

Clique

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FADE IN:

LIVING ROOM - DAY

The early-morning light softly illuminates the large and luxurious, yet recently neglected living room.

Piles of empty ready-meal cartons cover the coffee table and cascade down onto the cream carpet.

NICKI, late twenties, tall and beautiful even in her makeup-free state, parts the Venetian Blind cautiously and peers outside. She snatches her fingers away then steps back from the window.

KATY, mid-thirties, blonde, also gorgeous but somewhat unkempt, whispers from under a blanket on the leather sofa -

KATY

Are... are they still there?

Nicki sighs as she perches herself on the arm of the settee.

NICKI

That's a pretty stupid fuckin' question, isn't it?

KATY

I know, I know. What are we gonna do, Nicki?

Katy lurches back, nervously toying with the beads around her neck.

NICKI

What are we gonna do? You're the reason they're here, after all.

KATY

You don't have to remind me. God,  
of all the stupid things I've ever  
done...

NICKI

Yep. You certainly surpassed  
yourself this time.

A few moments of awkward silence.

KATY

How... how many are there?

NICKI

I dunno. Ten, maybe twenty.

KATY

Twenty? Are they fuckin' breeding  
out there?

NICKI

I said *maybe* twenty. I can't be  
sure... It doesn't look like  
they've moved all night though.

KATY

Evil doesn't sleep. They just...  
watch and wait. I didn't mean it to  
end up like this. I was only  
messaging around, ya know? It was  
just a bit of fun.

NICKI

Well it's far from fun now, isn't  
it? They'll never go. They'll just  
wait and wait... and wait... for  
you.

KATY

And they're gonna snap me. They'll  
rip me to fuckin' shreds. Five days  
we've been here now. What are we  
gonna do when we've run out of  
food?

A single tear rolls down Katy's cheek.

NICKI

Hey, come on. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it. We're okay for a few days yet.

KATY

A few days of biscuits and fuckin' frozen meals. I'm eating for two, you know?

NICKI

Of course I know. Just try to stay calm. You're safe in here. They've not attempted to get in your house, that's one good thing.

KATY

Yeah, they just circle around outside. Waiting for their prey.

NICKI

Try not to think about it. You're bored. It doesn't help. I'd put the TV on, but...

Nicki nods towards the huge, shattered, Plasma screen.

KATY

It was on every fuckin' channel. I couldn't bear it.

NICKI

Well, it is pretty news-worthy. It's not exactly an everyday occurrence. I gotta pee. Won't be long.

Nicki heads out the door.

Katy brings her knees to her chest under the blanket, and listens intently to Nicki's footsteps ascending the stairs.

KATY  
Christ, I've never been religious,  
but God help me... please.

She is startled by a shrill scream that echoes from upstairs.

She sits up - a look of terror on her face.

KATY  
Nicki. You okay?

Nicki rushes down the stairs and into the living room, panting for breath.

NICKI  
Oh my God. They're everywhere.

Extreme panic is apparent in Katy's voice -

KATY  
Not in the house? Please tell me they're not in my house.

Nicki sits down beside her.

NICKI  
No, babe. I saw one scrambling up onto the garage roof, that's all. Don't worry, I closed the bathroom window. I don't think it saw me...

KATY  
It probably fuckin' heard you though. Jesus, I almost shit myself.

Nicki laughs nervously, joined shortly after by Katy.

KATY

You know what? I'm dying for a ciggie. You got any left?

NICKI

I have, but you're not having one. Think of the baby.

KATY

For fucks sake, Nicki. One's not gonna hurt is it?

NICKI

I suppose. You're only having the one though. I've only got a few left, and it's not as if I can just nip to the shop and get some more.

Nicki rummages through the rubbish on the coffee table, revealing a OUIJA BOARD and a pack of Marlboros.

She puts two cigarettes in her mouth and lights them both at the same time, handing one to Katy.

KATY

You're a fuckin' diamond, you know that?

NICKI

It has been said before!

Katy take a huge drag on the cigarette. A brief glimpse of a calm expression shows on her face. She exhales.

KATY

My fuckin' God, I've missed that!

NICKI

Well don't get too used to it,  
you're not having any more.

Katy takes another deep draw on the cigarette, then leans over and stubs it out on an empty pizza carton on the floor.

KATY

I'm saving the rest of this baby  
for later!

Nicki giggles as she shakes her head semi-disapprovingly.

NICKI

Are you hungry, babe? Do ya want me  
to go and see what we've got left  
to eat?

KATY

Yeah, if you don't mind. I'm  
starving.

