The Box

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FADE IN:

#### INT. BEDROOM

A GIRL with blonde hair is walking into the room, closing the door behind her.

The room is dimly light and somewhat devoid of furniture. Only a bed with an end table are visible.

The girl is KATE, early twenties, pretty face, likeable.

Kate is smiling at something off screen. She walks slowly towards it.

On the edge of the bed sits a BOY. He is smiling back at her.

His name is AARON, early twenties, masculine features, genuine.

Kate reaches Aaron and puts her arms around him. He does the same to her. She leans in close to his face.

CLOSE on her mouth as she whispers something in his ear.

Kate leans in even closer to kiss him.

INSERT: Kate screaming in pain and terror as a large gash in her head spews out blood.

They continue to smile at each other.

INSERT: Aaron in a seizure like state screaming as well.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on Aaron's eye popping open as if just awaking from a nightmare.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. AARON'S HOME - EARLY MORNING

On the doorstep of Aaron's home sits a welcome mat, which is worn out and dirty.

Two hands belonging to an unidentified person place a package on the mat and exit the frame. The sound of someone walking away can be heard.

INT. DINER - MORNING

Aaron and another BOY, who looks around the same age, are sitting at a table.

This other boy is ANDREW, early twenties, self centered, cocky. He is Aaron's best friend.

Their waitress comes with two plates of food and sets them down on the table.

WAITRESS

Anything else?

**AARON** 

we're good.

WAITRESS

Just let me know.

She grins at them and walks away. Aaron and Andrew begin to eat their food.

They continue a conversation, which was previously started;

ANDREW

So, tell me about this dream.

**AARON** 

Where did I leave off?

ANDREW

Uh, you said it was the strangest dream you've ever had and that was as far as you got.

AARON

(taking a bite of his
food)

Oh yeah.

(he swallows)

Well, I was sitting in this room at a table with these two guys. I have no idea who they are. And, it's like I'm trapped, but I wasn't tied up or anything. I just knew. They said we were waiting for someone, but they wouldn't tell me who.

(pause)

I was scared.

AARON(cont'd)

Like, really scared and I didn't know what to do. I kept telling myself to get out of the chair and leave, but I didn't for some reason.

Aaron takes another bite of his food.

ANDREW

Anything else happen?

**AARON** 

(swallowing)

Yeah, then I was laying in this field with tall grass. You were there, but you were just staring off. And so was Kate. She was trying to tell me something, but I couldn't hear her.

(pause)

Then I woke up. All I know is that I had never been so scared in my life.

ANDREW

That doesn't seem like a "scary" dream. A weird one, I'll give you that, but not scary.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Aaron and Andrew are walking across campus. They are in mid-conversation;

AARON

-I don't know if I want to, you know? I've got a lot to do and what if she says no?

**ANDREW** 

You'll just have to ask and see. If she wants to come then she wants to come. You don't have to make excuses. If you don't go through with it then I won't let it go for a while, and you know this.

**AARON** 

Yeah, I know. Gulf Shores sounds fun and all, but I'm kinda nervous about it. ANDREW

You need to just stop being such a little girl and ask her already. It's driving me insane. I hate it.

**AARON** 

I'll think about it.

**ANDREW** 

No, you better do more than think about it. And I mean that.

**AARON** 

We'll see.

ANDREW

Yeah, we will.

They walk into a building.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S HOME - EVENING

The package is still sitting on the mat. Aaron walks up to the door and notices it. He opens the door, grabs the package and walks inside.

The door slowly closes behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S HOME - EVENING

Aaron sets the package down on his table and walks to the refrigerator. He makes himself a sandwich and gets something to drink.

When he is halfway through his sandwich he sets it down on the counter and walks over to the package. He opens it and digs through the packaging peanuts. Inside is a small black box.

After looking over the box Aaron picks up the package. There are no postage stamps or any information on it.

Aaron takes a sip of his drink and pulls his cell phone out from his pocket. He dials a number and holds the phone up to his ear. **AARON** 

(into phone)

Yeah, it's me. Nothing. Listen, when I came home there was a package outside and when I opened it there was this little black box in it. Do you know anything about it? No, it's just strange and I have no idea who it's from. No, there isn't anything on the box it came in. Yeah, I guess. You'll just see it the next time you come over.

