

TRANSFORMATIONS

by

Jacob Greenberg

FADE IN:

INT. - MOTHER APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is furnished with outdated furniture, the walls are lined with old photographs and sets of crystal glasses and mugs are on display in the glass cupboard.

Old little statues stand on the shelves of the sideboard. It is evident that it is an apartment of a retired woman.

LEON, dressed in an expensive suit with a bright tie, a well-groomed, a little full-bodied man of about thirty-five, is sitting on a high back chair at a beautifully served round table.

He wears an expensive branded watch, shirt and shoes.

The table is served with a tea set, a bowl of candy, jam and a plate of cream cakes.

His MOTHER of about sixty-five, dressed in a beautiful old fashioned dress, is pouring tea from a teapot with a strainer in addition to boiling water from the kettle.

MOTHER

It is wrong not to believe  
in something nowadays. Lara,  
for example, last year on a  
perfectly regular city beach  
saw an alien with her own  
eyes.

Leon takes a bite of cake, a sip from a cup of tea and looks with irony at his Mother.

LEON

(with a slight smile)

How did your sister know  
that it was an alien?

MOTHER

(with conviction)

She told me later that it  
was a very hairy man, and  
though he looked like a  
regular person...

LEON  
(ironically)  
Really?

MOTHER  
...she immediately felt - that  
is an alien!

LEON  
(smiles)  
Why hasn't she made  
acquaintances? Still  
interesting...

MOTHER  
Of course, she really wanted  
to, but he looked at her and  
gave a telepathic order: "Do  
not come!" After that, he  
quickly left.

LEON  
(laughs)  
Mom, how can you believe in  
such nonsense?

MOTHER  
Why shouldn't I believe? I  
read somewhere that all the  
astronauts saw different  
UFOs, but then the  
authorities marked it Top  
Secret and forbade them to  
talk about it.

LEON  
It is still debatable  
whether it was a UFO or just  
some weird optical  
phenomena.

MOTHER  
What are you talking about?  
I myself once saw a flying  
saucer. It flew and shone,  
and, as soon as I wanted to  
take a picture, it rose high  
and disappeared, as if it  
felt something.

The mobile phone rings. Leon answers. He talks hard and with concentration.

LEON

Yes? And by how much? If it falls below one hundred twenty, buy a thousand shares. And what about the nickel?

(pause)

No, it should continue to rise; we'll wait another day or two.

(pause)

Okay, I can't talk now. I'll call you later.

Leon ends the conversation and with a guilty smile turns to his mother.

LEON

Sorry, Mom, business.

MOTHER

So do you believe me about the flying saucer? Take a cake.

Leon dutifully takes a slice. Bites off a piece.

LEON

You, mother, I do believe. You have prepared a very tasty meal today, and the cakes are delicious. They melt in the mouth...

MOTHER

By the way, yesterday I saw in the newspaper a photograph of a human skeleton on the Moon.

LEON

On the Moon!? How could the skeleton reach the moon by himself?

MOTHER

You always make jokes, but in this case, your irony is

misplaced. There's a picture  
in the newspaper!

LEON

Well, if you have a picture,  
then it is another matter.  
And how do they explain it?  
How did it get there?

MOTHER

It is known that aliens  
abduct people from the Earth  
sometimes. Apparently, they  
caught one person, put him  
in a UFO, took him to the  
Moon, and then pushed him  
out of the ship to see what  
will happen.

LEON

(exaggerated)

It's an outrage! Aliens do  
whatever they like around  
here and nobody stops them.  
Why doesn't the government do  
something?

MOTHER

But since it is written in  
the newspaper... A world  
sensation! It is strange  
that you know nothing about  
it.

LEON

I don't know and do not want  
to know. The papers, Mom,  
sometimes write such  
nonsense! Don't you see they  
are ready to print  
scandalous nonsense with the  
purpose of raising their  
circulation?

MOTHER

You have to agree that many  
people in their daily lives  
are faced with phenomena  
that even scientists can't  
explain.

LEON

I never encountered something inexplicable. I never met devils, angels or aliens. I, generally, have difficulty in perceiving things that can not be touched by my own hands.

MOTHER

You never believe in things that are unexplainable?

LEON

I do not believe and advise you to do the same. Nothing can be done, mother, that is the way I was born. Well, I must go. Thanks for dinner. See you next week.

MOTHER

You're always in a hurry...

LEON

As usual business is waiting. I still have to continue working at home.

Leon finishes the remainder of tea in the cup and rises from the table.

MOTHER

Thank you for your visit and for remembering occasionally to visit me.

Mother with a sigh of regret rises from the table, and together they go to the exit door.

Leon hugs his mother and she gives him a kiss on the cheek.

LEON

Take care of yourself and read less rubbish in the newspapers,  
(jokingly)  
otherwise you may dream it at night.

