

' The Brother '

by

Roger Goldsmith

(A Short Film Script)

11 Parade View Mansions
Royal Gate
Southsea,
Hants,
PO4 9XJ
07951 750165

roger.goldsmith@ntlworld.com

FADE IN:

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

DANIEL(20s) sits at a kitchen table, looking vague and disorientated. DAISY(20s) his girlfriend stands over him, wearing a dressing gown. He wears jeans and a white shirt.

DAISY
Daniel, you're not answering me?

Daniel just stares ahead.

DAISY
Daniel. Why?

EXT. A STREET - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

DAISY (V.O.)
Daniel! Wait!

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY

DAISY stands over DANIEL.

DAISY
Daniel, answer me. Why?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DAISY is in bed with STEVE(20s) kissing passionately. DANIEL opens the door. They both look shocked to see him. Daniel walks to the side of the bed looking at Daisy threateningly, his eyes firmly on her. Steve gets out of the other side, picks up his clothes and makes for the door. Daniel momentarily goes for him, but Steve's gone.

EXT. A STREET(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

DAISY (V.O.)
Daniel! Wait!

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL walks slowly towards DAISY. She looks petrified.

DAISY

Daniel! No!

Daniel goes for her, but she slides to the other side of the bed and gets out, naked. She makes for the door, but Daniel gets there before her. He turns her around.

DAISY

No Daniel! No!

INT. A PUB - DAY

DANIEL sits at the bar, drinking a beer. Two empty glasses on the bar, his reflection in a mirror ahead.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL puts his hands around DAISY'S neck, pushes her against the wall.

INT. A PUB(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL knocks a glass off the bar, shattering it. A BARMAN looks threateningly at him. Daniel gets up and runs out of the pub quickly.

BARMAN

Hey! Wait!

EXT. A STREET(PART REPEAT SCENE) - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

DAISY (V.O.)

Daniel! Wait!

Daniel runs past a car. A MAN looks out of the car.

MAN IN CAR

Daniel! Wait!

EXT. A ROAD CLOSE TO A HOTEL - DAY

DANIEL running, pulls to a stop, exhausted, can't run any more. He doubles up, holding his stomach, hardly able to breathe. He looks up and sees where he is. The HOTEL SIGN.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

DANIEL takes a piping hot shower, rubs hard with soap.

INT. HOTEL BAR - DAY

DANIEL sits drinking a beer at a table, intense, deep in thought. A number of GUESTS sit at tables close by.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DAISY lies by the side of the bed, on the floor, motionless.

INT. HOTEL BAR(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL sitting at a table, opens his hands outstretched and looks at them.

An ELDERLY MAN and ELDERLY WOMAN sit at the next table to Daniel. The Elderly Man raises his glass to the woman, to toast her. The Elderly Woman responds. They clink glasses, and move close to each other.

Daniel finishes his beer and stands up quickly.

He passes the elderly couple's table. The Elderly Man glances at him. Their EYES MEET.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Daniel asleep in bed.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANIEL squeezes DAISY'S neck. He releases his hands. He watches her slide down the wall. SOUND of a woman screaming.

INT. HOTEL ROOM(CONT'D) - NIGHT

DANIEL, in bed, wakes up suddenly. He looks all around.

DANIEL
(anguish)
No! No!

Daniel slumps to his side in a heap.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL sits at the table. DAISY sits down opposite him and takes hold of one of his hands. Daniel stares at her.

DAISY

Daniel please answer me. Why?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Early morning light shines through the window. Birds are heard singing. DANIEL, dressed, looks at himself in a wall mirror. Daniel opens the door.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

A POLICE OFFICER faces him.

POLICEMAN

Is your name Daniel Hardman?

DANIEL

Yes.

POLICEMAN

I'd like to ask you a few questions, sir, if you don't mind?

DANIEL

Questions? What about?

INT. HOTEL ROOM (REPEAT SCENE) - NIGHT

DANIEL, in bed, wakes up suddenly. He looks all around.

DANIEL

(anguish)

No! No!

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

POLICEMAN

You stayed in that room last night?

DANIEL

Yes.

POLICEMAN

Number 57?

Daniel turns to look at the number on the door.

DANIEL

Yes.

POLICEMAN

Did you hear anything in the night?

DANIEL

Hear anything?

POLICEMAN

Any noises?

DANIEL

Noises?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANIEL stands over DAISY who lies motionless on the floor. He looks at his outstretched hands.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

POLICEMAN

Yes, sir. Coming from the room next door?

DANIEL

No. Why?

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The ELDERLY MAN and ELDERLY WOMAN sit at a table. The Elderly Man raises his glass to the woman, leans forward and clinks glasses.

POLICEMAN(V.O)

A woman was murdered in the room next to you.

The Elderly Man looks DANIEL in the eyes as he passes by.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

DANIEL

Murdered?

POLICEMAN

Yes, sir. A woman was strangled.

DANIEL

Strangled?

POLICEMAN

Yes, sir. Strangled. Her husband strangled her.

(beat)

Are you sure you didn't hear anything? Any screams?

