

HOUSE OF USHER

by

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Bed linen hangs off a bed. Two bodies are led together naked, and silent.

ED, late twenties - his looks are already on the wane.

GEORGIA is in her mid-20s and stunningly attractive. This is the girl who drove all the boys insane with love at school.

This small 4x4 room is the definition of budget hotel. The '70s décor is complimented by smoke stained walls, and grubby furniture.

The one luxury is the en-suite enclosed within.

The curtains are closed but reveal a slither of light, which runs across the bodies.

Clothes lay haphazardly on the floor. The TV is on, but muted. On the TV a news headline reads: Mental illness on the rise.

Georgia is the picture of contentment. Her head rests on Ed's chest.

ED

You see that?

She nestles further into his chest.

GEORGIA

Yeah.

ED

What is insane anyway?

Georgia rhythmically kisses Ed with each word.

GEORGIA

Being totally and completely infatuated... even when you shouldn't be.

ED

Your clinical definition?

GEORGIA

Depends. The Japanese... they say it's a weakness of character.

ED

A weakness? Like you're too weak to just deal with life?

GEORGIA

Yeah. They think of you as a social leper.

ED

What about the family? Don't they believe it brings shame on the family?

GEORGIA

Yeah, and you are less likely to get married in India... if you are -

Georgia kisses Ed.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

- "mentally" ill.

ED

What?

GEORGIA

It's harder to get an arranged marriage.

ED

'Cos you're insane?

GEORGIA

Yeah, and the children would be...

(beat)

Damaged.

(beat)

Apparently.

ED

Because their parents are ill?

GEORGIA

Yeah.

Ed switches the TV OFF.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)
How did you get away today?

ED
Meeting with the lawyer.

GEORGIA
Again?

ED
It's getting harder to get away.

GEORGIA
It's certainly getting harder...

She kisses his chest and runs her fingers up and down his body.

ED
I'd have thought you would be worn out.

GEORGIA
Never.
(beat)
I know every inch of your body.

Silence.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)
Think we can bottle this moment
someplace?

ED
Dive in anytime we want to get
away?

GEORGIA
Exactly.

ED
Let's do it.

Ed playfully pulls Georgia's hair.

GEORGIA
You...
(beat)
You're like the brother I never
had.

ED
Hmmm-mmmm. That's real sick.

GEORGIA
You're sick.

ED
I'm fed up with these shitty
hotels.

GEORGIA
(serious)
It's secluded.

ED
Yeah, but look at that floor -
it's as old as me.

GEORGIA
Nothing's as old as you.

ED
We're due an upgrade.

GEORGIA
It's not good enough for you?

ED
It is a little beneath me...

GEORGIA
You always were the little mummy's
boy.

ED
My mother does love me.

GEORGIA
I'm sure she does.

ED
Jealous?

GEORGIA
Your sister was always the golden
child anyway.

ED
My sister's a bitch.

Georgia SMILES.

GEORGIA
I need to go -
Points to the en-suite.

ED

10 out of 10 for making me want
you.

Georgia gazes lovingly at Ed - smiles and gently kisses his lips. She saunters over to the en-suite - doesn't touch her clothes, or attempt to cover herself. She's too comfortable for that.

She ENTERS -

INT. BATHROOM

Georgia closes the door. She presses her face against the closed door - a moment's reflection.

The mirror now reflects Georgia's face as she CLICKS the light on - she stares at herself for a few seconds before bowing her head.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Ed stares ahead. He wears the look of a troubled man.

The toilet FLUSHES.

Cue Georgia's return. She flashes a SMILE.

GEORGIA

Miss me?

ED

No.

GEORGIA

Lying?

ED

Yes.

Georgia throws herself back down on the bed and into Ed's open arms - he kisses her forehead.

ED (CONT'D)

How long do we have?

GEORGIA

Not long enough.

(beat)

Have you thought about it?

ED
We've had this conversation,
George.

GEORGIA
Nothing's impossible.

ED
Just because we want to, doesn't
mean we can. There are rules.

GEORGIA
Why? Just tell me why?

ED
We're...

A phone RINGS on the bedside table.

ED (CONT'D)
I need to get that.

