

CASE 1: A NEW SENSE OF NORMAL

Curt Dennis, Johnny Maya

iamcurtphoto@gmail.com

Copyright (c) 2019 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the authors

1. INT. SMALL FLAT KITCHEN - NIGHT

A small, open plan kitchen connected to a living room. Some dirt on the furniture, like only one person in the house is responsible for everyone's mess. A MAN, mid 20's, turns on the TV. He plays a reggae radio station.

He opens up the FRIDGE, grabs what looks to be some sort of leftovers, and plops them on a plate with a METAL FORK. He takes his meal to a MICROWAVE reading 7:33 PM.

The man puts it in for a few minutes.

He WHISTLES along with the music, bobbing his head as he pours himself a drink, waiting for the food to finish cooking.

A loud CRACKLE! SPARKS! He opens up the microwave, takes out his plate, accidentally touches the fork he forgot to remove, and DROPS everything on the ground. The plate SMASHES everywhere, throwing the food in all directions and covering up the sound of a door opening in another room.

The man licks his fingers, treating his quick burn as best he knows how.

A few moments later, another MAN, also mid 20's, too professional looking for his age, walks into the room.

This couple is ALEX and JOEL. Joel sees Alex on the floor.

JOEL

Hey.

ALEX

Uh huh.

Joel ignores his preoccupied answer and walks over to him. Gives him a kiss on the cheek. Joel keeps his head close as Alex cleans.

JOEL

What happened?

ALEX

Accidentally microwaved the fork.

JOEL

Oh yeah? I guess it was pretty hot, huh?

Alex, too preoccupied with the mess, doesn't register Joel's seduction.

ALEX

Yeah I burned my finger on it.

Alex stands up a little too quickly. He starts rocking back and forth.

Joel catches him.

JOEL
Woah, woah. You alright?

ALEX
Yeah. Just got up too fast.

He brushes off the slight vertigo and walks to the sink. Starts washing his finger under cold water.

Joel follows him, distraught at the lack of attention.

JOEL
Notice anything... different?

ALEX
With my fingers?

JOEL
What? No! With me.

Alex turns and looks Joel up and down. Thinks hard.

ALEX
Your hair?

JOEL
Take a sniff.

Alex sniffs. And thinks.

ALEX
Did you fart?

JOEL
I'm wearing a new cologne, Alex! A new cologne!

Alex widens his eyes.

ALEX
Oh. Oh, shit. I'm sorry. It, it uh, it smells really nice?

He smiles a cheeky smile. Joel looks around frustrated, annoyed.

JOEL
I bought it today. For you, Alex. For you!

ALEX
And I love it! It smells beautiful!

Joel gives a frustrated laugh.

JOEL
Beautiful? You thought it was a fart.

ALEX
Well... I... You know...

Alex struggles to get his words out.

JOEL
You're inept. Do you know what today even is?

ALEX
(confidentially)
It's THURSDAY.

JOEL
IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY! God, Alex. Do you even love me anymore?

A beat as Alex freezes.

He then goes in for a hug, but Joel rejects it.

ALEX
I love you, ok? I love you. I'm just... I'm out of the zone today.

JOEL
Today?

Alex looks at him and gulps. The type of gulp when you know your significant other is pissed.

JOEL (CONT'D)
You haven't noticed anything for weeks, Alex! WEEKS!

ALEX
What about your haircut? I complimented you on that!

JOEL
I DIDN'T GET A HAIRCUT!

A huge "oh shit", mouth agape, look on Alex's face. Joel takes a minute to compose himself.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I thought we could have a nice night tonight, put all this shit behind us, but you know what? I'm going to bed.

(MORE)

JOEL (CONT'D)

You can sleep out here tonight and have a nice long think about what's important to you. Because it looks like it's not me.

He walks out of the room. Alex watches. A door SLAMS from down the hall.

2. EXT. HOME - NIGHT

A figure, cloaked in shadow, stands across the street, watching Alex chase down Joel through the window.

3. INT. DARK ROOM

A cold rusty room, single light overhead, metal table, large TV hiding in the shadows. One door and stained walls.

Alex slowly comes to in this hell hole.

In front of him are 6 PILL BOTTLES lined up neatly. Each has what looks like TINY CIRCUITRY on their lids. And each has, hiding at the bottom, a SINGLE pill.

In the middle of the table is a high-tech LED light. It's currently off. It has a lone pill bottle sitting next to it.

And sitting opposite, with her own 6 pill bottles, is a WOMAN, EARLY 30's, MIRRORING ALEX'S MOVEMENTS.

They both flinch, startled.

They continue their stare off, waiting for someone to break the ice, until:

ALEX

Who... Who are you?

The woman looks equally as terrified as Alex.

SAMANTHA

Sam. Samn, Samantha. What... what about you? Why are we here?

They take a moment, looking each other up and down.