Aaron hangs up the phone and puts it back into his pocket. He takes another sip of his drink.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - AARON'S HOME - LATE NIGHT

Aaron jumps up from a deep sleep. His breathing is labored, he is sweating, and has a look of terror on his face.

He then holds his stomach and quickly moves to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - LATE NIGHT

Aaron makes his way into the bathroom and goes to the toilet. He gets on his knees, opens the lid and vomits.

As Aaron brushes his teeth to get the taste of vomit out of his mouth he looks in the mirror and notices that his face is slightly pale

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CAMPUS - DAY

Aaron is washing his hands after using the bathroom. Andrew walks up next to him and begins to wash his hands also.

ANDREW (washing his hands) Are you alright?

AARON

(turning off the water and moving to the paper towels)

I guess so. Last night I was throwing up.

**ANDREW** 

(turning off the water
 also)
You look kinda pale.

AARON

(drying his hands)
Yeah, I noticed that last night. I
dunno what's wrong with me.

ANDREW

(drying his hands)
You should probably get that checked out.

**AARON** 

(trying to joke)
Ain't no probably about it.

They both throw away their paper towels and walk out of the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S HOME - EVENING

Aaron and Andrew walk up to the front door of the apartment. Aaron digs through his pocket to find keys.

ANDREW

So, am I going to be, like, freaked out by this or anything?

**AARON** 

No, it's just a little strange. I'm not creeped out by it or anything like that.

ANDREW

Alright.

Aaron opens the door and they both walk in.

INT. AARON'S HOME - EVENING

Aaron and Andrew walk over to the table and Andrew picks up the box. He examines it.

ANDREW

It's just a box. Why would someone send this to you?

AARON

Your guess is as good as mine. I think I should just get rid of it.

ANDREW

No, don't do that. It actually looks pretty cool. Put on the mantle or something.

Aaron picks up the package that the box came in and throws it away. Andrew notices this and walks over to the garbage can.

ANDREW

Wait up, lemme have a look at it.

Andrew picks up the package and looks over it. There are no postal markings on it or anything.

ANDREW

Well, damn. I don't know what to say.

AARON

(shaking his head)

Neither do I.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREW'S BEDROOM - ANDREW'S HOME - NIGHT

Andrew is sitting up in his bed watching infomercials on the television. He has a somewhat blank stare on his face. He stares unblinking at the television.

### INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron is tossing and turning in his sleep. He wakes up and gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

## INT. ANDREW'S BEDROOM - ANDREW'S HOME - NIGHT

Andrew thinks he hears a knock and slowly gets out of his bed. He opens the door to his room and looks down the hallway. Nothing and no one is there. He walks down the hallway.

CUT TO:

#### INT. HALLWAY - ANDREW'S HOME - NIGHT

Andrew slowly walks down his hallway until he gets to his den. He looks around, sees nothing and then walks back to his room.

CUT TO:

## INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron is slowly walking toward his door. He has a look of complete terror on his face. As he gets closer to the door he extends out his hand to open it.

CUT TO:

## INT. ANDREW'S BEDROOM - ANDREW'S HOME - NIGHT

Andrew is once again sitting on the bed staring blankly at the television. Only now there is no programming on it. Just static. He has a slight, eerie grin on his face.

CUT TO:

# INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron opens the door to his room and slowly walks out of it.

#### INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Aaron begins to walk down his hallway, but as he reaches the end of it there is nothing but darkness. He slowly makes his way into the darkness.

He continues to walk further and further, with the hallway never seeming to end. Soon there is only a small amount of light on his face, which he cannot see beyond. He walks with his hands on the walls trying to feel everything out, as if the light is blinding him

Suddenly he comes to light. He is in a different hallway. Aaron looks around with a look of both confusion and terror on his face.

He comes to a single door. He knocks on the door, but there is no answer. Aaron decides to open the door. He opens the door to find Andrew sitting on his bed.

Andrew is sitting indian-style on the bed with the black box sitting in front of him. On the television is static and on both sides of the bed are two men dressed in suits.

Andrew is saying something, but Aaron cannot hear him.

Instead of walking into the room, Aaron backs away and closes the door behind him.