INT. A BEDROOM(REPEAT SCENE) - DAY

DANIEL squeezes DAISY'S neck. He releases his hands. He watches her slide down the wall. SOUND of a woman screaming.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL. Daniel just stares.

POLICEMAN

Sir, are you all right? You look a bit white.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - DAY

DANIEL sits at a table staring ahead, an untouched full English breakfast in front of him.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - DAY

DANIEL is about to go to his room. He sees that the room next door is open. He slowly walks towards it. Police tape cordons off the room. Daniel looks towards the unmade bed. The POLICEMAN stands by the bed.

POLICEMAN

Something jogged your memory, sir?

DANIEL

What? No...No.

(hardly audible)

What happened?

POLICEMAN

I beg your pardon, sir?

DANIEL

What happened? Why?

POLICEMAN

Why what, sir?

DANIEL

Why did he strangle his wife?

EXT. A STREET - DAY

DANIEL walks very slowly.

Daniel stands outside of a terraced house. The front door is wide open. Daniel walks slowly to the door. A MAN carries a music system down the stairs, and walks past Daniel.

INT. A HOUSE - HALL - DAY

DANIEL stands in the hall, the front door open.

Daniel slowly unlocks the door to a ground floor flat. He pushes it open and does not move. Scared to go any further. The MAN comes in from outside and walks up the stairs, empty-handed. After several seconds, Daniel pushes the door wide open.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

DANIEL steps inside, closes the door without looking round. He scans the room. A lounge, dining room, TV, sofa, and a kitchen area, with a round table and chairs.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANIEL pushes the door open and enters. The bed is unmade. No one is in the room. He looks surprised.

DAISY (V.O.)

Daniel, where have you been?

DAISY enters wearing a dressing gown.

DAISY

Daniel, I was worried stiff.
You've been gone all night. Where
did you go?

Daniel stares at her. She puts her arms around him.

DAISY

I thought something had happened
to you.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR (CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN is in room 58. DANIEL stands at the open door.

POLICEMAN

The man found his wife in bed with his brother a month ago, caught them in the act. Turns out his brother and his wife had been having an affair all their married life. For thirty years.

DANIEL

His brother?

POLICEMAN

Yes, sir. They came to this hotel, for the week-end, to try to patch things up, make a fresh start. Some fresh start, ah, sir?

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The ELDERLY MAN closes the door of his room, wearing pyjamas and walks past Daniel's room. He looks in a trance.

POLICEMAN (V.O.)

The man gave himself up. In the middle of the night.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL and DAISY face each other.

DANIEL

I thought you were dead.

DAISY

Dead? What're you talking about? Why should I be dead?

Daisy touches his hand, and holds it.

DANIEL

I thought I'd come home, and find you dead.

DAISY

Daniel, you're not making sense. I was so worried. I didn't know what to do. I thought of calling the police, but I thought, no, he'll be back.

Daniel stares ahead. She kisses his forehead.

DAISY
But you never came back.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

DANIEL sits at the table. DAISY sits down opposite him.

DAISY
Daniel, you still haven't
answered me. Why did you run away?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANIEL and DAISY making love. Daisy is on top. He comes.
She smiles and kisses his lips.

DAISY (V.O.)
We were making love. You got off
of me, and ran off.

She looks towards the closed door where Steve left from.
Daniel follows her look towards the door.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY

DAISY takes hold of DANIEL'S hand.

DAISY
Why? Why did you do that? Daniel?

DANIEL
(hardly audible)
You looked away.

DAISY
What? What did you say?

DANIEL
You looked away from me.

DAISY
Daniel, what do you mean, I
looked away?

DANIEL
We were making love, and you
looked away from me.

DAISY
Daniel, I don't know what you're
talking about.

She releases her hand.

DAISY
 (standing)
 You must be hungry. Shall I cook
 you some breakfast?

EXT. A HOUSE - DAY

A van pulls up outside of the house.

DAISY (V.O.)
 Your brother called last night.
 He's moving in the flat upstairs
 tomorrow. Remember? He wants you
 to help.

INT. HOUSE - HALL - DAY

DANIEL opens the door to STEVE, who carries a small
 armchair. Steve smiles at Daniel. DAISY stands at the flat
 door, her arms folded, smiling at Steve.

DAISY
 Give Steve a hand, Daniel.

LATER

Daniel and Steve carry furniture up the stairs. Daisy
 stands by the open door.

DAISY
 I've made some tea for you both,
 when you're ready.

Steve smiles at her, as he walks up the stairs.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

STEVE, DANIEL and DAISY sit drinking tea. Steve animatedly
 talks to Daisy. Daniel sits opposite, looking serious and
 intense. Daniel is staring at a newspaper.

INSERT NEWSPAPER 'Elderly Man strangles his wife in hotel
 room.' (A holiday photo of the Elderly Man and his wife
 smiling)

Daniel looks at it, intently. The Elderly Man seems to be
 smiling at him. Daniel looks up and stares at Steve and
 Daisy, engrossed in conversation.

FADE-OUT:

