help you?

THE REAPER (O.S.)
I'd like to inquire about your tenants.

Thomas pauses, leans forward.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
I'm afraid I didn't catch that.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
How long have they been in the
business?

Thomas turns towards the file cabinet, to the picture.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
I'm not sure how that concerns you.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
I'm afraid it's quite important.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
You running some kind of survey?

THE REAPER (O.S.)
If I was, would I be asking for your
permission?

Thomas grumbles, grips the phone.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
That information is confidential,
classified.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Hmm, perhaps, maybe this will change
your mind?

A bolt of lightning strikes the window next to Thomas's desk.

Thomas screams, drops the phone as Kathy barges in.

THOMAS
It's alright.

Kathy exits as Thomas takes a deep breath and picks up the
phone.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
Explain yourself.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Mother Nature and I have formed a
little alliance, so to speak.

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 An alliance?

THE REAPER (O.S.)
 I'm afraid the details are quite
 confidential.

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 You don't say.

Thomas stares at Leon in the picture.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
 So? Do we have an agreement, or?

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 Out of the question.

The Reaper tsk tsk's over the phone.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
 So, you've made your choice than.

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 I'm not scared of you.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
 Oh, you should be.

The line goes dead.

Thomas slams the phone down on the receiver and presses the
 call button.

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 Kathy.

KATHY (O.S.)
 Yes Mr. Stone?

Thomas picks up the picture.

THOMAS
 (into the phone)
 I need you to do some research for me.

Thomas traces his hands over Leon in the picture.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - MACY'S - SHOE AREA - NIGHT

Danielle and Leon sit next to each as Tiffany, purse around her arm. stands near a shoe display, holding up a pair of sandals. Two white blouses rest on Danielle's lap, still on their hangers.

TIFFANY
How about these?

Danielle and Leon shake their heads.

Tiffany grumbles, sets them back down, and moves towards another pair.

DANIELLE
Some date this it.

LEON
Come on, it's not that bad.

Danielle groans as Tiffany rushes over carrying a pair of platforms.

TIFFANY
Well?

DANIELLE
Leon?

Tiffany shows Leon the platforms.

LEON
Last I've heard, disco died.

Tiffany snorts, chucks the shoes into Leon's face, and storms away.

DANIELLE
Tiff.

Danielle grumbles.

LEON
What?

DANIELLE
Could you try, not being honest for once?

LEON

Sorry.

Danielle picks the shoes up off the ground and as the shoe saleswoman, DOROTHY (50s) steps up.

DOROTHY

Interested?

DANIELLE

Well...

LEON

Actually, she'd like to try on a pair.

DANIELLE

Leon?

Leon grabs a box of black romata's from behind them and hands them to Danielle.

LEON

Go on.

Danielle begrudgingly opens the box and looks inside.

DANIELLE

Romata's?

LEON

You know, for work.

Danielle shoos Dorothy away and closes the box.

LEON

Well?

DANIELLE

Well, I think that's enough shopping for one night.

Danielle grabs her blouses, stands up, and heads to the checkout area with Leon.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - MACY'S - REGISTER - NIGHT

Leon and Danielle slowly step up to the register, only to find it, empty.

LEON

Incredible.

DANIELLE

Guess we should be keeping an eye out
for a liquidation sale, huh?

Leon scans the area around him, searching for an employee,
but strangely enough, finds nobody, not even a single a
customer.

THE REAPER (O.S.)

Having a bit of trouble?

Leon and Danielle jolt around to find The Reaper standing
across from them, wearing his newly bought maroon suit.

Leon steps in front of Danielle.

LEON

What are you doing here?

THE REAPER

I just finished my chat with the
manager.

DANIELLE

For?

THE REAPER

I have to keep an eye on my
competition.

LEON

Competition?

The Reaper snatches the box of shoes from Danielle.

THE REAPER

You won't be needing those.

Leon nudges Danielle aside and shoves himself into The
Reaper's face.

LEON

Who the hell do you think you are?

The lights shut off.

DANIELLE

It can't be closing time already?

Leon checks his watch.

7:55PM

Leon turns back to the register, scans the store for an employee.

Silence, nothing, nobody, expect for...

The Reaper.

Leon takes the blouses, sets them down on the counter, and takes Danielle's hand.

LEON
We should go.

DANIELLE
But, what about...?

Leon leads Danielle away as The Reaper opens the box and takes out a romata.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - MACY'S - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Leon and Danielle stroll up to the gate to the mall to find it surprisingly, still open.

DANIELLE
Maybe they forgot about it.

LEON
Never mind that, where's...

Tiffany jumps out in from them and snaps a photo with her phone.

Leon and Danielle scream, jump back.

TIFFANY
Got you.

DANIELLE
Fuck you Tiff.

TIFFANY
You should've seen your faces.

Leon grabs Tiffany's phone and chucks it to the ground.

Tiffany hastily snatches it from the ground.

TIFFANY

You could've broken it!

LEON

Now, that wouldn't be too much of a loss now, would it?

Tiffany gives Leon the finger and stomps away.

LEON

Think she'll give over it?

Leon and Danielle grumble, exit, narrowly missing the corpse of the shoes salesman Dorothy, smushed behind them, inside the corner of the gate.

INT. LEON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Leon sits on his bed, laptop in front of him, radar images scattered about as the popular local weatherman WALTER HUTTON (40s), relays the weather on the TV.

WALTER

You can expect quite a bit of sunshine tomorrow in the early morning hours. Although, there may be a slight shower around lunchtime so don't forget to throw on your rain coats...

Leon draws a circle on a radar image as the news anchor on the TV, SUSANNA (40s) turns to Walter.

SUSANNA

Hopefully we won't have any other unexpected showers like today, won't we Walter?

WALTER

Mother Nature has her ways Susanna.

SUSANNA

Up next, a murder at a Macy's store in the Monroeville Mall has raised some questions for local investigators.

Leon frantically grabs the remote and turns up the volume.

SUSANNA

Police are saying that a guard found the body of the Dorothy Carlson, the store's manager wedged behind the

store's security gate upon doing his usual check-in.

On the screen, Leon watches as two EMT's wheel out Dorothy's body.

SUSANNA

Authorities have not yet identified...

Suddenly, his cell phone rings.

Leon picks it up and looks towards the caller ID.

DAD.

He answers.

LEON

(into the phone)

Dad? It's been a while.

THOMAS (O.S.)

How's your studying going?

LEON

(into the phone)

Forget that, did you hear about...

THOMAS (O.S.)

If you're referring to that incident at Macy's...

LEON

So, you know than?

THOMAS

It'll be the first thing I take care of tomorrow morning.

Leon slowly turns and looks towards the nightstand where a picture of himself (8) and Valerie stare back at him.

LEON

(into the phone)

Listen, this is going to sound a little strange, but, have you met...

THOMAS (O.S.)

A man who looks an awful like...?

Thomas grumbles.

THOMAS (O.S.)
I just leased him a new store the
other day.

LEON
(into the phone)
Great. Smooth move, Dad.

THOMAS (O.S.)
He had an impressive history. Or, so I
thought...

Leon leans forward.

LEON
(into the phone)
Dad?

THOMAS (O.S.)
(into the phone)
Please, don't get yourself involved in
this Leon, for me, Dani.

LEON
(into the phone)
Oh really? You sure you can handle it,
all by yourself?

THOMAS (O.S.)
Leon?

LEON
(into the phone)
You said the same thing to Mom. You
know, before...

THOMAS (O.S.)
You know how things were back than.

LEON
(into the phone)
Oh sure, you care to remind me?

THOMAS (O.S.)
Please Leon, not now.

LEON
(into the phone)
Fine, just brush it aside for the
millionth time, than.

THOMAS (O.S.)
Speaking about your mother...

Leon grits his teeth, turns to the picture.

LEON
(into the phone)
So, tomorrow than? 8:30?

THOMAS (O.S.)
I'll meet you under the arch.

Leon hangs up and flops down on his bed.

EXT. CEMETERY - ENTRANCE - DAY

Dark green clouds fill the sky around a neatly maintained cemetery as Leon pulls up to next to Thomas and his Lincoln Town Car underneath a large arch.

Leon steps out, wearing a black shirt with jeans, backpack around his shoulders, closes the door,

THOMAS
I'm glad you could make it.

LEON
Let's just get this over with.

Leon follows Thomas into the cemetery.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Thomas and Leon walk past several graves until they stop in front of Valerie's.

Thomas bends down and places his hand on top of it.

VALERIE STONE

1966-2008

THOMAS
Happy birthday love.

Thomas lowers his head in as Leon looks up towards the sky.

THOMAS
She'd be real proud of you right now,
you know that, right?

Leon snorts.

Thomas sighs, stands up.

THOMAS

Leon.

Leon sneers at him.

LEON

Dad.

THOMAS

It's been well over a year now since we've talked.

LEON

Is that supposed to make me feel any better?

Thomas stares at Valerie's grave.

THOMAS

I know I've made some mistakes.

LEON

Oh yeah, some.

THOMAS

But that doesn't changed the fact that I loved her.

LEON

Pfft, sure.

Thomas whacks Leon hard on the cheek.

THOMAS

Don't think for one minute that I wasn't aware...

Leon grits his teeth.

LEON

Why didn't you ever come home?

THOMAS

Leon.

LEON

Where were you when I needed you?

Thomas raises his hand towards Leon.