He runs back into the darkness of the hallway. He runs and runs. Suddenly he comes to his den. He turns the lights on and walks into it.

CUT TO:

## INT. DEN - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron slowly walks around his den with a confused look on his face. He sees the box sitting on the table in the kitchen, only one of the sides has moved slightly.

He walks up to it and picks up the box. He looks at it carefully and tries to pry it open more, but it stays closed.

He then happens to glance over at a window and sees Kate standing outside it. She runs away when their eyes meet. Aaron runs out of the door to chase after her.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Aaron is suddenly crawling through a field with tall grass. He is trying to keep up with Kate, who is crawling in front of him, but he can't seem to.

For a moment he loses her, but he then finds her. She is laying on her side praying. She has blood flowing from a wound in her head. She is staring directly at Aaron.

She is praying, but Aaron cannot hear what she is saying.

**AARON** 

KATE! YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME! KATE!

CLOSE on Aaron's eyes opening up.

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron jumps awake on the bathroom floor. There is vomit on his shirt, his face is even more pale, and he is sweating.

He helps himself up, but his whole body aches and makes it hard. When he is finally standing he looks at himself in the mirror.

After a few moments of staring at himself in the mirror, Aaron suddenly crashes his head into it and causes it to shatter.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Aaron is passed out on the kitchen floor. On the table sits the box with one of the panels slightly opened.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on someone's hand knocking on a door

EXT. AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Kate is knocking on the door. She then waits. After a few moments Aaron answers the door. He looks terrible. He has bags under his eyes, his face is pale, he has a sweat and seems to be slightly shaking.

Kate has a look of extreme concern on her face.

KATE

Oh my God, Aaron, are you alright?

AARON

Yeah, I'm fine. I've just got the flu or something.

KATE

I don't think it's just the flu. You look terrible.

**AARON** 

I'm taking medicine, so I'll be fine.

KATE

Maybe you shouldn't go this weekend.

**AARON** 

What do you mean?

KATE

Andrew, he told me about you two going to Gulf Shores this weekend and asked if I wanted to go. He said that you'd like it.

AARON

Damn it!

KATE

What's wrong?

AARON

Nothing, I just wanted to, you know, ask you myself.

KATE

Oh. Well, can I come in?

AARON

No, I just need to be alone. So can you, like, come back later?

KATE

Sure, are you sure--

Aaron closes the door in her face. She becomes upset and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREW'S BEDROOM - ANDREW'S HOME - MORNING

Andrew is sitting up in his bed. He is shaking and has a look of terror on his face.

ANDREW

(softly to himself)

Oh my God...

He quickly gets out of his bed and runs out the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S HOME - DAY

Andrew quickly walks up to Aaron's door and knocks hard. Aaron answers the door, still looking just as bad.

**ANDREW** 

Jesus Christ, Aaron. Are you alright?

AARON

Yeah, I'm fine.

ANDREW

Last night, I had this dream that you were knocking on my door and then there was these two guys and--

Aaron cuts him off.

AARON

Look, I don't feel good. Can this wait?

ANDREW

No, I don't think it can. Look, you have to get rid of that box.

AARON

It's just a box, I gotta go.

ANDREW

Will you just let me in?

AARON

No, you might get sick or something. I'll talk to you later.

Aaron closes the door and Andrew just stands there for a moment. He then slowly walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Andrew is walking to his car when Kate comes up behind him.

KATE

Andrew!

He turns around and faces her.

ANDREW

Hey, what's going on?

KATE

Something is wrong with Aaron.

ANDREW

Yeah, I don't know what's wrong with him.

KATE

Should we bring him to a doctor?

ANDREW

I don't think he would let us.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S HOME - DAY

The curtains are closed and there is hardly any light in the room. Aaron sits in a large chair staring off into nothing. The box is on the floor next to him. It is almost completely opened.

Aaron goes into the kitchen and picks up a bag of potato chips that is sitting on the counter. He tries to eat them, but he spits them up before he can swallow.

He then goes over to the drink and gets a glass of water. He is able to drink it, but he holds his stomach like he is sick after.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - DAY

Aaron stumbles into the bathroom and falls to his knees. He bends over the toilet and vomits again. After he looks into the toilet and a look of complete horror comes over his face.