GEORGIA
Leave it.

Ed leans across and SIGHS. The screen reads: Anna. He puts his finger to his mouth.

ED
(into phone)
Hey, baby.

EXT. HOTEL CAR PARK - DAY

Ed and Georgia walk together to their respective cars. The car park is deserted aside from the imminent goodbye.

GEORGIA
Okay, so, I will see you soon?

ED
You know when.

GEORGIA
Yeah, but...
(beat)
When will I see you again?

ED
We'll sort something.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ed sits with ANNA, his beautiful wife. The busy park is bathed in sunshine, and the picture perfect picnic has been prepared for more than just these two.

ANNA

Shouldn't they be here by now?

ED

Relax. We're early.

ANNA

I just don't want to get off on the wrong foot today. It's important for me - for us.

(beat)

You know that.

With that, Ed kisses Anna uniformly.

ED

Stop worrying, it will be okay. I promise.

ANNA

You always say that, and it never is. I can never do -

ED

You look beautiful today. Did you change your hair?

ANNA

You like it?

ED

Yeah.

ANNA

That would've been really cute if you had noticed last week.

ED

(off her look)

I was waiting for the right moment.

SEB (V.O.)

They're going to accept. We did it.

INT. CAR - DAY

SEB, (20s) with his chiselled looks, drives his clone company car. Georgia gazes out of the window.

SEB (CONT'D)

(beat)

Apparently they're impressed.

Silence.

SEB (CONT'D)

Rick is going to sign...

(beat)

George? Anyone home?

GEORGIA

Uhhh?

SEB

I'm speaking to you.

GEORGIA

Oh.

SEB

Oh?

GEORGIA

Sorry.

SEB

Do you care?

GEORGIA

What?

SEB

Why am I bothering?

GEORGIA

I'm sorry, what were you saying?

SEB

They're going to accept.

GEORGIA

(lacking
enthusiasm)

That's great news.

Georgia leans across and pecks Seb's cheek - much like a meet and greet between dignitaries.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

I love you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The park fills up with happy families. Two MEN are throwing a boomerang. A misplaced throw sends the boomerang within inches of Anna. Neither Ed nor Anna notice.

The near palpable tension here blocks out anyone else.

ED

They're here.

A family saloon pulls into the car park. The huge park houses it with towering trees looming over.

ED (CONT'D)

We'd better go over.

ANNA

No.

ED

Why?

ANNA

I need a minute. I feel a little sick.

ED

Just stay here.

ANNA

Ed.

ED

I'll -

Anna's arm stops Ed from getting up.

ED (CONT'D)

- okay!

EXT. CAR PARK

MADELINE, well-kept, and ROD (both in their 50s), step out of the car, full of smiles toward Ed and Anna - faux in Madeline's case.

MADELINE
The spiteful little bitch.

Madeline waves to Ed and Anna.

They smile back at her.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Just look at her.

Rod's heard it before.

ROD
Can't we just have a nice day?

MADELINE
She's not good enough.

ROD
Madeline, now's not the time.

Seb's company car comes into focus.

MADELINE
(off the car's
arrival)
Is that them?

Georgia can be seen - she WAVES.

ROD
Madeline.

Seb drives slowly into the bay next to Madeline and Rod.

The car parks.

INT. CAR

Seb smiles reluctantly at Madeline as Georgia exits the passenger door. She HUGS Madeline and Rod in turn.

SEB
(warmly)
Rod.

He steps out the car -

EXT. CAR PARK

- and continues the pleasantries by shaking Rod's hand.

ROD

It's good to see you, Seb.

SEB

I see Anna and Ed are here already.

ROD

Apparently it's a big occasion.

GEORGIA

Gentlemen! Shall we?

ROD

(to Seb)

New car?

Rod inspects the car with well-intentioned faux glee.

Seb appreciates this.

SEB

Yeah.

Georgia and Madeline wait impatiently as Rod looks over the car. Ed motions for them to join.

MADELINE

(to Georgia)

Let's go see that brother of yours. Anna's got some "big" news.

GEORGIA

I'm sure she has, mother.

MADELINE

I think she's pregnant.

GEORGIA

(overcome)

What?

THE END