

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN FIELD - SUNSET

A striking YOUNG WOMAN walks through a meadow, the tall grass licks her outstretched fingers. She closes her eyes and basks in the warmth of the sun.

As she playfully spins and opens her eyes she finds:

EXT. BLACK FOREST - DUSK

As the YOUNG WOMAN stumbles over her momentum. She takes in her surroundings and sees nothing but death. The sky is void. THUNDER CRACKS in the distance.

Every tree is DEAD and GNARLED.

In the distance she hears WEEPING. The young woman follows the sound into the forest.

Suddenly the sound of HOOVES RUNNING and HEAVY BREATHING from an UNKNOWN BEAST fills the night air.

As she freezes, so does the sound. She runs toward the weeping and it grows louder.

She trips over an exposed root and grabs a branch to keep her footing. Breaking the branch causes the tree to WEEP and CRIE OUT.

The TWO bull hooves stomp through the forest crushing the roots beneath causing them to bleed.

As the YOUNG WOMAN runs, BLOOD mists on her back. A GUST of the unknown beast's breath brushes the back of her neck. She quickens her pace.

As the forest thickens the young woman pushes through breaking off branches; blood SPURTS on her face.

The two hooves close in.

She struggles to keep a jogs pace through the THICKET.

The WEEPING and WHIMPERS cry out at ear-wrenching levels.

BLOOD sprays all over her.

The hooves are right on top of her.

THUNDER CRACKS!

She enters into a clearing; all goes silent.

As the forest CRUMBLES a TIDAL WAVE OF BLOOD sweeps her through the clearing and over a cliff. She crashes into a RIVER OF BLOOD.

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. BETH'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

The young woman GASPS for her life as she SPRINGS awake.

BETH is a 23 year old woman whose homely appearance is what remains of a once striking young girl. She turns on the bedside lamp.

As she takes in her surroundings, on the full-length mirror hangs; SNAPSHOTS of her FAMILY MEMBERS, three metal CASSETT PLAQUES dangle like dog tags; engraved with born on and died on dates. The youngest is DEAN SULLIVAN only 13 years old. A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE's headline reads: "7 PEOPLE DIE IN DINER EXPLOSION. LOCAL GIRL ONLY SURVIVOR."

EEEEHHH! EEEEEHHH! EEEEEHHH!

She slams her hand down on the ALARM CLOCK.

Using the phone Beth dials a number.

BETH

(into phone)

Yes. Can I speak with Phil please? What time? Okay... Uh, Beth... Off and on for three years. I haven't called in awhile.... No, I'm feeling very alone right now. I can't get my mind to stop.... Not really, no, I'm not sleeping at all these days...

Beth stares at the relics; a memory of a BOYS LAUGH hurls her over the edge.

She looks at her reflection in the mirror as it SCREAMS.

The rest of this scene will play out in the mirror as it tracks into full frame

BETH (CONT'D)

(into phone)

No, I don't want to talk about that. Has Phil arrived yet? Look, could you just tell him to call me? He has my number... No, I promise I'll be fine.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I feel much better now. Just needed to hear someone's voice. Have him call please, no rush. Thank you.

As she hangs up the phone:

EEEEHHH. EEEEEHH. EEEEEHH.

Beth YANKS the alarms CORD out of the wall and tosses it in the middle of the bed.

As Beth, followed by her REFLECTION enters the bathroom. The time on the unplugged ALARM CLOCK slowly fades out.

As she turns on the shower the steam bellows out and is followed by a light blue haze

The phone RINGS.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. GENOVESE'S - MORNING

As we enter the front of this small Sicilian style pizza shop; the PIZZA OVEN and SUB TABLE are in view.

We move through the back as JC and MARC prep food for the day.

Floating through this space we move through the back door of the restaurant that leads to a darkened hallway connecting it to the hotel.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As we push down the darkened hallway.

BETH (O.S.)

Good morning! How was everything for you folks?

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK

As Beth checks an irate OLDER COUPLE out of the hotel. KATIE a sweet looking girl in her early 20's plays solitaire on the hotel computer.

OLD MAN

(to Beth)

You see! Last night when we checked in we were quoted this rate, but now I see that you have a lower rate of fifty five dollars advertised in this here travel guide.

As the old man forces the AD into Beth's face she SWEATS.

Beth's face is WASHED with a warm light as JC enters the lobby from Genovese's.

JC waits at the elevators.

BETH

(focusing on JC)

I'm sorry, sir, that is our walk-in only rate.

OLD MAN

But I'm a Preferred Guest!

BETH

It's only for walk-ins, sir.

OLD MAN

I want a lower rate.

BETH

I can't do that.

Katie watches as Beth's face fills with life.

OLD MAN

(off Beth's name tag)

Beth... I know you can.

BETH

No, I *really* can't.

(she looks at the elevator
once more)

Will you excuse me for a second?

She ducks down behind the desk; Katie follows.

Beth grabs her PURSE from under the counter and whips out her POCKET MIRROR and POWDER. She powders her nose and face quickly.

KATIE

I can't believe I am about to offer you this.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

Would you like for me to finish up with this old geezer, so you can go talk to him?

OLD MAN (O.S.)

SERIOUSLY?!

BETH

What am I gonna say?! 'Hey! You wanna go for a swim or a pizza, would sure be nice!' 'Hey! You have a nice ass?!'

KATIE

Yes you dope! That is exactly what you say.

OLD MAN (O.S.)

WELL, IF YOU CAN'T--

They both POP up, glancing toward the elevator.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

--WORK with me here, Beth, then I'd like to speak with your supervisor.

BETH

Unfortunately she is running late today.

OLD MAN

That really is unfortunate isn't it.

BETH

More than you realize.

OLD MAN

So are you not going to do anything about this?

BETH

Do we really have to keep going in circles about this?

OLD MAN

Excuse me!

BETH

No! EXCUSE ME!!!

KATIE

Beth, its been three years since the accident. Its time to move on. Pick up the pieces; start over. Getting laid...

OLD MAN (O.S.)

I refuse believe your boss would condone
this sort of talk to...

BETH

(reading their bill)

Mr. Delle Vigne, I'm doing the best I can
and its early in the morning.

(to Katie)

Katie, you have something good going with
Marc. Most of the guys I run into just
want to screw!

OLD MAN (O.S.)

What's the matter with you?

KATIE

Whatever. It's as easy or as hard as you
want to make it. There are a lot of good
men out there, but you have to open
yourself up to the possibility. GET LAID,
I have to check on Virgil.

As Katie exits. The Old Woman starts a deathly hacking
cough, she STRUGGLES to pull her handkerchief from her
pocket.

As she puts it back, Beth notices BLOOD on it.

OLD MAN

Darling, forget about this. We're late.

They start gathering their things.

BETH

You know what, sir.

OLD MAN

Yes?

BETH

(typing in computer)

I cannot change the rate for last night
but what I can do is comp the first night
with us on your next stay.

She hands him a receipt and confirmation for their next
stay.

OLD MAN

Now, was that so difficult?

BETH
Take care of that beautiful wife of yours
now.

OLD MAN
BAH!

BETH
And again I'm sorry for the
inconvenience.

As they exit the hotel, Beth notices the woman's purse on
the counter. She grabs it.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth runs to the front entrance.

BETH
MA'AM WAIT!

Beth comes to a HALT in front of the automatic doors.
They don't open.

She knocks on the doors for attention.

The doors finally open.

She stands paralyzed.

BETH (CONT'D)
MA'AM, YOUR PURSE! YOU FORGOT YOUR
PURSE!

Beth watches the old man help his wife into the car;
oblivious.

She looks down at the threshold, as the old couple drives
off.

As the automatic doors shut an ERIE wind blows through the
lobby:

As if brought in by this erie wind a DEAD WOMAN, skin
grey, eyes sunken and naked; sits unseen on a stool behind
the counter. Her hair wet and draping in all the right
places.

The Dead Woman studies Beth.

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

Beth puts the PURSE underneath the counter.

BETH

I had that same dream again last night...
Katie?

INT. GENOVESE'S - MORNING

JC in his late 20's is a ladies man in morning and the owner of the connecting hotel.

As he's taking an order on the phone MARC enters.

MARC is JC's best friend from childhood and comes from a Sicilian decent.

MARC

(on cell phone)

Bella mia, no! I'm not going to get into it with him. Because those are not the things we talk about. I'll see you when you're done checking on his dog.

Marc hangs up.

JC

(on the phone)

Thank you, Mrs. Fredrick. We'll have your order ready in 30 minutes.

(listening)

Well we just opened and that's how long I feel its going to take. Yes, I know you don't want any tomatoes on your cheeseburger sub.

JC hangs up.

JC (CONT'D)

That was Mrs. Fredrick Boss. She wants her sub in 15 minutes.

MARC

Yeah? Well, she... she... can--

JC

Want in one hand, shit in the other. See which one fills up the fastest?

Marc counts the money in the register.

MARC

Essentially. Why are you getting my 'fiance' to do your dirty work? And don't call me Boss!

JC

Oh! Now she's your fiance. I suppose she found a ring in her breakfast cannoli?!

JC hangs the order on the ticket line.

JC (CONT'D)

I call everybody Boss. Order up!!!

MARC

Not like that you don't.

Marc throws a bag of napkins at JC.

MARC (CONT'D)

Looks like Jodi didn't do shit again, as usual?

AWKWARD beat.

MARC (CONT'D)

So tell me about this buyer you have on the line.

JC

She's smoking hot to begin with.

Katie enters from the hotel.

KATIE

Virgil's fine! Now answer the damn question!

JC

God woman, do you ever shut up?! You see the two of us talking? You're 'bout to drive me to drinking.

JC fills the napkin holders on the surrounding tables.

KATIE

OUR BAR??? OUR BAR? What does that even mean? Our bar...

JC

Another girl. Another crush. End of discussion! Stop fuckin' grilling me. Yo, Marc, how 'bout gettin' your 'fiance' in line over here?!

KATIE

Oh! Did he tell you about the big romantic gesture? Here, I'll go. So, he surprised me last night under the moonlight. We were sitting there on the hood of his car. A bottle of wine, some soft tunes on the radio. When all of a sudden, the DJ comes over the speakers saying "Hey all you cool cats listening out there. We have a special request--

JC

--Hang on! He told me he just left it in your cannoli!

KATIE

AH! The romantics of this man!!! What ever. After seven years you'd think he'd have worked up the balls by now, right?! It's awesome. So JC, what are you doing for the next 30 years?

Marc refills the pizza table.

JC

Don't bring me into this!

KATIE

No, seriously what are your plans? Marc says you have a meeting today.

JC

Did he?!

KATIE

I'm curious, what's your plan? Do you intend to start running from your life now?

JC

(to Marc)

Who all have you told?

KATIE

Listen to me, what you need is to get your shit together. How long have I been maintaining this hotel of your's? Not that I don't love you, but I wouldn't have sacrificed the last three years of my life if I thought it was in vain. I swear, boy, sometimes you have no clue how good you have it! Oh fuck, I have an idea!

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

Lets find you a woman that will do what I do but do it because she wants you, not because, well... You're pathetic.

JC places the napkins back on the counter.

JC

I'm pathetic? Jesus you'd think I was the one with the girlfriend around here. Do I get head now???? MARC?!

(a throat grunt to Marc)

Hynaw.

MARC

Katie, please?

KATIE

All I'm saying is you should stop messing around with these little girls, and start trying to find yourself a grown woman. You gotta be willing to let everything go to really find yourself.

Marc turns on the pizza oven.

MARC

That was some prolific shit right there brotha, and I hate to say it but it makes sense.

KATIE

I think he needs to grow a set of balls too. You're both a bunch of pansies. Grow up, both of you!

Katie walks over to Marc.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Credit card baby.

MARC

For what?!

KATIE

Getting my nails done today.

She grabs an ORDER TABLET and pen and writes something down.

MARC

Oh, so I'm a pansy with no balls yet still good enough to take my money?

KATIE

Be glad you're good for something.

She smiles. Marc hands her his credit card.

She leans over the counter and kisses him.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Love you!

(slides the order ticket
into his hand)

I'll see you later.

She's gone. Marc looks at the ticket with a big SMILEY FACE and "I LOVE YOU, SEXY" written on it.

MARC

Anyway, back to the buyer. When is the meeting? And you say she's hot?!

JC

Next few days. She said she would call ahead.

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - AFTERNOON

Beth sits behind the front desk reading 'DANTE'S INFERNO'.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

JC enters from Genovese's. He stops before the elevator and looks at Beth.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK

As JC approaches the front desk. Beth ducks down below and fixes her hair.

JC

You get it all taken care of?

Beth rises.

JC (CONT'D)

You got a little mini bar set up down there?

(beat)

So, I was wondering.

BETH

--Yes?!

JC

You wanna go out sometime?

BETH

Out?

JC

Yeah. With me... and the gang.
Might actually do you some good to get
out of this place.

Beth glances at the front doors.

JC (CONT'D)

Not really the reaction I was hoping for.

BETH

Sorry--

JC

Whatcha think? Katie, Marc, and I are
going to the diner tonight after we close
up shop. It'll be fun. Scouts honor.

Beth and JC see the doors open automatically and they're
both a bit startled.

Suddenly: The DEAD WOMAN stands unseen behind JC.

BETH

Um--yah, no. I can't. But thank you so
much for asking.

JC

Just like that?

(beat)

Okay then. You sure? You're gonna miss
a helluva time.

(pointing towards the doors)

Even the hotel wants you to go.

BETH

That's funny, you're funny.

Beth debates

BETH (CONT'D)

I'm sure.

JC

Really?

BETH

Yes.

As JC turns to leave.

JC

You sure about that?

BETH

Completely.

JC

Completely?

BETH

Yes--

JC

You wanted to say yes. Well. We're meeting at the bar just across the lobby there--

(pointing to bar)

--for a drink beforehand if you change your mind.

BETH

Okay. Still a 'no'.

JC heads to the elevator.

The DEAD WOMAN inspects Beth.

Beth smiles to herself.

The DEAD WOMAN appears to SUCK the breath from Beth causing her to PANIC

INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM - LATER

As Beth leans over a huge industrial laundry bin looking up at a jammed laundry chute.

She yanks the linens but they won't budge.

Katie enters

KATIE

Need a hand?

BETH

Yah, that'd be nice.

Katie grabs the sheets and they both pull.

KATIE

You said no?! Why the HELL did you say no?!

BETH

Because.

KATIE

Because?! Girl, if you don't start taking chances in life, you're going to end up miserably alone--and you know what they say: misery loves, no--what I'm saying, is not even misery will love your company.

They pull again -- still nothing.

BETH

I'm scared out of my mind. What if I say the wrong thing or laugh?

KATIE

I actually recommend the laughing. Okay, lets try this together on three. One. Two. Three.

They both pull--

BOOM!

All the sheets and comforters come storming out of the laundry shoot.

Both the girls end up on their asses; laughing.

KATIE (CONT'D)

See? Laughing is--

BETH

--Yeah but what if milk comes out of my nose or something like that?!

KATIE

At least you would be having a good time!

BETH

Okay sure, but seriously... what if a car ran off the road or the diner gets held up?! Like in Pulp Fiction! There are so many different ways for this to go wrong. Not to mention global warming. Think of all the carbon monoxide that would be released into the air from us driving there.

KATIE

Well that is why we'll be carpooling and besides I'm gonna be there. So if anything starts going wrong, if you start getting anxious at any moment we can take a moment for ourselves. This is going to be fine.

BETH

I don't know...

They both load the laundry into the industrial washing machines.

KATIE

I Promise.

BETH

I appreciate your understanding. Sometimes I swear you're my only friend.

KATIE

Now, Beth, you know that's not true at all!

BETH

Who else comes in to visit me here?

Katie hesitates.

BETH (CONT'D)

Exactly. And you think some guy's gonna actually go out with me let alone make love to me? *Right! I'm better off--and safer--staying here.*

KATIE

Are you kidding me?! He asked you out. That's more than half the battle!

BETH

It's not that simple when fear is your warden.

KATIE

We can do this.

BETH

You say we can do this, but I'm the one that has to deal with the panic and anxiety of being in a public place with people I don't know.

KATIE

You'll know the three of us sitting with you.

(a beat)

How long have you been waiting for this moment? Don't miss what may be your only chance.

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

As JC takes his time getting dressed. Marc helps himself to a beer in the mini-fridge.

JC

Toss me a beer.

MARC

I can't believe she said no. After all these years, the two of you playing cat and mouse. It doesn't make sense?

JC

Remember how confident she was growing up? She just seems so lost now.

MARC

Well, she'll really have to "go out" once you sell this place.

JC

Oh shit! I didn't even think about that. Where is she going to live.

As JC pounds his beer.

JC (CONT'D)

You know, I haven't signed the papers yet.

MARC

Yah, I know. But don't forget the buyer is coming by tomorrow.

JC

I know, its just everything at once. This place was our dream and its just sort of slipped away the last few years.

MARC

You've been distracted.

JC

Doesn't matter. I feel bad because I could be putting your restaurant at risk as well. There's no guarantee that this new owner will honor the agreement we have in place.

MARC

True, my friend. But don't worry about me. Genovese's has been around for thirty years, we're not going anywhere anytime soon.

JC

Good point.

MARC

Enough with the sensitive shit dude lets see if we can get this girl out of the hotel and into your pants.

JC

Shut up, man. You're stupid.

MARC

Well, if not her then this buyer? Just don't cheat on her, we all know how that turns out--

JC

--Watch it, dude! Not cool!

MARC

Relax, bro. Just bustin' your balls.

They cheers.

JC gives himself one final look in the mirror.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY BAR - NIGHT

As JC tinkers with fuse box, Marc, and Katie finish up their drinks.

MARC

Doesn't look like she's gonna show, JC.

KATIE

Ye of little faith.

JC
Lets get out of here before it gets too
crowded, don't want to be eating at 3
a.m.

They start heading to the front doors.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

DING!

As Beth enters the lobby.

Katie gives Marc a wink and a smile. They exit the hotel.

JC
Glad you changed your mind. Ready?

BETH
(hesitantly)
As I'll ever be...

As Beth gets closer to the doors she slows. JC turns to see her hesitation.

JC
(attempting to lighten the
moment)
Come on, that's a girl, come on!

Beth scowls in the THRESHOLD as the dead woman appears between them.

She stares Beth down.

Beth takes a deep breath and nervously steps out.

Enraged; the DEAD WOMAN opens her mouth to scream:

HONK! HONK!

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER - LATER

HONK! HONK!

As a TANKER TRUCK pulls out of the gas station across the street.

Beth stares out the window at the world she has avoided.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER

As the three of them sit at the table watching Beth stare out the window.

A BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS (AUDREY, 20) walks up to the table.

AUDREY
Thank ya'll for waiting?
(off JC)
Oh, hey! How are you?!

JC
Pretty good. You?

AUDREY
Good.

JC
When did you starting working here?

AUDREY
It's been a few weeks now.

JC
I'm here quit a bit and I don't recall having seen you.

AUDREY
I know. I remember you saying. I'm just part time right now.

The rest of the group stares Audrey down.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Y'all ready to order?

KATIE
No, can you come back?

AUDREY
No problem.
(to JC)
Were you in 'our' bar the other night?

KATIE
Our bar?!

AUDREY

Yeah, I met JC about a month ago at
Blondie's.

KATIE

Oh, really?!

AUDREY

How could I forget! He bought me a
couple adios motherfuckers and well *adios*
motherfucker!-- How are things going with
your--restaurant--hotel--which one is it
again?

MARC

No. Please tell me he didn't give you
the "*I just bought Genovese's and I'm new*
to town line"?

Her look says it all.

JC

I'm on a date!

AUDREY

Right!!! Sorry.
(to Beth)
Sorry.

She touches JC's shoulder, a moment too long, then leaves.

INT. DINER - LATER

As Beth picks at her food, she follows Audrey's every
move.

The others plates are empty.

MARC

You not hungry?
(a beat)
Hello?!

Beth snaps out of it.

BETH

What?!

MARC

You not hungry?

Audrey walks up to the table and touches JC's shoulder
again more sensually this time.

AUDREY
Y'all finished up here?

Suddenly:

The room goes black.

A BLUE HAZE fills the diner.

There are only three people in the diner now: Beth, JC,
and Audrey.

Audrey stands next to JC touching his shoulder.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Any dessert?

As JC stands he grabs Audrey pulls her close.

He kisses her HARD.

Beth sits; silent. Unable to turn away.

As JC and Audrey fall into a booth. The DEAD WOMAN sits in
a booth at the opposite end of the diner.

JC SLAMS Audrey on the table.

He rips open her skirt and goes down on her; his eyes on
Beth the whole time.

Audrey pushes JC back and sits up. She takes his pants
off.

JC SLAMS Audrey back on the table and climbs on top of
her.

The DEAD WOMAN is now a few booths away from them watching
Beth.

As JC POUNDS Audrey his eyes are locked with Beth's.