MOTHER

Don't worry about me, I sleep like a baby. But still, I think that anyone can encounter an unexplainable situation!

LEON

I won't! Only extremely emotional gullible people get into unexplained situations. It won't happen to me!

MOTHER

Well, all right. Give my regards to your wife. By the way, she can also call in to see me occasionally. Otherwise I started forgetting her looks.

LEON

Don't be angry, mother. Goodbye. Next time we'll come together. I promise. If you need anything, call me.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Leon leaves hurriedly his mother's house, quickly gets into his luxury car and leaves the parking lot with a jerk.

The mobile phone rings. Leon continues to drive and answers the call.

LEON

Yes, dear, I'm in the car already, I'll be home in half an hour.

(pause)

I'm right. Love you.

Leon approaches the traffic lights, stops at the red light and automatically looks around.

Leon sees a man with a fish head behind the wheel of a nearby car (in the style of Bosch).

Leon stares at him in amazement for some time, then closes his eyes, shakes his head from side to side, to regain his senses and to get rid of the vision, but the man with the fish head is still there.

The traffic lights change to green and the other car moves away.

Leon follows it for some time, watching from behind the driver's fish head, but soon the vehicle in front of him turns abruptly into a side street and disappears.

Leon continues to drive and arrives at his magnificent house. His face is thoughtful and focused. He enters the handsome foyer, laden with flowers and pictures, said hello to the concierge, and takes the elevator to his apartment.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - DAY

His ultramodern apartment is equipped with the latest technology, luxurious furnishings, fixtures, abstract paintings on the walls and a large rug that covers the floor.

His Wife is a slender, beautiful woman of twenty-five years old with an angry expression on her face.

She is dressed in a pink trouser suit and silver shoes with average heels.

The Wife approaches Leon and embraces and kisses him formally.

WIFE

Hi, dear. How is your Mom?

LEON

She is well, thank you. She is looking forward to your visit. She was quite disappointed that you did not come.

WIFE

Disappointed again? You know that I have absolutely no time to spare; I'm torn as it is... Has anything happened?

LEON

No! Why do you ask?

WIFE

You have a strange expression on your face. You look stressed. I sense that something has happened to you. Am I wrong?

LEON

Yes, something really stupid...

WIFE

So? Tell me...

LEON

While I was driving home from my mother, I saw in a nearby car a man with a fish head.

WIFE

What?

LEON

At first I thought I was imagining then I thought it was someone dressed as a clown type, but it appeared to be real.

WIFE

Are you kidding me, Leon?

LEON

No! But if somebody told me about this, I wouldn't have believed him.

WIFE

Are you making a joke?

LEON

Not at all! I'm absolutely serious but now I don't know how deal with it.

WIFE

Have you actually seen it?

LEON

Yes, I have. Strange, isn't it?

WIFE

(worried)

Has anything like this happened to you before?

LEON

What do you mean?

WIFE

Hallucinations!

LEON

Why hallucinations? I saw him as clearly as I can see you! A man with a fish head was driving in the car next to me! Do you think he smelt like a fish?

Leon tries to laugh, but is not very successful. He walks to the bar, pours himself a glass of whiskey, adds a few ice cubes from the fridge and gulps it down.

WIFE

Calm down, please. Don't worry.

LEON

I'm not worried.

WIFE

This happens from overexertion. You need to relax urgently.

Leon begins pacing nervously around the room, approaches a large mirror, looks at the reflection of him, and suddenly sticks his tongue out.

LEON

I don't want to rest, I'm not tired. And do not look at me with such a worried glance.

WIFE

It scares me. Why did it happen to you? By the way, your friend Brett, if I remember correctly, is a psychiatrist. You should talk to him straight away.

LEON

Just the thing I need! Why should I?

WIFE

Consult him, discuss the situation. He certainly knows what to do in such cases.

LEON

(nervously)

You don't have to make a madman out of me. I am absolutely healthy and... normal!

WIFE

But you do realize that this is fantasy?

LEON

I realize it, but that's what I saw! In the car next to mine sat a man with a fish head!

WIFE

You seem convinced! In my opinion, you have a problem!

LEON

And in my opinion, it's more his problem than mine! Imagine for a moment me returning home with a fish head, what would you say?

WIFE

It's just what I need!

LEON

I think that you would divorce me at the drop of

the hat! Truthfully, would you be able to live with a man-fish?

WIFE

You're kidding, but I am not humored! Okay, let's forget about it. Will you have dinner?

LEON

Thank you, I'm not hungry. Mom fed me for two days in advance. I will go and work a little bit.

Leon goes to his study. Wife follows him with a cool appraising stare, and compresses lips in displeasure.

After Leon leaves, she looks at the closed door and dials a number on the mobile phone.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon leaves the house hurriedly, gets into the car and drives to work.

He parks the car at his personal space in the parking lot, greets the watchman and enters to the office building of his small company.

INT. - BROKERAGE OFFICE - MORNING

Some employees sit in front of computers, examining the graphs and tables of the stock exchange market.

INT. - LEON STUDY - MORNING

Leon enters his study and dials a number on the switch board.

LEON

Serge, please come to me.

SERGE, a smart young guy of twenty-three, enters. He has long cropped hair, tied back with a red ribbon. Informal clothing and wrist thread.

LEON

Well, how is nickel doing on the market? Is it rising?

SERGE

Hey, chief. I worry about the trade with nickel. The market is very unstable and can rise high and then fall so low that we will be unable...

LEON

Don't worry, we'll beat them. I smell big money here...

SERGE

I wouldn't take such big risk being in your place!

LEON

Well, I know your panicked view on all my adventures. That's why you're my main advisor. Someone has to restrain me when I go beyond the bounds of reason.

SERGE

I honestly am amazed by your decisions on the stock exchange, and still, you win! It blows my mind!

LEON

You know, there is an old tale about a Jew always winning at the races. Once, one his friend broke down and asked, "Abram how is it that you always win?" "Very simple", answers Abram, "I've arrived to the races on a bus number three and today is seventh of the month, so I multiply three by seven, get twenty-four and put money on horses number two and four". "But three times seven is twenty one!" "I win, and you teach me arithmetic" - Abram answers indignantly!"

SERGE

Very funny! But you can't  
get away with it on pure  
luck!

LEON

That is left to be seen!  
Okay. That's it! Now I'll  
continue with the routine  
work and tomorrow we'll  
discuss our strategy in  
detail.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - MORNING

Leon is sitting at the table with his wife and eats  
breakfast.

His wife examines Leon carefully and lights a cigarette.

WIFE

How do you feel?

LEON

Fine, why do you ask?

WIFE

Well, no nightmares at  
night? Fish heads, or other  
things?

LEON

Leave alone those heads. It's  
impossible to tell you  
anything!

Wife gets up and leaves the table in a temper.

WIFE

But I'm worried. Why don't  
you understand?

LEON

I'm sorry, dear, I  
overreacted a bit. Don't  
worry. Everything will be  
fine.

Leon gets up, goes and hugs his wife.

WIFE

You don't love me.

LEON

I do love you, but I'm a little bothered today. I have important decisions to make.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon drives the car listening to music and passes several intersections quietly; he stops at the red lights, patiently waiting.

For something to do, he turns his head from side to side.

In the car on the right, he sees a man with a fish head.

He closes his eyes, then turns to the other side and there too, in the car to his left, sits a man with a fish head.

The lights change to green, all the cars drive away, but Leon remains in his place in a stupor, as if paralyzed.

The car behind him starts beeping loudly. Leon wakes up and begins to move.

After a short while, he drives to the side and stops.

Nervously, obviously very excited, he gets his mobile and dials a number.

LEON

Hi, Brett. How are you? I want to meet you straight away. Let me stop by your office. I need to talk to you...

(pause)

I have an urgent problem, and need your help...

(pause)

Thanks, I'll be there after eleven.

The traffic policeman knocks with a rod on the glass.

Leon sighs, opens the window and presents his identification and car license.

INT. - LEON OFFICE - MORNING

Leon sits in his office across Serge, who is holding a large folder with documents.

LEON

You have brought the folder for nothing, we won't talk about shares. Better tell me, Serge, have you ever seen something unexplainable?

SERGE

Sure! The stock market can never be explained. You can never know what tomorrow will bring.

LEON

I mean something else, in life. Have you ever seen a really unexplainable phenomenon?

SERGE

UFO or something like that? No, I have never encountered such a thing. Why do you ask?

LEON

Well, you see, something really weird happened to me yesterday; suddenly I saw in the car next to me a man with a fish head.

SERGE

Really? Are you serious?

LEON

At first glance - an obvious insanity, but otherwise, all other reactions are normal. I tested it myself, spoke to my wife, and found no psyche deviations.

SERGE

So why are you so worried?

LEON

You see, when I saw the first fish head, I laughed, but some bad sediment remained, and just now, on my way to work, I saw two drivers with fish heads.

SERGE

Generally speaking, it sounds pretty weird. Does it disturb you?

LEON

Of course! It drives me crazy! I made an appointment with a psychiatrist, a friend of mine.

SERGE

You think it may help?

LEON

I don't know, but what else can I do in such situation?

SERGE

In my opinion, ignore it. I've just remembered that I once something peculiar happened to me too. One night I woke up and saw myself at home in bed with my mistress. Just saw her lying next to me. I panicked. How did she get there? Any moment Nina will enter the bedroom and all hell will brake loose! Even in a nightmare it is unfeasible to imagine such things!

LEON

And?

LEON

Then I took a good look closely, and it turned out

to be - my wife! And you  
talk about fish heads!

LEON

Well, you reassured me a  
bit. We have finished for  
today. Now I'm on the way to  
the psychiatrist.

SERGE

I don't really trust  
psychiatrists. Some years  
ago I had a girlfriend, a  
psychiatrist. I still wonder  
how she didn't drive me mad  
and made me marry her.

LEON

All your examples of life  
are always associated with  
women.

SERGE

What can I do when life is  
so...

INT. - OFFICE PSYCHIATRY - DAY

BRETT, a serious man of thirty-five in a light sweater,  
welcomes Leon in to his office.

Brett warmly shakes Leon's hand, friendly smiles. It is  
evident that he is happy with the meeting.

BRETT

Hi, Leon. What's wrong with  
you? Why the urgency?

LEON

I don't know how serious my  
situation is. To you it may  
seem ridiculous. Something  
rather strange and  
inexplicable happened to me.

BRETT

Sit down, Leon, and tell me  
calmly what happened. You  
are so excited today.

Leon obediently sits on the visitors chair offered to him, looking cautiously around.

LEON

I have is a reason to worry.  
Yesterday I saw in the car  
next to mine, a man with a  
fish head.

BRETT

Seriously?

LEON

Very! That is, at the  
beginning I took it pretty  
lightly, even joking while I  
told it to my wife. However,  
she was terribly worried,  
immediately began talking  
about hallucinations and  
advised me to talk to you.

BRETT

A very good advice. Well, go  
on, you saw a man with a  
fish head, and what happened  
next?

LEON

Everything was very normal.  
He waited for the green  
light and drove off. I was  
very surprised, but today on  
my way to work I saw two  
drivers with fish heads.  
This made me very uneasy,  
and I called you.

BRETT

Just two? Each time one, or  
two at once?

LEON

Both at once! At the  
crossroads, in the car on  
the right and in the car on  
the left. Can you imagine?  
I'm really scared. Tell me  
honestly, am I out of my  
mind?

BRETT

People do not go crazy so easily! Usually it requires a more serious reason.

LEON

What could be more serious! I personally think myself perfectly normal, but on the other hand - fish heads! Am I crazy?

BRETT

To go crazy - it can be said, is a privilege! Not everyone can feel so acutely.

LEON

Then tell me what was it? What is happening to me?

BRETT

Nothing out of ordinary! Just sometimes you see people with fish heads.

LEON

But is it a hallucination?! In fact, in reality they do not.., that is.., it is just my imagination!

BRETT

Who knows? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't! Sciences are still struggling with the question what preceded: matter or consciousness? So, in other words, has spirituality created our reality or matter has generated spirituality.

LEON

I don't understand why am I the scapegoat of this philosophy? Why did this happen to me?

BRETT

Calm down, this can happen to anyone, nobody is safe. You claim to have seen people with fish heads and who has the right to doubt it? What reason do I have not to trust you?

LEON

I saw them with my own eyes, absolutely real, but now I doubt very much that they really exist. On the whole, I myself don't know whether to believe it.

BRETT

Don't worry! Now it is very popular to assume that faith makes life easier, so the majority of mankind believes in something.

LEON

Are you sure?

BRETT

Yes. Nowadays one believes in Science and Technology, others in Fate and Providence, and the third in God and an afterlife...

LEON

But I do not want to see people with fish heads!

BRETT

That is a good reason, this is a particular request, with which I can help you. Let's conduct a short session of hypnosis.

LEON

What, just now?

BRETT

Yes. You should be helped to get rid of the so-called

post-traumatic stress  
syndrome.

LEON

I don't think this can be  
done. I tried once for  
laughs...

BRETT

Nonsense, everybody is  
susceptible to hypnosis, but  
not everybody realizes it!  
Sit down on this chair, put  
your hands on your knees,  
close your eyes and repeat  
after me everything I say.

Leon, after some hesitation, obediently sits on a chair  
in the center of the room and closes his eyes.

Brett stands in front of him. He stares at Leon and slowly  
moves the fingers of his relaxed hands.

BRETT

My feet are warm.

LEON

My feet are warm.

BRETT

My hands are warm.

LEON

My hands are warm.

BRETT

I am happy to sit here and  
I'm sleepy.

LEON

I am happy to sit here and  
I'm sleepy.

BRETT

I'll never see people with  
fish heads.

LEON

I'll never see people with  
fish heads.

BRETT

I'll never see people with  
fish heads.

LEON

I'll never see people with  
fish heads.

BRETT

I wake up, I am well, and I  
rested and had a wonderful  
dream. There were no people  
with fish heads in the  
dream.

LEON

(opens eyes)

Sorry, I think I fell  
asleep. You promised to  
hypnotize me.