Leon smacks it aside.

Thomas stomps away.

LEON
Dad, wait...

CAW.

A crow swoops in and knocks Leon to the ground.

LEON
Shit!

THOMAS
Leon?

Thomas runs back over and bends down as the crow flies away.

THOMAS
Are you alright?

LEON
Yeah...

CAW! CAW!

Leon and Thomas flip around to find the crow perched on top of Valerie's grave.

CAW!

CAW! CAW!

Thomas and Leon slowly stand up and move towards it.

CAW!

The crow jerks, it's movement becomes erratic.

LEON
Dad?

Thomas puts his hand in front of Leon as the crow falls off the grave and hits the ground.

Thomas and Leon stare down and watch as the crow twists its head in an unthinkable way, twitches, before completely going motionless.

Thomas and Leon look to each other as a flash of lighting suddenly fills the sky. The pair look up at the green clouds as a rumble of thunder pierces the air.

EXT. MONROEVILLE MALL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Danielle stares up at the sky as Leon pulls up and steps out.

DANIELLE
So, how'd it go?

Leon closes the door, glares at Danielle.

DANIELLE
You see those clouds?

A flash of lighting fills the sky, followed by a rumble of thunder.

LEON
Yeah, tornado weather for sure.

DANIELLE
You think we might get one?

Leon shakes his head.

Danielle stares up at the sky as Leon pulls out the Reaper's business card.

LEON
Heh, G.R.'s.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
You feel like clocking in early?

EXT. MONROEVILLE MALL - G.R.'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Danielle and Leon reach the end of the corridor and turn left.

LEON
This should be it.

Leon and Danielle look up.

An ornate purple sign hangs above the entrance, with bold white letters that bleed into a deep black background.

DANIELLE

Wow, this guy sure loves his purple.

Leon and Danielle peek inside the gate. Inside, the shelves are lined with various knick-knacks. On the wall hang several tapestry's. Near the left side sits a pedestal holding a tome.

LEON

Hmm, guess he wasn't kidding about the fall season.

DANIELLE

OK?

LEON

Hey, what time is it?

Danielle takes out her phone and shows Leon the time.

11:30am.

LEON

Well, looks like were early.

Danielle puts her phone away,

Leon peeks back inside the gates as Danielle stares at the empty stores around her.

LEON

Dani? What is it?

DANIELLE

Doesn't this place look a bit more empty to you?

Leon stares at the empty stores.

LEON

Weren't they just open the other day?

DANIELLE

You think it has something to do with what happened last night?

LEON

So, you saw it too than.

Leon looks up at The Reaper's store sign.

LEON
Competition.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
Hey, do you think that maybe, maybe
he...

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Curious about my wares, are you?

Leon jumps back as The Reaper steps out from behind him.

LEON
Where'd you come from?

THE REAPER
I was giving myself the grand tour.

The Reaper stares down the hallway, looks up at a skylight.

THE REAPER
This is quite an exquisite building
indeed, nothing like Rolling Acres.

DANIELLE
That old dead mall in Ohio?

THE REAPER
Razed mall, dear girl, get your words
right.

Leon and Danielle watch as The Reaper pulls up a pocket watch hanging around his pants, opens it, and checks the time.

THE REAPER
We don't open for another hour, I'm
afraid.

LEON
We'll come back later.

Leon and Danielle turn to leave, only for The Reaper's icy cold hand to stop them.

THE REAPER
However...

Leon and Danielle slowly turn around.

THE REAPER

I suppose you may have a look around.

The Reaper takes out a key and thrusts it inside the gate.

DANIELLE

Did you see the news?

THE REAPER

Yes, little Dorothy, quite a tragedy.

The Reaper pulls the gate up and steps back.

THE REAPER

Off to the yellow brick road she goes...

LEON

You don't sound that upset.

THE REAPER

Oh please, forgive me.

The Reaper shuts his eyes, lowers his head.

Danielle and Leon lean in and watch as The Reaper suddenly snuffles, lifts his head.

The Reaper, his eyes filled to the brim with tears, pulls out a handkerchief from his suit pocket and blows his nose into it.

Danielle and Leon grumble as The Reaper clears his throat.

THE REAPER

Let us say a prayer, for our dear friend Mrs. Dandridge.

LEON

You can stop.

The Reaper beams, tosses the handkerchief aside, and bows.

THE REAPER

Welcome to G.R.'s. If you have any inquiries, I will be happy to answer them.

LEON

Thanks.

The Reaper disappears inside.

Leon steps forward only for Danielle to pull him back.

DANIELLE

Hey, I don't know about this.

LEON

Come on, it's not like we're going to buy anything, right?

Danielle takes a deep breath and follows Leon into the store.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - THOMAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Thomas writes on a piece of paper as Kathy KNOCKS at his door.

THOMAS

Yes?

Kathy steps in with a large stack of papers.

KATHY

I have the information you requested about Mr. G?

Thomas sets down his pen and waves her in.

Kathy shuts the door, rushes up to Thomas's desk and plunks the stack down on top.

Kathy huffs, steps back, wipes her forehead.

THOMAS

You look distraught.

KATHY

I had to contact over twenty property managers just to get these files.

THOMAS

Well, what did you find?

Kathy narrows her eyes towards the stack.

Thomas puts his glasses, picks up a paper, and raises it to his face.

KATHY

5 unrenewed leases, 3 clauses, and 2

breaches.

THOMAS

Breaches?

KATHY

He was caught stealing some equipment
from a Nordstrom up in Syracuse.

Kathy walks behind the desk and points towards a section of
the paper.

Thomas leans forward, his eyes go wide.

KATHY

I know, bizarre, ain't it?

THOMAS

I take it that's not all you found?

Kathy pulls out a piece of paper from the stack and sets it
down in front of Thomas.

Thomas stares down at the paper, up at Kathy.

THOMAS

This is...?

KATHY

A report on Randall Park, shortly
after it closed.

Kathy leans forward, lowers her voice.

KATHY

I think you should take a look.

Kathy exits.

Thomas clears his throat, raises the paper to his face.

Thomas's hands tremble as he slowly sets down the paper and
removes his glasses.

Thomas stares at the picture, jumps up, and bolts to the
door.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - G.R.'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Leon stares up at several tapestry's lining the wall as
Danielle stares at a pair of snow globes on a packed shelf.

Danielle takes one, lifts it up, searches for a price tag.

DANIELLE

So, I'm guessing it's free, than?

THE REAPER (O.S.)

All prices are negotiable.

Leon and Danielle stare at The Reaper who stands behind the counter, hands behind his back, mouth plastered with a smile, while Madonna's *Ray of Light* echoes all around him.

LEON

You a fan of Madonna?

THE REAPER

I met her once in an ICU during her World Tour last year.

DANIELLE

Really?

THE REAPER

Bacterial infection, quite serious.

LEON

She forgot to give you an autograph or something?

THE REAPER

On the contrary.

The Reaper pulls out a signed photo of Madonna in her 20s.

LEON

I bet that's worth a fortune.

THE REAPER

20,000 dollars last time I checked.

Danielle sets the snow globe back on the shelf and moves towards a wall of models as Leon turns to a tapestry with a unique Chinese pattern.

THE REAPER (O.S.)

Remarkable isn't it?

Leon jumps back to find The Reaper suddenly standing next to him.

Leon watches as The Reaper reaches forward and traces his

fingers over the cloth.

THE REAPER
Hand-woven of course, pure silk.

LEON
Really?

Leon feels the fabric for himself.

THE REAPER
Imported straight from Shanghai's
finest Geisha's, if I might add.

LEON
Aren't Geisha's supposed to be
Japanese?

THE REAPER
A common misconception.

Leon grumbles, pulls his hand back and looks at the price tag.

\$99.99

THE REAPER
Well, what do you think?

LEON
Is that your final price?

The Reaper sneers.

THE REAPER
\$75.

LEON
\$50.

THE REAPER
Do you how many silkworms it takes to
produce one pound of raw silk?

LEON
I take it by that look on your face
that it's a lot?

The Reaper narrow's his eyes at Leon.

Leon begrudgingly takes the tapestry off the wall and hands

it to The Reaper.

The Reaper beams and snatches the tapestry out of Leon's hand.

THE REAPER

A decision you won't regret.

The Reaper walks up to the register as Danielle steps forward, empty-handed.

LEON

Nothing?

Danielle shakes her head as Leon's phone rings.

Leon takes it out and stares at the caller ID.

DAD.

Leon snorts, tries to put it away.

DANIELLE

Leon.

Leon grumbles, steps away, answers it.

LEON

(into the phone)

Dad?

THOMAS (O.S.)

Where are you two right now?

LEON

(into the phone)

At G.R.'s. That new junk store that opened up near Penney's.

THOMAS (O.S.)

Is "he" with you?

Leon slowly looks to Danielle before quickly turning towards the register where The Reaper stands behind the counter, folding up the tapestry.

LEON

(into the phone)

Yeah, why?

THOMAS (O.S.)
Do your old father a favor would you
son?

LEON
(into the phone)
OK?

THOMAS (O.S.)
Stay far away from that place. Don't
give that man, whoever he calls
himself, any of your business.

Leon slowly turns and stares back at The Reaper at the counter where he finds him whispering that familiar ominous tune.

THOMAS (O.S.)
Leon?

Leon lowers the phone, steps forward.