As Beth looks away she SEE'S the dead woman sitting in the
booth beside her.

Beth screams:

The BLUE HAZE disappears. The diner is filled with
people.

Everything is back to normal.

Audrey takes plates away from the table.

KATIE

You okay?

Beth looks at Audrey and JC one more time.

The DEAD WOMAN watches the four of them from the window outside the diner.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - MORNING

As Katie checks an unruly Kurt Cobain-esque man into the hotel. Beth struggles to keep her eyes open.

The sound of Genovese's comes from the hallway as it pulls our attention through the doors into:

INT. GENOVESE'S - BACK OF THE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

FIRE explodes in a huge FLASH as we enter the back of the pizza shop.

JC stands over the grill holding a BOTTLE of 90 proof Vodka.

Marc slices ham at the prep counter.

Fire explodes into the air again and after the FLASH dissipates; through the expediter window the front door bell CHIMES.

CUT TO:

INT. GENOVESE'S - FRONT OF THE SHOP

As a woman enters the pizza shop.

WENDY is a business woman in her early 30's, sexy and confident. She also shares an uncanny likeness to the DEAD WOMAN tormenting Beth.

WENDY

Hello! JC?

MARC

Marc. You must be Wendy. You're early, JC is about the property somewhere. I'll take you to find him.

As they exit the restaurant:

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS - DAY

AS Marc walks Wendy around to the hotel's front entrance. There is a slight evidence of vandalization.

WENDY

Needs a little work doesn't it.

MARC

Yeah, but it won't take no time to have it up and running. JC kind of let it go after the incident.

BLOOD drips from Marcs ear

MARC (CONT'D)

But fortunate for you it makes for a better buying price.

WENDY

So you both own the restaurant?

MARC

No, I'm the owner. He helps me out here because he's got nothing better to do.

As JC exits the hotel he hands Marc a clean napkin.

WENDY

And you must be JC.

JC

(shaking her hand)

Uh. Um. No, Marc-- I mean, yes, JC. Marc,

(motioning to wipe his ear)

can you finish breakfast?

Wendy smirks.

JC (CONT'D)

Hi, sorry. I wasn't expecting you for another couple of hours. Not that it matters. Anyhow, I guess you'd like to see the hotel?

WENDY

That would be nice. Thank you.

JC
Follow me. You're really going to love
the place.

INT. ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

DING!

As the elevator doors open, JC's dog, Virgil, STARES at
the floor, SNARLING.

JC (O.S.)
Virgil! Hey boy?!

As JC's shoves his arm in, he stops the elevator doors.

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INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR LOBBY

As JC pulls Virgil from the elevator by his collar.

JC
(to Virgil)
How did you get in there, boy?
(to Wendy)
Sorry, he doesn't normally act like this.

WENDY
That's okay. Virgil, huh? Very
interesting name for a dog. How you
doin' boy?

JC
Well, he was named after a character from
a book.

WENDY
Oh? What book?

JC
Dante's Inferno.

WENDY
That's more than morbid.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - SAME

Beth watches Wendy and JC while she trains a new employee.

JC (O.C.)
Yeah, well I didn't name him.

BETH
Steve, can you cover the desk for a few minutes.

STEVE
Sure.

BETH
Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR LOBBY

As Beth approaches Wendy and JC.

WENDY
(petting Virgil)
Well, he's beautiful.

JC
Careful, he's a real ladies man.

WENDY
Is he now?! He's smart too! Calls elevators?

BETH
--Hi!
(holding out her hand)
I'm Beth.

JC
Beth is my best employee. Very reliable and eager to work. Definitely someone you can count on when in management.

WENDY
Well I'm eager to utilize your willingness. Thank you, Beth.

BETH
I can take Virgil off your hands for you. I guess...

JC
Please. That would be great.

BETH
I'll take him back to the roof.

Beth pushes the call button.

BETH (CONT'D)

Sometimes I swear these elevators have a
mind of their own.

JC

Thank you, Beth. Wendy, shall we
continue?

WENDY

Yes please!

JC guides her toward the offices with his hand on the
small of her back.

He opens the door for her.

Beth watches it all as the elevator doors close on her.

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

DING!

As the elevator doors open, Virgil GUIDES Beth into the
dim lite hallway.

A soft WEEPING can be heard

Virgil, alert, moves ahead.

As she passes 337..335... Virgil is sniffing and
scratching at the door for room 333.

Virgil runs off SPOOKED.

The WEEPING is heard from inside room 333.

CUT TO:

INT. VENDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth enters and finds Virgil curled up behind the soda
machine.

The ice machine THUNDERS as the new ice is released into
the bin.

She kneels:

BETH
Come here, boy.
(clapping her hands)
Come on. Come here, Virgil.

He won't move.

She attempts to grab his collar.

He snaps at her.

BETH (CONT'D)
(startled)
Why are you acting like this?!

She buys a snack in the vending machine and uses it to tempt him.

BETH (CONT'D)
Come on, Virgil.

He won't budge.

FADE TO:

INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

As the huge bin sits empty underneath the laundry chute. A large CLOG of white sheets and comforters hang just feet above jammed.

Beth enters.

BETH
Oh, come on. Really?!

She pulls on the clog to no avail.

FADE TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth enters from the laundry room. Katie trains a NEW EMPLOYEE (STEVE).

KATIE
And when you're done with this form. You have to make sure that you run the accounting for the day or the registers will never reset.

BETH

Um, Katie, can you help me in here for a minute. This stupid laundry is stuck again.

KATIE

Jump it!

BETH

I don't know if I'm up for that. I'm feeling a little spooked.

KATIE

Seriously?! This isn't about the other night is it?! Come on, sweetie, I'll go with.

STEVE

Can I come?

KATIE

No. Watch the front.

BETH

You sure he can cover for us that long?

KATIE

Yah, totally. How hard can it be, right?! No one comes in here anyway, its the middle of BFE Pennsylvania!

BETH

True.

KATIE

(to Steve)

Just let the audit run itself and you'll be fine.

STEVE

Okay.

KATIE

No, seriously. Do not touch anything on that computer while I'm gone or you'll be fired. I'm just messing with you! Balls, Steve, balls. Grow some. You'll be okay.

Katie and Beth exit.

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - SECOND FLOOR - MINUTES LATER

As Beth and Katie climb the stairs to the third floor.

BETH

You play 'bitch' so well.

KATIE

Who says I'm playing. Speaking of bitches... have you seen JC today?

BETH

I hope I don't after the other night.

KATIE

Just calm down. The most important thing to remember is JC is a guy. Guys think with their dicks. Does it make sense? No, but all you need to do is use it to your advantage. Think. He still wants to sleep with you, so, you get another shot.

BETH

I was really weird though--

KATIE

(laughing)

Yeah you were REALLY weird. I've never seen you act like that before.

BETH

I felt like I was losing my mind. Like I was seeing things

KATIE

Seriously!?

BETH

Well, I don't know. It just felt like something was after me

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - THIRD FLOOR - SAME

KATIE

I can imagine! Being your first time out of the hotel in how many years?

BETH

Three.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - SAME

KATIE

I don't think JC will even care.

BETH

How could he not! I'm a freak!

KATIE

You'll have another chance. It'll get better, I promise.

INT. LAUNDRY CHUTE ROOM

As Beth and Katie enter.

BETH

I hope so! I just need to get some good sleep. I haven't slept a full night in... Well I can't remember how long but its been a very long time, Katie.

Katie looks down the laundry chute.

KATIE

That's it! I stayed up for a few nights in a row back in college. Started seeing things, no joke. Damn housekeeping! Its up past the second floor this time. Definitely gonna have to jump.

(pulling her head out of
chute)

You go first.

BETH

I'm not talking about a few days. Its been years. Until...

KATIE

...Until what?

BETH

Ever have that moment where you feel like you're awake for the first time ever? Like--BOOM--and suddenly everything has color.

KATIE

Completely. Falling in love with Marc. That was it for me.

BETH

Cheese! Wait?! I'm not going first!

KATIE

Yeah you are! I went first last time.

Beth jumps into the chute. The clog holds tight.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY CHUTE - CONTINUOUS

As Beth bounces on the sheets. Katie watches her from the opening.

KATIE

Keep jumping and I think we'll get it.
I'll go down and pull from the second
floor. See you at the bottom!

Katie exits laughing.

BETH

No, no, NO!...WAIT!

Beth stands on the clogged laundry alone.

THUD! THUNK!

She bounces on the laundry again -- nothing.

BANGS, and CRACKS echo inside the aluminum laundry chute.

BETH (CONT'D)

Katie! Are you there?!

AS Beth tries to pull herself out of the chute she notices something in the SHADOWS above

THUNK! WHOOSH!

As the sheets and comforters fall from beneath her.

She falls with the laundry for a few feet before:

BANG! BOOM! TEAR!

She gets stuck in the chute between the second and third floors.

She SCREAMS trying to break free.

BETH (CONT'D)

HELP ME!! KATIE!! HELP!!

Beth hangs.

BETH (CONT'D)
 KATIE WHERE ARE YOU, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
 KATIE! GET ME OUT OF HERE!

As Beth quiets, faint sounds of Virgil in the throws of a "battle".

BETH (CONT'D)
 VIRGIL?!! THIS CANT BE HAPPENING!!

As the BATTLE get nearer a THUD quiets Beth.

As Beth looks for a way out she hears the chute door CREAK open.

Beth FREEZES.

BETH (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Katie?

SILENCE

BETH (CONT'D)
 LEAVE ME ALONE!!

Suddenly, JC POPS his head through the third floor chute opening.

JC
 Okay, I won't help then.

BETH
 No, no, no. Sorry I didn't mean you.
 Please help me get out of here. PLEASE!!!

JC
 Okay! Take it easy. I have to ask though.
 How did you manage to get yourself--

BETH
 Can we please discuss this in a bit? I
 really have to pee.

JC
 I'm gonna free you up but you'll have to
 drop down the rest of the way.

He reaches behind her and pulls her shirt off the bolt its stuck on.

BETH
 Please, no.

He takes her hand.

JC

I don't have the leverage to pull you up. I may get pulled in myself and that would be bad for both of us. Look at me. I promise you, you'll be fine. I've done it hundreds of times. Just keep your arms folded.

BETH

(looking in his eyes)

Okay.

JC

On three. One. Two. Three.

He lets her hand go and she falls.

INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM

As Beth falls into the pile of laundry on the floor.

JC (O.S.)

Heads up I'm coming down!

Beth runs out.

JC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

GERONIMO!!

JC falls out of the chute to find an empty laundry room.

He notices movement on the pool deck outside through the window.

