

BEACH FIRES

Vasilis Raikos

1. EXT. FOREST END BEACH - NIGHT - A YEAR AGO

Pine trees underneath the clear night sky are subtly dancing to the summer breeze, producing a GENTLE RUSTLE.

Suddenly, REBECCA (21) comes running out of the woods and crosses the road to get to the beach. She's clearly been dressed for a night out. Her feet are bare though.

She kneels at the water's edge and cleans her hands from...
blood.

Her wavy, blonde hair is hiding her face.

COMMOTION AND MUSIC are heard somewhere far away from here.

Two boys are standing on the street behind her, blurred out (FINNEAS & IWAN).

IWAN (O.S.)

Hey!

As she raises to see them, the bay in the background is revealed to be burning at many different hot spots.

2. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY - PRESENT

The sound of a DRAWER CLOSING.

ANGEL (20) opens his eyes. He's in bed, the bed sheets covering his genitalia.

He leans on his hand to have a better view of his eye candy: Rebecca, possessing a kind of energy that owns the room, wavy black hair falling on her shoulders and piercing gray eyes.

Her derrière disappears inside a pair of jeans.

ANGEL

Good morning.

REBECCA

Good morning.

ANGEL

Why didn't you wake me up? I
could've joined you in the shower.

She doesn't respond. Just proceeds to button her shirt.

ANGEL

You leaving?

REBECCA
I've got an exam and I'm running
late. The coffee is ready. Get up
and get dressed, alright?

Rebecca wears her watch and gets to the door.

ANGEL
See you tonight at the beach fires?

She turns to actually see him for the first time.

REBECCA
Yes. See you tonight.

She wouldn't count on this, though.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Bye.

Rebecca exits the room and Angel drops heavily back on the
pillow.

3. INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rebecca enters a packed auditorium. She approaches the
PROFESSOR's desk.

PROFESSOR
You're late.

REBECCA
I know. Can I take the exam?

The Professor looks at her watch.

PROFESSOR
Rebecca, I've been extremely
lenient with you as of late but
this kind of behavior needs to
stop.

REBECCA
I promise it will.

The Professor reluctantly nods her to proceed.

Rebecca fetches a sheet of paper, sits on an empty seat and
starts writing, god-knows-what.

4. INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

IWAN (21) is under water, still. Swim goggles obscuring his
eyes. His dark hair wafts - he's not wearing a swim cap.

The oxygen in his lungs is running out. He swims up the surface and takes a few moments to catch his breath.

Then starts another round of the pool.

5. INT. LOCKER ROOMS - LATER

Iwan is packing his stuff in his bag when a JOCK enters the showers.

Iwan struggles to curb his curiosity. He finally relents to a discreet, guilty peek.

Iwan's eyes are telling of a kindness that is almost mismatched with his red-blooded demeanor.

6. EXT. UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - LATER

Exiting the athletic complex, Iwan's phone VIBRATES. He pulls it out of his pocket.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

Notifications for two missed calls and a text message from Rebecca -

"Where are you?"

Iwan ignores all of the above and keeps walking.

7. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

FINNEAS (21) is kicked back on the couch, his head facing the ceiling and a cigarette hanging from his lips. This cavalierly attitude is just about his default setting.

He runs his fingers through his dirty-blond hair and looks down to eye level at:

SARA (24) chocolate skin, a petite yet athletic physique - who is dancing to "Got to Have Rock and Roll" by Heartless Bastards.

Sara takes a few steps towards him. She turns her back on him halfway and lowers her pelvis close to his lap...

Then removes the cigarette from his mouth with a sly movement, takes a slow drag and keeps it for herself.

She leans to him.

FINNEAS
What are you doing later?

SARA
I'm hitting the library.

FINNEAS
So no partying?

SARA
No partying. Just studying.

Finneas is in fact relieved.

FINNEAS
Well, I'm not planning to spend the whole night at this thing.

SARA
Really? Why?

FINNEAS
I'd rather spend the night with you.

Pleased at the statement, she moves away from him and TURNS THE VOLUME DOWN.

SARA
Wanna pick me up at midnight? Go somewhere, watch the fires from afar and such?

FINNEAS
Sure.

SARA
Great.

Sara exits the frame. Finneas follows her with his eyes.

8. EXT. GULF - NIGHT

Fires begin to light up the coastline, one by one.

9. EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A string of cars full of college kids embarked are heading to the beach.

Their SHOUTING REVERBERATES through the mountains.

10. EXT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Iwan is walking the darkened hole linking the suburbs to the city. Soon enough, he catches a glimpse of something...

An undefined red glow lurking on the other end of the tunnel.

As he approaches it, he slows down his stride.

What he's seeing is unnerving, but doesn't stop him. It just pulls him closer and closer into the light.

DISSOLVE TO:

11. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / OFF CAMPUS - NIGHT

Rebecca is driving while on the phone with Finneas who is already at the party. Finneas' voice is on speaker.

REBECCA

Hey.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

Where are you? Are you coming?

REBECCA

I'm on my way. What's happening over there?

FINNEAS (O.S.)

Not much yet.

REBECCA

I see. Um, do we know where Iwan is? I can't reach him today.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

He had practice earlier. He must be at home, getting ready.

Rebecca finds a parking spot in front of a condo and stops the engine.

REBECCA

I'm actually at your place right now. I'll pick him up and we'll be there soon.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

Right. I'm waiting. Bye.

REBECCA

Bye.

Rebecca ends the call and exits the car.

12. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Rebecca ascends the stairway and walks down the corridor.

Not a single noise comes from behind the doors. It's like everyone has evacuated the building.

Rebecca KNOCKS on the door of "402".

She is waiting... No one's answering.

She KNOCKS again, harder this time, losing her patience with every second that passes.

13. INT. THE LAD PAD - MOMENTS LATER

Rebecca enters the apartment using her own back-up key.

She turns the lights on and walks further inside the place -

It's spacious and neat overall except for a few dirty clothes thrown here and there.

REBECCA

Iwan?

14. INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - NIGHT

Sara is sitting on the floor, with her back to a bookcase and an open book on her legs.

A REVERBED NOISE from the depth of the hall puts her off her studying. She is virtually the only one left in the library at this hour and the thought is not pleasant.

She dismisses her sense of fear as irrational, wears her headphones and resumes reading.

DISSOLVE TO:

15. EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Groups of people gathered around bigger and smaller bonfires, each less than half a kilometer apart, spanning as far as the eye can go.

Finneas strolls at the beach, waiting for his friends.

His phone RINGS. It's Rebecca.

FINNEAS

Where the hell are you?

Her voice is DISTORTED.

FINNEAS

Rebecca?

STATIC continues.

FINNEAS
There's no service here. Wait a
sec.

Finneas leaves the crowd.

FINNEAS
Can you hear me now?

REBECCA (O.S.)
Yes! I can hear you!

FINNEAS
What's going on? Are you coming or
what?

16. INT. THE LAD PAD - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca walks in circles at the empty apartment with a
cigarette on her hand.

REBECCA
Fin. Iwan's nowhere.

FINNEAS (O.S.)
What do you mean?

REBECCA
I think something bad is going on.

FINNEAS (O.S.)
Stop it. Nothing is going on.

REBECCA
Then where the hell is he?!

Silence.

FINNEAS (O.S.)
Did you check the roof?

REBECCA
He's not there. Nor lying on the
street below.

17. EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Finneas closes his eyes trying to push a disturbing image out
of his mind.

He looks at his watch.

FINNEAS
You're with the car, aren't you?

REBECCA (O.S.)
Yeah.

FINNEAS
Come to the beach fires. The usual
spot. I'll try and call him in the
meantime.

18. INT. THE LAD PAD - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca nods as if he can see her. Her voice comes out thin.

REBECCA
I'm coming.

She puts out the cigarette, wears her leather jacket and
leaves the house.

19. EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Rebecca arrives at the beach which by now has unfolded into
pure revelry. "Polar" by CUTS is BLASTING from the tweeters.

She traverses the crowd, grabbing a couple of hungry gazes
along the way, when at last she tracks Finneas. They yell in
order to be heard in the NOISE.

REBECCA
Is he here?

FINNEAS
No!

REBECCA
What are we gonna do?

FINNEAS
Give me your keys!

Rebecca takes the keys out of her jacket and hands them to
him. Finneas makes a move to go and Rebecca grabs him by the
arm.

REBECCA
Where are you going?

FINNEAS
I'm going to find him.

REBECCA
Alone?

FINNEAS
Yes. Stay here.

REBECCA
Why?

FINNEAS
Just stay here.

Finneas storms away. Rebecca is offended by her exclusion from action.

REBECCA
Asshole.

20. EXT. BEACH - PARKING SPOT - CONTINUOUS

Finneas gets into the car and takes a deep breath. He notices something...

A photo pinned on the dashboard: in it, himself, Rebecca and Iwan are pictured happy on some past vacation, along with a handsome, dark haired boy about their age. This is TOMMY.

His face softens for a second there.

Then roughens again.

He starts the car and departs.

DISSOLVE THROUGH BLACK TO:

21. EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Iwan is lying on the dirt, fetal position, eyes closed.

He eventually regains his consciousness. He tries to raise and realizes he's unnaturally weak.

His primal confusion by the lack of orientation is quickly augmented by the lack of his clothes. He is only wearing his boxers.

He stands on his knees and looks at his surroundings trying to grasp what is happening.

Pine trees, a staple of the area, everywhere. Unearthly silence.

Dread starts creeping in. Iwan is somewhere he didn't want to be found again.

22. EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Rebecca is hanging out with a group of male friends. She tries to appear casual and light when in fact her mind is going at a thousand miles per hour.

REBECCA
Where's Angel?

A BOY leans in to her ear.

REBECCA
(mouthing)
Okay.

She finishes her cup of whatever she's drinking with a single gulp.

CUT TO:

BEGIN MONTAGE:

23. EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Rebecca is talking to many different people, having one drink after another and finally fully giving into the bender.

END MONTAGE.

24. EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Without even realizing Rebecca has ended up dancing with Angel.

ANGEL
Hey gorgeous.

REBECCA
Angel!

She doesn't kiss him, rather hugs him.

REBECCA
You're late to the party.

ANGEL
You know I want to make an impression. Where are the fellas?

REBECCA
They'll be here soon, I guess.

ANGEL
Nobody's dead, right?

She wasn't ready for that.

REBECCA
That's not funny.

ANGEL
I'm sorry, I know it's not.

Rebecca raises her hands in dismissal.

ANGEL
Oh, come on...

As she walks away from him and his company, Angel's crew start BOOING at him.

25. EXT. HIGHWAY - DAWN

Iwan climbs up a small hill and sets his foot on the highway.
He can now see some fires still going on at a distance.
The early morning chill makes Iwan shiver.

CUT TO:

Iwan is walking on the road shoulder when he hears a set of WHEELS coming at him from behind. He swivels and signals at the passing car to stop.

They don't slow down, rather miss him for a few inches, while HONKING provocatively - a group of drunk kids.

DOUCHEBAG
(driving past him)
Looking good man!

Iwan grabs a rock and throws it in their direction.

IWAN
Fuuuuck you!

He takes a few moments to get a grip.

Then he continues hiking.

26. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / HIGHWAY - DAWN - LATER

Finneas has been driving for hours. His eyes are heavy...
Then, he sees something that makes them widen:

Iwan, solely in his boxers, is walking on the road shoulder.