Danielle follows him as Leon stops at the counter and glares at The Reaper.

LEON
My mother taught me that song.

THE REAPER
She was quite a woman, a shame of what
happened to her.

Leon stiffens.

LEON
How?

DANIELLE
Leon?

THOMAS (O.S.)
Leon?

THE REAPER
All part of my work.

LEON
Work?

The Reaper narrows his eyes at Leon.

Leon raises the phone to his ear.

LEON
(into the phone)
I'll call you back.

THOMAS (O.S.)
Leon!

Leon hangs up, shoves his phone in his pocket.

LEON
Talk.

THE REAPER
About?

Leon slams his fist down on the counter, his body trembles.

Danielle gently places her arms around Leon.

Leon relaxes, takes her hand.

LEON
There's no way you could've been
there.

THE REAPER
Appearances can be deceiving.

DANIELLE
Aren't you like 30?

The Reaper places the tapestry into a black and purple bag marked, with the G.R. logo, in white Comic Sans Font and slides it towards Leon.

THE REAPER
Well, there you go. All nice and snug
for you for it's long and perilous
journey into the unknown.

DANIELLE
It's just a cloth.

THE REAPER
Oh, is it now?

Leon takes out his wallet and hands The Reaper his credit card only for him to push it back into his hands.

THE REAPER
Cash only, I'm afraid.

Leon puts the card back inside his wallet and pulls out three twenties.

LEON
You, didn't get your machine yet, or?

The Reaper scowls.

THE REAPER
Those useless things can rot in a landfill for all that it's worth.

Leon hands The Reaper his money.

The Reaper takes it, shoves into the register, and hands Leon his receipt.

THE REAPER
I look forward to our next meeting.

Leon grabs the receipt, shoves it into the bag, and exits with Danielle. As The Reaper watches them leave, he slowly picks up his pocket watch, opens it, and checks the time.

THE REAPER
My, my, it's opening time.

The Reaper snaps the pocket watch shut.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - DAY

Danielle and Leon sit behind the register.

DANIELLE
What was all that about?

As Leon opens his mouth, Louann suddenly comes marching over.

LOUANN (O.S.)
You both better have a good reason for just standing around.

Leon and Danielle groan and flip around as Louann stops in front of them.

LEON
Hmm, I don't know?

Louann slowly turns and looks around the store. Emptiness in the form of Pharrell William's Happy bleeds into her ears.

LOUANN

This isn't going to look good for next month.

DANIELLE

Why don't we try running another promotion? Like the one we did last year?

LEON

Oh yeah, Slim-Fit Saturday's, remember how fabulous that went?

DANIELLE

It brought in a few people.

LEON

Yeah, and Joseph.

LOUANN

Where is that slacker anyway?

LEON

Probably behind a Crusi'n USA cabinet.

Louann grumbles, stares out into the mall.

DANIELLE

Well we could always do another mix-and-match. Two for 1?

Louann looks back to a pile of sale banners near the back corner of the backroom and a strew of letters next to it.

LOUANN

Yes, that just might work.

LEON

Uh, boss?

LOUANN

Act busy.

Louann marches into the storeroom.

LEON

Well, looks like there's some hope...

DANIELLE
Not for long.

LEON
Hmm?

Danielle cocks her head towards the window.

Leon stares out into the mall, spots the empty storefronts.

LEON
Great, more?

Leon slowly turns to his bag as he catches a glimpse of two SHOPPERS (20s) walking by, carrying two black and purple bags with the ubiquitous G.R. logo.

Leon grumbles, clenches his fists.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
He's up to something.

CRASH.

Leon and Danielle whip their heads towards the storeroom.

LEON
I'll be right back.

Leon steps away as Danielle's phone vibrates.

Danielle takes it out and reads Tiffany's text.

TIFFANY (TEXT)
Hey, you busy?

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - G.R.'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Tiffany's jaw drops as she looks up at the various Halloween-themed trinkets lining the shelves above her.

DANIELLE
I don't know about this.

TIFFANY
This is, awesome!

Tiffany giggles like a child, rushes towards a small figurine

of a spider on the shelf, and shows it to Danielle.

TIFFANY

Well, what do you think?

Danielle makes a face.

DANIELLE

I hate spiders.

TIFFANY

Tch.

DANIELLE

Where would you even put that?

TIFFANY

My dresser? Hello!

DANIELLE

We shouldn't even be here.

Tiffany lifts up the figurine, checks the bottom for a price as Danielle eyes several strange mask on the wall.

Danielle stops at an old corded phone, perched on top of a pedestal.

LUCINDA (O.S.)

It's a spirit phone.

Danielle turns around to find LUCINDA (50s), an enigmatic woman wearing a long bohemian dress and carrying a small clutch staring back at her.

DANIELLE

A what?

Lucinda rolls her eyes.

LUCINDA

A spirit phone. It's let's you communicate with the deceased.

Danielle scratches her head.

Lucinda groans, pulls out a card from her clutch and hands it to her.

LUCINDA

My card.

Danielle takes the card, looks down at it.

LUCINDA'S READINGS AND TAROT

189 INTERLAKEN DR.

DANIELLE

Tarot?

LUCINDA

I specialize in all things strange and
supernatural.

Danielle stares back at the card as Lucinda exits.

DANIELLE

Hey!

Nobody.

Danielle groans as Tiffany steps up to her from behind,
holding a G.R. bag.

TIFFANY

I am so stoked!

Danielle bites her lip, turns around.

DANIELLE

You bought, it didn't you?

TIFFANY

And that's not all...

Danielle watches as Tiffany reaches inside her bag and pulls
out a Laserdisc copy of Scream.

DANIELLE

A Laserdisc?

TIFFANY

Director's Cut.

Danielle snatches the Laserdisc out of Tiffany's hand and
reads the back of it.

DANIELLE

What's the difference?

TIFFANY

20 seconds restored footage.

DANIELLE

Of?

TIFFANY

Drew Barrymore's guts.

Danielle makes a face, shoves the Laserdisc back in her hands.

Tiffany groans, puts the movie back in the bag.

TIFFANY

So, what'd you find, anything?

Danielle turns to the phone, Tiffany does the same.

TIFFANY

I don't get it.

THE REAPER (O.S.)

Quite an interesting piece, wouldn't you say?

Danielle and Tiffany jump back and flip around to find The Reaper towering above them, hands firmly clasped behind his back.

THE REAPER

Is there a problem?

DANIELLE

Would you please stop doing that?

THE REAPER

Is there something wrong with how I greet?

TIFFANY

You can say that.

THE REAPER

What a conundrum.

The Reaper shoves both girls aside, steps up to the phone, and stares down at it.

The Reaper's lip's curl into a sinister sneer.

DANIELLE

Does it work?

THE REAPER
Allow me to demonstrate.

Danielle and Tiffany watch The Reaper as he picks up the phone off the receiver.

THE REAPER
Anyone in particular you'd like to chat with?

Danielle turns to Tiffany who shakes her head, raises her hands, and steps back.

THE REAPER
Well?

DANIELLE
Valerie Stone, if you don't mind.

The Reaper smirks and dials the number.

TIFFANY
Hey, how did you know...

The Reaper narrows his eyes at Tiffany.

THE REAPER
Hush, wait your turn.

Tiffany shudders, steps back as The Reaper hands Danielle the phone.

Danielle's hands tremble as she takes the phone and slowly puts it to her ear.

DANIELLE
(into the phone)
Hello?

VALERIE (O.S.)
Dani? My god, is it really you?

Danielle's eyes go wide, her jaw drops. The Reaper stares back at her with his all too familiar crooked smile.

TIFFANY
Well?

DANIELLE
(into the phone)
Yeah. It's me. Where are you?

VALERIE (O.S.)
I don't know. I can't see anything in
this damn darkness.

DANIELLE
(into the phone)
I don't understand?

TIFFANY
Dani?

VALERIE (O.S.)
It's been so long since I've heard
somebody's voice. Where's Leon
sweetheart? Is he...

The Reaper suddenly takes the phone from Danielle and slams
it back down on the receiver.

THE REAPER
Well?

DANIELLE
How much?

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - UPPER LEVEL - DAY

Thomas stands in front of a store as he and the Bath and Body
works manager, DIANA (40s) watch The Reaper schmooze with the
rather unstable wine store's manager, GARRETT (30s).

THOMAS
You're positive?

Diana nods.

Thomas rushes towards The Reaper as Diana resumes adjusting
her displays.

Thomas steps up to the pair and leans in.

THE REAPER
I don't understand why you hesitate?

GARRETT
I'm not interested, if that's what
you're asking.

Thomas shifts his eyes towards The Reaper's hand where he
spots him holding a small, unusually looking model of a
haunted house.

The Reaper narrows his eyes at Thomas before shoving the model into Garrett's hands.

THE REAPER
Consider it a gift.

Garrett takes the model, furrows his brow as The Reaper pats Thomas on the shoulder and walks away.

THOMAS
Are you alright, Garrett?

GARRETT
Yeah, I think so.

Garrett continues to stare down at the model as Thomas watches The Reaper step on the escalator down the corridor.

GARRETT (O.S.)
Is it true?

Thomas flips around.

GARRETT
Are you really going to close this whole place down?

THOMAS
Now, where the hell in god's name did you hear that?

Garrett shifts his eyes towards the escalators, Thomas does the same.

GARRETT
Well, it's not like we're doing that great anyway.

