WILTED ROSES

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BLACK SCREEN

A phone rings.

WOMAN(O.S) 999. What`s your emergency?

A young girl cries.

WOMAN(O.S) (CONT'D) 999. What`s your emergency?

The young girl tries to calm down.

YOUNG GIRL(O.S) My mommy...My daddy is beating up my mommy.

EXT.LONDON.DAY

We hear "Beethoven-Moonlight Sonata". The sidewalks crowded as usual. A sea of humanity. People come and go, always in a hurry. Some of them are happy. Only a few. God knows why they keep a naughty smile on their faces. The others are too busy with their problems to observe that annoying smile. And then, in this battle of moods, we see her(LAURA), a mid-thirty woman. Her eyes express nothing. She floats through this sea of humatinity.

EXT.BUILDING.DAY

Laura enters a block of flats.

INT.BUILDING

Laura steps into the elevator.

INT.ELEVATOR

We have some time to take a closer look at her appearance. She wears a black skirt, a gray blouse, a black overcoat and a big black purse where we will, definitely, find a whole arsenal of useful or useless things. The elevator doors open.

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INT.APARTMENT.LIVING

Semidarkness. A projector plays on the wall images from Laura's wedding. Her husband is a tall, massive guy. They are marked by the importance of this event. Some mechanically smiles. This is the moment of wedding promises. The man takes his wife's hand.

> LAURA`S HUSBAND I promise to trust you and honour you, I will cry with you an laugh with you, I will love you faithfully, through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy.

Few sighs. At same time, we hear another voice. A male voice.

MAN(V.O)

Anyway, I`m sorry. I hope not to use this thing to avoid me. Bye! See you tomorrow!

Laura enters the living. She turns on the light. In an armchair, near the projector, we see her husband. He looks depressed. He holds a phone in his hands. We realize that the male voice is a recorded message on the answering machine.

> LAURA Why are you sitting in the dark?

Her husband seems petrified.

MAN (V.O) Hy! George here. You didn`t answer your cell. Look...I know that perhaps today I wasn`t very inspired. I got your message and... Anyway. Maybe you`ve change your mind at the last minute. Don`t know what I was thinking. Anyway, I`m sorry. I hope not to use this thing to avoid me. Bye! See you tomorrow!

Silence.

LAURA`S HUSBAND Who`s George? LAURA Oh, come on!

LAURA`S HUSBAND What? It`s a simple question. Tell me! Who`s George?

LAURA

A colleague.

LAURA`S HUSBAND A colleague...

A few moments of silence. Laura sees the images projected on the wall.

LAURA You finally fixed it!

LAURA`S HUSBAND What gesture did he make today?

LAURA What gesture?

LAURA`S HUSBAND The gesture which he says in the message.

LAURA

Don`t know!

LAURA`S HUSBAND Are you kidding me?

LAURA Enough! I`m sick of your shit.

Laura comes out of the living.

INT.APARTMENT.KITCHEN

Laura opens the fridge. She looks for something to eat or she needs some time to sort out his thoughts. Her husband pulls off her hand, then slams the refrigerator door.

> LAURA`S HUSBAND What the fuck are you think, I`m an idiot? Tell me! Do you think I`m an idiot?

Laura is amazed at her husband aggressivity.

LAURA

No.

LAURA`S HUSBAND

Then why are you lying to me? Why do you avoid telling me what happened?

LAURA Nothing happened.

LAURA`S HUSBAND Nothing happened. Then why does he calls you and..and..he begs you to forgive him?

The man shakes her.

LAURA`S HUSBAND

Tell me!

Silence.

LAURA`S HUSBAND Are you cheating on me?

LAURA

No.

LAURA`S HUSBAND Fuck off! You send him messages, she calls you...Tell me! Did you fucked him?

Laura avoids to give an answer.

LAURA`S HUSBAND Tell me!

LAURA

What?

LAURA`S HUSBAND Did you fucked him?

LAURA

No!

LAURA`S HUSBAND You`re a fucking whore.

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LAURA Hey, you know what...

Laura no longer bear to be offended by her husband and wants to get out of the kitchen. The man stops her.

LAURA What do you want from me?

LAURA`S HUSBAND I want you to tell me the truth.

LAURA This is the truth.

LAURA`S HUSBAND That`s why you wanted a job? To fuck all your colleagues?