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

As JC finds Beth sitting on her knees by the edge of the water.

BETH

Thank you so much. Where is Katie?

JC shrugs

BETH (CONT'D)

You must think I'm a total head case?

JC

I like my nuts mixed.

BETH
Is Virgil okay? He was going crazy...

JC
He's fine, that's how I found you.

BETH
That was so freaky

JC helps her up.

BETH (CONT'D)
You know I'm fucked up right?
(a beat)
I can't even bring myself to take a
leisurely swim.

JC
Its that bad huh?

BETH
You don't know the half of it.

JC
So let me get this straight. Aside from
the other night, you can't go outside?
You can't enjoy the inside?

BETH
Pretty much.

JC
Why did I hire you again? Must have been
the challenge of it all.

BETH
Challenge of what?

JC
You.

BETH
I don't understand.

JC
Neither do I, but I'm working on it.

They share a moment.

JC (CONT'D)
Remember when we were little?

BETH
Yes?

JC

And we had to clean your room so we played a game. Every time we picked a toy up we had to kiss. Or how the green house was suppose to be haunted and we challenged each other to go inside. I chickened out but you went in anyway. You were so care free and stong. What happened to her?

BETH

The accident happened.

JC

And you can't leave the hotel, or anything else? Essentially making my hotel your sanctuary.

BETH

Except... I'm starting to think the hotel is haunted...

JC

Oh my God! And the punches just keep on coming!

BETH

I told you!

JC

Okay, first of all... if, if the hotel is haunted. You have nothing to worry about cause they can't harm you. Its in your head.

BETH

So you admit its haunted.

JC

No I'm saying if. To believe in ghosts is to believe in other dimensions and if they could cross over they would have no power in this world. Just power over your mind... Cool?

BETH

You're full of shit, but thank you.

JC

Now, with that fear taken care of what can we work on next? We need to get you out of here again.

BETH

I don't know about that.

JC

Well the trick is to be tricky. Give me some time to figure this one out. In the mean time keep hands and feet inside the vehicle at all times.

Beth leans in for an awkward kiss. JC plays coy before closing the gap.

As they kiss Beth see's Wendy staring at them from the darkened laundry room.

BETH

(catching her breath)

Thank you...for saving my life.

Beth hurries back into the hotel.

INT. GENOVESE'S - MORNING

As Katie sits at a corner table working a puzzle and watching Marc in the kitchen.

MARC

Sweet potato hash okay with you?

KATIE

I love your sweet potato hash.

As Wendy rushes in hanging up her cell phone.

WENDY

Oh my gosh! I couldn't sleep at all last night. Good morning.

MARC

Good morning. Just in time for breakfast have a seat. This is Katie. Would you like some coffee?

WENDY

Yes please, good morning. Hi, Katie how are you?

KATIE

Nice to meet you. So JC has you staying in the hotel while you close on the place?

WENDY

Yes, but it was my--

Her phone rings again.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Oh no! I need to answer this, just one second.

(into phone)

I can't talk right now... I know and I'll be there....you can't start with out me... and she was my sister. I have to go. I'll be there.

As Katie hangs up.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. That was my mother. I have to be back to blah, blah this afternoon.

MARC

No worries. Is everything okay? If you don't mind me asking?

WENDY

It's my sister. She's dead.

KATIE

WHAT?!

WENDY

No, not now. She's been dead. Today is the anniversary of her death.

MARC

OH NO!!! Sorry I pried.

WENDY

Don't be. It was a few years ago.

KATIE

Oh wow. That's horrible. How did she die?

(gasps)

Sorry!

A couple approaches the counter to order:

GUY #1

Uh, we'd like a ham and cheese stromboli.

The youngest of Marc's brothers, LUIGI, writes down the order and smirks as he hands it to the oldest of Marc's brother's, NINO.

WENDY

Suicide.

NINO (O.C.)

THE FUCK I'M MAKING A GODDAMN STROMBOLI!
I'VE BEEN BUSTIN' MY ASS ALL DAY LONG! I
HAVEN'T DRANK ANYTHING SINCE I GOT HERE!

KATIE

That's so--so--the two of you were close?

WENDY

We were twins. Mirror twins to be exact.

NINO (O.C.)

I'M NOT GOING TO GET TO THE BAR BY TWELVE
TONIGHT AT THIS RATE!

KATIE

Mirror?

WENDY

Identical mirror twins. It means she was
left handed I was right. Glasses
prescription was exact opposite
etcetera....

KATIE

I can only imagine how that effected you?

WENDY

It was like losing my "north". We knew
everything about each other; could sense
each others presence from around corners.
Imagine waking up one day and having no
reflection.

KATIE

You poor thing. Why are you here?

WENDY

Business is business.

Wendy steals a glance at JC in the back of the shop.

CUT TO:

INT. GENOVESE'S - PIZZA TABLE

As Nino makes the stromboli.

NINO
(mimicking)

"What's in a veggie stromboli?" -- Bacon and hamburger, what the fuck do you think's in a veggie stromboli?! "I didn't get any sauce with my stromboli?" THERE'S SAUCE IN THE THING YOU FUCKING MORONS!

Nino puts the stromboli in the pizza oven.

NINO (CONT'D)
I'M NOT MAKING ANOTHER FUCKING STROMBOLI!

Nino storms into the office.

As Luigi takes a phone order and puts it up over the pizza prep table:

LARGE VEGGIE STROMBOLI

DING! As he hits the bell on the counter.

INT. HOTEL BAR - DUSK

As JC pours Marc a drink from behind the half-stocked bar.

The only LIGHT comes from the front desk and surrounding lobby area.

He hands Marc a dirty glass filled with cheap scotch.

MARC
You need to fire your housekeeper. She's no good.

JC
Eh.

MARC
Lazy ass.

JC
Is bustin' my balls about my dirty glasses and broken down bar really why you came here? You coulda done that over the phone.

MARC
Where else can I drink for free?! No, its definitely not the reason I came over.

Marc downs the rest of his drink.

MARC (CONT'D)
Damn, that's some cheap scotch.

JC
What do you need?

JC pours Marc another drink; mockingly wiping his glass clean.

JC (CONT'D)
There ya go.

MARC
I already know you're not gonna like it.

JC
Just ask it already.

MARC
I want to use the honeymoon suite to propose to Katie.

JC
Yah you were right. I don't like it.

MARC
Seriously, JC, when was the last time you were in there?!

JC
It's been almost three years since anyone's been in there.

MARC
It's just a room, my friend. Let it go.

JC
It's not that easy dude. NO. You can't use it.

MARC
Come on, JC. You know Katie's been riding my ass for years now about this proposal stuff. I want to make it as romantic as possible.

JC
And you thought the hotel would be that place?!

MARC

Since we were fifteen this is all we ever talked about. All of us.

JC

I just don't see how this place is romantic.

MARC

And I wonder why you're still single.

JC

I make that choice.

MARC

Sure its a choice and not an inevitable result.

(a beat)

All I'm sayin' is imagine what you'd have if you actually tried.

JC

You're still not gettin' the room tonight, Marc. Nice try though.

MARC

Listen to me for a second, JC. Remember the first time your heart skipped a beat. Remember when no matter how hard you tried to deny it, the one thing you couldn't help yourself from feeling is a connection with her that defies any feeling, thought, or logic you've ever known? That without even telling her how much she means to you, she seems to already know. As if you're two bodies sharing one soul and you want nothing more than to walk the rest of your life with her by your side?

JC pours himself a drink.

All of the lights suddenly come on in the bar area as Beth flips all the switches.

BETH

Did you want those off? Sorry just flipping the breaker on.

She throws the breaker and all the outside lights come on.

With the proper illumination, the bar now seems to be fully stocked, dusty glasses now sparkling and clean.

As JC looks at Beth.

JC
When do you need it?

MARC
Next week if possible. I was going to
lure her here with the hot tub.

JC
I'll have it ready.

MARC
I appreciate it, my man.

JC nods distracted by Beth at the front desk.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

As Beth enters the lobby with JC waiting for her, flowers
in hand.

JC
There she is, wow those pants look
amazing on you. Are you ready?

BETH
I think so.

JC
I got you. You've done this a hundred
times.

She puts her arm through JC's as they cross the threshold.

INT. DINER - LATER

As JC enters with Beth on his arm. The diner is packed.

BETH
Will Katie and Marc be joining us?

JC
Thought we'd keep this just us tonight.
They may stop by later but we'll see.

As Audrey approaches the front and Beth tenses up.

AUDREY
Sit anywhere you'd like. JC, hi!

JC doesn't even glance at her.

INT. BOOTH IN DINER - CONTINUOUS

As JC and Beth sit in the secluded booth.

BETH

Wasn't sure what to think after I totally
threw myself on you the other night by
the pool.

JC

Yeah that was pretty aggressive.

BETH

Yeah, I felt that might have been to much
for you. That's why I left. Sudden.

JC

Well... I can't make it too easy or
you'll lose interest right?

BETH

Oh? Lucky me I get the hard to get JC.

JC

Lets do something.

BETH

I thought we were?

JC

Lets pretend we know nothing about each
other

BETH

Okay?

JC

I'm serious.

BETH

Where do we start?

JC

What's your favorite color?

BETH

Green. Yours?

JC

Orange.

Audrey approaches the table.

AUDREY

What can I get you guys to drink?

JC

(without looking up at
Audrey)

What's your favorite drink?

BETH

Diet Coke

JC

You know that's worst for than regular?
(never leaving Beth's eyes)

Diet coke and a banana malt.

Audrey leaves.

BETH

Should we look at our menus, now?

JC

We don't have to.

BETH

I can't imagine that you're too hungry.
You and Marc must eat all day at
restaurant.

JC

Are you saying I have a fat ass or
something?!

BETH

Totally. Still a very nice one though.

JC

Well thanks.

START DINER MONTAGE:

1. Beth pushes the salt shaker back and forth across the table between her hands when JC slides the pepper shaker in knocking salt and pepper every where! Beth blows what's on the table into JC's lap.

2. As Beth eats, a huge FRENCH FRY hits her in the face. JC's trying to act like it wasn't him. Suddenly he gets hit in the face with the mustard side of a burger bun. They both crack up laughing.

3. JC is in the middle of showing Beth how to make a 'snake' with a scrunched up straw paper. Beth tries it now and a whole straw full of soda pours onto the table. She tries to clean it up and ends up spilling her own soda. JC is able to jump out of the way in time to not get covered in soda. He sits down next to Beth.

END DINER MONTAGE

The two of them are the only people left in the diner now.

JC (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me!!

BETH

Not at all! Totally serious! I knew from that moment when I saw Katie laying flat on her ass that we were going to be best friends for life!

JC

I never knew that even happened!

BETH

Well now you do!... Not to get all serious on you--

JC

--But seriously!

BETH

Nevermind...

JC

Its okay. I'm only playing.

BETH

That's okay.

JC

I would love nothing more than to get serious with you. So what is it you want to know?

BETH

Just was thinking to myself, 'why the hell is this awesome guy still single after all these years?'

JC

You weren't kidding? Guess it would have to be that I have high standards and expectations.

BETH

Really?! I thought it was because you had a tendency to sleep with anything that moved.

JC

You don't really want to talk about this do you?

BETH

Probably not but how can you truly know someone without a complete understanding of their past?

JC

Okay, but... already? Can't we do that--

BETH

--Why prolong the inevitable?

JC

Why does everybody feel the need to teach me about inevitability these days? Okay, your right. I have been with a fair share of women, yes. Does that bother you?

BETH

Something that brings you comfort is never a bother.

JC

Comfort?

BETH

The truth that is, the sleeping around needs work.

JC

So you think you can save me or something?

BETH

I hope so, but betrayal is my personal devil.

JC

So you're setting me up to fail from the beginning?!

BETH

No, no, no! Not at all.

JC

Sounds that way.

BETH
Sorry 'bout that. Completely came across
the wrong way.

JC
No, it didn't. I know exactly what you
mean. With you, a hundred percent.

They both finish off their pie. JC steals a glance.

FADE OUT.

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - THE NEXT NIGHT

As Beth gathers her things.

BETH
Have good shift, Steve.

STEVE
Thank you. Did you cut your hair or
something?

BETH
No...

STEVE
Huh. Something seems different about you.

BETH
Thanks, goodnight.

STEVE
Night.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR LOBBY - NIGHT

As Beth pushes the call button.

DING!

The doors open. Wendy elaborately collects herself before
exiting.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

As Beth pushes the button for the third floor.

The doors close and nothing happens.

Beth pushes the button again.

As soon as she releases it a fluid starts seeping from the button.

Beth studies the fluid.

BOOM!

As the elevator drops like a ride at Six Flags her hair and clothing start floating.

Beth is pulled to the back wall of the elevator, pinned by a centripetal force.

BLOOD seeps through every button on the panel.

SPLAT!

BLOOD splatters on Beth's face. Her arms are heavy

BLOOD seeps through the seam in the doors.

Beth looks at the floor which is now a boiling pool of BLOOD.

She tries to scream unsuccessfully.

The blood on the floor boils violently and SPITS on Beth's pants.

A BLOOD-SOAKED HEAD rises out of the floor.

The DEAD WOMAN's eyes lock with Beth's as her blood-lathered body rises out of the floor.

The DEAD WOMAN is unaffected by the forces at work.

As the DEAD WOMAN caresses Beth's neck, she is finally able to let out a SCREAM.

This audible scream breaks the spell.

Beth falls to the floor and the DEAD WOMAN, blood, and boiling floor all disappear with the THUD of her landing.

As Beth regains her bearings she hears a faint BARKING from outside the elevator.

DING!

The doors open and Virgil stands in the third floor lobby wagging his tail at Beth.

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Beth crawls out of the elevator and curls into the fetal position.

Virgil licks her face coaxing her to follow him.

INT. HOTEL JC'S ROOM - SAME

As JC flips the channels on the TV fading in and out of sleep.

SCRATCHING comes from outside the door.

He opens the door to find Virgil sitting there looking down the hallway.

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth trembles and cries on the floor.

DING!

She SCREAMS!

JC runs to her.

JC
(lifting her up)
I'm right here. Lets get you back to my room.

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

As JC lays Beth on the bed.

JC
You want any water?

Beth nods yes.

JC only finds a fridge full of BEER.

JC (CONT'D)
Beer okay?

BETH
Don't by chance have anything stronger, do you?

JC

I got a bar downstairs. Like me to run down there?

BETH

No, no! Please just stay...don't leave me alone right now...

(a beat)

...How do you find...strength when your own mind is betraying you?

JC

Sometimes strength isn't found within ourselves it's discovered through the ones that love us.

(a beat)

We can go as slow or fast as it takes. We can start small with continued trips to the diner and venture out from there when you feel good and ready for it. Anytime, day or night. What happened out there?

She throws him a look.

BETH

Wendy.

JC

Wendy? Wendy made you cry?

BETH

She's just so... together.

JC

That has nothing to do with us. Only person I'm interested in, is you.

They kiss.

Beth pulls away.

BETH

Promise you'll be faithful to me.

JC

You know how you said I'm worth saving?

BETH

Yeah?

He unbuttons her shirt as she takes off his shirt.

They make love -- passion unlike anything they've ever experienced before.

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - DAWN

As Beth lies asleep next to JC.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

As Beth turns on the shower. She looks at herself in the mirror.

The water from the hot shower fills the bathroom with steam fogging up the mirror.

A smiley face comes into view.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - THE NEXT EVENING

As Wendy sits at Beth's register reviewing the BLACK REGISTER BOOK.

BETH

Everything okay?

WENDY

Just doing some performance reviews and thought I would start with you, Beth.

BETH

Sure. But we usually have some sort of notice beforehand. And its just a verbal review--

WENDY

--Well things are going to start changing around here. I don't do well when my people are out of line.

BETH

Out of line? I'm not sure what you hope to find with my register. It's always on.

WENDY

I found some anomalies already.

Beth grabs the REGISTER BOOK.

She thumbs through the book -- all the totals are \$300.

BETH

Well, they seem to be dead on to me.

WENDY

Got a little spunk in us today, huh?! I like that. The register is NEVER dead on from one close out to another. Not to mention weeks or even years in a row. Looks like nobody ever taught you how to fudge properly.

BETH

No one ever taught me because I don't cheat or lie. Now, if you want to make this personal I think it best to have JC sit in on this.

WENDY

I used to play 'damsel in distress' all the time. Till I realized men don't want a kitten they want a lioness. See a lioness takes care of herself, she's a hunter. A kitten has to be cared for-- nurtured--rescued from trees--

BETH

I never said I needed rescuing--

WENDY

--Let's get something straight. JC's a business man. Now he likes little girls and maybe even loves them from time to time--

BETH

--Don't act like you know what JC and I have.

WENDY

Too cute. Look, I'm a woman. I do woman things and have woman feelings. I also know men and how to cater to their needs. Just like the days of old when peasants married for love cause that's all they had. The upper class married out of business arrangements.

BETH

What the hell does that have to do with anything?

WENDY

What do you bring to the table? Love? Affection? Understanding? Trust?

BETH

I already brought all that and more and he feasted.

WENDY

That's cute, are you sure he wasn't just after a little dessert? Did you like my smiley face?

Wendy exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR LOBBY - SECONDS LATER

As JC exits the elevator in swim trunks, Wendy approaches him.

WENDY

Oh, hey JC. Imagine finding you here.
(laughing)
Jacuzzi time I see.

JC

Yeah, Marc and Katie are on their way over. If you see them could you let them know I'm already in the water?

WENDY

Mind if I join you for a sec? I want to run some things by you.

JC

Not at all.

He steals a glance towards Beth at the front desk then unlocks the pool door.

Wendy stands behind JC dry humping him as they walk down the hallway to the pool.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - LATER

As Katie enters the lobby from Genovese's, strung-out and disheveled.

Beth sits behind the front desk on the computer -- all is quiet.

KATIE

Hey girl! You need a drink?! I sure as hell do.

BETH

I'm good.

INT. HOTEL BAR

As Katie pours herself a drink.

KATIE

Been bustin' my ass all day. Got my nails done last week and fuckin' broke one of them already. Don't you hate it when that happens.

BETH (O.C.)

Breaking a nail or bad day?

Katie downs her glass of whiskey in one gulp.

KATIE

Ahhh, much better.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK

As Katie approaches the desk, drink in hand.

KATIE

Are you sure about that drink? Looks--

BETH

--ever have a scab that wouldn't go away no matter what you did it kept oozing puss. Annoying the hell out of you?

KATIE

Imagery a bit excessive?

BETH

No, not at all. Wendy came in here today talking all this shit about my performance and how things need to *'be in line under her watch'* and then she goes and tries to tell me how JC isn't interested in me and that I'm wasting my time. Or some crap like that.

KATIE

She's been nothing but sweet to me. You really think she wants JC? I Just don't see it.

BETH

I know she does. Straight out told me.

KATIE

She did?!

BETH

Yup.

KATIE

Okay, but do you really think you have anything to worry about with JC?

BETH

I hope not.

KATIE

What do you mean, "I hope not"? Come on, Beth! One thing about JC, if you think about it, he may sleep around. But when he's in a relationship, he's in a relationship. Just because some other girl comes along and tries to lay claim to him doesn't change that. If I got all worked up about every woman that eye fucks Marc on a daily basis, I'd be locked up for murder by now or at the least in a padded room somewhere.

BETH

Its not like we've been together for years like you and Marc. Its much easier to cheat and leave someone when its still fresh. It would be sort of fitting, honestly, if he were to cheat on me--

KATIE

--harder to leave yes. Harder to cheat...

BETH

Whoa! Really?

(beat)

All I'm saying is there's always 'another woman'.

KATIE

Okay, you need to stop this NOW. Have you not seen the way that boy looks at you? I've never seen him look at anyone like that before. There's no doubt in my mind that he adores you with all his heart.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

Listen to yourself for a second, you sound like one of those paranoid, clingy little bitches we used to make fun of in college.

BETH

Yah, I kinda do, don't I?!

KATIE

Totally! Plus, if he does cheat on you, I'll personally kick his ass. I need another drink.

EXT. HOT TUB - LATER

As JC and Marc sit in the hot tub finishing the last of their drinks.

MARC

Not something to tread lightly through, ya know?

JC

Just make her sign a pre-nup. Then your home free.

MARC

That's not it and you know it. Katie doesn't believe in divorce. She's always said she would only marry once. And I just want to make sure I'm everything she's looking for.

JC

She's given you the best years of her life. I wish I had half of what the two of you have sometimes.

MARC

Sometimes?

JC

Yah, the rest of the time I'm happy not having to buy shit during Valentines, or Easter....or any of those other romantic holidays.

MARC

Easter, a romantic holiday? Good to know. But in all seriousness before Katie gets here--

JC

--The key is under my towel on the table.
I cleaned it myself this morning. I'm
pretty sure you got this.

MARC

Awesome. Thanks again, JC. You have no
idea how much I appreciate this.

