

THE SILENCE OF RUNNING WATER

Curt Dennis, Max Mir

FADE IN

1. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

FUNKY MUSIC plays in the background as a hand turns on a SINK FAUCET.

TSSSSSSSHHHH!

Water runs out, onto a dirty plate.

LINA, 30's, but a mature 30, moves her booty to the music as she cleans the plate. And once it's clean, she...

THUD!

...drops it loudly in the DRYING RACK.

She takes another plate from in the sink. As before, she cleans it, moving with the music, ending with a loud...

THUD!

...as she puts in the drying rack.

She spins around to the music, soaking in the tunes as she walks towards the...

2. INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TABLE- it has a couple more PLATES and CUPS on it, almost like there was a dinner party going on previously.

SQUEAK!

Lina looks under her foot. There's a DOG'S SQUEAK TOY under it. Confusion on her face as she picks it up. But she let's it slide as she gets back in her groove.

She puts it back on the table, unaware of her vibrating phone on the countertop behind.

BZZZZ! BZZZZ!

Lina picks up the rest of the dishes. Turns around, notices her ringing phone.

3. INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Runs over, puts the dishes on the counter, and goes to answer her phone.

LINA  
Hello? Hello?!?!?

Looks at her phone. Sees she missed a call from MANDY.

LINA (CONT'D)

Ah shit.

Beat. Then she gives it a weird look. She presses a button on the side- her ringtone was on SILENT. She holds the button, letting the volume go all the way up.

BZZZZING! The loud sound of her ringtone, and the accompanying vibration, is heard.

Satisfied, she goes through her phone to find Mandy's number, but the music has stopped playing.

Lina perks up. Pockets her phone, walks out of the kitchen.

4. INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lina walks to the RECORD PLAYER of her small, but comfortable living room- a COUCH, TABLE, TV, nothing extravagant; some more plates are laid about from the party.

She carefully removes the record. Underneath the table is a BOX OF RECORDS.

Lina puts her record on top, grabs the box, and takes it out. She puts her record in and searches for a new one to listen to.

Rifles through... No... Boring... Already heard that...

LINA

Huh?

A RED RECORD catches her eye. She takes it out and reads the label.

LINA (CONT'D)

The Silence Of Running Water? What?

She flips it around, but there's nothing on the other side of the record. Flips it back to the label.

LINA (CONT'D)

Take this record,  
Take no sounds,  
Take this by thy watered grounds.  
But be warned for if you do,  
The Murmur will come after you.  
(beat)  
The Murmur will come after you?

She gives the label a quizzical stare as weird creature with LONG FINGERS sits on the label next to all the text.

LINA (CONT'D)  
The fuck is a Murmur?

She pushes the box out of the way as she brings the record towards the player.

LINA (CONT'D)  
Guess we're gonna find out.

She drops it onto the record player. Puts the needle on it. And starts playing it...

Another FUNKY tune invades the quiet of the house. Lina smiles, nods her head. This is good!

Lina walks back towards the kitchen with a pep in her step.

She STEPS on something in her absent-minded peppering. Looks down. It's the dog toy.

The was-loud-but-is-now-oddly-quiet dog toy.

Confusion. Puzzlement. She bends down, picks it up. Looks at the table, which is now empty.

Lina walks...

5. INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...into the kitchen and puts it on the counter, still shaking her head.

A nice, SQUEAKY guitar bend is heard on the record.

She walks over to the sink, which still has some dirty dishes in it.

Lina tries to put the confusion of the toy behind her as she moves her head to the music beat. She puts her hand on the faucet handle...

When something interrupts her from her pocket. Something she feels. She reaches inside, pulls out her phone.

It's BETH. Lina smiles, gives a slight chuckle.

And puts her phone back in her pocket. Back to moving her head to the beat. Back to her hand on the faucet handle...

Wait! She remembers something, pulls her phone back out of her pocket. Opens it up, presses a button on the side, and sees her VOLUME IS ALL THE WAY UP.

Lina presses it again, double checking the volume. But nothing comes from the phone. She puts it to her ear. Nothing.

Cautiously puts it on the counter. Points to it like she's warning it that she's gonna get it replaced.

Back to the faucet. Back to her hand on the handle. She turns it.

Water comes out.

Silently.

But on the record, the melody changes. To Lina's RINGTONE.

Lina goes to grab a plate but realises something is up. She turns off the water. Turns it back on.

It's still silent.

She turns it off again. Turns it on again.

Still nothing.

Lina turns the water off. She grabs a plate from the sink. Puts it carefully in the drying rack.

But there's no sound.

She picks up another from the sink when...

DISTORTED HIGH HATS, almost water-like, sound from the record. It startles Lina, who takes a wild, sloppy step backwards.

And drops the plate. It CRASHES to the floor. SILENTLY. Lina looks at it stunned, confused.

A KNOCK at that door! Lina gasps and turns around, looking towards the front door.

There's also DISTORTED CYMBALS on the record. Almost like a plate shattering.

Lina stands and tip toes towards the edge of the kitchen.

She looks at the door. Another KNOCK.

LINA  
(shakey)  
Hello?!

But her voice isn't heard- her lips move, but no sound comes out. She tries again.

LINA (CONT'D)  
Hello?!

And again, no sound. Over the record, over a newly introduced KICK DRUM pattern, a strange vocal melody plays.

It sounds almost like, "hello". And it sounds almost like Lina.

She notices. Takes out her phone as the door CREAKS open.

Lina scrolls through. See's she missed a call from Mandy. Calls her back.

C-C-C-CLACK!

A FINGER taps on the door open door as her phone... Doesn't ring. She assumes Mandy answered.

LINA (CONT'D)  
Mandy?!?! Mandy?!?! Are you there?  
Mandy, I need you over here now.

Of course, her pleas are silent- she's making no noise.

The door creaks open wider. The Creature steps in. It's THE MURMUR.

Lina rushes back to the corner of the kitchen.

LINA (CONT'D)  
MANDY?!?! SOMEONE'S IN MY  
HOUSE?!?!?!?

Lina is still silent. Though fragments of, not only her pleas, but Mandy's, "Hello, Lina, did you get my call? Lina?!?" are heard on the record. On the record over some intense drum work. Some intense key work. Almost like all the sounds from Lina's house have been sucked into the record.

C-C-C-CLACK!

The footsteps come closer. She looks towards the living room.

C-C-C-CLACK!

Closer.

The music grows, intensifies. As The Murmur comes closer.

Closer. Closer.

Lina's mouth opens. It looks like all the air is being sucked out of her. Silently.

But as this happens, the music calms down. Calms down into the sound... Of air leaving someone's body; leaving them to die.

The Murmur put its finger over her mouth: quiet.

FADE OUT

CUT TO BLACK