LAURA

I wanted a job because I want to do something with my life. I`m not a plant. I`ve raised a kid. Seventeen years, I`ve lived my life between these walls. Nobody was here to listen to me, to have a chat with me, to give me an advice. You were busy with your work. Ophelia is a big girl. She will be leaving this house in a year. I need a life. I want to sleep with the fear that tomorrow I`ll be put on the wall cause I`ve missed a fucking appoinment. I want people to hate me, to envy me. I want to live. That's what I want. Tweenty years, it was all about you, about your problems, your feelings, your everything. I`m 38 years old. I can`t turn back the time. I want to live my life.

LAURA`S HUSBAND You`re a fucking whore. You don`t need a family, I need some young dick to fulfill your perverse dreams. Like your mother. Two whores. This is why your father left her for a chinese and lives now in Hong Konk. You`re just a slut who is unable to have a family. Laura is furious. She spits her husband. The man loses his mind. He hit the woman. An unexpected slap, if we take a look at the bewilderment on Laura`s face. She starts crying. In the background, we hear "Angelo Badalamenti-Just You".

LAURA`S HUSBAND You fucking whore!

Laura tries to say something. Her husband slaps her again. The woman tries to protect itself from the flood of slaps. The camera moves slowly.

INT.APARTMENT.LIVING

The projector continue to play images from the wedding. Laura and her husband seem very happy. They dance. Suddenly, from nowhere, Laura is struck down by the wall on which are projected images from the wedding. She falls down. The frame opens. Her husband hit her, this time with his feet. After some time, exhausted by the effort, the man comes out of the living. Laura is more dead than alive. Her lip is cracked and her cheeks are scratched.

BLACK SCREEN

WOMAN(V.O)

Psychological trauma is a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a traumatic event. When that trauma leads to posttraumatic stress disorder, damage may involve physical changes inside the brain and to brain chemistry, which changes the person's response to future stress.

FADE IN:

A girl's hand draws two sad eyes. We know it is a girl's hand because the nails are hand painted with black nail polish and the wrist is covered with dozen of bracelets.

WOMAN(V.O)

A traumatic event involves a single experience, or an enduring or repeating event or events, that completely overwhelm the individual's ability to cope or integrate the ideas and emotions involved with that experience.

A bell rings.

WOMAN(V.O) That`s all for today! See you next Tuesday.

The frame opens and...

INT.HIGHSCHOOL.CLASSROOM

The girl(OPHELIA) stops drawing and begin to gather her things. We have time to take a closer look at her look. Seventeen-eighteen years old, dressed in black. Stumpy boots, tight faded jeans, simple t-shirt. Her hair looks awful. She wears a small pewter medallion which hang on a silver chain around her neck. Few seconds after the ring the classroom is almost empty.

INT.HIGHSCHOOL.HALLWAY

Ophelia hardly gets his place among students.

EXT.DAY

Ophelia comes out of the schoolyard. The girl puts some earphones in her ears. In the background, we hear "Agnes Obel-Close Watch". A few feet in front of her are three girls that look like American cheerleaders.

FLASHBACK

INT.HIGHSCHOOL.CLASSROOM

Ophelia and one of the cheerleaders are fighting. Few slaps. The fight is filmed by several colleagues with their cell phones. RETURN TO:

EXT.DAY

Ophelia crosses the street. A boy who looks like a punk gives her a "bitch please" look.

FLASHBACK

INT.HIGHSCHOOL.TOILET The punk gives her a bag of white powder. A FEW MOMENTS LATER Ophelia sneezes some white powder.

INT.BUILDING

Ophelia steps into the elevator

INT.ELEVATOR

Ophelia plays with some keys.

INT.BUILDING.CORRIDOR

Ophelia unlocks an apartment door.

INT.APARTMENT.HALLWAY

Ophelia enters the apartment. She sees how Laura is beating up by her husband.

> LAURA`S HUSBAND You fuckin` bitch!

(TO OPHELIA) Go to your room!

Ophelia looks terrified. She runs to her room.

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INT.APARTMENT.OPHELIA`S ROOM

Ophelia falls into bed. She starts crying.

FLASHBACK

INT.APARTMENT.KITCHEN

Ophelia is touched by her father. He has a naughty smile.

INT.APARTMENT.BATHROOM

Laura studdies her face in the mirror. Her lip is cracked, her cheeks are scratched, and her left eye is bruised.

INT.APARTMENT.OPHELIA`S ROOM

Ophelia lies on the bed. The girl is unconscious. She has cut her wrists. Laura burts into the room. She takes Ophelia in her arms. Laura begins to scream. Her husband enters the room. He knells in front of the bed. The camera moves slowly. We see on a table a picture with Ophelia, Laura an her husband. They seem very happy, then...

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