ALEX

I don't know.

SAMANTHA

Can, can I ask your name?

A beat.

ALEX

Alex.

They cautiously look at each other in silence.

They look at the things in front of them. At their cold, emotionless surroundings.

ALEX (CONT'D)

So what is this place?

SAMANTHA

It's a, an empty room.

A beat.

ALEX

And I take it you too don't know why we're here?

Samantha shakes her head, no.

SAMANTHA

Sorry.

ALEX

And I also take it BOTH of woke up here?

She nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

How long have you been awake?

SAMANTHA

Just a minute. Just like you.

ALEX

Uh huh. What were you doing before this?

Samantha shakes her head, struggling to say her thoughts as she notices the pill bottles again.

She points to them.

SAMANTHA

Do you know what these are?

Alex looks at the bottles. He leans forward and examines one.

ALEX

There's something inside them.

SAMANTHA

What is it?

Alex looks at her and shrugs.

ALEX
I woke up here. Just like you.

Samantha looks back down to them. She tries looking inside one, but can't quite make out the contents. She slowly reaches forward, caresses the bottle like she's gonna pick it up, looks at Alex...

And quickly let's go. She bolts upright.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What?

Samantha nods behind Alex.

SAMANTHA
Look.

Quizzically, Alex turns around and sees the outline of the large TV. A small green light illuminates from the bottom.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
If there's one, there's got to be more. Right?

Samantha looks around, trying to find security cameras. But there's none.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Someone has to be watching, there's always someone watching.

Alex continues looking at the TV.

ALEX
I don't know. But they don't seem very subtle.

4. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He turns back to Samantha.

ALEX
What are they watching?

SAMANTHA
I think they're watching us.

ALEX
Why?

She points to the pill bottles.

SAMANTHA
Do you think it has something to do with these?

Alex glances back at the TV.

ALEX
(to himself)
If it's what they want.
(to Samantha)
Should we?

SAMANTHA
Go for it, Alex.

Alex slowly reaches for a bottle. Grabs it, waits for an alarm, a voice, something telling him to let go. But nothing happens.

He picks it up and repeats the process of waiting.

But still, nothing happens. He brings the bottle to his face to examine it closer. The pill inside looks dark, curved, almost like a bean.

ALEX
There's pills inside. They look
fucking weird.

SAMANTHA
Pills?

ALEX
(sarcastically)
No, the bottles are actually empty.
(seriously)
Yeah, there's pills inside.

SAMANTHA
What do you mean they look weird?

Alex, too focused, doesn't acknowledge her question.

ALEX
You don't know what they do?

SAMANTHA
No.

Alex puts the bottle down and notices the lack of restraints on his legs, his arms, his body.

He looks at Samantha. She's unrestrained too.

He slowly begins to stand.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Wait, what are you doing?!

Alex ignores her and stands up. But keeps a hold of the chair, using it as support.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Alex, sit down!

Alex ignores her. Once he feels it's safe, he releases his contact with the chair.

They both wait in agonizing silence for *something* to happen.

For something...

To happen...

And nothing does. Alex smiles, chuckles.

ALEX

Look at that. I guess there's no rules?

Samantha shakes her head, remains seated.

Alex starts walking, careful with each step. But with each step comes new confidence, until he's in full stride, walking in circles.

He stops, looks to Samantha.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Stand up.

SAMANTHA

I'd rather not.

ALEX

Nothing's gonna happen.

SAMANTHA

How do you know that?

Alex starts pointing to his body. His standing, walking, and still in tact body.

ALEX

See. Nothing.

(beat)

Try it.

She looks at the TV. At Alex.

SAMANTHA

Are you sure?

She motions towards the TV. Alex looks.

ALEX

Well... If we weren't allowed to, why hasn't anything happened to me?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

(beat)

If you weren't supposed to stand
they would've handcuffed your feet
to the chair.

She looks down at her feet, looks around at her surroundings,
looks up at Alex, still unconvinced.

He walks to the table, picks up a pill bottle, and tries to
open it. It doesn't budge.

ALEX (CONT'D)

See? It's locked.

He puts it back. He points to her legs.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But those aren't.

A beat.

She finally begins to slowly lift herself off her chair.

Samantha holds on to the chair back, hesitating to break the
bond. Alex nods to her- it's ok.

She nods back, takes a breath, and lets go.

And nothing happens.

ALEX (CONT'D)

See, it's alright.

SAMANTHA

Yeah... Yeah I guess.

ALEX

Look.

He walks away, whistling a familiar reggae tune to himself.
It bounces off the walls as a tense Samantha looks on.

ALEX (O.S.)

We can do anything!

5. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The large TV quietly turns itself on. The light from the
visual static momentarily blinds Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Alex...

The static stops, turns into a CCTV LIVE FEED of a young man
tied to a chair. His mouth is gagged, his hair soaked with
sweat. He pleads with the CCTV camera for help.