BRETT

I've finished already. Your  
reaction was perfect; you  
are very sensitive. You will  
not see people with fish  
heads anymore.

LEON

Is that at all? You're just  
a magician, Brett! I feel  
like a different man,  
cheerful, optimistic, and I  
am no longer afraid to live.

BRETT

That's perfect. Now you can  
return to your work. But  
please don't drink today  
anything alcoholic. Goodbye,  
I have to return to work  
too, patients are waiting  
for me.

LEON

Thank you, Brett, you saved  
my life. Goodbye. I'll call  
and take you out to a good  
restaurant on the weekend.  
We'll sit down, have some

drinks and have a good time,  
my call.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon, in a good mood, drives around the town. He turns on the radio, hums a tune, happily looking around.

He passes a few streets and stops at a red traffic light.

Leon looks to the right, there behind the wheel sits a man, he looks to the left, there in the driver's seat, sits a woman.

Leon smiles with satisfaction, lights a cigarette and closes his eyes.

LEON

(whispers)

I'm so happy! I'll never see  
people with fish heads.

The green light goes on, all the cars begin to move, but Leon doesn't notice. He is still at the traffic lights with his eyes closed humming a tune.

The car behind him starts beeping loudly. The driver is buzzing occasionally, and then a loud continuous beep.

Leon angrily looks back and sees that the driver in the car behind him has a bird's head (in the style of Bosch)!

Leon freezes and remains as in a daze.

His cell phone rings. He shudders, starts to move away, leaving the junction, then stops at the side, lets the car behind him pass and looks in amazement at the driver with a bird's head in it.

Then Leon resumes movement and answers the call. He speaks through the microphone, mechanically, like a robot.

LEON

Hello, I'm listening.

WIFE

(by phone)

I just spoke to BRETT. He  
told me that you came to him  
in a terrible state that he

conducted hypnosis on you  
and now you feel better.

LEON  
(grimly)  
Yes, that's true.

WIFE  
(by phone)  
Are you still seeing people  
with fish heads?

Leon looks around, then looks back warily.

LEON  
No! I don't see them  
anymore! Fish heads are not  
there anymore!

WIFE  
(by phone)  
Thank God! I'm so happy and  
so excited for you. I was  
worried terribly, couldn't  
find a place for myself!

LEON  
But just now I saw a man  
with a bird's head.

WIFE  
(by phone)  
How? Why? Brett had  
promised! He said it has to  
help you!

LEON  
I think that Brett's hypnosis  
worked: bird's heads look  
much better than fish.  
Probably, each treatment has  
its own side effects.

Leon cautiously looks at the drivers of neighboring cars.

WIFE  
(by phone)  
Are you crazy?! What are you  
talking about? Call Brett  
urgently!

LEON

Do you think this will help?  
I think I'll have to bear  
monsters next to me until  
the day I die.

WIFE

(by phone)

What are you hinting at?

LEON

Calm down, dear, not you!  
Okay, I'll call him. Let's  
discuss it this evening,  
bye.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - DAY

The doorbell rings. Leon's Wife lets her GIRLFRIEND, an  
extravagantly dressed twenty-five years old lady.

Girlfriend wears a bright manicure, big round pink  
glasses, a short skirt and a blouse.

Wife habitually pours coffee from a coffee machine and  
pours fruit juice into tall slender glasses containing  
pieces of ice from the refrigerator.

They sit on the couch in front of a coffee table, light  
up with pleasure cigarettes, drink coffee and alternately  
sip juice through a straw.

On the table lay a lot of women's magazines. One is open  
on a picture with different models of bras.

WIFE

Have you seen the latest  
model? This

(points)

I wouldn't have refused. Do  
you like it? I can order of  
course via internet, except  
I want to try it on before...

GIRLFRIEND

This model doesn't suit me.  
I bought some while I was in  
Basel, but something in them  
makes me feel uncomfortable.

WIFE

Listen, I wanted to consult with you, but don't tell anyone. No hint to anybody. Leon will kill me if he gets wind of it.

GIRLFRIEND

What are you talking about, don't you trust me?

WIFE

You see, I have a problem, rather, he has. I am afraid that it's a very serious one. It may affect his ability to function and his business. Then what?

GIRLFRIEND

Explain clearly! What happened?

WIFE

You promise to keep the secret?

The friend inhales deeply on the cigarette and lets out a thick stream of smoke.

GIRLFRIEND

Mute like in dead!

WIFE

He lost his mind! Sees people with animal heads around him.

GIRLFRIEND

Wow! Was he drunk? I heard that it happens; they see all sorts of devils, various monsters...

WIFE

Yes, well, but he does not drink. Sometimes a glass or two with company, but usually he doesn't drink.

GIRLFRIEND

Is he ill?

WIFE

No, just doesn't drink.

GIRLFRIEND

I didn't know such people exist. I thought that all are the same when comes to drinking. Mine is kind of quiet, but after a drink, watch out...

WIFE

And Leon lost his mind. Suddenly he sees people fish heads everywhere.

GIRLFRIEND

Don't tell!?! Wow! This really is a problem.

WIFE

For the first time in my life I don't know what to do, how to behave...

GIRLFRIEND

You get excited ahead of the time. It may still pass? Wait a bit, you'll see, by itself, or by the aid of medicaments.

WIFE

Wait until... cured? And if not? His Mom will turn it so, that not only won't I get my rightful half, I'll remain in dept...

GIRLFRIEND

Maybe then you shouldn't wait and file for divorce immediately?

WIFE

You see, it all happened suddenly. I had no time to prepare financially.

GIRLFRIEND

What do you mean?

WIFE

Well, first, there are a lot of arrangements to make; write over the apartment, the house in the country, the car, all the property...

GIRLFRIEND

Apply for a divorce. Sue, as his wife, for a half of everything! This will be enough for your whole lifetime, till the grave. I bet, there are millions there.

WIFE

This is the problem! His brokerage firm has very good lawyers - real professionals, they are not easy to take on, and I have no money for a decent lawyer.

GIRLFRIEND

Then you need to declare him insane, lock him up in an insane asylum, and have it all!

WIFE

It is not possible! His school friend works there. He'll never agree to it.

GIRLFRIEND

Don't you know how to get a man to do things in your favor? Are an imbecile?

WIFE

But he is a very close friend of his for many years.

## GIRLFRIEND

That is the reason wives sleep with their husbands good friends... They are always near at hand! Once is enough to sleep over with a man and he becomes smooth like silk. All men are cowards; threaten to tell your husband or his wife, and he will do anything for you.

EXT. - SQUARE - DAY

Leon passes several intersections and parks the car near a small park.

He gets out, walks through the alley, sits on a free bench, looks around, and then dials a phone number.

## LEON

Brett, hi. Forgive me, but after your hypnosis, I just saw a man with a bird's head!

(pause)

No, I have no complaints to you, but...

(pause)

Of course, I can come again, if you guarantee that next I won't see people with crocodile heads.

(pause)

I'm not angry with you, Brett, I'm trying to figure out what to do now. It is impossible to on this way...

Leon disconnects the cell phone. He sits on the bench, deep in thought. It is a nice summer day.

Leon looks at the sun, the foliage of trees, the grass, at the strolling couples.

Leon sees several young men approaching. When they come closer he notices that they have boar heads.

They walk through the alley, continuously pushing each other and grunting happily.

Leon closes his eyes, grits his head with his hands and whispered something silently.

It is evident that he is exerting great efforts, takes himself in hand, gets up from the bench, straightens and adjusts his clothes.

He leaves the park with mechanical steps gets into the car and slowly drives along the city streets.

INT. - OFFICE PSYCHIATRY - DAY

Leon enters the familiar office where his friend Brett sits with a colleague.

DOCTOR is a stocky, heavy, around fifty year's old man in a light suit, with glasses. It is evident that he is in command.

BRETT

Sit down, Leon. The chief of our department was kind enough to consul you. The best expert we have...

The Doctor makes a protesting gesture, as if rejecting inappropriate compliments.

DOCTOR

Not at all, colleague. Let's see our patient. So what happened? What are you worried about?

LEON

I told already, but my illness is rapidly progressing. Half an hour ago I saw a group of teenagers at the park having boar heads and they were behaving in a piggish manner.

DOCTOR

Were there people with ordinary heads as well?

LEON

Yes, of course. Most were ordinary, normal only this group unashamedly screamed and grunted...

DOCTOR

That is, I realize not only have you seen people with boar-heads, but you also heard them grunt?

LEON

Yes, now I apparently have not only visual, but auditory hallucinations as well.

DOCTOR

Well, no need to rush ahead and produce a diagnosis, there are experts for it.

BRETT

Yes, Leon, do not rush to hasty conclusions. First of all we need do analysis.

LEON

To me personally, it is clear that something weird is going on in my mind. Strange obsessions! Unbelievable things!

BRETT

Calm down, we do believe you. Nothing supernatural is going on. We just need to find a reasonable explanation for the unnatural appearances.

A young nurse with a kind, somewhat silly and agreeable expression enters the room.

She smiles shyly at the attending physicians, puts on their desk several folders with chronicles of disease, and heads for the exit.

LEON

A sheep!

The sister looks back in surprise and leaves the office without any reaction.

BRETT

What?

DOCTOR

Why?

LEON

She is a sheep! She has the head of a sheep!

DOCTOR

You saw her from the beginning with a sheep's head?

LEON

No, I saw her enter as a rather pretty girl, and then, while she leaned over the table, I suddenly saw her sheep's head. This is a strange feeling..

DOCTOR

What seemed strange to you there?

LEON

I got the feeling that she is completely submissive. She can be pushed around at will, suffer quietly, and perform without question and never complain.

DOCTOR

(surprised)

Do you know her?

LEON

No, no, but... somehow I knew right away. I saw her character, her essence, if you like. She is a sheep! This sheep, who chews her own

grass and thinking about  
nothing irrelevant.

DOCTOR

(surprised)

It is amazing! Not really  
knowing her, I must tell  
you, that you drew an  
extremely accurate portrait.  
I work with her so many  
years very closely, but saw  
her in such a perspective  
only now.

LEON

But I do not want to see  
people in this perspective!  
Can you do something about  
it, can you somehow undo it?

INT. - MOTHER APARTMENT - EVENING

It's Mother's apartment. Leon is sitting on a couch in a  
pensive pose and smokes. Near him there is a massive  
crystal ashtray with some cigarette butts.

He watches a TV basketball game, but his expression is  
aloof. It is evident that he doesn't really care about  
the game.

Mother enters the living room with a cabbage pie laden on  
a tray.

MOTHER

You look troubled, without  
sentiment, telling nothing.  
There is an impression that  
you have a problem that  
gives you no rest.

LEON

And who is without problems?

MOTHER

But in the past you coped  
with your problems easily,  
at least, in a more  
optimistic way.

LEON

I was younger, so everything  
was perceived much lighter...

MOTHER

If you signed yourself up as  
an elderly, what am I  
supposed to do, and I still  
don't give up.

LEON

You are right, Mom, we  
should never give up, you  
and I still have everything  
ahead of us.

MOTHER

Can't you tell me what  
happened?

Leon is uncertain, he wants to tell, but something stops  
him.

LEON

Its okay, Mom, don't worry.

MOTHER

Share with your mother, it  
will make it easier for you.

LEON

I can cope with the problem  
by myself.

MOTHER

Well, as you want. You know  
better.

Leon smiles apologetically.

LEON

No offense, Mom. Everything  
will be fine.

MOTHER

I hope so.

LEON

I think I'll go, it is  
getting late.

MOTHER

You have either eaten or  
drank nothing. Let me warm  
it up for you quickly. I have  
a soup and a cabbage pie,  
yum.

LEON

No, Mom, thanks, I'm not  
hungry. Next time I'll taste  
your soup.

MOTHER

Give my regards to your  
wife.

LEON

Don't be offended, she is  
very busy. Although I can't,  
by the world of me, tell you  
with what.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - EVENING

Leon sits in his office in front of the computer. On the  
screen can be seen Serge.

SERGE

Can you understand what is  
going on with the nickel? In  
three days he rose twelve  
percent already! Moreover, I  
specifically looked at their  
quarterly reports; they have  
no potential, but still it  
is rising! This is some sort  
of a psychosis!

LEON

You understood right.  
They'll go under. I can even  
suggest who benefits from  
it. So, tomorrow they'll  
give another four percent,  
the day after tomorrow -  
five percent, and the day  
after tomorrow night, right  
before the closer, we'll  
sell it! Is it clear? And  
what about the airline firm?

SERGE

At the peak of the deep!  
They went into a tailspin  
from which can't get out!

LEON

Keep an eye on them, they  
intrigue me a lot.

SERGE

What is there to monitor?  
They will soon crash.

LEON

When is soon?

SERGE

Well, maybe another couple  
of months, and then crash.  
Moreover, no economy program  
can help them anymore.

LEON

So is it worth to buy them  
when they realize that they  
are at the deep end.

SERGE

Buy a doomed company? Who  
can think of such a thing?

LEON

Me!

SERGE

You're kidding! But what  
for? Have you nothing else  
to do with your money? Give  
it to me. It will take no  
persuading; you can always  
count on me.

LEON

I know, but I think the time  
has come when we can lay our  
hands on it.

SERGE

How's that?

LEON

It is an opportunity; they are helplessly in debt like wrapped in silks, you can easily take them by a single blow.

SERGE

Can you imagine how much you'll have to invest? Everything works on parole there. The fleet is worn to the limit. Have you even looked at my report? It is very clearly stated there the company is doomed. It will soon completely bankrupt.

LEON

Seen and read carefully. The risk is great, but such situations happen once in a lifetime

SERGE

Also to be run over by a train can happen only once in a lifetime.

LEON

She has a capital of three hundred million, and it can only be taken just before the crash. I was waiting for this moment, by the way, for one and a half years, should I miss it now?

SERGE

First, we have to sum up the risks. When such machinery is drowning, she can easily drag the rescuers with her?

LEON

But I want it!

SERGE

This is certainly a strong argument, but one such an

operation can break your  
neck. First you acquire a firm  
which goes bust, sue  
creditors for years and,  
ultimately, lose everything  
you have in the process!  
Don't you care?

LEON

Of course I care, but I am  
willing to risk it! Please  
try to calculate the  
approximate amount of  
investment...

Leon hears that the Wife returned home.

LEON

That's all, Serge. We'll  
continue tomorrow ...

Leon disconnects the computer and leaves the office.

Wife, in a smart trouser suit, with a special hair make  
and a set of jewelry around her neck, fingers and wrist,  
removes her shoes, and with a sigh sits down on the sofa.

LEON

Well, how was it? Have you  
enjoyed?

WIFE

Yes, the concert was good,  
I'm just very tired. By the  
way, I saw a lot of our  
friends there, everybody  
asked about you, why you are  
not enjoying yourself.

LEON

But you, as I see it, enjoy  
to the limit.

WIFE

Can't I go to a concert,  
listen to the songs, the  
music? Should I burry  
myself within four walls?

LEON

Well, leave it.

WIFE

I told you about the concert two weeks ago, you yourself refused.

LEON

Sorry, I just got exhausted at work today...

WIFE

Did anything happen?

LEON

I'll sum it up for you. Its, either you will have to get a job and earn money for our keep after my financial transactions, or we will become millionaires.

WIFE

Why risk so much, I don't want to look for a job!

LEON

Without a risk, there is no champagne.

WIFE

This is wrong. What will happen to us, if you lose all your money? How will we live? Work for peanuts? Have you thought of me, you unfeeling selfish beast?

Leon freezes suddenly, his eyes wide open, and he looks at her in amazement.

LEON

You are a snake!

WIFE

What are you talking about?

LEON

You've got a snake's head and a forked tongue. A viper!

Leon grabs his head and begins to sway from side to side.

WIFE

Have gone out of your mind  
completely?

LEON

I'm sheltering a poisonous  
snake on my chest. A viper!  
You don't yet swallow me  
just because you are well  
fed, dressed and warm, but  
the minute it should stop,  
I'm dead!

WIFE

You're completely mad, you  
belong in the madhouse. I'm  
serious. You are raving like  
a madman.

LEON

A Viper! How come I haven't  
noticed before, with whom,  
in fact, I live?

The wife looks at him with hatred. Suddenly her eyes  
change, she smiles, then begins to laugh nervously,  
laughing loudly.

WIFE

Better look at yourself,  
then you can judge me...

The Wife sees Leon with a head of a donkey.

LEON

What?

WIFE

You are a donkey!

LEON

Your insults will not help  
you; now everything is  
clear. I saw through you, the  
snake!

WIFE

You have a donkey's head and floppy ears! The donkey! My dear, lovely donkey!

The Wife approaches, strokes him and pats him on the cheek.

WIFE

Don't worry, dear husband, we'll patiently wait together. You don't turn away from such...

Leon looks in the mirror and sees himself with a donkey head.

Leon (in his normal form) takes the phone and calls Mother.

His Mother picks up the phone.

LEON

Mom, I suddenly realized that I am an ass! And my wife is a snake, a viper!

MOTHER

(by phone)

This is no news for me. I'm sorry of course, Leon, but I always knew her real price! How could you marry such a woman?

Leon bows his head. With a heavy sigh, he ends the conversation and hides the mobile phone in his pocket.

They stand in their luxury apartment facing each other as in a duel.

Leon with hatred and fear looks at his wife, and she stares at him with a satisfied smile on her face of the winner.

Suddenly, lust appears in her eyes. She slowly begins to undress, simulating striptease.

There are sounds of appropriate music. She takes off her jacket, unbuttons and pulls down the bra.

Leon after a moment of hesitation approaches and hugs his half-naked wife.

WIFE  
(whispers  
passionately)  
Let's start from the  
beginning, forget everything  
that just happened here.

Wife is breathing hard and passionately, she removes Leon's clothes.

LEON  
Well! I've already  
forgotten!

WIFE  
(whispers  
passionately)  
Let's make love, as at the  
first time. Then we were so  
good. Do you remember?

They lie down on a mat on the floor. Leon covers her with passionate kisses, she squirms and moans.

She lies beside him, her "snake" hands constantly in motion, constantly caressing his body.

LEON  
(passionately)  
I remember! I remember it  
all!

WIFE  
(whispers  
passionately)  
Do not be afraid, hold me  
tight. I'll give you  
pleasure, like you never  
had, you'll enter another,  
beautiful world...

Wife licks a place on his neck, then with evident pleasure bites with her teeth.

Leon shudders and freezes in place without moving, a slow trickle of blood runs down his neck.

A phone rings. Phone shows in close-up. Ring sounds continue, but nobody comes to the phone set.

The camera returns, and we see on the carpet a dead donkey and a snake crawling on the floor of a fashionable apartment.

THE END