JC

At some point everyone pays their
penitence. This is mine.

Marc exits the hot tub and grabs the room key.

JC (CONT'D)

Now get the fuck out of here before Katie
shows up.

Marc freezes as Katie walks through the door.

KATIE

What?! Did I interrupt something?

MARC

Uh--

JC

--No, not at all. Marc was just telling
me about how much he loved how the water
glistened off my freshly shaved chest.

As she strips to her bikini.

KATIE

I see. Well then I'll let you boys get
back to it.

Marc turns and heads toward the hotel.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

MARC

Just have to run back to the shop for
something.

KATIE

Fine, give me a kiss!

She grabs his crotch as she lays one on him.

JC

Marc, go! Just come back soon, don't know how much of this one I can handle on my own.

KATIE

Oh, sweetie, you have no idea how right you are!

Marc leaves.

JC

No idea? Are you going to join me in here or just stand there like an idiot?!

KATIE

Oh, really.

JC

Gawd DANG!

KATIE

(getting in hot tub)

What?! This isn't the first time you've seen this, JC.

JC

But its like the first time every time...or its just the lighting. The moonlight does you good.

KATIE

I see what you're doin'.

JC

Do you now?

KATIE

Remember when we were kids and you got in trouble with my dad for wrecking our four wheeler?

JC

Oh, you mean that time you dead centered that telephone pole and put the blame on me?

KATIE

It was your idea! Anyway, you had a look I'll never forget...

(beat)

Same look you're giving me right now.

JC

I'm innocent, I promise!

KATIE

In the twenty years that I've known you, innocent is the one thing that you are not!

JC

Don't act like you don't love it.

KATIE

No, I just play off it to get under Marc's skin.

JC

Because he still hasn't popped the question yet.

KATIE

That may or may not have something to do with it.

JC

Now you're lying.

KATIE

Seriously, JC, you'd think after all this time he'd have asked me by now.

JC

He's stupid not to.

KATIE

You have no room to talk, mister. It took you two years to ask me to a school dance already knowing I was crushing on you the entire time.

JC

That was eighth grade! And besides, that worked out nicely for both of us didn't it?

KATIE

You mean the fact that you took my innocence?

JC

Something like that.

KATIE

Loss of innocence is forever.

JC

Too bad its not the same for us guys.

KATIE

Liar! Marc ever told you who his first was?

JC

Yah, of course. He nailed one of the twins. I can never remember which one it was though.

KATIE

Mindy.

JC

Do I detect a little jealousy?

KATIE

Not at all.

JC

You still haven't told him about--

KATIE

--What good would that do now? I want to marry that man and that would tear everything down.

JC

What the hell have you told him all these years?

KATIE

Just made up someone from high school.

JC

Well, I'm glad that I meant that much to you.

The timer for the hot tub runs out with a CLICK.

SILENCE as a BLUE HAZE makes itself known.

KATIE

You still do.

JC

I--

KATIE

--You always will.

JC
What are we talking about here?

KATIE
We're just talking.

JC
Are we?

KATIE
Aren't we--

JC looks at his empty glass.

JC
--I need another drink. What can I get
for you?

KATIE
I'm not staying out here by myself!

They both get out of the hot tub.

INT. JC'S BATHROOM - LATER

The bathtub is filled with water, covered in rose petals
and candles provide the only light.

A trail of ROSE PETALS leads back to the front door.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM

As Marc opens the door.

Wendy stands there, sex seeping from every pore.

WENDY
You gonna let me in?

MARC
That looks like a bad idea.

Wendy enters and takes it all in.

WENDY
(off bathroom)
Setting up for something special I see.

MARC
Something like that.

WENDY

Interesting...

She sits on the edge of the bed.

Marc stands above her, mesmerized.

MARC

I really am doing something important here. You should leave.

WENDY

Katie was right, this really is comfortable. Why don't you have a seat?

MARC

Listen, JC is downstairs with Katie.

WENDY

I don't need JC...I need you.

MARC

That's ridiculous. Don't get me wrong, you're hot and all but not really my type.

WENDY

Not really your type? Oh, honey, I'm everybody's type.

MARC

Seriously, Wendy. You're wasting your time here. Go down and hang out with JC and Katie. Have a drink. Relax.

WENDY

You sure about that?

MARC

Um... yah. Certain.

WENDY

Funny--

MARC

--I am crazy in love with Katie. I would never risk that to be with someone like you.

WENDY

You mean the same way Katie wouldn't risk it.

MARC

Okay. I don't know what you're trying to prove but I don't have time for this.

Marc motions her to the door.

WENDY

Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you would care what your girlfriend and best friend do behind your back. I mean, she is fucking him.

He moves closer to her, entranced.

She slides past him to the vanity.

MARC

Katie wouldn't do that.

(a beat)

JC wouldn't do that...

With her back to him now, she smiles.

WENDY

What makes you so sure?

MARC

Love.

WENDY

Love?! Ha! Love means nothing.

MARC

Love is everything. Its all we have.

WENDY

What about history?

MARC

We have that. I've been in love with Katie since the moment I laid eyes on her in high school.

WENDY

That's half your problem right there.

MARC

Problem?

WENDY

Yes, you're problem. You obviously don't know about her history with JC.

MARC

JC?

(a beat)

History?

WENDY

Oh, come on, Marc! Even I can see how she looks at him. The flirting right in front of your face. Those little stolen quiet moments together that become too big to contain.

MARC

What are you talking about?

WENDY

History is a bond unbroken by time. At first I thought it was just part of the dynamic. That's when I really started noticing--

MARC

--What?--

WENDY

--That twinkle in her eyes. Its not just for you. But--

MARC

--But wha--

WENDY

--Its different when she looks at him. More like...lust.

Marc closes the gap.

She turns:

WENDY (CONT'D)

I hear the two of you don't fuck very often.

MARC

Don't act like you know our relationship.

Wendy's reflection is seen in the mirror as she looks at Marc; but her reflection is that of the DEAD WOMAN.

WENDY

(planting the seed)

Who's acting...

(a beat)

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

So I guess my real question is... Which
is stronger love or lust?

Marc stops.

She pounces on his hesitation.

She charges, backing him against the wall. Her reflection
walks the opposite direction.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Its a game, Marc. A game that you'll
never win. Love never trumps lust.

BOOM!

As the door slams shut.

Wendy pins Marc against the wall -- seducing him.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(touching his lips)
Your soon to be 'fiance' is not as
committed as you think.

Marc grabs her arm and drags her to the door.

MARC

Its time for you to leave.

The door won't budge.

WENDY

Hmm, that's funny. Looks like we're--

Sugarland's, "Stuck On You" kicks on the unplugged radio
sitting on the bed.

RADIO

"wha oh, wha oh, stuck on you, you and me
baby are stuck like glue"

WENDY

She knows every inch of this room by
heart. Even how that bed creaks when it
rocks a certain way.

MARC

So? We both come up here all the time
with JC.

WENDY

I'm not talking about those creaks... Do you like the smiley face she drew on the mirror?

MARC

What smiley face?

Just then steam from the bathroom wafts into the room.

MARC (CONT'D)

How the hell could she do this to me?!

WENDY

(she unbuttons his shirt)

You're just another pawn.

She slides off his shirt as he pushes her out of the way:

MARC

(sitting on the bed)

JC wouldn't do this to me!

Marc notices the smiley face on the bathroom mirror.

WENDY

There's more.

MARC

More?

WENDY

Since you were going to propose and all... She's in love with him.

(walking toward him)

It really is such a shame to see all your preparation go to waste.

She stops in front of him.

MARC

(to himself)

What do I do now?

WENDY

(whispering into his ear)

Kill her.

Marc looks up at Wendy, a single tear falls down his face.

She licks the tear off his cheek.

Her lips caress his.

He pulls her in for the kiss and throws her on the bed.

Wendy undoes his pants.

Marc rips her shirt off. What was hidden underneath her shirt is not human.

They rip into each other.

FADE TO:

INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM - SAME

As Beth finishes folding a fresh load of sheets.

Soft MOANS and GIGGLING is heard coming from somewhere.

Beth looks out the window at the pool -- no one is there.

The moaning and giggling gets louder as she moves closer to the lobby.

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

As Beth enters the GIGGLING echoes.

KATIE (O.S.)

Stop that! You know that's always tickled me! Why do you insist on being such a tease?!

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR

JC slams Katie on top of the bar naked.

Beth watches as the two of them go at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL FRONT DESK

Beth turns and runs into the pool area.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR - SAME

CRASH!

As something SHATTERS it ECHOES throughout the hotel.

Katie, wrapped in her TOWEL, and JC still clothed jump.

Katie drops her drink on the floor shattering the glass simultaneously.

JC

What the fuck was that?!

KATIE

Maybe it was Beth.

JC

Inappropriate.

KATIE

I know, sorry.

EXT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

As Beth falls to her knees on the deck surrounded by shattered glass.

She picks up a LARGE SHARD OF GLASS lying near her and examines her own reflection.

STEAM rises from the heated pool, as the lights under the water create a BLUE HAZE.

Something on the other side of the pool pulls her gaze.

Through the rising steam Beth sees the DEAD WOMAN collapsed on her knees.

The DEAD WOMAN mimics her every move as Beth puts down the shard of glass.

Beth takes a step toward the edge of the pool.

She sees the dead woman standing on the edge of the pool across from her.

The dead woman looks down into the water beneath her.

BETH

Hello?

DEAD WOMAN
(Beth's voice coming from
her like an echo)

Hello?

The dead woman reaches one foot out over the water.

Beth unable to control herself does the same.

Beth studies the water beneath her toes and the shattered glass surrounding her.

SPLASH!

Beth looks up -- the DEAD WOMAN is gone and the water as smooth as glass.

Beth falls into the water.

INT. POOL

As Beth slowly sinks to the bottom. She SCREAMS letting out every last ounce of air.

She lays on the bottom accepting death.

The DEAD WOMAN floats on the surface looking down on her.

SPLASH!

The dead woman's face is replaced by Virgil's snout as he dives under the water.

He grabs Beth's shirt collar with his teeth beckoning her to the surface.

EXT. POOL

As Virgil pulls Beth to the surface. She gasps.

She takes in her new dilapidated surroundings over grown by vines and shrubbery.

Suddenly the water starts vibrating; the friction thickening it to a blood-like state.

Virgil stands above her on the deck BARKING.

As the water recedes Beth stands on the floor in the shallow end.

BETH
What the hell?!

Beth and Virgil watch as the water boils furiously in the deep end.

A dark circle appears in the middle of the boiling water.

A figure rises from the circle draining the remaining water.