Alex is standing next to Samantha, stunned.

ALEX
That's not...

A moment, then it clicks as he rushes to the TV. He starts examining it.

Because it's Joel who's tied up.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What the fuck?!?! Where's this coming from?!?!

SAMANTHA
What are you- [doing Alex?]

ALEX
Where are you?!

SAMANTHA
Alex, are you ok?

Alex surges towards Samantha. Looks her in the eyes.

ALEX
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?!

SAMANTHA
Samantha!?

ALEX
WHERE THE FUCK IS HE?!?!

SAMANTHA
I DON'T KNOW!

Alex grabs Samantha's collar and brings her close to his face.

So close he could smell her.

ALEX
You're lying.

SAMANTHA
I swear I'm not Alex, who is that?!

ALEX
Where is he?

SAMANTHA
ALEX I DON'T KNOW!

A tense moment before Alex lets her go and goes back to the TV.

ALEX
Where's this feed coming from?

SAMANTHA
The wall or, or somewhere. Who is
that Alex?

Alex checks the TV for sources, clues. He checks to see if there's any cables coming from it- only finds one. He follows it to an outlet in the wall.

But that's it. The outlet goes nowhere and there's nothing else coming from the TV.

ALEX
Shit shit, how do I find him?

Samantha walks over to Alex.

SAMANTHA
Do you- [need help]

ALEX
GET BACK!

She jumps back, gives Alex his space.

He goes to the TV, stares at the frightened Joel.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Joel Joel, I'm gonna save you.

Samantha gives it a moment. Then she walks over, places timid a hand on Alex's back. A tear falls from Alex's eye as he keeps focused on Joel.

6. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

His eyes remain plastered on Joel.

ALEX
How did you say you got in here?

She doesn't respond. She just looks at the TV.

ALEX (CONT'D)
How did you get in here.

SAMANTHA
I woke up. Just like you.

Alex's breathing gets deeper, faster.

ALEX
You woke up?

SAMANTHA
Alex, what's going on?

ALEX
Just like me.

SAMANTHA
Alex...?

ALEX
And you don't know where he is?

SAMANTHA
Where who is?

Alex finally looks at Samantha.

ALEX
You lying sack of shit.

He PUNCHES Samantha in the face. She stumbles backwards, checks her nose- fortunately not bleeding- and glares at Alex.

SAMANTHA
What the fuck was that for?! You can't hit a woman!

ALEX
You're lying!

Alex walks towards her with determination. She holds up her hands, protecting herself from the inevitable.

Alex raises his fist.

SAMANTHA
(quickly, mumbly)
Wait I have a family!

ALEX
LIES!

SAMANTHA
(determined)
I HAVE A FAMILY!

Alex pauses, takes some deep breaths. Then lowers his fist, gives Samantha space so they can both calm down.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I have a family.
(beat)
I have a family. You... You're not the only one with loved ones.

Alex takes a quick glance to the TV. The TV showing only his Joel and no one else.

ALEX
Where are they than?

SAMANTHA
I don't know. But if they have
someone you love... they have mine
too. Who is that?

A beat.

ALEX
That's my boyfriend.

Alex grabs his hair in frustration, walks back to the table.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Fine! Do you know they've been
taken for sure?

Samantha stays at the TV.

SAMANTHA
I don't know. But... But your
boyfriend is alive. At least you
know that. At least you know he's
not dead yet.

Alex sits back down, in Samantha's original seat.

ALEX
So what do we do?

She walks to the table, sits down in Alex's original seat.

SAMANTHA
I'm all ears.

7. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They look at the bottles, searching for clues. Alex grabs
one, tries to lift it up.

But it's stuck now.

ALEX
What the?

Samantha watches as Alex tries another bottle. It too is now
stuck to the table.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Try yours.

She obliges. Stuck.

She shakes her head- they're all stuck to the table now.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What about that one?

He points to the lone bottle by the currently-off light. It's on Samantha's side of the table- she grabs it.

And it lifts. Easily. She looks inside. There's a ROLLED UP PIECE OF PAPER.

SAMANTHA

Hmmm...

ALEX

What?

She opens the bottle, gives it a moment to see if anything will happen. Nothing does. She pours out the paper.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What is it?

Samantha unrolls it and reads it out loud.

SAMANTHA

Alex and Samantha-

They quizzically look at each other. Then Samantha continues.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Before you are 12 small bottles, 6 bottles per person. In each bottle is a single pill. At the beginning of each round, the light will turn green. When it does, one bottle from each of your sides will unlock. You must each swallow a pill in order to get the next round. One of you will get sugar. And one of you will permanently lose one of your senses. Failure to follow these simple rules will result in punishments. If you want to see your loved ones again and get out alive, you simply must finish all 6 rounds.

(beat)

Have fun.

The two look at the pill bottles.