Nicki slowly rises from the sofa then heads out the room.

After a few minutes she excitedly scurries back into the living room.

NICKI

Katy, I think they've all moved  
onto the back garden. I saw one up  
that big tree at the bottom, about  
five or six on the garage roof and  
I'm pretty sure a load of them were  
in the bushes.

KATY

And that's good because...?

NICKI

It's good because they've gone from  
the street. I can cause a

NICKI  
distraction at the back door, and  
you can make a run for it.

KATY  
I can't ask you to do that, it's  
not fair.

NICKI  
It's you they're after. They're not  
interested in me. Don't you think  
it's worth a go?

KATY  
I suppose. Where will I run to,  
though?

Nicki shrugs.

NICKI  
I dunno. As far away from here as  
possible.

Katy nods approvingly.

NICKI  
When you find somewhere safe, call  
me on my mobile. There's no credit  
on it, but I should be able to  
receive incoming calls.

KATY  
What are you gonna do?

NICKI  
I'll wait here. Do you know my  
number?

KATY  
No, I don't. I'd got it stored on  
my phone. It won't switch on any  
more.

NICKI

I'm not surprised. It did a great job of smashing through that telly screen though, didn't it?

They both laugh. Nicki takes a pen from upon the coffee table.

NICKI

Stick your arm out. I'll write it on there.

KATY

You're not writing on my arm with a fuckin' Biro. What's wrong with a bit of paper?

NICKI

I know you too well. You'd lose it. You're hardly likely to lose your arm though, are you?

KATY

Well, I fuckin' hope not.

Katy reluctantly holds out her arm. Nicki scrawls her number.

NICKI

Okay, I'm gonna go and make some noise in the kitchen to try and get their attention. I'll let you know when it's safe to go, alright?

Katy fights back the tears as she nods. She lurches forward, grabbing Nicki in a tight embrace.

KATY

I love you.

NICKI

Me too. Now be brave. Get yourself  
a coat and here, take these.

She pulls away from Katy and hands her the packet of  
cigarettes.

KATY

Thank you, Nicki. You're a star.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Katy stands by the front door wearing a thick winter coat.  
She trembles with fear.

She turns to face the commotion emanating from the kitchen -  
a loud clattering of pots and pans.

NICKI (O.S.)

Katy, I'm gonna open the back door  
in a minute. Get ready!

Katy nods silently and shakily raises her hand until it  
rests on the door handle.

NICKI (O.S.)

Okay... Go!

Katy gasps for breath as she slowly opens the door. She  
peers through the crack then reels back in horror and slams  
it shut.

She turns to face the kitchen and slowly slides her back  
down the door until she sits on the floor, sobbing. She  
yells -

KATY

Nicki! Come back. They're out here too. It's no good... Nicki!

Katy strains to hear. The panicked expression eases a little as she hears the door slam in the distance.

Nicki runs towards her. She joins her on the floor and they hug.

NICKI

Hey. Come on, Katy. It's alright. It was worth a try.

Katy sits in silence for a moment or two. She suddenly wipes the tears from her face and stands rapidly.

KATY

You know what? Fuck it! I can't stay cooped up in here. It's driving me mad. I might as well just fuckin' go out there and face my demons.

Nicki stands to face her.

NICKI

Are... are you sure, babe?

KATY

Yeah. They're gonna get me sooner or later. I might as well get it out the fuckin' way now rather than sittin' in here stewin'.

NICKI

Well, I'm coming out with you.

KATY

There's no need.

NICKI

There's every need. I'm your best mate. I said I'd stand by you every step of the way, and I'm not about to back out now.

KATY

Okay. Are you ready then? After three...

They flash a half-hearted smile to each other.

KATY

One...

A long nervous pause.

NICKI

... Two...

They hug each other one last time.

KATY

... Three!

NICKI

... Three!

Katy confidently throws open the door.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Katy and Nicki stand in the open doorway. A huge commotion of activity and noise.

The girls cover their faces with their hands to shield their eyes from the almost stroboscopic light.

A few seconds pass then Katy drops her hands, followed by Nicki.

Katy forces a smile and begins to step confidently across the yard towards the huge gang of PAPARAZZI on the street.

PAPARAZZI #1

Katy! Katy! How long has the affair with the Prime Minister been going on?

KATY

No comment.

PAPARAZZI #2

Katy! Was it a honey-trap? Are you still in contact with him?

KATY

No comment.

PAPARAZZI #3

What did the Prime Minister say when he heard the news that a glamour-model was carrying his child?

KATY

No fuckin' comment!

FADE OUT