

Monsters

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EXT.SEA - DAY

A dull stormy sky. A boat crashes in the waves.

EXT.BOAT DECK - DAY

AIDEN

Haul!

AIDEN (late 20s), shaggy beard, winces in the heavy gale, tide and rain spatters across his face. He grapples upon a thick rope, pulls with all his strength

AIDEN

Haul!

CALLAN (late 20s), thin wiry, looks like he's been through the wars. His eyes pierce into the watery depths.

CALLAN

It's moving! It's moving!

Aiden releases the rope,

Runs to the other side of the boat in a mad dash

AIDEN

Which cage?...

CALLAN

Two!

He eyes a series of ropes, all hung over the bow. He grabs one with a pair of worn bloodied hands.

Aiden's desperate bulging eyes, Tugs with all his might, screams in deafening pain.

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

Silence. Followed by the twitter of birds.

Aiden's soft relaxed visage, clean cut and shaven, transformed.

Warm orange sunlight cuts through the open windows, fills the homely rustic kitchen. Aiden sits at the breakfast table he watches...

Melissa (mid 20s), a bright summer dress, hair loose and free, stunningly beautiful. Her silhouette dances upon the tablecloth, upon the walls.

A vast array of pots and pan gurgle and simmer on the stove, a collection of colourful fruit and fresh vegetables adorn the work tops.

MELISSA

Voila

She turns to Aiden. Presents a platter of roast lamb, potatoes, all the trimmings.

MELISSA

I thought i do something special

AIDEN

Special?

MELISSA

Our anniversary. It's o.k, I know you have a lot on your mind.

AIDEN

It all looks wonderful. Especially you.

She beams at him, goes to place the platter down upon the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT DECK. DAY

A wooden crate slams onto the deck. Three feet by three feet in size.

CALLAN

We've got it. We've final got it.

A horrendous sound, like the squealing of a pig, the crate shudders wildly.

CALLAN

It's hard to believe something so small could be so dangerous.

Excitement tears across Aiden's face

AIDEN  
Get it inside! To the cage!

A large fat rugged man, ROHAN (35) and Callan cautiously, yet with a sense of urgency approach the the crate.

A nervous Rohan begins to peer into crack

CALLAN  
Rohan!

Rohan quickly reels away

CALLAN  
Don't look at it!

ROHAN  
Yes sir. Sorry

They approach from the side, grapple the shuddering, screaming crate, and drag it with a deafening screech across the wet deck into...

INT. BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Rohan and Callan drag the crate down a short stair case.

A large cage lines the wall, like that of a jail cell.

The bars of the cage are highlighted by slithers of grayish light that break through the ceiling boards, but the rest descends into darkness.

They line up the crate with a matching sized gate in the cell.

Callan slides the a side of the crate open

Something, obscured by the poor light, around the size of a large pig shoots out of the crate with tremendous force and ferocity, scurries into the darkness of the jail cell.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

A terrier yaps playfully on the open green fields.

Melissa looks out the window, as she washes a variety of exotic fruits.

Aiden still sits at the breakfast table behind her. Empty plates, the meal has been finished.

AIDEN  
I'm leaving next week.

She stops what she's doing.

AIDEN  
They've moved the expedition forward.

She's upset, but still forces a smile

MELISSA  
I always knew this day would come.

AIDEN  
I'm sorry

MELISSA  
You don't need to apologize. I know how important your work is.

she looks past the small dog toward the distant mountain range.

MELISSA  
Have you finished all your preparations? You've been training a long time.

AIDEN  
There's only one more thing left to do.

MELISSA  
I was thinking, maybe we could get away for the weekend. Go somewhere special...

CUT TO:

EXT. BOAT DECK - DAY

Callan and Aiden stand on the deck.

CALLAN  
Are you ready?

Aiden nods

CALLAN

This thing has killed so many of us. You can't afford lose your nerve.

Aiden takes in several deep breaths, savors the sea air.

AIDEN

I've been waiting all of my life for this moment. Trust me.

He examines the blade of a long dagger, before sliding into a sheath upon his waist.

Aiden grins

AIDEN

(joking)

Care to join me?

CALLAN

I don't dare look into that darkness. You know that.

Aiden turns to face the cage room door. Stretches an open palm to Callan whom places the key within it.

CALLAN

Remember, a stab through it's heart, it's the only way.

As Aiden slides the key in the lock, Callan places a hand upon Aiden's shoulder, he pauses

CALLAN

It'd be best if you don't let it talk to you.

INT. BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Aiden moves down the stairs cautiously.

Aiden looks to the cage, the inside surrenders into a pit of darkness. He squints into the dark, he sees nothing.

He edges closer. Closer still

A voice pierces through.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)

It's been a while..., Aiden

From the darkness a figure emerges, the gray light caresses over her to reveal... Melissa.

She looks different from before, her face is pale, but still with a stark beauty, a plain white dress, her hair tied up, her iris's a cold white.

Aiden tries to mask his exasperation

AIDEN  
You look just like her...  
(sternly)  
But your not her

MELISSA  
Why would you say such a hurtful  
thing.

She examines Aiden's face. His red painful eyes.

MELISSA  
You look tired

AIDEN  
It's been a long day...