ALEX

You'll lose your senses? Is that really what it says?

He reaches for the note. Samantha gives it to him.

Alex skims it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Swallow a pill... Lose senses... Get out alive... Are they threatening us with death if we don't take a pill?

SAMANTHA

I think so.

ALEX

Fine. That seems fucking drastic but fine. How do we know which one to take?

A beat as they think.

SAMANTHA

I think it's random. A "luck of the draw" type of thing.

ALEX

So we take a pill and...
(reads note)
We might lose a sense or might not?

He looks to Samantha, confused.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Like we might go blind or something?

SAMANTHA

I think you're right. It's something like that.

ALEX

I have a blind neighbor. He has a better job than I do.

SAMANTHA

Oh yeah?

Beat.

ALEX

Is this supposed to be serious?

They look at the bottles. They look at the CCTV feed.

SAMANTHA

Your guess is as good as mine.

Disbelief as Alex looks back to the bottles.

But a look of confusion comes over him.

ALEX

Wait, there's six.

SAMANTHA

Six?

ALEX

Bottles. Six bottles.

SAMANTHA

So?

ALEX

Do you have 6 senses?

She stops, thinks, looks at Alex, and cracks a joke like she's testing the waters of his humor:

SAMANTHA

I can see the dead?

It works- they both chuckle at her joke.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I don't. Maybe one is a dud.

ALEX

Maybe.

(beat)

What do you think they mean by "punishment"?

Samantha shakes her head- she doesn't know.

SAMANTHA

Probably something stupid. But...
It's pills. It's senses. How hard
do you think this can be?

ALEX

Not that hard.

They share a moment as the LED turns GREEN.

8. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A synchronized CLICK reverberates off the walls as two bottles, one from each side of the table, mechanically open.

Nothing has changed about any of their appearances though. Alex goes to grab one.

It doesn't move, like it's locked to the table. He yanks it, but it doesn't move. He tries its cap, but it stays locked in place.

Alex tries another bottle, this time at the other end of the line.

He yanks it like it's stuck to the table, but nearly falls over since it's not. He balances himself then unscrews the cap. Pours out the pill as Samantha looks on.

Alex takes a cautious whiff of the pill and reels back in disgust.

He notices Samantha's concerned gaze.

ALEX
Smell yours.

She grabs her bottle- the same one as Alex, just on her side of the table- and carefully pours the pill into her palm.

She takes a whiff and too reels back in disgust.

SAMANTHA
It smells like crap.

ALEX
And we have to take them?

She points to the note.

SAMANTHA
I think so.

Alex looks to the note, nods. He sniffs it again and makes a face of disgust.

ALEX
Same time?

Samantha nods in agreement.

Alex holds up 3 fingers. Samantha follows suit.

Now 2 fingers.

1 finger.

They hold their noses and swallow the pills.

Their faces clench, preparing for the worse... But then they loosen, relax as the two swallow.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Did yours have a funky after taste?

Samantha licks her lips.

SAMANTHA
Yeah it was sour. It was like a sour gummy bear.

Alex nods, licks his lips too.

ALEX

So was mine. It tasted like candy.
Like sugary candy.

(beat)

Do you think they were duds?

Samantha shakes her head- she doesn't know.

The LED turns off.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hmmm. Now what?

The two look at each other across the table.

9. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A beat as they scope each other out.

SAMANTHA

So that's your boyfriend?

ALEX

Well... Yeah. My boyfriend.

SAMANTHA

What's with the pause?

ALEX

What pause?

SAMANTHA

The pause. You know, the pause.

ALEX

Yeah, well... Things have been tough.

SAMANTHA

Oh? I'm sorry.

ALEX

It's alright.

SAMANTHA

What happened?

ALEX

Just uh... Life gets in the way. You know?

SAMANTHA

Not if you're truly in love.

ALEX

Excuse me?

SAMANTHA

Life gets in the way. I get you.

She gives a cheeky smile.

ALEX

Yeah, it's alright. What about you?
You said you have a family?

Samantha pauses, loses eye contact briefly as she goes into her mind.

SAMANTHA

A wife. A wife and two kids.

ALEX

A wife and two kids?

SAMANTHA

A wife and two kids.

Beat.

ALEX

I've always talked with Joel about adopting kids. Did you adopt or...?

SAMANTHA

Sperm donor. But my wife gave birth, not me.

ALEX

How old are they?

SAMANTHA

Nine. Pains in the ass.

They share a smile at the joke.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

No, no I love my kids. They're gonna do great things.

ALEX

I bet. What about your wife?

SAMANTHA

What about her?

ALEX

I don't know.

(beat)

How long have you been married?

SAMANTHA

Three years.

(beat)

The best three years of my life.

ALEX

Oh yeah? The best? Will that stand
up in the court of law?

They laugh as the mood lightens.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Just kidding. That sounds great
though. Congratulations to you.