THOMAS
What other lies has he been feeding you?

GARRETT
Sir?

Thomas suddenly grabs Garrett's collar and pins him against one of the displays.

Garrett shudders, he sweats.

GARRETT

Mr. Stone?

THOMAS

This is a very serious matter.

Garrett's hand's tremble as he pulls out The Reaper's business card from his pocket and hands it to Thomas.

GARRETT

He kept going on and on about his merchandise...

Thomas takes the card, releases Garrett, stares down at it.

GARRETT

Said he would offer me the deal of a lifetime.

THOMAS

What kind of deal?

GARRETT

Well...

Garrett stares down at the model in his hands.

GARRETT

Something about seeing my future?

THOMAS

Like some kind of clairvoyant?

Garrett hands Thomas the model.

Thomas stares down the haunted house and gives it one good shake.

THOMAS

I've seen better toys made in China.

GARRETT

Do you think he really means what he says?

Thomas turns back to the escalators and watches a pair of SHOPPERS (30s) rush by with G.R. bags.

GARRETT

Mr. Stone?

THOMAS

I'm not quite sure, carry on.

Thomas hands Garrett back the model and rushes towards the escalators.

Garrett sighs, grabs a wine bottle off of one of the displays, and re-enters his store.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - THOMAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Thomas sits down, pulls out The Reaper's lease agreement, and flips it open.

Thomas turns and turns, until his finger rests near the bottom of the page.

THOMAS

Yes, yes of course.

Thomas phone suddenly rings.

THOMAS

(into the phone)

Kathy?

KATHY (O.S.)

The manager of Walden Galleria is here to see you.

THOMAS

(into the phone)

Send him in.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - ATRIUM - NIGHT

Danielle, holding a LOFT bag, and Leon step off the escalators.

DANIELLE

God, I didn't think it would end.

Leon turns stares down at the G.R.s store in the distance as a pair of shoppers exit.

DANIELLE (O.S.)

So, your place tonight, right?

Danielle nudges Leon in the arm.

LEON

Hmm?

Danielle grumbles.

LEON

Sorry.

Danielle rolls her eyes and continues towards the exit with Leon in tow.

Leon halts in his tracks.

LEON

Hey, don't you find it strange that this, Mr. Reaper...

DANIELLE

You're really sticking to that name, aren't you?

LEON

That this, Mr. Reaper shows up out of the blue just as a whole bunch of stores shut down?

DANIELLE

You think maybe he's trying to buy them off?

LEON

Could be, but...

Leon steps away from Danielle and up to a vacant Aerie store with his signage still intact.

LEON

Remember what he said about competition?

Danielle shudders, looks down at her bag.

LEON (O.S.)

You tell Tiff?

DANIELLE

Yeah, about that.

Leon spots the bag in Danielle's hands.

LEON
Trying to make up for last night?

Danielle purses her lips.

DANIELLE
Well...

Leon slowly takes the bag and peers inside.

DANIELLE
It's not what it looks like.

Leon grumbles, shakes his head, as he slowly pulls out the spirit phone.

DANIELLE
You're not going to believe what it does.

LEON
I suppose you bought a modem too?

DANIELLE
Leon.

LEON
An old phone, seriously?

Danielle says nothing.

Leon huffs, shoves the phone back into the bag.

LEON
Incredible.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
I thought those cheap looking pumpkins might have scared you off.

DANIELLE
The mall could really use the business.

LEON
That's your excuse? Really?

Danielle stammers until she suddenly finds the bag in her

hands.

LEON

Well, have fun with it.

Leon storms away.

DANIELLE

Leon?

Danielle snuffles, grips the bag as Tiffany walks up to her from behind her and pats her shoulder.

TIFFANY

Well, that was tragic.

Danielle chokes back tears as Tiffany slowly takes out the Laserdisc and raises it to her face.

TIFFANY

I know just what will cheer you up.

INT. TIFFANY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tiffany and Danielle watch the film, SCREAM on the TV. Tiffany's tombstone sits next to it along with a stack of horror movies. On the bed, the spirit phone sits in front of both girls, silent.

DANIELLE

I really screwed up this time.

TIFFANY

Come on, you got to have fun sometimes.

Danielle sighs, picks up the phone, stares at the buttons.

DANIELLE

Well, I guess this thing doesn't come with instructions.

TIFFANY

Don't I get a turn?

Danielle grumbles, hands Tiffany the phone.

Tiffany takes it.

TIFFANY

You need some sugar.

Tiffany pulls out a bowl of candy corn from behind her back and shoves it into her face.

Danielle snickers.

DANIELLE
Where the hell did you find that at
this time of year?

TIFFANY
I have my sources.

Danielle cracks a smile, grabs a handful of candy corn out of and pops some into her mouth.

Danielle returns her attention to the TV as Tiffany sets the bowl down and picks up the phone.

TIFFANY
Well, well, who should I call?

Suddenly, Danielle hears footsteps from the living room, she looks to the door.

CREAK

CREAK.

DANIELLE
Hey, did you remember to lock the
door?

TIFFANY
Of course I did.

Danielle shudders, pulls out Lucinda's business card from her pocket, stares at it.

TIFFANY
Oh, I know!

Tiffany dials a number.

DANIELLE
Hey, Tiffany.

Tiffany shushes Danielle and puts the phone to her ear.

DANIELLE
I think maybe we should...

LOUISE (O.S.)
Who is this?

Tiffany's jaw drops.

 TIFFANY
 (into the phone)
Grandma?

 LOUISE (O.S.)
Tiffany darling, is that your voice I
hear?

Tiffany chokes back tears as Danielle squeezes her hand.

 TIFFANY
 (into the phone)
Yeah, it's me.

 LOUISE (O.S.)
What have you been up too?

CRASH.

Tiffany and Danielle jump and whip their heads towards the door.

 DANIELLE
Hello?

Silence.

Danielle jumps up, tip-toes towards the door.

 LOUISE (O.S.)
Tiffany? Baby can you hear me?

 TIFFANY
 (into the phone)
Yeah, I'm still here.

INT. TIFFANY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danielle walks into the living room, all decked out in appropriate fall colors, and stares down at the ruins of a pumpkin sculpture.

Danielle bends down, picks up a shard, as a mysterious silhouette steps up to her from behind.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
I must say I love your friend's choice
of decor.

Danielle drops the pumpkin, whips her head around.

Nothing.

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Although, I must say it is a little...

Danielle swivels left to find The Reaper glaring at a
comically drawn cardboard cutout of the Grim Reaper in his
hands.

The Reaper scowls.

THE REAPER
Offensive.

Danielle darts back to the bedroom.

INT. TIFFANY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danielle rushes in, slams the door shut behind her, locks it.

TIFFANY
Dani?

DANIELLE
We need to leave.

TIFFANY
What?

Danielle scans the room, and quickly sets her sights on a
window near Tiffany's bed.

Danielle rushes forward, moves to open it, only to
instinctually look down.

Danielle gulps, her tongue quivers.

TIFFANY
Dani?

THE REAPER (O.S.)
Quite a rather spacious apartment for
a single woman such as yourself...

Tiffany freezes, whips her head around, to find herself face

to face with The Reaper.

THE REAPER
Wouldn't you agree?

Tiffany drops the phone, tries to get up.

DANIELLE
No!

The Reaper wraps the phone cord around Tiffany's neck, holds it back.

THE REAPER
Well, what do you think? Strangulation ought to be an easy one to figure out.

Danielle grits her teeth.

DANIELLE
Let her go!

The Reaper shoves the phone aside, grabs Tiffany's neck, pins her to the wall.

THE REAPER
Although, there's nothing wrong with the classic suffocation.

DANIELLE
Fuck you!

Danielle rushes forward, punches and kicks at The Reaper.

The Reaper sneers, shoves her to the ground.

THE REAPER
So many choices.

Danielle coughs, sits up, as The Reaper suddenly pulls out a large scythe from behind his back.

THE REAPER
I think I'll go for my signature.

The scythe touches the tip of Tiffany's cheek.

Tiffany shudders, her eyes brim.

TIFFANY
Please...

The Reaper snorts and plunges the scythe into her chest.

DANIELLE

No!

Tiffany slumps forward, dead.

DANIELLE

Why?

THE REAPER

It's what I do.

The Reaper pulls his scythe out, pushes Tiffany aside and whips out a cloth.

Danielle stumbles her way back towards the bedroom door.

DANIELLE

So, then, you're really...?

The Reaper cleans off his scythe.

THE REAPER

I would've thought that'd I'd made it obvious by now.

DANIELLE

But you, you look like...

THE REAPER

Death the Kid? I get that a-lot.

The Reaper breathes into the scythe, rubs the mark off with his cloth, and steps up to Tiffany's DVD's.

DANIELLE

So what? You kill just for fun? or...

THE REAPER

All part of the deal.

DANIELLE

What?

THE REAPER

If your father asks you to mow the lawn, do you use his brand new tractor, or the cheap push-mower ready to fall apart?

Danielle holds her breath as The Reaper picks up a series of DVD's and glares at the covers.

THE REAPER
Halloween, Final Destination, The
Butterfly Effect.

The Reaper shows Danielle the cover of a Final Destination DVD.

THE REAPER
Pure inspiration.

Danielle bolts out the door.

INT. TIFFANY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danielle rushes towards the front door only to collide with, The Reaper.