Finneas brakes and leaves the engine running. He tries to maintain his cool in the sight of his humiliated friend.

Iwan opens the passenger door and enters. He almost says something but regrets it.

Finneas makes a u-turn and drives back to town.

27. EXT. PIER - EARLY MORNING

Rebecca arrives by foot. Finneas is standing outside the car, waiting for her. She runs towards him distressed.

28. EXT. PIER - LATER

Iwan sleeping in the back seats, covered with a blanket. Finneas and Rebecca are talking outside.

REBECCA

Are we going to act as if nothing happened?

FINNEAS

Just some pricks fucking with him probably. He's alright...

REBECCA

He was in the forest.

She says it like it means something.

FINNEAS

This doesn't mean anything.

REBECCA

Yeah, right.

She is angry at Finneas for not sharing her frustration.

Iwan is listening, half asleep.

FINNEAS

You need to get over it eventually.

REBECCA

How is this working out for you exactly?

FINNEAS

I'm working on it.

REBECCA

I'm happy for you. I really am.

DISSOLVE THROUGH BLACK TO:

29. INT. THE LAD PAD - BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Iwan is hibernating. He wakes up with a spasm, probably from a bad dream.

He sits up on the mattress, bleary-eyed. The back of his neck hurts like a motherfucker.

He notices the other bed in the room is not made.

30. EXT. THE LAD PAD - ROOF - OVERCAST DAY

Iwan finds Rebecca sitting dangerously close to the edge of the roof, smoking a cigarette. Iwan is wearing the same sweater as Tommy in that vacation photo.

IWAN

Morning.

REBECCA

Good morning.

IWAN

Finneas?

REBECCA

At his girlfriend's.

IWAN

Oh.

REBECCA

Yeah.

They exchange knowing smiles.

REBECCA

You alright?

IWAN

(sarcastic)

Perfect.

REBECCA

What happened to you?

IWAN

I don't know... Someone attacked me on my way home. I must have been drugged or something cause I don't remember shit.

REBECCA

You didn't see who did it?

IWAN

He was wearing a mask. Like...
Neon. You should have seen it.

Rebecca tries to picture it.

REBECCA

Don't worry. We'll find him. And
we'll take care of it.

IWAN

That's what I'm worried about.

That struck an invisible chord to both of them.

He comes next to her and they both stand like that for a
moment, looking out at the view of the city.

IWAN

You stayed.

REBECCA

Of course I stayed.

Rebecca hesitates to continue under this sentiment.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I am sorry we've ended up like
this.

IWAN

It's not your fault.

REBECCA

It feels like it is.

IWAN

Okay, maybe it is.

Rebecca lets out an aching laugh. Iwan smiles.

REBECCA

Are we gonna be alright?

A beat.

IWAN

We're never gonna be alright.

Iwan abandons the frame. Rebecca frowns.

31. INT. COFFEE SHOP - NOON

Rebecca walks into the shop and is heading straight to the
bar when she sees...

NICO, in his 30's, tall and charming, no thanks to his old-fashioned mustache, standing outside the bar and making small talk with the BARISTA.

Nico's eyes wander towards the door.

32. EXT. PROMENADE - CONTINUOUS

Having already exited the shop, Rebecca walks fast on the pavement.

NICO

Rebecca?

Rebecca stops and calmly turns around to face him.

REBECCA

Hey!

He behaves suavely, while she maintains a poker face.

NICO

How are you?

REBECCA

Good... You're not following me are you?

NICO

(laughs)

No. I was just in the neighborhood.

Awkward silence.

NICO

I was just ordering coffee. Would you like to join me?

Rebecca takes off her sunglasses and places them to the top of her head.

REBECCA

I'd like that. But not right now. I'm kind of in a hurry.

NICO

Fair enough. You've got my number if you feel like taking that cup after all.

Rebecca nods smiling.

NICO

Take care.

REBECCA
Thanks. You too.

As they both change directions and move further away from each other, Rebecca's face darkens.

JUMP CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

33. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - INDISTINCT

Rebecca is sat silently on one side of the table with a police officer across her. She is remarkably overdressed. And blonde.

The officer is Nico.

His eyes penetrating her. Trying to decipher the enigma that is her.

Rebecca has perched back on her chair, avoiding eye contact altogether.

END FLASHBACK.

34. EXT. PROMENADE - NOON

Rebecca BUMPS onto a PASSERBY and a paper cup of steaming hot coffee is spilled on her.

PASSERBY
Watch out lady!

REBECCA
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

Rebecca wears her shades again and steps up her pace.

35. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DUSK

Finneas is sitting on the edge of the bed with his head bowed down. Sara approaches him slowly but surely.

He leans his head onto her belly and Sara puts her hand through his hair, caressing him.

SARA
Where is it going with us?

Finneas sighs.

FINNEAS
I don't know.

Sara looks disappointed.

SARA
Will you tell me where you were
yesterday?

FINNEAS
I was with the guys. Something
happened to Iwan. He-

SARA
Something is always happening.

Finneas meets her eyes.

SARA
Why don't you want me to meet them?

FINNEAS
Because they're toxic.

SARA
That figures. They are your friends
after all.

He didn't see that coming. Sara takes some distance and
sparks begin to fly. Finneas gets up and follows her.

FINNEAS
What the hell was that about?

SARA
You. You are impossible to talk to,
you bail out on me, no explanation,
no nothing and the only thing you
are interested in is fucking.

FINNEAS
Oh shut up...

SARA
Shut me up!

Finneas PUSHES Sara, making her BANG HER HEAD ON THE WALL.

They stay like that for a few moments, looking at each other,
breathing heavily.

Then, Sara begins unfastening his belt, as he removes his
tank top and proceeds to devour her.

36. EXT. CITY - DUSK

Rebecca is walking on a busy street. Her jacket is zipped up
to hide the coffee stain. She takes her phone out and makes a
phone call - straight to voice mail.

REBECCA
Call me when you get this, will
you?

RING. That was fast. Caller ID catches her off guard. RING.

REBECCA
Hey dad... What's up?

37. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rebecca walks into her apartment, still on the phone with her father.

REBECCA
Okay dad, I'm home and safe. We'll
speak soon, alright?

Something is off. It takes a couple of steps down the corridor to catch it.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Dad... I gotta go...

She hangs up.

Clothes and stuff are on the floor. Furniture is upside down. Whole place is a mess.

With cautious movements, she arms herself with a pair of scissors and heads towards the bedroom.

38. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca braces herself for whatever is waiting for her on the other side of the door. She enters...

And nobody is there.

Then she turns around to see something that makes her feel as if an aggressive disease is taking over her body.

BEGIN FLASHFORWARD:

39. EXT. PLAZA - DAY

Sara sees Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan hanging out at a bench from a distance. Finneas sees her back.

As she begins to approach them, an inconspicuous smirk shows up on her stone cold face...

Until it finally transforms to a bright smile. Sara is fully aware of her predicament.

Finneas almost hops to her. He gives her a kiss on the cheek. Iwan and Rebecca introduce themselves.

END FLASHFORWARD.

40. INT. NICO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Nico is smoking a cigarette while studying a thorough board consisting of photos of Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan along with personal notes.

His laptop's screen is blurred. The sound of a PRINTER spitting out something. It's a photo.

He grabs a red marker and jots something on the hard paper.

He pins the new entry on the board.

The very same photo Rebecca keeps in her car.

FOCUS ON TOMMY.

41. I./E. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MOVE BACK FROM "KILLERS" WRITTEN IN CRIMSON RED PAINT ON THE BEDROOM WALL.

Rebecca is standing half outside the French door and dragging nicotine deep in her lungs. Her face is burning with wrath.

Inside, Iwan has turned his back to the other two, crying. Finneas clutches his shoulder in solidarity.

Rebecca exhales the smoke and closes her eyes as she calculates their next move.

42. EXT. HIGHWAY - EARLY MORNING

Rebecca's Nissan speeds on the empty street.

43. EXT. CLIFF - EARLY MORNING - LATER

Iwan switches off his phone and drops it in the backseat, next to two other devices.

Rebecca and Finneas are a few feet away, close to the hillside. The setting is adjacent to the main highway.

FINNEAS

Is that necessary?

REBECCA

They could be listening.

IWAN

Who?

REBECCA

I don't know... The police. Whoever is harassing us.

IWAN

Great. Just great.

FINNEAS

Somebody knows.

REBECCA

You had to see it in writing to tell.

Finneas lets it go.

FINNEAS

Is there any case one of us felt at some point the need to get things off their chest?

IWAN

(on top of each other)
Oh fuck you!

REBECCA

(on top of each other)
I don't know Fin, how much does Sara know?

FINNEAS

(triggered)
Don't you fucking go there...

REBECCA

Oh what?

FINNEAS

Alright! Sorry. Let's keep calm.

Rebecca is trying to coax her Zippo to life and light up her cigarette.

IWAN

What do we do now?

FINNEAS

We stay alert. We're not in handcuffs, the person behind this wants to torment us.

IWAN

Well it's fucking working.

FINNEAS
It won't if we remain united.
Right, Rebecca?

REBECCA
Right.

FINNEAS
Any ideas?

REBECCA
I left Angel at home in the
morning. But I was back later to
get ready and everything was fine.

FINNEAS
Does he have a key?

REBECCA
No.

Rebecca deliberates the idea.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
But he wasn't at the beach for a
long time.

IWAN
Do you trust him? How long you're a
thing?

REBECCA
We're not a thing.

That answers none question.

The bay that sprawls deserted before them, takes Rebecca back
to...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

44. EXT. OCEAN DRIVE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Rebecca emerges from the window of a SPEEDING SUV. The WIND
BLOWS in her face. She is SCREAMING IN JOY.

END FLASHBACK.

45. EXT. POOL - DAY - PRESENT

Rebecca is CHEERING from the bleachers. A WHISTLE BLOW is
heard.

Iwan jumps in the water, making a flying start.

He maintains a solid first place throughout the first route.

He front flips and launches for the final route. Somehow he is now left behind, tailing the front runner.

He finishes second, visibly downhearted.

46. INT. LOCKER ROOMS - DAY

Iwan is fresh out of the shower, wearing his everyday clothes, when his eyes meet STEFANO. Senior year, buzz cut brown hair, rugged.

JUMP CUT TO:

BEGIN DAYDREAM:

47. INT. OUT OF SPACE - OUT OF TIME

IN BRIEF DIRTY SHOTS:

Iwan and Stefano having sex.

END DAYDREAM.

48. INT. LOCKER ROOMS - DAY

Iwan approaches Stefano.

IWAN

Hey.

STEFANO

Hey...

IWAN

That was a good run out there.

STEFANO

Yeah, thanks. You too.

Not very talkative. Stefano is clearly uncomfortable.

IWAN

Wanna grab a beer or something later?

STEFANO

Maybe tomorrow's better?

IWAN

Okay.

STEFANO
(louder)
Okay man, I'll see you.

And he's off. That went great.

49. EXT. UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - DAY - LATER

Iwan walks up to his friends, trying not to blush.

FINNEAS
There he is, man of the hour.

Rebecca embraces him while the boys do their handshake.

REBECCA
You were great!

IWAN
I can definitely do better.

Sara is here also.

IWAN
Hey...

SARA
Hey, congratulations!

IWAN
Thank you guys. So how are we celebrating?