She gives a depressed nod.

SAMANTHA

I wish I knew where they were.

They look at the TV, at the uncomfortable but injured Joel in
the chair.

ALEX

I bet they're fine.

SAMANTHA

At least you know.

ALEX

Sorry?

SAMANTHA

You know your boyfriend is fine.
Why don't they show my wife or
kids? Unless they're already dead
and I have nothing to play for.

ALEX

Hey, hey! I bet that's not true.
There's gotta be another feed.

Alex stands up and goes to the TV.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Have you seen a remote?

The green light turns on again.

SAMANTHA

Alex. It's fine.

He stops, looks at Samantha, sees the light... And goes back to
searching.

ALEX

Just give me one second.

SAMANTHA

It's time Alex.

ALEX

I'm going to find- [your family]

SAMANTHA

It's time!

10. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A beat before Alex walks back to his seat and sits. They reach for the next bottle in their lines.

It lifts with ease. They pour out the pills.

ALEX

What did that note say?

Samantha grabs it and skims:

SAMANTHA

12 bottles... Each round... One of you will get a sugar pill. And one of you will lose one of your senses.

Alex examines his pill.

ALEX

Does it say which sense?

Samantha puts the note down.

SAMANTHA

It says you'll lose one of your senses. Nothing else.

Alex takes a whiff of his pill and reels in disgust again.

ALEX

Still smells like shit.

Samantha too smells her pill, and Samantha too reels back in disgust.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I guess we both can still smell.

A beat.

ALEX

I guess here's to nothing. Salut?

SAMANTHA

Salut.

They swallow their pills.

Samantha's mouth twists violently and quickly.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Ugh.

Alex reacts like he just drank a glass of tasteless water.

ALEX

What?

She looks at him suspiciously.

SAMANTHA

Did you not taste it?

ALEX

No, this one tasted like nothing. I kinda miss the candy flavour.

A beat as an "oh shit" look forms on Samantha's face.

SAMANTHA

Mine tasted like a cigarette butt.

ALEX

Like a cigarette butt?

SAMANTHA

Yeah.

ALEX

Mine didn't taste like anything...
Did I get a dud?

He looks at the bottles... At Samantha... It clicks.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Did I lose my sense of taste?

SAMANTHA

Did you?

ALEX

Did yours really taste like a cigarette butt?

SAMANTHA

Not that I've eaten a cigarette butt before, but yeah.

ALEX

Don't be fucking with me Samantha, we're in this together.

SAMANTHA

I know we're in this together. I'm not fucking with you.

A beat.

ALEX

I... I didn't taste anything.

He quickly licks his fingers. Shakes his head- nothing. Licks his arm. Nothing. Looks at the table, thinks about it...

But it's a quick decision. Alex licks the table- nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 I lost my taste.

SAMANTHA
 What?!

Alex looks at her.

ALEX
 Yours tasted like a cigarette?

SAMANTHA
 Yeah.

Alex quickly stands up, walks around the table, and LICKS Samantha's mouth.

She pushes him away violently and starts wiping his saliva off her face.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
 Alex what- [the fuck?]

ALEX
 I don't have taste.

SAMANTHA
 What the hell?!

ALEX
 I don't have taste. I don't have taste. I don't have taste..

Alex walks back to his seat, repeating his mantra as Samantha finishes her cleansing.

But before he gets to his seat:

ALEX (CONT'D)
 That note said we'd lose our senses.

SAMANTHA
 Don't lick me again Alex. That's disgusting.

ALEX
 And it said there were punishments.

SAMANTHA
 Seriously, first you punch me now you lick me...

Alex looks towards the TV. Joel is stuck, tied, in desperate need of help.

ALEX
(mumbling to himself)
I lost my taste, I lost a sense. We
want to see our loved ones.
(beat)
He's in serious trouble.

11. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex looks around.

ALEX
Joel's in trouble, we need to get
out.

SAMANTHA
Just play the game.

He looks at the single door in the room.

ALEX
Have we tried the door?

SAMANTHA
Yeah, it was locked.

ALEX
I don't remember that.

He rushes towards the door.

SAMANTHA
Alex, stop!

Alex ignores her and grabs the handle. Turns the handle.
Yanks the handle. But it's fucking locked.

He BANGS ON THE DOOR.

ALEX
Help! HELP!

SAMANTHA
Alex!

The LED light turns RED.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Alex, STOP! Please!

Alex turns, looks at Samantha, completely oblivious of the red light.

ALEX

He's in trouble. I need to help
him.

Static on the TV, like someone, or something, accidentally
hit the camera. Alex looks, as does Samantha.

In the CCTV feed, A MASKED FIGURE walks into frame. It shows
off a LARGE KNIFE as Joel SQUIRMS in his seat.

Alex, almost like an unconscious reflex, starts walking
slowly towards the TV.