MELISSA  
or a year? How long is it now  
since you've been looking for me?  
Two, Three years

AIDEN  
Your not her

They share a long silence.

She approaches the bars, smiles softly

MELISSA  
Do you remember...

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

Mellisa, full of life, full of colour. The bright sunlight from the open windows envelope her.

MELISSA  
...that day we went up to the  
mountains. We got lost amongst the  
thick leaves and it began to rain.

CUT TO:

INT.BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY

Mellisa, cast in the darkness.

MELISSA

And you told me, that it was good that we were lost. You said, as long as we were lost, time has no consequence, and we would be free of all our earthly bonds.

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

MELISSA

But what of food I said, what of hunger and thirst. You lit a fire under a canopy of star shaped umbrage and we lay there.

CUT TO:

INT.BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY

MELISSA

That evening when we got back home, you were silent, you sat alone in the dark. Till the day faded to dusk. And you begged me, with those deep desperate eyes, "let us go back now, to the mountains, forget my mission, my task, and stay there for the rest of our days.

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

MELISSA

I laughed, I smiled. I told you that it was just a passing fantasy, and that you must return to your task, just as the world must continue to turn. The following day when i asked you of it, you said

INT.BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY

AIDEN

I do not remember the day before  
this one, it has been stricken from  
my mind and filled with the faces  
of monsters.

Melissa smiles amorously

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

MELISSA

I never understood what you meant,  
but I ask you before you leave.

CUT TO:

INT.BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY

MELISSA

Will you take me there again?

Aiden's hand shifts to his blade.

She eyes it.

MELISSA

You love me, Aiden. You can never  
hurt me. Let me go, we can go back  
to the mountains, we can be  
together forever.

He brakes away from her gaze. He looks into the ground.

AIDEN

Do you know why they picked me to  
kill a hideous manipulative monster  
like you? What makes me stronger  
than other men?

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

Aiden looks down, lost for a moment. A tear drop falls from his eye.

Mellisa wipes it away lovingly. Smiles.

MELLISA

Whats wrong?

His expression transforms, hard, cold.

Aiden, suddenly, sweeps the contents of the table to the floor. Throws the table aside.

Filled with a grim determination.

MELLISA

Aiden?!

He bares down upon her. Gritted in tangled emotion.

AIDEN

I love you. You know that right.

MELLISA

Aiden, what are you doing?

He wraps his hands tightly around her neck, she tries to back away.

MELLISA

Aiden!

He tightens his grip. She backs into the wall.

She gasps for breath. He doesn't relent. He won't.

His grip tightens further. His finger tip blush a white.

Her hands amble upon his face, trying to push him away. They gradually lose their luster.

Their eyes lock in a final embrace. Aiden's firm expression doesn't give. Her eyes are dulled.

CUT TO:

INT. BOAT CAGE ROOM - DAY

Tears well in Aiden's eyes.

AIDEN

(to Melissa)

I'm sorry, Melissa. For what it's worth, I'm sorry... for what I did... for what i am going to do.

He approaches her.

MELISSA

You won't hurt me. I love you

He draws his long dagger from it's sheath. He sucks up his emotions.

AIDEN

I murdered the woman I loved, just so I'd have the strength to face you.

MELISSA

I love you, Aiden

He advances.

AIDEN

I had to look beyond my own selfish desires, to cleanse this world of your seductive tongue. To fill my dreams with the vilest of thoughts. To become more of a monster than even you.

MELISSA

Aiden!

Aiden pauses, he meets her eyes

MELISSA

(desperately)

I love you.

AIDEN

and I love you

(beat)

but what make you think i can't kill you again

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK:

MELISSA (V.O)  
Because things are different this  
time, aren't they?

INT.KITCHEN - DAY - PAST

Aiden removes his hands from Melissa's limp body. The magnitude of what he's just done hits him like a sledgehammer

He cries out in pain, like a wounded animal. Long curdled cries of anguish.

He rolls pathetically about the floor clutching a broken heart, as if in want to tear it out.

It drags on, in an endless refrain, like an agonizing slow death.

He pulls Melissa's limp body into his arms, cradles her head in his palms, his tears cast upon her face. Embraces her into his chest. His eyes cast in bloodshot red.

CUT TO:

EXT.BOAT DECK - DAY

Aiden steps upon the deck, out of breath, slightly keeled, he finishes sliding his dagger back into it's sheath.

CALLAN  
Is it done?

Aiden gives him a short smile of acknowledgment.

He passes Callan, slowly, deliberately, looking out to the cloudy mountain expanse, rest himself upon the boats railings.

AIDEN  
You know, there's one thing i never learnt, in all my years of preparation for this day.

CALLAN  
And whats that?

AIDEN  
How to deal with regret.

Callan ponders upon Aiden's words for a moment. His face bursts in realisation.

He draws a blade and turns to the open cabin door. He's too late.

Aiden doesn't turn to look.

He watches the open landscape, accompanied by the sounds of a horrific squealing pig, feral wolf like growls and tearing flesh.

Melissa walks slowly towards Aiden, Callan's ankle loosely in one hand, dragging his mangled body upon the deck. She carelessly releases it to the floor.

She takes her place at Aiden's side. Slips her arm between his and rests her head lovingly upon his shoulder.

Together, they look outward towards the gloomy sky.