REBECCA
How do you wanna celebrate?

IWAN
I'm starving.

SARA
I second that.

FINNEAS
Food it is, then.

50. INT. THE LAD PAD - NIGHT

Rebecca, Finneas, Iwan and Sara are sat on the dining table, finishing the fifth box of pizza.

SARA
So, Rebecca, how's the renovation going?

REBECCA
Slow. Pretty slow.

SARA
Well, at least you are in good company.

REBECCA
No, yeah, we're having so much fun.

She makes it sound horrendous. Awkward silence. Iwan decides to go in.

IWAN
Sara, what about your family? Do you have any siblings?

SARA
I've got a brother. Younger. He...
(hesitating)
He always gets into some kind of trouble. You know how younger brothers can be.

IWAN
No. I don't.

SARA
A pain in the ass. Can't help but love them though.

IWAN
Hmm.

FINNEAS
Sara is doing her post-grad here. Criminal sociology.

REBECCA
That is so interesting.

SARA
Yeah, what are you majoring at?

REBECCA
Economics. Certainly not as interesting.

SARA
What, you don't like it?

REBECCA
I don't know what I like.

SARA
Well, you can always change your mind later.

REBECCA
True... True.

51. INT. THE LAD PAD - KITCHEN - LATER

Finneas is washing the dishes with Rebecca helping him put them in place while Iwan and Sara are racing it out on the XBOX in the LIVING ROOM.

FINNEAS
So, what do you think?

REBECCA
I think nice.

Finneas is waiting for more. He's not gonna get it.

FINNEAS
Nice.

IWAN
(from inside)
No!

Sara laughs victoriously. Game's over.

REBECCA
(whispering)
We need to talk.

FINNEAS
(same)
I'm sleeping at Sara's.

Sara comes in.

SARA
Guys, it's been fun but I have an early morning tomorrow.

FINNEAS
Really?

SARA
You know I'm giving exams too.

FINNEAS
Right.

She blows him a kiss.

FINNEAS
Oh. You're leaving me here.

SARA

I am.

(eying Rebecca)

Your friends must have missed you
after all.

Rebecca fakes a smile.

REBECCA

I'll walk you downstairs.

52. INT. THE LAD PAD - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Iwan is still on his belly playing single.

SARA

Bye Iwan...

He gets up quickly and comes at the door.

SARA (CONT'D)

Good luck on the rest of the games.

IWAN

Thanks. Hope to see you soon.

SARA

You will.

The girls exit the apartment and stand at the corridor. Sara waves at the boys and they wave back in awe of leaving those two alone.

53. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DRIVEWAY - LATER

Sara's Uber arrives.

SARA

Thanks again, Rebecca.

REBECCA

Don't mention it.

SARA

You know, we should totally hang
out sometime, just us girls.

REBECCA

I'd love that. Hit me up whenever.

Lies.

SARA

Okay.

She embarks on the Uber.

Rebecca watches the tail lights of the car dissipate into the night cityscape.

54. INT. THE LAD PAD - BATHROOM - LATER INTO THE NIGHT

THE RUNNING SHOWER is hopefully protecting Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan from mechanical eavesdropping, should there be any. It's by no means comfy in here but it'll have to do.

REBECCA

I saw Nico the other day.

And she's telling them now.

FINNEAS

Where?

REBECCA (CONT'D)

In town. He asked me out, sort of.

IWAN

What? On a date?

REBECCA

Obviously he wants to talk.

IWAN

Why not call you in for questioning then?

REBECCA

I don't know.

FINNEAS

You shouldn't go. It's reckless.

REBECCA

I am going, or it's suspicious. Plus, we need to learn where he's at.

No use trying to change her mind.

FINNEAS

And if you have some fun in the meantime won't hurt I guess...

Rebecca stabs him with her eyes. He didn't mean it like that. Or did he?

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

You need to be careful.

REBECCA
I am careful.

Rebecca exits the bathroom. Conversation's over.

IWAN
(to Finneas)
Dick.

55. EXT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Rebecca and Nico are sat at a bar table opposite each other in relative privacy.

NICO
How have you been?

REBECCA
Good. Busy with school mostly.

NICO
It's your final year isn't it.

REBECCA
Yes it is.

NICO
What are you doing when you finish?

REBECCA
I don't know. I should probably get a summer job first.

NICO
Fair enough. You still hang out with the fellas?

REBECCA
Yeah... Although not as much as we used to.

NICO
How come?

The WAITER comes to light a candle. It's getting dark.

REBECCA
It's been... difficult.

NICO
With Tommy?

REBECCA
That.

NICO

Well, everyone is mourning on their own terms.

Rebecca is biding her time, sipping on her coffee.

REBECCA

Where are you with the case?

NICO

It's not my case anymore. I returned home.

He's been away?

REBECCA

So what are you doing here?

NICO

Taking care of some loose ends.

REBECCA

What kind of loose ends?

NICO

The personal kind.

REBECCA

Oh.

Then...

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Then what are we doing here?

NICO

Drinking coffee.

Right.

56. EXT. INNER CITY - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

From across the street, someone is watching Rebecca and Nico.

REVEAL -

Angel. Heart status: broken.

57. EXT. OFF CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING - NIGHT

Angel is sitting at a bench and drinking a beer when he sees Rebecca crossing the road. He raises and she sees him back.

ANGEL

Hey...

REBECCA

Angel. What are you doing here?

ANGEL

I was waiting for you.

REBECCA

Are you drunk?

Angel giggles. He is.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

ANGEL

Who was that guy you were with?

REBECCA

Are you **stalking** me?

ANGEL

What if I am?

REBECCA

Well don't. Leave me alone.

ANGEL

I can't.

REBECCA

(walking away)

For fuck's sake.

ANGEL

Are you gonna come back to me when
you need somebody to lie for you?

Rebecca stops on her tracks.

REBECCA

What did you say?

ANGEL

You know, like to the police...
About that night.

A beat.

REBECCA

I never asked you to do anything.
Now fuck off.

Rebecca turns her back on him and Angel SMASHES the beer
bottle on the asphalt.

58. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca enters the building and leans her back at the door.
Angel can be barely heard whining outside.

ANGEL (O.S.)
I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like
that. Come back...

59. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca enters the elevator.

First floor... Second floor... Third floor... Four-

JUMP CUT TO:

60. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - FORECOURT - CONTINUOUS

Angel is still lingering around. A sudden wave of chill
reaches his bones.

JUMP CUT TO:

61. INT. THE LAD PAD - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca BANGS THE DOOR behind her.

The boys are not here. She makes a phone call.

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

OPERATOR (O.S.)
This user cannot be reached.

Fuck you very much.

62. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GARAGE - LATER

Rebecca enters the subterranean space. The garage door is
CLOSING in the background.

She extends her arm, pressing the button on her keys, looking
for her Nissan between other cars of different makes and
models.

REBECCA
(under her breath)
Wherever the hell he left it?

THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO OFF.

Pitch black. Only REBECCA'S BREATH can be heard.

REBECCA

Hello?

Deafening silence lasting for several seconds.

Rebecca's Nissan UNLOCKS, flashing momentarily.

Then, a source of red light dimly shines from where Rebecca's Nissan is and reveals her moving wall to wall, feeling her way to the exit.

A SCREECH -

Someone is scoring the paintwork with a crowbar. The vandal turns to her and Rebecca is transfixed:

Red electroluminescent wire tracing the eyes and mouth of a monstrous face. Hooded leather jacket and gloves. Denim trousers. Combat boots. THE MAN IN THE MASK from now on.

REBECCA

(under her breath)

God...

The Man in the Mask PULLS DOWN THE CROWBAR ON THE HOOD and Rebecca quickly snaps out of it -

She KICKS THE BUMPER of a Mercedes, triggering a chain reaction of BLARING ALARMS.

The Man in the Mask did not see that coming. He stands still as Rebecca vanishes behind the exit door.

63. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca ascends the stairs from the underground garage like her life depends on it. THE ALARMS ARE HEARD LESS AND LESS.

64. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - FORECOURT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca comes out of the building running, her phone already at hand.

REBECCA

Pick up, pick up, pick up...

Then abruptly stops.

The BEEPING fades to a familiar RING TONE as Rebecca removes the phone from her ear.

65. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca follows the RINGING behind the building to find...

Finneas BEATING THE HELL out of Angel.

66. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - BACK YARD - EARLIER

Angel is still lingering around. A sudden wave of chill reaches his bones.

He is about to leave, when he catches a glimpse of something, or someone moving in the shadows.

Enter Finneas.

FINNEAS
(coming from behind)
Hey.

ANGEL
Hey...

FINNEAS
What are you doing, man?

ANGEL
Hanging out.

FINNEAS
Waiting for Rebecca?

Rubbing salt into the wound.

ANGEL
We're done with Rebecca.

FINNEAS
Oh. Sorry.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)
So what are you doing here?

ANGEL
I'm minding my own fucking
business, can't you do the same?

FINNEAS
You need to calm pal.

ANGEL
I'm not your pal.

FINNEAS
Sure. Are we gonna have a problem?

ANGEL
Huh?

FINNEAS

Know anything about what happened
to Iwan? Or Rebecca's apartment?

Angel has no clue what he's talking about.

ANGEL

You're all fucking insane. No
wonder everyone thinks you're
murderers.

Something snaps in Finneas. Angel can see it in his eyes.

Drunk as he is, Angel takes the first PUNCH before his brain
can communicate with his hands to deflect. He tries to run
but stumbles and FALLS on his face.

Finneas climbs on top of him, his knee pressed against
Angel's stomach.

Descending into tunnel vision, Finneas is now savagely
battering Angel.

REBECCA (O.S.)

Finneas, no!

Rebecca comes and tries to pull Finneas away from Angel.
Finneas stops, snapping out of it.

REBECCA

What the hell are you doing?!

FINNEAS

(panting)

It's him... It's him...

REBECCA

No it's not!

Rebecca hunches above Angel who is unresponsive.

CHATTERS are heard somewhere in the vicinity.

REBECCA

Get the fuck out of my sight...

Finneas does as commanded. Rebecca pulls out her phone and
makes a call. The line CONNECTS almost on the spot.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)

Campus emergency, how can I help
you?

REBECCA

Help! I need some help here! My
friend's hurt!

DISSOLVE TO:

67. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

An ambulance pulls off the driveway when OFFICER #1 and OFFICER #2 are done taking Rebecca's statement.

REBECCA

I saw it too.

Iwan and Finneas have come close and the three are conversing in low voices.

IWAN

Man, I told you.

FINNEAS

(to Rebecca)

Did you give them a description?

She shakes her head no.

REBECCA

There is nothing on the security tapes.

IWAN

How is that possible?

REBECCA

I don't know, that's what I heard.

IWAN

How is Angel?

REBECCA

Bad.

(a beat)

Angel knows something that could potentially harm us. Or so he said.

IWAN

Do you know what it is?

REBECCA

Not for sure. And he's in no condition to tell now.

FINNEAS

But he will be.

Is that relieving or devastating?

IWAN
(unaware)
Then why would the man in the mask
hurt him? Why protect us?

FINNEAS
He doesn't protect us. He wants us
all to himself.

People looking over the trio in distrust. Always something
sketchy happening near them.

DISSOLVE TO:

68. INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GARAGE - MEANWHILE

The Nissan's paintwork has been scored with "LIARS".

69. INT. THE LAD PAD - LATER

Iwan is absent. Rebecca SMACKS Finneas. He's sheepish, much
like an embarrassed child.

FINNEAS
I thought it was him.

REBECCA
Next time you wanna go and do
something stupid like that just
talk to me, alright?

FINNEAS
Will you do the same?

REBECCA
How the hell are you gonna explain
this?

FINNEAS
He was pushing me. Accused me of
something that I didn't do.

REBECCA
It sure as hell doesn't look that
way.

Rebecca's phone RINGS. It's her father. Now is not the time.

REBECCA
Damn it! We need to tell Iwan.

FINNEAS
No, we don't need him losing his
shit again.

REBECCA
I am losing my shit!

FINNEAS
You'll be fine. But Iwan needs
protection.

Rebecca glances at her phone, which finally stops VIBRATING.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

The notification for the missed call pops up.

REBECCA
Maybe everyone needs protection
from us.

Exit Rebecca. Finneas' eyes are pinned on the floor.

70. INT. NICO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nico opens the door to an unheard knock.

NICO
Rebecca...

She walks in, uninvited and stands near the door. Nico wipes his hands with a towel. Cut onions on the kitchen table.

NICO (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

REBECCA
We can't do that anymore.

NICO
What's that?

REBECCA
Seeing each other.

NICO
There is no business to stop us
now.

REBECCA
Still.

NICO
I understand... Your objective is
accomplished.

REBECCA
My objective?

NICO
You know, you don't look half as
good when you play dumb. Let's skip
that part.

Conflicting desires withhold her from speaking.

NICO
You came all the way here just to
tell me that?

REBECCA
It felt right.

Nico walks up to Rebecca, only a breath apart.

NICO
I guess this is goodbye, then.

He takes her hand and tenderly kisses it.

NICO
(lowering his voice)
You want me to drive you home?

Rebecca shakes her head no. The tension is palpable.

They come closer... And closer... And they are making out.

He wraps his hand around her neck.

71. INT. NICO'S BEDROOM - LATER

Nico gently lays Rebecca down on the bed, both already bare.

He drags his lips all the way down to her labia and starts to perform cunnilingus on her. Rebecca clenches her fists in pleasure and closes her eyes.

She opens them to meet his, getting a sense he hasn't blinked whatsoever. Lust is radiating back and forth.

When he's done soothing up his entrance, he wears a condom and climbs up to her.

Before he does anything, she raises, briefly touching lips and gets on top of him. A hint of surprise on his part.

She begins to thrust herself against him.

Until they both COME INTO ORGASM.

BEGIN NIGHTMARE:

72. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rebecca pushes the door to enter. The place is quite messy and dimly lit. She seems to know her way around.

The SHOWER is heard running off screen. Rebecca inches towards the BATHROOM door which is cracked open.

On top of other clothes dropped on the floor is the Man in the Mask's attire. The EL mask is turned off at the moment. Rebecca regards it for a second.

73. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca warily walks in. Somebody is in the shower.

She plucks up the courage and finally...

Pulls the curtain open to reveal the back of a dark-haired man with a bloody opening to the head. The wound appears to be healing.

REBECCA
(under her breath)
No...

The man turns around... it's Tommy.

TOMMY
I knew you'd come back.

Rebecca LUNGES at him like a wild animal.

REBECCA
Just fucking...

END NIGHTMARE.

74. INT. NICO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

REBECCA (CONT'D)
...stay dead!

Rebecca jumps on the bed.

INTERCUT WITH:

Split seconds of the nightmare's final moments as Rebecca reverts to reality.

Nico comes hurried into the bedroom with a towel wrapped around his waist.

NICO
Hey! Hey!

Nico sits next to Rebecca and lovingly caresses her cheek.

NICO (CONT'D)
It was only a nightmare...

Something about his look, his tone is genuinely comforting.

NICO
Why did you want him dead?

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

75. INT. CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSE - NIGHT - A YEAR AGO

A DOUBLE KNOCK on the door. Tommy answers it. His eyes are red and his left cheek is bruised.

REBECCA
Hi.

It's Rebecca's blonde past alter ego.

TOMMY
Come on in.

Rebecca walks into the apartment. Tommy closes the door.

76. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tommy swiftly takes a tiny plastic bag of white chalk from the end table and slips it into his pocket.

REBECCA
I see you started partying early.

Tommy sits on the sofa, while Rebecca stands against the dining table a couple of feet away. He tamps a pack of cigarettes and extracts one.

TOMMY
What do you want?

REBECCA
I came to see if you're coming to the beach fires.

TOMMY
(lighting the cigarette)
With a face like that?

REBECCA
Some girls like scars.

TOMMY
Good to know.

REBECCA

So?

TOMMY

How are my boys?

REBECCA

Why don't you ask them?

TOMMY

They are your boys now.

A beat.

REBECCA

Yeah, maybe...

Knowing the whereabouts, Rebecca finds a bottle of Southern Comfort waiting for her in a drawer in the KITCHENETTE.

As she pours herself a glass, Tommy comes behind her, puts his hands on her thighs and rests his chin on her shoulder.

She doesn't need to see him to know he has that puppy-eyed, yet cocky attitude. Rebecca takes a sip.

TOMMY

I miss you.

She puts her glass down.

REBECCA

I miss you too. But I don't wanna see you like that anymore.

TOMMY

I haven't changed one bit.

REBECCA

That makes one of us.

TOMMY

Meh... You're still drinking your ass off.

And just like that, she doesn't wanna be anywhere near him.

REBECCA

What was that for?

TOMMY

Nothing. I just wanted to know if I'm fucking you now or you're getting some later...

Rebecca SLAPS him. He returns her the SLAP almost reflexively, for she hit his bruised side.

TOMMY
(growls)
Fucking cunt!

Rebecca heads towards the door but Tommy grabs her wrist and pulls her close, hugging her. She tries to push him away.

TOMMY
C'mon babe, I'm sorry...

REBECCA
No. Stop!

Then Tommy drops his whole weight on her, causing them to fall down. He won't let her go. She struggles to break free.

TOMMY
Stop fighting!

She frantically looks around her to find anything that she can use as a weapon. Nothing in sight.

Without thinking twice, she leverages her foot on the wall pushing her body - and Tommy - backwards.

A THUD. Then silence as his grip loosens. She crawls away to see the damage she has made:

Tommy is not moving. His head has crushed on the heater.

The floor is turning to a bloodbath.

Rebecca starts to hyperventilate. She cannot look away.

She gets up, bringing her hands in her forehead in an effort to think.

Finally, she pulls out her phone and punches in the emergency digits but can't get herself to press the green button.

Instead, she scrolls down on her recent calls and taps on Finneas' name.

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP... BEE-

R.J. (O.S.)
Heeeelllloo?

Rebecca needs a moment to realize who the fuck this is.

REBECCA
RJ?

R.J. (O.S.)
Hey baby... How you doin'?

RJ sounds like he's had one too many.

REBECCA

Good. Is Finneas with you?

R.J. (O.S.)

Um, yeah. He was here... a while ago.

REBECCA

Can you please pass him the phone?

R.J. (O.S.)

Sure. Wait a sec. I need to find him. Hey Fin!

Seconds feel like hours. At last...

FINNEAS (O.S.)

Hey.

REBECCA

Where are you?

FINNEAS (O.S.)

At the dorms. We're heading off soon. And yourself?

REBECCA

At Tommy's. Listen, something very bad happened.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

What happened? Where is he?

She looks at the dead man.

REBECCA

He's here.

77. INT. DORMS - CONTINUOUS

On the other end of the phone, Finneas remains silent, trying to process the information he's being given.

The place is full of fellow students drinking and making out.

Iwan is hanging out across the room with a bunch of other guys. He laughs at a vulgar reenactment by a GUY IN A HOODIE.

Finneas hangs up the phone. Glances at his watch.

Iwan notices Finneas storming off.

78. EXT. CAMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

Finneas is leaving the premises when somebody calls out his name behind him.

He turns around to see Iwan coming after him.

This is not good.

79. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - LATER

The door lock BREAKS OPEN. Finneas rushes into the apartment, slipping on the blood-soaked floor and landing right next to the dead body.

FINNEAS

Holy fuck!

Iwan comes inside next and quickly looks away averted.

IWAN

Shit shit shit shit shit...

REBECCA (O.S.)

In here!

Finneas and Iwan look around for her.

80. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is sitting under the shower, water running down, sobering her up.

Finneas kneels down.

FINNEAS

Are you alright?

REBECCA

Hmm-hmm.

FINNEAS

Iwan is here also.

REBECCA

(unsure whether that's
good)

Okay...

He pulls a tuft of hair behind her ear.

FINNEAS

Get it together.

Finneas gets out and Rebecca raises the bottle of Southern Comfort to her lips but there's no booze left. She puts it down dampened.

She hears Finneas and Iwan FIGHTING in the other room.

81. INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Rebecca walks into Finneas and Iwan mid-fight. The attention is promptly shifted to her. They look dreadful. This is fucking insane. And it's all happening really slow.

IWAN

What the hell's wrong with you?!

REBECCA

It was an accident.

IWAN

It's not too late to call for help.

FINNEAS

Hell, it's too fucking late for that now! Nobody's gonna believe her anyways!

REBECCA

Why's that?

FINNEAS

Because I **barely** believe you.

That stung.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

I mean... How did she kill a dude twice her size?

IWAN

Yeah, **how**?

REBECCA

You want a demo?

FINNEAS (CONT'D)

And what are we even doing here?

IWAN

Oh man...

The tension can be cut with a knife.

REBECCA

So what are you suggesting?

A moment of silence. Rebecca's mind goes to dark places.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

We're not...

FINNEAS

Of course not you stupid! We're getting out of here!

82. EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The headlights of a car emerge from a path.

Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan get out of the Nissan, wearing a brand new outfit each.

Holding a large duffel bag, Finneas stops and looks at his partners in crime: "This spot is good enough" he could be saying.

He drops the bag and starts digging a hole with his bare hands.

FINNEAS

A little help?

Rebecca joins in and shovels as well. Iwan is just standing there, patrolling for unexpected company.

IWAN

Hurry...

They can't do it fast enough.

REBECCA

Why don't we just burn it?

FINNEAS

It will take too long to make sure it's gone. We have to go to the beach fires.

IWAN

(under his breath)

Fuck it...

Iwan comes to assist.

83. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / FOREST - LATER

Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan get into the car, done and over with burying the bag. Finneas in the driver's seat, Rebecca on the front, Iwan on the back.

IWAN

Now what?

FINNEAS
Now... Now we go to party.

84. EXT. BEACH - LATER INTO THE NIGHT

Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan emerge from the partying crowd and they might as well have just walked into a funeral. Rebecca turns to them:

REBECCA
I need a drink.

FINNEAS
We'll go say hi to some people.

Suddenly, they appear so remote.

REBECCA
Okay.

Amidst all the chaos, Rebecca turns back the time on her phone's settings and snaps a picture of the beach.

ANGEL
(behind her)
Hey!

REBECCA
Hey!

She snaps a shot of him too.

ANGEL
How do I look?

REBECCA
You look handsome.

Angel is smiling like an idiot and doesn't seem to be aware.

ANGEL
Where were you? You're missing all the fun!

REBECCA
No, I was around...

ANGEL
Come on, we've got plenty of booze!

REBECCA
Sounds perfect!