The figure VIOLENTLY grabs Joel. It brings the knife across
his arm and SLASHES it. A huge, bloody gash forms, staining
Joel's clothes with the overflow of blood.

The figure turns towards the CCTV camera and stares.

And stares.

And stares.

Alex is standing right in front of the TV, staring back.

The man walks out of frame, leaving Joel in agonizing pain,
tied to the chair with his arm bleeding out.

Alex starts crying, pawing at the TV.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Joel?! Joel! I'll find you.

Alex turns back towards Samantha.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Do you know where this room is?

She shakes her head, no.

Alex looks back at the TV, at Joel and his bloodstained
clothes.

He goes over to a wall, starts tapping it, listening for a
weak spot.

One spot sounds particularly hollow. Alex stands up and KICKS
the wall.

The light starts to show signs of life. Before it can fully
turn on:

SAMANTHA

ALEX!

ALEX

WHAT?!

SAMANTHA

STOP!!

ALEX

WHY?!

12. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex sees the light dimming. He stops what he's doing.

ALEX

Fine! What is it?

SAMANTHA

It's the rules. We should probably follow the rules.

ALEX

Oh, follow the rules?

Samantha nods. Alex starts walking towards her.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Follow the rules? Follow the rules?
I don't give a fuck about the
rules! I give a fuck about my
boyfriend being tortured to shit!

SAMANTHA

I wanna save my family too but we
can't if we're dead!

ALEX

How then?! How do we get out alive,
huh?!

Samantha goes to speak, but her words get lost in her throat-
she doesn't know.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We gotta get out. It's obvious
we're not safe here.

SAMANTHA

What are talking about, Alex?

ALEX

My boyfriend? Your wife? It's
obvious why we're here. Think!

He stares at Samantha as she lets his words marinate.

Then it clicks.

SAMANTHA

Why would someone do that?

ALEX

Open up your fucking eyes, Sam.

A beat.

SAMANTHA

You're right. You're right. Fine.

She looks around the room.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

There's one door that's locked and metal walls. And someone's watching.

Another beat as they think.

ALEX

What did the note say again?

Samantha picks it up. Alex grabs it from her hand. He skims it, nodding as if formulating an idea.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Ok, ok. It says in order to get out, we have to follow the rules, right?

SAMANTHA

Yes, right.

ALEX

And the rules are that we have to take a pill when the light turns green. Right?

SAMANTHA

You're right.

ALEX

But that's the only rule on here. The only rule is we have to take a pill. Take a pill and get out alive.

SAMANTHA

There has to be more to it. It doesn't say to not break down the door but we've seen that's a big no-no.

ALEX

Right, right. So there's unspoken rules, fine. But if we take the pills, we get out.

SAMANTHA

Yes.

ALEX

Ok. How do they know we took them?

SAMANTHA

What?

ALEX

How do they know we took them? How do they know we took the pills?

SAMANTHA

I'm... I'm sorry I'm not following?

ALEX

When that light turns green, one pill bottle opens. They watch us argue, they watch us swallow the pill, onto the next one. But they can't see if we actually swallow them.

Samantha listens intently.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's not like the pills have sensors in them.

They pause, look towards the pill bottles.

13. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They examine the contents of the pill bottles.

ALEX

Do these look weird?

SAMANTHA

They look like Lima beans which is pretty weird.

ALEX

No, no. Like... robotic? Electronic? Do you think they can sense if we swallow them?

Samantha takes a close look at the pills. Like the bottle caps, there appears to be some CIRCUITRY IN THE PILLS.

SAMANTHA

Take a look. It looks like a sensor.

Alex gets his head close to the bottle.

ALEX

I can't tell. How do you know? Do you know for sure?

SAMANTHA

I'm not 100% but I think so.

They straighten up, look at each other.

ALEX

Well?

SAMANTHA

Well what?

A beat.

ALEX

We need to try it. Don't take the pill.

SAMANTHA

I think they have sensors though.

ALEX

It's the only way to know.

SAMANTHA

But what if they do have sensors? These people aren't fucking around.

ALEX

I know you've lost nothing Sam, but I lost my sense of taste. This is real. I can live without taste, fine. But what if you lose your sense of touch and can't hold your kids? Or your sense of sight and can't see their first day of school? Or you can't hear their laughter or, or smell your wife's new perfume?

Alex stops. He gets lost in his emotions.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You don't wanna lose that..

The light turns green.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Don't take the pill.

SAMANTHA

I can't promise anything.

ALEX

Just try it.

SAMANTHA

And what if it doesn't work?

They look to the TV, of Joel bleeding out the arm.

ALEX
It... It will.

14. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They go back and sit in their seats. They take the next bottle in line, the third bottle, and pick it up.

They pour out their pills.

ALEX
(mouthing)
Don't take it.

SAMANTHA
(mouthing)
What do we do with it?