The plaster of the pool walls CRACKS and FALLS APART.

Wendy now appears before Beth -- but something's different.

WENDY (MINOTAUR), is covered in grey bull hair over her whole nude form, bull hooves for feet, and big brown eyes.

Beth scrambles out of the pool and sees the scope of her surroundings; the pool is empty, filled with vines and a broken lounge chair, the shattered door from the hotel is boarded up, and the hotel above and around her is covered in cracked, old paint, with boarded up windows everywhere. The hot tub behind her BOILS.

MINOTAUR
This could have been easy.

The Minotaur walks toward Beth crushing the concrete deck beneath her hooves.

Virgil barks at the Minotaur incessantly. The Minotaur sends Virgil flying.

The Minotaur flash jumps to Beth's face.

MINOTAUR (CONT'D)
Kill yourself. Save your friends.

The Minotaur explodes through the BOARDED UP door.

Virgil limps across the deck and sits by the door to the hotel BARKING.

BETH
JC! KATIE!

Beth takes off into the hotel.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

As Beth sprints through the hall.

The wallpaper is PEELED and paint on the walls faded.

The ANIMALISTIC BREATHING and HOOVES from Beth's dream echo everywhere.

Beth can't tell which direction to turn.

She hears WEEPING coming from the room at the end of the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM - SECONDS LATER

As Beth enters.

An excessive amount of old, moldy sheets and comforters hangs above Beth stuck in the laundry chute.

She slinks further into the room.

In the shadows curled up in a ball on the floor sits Katie.

Beth approaches.

BETH

Katie?... What's wrong?...

Inches from her now.

BETH (CONT'D)

Katie, are you okay? What's going on?
What happened?

Katie's looks up at Beth to reveal that its Beth's face on her body.

KATIE

(Beth's voice)

True perception is to disconnect reality.

HOOVES sprinting through the hotel alters Beth's gaze and the laundry room door SLAMS in her face.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

As Beth bursts through the door from the laundry room she finds herself in the elevator.

The walls spin 270 degrees.

The doors spring open and she jumps out.

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY

As Beth exits the elevator.

She takes in the dimly lit, DILAPIDATED hallway.

ANIMALISTIC BREATHING echoes.

WHOOSH! The Minotaur's breath blows Beth's hair from behind.

Beth turns to find no one.

MINOTAUR (V.O.)

Kill yourself. Save your friends.

WEEPING cries throughout the hallway. Beth has to make a choice between the darkened hallway behind her or the lit hallway in front of her.

Choosing to follow the weeping down the darkened hallway.

BETH

KATIE!!

Beth notices every third light is broken.

She turns down a different hallway following the ANIMALISTIC BREATHING and HOOVES echoing, only to find half the hallway darkened.

She gets to the end of the trail of broken lights and stops.

BETH (CONT'D)

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

MINOTAUR (V.O.)

(mimicking)

Why are you doing this?

Beth looks back. She hears BARKING.

She turns back toward the WEEPING and the BARKING goes quiet. Moving back a step, she can hear the barking again.

She finds the METAL HANDLE from the pool deck door lies at her feet.

She takes a step down the lit hallway.

CRASH!

Beth BREAKS the third light.

She runs through the labyrinth continuing the pattern.

Beth comes to the end only to find a door.

INT. BETH'S HOTEL ROOM

As Beth enters her darkened room.

BETH

Hello?

Something catches her eye in the full length mirror.

Through the mirror Beth sees Marc as he sits waiting for Katie in JC's room.

BETH (CONT'D)

Marc?!

KNOCK. KNOCK.

CUT TO:

INT. LABYRINTH - SAME

KNOCK, KNOCK

As Katie knocks once more and the door pushes open.

A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES lies at the start of a pathway of candles and rose petals on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM

As Katie follows the pathway made for her. She stops at the sight before her eyes.

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

KATIE

(breathless)

Oh, Marc.

She starts to undress:

TIME CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

As Katie soaks in the bathtub.

Marc enters.

MARC

--Do you love me?

KATIE

Of course I love you, Marc.

MARC

No...Do. You. Love. Me?

He kneels beside her.

MARC (CONT'D)

...or JC?

KATIE

What, baby?!

MARC

Just answer the question.

KATIE

What do you mean answer the question?

MARC

Please...

KATIE

Marc, you know I love you.

MARC

Wendy told me that you've been sleeping with him for years.

KATIE

What?! Marc, baby, why would you even believe such a thing.

He slams his hands into the water.

Marc puts his hands on her shoulders.

MARC
He's my best friend, Katie. How could you?!

KATIE
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
(a beat)
You're hurting me--

MARC
You betrayed me!

KATIE
Baby, your scaring me! How would Wendy even have this information?!

MARC
Your lying!

KATIE
MARC!!! Stop, and I'll tell you whatever you want to know.

Marc lets her go.

KATIE (CONT'D)
JC and I go way back as you know, before you and I. He was my first kiss, before we even understood what a kiss was. My first date, my first a lot of things. I'm sorry I've never said anything before... but...

A beat.

Marc DROWNS her.

She tries to undo the drain cover with her feet.

She DIES.

BLOOD drips from Marc's ears into the tub over Katie's face.

INT. BETH'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Beth looks through her full length mirror at Katie dead in the bathtub.

She watches Marc exit the bathroom.

She runs out of her room after Marc.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY

As Beth exits her room.

The door behind her SLAMS and becomes a MIRROR.

She attempts to open the adjacent door.

BETH
KATIE!!!! MARC!!! STOP! OH MY GOD,
KATIE!

As Beth spins to the entire wall behind her is now mirrored.

As she runs and turns a corner the new hallway is mirrored on both sides.

Beth sees JC enter a door at the end of the hall.

As she runs to the door; the new mirrored LABYRINTH walls will not allow her entry.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Marc stands at the mini fridge

As JC sees Katie dead in the tub.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

As JC rushes in he tries pulling Katie's 500 LBS. body from the tub.

JC
OH MY GOD! KATIE!!

Marc appears in the doorway holding a bowl of cereal.

MARC
(taking a bite of cereal)
I didn't do that.

JC

What the hell you mean you didn't do it?!

JC gives up struggling with Katie's corpse.

Marc enters.

JC (CONT'D)

What the fuck happened here?! PLEASE?!
MARC?

MARC

You slept with her.

Marc kneels.

CUT TO:

INT. LABYRINTH HALLWAY - SAME

As Beth turns down a new mirrored hallway.

It leads her "into" the bedroom and up to the bathroom doorway in JC's room where Marc was standing.

She beats on the mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

JC stands above Marc.

JC

What the?!-- What the hell are you
talking about?

Marc gets up.

CUT TO:

INT. LABYRINTH HALLWAY

As Beth watches in the mirror, Marc exits the bathroom.
She follows his reflection back down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Marc walks to the window, he watches JC in the reflection.

JC

She was the 'love of your life' and you're just gonna stand there eating your fucking cereal. What's wrong with you?! Are you insane?!

MARC

Yes she was.

JC

What the fuck does that mean?

He places the bowl on the desk and puts the SPOON in his back pocket.

MARC

Wendy told me that you've been sleeping with her for years.

JC

You've lost you're fucking mind, Marc!

MARC

You're the one that brought Wendy into this!

JC

What the fuck does Wendy have to do with any of this?!

MARC

You destroyed the only thing in my life that was innocent and good.

JC

How's it feel to have everything that ever mattered stolen from you? Or in your case--murdered?

Marc attacks JC with the SPOON.

JC catches Marc's arm.

JC kicks Marc knocking the spoon out of his hand.

Marc mounts JC and pummels him.

INT. LABYRINTH - SAME

The metal handle bar bounces off the mirrored wall as Beth wails away.

She turns and finds another new hallway mirrored from top to bottom.

She hears distant BARKING of Virgil.

As she takes a step:

WHOOSH!

The floor beneath her feet SLOPES off and she slides:

INT. MIRRORED SLIDE - CONTINUOUS

Travelling down this reflective world the scene in JC's room plays out.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JC PLUNGES the spoon into Marc's neck.

As Marc falls back GASPING for breath.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRRORED LAKE - SAME

Beth falls from the mirror slide and splashes into a lake of MERCURY-LIKE LIQUID.

This reflective reality goes on forever in all directions.

BARK! BARK! BARK!

As Beth hones in on Virgil's location. She begins swimming in this reflective liquid.

This swimming head finally finds "solid" ground.

As Beth searches for Virgil. She looks down to find her reflection and the hotel pool deck inverted beneath her feet. Next to her reflection is Virgil.

INVERT:

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

As Beth finds herself on the pool deck she notices a HELLISH new quality.

Virgil barks into the hotel.

Beth runs into the hotel again.

CUT TO:

INT. HELL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Beth flees through the lobby and out the front doors.

EXT. HELL - CONTINUOUS

As Beth exits the hotel.

WEEPING and CRIES appear like thunder all around her.

The hotel is surrounded by a forest of dead, gnarled trees.

As LIGHTNING strikes the ground another tree instantaneously SPROUTS and dies.

She inspects it and breaks off one of the branches. It BLEEDS and WAILS in pain.

TREE (V.O.)

Why do you break me? Why do you tear me?
Is there no pity left in any soul? Men
we were, and now--

TREE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--we are changed to sticks;
well might your hand have
been more merciful were we
no more than souls of lice
and ticks.

BETH

--we are changed to sticks;
well might your hand have
been more merciful were we
no more than souls of lice
and ticks...

As Beth moves into the forest.

The Minotaur can be heard ahead of her.

Now its behind her. Beth spins and it disappears.

With each turns the forest GROWS thicker.

Two Minotaur stomps through the forest crushing the roots beneath.

The WEEPING grows louder.

As Beth runs through her "dream" she comes to a clearing.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL IN HELL

The run-down hotel sits on top of a hill in front of Beth. Next to it is the diner from her date.

Beth cautiously approaches.

INT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth enters the diner.

BETH'S MOM

Beth, sweetie, we're over here!

Her MOM, DAD, and BROTHER sit in a corner booth.

As she approaches them her perception is clouded.

BETH'S DAD

Is everything alright, Beth?

BETH

Yes? I think?

BETH'S MOM

Sit down. It took you forever to get here.

BETH'S BROTHER

I ordered you the usual.

BETH

Okay...

BETH'S MOM

Are you sure you're okay?

BETH

Yah---yah--I just missed you all so much.

BETH'S DAD

Missed us all so much? Have you been drinking?

BETH'S MOM

Sweetie, are you sure you're okay?

The kitchen catches Beth's eye as FLAMES ERUPT.

BETH

Mom...I'm really scared right now...

