

BRIDGES

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FADE IN

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

JOE (a tired, beaten down 40 something) leans over bridge railings, staring down at the river below. The way his eyes regard the water makes his intentions only too clear.

He reaches for a cigarette.

A pale woman wrapped in a long coat appears from nowhere.

PALE WOMAN

Those things will kill you.

Joe regards her for a moment, surprised he didn't notice her before.

He shrugs.

JOE

Do you think I care?

PALE WOMAN

I guess not.

She joins him at the railings.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

That's a long way down.

She turns to Joe.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

Are things really that bad?

Joe gives a bitter laugh.

JOE

Yeah, you could say that.

PALE WOMAN

You know, I came here once. Things were bad for me too.

JOE

Let me guess.

He lights the cigarette.

(CONTINUED)

JOE (CON'T)

You're going to tell me it'll get better.

The Pale Woman's eyes flash with surprise.

PALE WOMAN

Not at all. Life's cruel, unfair. So many problems, so many pressures. It's just so unbearable. And there's no escape.

She takes Joe's arm.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

Apart from this.

JOE

Wait a minute.

PALE WOMAN

You're unsure, hesitating. That's only normal.

She glances off into the distance.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

You're thinking maybe you can win her back, stop the drinking, ask the board to give you one more chance.

He recoils but she keeps hold of his arm.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

You can't Joe.

JOE (CON'T)

How do you know all this? How do you know my name?

PALE WOMAN

I've been listening to you.

She has his complete attention now.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)

All it takes is a little courage. One step off and you'll know peace.

The cigarette drops from Joe's fingers.

PALE WOMAN (CON'T)
I can help you.

JOE
Hey now.

Joe's hesitant.

She pulls gently on his arm.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

KARL (early twenties, college type) leans over the bridge's railings, looking down at the water.

A hand descends on his shoulder, making him jump.

LUCY (same as Karl, early twenties, college type) laughs.

LUCY
Why so serious?

Karl frowns.

KARL
I don't know. For a moment it was like the breeze was whispering to me. I felt so down. I thought how easy it would be to just, you know ...

He moves away from the railings.

KARL (CON'T)
Sounds a little crazy, huh?

Lucy seems thoughtful.

LUCY
You know, there's a legend about bridges, that the spirits of those who take their life on them exist in a kind of limbo. The only solace they have is getting others join them.

KARL
Why bridges?

(CONTINUED)

LUCY

I don't know, maybe because they
aren't exactly in any one place.
It's just a silly legend.

Karl shivers as if a cold wind just blew through him.

KARL

Well, this spot gives me the
creeps. Let's get out of here.

Lucy links her arm through his.

LUCY

You've been studying too hard. Come
on, the student bar's open by now,
let's get a drink.

They walk along the bridge.

Someone watches them.

The figure's blurred, difficult to make out.

It looks very much like Joe.

FADE OUT