Alex takes a moment to think.

ALEX
(mouthing)
Under the tongue.

He nods. She nods. They do another countdown.

3-2-1, swallow!

They put the pills in their mouths, hide them under their tongues, and fake large gulps.

They stop, look around, wait for something to happen.

But nothing does.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(mouthing)
See, we're fine?
(audible)
Are you ok?

Samantha nods.

SAMANTHA
Yeah. I'm ok...

Alex smiles.

ALEX
I told you I know what I'm doing.

THE LIGHT TURNS RED!

Alex swallows for real, accidentally sending his pill down his throat.

The CCTV footage crackles again as the large footsteps of the figure shake the environment. They step into frame.

Alex freezes, stares at the video.

The figure shows off their knife again. But this time, instead of slicing Joel's arm, they STAB him in the chest. Missing any vital organs, but putting Joel in deep pain.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It didn't work.

Alex begins to cry.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It didn't work.

Samantha walks over to Alex and hugs him.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry.

15. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex hugs her back.

ALEX

How do they know?

SAMANTHA

They're watching us, Alex. We can get out- we just have to play the game.

He tightens his grip on her.

But slowly releases it...

ALEX

The fuck?

SAMANTHA

What?

She backs off.

ALEX

I can't smell you.

SAMANTHA

You can't smell me?

ALEX

I... I... I can't smell you.

SAMANTHA

The tears. It's because you're crying, Alex.

ALEX

I can't smell you. I can't taste you, I can't smell you.

SAMANTHA

Alex, it's... It's your tears.

ALEX

(to himself)

I can't taste. I can't smell.

(to her)

Why can't I taste? Why can't I smell?

SAMANTHA

You can smell, Alex. I promise you.

She goes back to her seat and sits. Alex watches her with a suspicious eye.

ALEX

You're probably right. It's probably just the tears.

SAMANTHA

Everything'll be fine. I promise.

Alex smiles, laughs. Wipes away his tears.

ALEX

So uh, you never told me your wife's name. You know my Joel of course. I've been yelling his name nonstop.

SAMANTHA

Her name is Cameron. Cam, for short.

ALEX

Oh, so like Sam and Cam?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, we get that a lot..

Her face starts to reel in disgust. She tries to hide it, but is unsuccessful.

ALEX

What's wrong?

She takes a loud breath with her nose.

SAMANTHA

N... Nothing?

ALEX

You sure?

Another putrid breath.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. It's nothing.

Alex looks suspiciously at her. He fixes his bum on his chair.

ALEX

It looks like you're smelling something bad, no?

A beat as she struggles to breath with her nose.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I KNEW IT! I LOST MY FUCKING SENSE OF SMELL!

SAMANTHA

Alex, you didn't lose- [your sense of smell]

ALEX

Silent but deadly. You can't lie to me.

She takes a moment to process his words.

SAMANTHA

Did you fart?

ALEX

Why don't you tell me?

SAMANTHA

That's fucking immature, Alex.

ALEX

So is lying.

He stares her down as she waves away the smelly air.

16. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She finally composes herself.

SAMANTHA

Alex, I'm sorry.

ALEX

Sorry for what? For not losing anything?

SAMANTHA

Alex, we're in this together.

ALEX

That's bullshit. Switch with me.

SAMANTHA

What?

ALEX

SWITCH WITH ME!

He stands up, gives up his chair.

SAMANTHA

No. No, why do you want to switch?

ALEX

Because I've had the shit pills and you've had nothing. Your side is safe! Switch with me.

She looks at her pills, at Alex's pills. At Alex's tear-stained face.

SAMANTHA

I think that's against the rules.

ALEX

The rules say to swallow a pill. They don't say which one.

SAMANTHA

Yeah but we have- [our sides]

ALEX

SWITCH WITH ME!

Another moment of panic as she looks around the room. She takes a loud sniff.

SAMANTHA

The air is fresh. I think there's a vent in the ceiling.

She looks up.

But Alex doesn't. He continues looking at her, anger building inside of him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Yeah yeah. Look, right there.

She points up at the ceiling. But Alex doesn't buy it.

ALEX
Why would I care if I can't smell
it anyways?

SAMANTHA
We can escape!

She stands on the table, reaches towards the ceiling.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I need help!

Alex walks around the table. She notices. She also notices
the light starting to show signs of life.

As Alex nears Samantha's seat, she KICKS HIM IN THE FACE. She
jumps off the table and runs a safe distance away.

Alex holds his bloody nose.

ALEX
WHAT THE FUCK?!

He runs after her.

She runs away, into the shadows as Alex chases.

She runs to the wall, nowhere to go. Alex closes in. He tries
to punch her, but she DUCKS underneath and runs back to the
table.

Alex's momentum drives him into the wall. But it's only a
slight hindrance as he quickly runs towards her.