THE REAPER
Ah ah.

Danielle grabs several ceramic Halloween figures off the coffee table behind her and chucks them at The Reaper.

The Reaper catches one mid-flight and lifts it to his face.

THE REAPER
A genuine Hallmark miniature, how
interesting.

Danielle chucks another one at The Reaper.

The model smashes into his face and breaks upon impact.

THE REAPER
I normally don't like to collect
outside of my schedule, but...

DANIELLE
We did nothing too you.

The Reaper whips out the spirit phone from behind his back.

THE REAPER
You drive quite a hard bargain.

Danielle stammers, she fidgets.

The Reaper sneers, drops the phone, and raises the scythe

over his head.

Danielle seals herself to her fate, until she hears...

KNOCK-KNOCK.

Danielle opens her eyes to only find, nothing.

Danielle rushes to the door and flings it open.

LEON

Look, about what I said...

Danielle throws herself into Leon's arm, sobs.

LEON

Hey, what's the matter?

Danielle cocks her head towards the bedroom. Leon darts towards it as Danielle slowly drops to her knees.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - UPPER LEVEL - DAY

Danielle sits on the ground, in Leon's arms with Louann standing next to them.

LOUANN

I'm here if you want to talk about it.

Danielle buries her face into Leon's chest.

Louann nods, re-enters the store as Leon gently strokes Danielle's back.

LEON

You sure you want to be here?

DANIELLE

I don't feel safe anywhere else.

Leon pulls Danielle in closer until he quickly spots, Thomas, standing in front of an empty store across from them.

Leon arises.

DANIELLE

Leon?

Leon jogs over to Thomas.

THOMAS

Quite a depressing sight, if I do say so myself.

LEON

What the hell are you doing here?

THOMAS

I'm this mall's leasing manager, am I not?

Leon snorts as Danielle slowly steps up to him and places her hand on his shoulder.

DANIELLE

Shouldn't you be at your office?

THOMAS

I've been conducting my own little investigation.

LEON

On our Mr. Reaper?

Thomas nods, turns to his right and watches two STORE EMPLOYEES (19, 18) converse with each other, both carrying G.R. bags.

THOMAS

There's been some chatter among my tenants regarding his recent "activities", so...

DANIELLE

You mean?

THOMAS

Fraternizing, with the other store managers, so to speak.

LEON

So, I guess that means you'll be sticking around for lunch?

Thomas snorts, grumbles as Danielle nudges Leon in the arm.

DANIELLE

Leon.

LEON

What? I heard Sbarro's offering a 3

for 1 deal for all staff, managers included.

THOMAS
You know I hate like pizza.

LEON
Ain't that the point?

DANIELLE
You were saying?

Thomas clears his throat, steps forward.

THOMAS
Tell me Leon, has this "Mr. G." made any attempts to sell anything to you, goad you into buying his merchandise?

Leon smirks.

LEON
I didn't know you cared.

Danielle abruptly pulls Leon aside.

DANIELLE
Leon...

LEON
You don't know the kind of hell he put me through.

THOMAS (O.S.)
I tried, Leon.

Leon flips around, his eye's meet Thomas's. They are red, soaked.

THOMAS
I really did.

LEON
Missing out on my graduation, senior prom, having to teach myself to drive!

THOMAS
I wish I could have been there but, with all my work...

LEON

You think that shit matters too me,
huh?

Danielle purses her lips, steps aside.

LEON

You and your fucking deadlines!

Thomas trembles, he slowly raises his hand.

Leon slams his fist against Thomas's face.

DANIELLE

Leon!

Thomas hits the ground as Danielle pulls Leon back.

Thomas trembles, spits out blood.

DANIELLE

Maybe we should get back to work.

LEON

Yeah, your right, we should.

Leon shoves Danielle off, enters the store as Danielle rushes over and helps Thomas to his feet.

DANIELLE

Dad.

THOMAS

Thank you.

Danielle squeezes Thomas's shoulder, kisses him on the cheek, and rushes into the store.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - DAY

Leon brushes by Louann at the top of ladder, fiddling with another sign that reads:

BLOWOUT SALE!

LOUANN

Could you hand me that stapler?

Leon ignores her, throws open the door to the backroom and slams it shut with a THUD.

Louann grumbles and reaches for the stapler. The ladder slowly teeters to the left as Danielle speeds by and hits the ladder with her shoulder.

Louann slips as she and the ladder clatter to the ground.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - STOREROOM - DAY

Leon sits at bench, his face buried in his hands.

DANIELLE

You know, it's not usually good to hold it in.

Leon looks up, his eyes' meet Danielle's.

Danielle sits down, slides forward.

LEON

I'm sure you remember her.

Danielle looks towards her phone in her pocket.

LEON

Dani?

DANIELLE

Sorry, you were saying?

LEON

Well, back when I was younger, not too long after I met you, she got into this accident.

DANIELLE

Was it serious?

LEON

It paralyzed her whole body, left her bound in a wheelchair.

Danielle squeezes Leon's hand.

LEON

The diagnosis was critical.

Leon's fingers dig into his jeans.

DANIELLE

Well?

LEON
Guillain-Barre syndrome, it's a disorder that causes the body's immune system to attack nerve cells.

Danielle stares back at her phone.

LEON
It's usually a non-fatal disease in most cases, but for her...

DANIELLE
Hey, Leon, there's something...

Leon interrupts her.

LEON
You know, he pulled out all the stops for her funeral, even went as far as to renting out three limos.

Leon sighs, lifts his head towards the ceiling.

LEON
But even after all that, after everything...

Danielle reaches into her pocket and takes out her phone.

LEON
Dani?

DANIELLE
I never told you what that phone could do.

Leon stares at the phone, his eye's go wide.

Leon frantically grabs Danielle, shakes her.

LEON
Dani?

DANIELLE
I'm so sorry.

Leon clutches Danielle tenderly and balls his eyes out.

INT. LEON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Leon examines several weather-related charts on his bed as

Walter Hutton explains the weather on the TV.

WALTER

As you can see here, there is severe tornadic activity present in this clusters of supercells that have formed just south of Monroeville.

Leon stares at the TV.

WALTER

All folks hearing this report should please consider taking shelter. I repeat, these are violent storms with significant tornado activity.

Leon shuts off the television, stares down at his papers.

KNOCK.

Leon looks up at the tapestry above his window. It shakes back and forth against the wall.

Leon jumps up, strides towards the window, pulls back the curtains.

The bedroom shakes, the windows rattle, the sound of a train fills the air followed by a tornado siren.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - UPPER LEVEL - DAY

Danielle glares at her phone with Louann next to him.

LOUANN

You try calling him?

Danielle nods, looks out towards the atrium, fidgets.

LOUANN

Look, I'm sure he's alright.

LEON (O.S.)

Dani!

Danielle flips around as Leon thrusts himself into her arms.

DANIELLE

I thought you were...

LEON

Dead? Almost.

Danielle pulls away, looks towards Leon's bruised arm, her eyes go wide.

DANIELLE

Leon...

LOUANN

Those look pretty serious.

LEON

Where's The Reaper?

Louann points towards the atrium.

Leon and Danielle rush towards the escalators.

LOUANN

Shouldn't you be in the hospital?

Leon and Danielle step on.

Louann huffs, throws her hands up, and walks back into the store.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - G.R.'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Leon storms into the store with Danielle and slams the tapestry down on the counter with a THUD.

The Reaper slowly turns around.

THE REAPER

Welcome back, Leon.

THE REAPER

Danielle.

DANIELLE

I know what you are.

THE REAPER

Congratulations, you get a prize.

The Reaper whips out a bowl of Halloween themed buttons and holds it out for the pair.

Leon smacks the bowl out of The Reaper's hands.

THE REAPER

Oh my, what a temper.

Leon's eyes twitches, he clenches his fists.

LEON
What are you?

THE REAPER
I am everything you're supposed to
fear.

The Reaper pulls out a cloth of *Grim* from *The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy* and shows it to them.

THE REAPER
Won't you be my friend?

LEON
Fucking bastard!

Leon jumps onto the counter and throws himself at The Reaper.

DANIELLE
Leon!

The Reaper grabs Leon and tosses him to the ground.

Danielle rushes to Leon's side as The Reaper straightens his tie.

LEON
That was everything I had.

THE REAPER
It was a demonstration.

DANIELLE
Demonstration?

THE REAPER
A testament, to the power I have.

Leon's mouth twitches, his body trembles like a leaf.

DANIELLE
Just what is this store? These,
things?

THE REAPER
They are of no importance.

The Reaper takes off a snow globe off the counter and bends down.

THE REAPER
What only matters is...

The Reaper shakes the snow globe and hands it to Danielle.

THE REAPER
Who buys them.

Danielle takes the globe as she and Leon peer inside. An old rotting, and rather realistic looking skull stares back at them.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - THOMAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Thomas scans the contents of a paper as Walden Galleria's manager ANDREW FISHER (40s) watches from one of Thomas's chair's.

THOMAS
Are you certain of this?

Andrew nods his head as Kathy pulls the door open.

THOMAS
So, it can be considered a breach of contract than?

Andrew nods as Leon and Danielle step inside.

THOMAS
Thank you.

Andrew stands up, grabs his briefcase and exits as Kathy shuts the door behind him.

THOMAS
I'm surprised you came back, given our last argument.

LEON
We didn't have that much of a choice.

Leon trembles.