(a beat)

You aren't real.

Beth gets up.

BETH'S MOM

You're talking to us aren't you? How could you talk to us if we're not real?

BETH

No. None of this is real. You're all dead.

BETH'S DAD

I'm as real as this diner.

BETH

You're as real as this diner.? I watched you all die.

The fire ERUPTS through the swinging doors.

The staff SCREAMS in horror as some are engulfed in flames.

BETH (CONT'D)

This isn't real.

Beth backs away from the table.

BETH'S MOM

Bethy-boo, where are you going? Come back and join us.

BETH

NOOOOOOOOO!

(a beat)

This diner isn't real then--

BOOM!

The fire explodes throughout the rest of the diner.

Beth SCREAMS:

CUT TO:

INT. BURNT OUT DINER

Beth opens her eyes.

The dinner is a burnt out remanence of what it was.

Charred remains replace her family.

She sprints out.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL IN HELL LOBBY

As Beth sprints inside.

MINOTAUR (O.S.)
Hurry, Beth, hurry! You can still save
one of them.

BETH
STOOOOOOOOOOOOOP!!!!

She falls to her knees.

BETH (CONT'D)
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

The Minotaur appears.

MINOTAUR
Stop me then!

She's gone.

Beth pushes the button for the elevator -- nothing.

She looks at the stairwell door.

INT. STAIRWELL IN HELL

As Beth rushes in.

She looks at the massive CIRCULAR stairwell that goes on
forever in both directions.

MINOTAUR (O.S.)
It's not too late. Kill yourself. Save
your friends.

Beth follows the reverb of the Minotaur's voice down the
stairwell.

MINOTAUR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Kill yourself. Save your friends.

As Beth exits the stairwell.

MINOTAUR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Kill yourself. Save your friends.

CUT TO:

INT. BETH'S HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth bursts through the door, the room bares little
resemblance.

She finds the full length mirror and peers into JC's room.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM - SAME

The Minotaur enters by passing through the full length
mirror.

She looks at Marc and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. BETH'S HOTEL ROOM

As Beth pounds on the mirror, her screams are muffled by
the chaos that surround her.

A faint BARKING can be heard.

As Beth peers across JC's room into the adjacent mirror
she see's Virgil barking.

BETH
VIRGIL!!! JC!

MINOTAUR (O.S.)
You know what you have to do.

BETH

STOP! You have no control over me.

Beth looks deep into the adjacent mirror and her reflection begins to appear next to Virgil.

As Virgil BARKS he is suddenly standing next to her casting a reflection in her mirror-- she gets it:

As she perceives her reflection.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

As JC sits on the floor in the bathroom.

He watches Marc dying.

The MINOTAUR pulls the spoon out of Marc's neck.

JC watches in horror as the spoon moves on its own.

Beth finds herself standing in JC's room.

MINOTAUR

Too. Late.

Marc BLEEDS OUT.

Beth watches.

The MINOTAUR leans over and kisses Marc on the lips.

MINOTAUR (CONT'D)

You can end it all now.

JC is oblivious to their presence.

Beth LEAPS and grabs the Minotaur by the throat.

The Minotaur throws Beth off her like a rag doll.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM

MINOTAUR

You had to go and change something didn't you.

BETH

He's mine.

MINOTAUR

I told you things don't work when my
people are out of line.

The Minotaur lunges at Beth.

Beth moves just in time. She grabs the alarm clock
sitting on the bed.

She SLAMS it across the Minotaur's face.

The Minotaur picks Beth up and throws her against the
wall.

Beth is pinned in mid-air on the wall.

MINOTAUR (CONT'D)

Its simple. Re-live for all eternity--
But no, since day one you've been
trouble. I'm almost proud of you for
making it this far this time.

(she looks at JC)

His love for you must be unconditional--
eternal.

BETH

What is love if not eternal?

MINOTAUR

Betrayal is much more entertaining.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S BATHROOM

As the Minotaur approaches JC.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

JC gushes BLOOD from his throat and wrists.

CUT TO:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM

As Beth watches, pinned against the wall.

BETH
NOOOOOOOOOO!! JC!!! LET ME GO! LET ME
DOWN FROM HERE YOU FUCKING BITCH!

MINOTAUR
Now you!

BETH
Oh my God, JC. I'm so sorry.

MINOTAUR
God has no influence here. Time to
begin.

BOOM!

Beth falls to the floor. She sprints at the Minotaur.

The Minotaur throws Beth into the full-length mirror.

The mirror cracks a little.

Blood drips onto Beth's wrist.

She traces the source of the blood to the cracked mirror
and notices the Minotaur's reflection is that of Wendy.

Beth propels herself forward into the mirror; it shatters
and bleeds more with each hit.

The Minotaur laughs.

Beth looks into the shattered mirror and sees two
different reflections; that of Wendy's human form and that
of the DEAD WOMAN.

MINOTAUR (CONT'D)
NO!

Beth gets to her feet and pounds on the mirror; until half
of it falls to the floor in front of her.

She turns to find the room empty.

INT. JC'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JC coughs up blood as he clings to life.

Beth runs to his side and holds him in her arms.

BETH
Baby, hold on. Please don't leave me.

She tries to stop the bleeding. He dies in her arms.
She puts her face into his chest.

BETH (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry...

She lifts her head.

Its no longer JC, but herself she's holding.

Beth drops 'herself' on the floor. She looks around.

Marc's body is now her own. What was Katie's body is now her own.

Wendy, LEAPS out of the tub and grabs Beth by the throat.

As Beth grabs Wendy she is surprised at her strength.

Wendy fights to kick Beth off.

As they struggle they fall into the bath tub.

Wendy wraps her hands around Beth's throat.

Beth SMASHES Wendy's head against the wall.

Beth dunks Wendy's head under the water and NOISES escape the surface that are not of this world.

Wendy stops fighting back.

Beth pulls the drain on the tub.

Wendy's body is gone; nothing but wet, rotten rose petals remain.

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Beth stumbles in; approaching the shattered mirror.

An image in one of the remaining shards catches her attention.

Through the mirror, Marc gets on one knee and proposes to Katie.

Beth watches REALITY through the mirror as Katie says "Yes!"

She touches the shard of mirror and it melts into a mercury-like liquid.

The entire mirror frame melts and pools on the floor.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. JC'S HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

As JC wakes up.

He walks to the dresser and scans through the CONTRACT OF SALE for his hotel.

Looking in the full length mirror beside the dresser, something catches his eye.

On the night stand is a copy of "DANTE'S INFERNO". Picking it up, JC flips open the front cover to find a handwritten inscription:

My Dearest Beth,

Opening myself up to the possibility of you has been my greatest achievement. Hope this new translation gives you as much joy as your last one. Happy three year anniversary, my love.

Eternally Yours,

JC

INT. JC'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As JC enters with the copy of "DANTE'S INFERNO" in hand.

He picks up a small FRAMED PHOTO on the counter.

He looks between the photo in one hand and the contract of sale in the other.

He puts the photo back down on the counter and we see its a PHOTO OF JC AND BETH AT THEIR WEDDING.

Beside the photo is a newspaper clipping with the headline: **"7 DIE IN DINER EXPLOSION. LOCAL WOMAN SOLE SURVIVOR."**

Next to that another newspaper clipping: **"HOTEL OWNER'S WIFE'S DEATH RULED SUICIDE"**

In the reflection, Beth enters and stands beside JC. They both look at each other through the mirror;

JC at his reflection without Beth and Beth with hers and JC beside each other.

JC exits with contract in hand.

Beth sees the photo and newspaper clippings on the counter.

BARK! BARK!

As Beth turns towards Virgil's barking she disappears.

FADE TO:

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

As JC exits the elevator lobby.

JC! KATIE (O.S.)

What?! JC

Check this out! KATIE

She shows off her ENGAGEMENT RING.

That's beautiful. JC

Isn't it?! KATIE

Are you sure you want to go through with this, Marc? Its still not too late to back out. JC
(to Marc)

Funny, asshole. KATIE

Ouch, careful. That ring is a dangerous weapon. You see her hit me, Marc. Better keep an eye out for that. Domestic violence is no laughing matter. JC

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR

JC

Congratulations, brother. Both of you actually. I couldn't be happier for you. Cherish what the two of you have.

MARC

(shaking JC's hand)

Thank you. For everything, my man. Last night wouldn't have been possible without you.

KATIE

"Cherish"? "Couldn't be happier"?
What's gotten in to you?!

JC

I have something for you two. Call it an engagement gift... a thank you for putting up with my shit all these years... or whatever you'd like. The two of you mean everything to me and when you told me, Marc, that you were going to finally propose to Katie I did some soul searching. And well...

(handing Katie the Contract
of Sale)

Here.

Marc and Katie look through the papers together.

KATIE

Really?

JC

Everything in it, the entire thing. Its yours.

KATIE

Serious?!

JC

That's all the paperwork. She's yours now. Katie, you've taken such great care of this place over the years, even after I boarded it up and couldn't keep up with it. So much of your heart and soul went into everything here, and you've always told me the things you would do with this place. Now you can. Bring this place back to the beauty it once had.

(MORE)

JC (CONT'D)

Beth loved this place with everything she had and I know that you'll put as much love into it as she did.

Katie hugs JC.

KATIE

(whispering in his ear)

I promise I will. She loved you so much.

JC

I know.

MARC

What now?

JC

Not really sure. Beth always said I have to always be open to new things.

MARC

Well, shit, man. Not really sure what to say. What about Wendy?

JC

She's gonna be okay. This feels right.

EXT. HOTEL - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

As JC, Katie, and Marc exit the hotel

JC

I Can't hold onto the past forever. This place is the only thing of ours I have left.

KATIE

You HAD left.

JC

Oh, right, yes. The only thing I had left.

As we move closer to the hotel, we pass through the glass of the sliding doors:

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

As we move through the lobby we see the OLD MAN from the beginning of our story standing at the front desk with his WIFE.

As STEVE, asleep on the stool behind the front desk awakens suddenly and with a GASP.

OLD MAN

Good morning, son. I'd like to speak with you about our rate.

We move down the hallway toward the pool and past the front desk.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As we move toward the pool. The door is shattered and Virgil sits outside barking with out sound.

EXT. POOL - DAY

As Beth passes through the shattered door.

BARK! BARK! BARK!

Beth stops to pet Virgil. He runs to the edge of the pool.

Beth follows him and stops at the edge.

The edge of the pool is in fact the edge of a large ABYSS; PURGATORY and PARADISE lie before her now.

Beth sees a smooth, stone trail leading down.

Virgil leads her in.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.

*