Behind him a figure can be seen slowly walking into the bathroom.

Suddenly two hands wrap a telephone chord around his neck and begins to strangle him. Aaron tries to fight with the person, but he doesn't have enough strength. He pushes himself into the person and they both fall onto the ground.

Aaron struggles with the person, but he soon loses most of his oxygen. He tries to pry the person's hands from the chord, but his grip loosens fast.

Aaron tries to speak to the person, to plead with him, but all that comes out of his mouth are attempts to gasp for air.

Soon Aaron's bodily movements are reduced to slight spasms in his muscles and he dies.

The stranger waits for a few moments to make sure that Aaron is dead and then removes the telephone chord from around his neck. He stands up, nudges Aaron's body with his foot and then exits the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DEN - AARON'S HOME - DAY

The box is on the floor next to the chair that Aaron was sitting in. The panel is now completely open.

CUT TO:

INT. DEN - KATE'S HOME - NIGHT

Kate is watching a prime time television show on television while eating a sandwich. There is a knock on the door and she gets up to open it.

When she opens the door she finds Aaron standing there. His hair is fixed differently and there is something strange about him.

KATE

I thought you had the flu?

AARON

I thought so too, but I was feeling a lot better a few hours after you left.

KATE

Oh.

**AARON** 

And I'm sorry for the way I was acting.

KATE

No, it's okay.

She smiles.

KATE

So, do you want to come in?

**AARON** 

(smiling)

Of course.

He walks in and Kate shuts the door. They sit down on the sofa.

**AARON** 

I see you're having a late dinner.

KATE

It's not that late.

**AARON** 

It's late enough.

A strange look comes over Kate's face.

KATE

Any reason you show up here at ten thirty on a Thursday night?

Aaron looks over at Kate and smiles.

AARON

Yeah, to see you.

KATE

(smiling)

Oh really? So what are you trying to say?

**AARON** 

You know.

KATE

(playfully)

Maybe.

Aaron looks over at the television.

**AARON** 

You watch this?

KATE

Uh, yeah, this is like the greatest show.

On the television are two people sitting at a table holding hands expressing their love for each other.

**AARON** 

I never liked that guy. He always overacts. Like he's on a soap opera or something.

KATE

You know, he lives like a few miles away from here?

**AARON** 

Really? I don't plan on going there soon.

They both laugh. Then there is a moment of silence.

KATE

Do you want anything to eat or drink? I've got a lot of stuff. I just went to the store yesterday.

**AARON** 

I'll take a glass of water if you have it.

KATE

You're sure that's it?

AARON

Yeah.

Kate gets up and walks out of the den and into the kitchen. After a few moments Aaron stands up and follows her.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - KATE'S HOME - NIGHT

Kate is filling a glass with some water when Aaron walks up behind her. He puts his arms around her and begins to kiss her neck. She puts the glass in the sink and turns around. They kiss.

KATE

Let's go to the bedroom.

**AARON** 

Alright.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - KATE'S HOME - NIGHT

Kate is walking into the bedroom, closing the door behind her. Aaron is sitting on the edge of her bed smiling at her. She smiles back.

When she reaches Aaron, Kate wraps her arms around him and straddles him. She kisses him once of the lips and then moves over to his ear.

CLOSE on Aaron's ear as Kate whispers something and then kisses it.

Kate then looks Aaron in the face and kisses him. They lay back on the bed. Kate is on top of Aaron and kisses him. As they are kissing Aaron can be seen reaching for something off screen.

Suddenly Aaron hits Kate in the head with a lamp, causing the bulb to shatter. Kate falls off of the bed onto the floor. She has an open wound in her head, which blood is flowing from.

Aaron stands up from the bed and pulls a telephone chord from his back pocket. He then slowly begins to walk towards Kate, who is trying to crawl away from him on the floor.

KATE

(crying)

Please, Aaron, don't.

Aaron walks up behind her and wraps the chord around her neck.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Aaron wakes up on the bathroom floor. He has a bruise on his head and a headache. The sound of someone knocking on his door echoes throughout his home.

He slowly stands up, splashes some water in his face and leaves the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Andrew is standing nervously outside of Aaron's home. Aaron opens the door.