Rebecca looks for Finneas and Iwan but they are gone.

ANGEL

You can tell Iwan and Finneas to
come too.

REBECCA

It's fine. We'll catch up later...

CUT TO:

85. EXT. BEACH - EVEN LATER

While the rest of the beach is getting mortal, Rebecca is lost in her thoughts. Angel is dancing out of his breath right next to her.

ANGEL

What's wrong?

REBECCA

Nothing, I- I need to go.

ANGEL

What? Why?

REBECCA

I had a long day, I'm exhausted.

Angel stops dancing.

ANGEL

Okay... When will I see you again?

Rebecca gives him a goodbye kiss on the cheek.

REBECCA

Soon. I promise.

Angel watches as Rebecca is walking - or running - away.

86. EXT. CAMPUS - BEFORE DAWN

Rebecca parks her car and kills the engine. A fluctuating stark blue light is shining her face -

Rebecca is in a state of denial. She exits the vehicle.

An ambulance and a police car at the heels of the building. Lots of people gathered accordingly to a tragedy.

Amongst other figures of authority, one stands out - Nico.

He turns his head sideways to lay eyes on Rebecca for the very first time.

Hooked on each other, they are seemingly conscious of the impending, unending trouble in the making.

87. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - INDISTINCT

INTERVIEW CAMERA POV:

Blonde Rebecca is giving her testimony. Nico is doing the questioning.

NICO

What were you doing at Tommy's place last night?

REBECCA

We had a fight. I wanted to reconcile.

NICO

You two were together?

REBECCA

It was going on and off forever. But it wasn't working out.

NICO

Care to elaborate?

REBECCA

Tommy had severe trust issues. And he could be extremely manipulative at his worst.

NICO

And at his best?

Rebecca hates to admit it.

REBECCA

Well, he was the best.

NICO

I see. What was the fight about?

REBECCA

He called me a whore. Not in so many words. He was as high as a kite when I got there and when I tried to leave he just went off the rails.

NICO

Did the fight get physical?

REBECCA

I slapped him. And he returned the favor.

FAST FORWARD TO:

NICO

Your mobile carrier pins you on campus during Tommy's estimated time of death.

REBECCA

The boys and I had a rendezvous there. I was picking them up to go to the damn beach fires.

NICO

The boys... Finneas and Iwan.

REBECCA

Yeah.

NICO

So you didn't call them for help?

REBECCA

Why would I call them for help?

NICO

I don't know. Who would you call if everything went to hell?

REBECCA

You probably.

Aced it.

NICO

Anyone else apart from them that can confirm your whereabouts?

REBECCA

I spent most of the night with Angel.

NICO

Angel? Does Angel have a last name?

Dammit, what was his name?

REBECCA

I- I don't know it. He's a junior though.

NICO

I'll make sure to look into it.

SKIP TO:

88. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - INDISTINCT

INTERVIEW CAMERA POV:

Nico is taking Iwan's testimony. Iwan looks so innocent.

NICO
Do you like her?

IWAN
Rebecca? Very much.

NICO
Anything ever happen between you
two?

IWAN
Nothing serious. We made out at a
party once. I think it was probably
the first time that she broke up
with Tommy.

NICO
And were there many?

IWAN
I've lost count.

FAST FORWARD TO:

NICO
What was your relationship with
Tommy like?

IWAN
(misunderstanding the
question)
In what sense?

NICO
In your sense.

IWAN
(Oh.)
Good, I guess. We weren't that
close really.

NICO
Oh, you weren't?

Iwan shakes his head no.

NICO
Because of Rebecca?

IWAN

No... No. He was just a dickhead.

NICO

Why do you say that?

A little truth to the mix won't hurt, Iwan decides.

IWAN

He was a bully, alright?

NICO

If he was a bully, why hang out with him then?

IWAN

That's the thing, we didn't hang out anymore!

NICO

I got that part. Why.

Iwan is getting uncomfortable, even more so.

IWAN

We drifted apart. It sort of happened... Naturally.

SKIP TO:

89. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - INDISTINCT

INTERVIEW CAMERA POV:

Nico is taking Finneas' testimony.

NICO

Something bothering you tough guy?

Finneas looks bothered all right.

FINNEAS

No, I'm good.

(a beat)

It's just something that would happen to him, you know?

NICO

No, I don't. Please enlighten me.

FINNEAS

Tommy was involved with some shady people. Drugs.

NICO

Was he dealing or merely using?

FINNEAS
I think both occasionally.

NICO
And do you happen to know these people?

FINNEAS
I know a name or two.

FAST FORWARD TO:

NICO
There's been a recent incident where you had a violent episode with Tommy.

Finneas knew it would come up eventually.

FINNEAS
He had it coming.

NICO
Meaning?

FINNEAS
Iwan had the hots for a teacher last semester. And the motherfucker scored. But Tommy found out at some point and threatened to expose them unless Iwan delivered some goodies.

NICO
What happened next?

FINNEAS
Iwan was a mess, so I confronted him about it. Then went straight to Tommy and told him to back off.

NICO
So you stood up for your friend, huh?

FINNEAS
It'd be nice if he did that himself for a change.

NICO
And the teacher?

FINNEAS
He transferred somewhere else before shit hit the fan.

Short pause.

NICO
Iwan likes men?

FINNEAS
I know, mental.

NICO
What did Rebecca make of the whole situation?

FINNEAS
Rebecca doesn't know.

SKIP TO:

90. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - INDISTINCT

INTERVIEW CAMERA POV:

Angel is in the hot seat. He appears to be unfazed by the whole process.

NICO
How long do you know Rebecca?

ANGEL
Um, not that long. We met last September through common friends.

NICO
Did you see her at the beach fires?

ANGEL
Yeah, we were practically exclusive all night.

NICO
And before that?

ANGEL
Before what?

NICO
Before the beach fires.

ANGEL
Yeah... We... She was with me.

NICO
Doing what?

Angel chokes on his spit.

ANGEL

Having sex. She left to pick up her friends after that. She's the one with the car so...

NICO

What time was that?

ANGEL

Pfft- I don't know, eleven? I don't think anyone cared to look at the time, you know. We were too busy getting mortal, having fun.

A pause to reflect.

NICO

I see. Is there anything you might wanna add?

ANGEL

Sorry man, I can't help you.

END FLASHBACK.

91. INT. MCMURDO'S OFFICE - INDISTINCT

ON PC SCREEN:

The video cuts to black. The reflection of a man (MCMURDO) appears featureless.

92. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sara is doing crunches with her earphones on. It is not music that she listens to however, but secret recordings.

IWAN (O.S.)

How did it go?

REBECCA (O.S.)

Failed it. You?

IWAN (O.S.)

Probably failed it.

REBECCA (O.S.)

Good.

She presses and holds next on the old-school mp3 player attached to her arm.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

She's it man. I don't wanna lose her.

IWAN (O.S.)
Yeah, I know, she's really cool.

Sara cracks a smile - she's bro approved. Presses next.
Somebody's taking a SHOWER. Presses next again.

REBECCA (O.S.)
Keys, Finneas, leave the damn keys
on the counter please!

A thought occurs to Sara. She goes back to the previous record.

WATER RUNNING.

VOLUME UP -

THE WATER IS DROWNING SOME AMBIGUOUS PIECE OF DIALOGUE.
Shit.

She takes her phone out. THE LINE CONNECTING.

SARA
They found the wire. How do I
proceed?

She patiently awaits for instructions.

SARA
There is something else. I think
somebody else is after them too. I-

A WEIRD NOISE from inside the house alarms her.

SARA (CONT'D)
Hold on... Fin?

No answer.

SARA
Send back up at my house.

93. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Sara douses the light and stealthily moves in the dark.

94. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sara tilts the door and searches the cabinet to find a make-up bag. She retrieves a handgun hidden in it and arms it.

As she closes the cabinet, its mirror lights up with fluorescence lurking behind her.

SARA GASPS.

95. INT. BODY SHOP - NIGHT

Rebecca is waiting for her car when her phone CLINKS.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

A message by Sara, with a video file is attached to it.
That's odd. Rebecca opens it.

REBECCA
Motherfuck...

96. INT. LOCKER ROOMS - MEANWHILE

Fresh out of the shower, Iwan reaches for his phone in the locker. The screen lights up his face.

97. INT. THE LAD PAD - MEANWHILE

Finneas looks morbidly on his phone screen.

98. I./E. VITTORIA / SHIP GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

PHONE CAMERA POV:

Sara has been snatched to a dark space. Her hands tied to a chair and mouth shut with duct tape. The tide is looming up on her.

99. INT. THE LAD PAD - LATER

ON DESKTOP SCREEN:

The video pauses upon completion on Sara's agonized look.

Finneas is paralyzed with fear, leaving it to the other two to think straight.

REBECCA
I don't understand. He is not
asking for anything. What are we
supposed to do?

IWAN
We have to go to the police.
Message was sent by her number,
it's possible they can trace it.

REBECCA
But then they'll ask questions.

IWAN

They will.

REBECCA

Can we trace it?

IWAN

I don't know how.

REBECCA

Finneas, are you with us?

That twitch must have been a nod.

REBECCA

Do you know if Sara has a track-my-phone feature?

FINNEAS

(lost)

I don't know... Maybe... But I don't have her laptop's password.

There goes that.

IWAN

Police. It's a one-way street.

Rebecca can't accept that.

REBECCA

We know for a fact that she is near the water.

IWAN

This doesn't say much. We literally live in a seaport.

At that moment, a possibility strikes her.

REBECCA

Maybe it does.

Rebecca replays the video, this time with earphones plugged in. She raises the volume and shuts her eyes, immersing herself in the soundscape...

SARA GROANING.

WATER ECHOING SOFTLY.

FLEETING METAL SCREECHES.

Shit, she found it.

REBECCA
(removing the jack)
The ship graveyard.

They look perplexed.

FINNEAS
How- how do you know?

She plays it again for them to hear it.

REBECCA
Did you hear it? That screech is
caused by the change of temperature
in the metal. It dilates and
contracts.

IWAN
(just following)
The ship graveyard...

REBECCA
It's as close to the water as it
gets, outside the city and
deserted. It must be it.

IWAN
It's a far fetch.

REBECCA
Yes it is. But it's the only option
that doesn't scream forfeit.

IWAN
What if you're wrong.

REBECCA
Then we go to the police.

Finneas doesn't know what to think.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)
Say we find her...

REBECCA
We find him. And settle it for
good.

IWAN
What are you even saying now?

FINNEAS
I don't know man...

REBECCA
(to Finneas)
What different did you have in mind
when you smashed Angel's face?

Iwan's eyes widen. Finneas' dart accusingly at Rebecca.

FINNEAS
Sara has nothing to do with all
this shit...

REBECCA
Honestly, I don't know that.

IWAN
(to Finneas)
Wait a minute! You did this to
Angel?

FINNEAS
Yeah Iwan, I did. And if I hadn't,
maybe we wouldn't be here now.

IWAN
Right here, right now doesn't look
so fucking good man.

Long pause.

REBECCA
So what's it gonna be guys?

Rebecca must have pushed some unseen buttons of Finneas...

FINNEAS
Okay. Let's do this.

IWAN
Do you hear yourselves?!

God, they are serious.

IWAN (CONT'D)
No. I'm not doing this... It's too
much... I am out of here.

REBECCA
Iwan...

Finneas goes after Iwan and SHOVES HIM TO THE WALL.

Rebecca dashes to split them, but gets pushed away.

REBECCA
Cut it out you assholes!

FINNEAS

(to Iwan)

Listen to me you stupid prick...
Wanna sit this one out, fine. But
keep your mouth shut and stay out
of our way, okay? Maybe you can
afford a lawyer and maybe you enjoy
the idea getting fucked bareback in
jail, but I don't!

IWAN

I haven't done anything!

FINNEAS

Yeah, you have.

Iwan responds with a HEAD-BUTT. Finneas sways back and his
nose starts bleeding.

IWAN

Screw you... Both of you...

100. EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GARAGE - LATER

Iwan climbs on his secondhand Honda motorbike, wears his
helmet and storms off.

INTERCUT WITH THE LAD PAD -

Rebecca wears her jacket while Finneas comes out of the
bedroom with a large sports bag.

101. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / HIGHWAY - LATER

Rebecca's is in the driver's seat this time around.

FINNEAS

Are we doing the right thing?

Rebecca can hear the fear in Finneas' voice. She remains
silent. There is only one way to find out.

102. EXT. SHIP GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

The car stops. Rebecca and Finneas get out.

REBECCA

Maybe we didn't think this
through...

Too many vessels to count are scattered over the wasteland.

FINNEAS

Better get started.

Finneas opens up the trunk. He takes out a pair of baseball bats and hands Rebecca one.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)
We should probably split.

"That's a terrible idea" her face reads.

103. INT. DORMS - MEANWHILE

Yet another party is going on at the dorms. Iwan is civilly pushing his way deeper into its heart.

Then something makes him stop on his tracks -

Stefano is locking lips with some SHORT-SKIRT GIRL.

Iwan is just standing there, deadpan and unable to move.

Stefano's eyes dart at Iwan's direction. Iwan turns around in hopes that he has remained unseen and ditches the party.

104. EXT. SHIP GRAVEYARD - LATER

Rebecca and Finneas are sweeping the area in different directions.

Rebecca is circling an ocean liner. No entrance. Pass.

SOFT METAL SCREECHES are flooding her with unease. Then...

A CRACK. Rebecca turns to where she thought it came from. Nothing there. This is a very bad time to go paranoid.

Her eyes have adjusted enough now to see Finneas is signaling her from afar. She runs to him.

REBECCA
What is it?

FINNEAS
(points to the ground)
Someone was here. You were right.

Footprints in the mud. Fresh, by the looks of it. Paving their way to a superyacht, over 60 meters long. Its boarding ramp inviting them. Her name washed out: VITTORIA.

105. INT. VITTORIA - MOMENTS LATER

Complete darkness.

Then the torches from Rebecca's and Finneas' phones light up.

Rebecca is hanging on to Finneas, unsure where they're headed.

The atmosphere is incredibly humid but their feet are nowhere near tidal currents.

FINNEAS
We need to go lower.

106. INT. VITTORIA - ENGINE ROOM - LATER

Finneas uses all his strength to push a metallic door and unveil what used to be the engine room of the ship.

A few steps in and his feet sink up to his kneecaps.

FINNEAS
No, no, no...

Finneas is making uncoordinated movements, half diving, half paddling.

REBECCA
Finneas!

Finneas finally stops. Rebecca sees him holding something -
It's the chair where Sara was tied to.

Finneas turns to Rebecca and she sees the resignation in his face.

FINNEAS
We're late...

She's about to say something when Finneas throws the chair to BANG at the wall.

FINNEAS
(yelling)
We're late!

Finneas leans his back to the wall, catching his breath.

FINNEAS (CONT'D)
It's over. She's gone. Forever.

Rebecca doesn't wanna throw in the towel just yet.

REBECCA
No, we should keep looking, maybe-

FINNEAS
Do you have reception?

REBECCA
Not down here, why?

FINNEAS
Go out and call for help.

REBECCA
And what do I say?

FINNEAS
I don't know, just go okay?!

REBECCA
(nodding)
Fine... Fine.

Exit Rebecca.

Finneas sits and starts weeping silently.

107. EXT. VITTORIA - UPPER DECK - LATER

No service up here either.

REBECCA
Oh, come on...

A FLOCK OF CRYING SEAGULLS. A bird drifts away from the rest and alights next to her. She regards it for a moment.

Then looks higher, to where the bridge is.

108. INT. VITTORIA - ENGINE ROOM - MEANWHILE

A soaking wet Finneas has buried his face in his hands, sitting quiet.

Suddenly, he jerks his head backwards, BANGING on the wall.

Finneas clenches his teeth to endure the pain. He feels the back of his head to see if he's bleeding.

A CREAK is heard - dull, coming from above.

Finneas dismisses it at first, but then the CREAK repeats itself.

It sounds like something, someone is moving.

A ray of light jumping out of the water. Finneas fishes his phone and picks himself up.

109. INT. VITTORIA - STATEROOM A - CONTINUOUS

Finneas comes in to investigate. He hovers his light source over the dark room. No one here.

The CREAK sounds again, more resonant now.

Finneas tries to turn off the torch but the device has frozen.

FINNEAS
(mouthing)
Fuck you.

He slips the phone to his pocket to kill the light.

110. INT. VITTORIA - STATEROOM B - CONTINUOUS

Finneas enters the room with his bat raised and ready to swing.

He scans his surroundings. He can feel he's not alone.

Suddenly, the shelf unit behind him FLIPS AND CRASHES ON HIM.

Dazed and trapped underneath the weight, Finneas lets a WHIMPER come out of his mouth.

A silhouette is ominously looking down on him.

SARA
Oh my God, baby!

FINNEAS
Sara?!

She lifts the shelf unit enough for him to release his feet. Once he disengages, she lets it DROP again and the two love birds lock in embrace.

FINNEAS
Are you hurt?

Sara shakes her head no. Then again, her whole body is shaking.

SARA
What the hell was that thing?

FINNEAS
I don't know baby! We need to find Rebecca and get the hell out of here!

111. I./E. VITTORIA - BRIDGE - MEANWHILE

Rebecca is sneaking inside the navigation room and forgetting all about calling for help. She gazes out at the ship graveyard through the windscreen when suddenly...

She hears FOOTSTEPS ascending the companionway. Rebecca is quick to hide away from the frame.

It's the Man in the Mask.

He lights up a flare and tosses it, lighting up the space outside.

And is now slowly coming her way...

He enters the cabin and lights up another flare, one that illuminates the whole room and reveals Rebecca sneaking out behind him the other way.

She makes a silent run on the wing, weary not to go near the bursting light.

She climbs on the barrier and holds on to it not for a moment too long, evaluating the situation: several feet separating her from the deck below her.

Here goes nothing - she lets go.

112. EXT. VITTORIA - UPPER DECK - CONTINUOUS

As her toes touch the floor she bends her knees to reduce the impact of the fall and MAKES A LOUSY LANDING on her back.

113. I./E. VITTORIA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Hearing the RUMBLE, the Man in the Mask rushes outside.

114. EXT. VITTORIA - UPPER DECK - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca is still lying on the floor, GROANING in pain.

The Man in the Mask is already down to her level and is coming for her, holding her bat, unhurried.

Rebecca frantically slithers away from the Man in the Mask who is now standing right above her.

Looking down on her, he is caught off guard by Iwan who has come to the rescue.

IWAN
Oi oi motherfucker...

Iwan SLAMS him with a fire extinguisher - instant TKO.

REBECCA

Iwan!

Iwan helps her get back on her feet.

IWAN

Are you hurt?

REBECCA

I think I sprained my ankle...
(faltering)
I'll be fine.

IWAN

Your head?

She nods she's okay.

IWAN

Come on, let's get out of here.

REBECCA

What about him?

The Man in the Mask has dropped on the deck, not moving.

FINNEAS (O.S.)

Hey!

Rebecca and Iwan turn around to see Finneas on the other end of the deck and Sara standing by his side, safe and sound. The couple runs to them.

FINNEAS

What are you doing here?

IWAN

Saving your asses, bitch.

SARA

What the hell is happening? Who is this psycho?

Rebecca takes a step closer to the Man in the Mask.

REBECCA

We're about to find out.

SARA

No! Don't touch him!

Rebecca stops mid-motion. That came out more authoritatively than Sara intended and the others notice.

SARA (CONT'D)
Maybe we should wait for help.
You've called for help, right?

Rebecca, Finneas and Iwan share uncertain looks.

SARA
I swear to God someone explain to
me, or-

FINNEAS
This guy has been harassing us.

SARA
Harassing you? Why?

Rebecca can feel this isn't gonna go down well.

SARA (CONT'D)
Is this about that kid? Tommy?

No one is speaking.

SARA (CONT'D)
Answer me!

REBECCA
Yes it's about Tommy!

SARA
What... What did you do?

REBECCA
Are you wired?

SARA
What?

REBECCA
You heard me.

IWAN
Holy shit...

FINNEAS
Guys, shut up.

SARA
What are you talking about?

REBECCA
You wanna know what happened, start
stripping.

FINNEAS
No, she won't do anything!

REBECCA
Then search her.

Finneas is mortified.

FINNEAS
Sara. Please.

Only she won't.

SARA
Are you for real?

Before you know it, she gives Finneas a good KICK in the balls and turns tails. Finneas drops down, holding his groin. He is stunned, not so much from the pain, but the surprise.

REBECCA
We need to stop her!

Finneas gives his bat to Iwan.

FINNEAS
I'll talk some sense into her, you take care of that bastard and get lost.

IWAN
How?

FINNEAS
I don't care.

Finneas goes after Sara.

With all the bullshit going on, they are not minding the Man in the Mask who is coming to behind them. Rebecca looks back again -

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Okay, we need to... Watch out!

The Man in the Mask is preying on them.

In split seconds:

Iwan goes in for a blow but the Man in the Mask BLOCKS his attack, THUMPS him on the stomach and BREAKS his arm.

Iwan HOWLS. The bat DROPS on deck.

Then the Man in the Mask throws Iwan off the railing to spectacularly DIVE INTO THE WATER.

REBECCA
No!

The Man in the Mask picks up the bat from the floor. He makes everything seem so effortless.

Rebecca starts running and outdistances him.

115. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / SHIP GRAVEYARD - LATER

Rebecca gets into the car in a hurry and turns the key that was strategically left on the ignition.

The Man in the Mask appears on the headlights of the car, still pursuing her.

Rebecca buckles up.

AND FLATS THE GAS.

The Man in the Mask jumps on the side to avoid a fatal collision but Rebecca veers in time and SENDS HIM FLYING.

She drives away, glancing over at the mirror one last time before abandoning the site.

116. EXT. SHIP GRAVEYARD - MEANWHILE

Sara is hiding behind a shipwreck, holding her breath.

She peeks out of her hideaway. No one in sight.

She risks it and takes it to her feet.

Suddenly, Finneas jumps out of the dark and tackles her to the ground.

SARA

Finneas!

FINNEAS

Don't you talk... Don't you fucking talk...

Finneas climbs on top of her.

SARA

You're crazy!
(screaming)
Heel-

Finneas shuts her mouth with one hand and pins her right arm down with the other.

Sara keeps fighting with her spare limb, but to no avail - he is too big and too strong for her.

Sara SQUIRMS in agony.

Tears fall from Finneas' eyes as he is smothering her.

FINNEAS
Shut up... Shut up...

