

CYCLE

By

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INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

We OPEN on a woman, HEATHER, STRUGGLING and GASPING on top of a bed. Hunched over; her arms outstretched, she appears to be --

-- STRANGLING SOMEONE!

We do not see the victim as Heather slows to a halt. She lets go as she leans up.

She's out of BREATH.

HEATHER  
(to herself)  
I did it. It's over...

Catching her BREATH, Heather suddenly hears --

-- A KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR!

Panicked, Heather leaps off the bed. Looking towards the bed, she backs out of the room, shutting the door behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Walking to the front door, Heather composes herself. She opens the door revealing a woman.

This is MEG.

HEATHER  
(confused)  
Meg?! What are you...

MEG  
(interrupts)  
You called me. Remember?

HEATHER  
Of course, but...  
(pauses)  
Come in.

Meg walks inside as she takes a look around. Heather shuts the door and approaches Meg, her eyes glancing at the bedroom door.

MEG  
(noticing)  
Hey, what are you doing?

HEATHER  
What? Nothing!

MEG  
You seem... Off.

HEATHER  
No, things have been a bit crazy  
around here today.

MEG  
Well why don't we start with why  
you called me over here. It's about  
the auditions, isn't it.

Heather shyly nods her head. Meg grows angry.

MEG (CONT'D)  
What do you expect me to do? Just  
quit! Just so you can have a shot?

HEATHER  
Nobody stands a chance if you're  
involved! Nobody!

MEG  
That is not my problem. Why don't  
you try being better?! If you put  
as much effort into your auditions  
as you do trying to void me out of  
the performance, you'd have the  
lead.

HEATHER  
Please, Meg. Just this once. I want  
this so bad. But each year, I'm  
beat out by you and it's not fair!

MEG  
Not fair is you trying convince me  
to back off.

Heather lets out a deep BREATH.

MEG (CONT'D)  
I mean, think about it. Lets say I  
did back out. You get the lead.  
Then what? Do you honestly think  
the performance would shine more  
because of you?

HEATHER

I...

MEG

(interrupts)

Not at all. Because you know that deep down, the role wasn't earned. You bartered your part. That isn't skill, Heather. That's pathetic.

Heather's face is red with embarrassment and anger. Meg takes her eyes off of Heather and turns.

MEG (CONT'D)

Now, where's your bathroom.

HEATHER

What?

MEG

I need to use your bathroom. Are you going to let me or not?

HEATHER

Wait! Don't!

Meg walks towards the bedroom door and opens it. Heather runs up behind her.

The two walk into --

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Heather walks past Meg, looking towards the bed.

MEG

What is your problem? You hiding something in here or something?

Heather appears confused as she looks towards the bed. Stepping closer she finds that --

-- THE BED IS EMPTY!

HEATHER

(to herself)

Where did you go?

MEG

I'm standing right here.

HEATHER  
(ignoring Meg)  
You were right there.

Meg is obviously confused by Heather's reactions.

MEG  
What is your problem? You are  
losing it, aren't you?

Heather starts to lose it, running her hands through her hair.

HEATHER  
No, I'm not.

MEG  
I can't believe you would honestly  
think I would give up my audition  
for a psycho! You really are losing  
it!

HEATHER  
(snaps)  
NO I'M NOT!!!

Heather grabs Meg as the two struggle.

MEG  
Jesus! Let go of me!

HEATHER  
It's mine! I want it!

MEG  
You bitch! Let go!

Heather SCREAMS.

Heather throws Meg against the wall, then across the bed.  
Heather begins choking Meg as Meg loses the battle.

Soon, Meg runs out of breath. Heather leans up.

HEATHER (CONT'D)  
I did it. It's over...

As she catches her BREATH, she hears --

-- ANOTHER KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR!

Concerned, Heather jumps off the bed and backs away towards the door, shutting it behind her.

CUT TO

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Once to the door, Heather opens the door to reveal --

-- MEG STANDING BEFORE HER!

Panicking, Heather immediately shuts the door. Turning, she slides down the door, sitting on the ground.

HEATHER  
(to herself)  
Oh my God! It can't be!

Meg speaks through the door.

MEG O.S.  
Hey! What's going on in there?

HEATHER  
(to herself)  
What's happening? What should I do?

MEG O.S.  
Heather? Open the door!

Quick FLASHES of the previous moments crash through Heather's mind as we --

SMASH CUT TO:

HEATHER

from earlier, strangling someone. It's revealed to be Meg as well!

Meg's harsh WORDS resonate as we --

CUT BACK TO:

HEATHER - SITTING AT THE DOOR

Heather finally stands and opens the door. Meg is confused.

HEATHER  
Hey. Sorry about that.

MEG  
What is going on in there?

HEATHER

Nothing. It's just been a crazy  
day.

MEG

Well, I don't have a lot of time,  
so what do you want. You called me,  
remember?

HEATHER

Of course. Come in.

Meg enters the room as Heather remains at the door.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

We need to talk.

Heather slowly shuts the door as we --

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END.