THOMAS
Is there something else I should know about?

Leon snuffles, turns to the window.

LEON
Channel 5.

Thomas pulls up the news website, and clicks on the article.

APARTMENT COMPLEX DECIMATED BY TORNADO.

Thomas sighs, closes the browser.

Leon and Danielle sit down in the two puffy green chairs.

THOMAS
I take it you found about his
business?

DANIELLE
Yeah, it's not just your everyday run-
of-the-mill dollar store, right?

Thomas grabs the report of Randall Park out from a stack of papers to his right and slides it forward.

LEON
A police report?

THOMAS
Take a look.

Leon and Danielle read from the top.

DANIELLE
Randall Park Mall?

LEON
I thought that placed closed down
years ago?

THOMAS
Turn the page.

Sweat drips off Leon's fingers as he carefully turns the page. The couple's eyes go wide, their jaw's drop.

LEON
Holy shit.

THOMAS (O.S.)
56 out of the mall's 124 store
managers were reported missing just
days before it closed.

THOMAS

There bodies were never found.

Thomas motions towards the bottom paper.

Leon and Danielle look down and spot the name of a familiar tenant.

DANIELLE

Mr. G.?

THOMAS

No known last name.

LEON

There's no way.

Thomas sighs, takes out a copy of the Monroeville Mall's lease plan and stares down at it.

Leon and Danielle shift their eyes towards it. Black X's over the spaces litter the document in front of them.

DANIELLE

And the other 68?

THOMAS

All accounted for, and in great shock mind you.

LEON

How'd you get this report?

THOMAS

I had my secretary run a thorough background check on our Mr. G's history.

DANIELLE

And?

Thomas groans, stands up.

THOMAS

Well, as it turns out, we're not the only mall's he's been doing business with.

Thomas grabs out a paper from within the stack and throws it down in front of the couple.

Leon opens it up, flips through the pages.

THOMAS
Northland Center, Century III Mall,
Euclid Square...

Leon and Danielle slowly come to a stop at a page.

THOMAS
...all reported similar disappearances
shortly before they closed.

Leon flips to another page.

THOMAS
I think you both can gather the rest.

Thomas stops near the window, stares out it.

LEON
So than, how are we supposed to stop
him?

THOMAS
I might have found a way to remove
him, legally of course.

Leon and Danielle watch as Thomas sits back down, pulls out
The Reaper's lease agreement, and points towards the bottom.

THOMAS
Look where it's highlighted.

Leon and Danielle look towards the aforementioned section.

LEON
Solicitation?

DANIELLE
Seriously?

THOMAS
Call it murder in the first degree,
for mall standards that is.

LEON
How so?

THOMAS
I caught him trying to give one of his
"decorations" to the guy that owns the

liquor store, poor thing.

LEON

And?

THOMAS

Needless to say he's been doing a little self-promotion.

DANIELLE

So, we've got him than, right?

THOMAS

Not quite.

LEON

Dad?

Thomas groans, furrows his brow.

THOMAS

I need solid proof that our Mr. G. is indeed, violating the terms of the agreement.

LEON

And by proof you mean?

THOMAS

Photographs, video evidence, something tangible.

DANIELLE

What about questioning the other tenants? Surveillance cameras?

THOMAS

They're refusing to say anything, naturally out of fear, of course. As for the camera's...

Thomas reaches underneath his desk and heaves a destroyed security camera onto the top.

Leon and Danielle stare at the camera, eyes wide.

LEON

I thought you ran this place? Or was I wrong?

The phone on Thomas desk suddenly rings.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
I'm busy, what is it?

Thomas's jaw drop's.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
Another one? Are you certain?

Leon and Danielle fidget.

THOMAS
(into the phone)
Of course, thank you.

Thomas sets down on the phone, slams down a notepad and picks up a pen.

LEON
Dad?

THOMAS
I'm afraid something's come up.

Thomas scribbles onto the pad.

LEON
You can't be serious.

THOMAS
I'll have Kathy send you both over a copy of the report.

LEON
Don't do this, not again.

Thomas continues writing.

Leon huffs, shakes his head.

LEON
This is bullshit and you know it.

DANIELLE
Leon.

THOMAS
I'm doing everything in my power.

Leon with one furious swipe, knocks everything off of

Thomas's desk, expect for the computer.

LEON
Bullshit!

Danielle shudders, steps back.

THOMAS
Leon...

LEON
We've got him cornered and your still
clinging to your principles!

Thomas slowly sets down the pen, stands up.

THOMAS
If you have something to say you might
as well do it now.

LEON
To think I ever looked up to you.
Wanted to be like you!

DANIELLE
Leon.

THOMAS
I'm sorry you feel that way, but know
that I will always have your back.

Thomas bends down, picks up the picture of Leon (8) and
Valerie (now cracked) and places it on the desk in front of
Leon.

THOMAS
Always.

Leon snorts, turns to leave.

LEON
Come on Dani.

Leon kicks the door open and storms out of the office.

DANIELLE
I'm sorry.

Danielle rushes after Leon as Thomas sighs, lowers his head.

INT. LEON'S CAR - DAY

Leon slams his head against the steering wheel.

DANIELLE

Hey!

Danielle leans forward, grabs Leon's head, and flips it around.

DANIELLE

Relax.

Leon bites his tongue, takes a deep breath, and sighs.

LEON

So, what do you think we should do now?

Danielle pulls out Lucinda's business card.

LEON

Hey now, what's that you got there?

DANIELLE

Help.

EXT. LUCINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Leon and Danielle pull into Lucinda's driveway in Leon's car and stop.

INT. LEON'S CAR - DAY

LEON

Ready?

Danielle nods.

Leon and Danielle exit.

EXT. LUCINDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Leon and Danielle knock at Lucinda's door.

Lucinda opens it, pokes her head out.

LUCINDA

Danielle, what a pleasant surprise.

DANIELLE

We're here to take you up on your offer.

Lucinda stares at Leon, pulls the door open.

Leon and Danielle rush in.

INT. LUCINDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leon and Danielle stare around Lucinda's empty room as she closes the door and walks towards a chair with a newspaper on it.

LUCINDA

Have a seat anywhere.

The two walks towards a largely empty sofa and take a seat as Lucinda clears off the contents of the nightstand near the chair.

LUCINDA

I'm sorry about your friend.

LEON

How do you know...?

Lucinda grabs the newspaper off her chair and tosses it to Leon.

Leon takes it, stares at the headline.

MURDER ROCKS MONROEVILLE!

Danielle sniffles, looks away.

Leon tosses the paper aside, puts his arms around her, and pulls her close.

LUCINDA

You're here about Mr. G.?

LEON

Yeah, how do you know about him?

Lucinda pulls out a deck of tarot cards from inside the table and sits down.

DANIELLE

Playing cards?

Lucinda cracks open the box, takes the cards out, begins shuffling.

LUCINDA
Do you two know the art of divination?

LEON
Divination?

LUCINDA
Tarot.

Danielle shakes her head.

LEON
It's like some kind of game, right?

Lucinda huffs, glares at Leon, finishes shuffling.

LUCINDA
Ready?

Leon and Danielle nod.

Lucinda lays out three cards on the coffee table in front of her and sets the deck down beside them.

LEON
Now what?

Lucinda slowly lifts the cards up one by one, revealing in order...

THE DEVIL

THE CHARIOT

JUDGEMENT

Lucinda closes her eyes and moves her hand over The Devil card.

LEON
Heh, the Devil.

LUCINDA
You had a very difficult childhood
didn't you?

Leon scowls.

LEON

What's that supposed to mean?

Lucinda taps her finger on the Chariot card.

LUCINDA

However, you're improving, learning to overcome obstacles, challenging the path that's been laid ahead of you.

Leon and Danielle watch, mouths agape, as Lucinda moves her hand over the Judgement card.

LUCINDA

This will allow you to grow into your best self.

LEON

Best self?

LUCINDA

To become the person you truly are.

Leon smirks, beams.

LEON

Alright.

DANIELLE

What about me?

Lucinda opens her eyes, scoops the cards up and places them back inside the deck. She and Leon watch, eyes wide, as Lucinda shuffles and quickly places three cards back down on the table.

Lucinda slowly lifts them up, one by one, revealing...

THE EMPRESS

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

THE TOWER

Lucinda shuts her eyes as Danielle stares at The Empress's magnificent fur coat and golden crown.

DANIELLE

She's beautiful.

LUCINDA

You're very kind, easy to get along
with, good at making connections.

Lucinda slowly moves her hand over the Wheel of Fortune card.
Suddenly, the lights above them begin to flicker.

LUCINDA

However, your circumstances are
changing. Power shifting to the
opposite direction.

LEON

Towards?

Lucinda slowly moves her hand over the Tower card. The room
begins to shake.

Danielle's eyes go wide, Leon grabs her arm.

DANIELLE

Leon?

LEON

Hey? You might want to stop.

LUCINDA

Unless you manage to change what fate
has in store for you, your tale will
come to an end.

DANIELLE

What?

Leon snaps his fingers in front of Lucinda's face.

LEON

Hey!

Lucinda opens her eyes.

The room stops shaking.

Leon and Danielle stare up at the lights as Lucinda collects
the cards and places them back in the deck.

LUCINDA

You know about his business?

Leon and Danielle watch as Lucinda places the cards back in
the nightstand and stands up.

LEON

Yeah, some kind of pawn shop for souls, right?

Lucinda walks towards a photograph of a MAN, (50s) on a table near the kitchen and stops.

LUCINDA

It is said that sometime long ago, as the world slowly took shape, some of God's creations began to look to more intuitive ways to harvest souls.

LEON

Intuitive?

Lucinda picks up the picture and stares intently at the man.

LUCINDA

My how times have changed.

Lucinda sets down the picture, opens the drawer next to her, and digs her hand around inside of it.

LUCINDA

I've been following those of his kind for years.

LEON

Kind?

LUCINDA

Reapers, Soul Collector's, Demons.

DANIELLE

Why?

Lucinda turns back to the picture.

LUCINDA

My husband happened his shop one day at a strip mall up in Portland.

Lucinda takes out a small resonating device, resembling a tambourine.

LUCINDA

It wasn't long after that he came to collect.

Lucinda shuts the drawer, walks over to Leon.

LEON
Just because he bought something from
him? Right?

LUCINDA
It's like signing a contract.

Lucinda stares down at the strange device in her hands.

LUCINDA
Part of his power, in exchange for...

DANIELLE
Your soul.

Leon's eyes go wide.

LEON
That weird phone.

Lucinda hands Leon the device.

LEON
A tambourine?

LUCINDA
It's a soul beacon, known to ward off
the most evil of entities.

Lucinda looks back towards the picture of her husband.

LUCINDA
I'm afraid we're out of time. I hope
I've answered all your questions.

Leon takes Danielle's hand.

LEON
Thanks for the lesson.

Leon and Danielle stand up and turn to leave.

LUCINDA
I hope you both don't plan on taking
him on alone?

Leon, with one hand on the knob, stops, mid-opening.

LEON
Yeah, so what if we do?

LUCINDA

Well, let's just say your Mr. Reaper
is known to carry a grudge.

Lucinda's eyes slowly meet Danielle's.

LUCINDA

He will come for you.

Danielle trembles, looks to Leon.

Leon pulls Danielle out of the house and slams the door shut
behind him.

As Leon's car is heard screeching out of the driveway,
Lucinda steps back up to the picture, sighs, and flips it
down.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - OFFICE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Thomas closes the door, briefcase in hand, and stops in front
of Kathy's desk.

THOMAS

Any word on Mr. G?

Kathy shakes her head.

THOMAS

Send an email out to Tanger Outlet's
leasing manager. Tell him, I wish to
speak with him.

Kathy nods, stares at Thomas's briefcase.

KATHY

Retiring early?

THOMAS

I figured I could use a break.

KATHY

I'll lock up for you once I've
finished up with these files.

THOMAS

Thank you.

Thomas walks away, towards the elevators.

Thomas steps up to one, presses the DOWN Button on the panel.

Suddenly, from behind him, a RUSTLE.

THOMAS

Kathy?

Thomas whips his head around, looks towards Kathy's desk.

Nobody's there.

Thomas furrows his brow.

DING!

Thomas jumps back, stares into the elevator, relaxes.

Thomas straightens his suit and enters.

INT. CBL PROPERTIES - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Thomas fidgets, stares at the buttons.

The lights shut off, the elevator stops.

Thomas frantically looks up, presses the emergency button.

Nothing.

Thomas drops his briefcase, steps up to the doors, pounds his fists against them.

THOMAS

Hello? Dammit is anyone out there?

Thomas strains his hand.

Thomas groans, staggers back and grabs the both doors. Thomas, gritting his teeth, yanks them open, revealing, a familiar figure.

THE REAPER

Greetings, Mr. Stone.

Thomas grabs his briefcase off the ground, straightens his coat.

THOMAS

I was just leaving, excuse me.

Thomas shoves The Reaper aside and exits.

INT. THOMAS'S LINCOLN - NIGHT

Thomas shuts the door and puts the key in the ignition.

THE REAPER (O.S.)

So soon?

Thomas freezes, his mouth quivers.

THE REAPER

I was under the impression that you
wanted to chat?

Thomas looks into the rearview mirror.

Darkness.

THOMAS

What business do you have with my
mall?

THE REAPER

Only that I collect my profits and
fulfill the terms of the lease; just
as we agreed upon, correct?

Thomas snorts, shakes his head.

THE REAPER

You have a problem with that now, I
take it?

Thomas, boldly and confidently stares into the rearview
mirror.

THOMAS

I know what you're really up to. Be
rest assured that I will stop you.

The Reaper chuckles, a piece of metal scraps against the
door.

THE REAPER

I'm afraid you misunderstand, Mr.
Stone.

Thomas slowly swivels around.

THE REAPER

I haven't done anything at all.

The blade of a hand sickle pokes out from the darkness.

EXT. THOMAS LINCOLN - NIGHT

The Lincoln rocks back and forth.

Suddenly...

Blood and pieces of Thomas splatter over the windows.

INT. DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danielle, in bed, looks to Leon, on the other side.

DANIELLE

Well?

Leon grumbles, sets his phone down.

LEON

Nothing.

DANIELLE

You think we went to G.R.s?

LEON

No, he wouldn't be that stupid.

Leon takes his shirt off, lays down next to Danielle.

DANIELLE

Why do you do this to yourself?

LEON

Dani?

Danielle shoots Leon a glare.

LEON

Look, we saw him, didn't we?

Danielle huffs, turns around.

LEON

Well, maybe your right...

DANIELLE

I'm sorry, what was that?

LEON

I mean, he did give me my job at

Louann's.

DANIELLE

And?

LEON

Paid for our whole trip to Disney
World.

Danielle inches forward, puts her hands on Leon's cheek and
kisses him on the lips.

LEON

It's kind of surreal now though isn't
it?

DANIELLE

That?

LEON

That I'm fighting to protect the one
guy who stood in the way of my
childhood.

Danielle chuckles.

LEON

What?

DANIELLE

I don't know, seems kind of noble to
me.

Leon smirks, kisses her on the cheek, gets out of bed.

DANIELLE

Where are you going?

LEON

What, I need permission to use your
bathroom now?

Danielle giggles, flops back down as Leon enters the bathroom
and slams the door shut.

INT. DANIELLE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Leon turns on the light, flips open the toilet lid. As he
pees, a loud GURGLE erupts below him.

Leon furrows his brow, zips up his pants and peers inside.

A large black spider suddenly JUMPS out, onto Leon's face.

LEON

Fuck!

Leon jumps back and into the bathtub.

Leon rips the spider off and tosses it to the ground.

CLINK.

Leon turns back at the toilet, his eyes go wide.

Leon bolts out of the room as a mass of tiny black spiders pour out from within the toilet and scramble towards the bedroom.

INT. DANIELLE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Leon frantically slams the door shut.

DANIELLE

Leon?

Leon grabs a blanket off the bed and throws it underneath the door.

Danielle watches Leon as he picks up a pair of slippers and raises them out in front of him.

LEON

Don't move.

Danielle stares at the door, her eyes go wide.

The carpet of spiders sliver out from behind bathroom door and into the room.

Danielle screams, grabs a pillow as Leon rushes forward and smashes the slippers down on them.

LEON

Stay back!

Danielle inches closer towards the back of the bed as Leon smacks away.

The spiders change direction, towards a vent in the wall.

Leon drops the slippers and stomps onto the spiders with his bare feet.

CRUNCH.

CRUNCH.

Danielle tosses the pillow at the swarm. It bounces off the wall as the spiders quickly disappear into the vent.

LEON
You alright?

Danielle relaxes as Leon lifts up his foot.

LEON
Gross.

DANIELLE
Where the hell did they all come from?

Leon's eyes dart towards the toilet, to the device next to Danielle.

INT. LEON'S CAR - DAY

As Leon (phone in ear) and Danielle pull into the CBL Property building they spot an ambulance and several police cars near Thomas's bloody Lincoln.

Leon lowers the phone.

LEON
No.

EXT. CBL PROPERTIES - DAY

Leon and Danielle watch helplessly as two EMT's lift Thomas's body into an ambulance. As they close the doors and step away, a police officer, MASON (20s), turns to them.

LEON
I, I can't...

Danielle turns to him.

DANIELLE
We need a minute, thanks.

Mason nods his head and turns away. As he heads back to the building, Leon steps up to his car and crumbles to the ground.

DANIELLE

Leon.

LEON

It's not fair.

Danielle bends down, lowers her head as Leon looks to the sky.

LEON

Fuck you! You hear me!

Danielle gently places her arm on Leon's back.

DANIELLE

Leon.

Leon grits his teeth as he watches a POLICEMAN (20s) snap a photo of the inside of Thomas's Lincoln.

LEON

Son of a bitch!

Leon, his face bright red, punches the pavement with his fist.

LEON

Always leaving me with his mess to clean up!

Danielle hugs Leon.

DANIELLE

Do this for me, OK?

LEON

But, I...

Danielle, pulls away, stares into his eyes.

DANIELLE

I believe in you.

Leon snuffles, nods as he and Danielle as the ambulance roars to life.

KATHY (O.S.)

Hey, you guys alright?

Leon and Danielle stand up as Kathy steps forward with The Reaper's lease agreement.

LEON
Yeah, how are you holding up?

KATHY
I've never seen so much blood.

Kathy whips her to the Lincoln, turns away, shudders.

Leon stares down at the agreement in her hands.

LEON
What's that?

Kathy hands him the document.

KATHY
The lease agreement, the one he had
Mr. G sign.

Leon takes it, stares down at it.

LEON
Why are you giving us this?

KATHY
Mr. Stone seemed convinced you'd be
able to use whatever it is he found in
there against him.

Mason calls over Kathy.

KATHY
Good luck.

Kathy walks away as Leon raises his brow.

LEON
I thought he said?

As the ambulance carrying Thomas speeds away, Leon kicks the
his car door, denting it.

DANIELLE
Leon.

Leon murmurs to himself, stares at the agreement, stuffs it
into his pocket.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
This ends, now.

Leon and Danielle enter Leon's car.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - JOS A. BANK STORE - DAY

Leon and Danielle run up to Louann, adjusting a sign near the fitting rooms, with a bandage around her arm.

LOUANN
I was hoping you two would show up.

LEON
How's everything holding up?

LOUANN
We're all still in one piece.

Leon and Danielle relax, scan the store.

LOUANN
I heard what happened to Mr. Stone.

Louann grumbles, shakes her head.

LOUANN
It's horrible, and to think after all that he did for this place.

LEON
We don't have that much time.

LOUANN
Leon?

DANIELLE
Where's The Reaper?

Louann points towards the escalators.

Leon and Danielle rush out.

LOUANN
You know.

Leon and Danielle dash down the corridor.

LOUANN
I really could use the extra help.

Leon and Danielle rush past the windows as Louann grumbles, shakes her head.

LOUANN

Typical.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - G.R.'S EMPORIUM - DAY

Leon and Danielle rush towards the store where they find the emporium locked up.

Leon furiously shakes the gate with all his might.

LEON

Dammit!

DANIELLE

Now what?

Leon rushes towards the atrium.

INT. MONROEVILLE MALL - ATRIUM - DAY

Leon and Danielle come to a stop in front of the escalator where they find The Reaper standing in front of a coffee booth, sipping a cup of coffee.

Leon narrows his eyes at The Reaper, he steps forward.

LEON

You...

The Reaper lowers the cup and places it back on the plate.

THE REAPER

And how are you this afternoon, Leon?

Danielle holds Leon back.

LEON

I'll fucking kill you!

The Reaper takes another sip of coffee.

THE REAPER

You should be grateful.

LEON

What?

THE REAPER

Nothing left to idolize, isn't that
just swell?

Leon throws his fists at The Reaper, spits at him, as
Danielle holds him back.

DANIELLE

What more do you want?

THE REAPER

Take a look around you.

Leon and Danielle, stop, look around the mall.

The mall is empty, vacant, devoid of all life, expect for
Carly Simon's Coming Around Again.

LEON

I don't see anything.

THE REAPER

And that's all there is to see, isn't
it?

The Reaper sets down his cup, throws out his arms.

THE REAPER

A monument to consumerism, the epitome
of the American dream, all left here
to rot like yesterday's Sunday paper.

The Reaper sneers, kicks away a plastic cup with his feet.

THE REAPER

I'm sure Victor Gruen would be
ecstatic.

DANIELLE

You won't win.

THE REAPER

Do you both know how tedious my work
can be?

LEON

I can't imagine.

The Reaper paces around a palm tree.

THE REAPER

Night in and night out, I get cries
from hundreds, no thousands of weary
deprived souls; each of them begging,
no, groveling, mercilessly at my
feet..

The Reaper scowls at a pair of discarded shopping bags.

THE REAPER

They beg for another chance at life
but squander it at every opportunity.

(pause)

It's Pathetic. Pitiful, even.

Leon snickers.

The Reaper sneers, flips around.

THE REAPER

Was that a laugh, I just heard?

LEON

Sounds like a lot of whining coming
from a guy who's supposed to be
intimidating.

The Reaper snorts.

THE REAPER

What?

DANIELLE

You heard him.

THE REAPER

All I'm asking for is a little
sympathy.

Leon and Danielle stand their ground.

The Reaper sneers, looks up at the skylight.

THE REAPER

Hmph. And to think I try to be
sensible every once in a while.

Leon and Danielle stiffen, their eyes go wide as they watch
The Reaper pull out his scythe from behind his back.

Leon shoves Danielle behind him.

LEON
Dani, get back.

The Reaper steps forward, extends his scythe.

THE REAPER
You've both been a thorn in my side
for far too long.

Leon rips out the device (the "soul beacon") and throws it out in front of him.

The sight of it causes The Reaper to stop in his tracks.

THE REAPER
Well, I've see you had some help.

Leon maintains his stance as The Reaper sneers, he grips the edge of his scythe.

THE REAPER
No matter.

The Reaper takes a step back and charges at Leon.

A bright blue light glows explodes out of the device, blinding The Reaper.

Leon, seizing the moment, rushes forward and punches The Reaper in the face.

The Reaper staggers back, licks the blood off his lips, and charges forward.

The Reaper slashes his scythe at Leon.

Leon dashes left, narrowly missing it and blasts another beam of light at The Reaper.

The Reaper dodges it, jumps into the air, and flies towards Leon.

Leon jumps onto the escalators and fires the beam at The Reaper like a cannon.

The light hits The Reaper's shoulder, scarring his skin.

The Reaper, sneers, yanks off his suit jacket and lands onto the escalator, in front of Leon.

The Reaper swings his scythe at Leon like a sword.

Leon dodges, left, right, up, down, as he crawls up the escalator.

Danielle unable to take her eyes off the pair, spots the lease agreement on the floor and lunges towards it.

The Reaper bellows and plunges his scythe down onto Leon's head.

Leon jumps off the escalator, crashes onto the floor, as a thunderous boom suddenly rattles the mall.

LEON

What?

The Reaper looks up at the skylight, sniffs the air.

THE REAPER

Ah, I love a good summer storm.

Danielle furiously flips through the pages of the agreement.

Leon raises the device and fires another beam at The Reaper.

The Reaper dodges it, jumps off the escalator and swipes his scythe at Leon.

Back...

Forth...

Back...

and forth...

until Leon's back against the wall.

The Reaper grabs Leon by the throat, lifts him up in the air.

A security photo of The Reaper pops out from within the agreement.

Danielle's eyes go wide.

Leon huffs, gasps for air, as he furiously kicks at The Reaper.

THE REAPER

You're nothing more than an insect, a bug that deserves to be crushed.

Leon gasps, tries to speak.

THE REAPER
What's that? I can't hear you.

The Reaper tightens his grip around Leon's neck.

DANIELLE (O.S.)
Wait!

The Reaper sneers, he flips around as Danielle slides forward the photo.

The Reaper drops Leon, storms up to the photo, and picks it up.

DANIELLE
Well?

The Reaper grumbles, drops the photograph and places his scythe behind his back. It vanishes as Danielle rushes over to Leon.

LEON
Really, that's it?

THE REAPER
Solicitation is a criminal offense,
I'm afraid.

Leon snorts as The Reaper straightens his collar.

THE REAPER
I can't have that on my record.

LEON
So you're just going to leave? After
everything you've done?

THE REAPER
My time here is nearly up, and
besides...

The Reaper narrows his eye's at Danielle, pats his pocket watch

THE REAPER
I'll be seeing you both again, very
soon.

Leon and Danielle watch as The Reaper shoves his hands in his

pockets and disappears behind the escalators, into the darkness.

Danielle relaxes.

DANIELLE
Thank god that worked.

Leon snickers.

DANIELLE
Leon?

LEON
I never took you for a lawyer.

Danielle cracks a smile, picks up the photograph, stares at it.

DANIELLE
You know, it's a shame really.

LEON
That?

Danielle drops the photo.

DANIELLE
That that was it.

Leon chuckles, kisses Danielle.

Leon suddenly pulls away, puts a hand to his stomach.

DANIELLE
What? Still upset?

LEON
No, it's just that well...

Leon stomach growls.

LEON
I could really go for a slice of pizza right now.

Danielle grumbles.

DANIELLE
Wow.

LEON
What, not hungry?

Danielle smirks, grab's Leon's hand.

LEON
Uh, Dani?

DANIELLE
I've got something better in mind.

Danielle pulls Leon away past the escalators and out of the mall as Carly Simon's *Anticipation* echoes down the empty corridors.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Leon stands in front of a greenscreen as the chief weatherman, Walter Hutton hands him a cue card.

WALTER
You sure you're ready for this?

Leon, dressed in a beige suit with red tie, nods.

Walter claps his hands.

WALTER
Alright, people let's do this.

Walter gives Leon a pat on the back and exits.

Leon straightens his tie as the camera moves towards him, centering on him.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
And now your local forecast, with Leon Stone.

Leon turns towards the camera and brandishes the best smile he can muster.

LEON
Good morning Philadelphia, we are looking at some exceptionally cloudy skies today...

Leon slowly turns towards the screen and extends his hands over a map.

INT. DANIELLE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Leon lowers his arm.

LEON

We've also got some pretty heavy
showers headed over your way so you
might want to grab that umbrella if
you're in the Monroeville area cause
it's going to be a downer.

Danielle snickers.

A soft RUSTLE catches her attention.

Danielle sits up, walks towards the front door, bends down.

LEON (O.S.)

And that's all we have left for you
today...

Danielle picks up a tarot card from the ground and flips it
around.

THE TOWER

The sound of car engine descends upon the house.

Danielle's eyes go wide. She drops the card, stands up.

BAM!

Darkness.

END