Sara is not fighting anymore.

117. I./E. REBECCA'S NISSAN / OCEAN DRIVE - LATER

Rebecca is cruising down the coast, the STEREO TURNED UP to "Snake Eyes" by Trouble.

Then red and blue lights appear fluctuating behind her.

Shit.

She pulls over and TURNS THE VOLUME DOWN A NOTCH.

A HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER comes up to the window and gestures her to roll it down, while blinding her with his flashlight.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
Good evening.

REBECCA
Evening.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
You in a hurry young lady?

REBECCA
I wasn't speeding.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
Yeah... Kill the engine for me?

She does as commanded. Is she going to have a problem with him? The officer goes in the front of the Nissan. The hood has a dent.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
What happened to your car?

REBECCA
I ran into a buck.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
Have you been drinking?

REBECCA
(affirmatively)
No sir.

He decides to take her word for it, as if he can't be bothered to test.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
May I see your driver's license?

REBECCA
Sure.

She takes out her license from the glove box and hands it to him. He goes back to his vehicle to verify her credentials.

Rebecca watches him from the rear mirror the whole time:

The officer speaks something into his radio and awaits for response.

After a while he nods and mouths "okay". Twice.

He returns to Rebecca.

HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER
Lady, can you please come with me?

DISSOLVE TO:

118. EXT. SEA - NIGHT - EARLIER

Iwan is under water, still. Eyes closed. Almost lifeless.

Then his eyes open and he swims up.

119. EXT. SHIP GRAVEYARD - A BIT LATER

Iwan is washed ashore. His right hand has been rendered useless. The pain is excruciating.

He lies in the sand, looking at the stars.

120. INT. THE LAD PAD - LATER

Finneas comes out of the bedroom in his vest.

Suddenly, a bunch of police officers raid the house.

Finneas drops to his knees and puts his hands behind his head as the cops apprehend him.

His eyes drained from all emotion.

121. INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - INDISTINCT

Rebecca has been waiting for long and it shows. Her bouncing leg stops the moment she hears the DOOR OPEN.

SERGEANT MCMURDO - seasoned, early 40's, hair starting to gray - enters the room.

MCMURDO
I'm sorry you had to wait Rebecca.
I was just talking to your friend
Finneas.

REBECCA
Do we know each other?

MCMURDO
Sergeant McMurdo.

REBECCA
Where's the handsome one?

MCMURDO
Sorry?

REBECCA
Nico.

He registers that remark, but does not comment on it.

MCMURDO
You'll have to do with me. Would
you like a cup of coffee?

REBECCA
Why am I here?

MCMURDO
I wouldn't know where to start.
Your list of fuck-ups is piling up.

REBECCA
Sounds like me.

MCMURDO
Let's begin with the last and work
our way backwards, shall we?

No response.

MCMURDO
What were you doing in the A.M. on
the ocean drive?

REBECCA
Cruising down the coast. I usually
go behind the wheel when I can't
sleep.

MCMURDO

I am interested in your knowledge
of a certain young woman's fate.
Your pal's girlfriend. Sara Brown.

REBECCA

I have no such knowledge.

MCMURDO

You've spent some time together
lately, haven't you?

REBECCA

I don't know what happened of her.

MCMURDO

See, I think I do. And I'm dying to
know why.

He is teasing a closed file in front of him.

MCMURDO (CONT'D)

What's really interesting, Rebecca,
is that a number of people around
you seem to suffer from
inexplicable misfortune.

(he opens the file)

I'm talking about... Sara Brown.
Another pal of yours, Angel Scott,
who is currently hospitalized.
And...

(drum roll)

Thomas Levi.

She flinches when hearing his name.

MCMURDO (CONT'D)

It all leads back to this, doesn't
it?

REBECCA

Am I under arrest?

MCMURDO

Should you be?

REBECCA

I wanna call my lawyer.

MCMURDO

Very well.

He shows her the door. Rebecca gets up.

MCMURDO

We're still looking for your other
friend... Iwan.

REBECCA
Good luck finding him. We never
fucking know where he is.

122. INT. POLICE STATION - INDISTINCT

McMurdo exits the interrogation room.

His partner, VEGA - a striking brunette Latina in her 30's -
has been watching them behind the glass.

VEGA
Are they going to be indicted?

MCMURDO
It's up to the D.A.'s office now.

VEGA
Time?

He looks at her like she should know better.

MCMURDO
More like settlement. Kids like
these never do time.

VEGA
Like these?

MCMURDO
Trust fund kids.

VEGA
Chief wants to see you when you're
finished.

MCMURDO
Why?

VEGA
I believe it has something to do
with acting too soon.

MCMURDO
You can tell him to go fuck
himself. Sara is **dead**. I acted too
late.

VEGA
I told him that.

Vega rests her hand on his shoulder.

VEGA
I'm so sorry about Sara.

He gives her an acknowledging nod.

VEGA (CONT'D)

Take some rest Mac. You've earned it.

MCMURDO

I will.

Vega is leaving when...

MCMURDO

Vega? Can you dig up the file on the officer who was handling the case back then?

VEGA

Sure.

Vega disappears in the end of the corridor. McMurdo opens the door of another interrogation room to reveal a trembling Finneas. THE DOOR SHUTS.

123. EXT. HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING

124. INT. HOSPITAL - ICU - DAY

Rebecca is fighting for some attention by the hospital staff. Doesn't seem to get any.

REBECCA

Is there a doctor here? Please.

A rather young-looking, male DOCTOR comes up from behind her.

DOCTOR

Can I help you?

REBECCA

Yes. I'm here to see Angel Scott.

DOCTOR

You're his...

REBECCA

I am his girlfriend.

DOCTOR

You're not listed as an emergency contact.

REBECCA

I guess not.

DOCTOR
Only family. Only visiting hours.
Sorry.

REBECCA
Please.

She's too cute to say no.

125. INT. HOSPITAL - ICU - WARD - LATER

Rebecca is sitting next to an intubated Angel. A NURSE is renewing his IV. His BEATING HEART is heard in the monitor.

REBECCA
Can he hear me?

NURSE
He's suffered severe brain damage.
We can't know for sure until he
wakes up. But it's worth a try.

REBECCA
(hopeful)
But he will wake up?

NURSE
(smiles)
I trust that he will.

The Nurse leaves them alone.

She has nothing to say, except...

REBECCA
I am so sorry Angel. You deserved
better.

Nothing changes. The shot lingers, but nothing actually happens.

126. INT. BAR - NIGHT

Rebecca walks in and finds Iwan sitting at the bar with his drink. His right hand is in a cast.

Rebecca comes up to Iwan and stands over his shoulder.

REBECCA
So this is where you're hiding.

IWAN
I'm not hiding. I'm avoiding you.

REBECCA

Iwan. Come on. We have to stick together. Finneas is in hot water right now.

IWAN

He made his choice.

REBECCA

We all did at some point or another.

IWAN

Right. You lied to me. I came back for you. You just let me there. And now I'm losing the games.

REBECCA

What?

IWAN

If my hand was cut I'd probably be able to compete. But it's just broken. I'm... broken.

REBECCA

There are plenty of games to come.

IWAN

It doesn't matter anymore.

Rebecca sighs.

REBECCA

Look at me.

IWAN

I don't wanna look at you!

REBECCA

Why not?

Some weird chemistry is going on. His tone softens.

IWAN

Because all I see is him...
(turns to her)
And you are not him.

Iwan leaves a bill on the bar and walks out of the store. Rebecca is seeing him go, completely lost for words.

REBECCA

(under her breath)
What-

Finally, she sits at the bar and orders.

REBECCA
(at the bartender)
Southern Comfort. On the rocks.

BARTENDER (O.S.)
Coming at you.

127. EXT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

A misty-eyed Iwan exits the bar and takes a deep breath.
His phone RINGS. Unknown number.

IWAN
Hello?

MCMURDO (O.S.)
Hey Iwan, it's Sergeant McMurdo.

IWAN
Oh...

MCMURDO (O.S.)
How's your hand?

IWAN
It's better.

MCMURDO (O.S.)
That's good. Think you can come by
the station tomorrow and answer
some questions?

IWAN
Okay.

MCMURDO (O.S.)
9 o'clock?

IWAN
Yeah it's good.

MCMURDO (O.S.)
Thank you. Good night.

IWAN
Night.

He hangs up. Then throws the device away for it to SMASH.

128. INT. BAR - LATER

Rebecca drinks up what's left of her glass.

BARTENDER
You know, that joker's not worth
it.

That was unexpected. Rebecca laughs. She leads him on and he
takes the lead.

REBECCA
I know right?

BARTENDER
Are you from around?

REBECCA
Yeah... State University.

BARTENDER
You live on campus?

REBECCA
Close enough. But I crash at a lad
pad these days.

BARTENDER
Oh... Got room for another lad?

REBECCA
I'm not so sure about this.

BARTENDER
Good thing I'm not living with my
folks then.

REBECCA
God you're a keeper. Pour me
another one?

BARTENDER
Sure.

He refills her glass.

BARTENDER
This one's on the house.

REBECCA
Thanks...

Rebecca notices a news report playing on the TV, MUTED.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Hey, can you turn that up?

He takes the remote and RAISES THE VOLUME.

NEWSCASTER (ON TV)

...latest reports on the case of the 21-year-old university student, who was found dead at his apartment on campus last spring. The initial inconclusive investigation has now reopened, with a fellow student and friend of the victim in custody after the cold blood murder of his girlfriend. The authorities have yet to put out an official statement, but inside sources mention an unstable, violent individual. The attention has now shifted to Thomas' inner circle...

REBECCA

(under her breath)

Fucking idiot...

As the TV AUDIO FADES OUT, THE BACKGROUND MUSIC AMPLIFIES. It's "Harder Than You Think" by Public Enemy.

A picture of Tommy is displayed on screen.

Smiling. Seemingly peaceful. Staring back at her.

129. EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Iwan makes uncertain steps towards the edge of the hillside, in view of the whole coast.

The waves are SAVAGING beneath.

Step forward, death. Step backward, consequence.

As Iwan opens his arms, he's almost Christ-like.

130. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rebecca enters her apartment, leaves her cell phone and car keys on the counter and begins to undress.

131. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rebecca is under the shower, washing away the last weeks off her skin.

132. INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca cannot hear her phone RINGING in the other room, which feels like it will never stop.

Eventually, a notification for a missed call pops up.
And then it starts ringing again.

133. INT. MCMURDO'S OFFICE - DAY - A WEEK LATER

McMurdo is studying a file on Nico, its contents vague.
Vega comes in and is about to knock the open door, when...

MCMURDO
You know, if student houses had
CCTV a year ago we'd be at minus
two dead bodies.

VEGA
Please stop doing this. It creeps
me out. And I don't know about
that...

MCMURDO
What is it?

VEGA
Guess who's dead.

McMurdo spins in his chair. Who *else* is dead?

134. EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Rebecca is leaving campus when she sees Nico, waiting outside
his car. He waves at her.

She cracks a smile at him.

135. I./E. NICO'S LAND ROVER / CAMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

Nico is having some troubling entering the car. Like some
injury affects his mobility. He does not show pain however.

REBECCA
Where did you hurt yourself?

NICO
Chasing bad guys.

REBECCA
Did you catch them?

NICO
I did.

REBECCA
Good...

She is troubled by that, maybe for a second too long.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Let's go home, I need to pack my
stuff.

