

DELUSION

by

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FADE IN

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

CRAIG STONE, mid-30's, wakes up with a jolt. He lies on the exam table, dressed in a button-down shirt, tie, and slacks. He sits up and looks around.

Seated across from him is DOCTOR PATRICK, late 40's, a slightly overweight man dressed in a white coat, button-down shirt, tie, and khakis. Doctor Patrick has a pen in one hand and a clipboard in the other.

The room is just large enough for two people. The only light comes from an overhead bulb that gives everything a bluish glow.

CRAIG

Where am I?

Doctor Patrick writes on his clipboard.

PATRICK

Let's start from the beginning.

CRAIG

The beginning? The beginning of what? I just got here.

PATRICK

What do you remember?

CRAIG

Wait, slow down. Why don't you tell me where I am first, huh, Doc?

PATRICK

You're in my office.

CRAIG

Okay. And who are you?

PATRICK

I'm your doctor.

CRAIG

A name would be nice.

PATRICK

Call me Doctor Patrick.

CRAIG

Okay, Doctor Patrick. I'm
Craig. Craig Stone.

Craig extends his hand for a shake. Doctor Patrick makes a note
on his clipboard. Doesn't shake Craig's hand.

CRAIG

Okay, we'll just skip that
part.

PATRICK

Do you remember why you're
here, Mister Stone?

CRAIG

I was hoping you could
shed some light on that, Doc.

Doctor Patrick rolls across the floor in his chair. A bright
lamp comes to life. Shines right on Craig's face.

CRAIG

God, Doc! You think you could
turn that thing off? I was
only joking!

PATRICK

Look into the light, Mister
Stone.

CRAIG

How can I? It's so frigging
bright!

PATRICK

That is the point.

CRAIG

Turn it off already, Doc! I
can't see a thing!

PATRICK

Very well.

Doctor Patrick shuts the light off. Scribbles another note on his clipboard.

PATRICK

Do you remember anything yet?

CRAIG

Can't say I do.

PATRICK

Do you remember the name Lorna?

CRAIG

Lorna?

PATRICK

Correct. Lorna.

CRAIG

Ah...I think so...

PATRICK

Is it difficult for you to remember?

CRAIG

Kind-of, Doc. Everything's a little fuzzy.

PATRICK

Let's try this instead.

Doctor Patrick rolls to the other side of the room. Turns on a projector. It blasts an image onto the wall across from Craig.

The image is of LORNA STONE, early 30's, Craig's wife, lying on the floor after being strangled and murdered.

CRAIG

Oh my God!

PATRICK

Now do you remember Lorna?

Craig puts a hand to his temple. He's in terrible pain.

Doctor Patrick whips out his clipboard. Makes some hasty notes.

Craig removes his hand. He's simmered down a bit.

CRAIG

Can you...can you turn that
off, please?

PATRICK

Why do you ask, Mister Stone?

CRAIG

I don't...I can't...bear to
see my wife like that.

PATRICK

Very well.

Doctor Patrick shuts off the projector. The wall goes dark.

PATRICK

I take it you remember Lorna?

Craig sits on the edge of the exam table. Looks into his hands.

CRAIG

I do. And I remember something
else, too.

PATRICK

Which is?

CRAIG

I...I think I killed her.

Doctor Patrick turns to his clipboard. Makes a checkmark.

PATRICK

Tell me more.

CRAIG

I don't know any more. I can't
remember. All I know is the
feeling I got when I saw that
picture.

PATRICK

Which was?

CRAIG

It felt...like deja vu.

Doctor Patrick makes another checkmark on his clipboard.

PATRICK

I see.

Doctor Patrick holds his clipboard to his chest.

PATRICK

Would you be willing to let
yourself be hypnotized, Mister
Stone?

CRAIG

Hypnotized? Come on, Doc, that's
crazy. A bunch of hocus pocus.

PATRICK

It may help you regain your
memory.

Craig thinks that over.

CRAIG

I don't know.

PATRICK

I assure you, Mister Stone,
everything will be just fine.

Craig thinks harder.

CRAIG

If you want to learn the
truth behind your memories
of Lorna, you must allow me
to do this.

Craig looks away. Puts his hands on his knees. Squeezes his pant
legs.

PATRICK

Mister Stone?

Craig bites his lower lip.

PATRICK
Mister Stone.

Craig closes his eyes.

PATRICK
Mister Stone, are you all
right?

Craig shakes a little. Stops. His eyes snap open.

CRAIG
I'm...I'm fine. Really.

Doctor Patrick makes a third checkmark on his clipboard.

CRAIG
Go ahead, Doc. Do your stuff.

PATRICK
Very well. Lay back on the table.

Craig does so. Puts his hands on his stomach. Closes his eyes.

FADE OUT

OVER BLACK

Doctor Patrick's voice is clearly heard.

PATRICK
Relax, Mister Stone. Breath in
through your nostrils. A deep
breath.

Craig does so.

PATRICK
Now let it out through your
nostrils. Slowly.

Craig does as he's told.

PATRICK
Now repeat the process. Deep
breath in, deep breath out,
both through the nostrils.

Craig follows his instructions.

PATRICK

Good. Keep doing that while I speak to you. Concentrate on your breathing and focus on my voice. Do not speak and do not open your eyes.

Craig's heartbeat thumps in our ears.

PATRICK

Calm your mind. Eliminate your racing thoughts. Focus on one thought and one thought only.

Craig's heartbeat continues to thump.

PATRICK

Lorna.

Craig's heartbeat jumps. Returns to normal.

PATRICK

She was your wife. Her death is still a mystery. A mystery that needs to be solved.

Craig's heartbeat accelerates. Stays there.

PATRICK

You should be seeing something. Something that reminds you of Lorna.

FADE IN

INT. CRAIG'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lorna, alive and well, hands Craig a tie. It's the same tie he wore in real life.

PATRICK (V.O.)

Tell me what you're seeing.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I see Lorna. She handed me a tie.

Craig tries to tie his own tie. Fails. Lorna gives him a look.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I couldn't tie it. Never did learn.

Lorna ties Craig's tie. Cinches it up. And kisses him.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I could always count on Lorna to do it. She always kissed me, too.

Lorna exits the bedroom. Craig grabs his sport coat. His briefcase. And follows.

EXT. CRAIG'S HOUSE - DAY

Craig shares a kiss with Lorna. Walks to his car. Looks back at his wife. She waves to him.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I kissed her goodbye. I always did that. Never knew if that would be the last time I saw her.

Craig gets in his car. Drives off.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I got in my car and went to work.

Lorna closes the front door.

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY

Craig pulls up. Exits his car. Looks around.

The lot is empty. His car is the only one there.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I sell used cars with a buddy of mine from college. When I

got there, the lot was empty.

Craig jogs toward the office. Tries the door. It's locked.

CRAIG (V.O.)

The office door was locked. I
couldn't get in.

Craig stops. Notices a piece of paper taped to the door.

CRAIG (V.O.)

But someone had left a note
behind.

Craig rips the paper off the door. Reads it.

CRAIG (V.O.)

It was a notice from the guy
we leased the lot from. My
buddy had forgotten to pay
the lease for over a year.
The note said our cars had
been taken to the auto auction
in order to pay off our debt.

Craig crunches the paper up. Throws it on the ground. Stomps on
it.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I couldn't believe it. How
could I have been so stupid?
I was angry--not just at
my buddy, but at myself, for
not checking up on him.

Craig runs back to his car. Climbs in. Drives off.

CRAIG (V.O.)

I had to get back to Lorna. I
had to tell her what had
happened, in person, because
you just didn't share this
kind of bad news over the phone.

EXT. CRAIG'S HOUSE - DAY

Craig pulls up outside. Throws his car door open. Doesn't close

it. Rushes to the front door.

CRAIG (V.O.)
I knew that if a debt collector
came around, or if the cops
stopped by, I'd lose Lorna for
sure.

Craig fumbles with his keys. Unlocks the front door with some effort. Enters the house.

INT. CRAIG'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Craig throws his briefcase and sport jacket on the couch. Pockets his keys. And runs toward the bedroom.

CRAIG (V.O.)
I had to find Lorna fast. I
had to tell her what had
happened!

INT. CRAIG'S BEDROOM - DAY

Craig throws open the door. His eyes widen.

CRAIG (V.O.)
When I found Lorna, I couldn't
believe what I saw.

Lorna is making love to Doctor Patrick. They're both naked under the bed sheets.

CRAIG (V.O.)
She was in bed with...with...

Lorna turns to look at Craig. Her look is almost inviting.

CRAIG (V.O.)
...my buddy...

Craig unties his tie. Advances toward the bed.

CRAIG (V.O.)
...who looks a lot...

Craig pulls his tie loose. Wraps it around his hands.

CRAIG (V.O.)
...like you, Doc...

Lorna sits up in bed. Hugs the sheets to her body. Her look's changed a bit.

CRAIG (V.O.)
...and I can remember taking
one look at Lorna...

Craig gets on his knees on the bed. Pulls his tie taunt.

CRAIG (V.O.)
...and feeling nothing but
pain.

Craig lunges at Lorna. Strangles her with his tie. It's violent. Cruel. And unforgiving.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Craig strangles Doctor Patrick with his tie. Doctor Patrick thrashes around. Can't find anything to fight back with.

CRAIG
Do you know pain, Doc? Do
you really know pain?!

Craig jerks Doctor Patrick forward. They go nose-to-nose.

CRAIG
Do you know the feeling a
guy gets when his best
bud sleeps with his wife?!

Craig pulls Doctor Patrick across the room. Slams him against a wall.

CRAIG
You've never felt that,
huh? How about I teach it
to 'ya!

Craig jerks Doctor Patrick away from the wall. Slams him into it again. Hard.

Doctor Patrick drops his clipboard. There's nothing on it. He's been writing on air.

Craig looks down at the clipboard. Sees the lack of notes. Loosens his grip a bit. Doctor Patrick gasps for air.

CRAIG

What is this, Doc? Your clipboard's blank!

Craig jabs an elbow against Doctor Patrick's neck.

CRAIG

I thought you were taking notes! What were you doing, making checkmarks in the air?!

Doctor Patrick can't speak. Can't breathe. Craig pulls his elbow away.

PATRICK

This...isn't what you think, Mister Stone...

CRAIG

Oh, it isn't? Then enlighten me, Doc! Because right now I have half a mind to kill you, just like I did Lorna!

Craig stops. His eyes go wide. He backs away from Doctor Patrick.

CRAIG

Oh God. I did kill Lorna, didn't I? I did kill her! I killed my wife!!

Doctor Patrick pulls Craig's tie away from his throat. Throws it on the floor.

PATRICK

Nurse! NURSE!

Craig stands there, transfixed, as tears stream down his face.

CRAIG
Lorna...LORNA!!!

The door opens. The nurse enters. She's none other than Lorna!

Doctor Patrick moves to the other side of the room. Craig stands still. His eyes meet Lorna's.

CRAIG
Lorna...?

Lorna reaches into a cabinet. Removes a needle. Fills it with medicine.

CRAIG
Lorna...? Is that...why
are you...?

Doctor Patrick hits Craig with the bright lamp from earlier. Craig cries out in pain. Throws his hands up. Can't see anything. The light consumes his vision.

PATRICK
Nurse! Get him on the table!

Doctor Patrick leaves the light on. He and Lorna put Craig on the table. Strap him down.

Craig is so dazed he's drooling. He's gone completely catatonic.

Lorna gives Craig the injection. His eyes close. His head flops to the side. And he's out cold.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Craig wakes up with a jolt. He's back to his normal self. He's also wearing his tie again. He looks around. Doesn't recognize his surroundings.

Doctor Patrick sits across from the exam table. Holds his pen and clipboard.

CRAIG

Where am I?

Doctor Patrick makes a note on his clipboard.

PATRICK

Let's start from the beginning.

Craig's eyes meet Doctor Patrick's.

Doctor Patrick smirks.

FADE OUT

THE END