ANDREW

Kate went missing last night. The neighbors said they heard a scream and they didn't see her leave home this morning. They also said that they saw someone leave late last night.

A look of shock comes over Aaron's face.

**AARON** 

What the hell are you talking about? I just talked to her last night.

ANDREW

And Aaron, I've been having really weird dreams too.

AARON

Come in.

Andrew walks in.

INT. KITCHEN - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Aaron and Andrew are sitting at the table. Aaron is drinking a glass of water. He has a worried look on his face.

They are in mid-conversation;

**AARON** 

--did the police check her house or anything like that?

**ANDREW** 

Yeah, they said there was signs of a struggle in the bedroom and a broken lamp. Other than that, they have nothing.

Aaron buries his face in his hands. He begins to break down.

**AARON** 

(muffled)

I can't believe this is happening.

ANDREW

I'm really sorry, man. I know how much you cared about her.

Aaron stands up and walks out of the room. Andrew looks down at the table. He is very upset also.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Aaron splashes water on his face and looks at himself in the mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Andrew is looking around Aaron's home when he sees the box on the floor next to the chair. The panel is still open. He stands up and walks over to it. When he reaches the box he kneels down and looks inside it and a look of terror comes over his face.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Aaron is still staring into the mirror. With water dripping down his face he grins as if he knows Andrew is looking into the box.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - AARON'S HOME - MORNING

Andrew is staring at the box as if he is in a trance. Aaron walks up behind him and puts his hand on his shoulder, which makes Andrew slightly jump.

AARON

Can we take a ride or something? I don't want to be here anymore.

ANDREW

(shaken up)

Yeah, sure.

They stand up and walk out of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR(MOVING) - DAY

Andrew is driving and Aaron is in the passenger's seat.

After a few moments of silence Andrew speaks;

ANDREW

So, you look better. You're not pale or anything.

AARON

Yeah, but I guess it doesn't matter now.

ANDREW

You just have to be optimistic about it. They could find her at anytime.

AARON

Do you really think that or are you just trying to get my hopes up.

ANDREW

Aaron, you don't have to be hostile or anything.

AARON

How else do you expect me to act? She's missing.

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

There is another long silence between them.

Aaron begins to act sickly.

AARON

Pull over here, I think I'm gonna throw up.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Andrew pulls the car to the side of the road. Aaron quickly gets out of the passenger's side and vomits in the grass.

Andrew gets out of the car and walks up behind Aaron.

ANDREW

Are you alright, man?

**AARON** 

Yeah.

Aaron pulls out a small knife and stabs Andrew in the stomach. Andrew falls to his knees and Aaron stabs him again in the chest.

Aaron quickly helps Andrew up and sits him in the passenger's seat of the car. He then gets into the car and drives off.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Tall grass covers the field. Aaron is dragging Andrew's dying body through the grass.

Andrew tries to speak to Aaron, but he is short on breath;

ANDREW

Please--

Aaron cuts him off;

**AARON** 

Shut up.

They pass Kate's dead body in the grass. A look of terror comes over Andrew's face.

Aaron drops Andrew's body a few feet away from Kate's and begins to walks away. Andrew looks around and see's Aaron's dead body laying behind him.

Andrew tries to help himself up, but he falls back down and slowly dies.

Aaron gets back into the car and drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. AARON'S HOME - DAY

Aaron takes the black box, closes the panel and puts it into a cardboard package and seals it up. He takes the package and walks out of the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Aaron sets the package on the doorstep of the house and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

A large white room with a brown wooden table. A very eerie atmosphere.

Aaron sits at the table with the two men in suits sitting across from him.

AARON

Who are we waiting for?

MAN 1

You'll find out soon enough. They're almost here.

**AARON** 

They?

MAN 2

Yes, they.

The two men smile. Aaron stares at them trying to figure out what's going on, but he can't figure it out.

Aaron glances over at a door.

MAN 1

You can't leave, so there's no need to try.

AARON

Why am I here?

FADE TO BLACK.

INSERTS showing the actor from the television show Kate was watching and his ordeal with the box play over the credits.

Should include him vomiting, going into trance-like states, him being murdered by his double, and finally him in the field with the tall grass.