NICO
Okay.

Nico kick-starts the engine and departs.

136. I./E. NICO'S LAND ROVER / CANYON - LATER

Nico is driving. Rebecca has reclined to her seat, gazing out the window at the canyon below.

REBECCA
I don't ever wanna go back.

NICO
Not even for graduation?

REBECCA
They can mail me the diploma.

NICO
And your friends?

REBECCA
I don't have friends anymore.

137. EXT. REBECCA'S HOME - NOON

The car parks outside a two-story house in a rural area.

Meet MOTHER: In her 50's, still beautiful, dressed in black - you couldn't mistake her for someone else.

The Mother is smoking a cigarette outside.

REBECCA
(exiting the car)
Hey mom.

MOTHER
Darling...

She hugs her daughter.

REBECCA
Mom, this is Nico.

NICO
(extending his arm)
M'am.

MOTHER
Enchanté.

Her demeanor is probably lighter than one might expect considering the occasion. She seems like a totally fun person to be around, nonetheless.

MOTHER
We're gonna be late.

REBECCA
You don't wanna miss that one.

Mother is offended, but passes it off as a joke.

MOTHER
Now you...

She enters the car. Sits in the front seat.

138. EXT. CEMETERY - NOON

A PRIEST speaking some indiscernible eulogies.

The expected turn-up of mourners who did not give a flying fuck for her old man.

Her mother is standing on her right, wiping a single tear beneath her shades.

Nico on her left, stoic as per usual.

Rebecca withdraws herself to a pleasant memory...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

139. INT. BALL ROOM - NIGHT

Rebecca and her FATHER are dancing embraced in the middle of a ball room. Music is not heard. She's content and peaceful.

END FLASHBACK.

140. EXT. CEMETERY - NOON - PRESENT

The peace is disrupted by a SOB.

A NEATLY DRESSED GIRL who must be at the same age as Rebecca is CRYING out of her breath just a few feet behind them.

For fuck's sake.

REBECCA
(to the girl)
Will you shut up!?

Everyone is taken aback.

141. INT. REBECCA'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Rebecca is standing with her back on the wall as her mother who is sitting on the dining table, sips on her red wine.

MOTHER
Why would you do something like
that Rebecca? On this day?

REBECCA
That fucking bitch was annoying.

MOTHER
Language dear.

REBECCA
(Seriously?)
Oh-

MOTHER
You know... Some of those kids
really did love your father. He has
been around them for so long...
Unlike you.

There, she said it.

REBECCA
What did you just say?

They are both standing now.

MOTHER
Where were you all summer?

REBECCA
Mom-

MOTHER
No. I- I know. You had a very rough
year. You lost your friend. And the
fact that Tommy was such a great
kid only makes this-

REBECCA
He was what?

MOTHER
(questioning)
A great kid...

That does it. Rebecca unleashes a SOARING SCREAM that makes her mother recoil in fear. Zero to a hundred in one second.

When Rebecca finally stops acting up, she gives her mom a disappointed look.

Mother watches daughter leaving the room, still in shock.

At that moment, Nico walks in the house with a bag of groceries.

REBECCA

Leave that. We're out of here.

Rebecca goes upstairs. Nico is standing awkwardly in place.

142. INT. REBECCA'S OLD BEDROOM - SUNSET

Rebecca is going through a bunch old stuff that is CD mixes, notebooks, Polaroids - tokens from her past life.

She selects a very special one: a picture of her and her dad, taken on the occasion she was daydreaming of earlier.

Her eyes wander outside to...

BEGIN DAYDREAM:

143. INT. REBECCA'S HOME - PATIO - SUNSET

Rebecca and her father are sat closely on an outdoor table. He looks like he is bearing a huge cross.

REBECCA

What is it dad?

FATHER

(tearing up)

I'm worried about you.

Rebecca holds her father's hand.

REBECCA

Dad... You... You don't need to worry about me.

FATHER

(clearing his throat)

But of course I worry...

REBECCA

I'm good. I am good...

Maybe if she says it enough times, it will become true.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I wasn't here.

FATHER
Forget about it, okay? What matters
is you're here now.

A beat.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Does that man take care of you?

REBECCA
I take care of myself.

FATHER
Good girl.

They share a smile.

Then his eyebrows knit and his tone shifts.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Then what the hell are you doing
with him?

END DAYDREAM.

144. I./E. NICO'S LAND ROVER / EXPRESSWAY - NIGHT

The travel back to the city is a silent one. Rebecca has been
waiting for a while now to break the silence.

REBECCA
Why do people do what they do?

Nico gets curious.

NICO
How do you mean?

She shrugs.

REBECCA
I just wanted your professional
point of view.

Nico seems to think about it.

NICO
Obsession. And compulsion. If I had
to narrow it down.

REBECCA
And if you hadn't to?

NICO
Other things. Guilt. Greed...

A beat.

NICO (CONT'D)
Love...
(he looks at her)
Some times.

REBECCA
And you?

Nico remains impassive. There is some sort of mutual understanding going on here.

REBECCA
You are not a cop.

Nico doesn't flinch. His silence drags on, until...

NICO
No. Not anymore.

REBECCA
Not by choice, I take it.

NICO
I misbehaved. Repeatedly.

Nico doesn't get any more into it.

REBECCA
You lied to me.

He smiles faintly.

NICO
I am so sorry princess...

Rebecca's grip on the door handle tightens.

REBECCA
What I don't get is... Why the theatrics?

NICO
The what?

REBECCA
Shut up. I am the one asking questions now.

NICO
(slightly amused)
Okay, okay... What is it you think I did exactly?

This clearly isn't working.

Rebecca takes her phone out and pauses an ongoing recording.

REBECCA

Better now?

It's like a gear swirls inside of Nico.

NICO

Did you find the theatrics a little too much?

Her face lights with affirmation, momentarily forgetting that she hates his guts.

REBECCA

I knew you were somewhere in there...

NICO

Gotta be careful around you.

REBECCA

Start talking.

NICO

I wish he was still around to explain himself.

REBECCA

Who?

Dramatic pause.

NICO

Your father.

Rebecca thinks she's misheard. But the words were crystal clear.

REBECCA

What does my father have to do with anything?

NICO

Your father wanted better for you Rebecca, you gotta understand that. But he knew that some bridges are hard to burn. And he wasn't going to allow what those boys knew to come back and bite you one day.

REBECCA

Dad knew?

NICO

Mm-hmm.

REBECCA

No. I don't believe you.

NICO

You'll have to take my word for it.

REBECCA

Which is?

NICO

The old man wanted the guys out of the picture, but in a way so that the police wouldn't be skeptical - like if something awful suddenly happened to them - and so that neither would Fin and Iwan be in the process - that is, if you came out of the whole thing untouched.

(turns to her)

Hence the theatrics.

REBECCA

Finneas and Iwan protected me!

NICO

Iwan wasn't gonna keep his mouth shut forever. As for Finneas... Well, you know how Finneas is.

REBECCA

And Sara? Cops were tipped off when I left the place. What's her role in this?

NICO

Some kind of quid pro quo with the police I believe. Paying back - or forward - a favor. She was smart though. She picked me up. But I couldn't let anyone interfering with our affairs.

REBECCA

She was never in danger, was she?

NICO

Not until you came.

REBECCA

How did you know we'd find it?

NICO
Come on, it was a matter of time.
It's you we're talking about after
all.

Rebecca is listening appalled.

REBECCA
What are you?

NICO
Me? I'm just the deus ex machina.

REBECCA
I thought you were the good guy.

NICO
I'm not good Rebecca. Not one bit.

Rebecca's eyes now stare blankly at the road ahead.

NICO (CONT'D)
You have a stomach for it, I give
you that.

REBECCA
What.

NICO
The danger.
(turns to her)
It's quite a rush, isn't it?

She doesn't respond. But she feels the rush, right now.

REBECCA
Stop the car.

The car doesn't lose speed. Nico's eyes stay on the road.

Rebecca then pulls the emergency break and the Land Rover
starts DRIFTING out of control for several seconds.

The headlights of an oncoming Ford Mustang almost absorb them
but then quickly fade out.

Nico eventually manages to tame the Land Rover and put it in
neutral on the side of the road.

NICO
(lashing out at the wheel)
Are you fucking crazy?!

Rebecca's heart has skipped a bit.

Nico climbs off the car and the pain in his spine stabs him. He holds on to the open door and takes a deep breath to help him overcome the pain.

He looks over his shoulder to see the MUSTANG DRIVER has abandoned his vehicle fifty feet behind and is coming to them.

NICO

We're fine!

The Mustang Driver curses and returns to his vehicle.

Rebecca tastes vomit soaring in her throat and swallows it.

She is seeing something like a beacon in the dark, not too far away from here, reflecting in the windscreen.

Nico is extracting a cigarette from his pack and lights it when Rebecca gets out of the car.

NICO

Where are you going?

Rebecca is going towards the light.

145. EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

An OLD MAN is pumping gas in his truck. Only a couple of other vehicles are parked nearby.

Rebecca race walks inside the CONVENIENCE STORE as Nico pulls in the forecourt.

146. INT. GAS STATION - CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca looks behind her to make sure Nico is still with her.

Visibly shaken, she approaches the counter where the young CLERK is refilling the fridge.

REBECCA

Excuse me, where is the restroom?

CLERK

(pointing)

Second door on the left. Um, lady, are you alright?

REBECCA

(walking away)

I'm fine.

"Into the Black" by Chromatics starts playing on the FM.

147. I./E. NICO'S LAND ROVER / GAS STATION - MEANWHILE

Nico is waiting in the car, tuned to the SAME FM BROADCAST.
He looks over at the convenience store.

*My mind...
Hey hey...
Rock and roll is here to stay...*

148. INT. GAS STATION - WC - MEANWHILE

Rebecca is all over the toilet, puking.

Still on the floor, she fishes her phone and sends a text message, unclear to whom.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

"57th km"

Rebecca raises and sees herself in the mirror. She splashes some water in her face and off-handedly fixes her hair.

She then extracts a jack-knife from her bag and slips it in her back pocket.

149. EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca exits the store. But neither Nico nor the Land Rover are there. He's gone.

150. INT. STORE - GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Rebecca rushes back inside the store.

REBECCA
Where did he go!?

CLERK
Who?

REBECCA
The car that was just outside!

CLERK
I'm sorry I-

REBECCA
Where the fuck did he go!?

151. EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca storms outside again, now panicking.

REBECCA
(under her breath)
Where did he...

The clerk comes outside behind her, concerned.

CLERK
Are you okay? Do you need help?

She finds it hard to speak while hyperventilating.

REBECCA
(panting)
Yes. I need help.

She sinks to her knees and the young man makes an honest effort to calm her down, but in vain.

CLERK
(comforting)
It's okay... It's okay... Is there
someone we can call?

REBECCA
I have no one...

He cocoons her into his arms. But it's not him anymore.

It's Tommy.

She breaks free from his grip. Next taking out her knife and aiming it at him.

The clerk - or Tommy if you're her - is extending his hands in a plead for her to put it down.

She won't.

CLERK (MUTED)
Please... You haven't done anything
yet...

Suddenly, a person jumps her from behind and subdues her.

That person is McMurdo.

Lying on the cold ground, an armed yanked back, Rebecca can't help but laugh at her situation.

Everything feels too real.

Make it stop.

THE END.