She pulls a chair out. Alex TRIPS over it. She stops, looks
at him.

His foot is twisted around 180 degrees. A bone sticks out his
ankle. His shoe is covered in blood.

And he seems oblivious to it.

The light turns green.

Alex, focused on Samantha, goes to stand. He puts his hand
down for support... And falls, face first on the cold floor.

He goes to lift himself up again, this time watching his
hands. He puts them on the floor...

ALEX (CONT'D)
FUUUUCCCKKKKK!

17. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha notices the green light. She looks on with relief.

She notices his ankle.

SAMANTHA

Alex! Your... your ankle!

He lets out some breaths before speaking.

ALEX

I can't feel it.

SAMANTHA

You can't feel your ankle?

He doesn't respond.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Please don't look at it than.

She watches him, unsure if she should help. Alex tries to watch his hands as they make contact with the floor, but can't find the balance.

ALEX

Help me.

(beat)

Please.

Samantha snaps into gear and helps Alex up. She helps him stand, helps him balance.

He stands, seemingly having found his balance. She gives him room to breath.

SAMANTHA

How's that feel?

ALEX

I can't.

SAMANTHA

Sorry, I'm sorry, bad choice of words. Can you walk?

Alex looks at his feet.

ALEX

WHAT THE FUCK?!?! HOW THE FUCK DID THIS HAPPEN?!?!

SAMANTHA

You... tripped...

Annoyed with her humour, he LUNGES towards her. And FALLS, face first again.

ALEX

FUUUCCCKKKKK!!

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry.

He slowly turns himself over, letting gravity take over when possible.

ALEX

I can't feel the fucking floor. I can't feel my fucking BACKWARDS FOOT! I can't feel anything you piece of shit.

(beat)

Help me up! It's the least you can fucking do.

Samantha timidly walks to Alex. She points to his ankle.

SAMANTHA

Do you want me to fix- [this?]

ALEX

I don't fucking care!

SAMANTHA

Ok, ok. Hold on a second.

She grabs his bloody, twisted ankle. Almost like a reflex:

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

3... 2... 1...

She CRACKS it back so it's facing the right way again.

Alex doesn't move. Doesn't flinch. Doesn't change his breathing.

He just continues staring at the woman who caused his injury.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Ok. I'll help you up.

She takes hold of his hands. He starts SQUEEZING hers, unable to feel how deep he's going.

She drops him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Ow! You're digging in.

Nail marks on her wrist. She grabs his wrists instead this time.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Let me do the work.

She hoists him up, easier than one would have thought for the size difference.

He stands upright. Samantha gives him space.

He looks down at his feet. He takes a CAREFUL step as he tries to pinpoint when his foot makes contact with the floor.

One successful step. He tries another.

He watches closely, waiting for his foot to hit the floor... And falls, face first on the ground.

Samantha rushes by his side to help him back up. Grabbing his wrists again, she gets him upright. She stays close.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'll catch you if you fall.

He tries another step. Manages to make it work. Tries another. That works too. Tries a third, starts to fall, but Samantha is right there to catch him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Let's take a seat.

18. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She helps guide him back to the table, staying between her seat and him.

He tries to walk towards her, to get to her side of the table. But she blocks him, forcing him to sit back where he started.

SAMANTHA
Come on, this way.

ALEX
I wanna switch seats.

SAMANTHA
No, Alex. We need to get you back to your seat.

He tries, unsuccessfully, to muscle through Samantha to her seat.

Another attempt- he gives Samantha a little bump.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Go to your seat. Mine's on the floor.

Alex looks at Samantha. But knows it's a lost cause, starts to slowly making his way towards his seat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Good. Good.

She helps him sit in his chair. He lets his arms rest on the table as Samantha goes back to her side.

She sits opposite him, notices something with his arms.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Be careful.

He looks down, sees blood coming from where the table is digging into his flesh.

He lets his arms dangle by his side instead as he gathers his thoughts.

ALEX

Why won't you let me?

SAMANTHA

Why won't I let you what?

ALEX

Switch. I can't smell. I can't taste. I can't feel. There's three other bottles- one of them I don't know what the fuck it is, the other two I'm guessing are sight and sound. I mean... You can love your kids without seeing or hearing them.

(beat)

I... I can't... I can't even hug my boyfriend anymore.

Alex somehow manages to keep his composure. But Samantha can't- she looks down, looks like she's struggling to contain herself, like he hit her sweet spot.

She sheds a single tear.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry. But my kids are more important to me than a stranger.

A beat.

ALEX

How did you know?

SAMANTHA

Know what?

ALEX

How did you know that you'd be safe on THAT side of the table? I've lost three senses, you've lost none. That seems a bit fishy there, Sam.

SAMANTHA
(quietly)
It was luck.

ALEX
Pardon?

SAMANTHA
IT WAS LUCK! I don't know if I'm
gonna be safe next time, but my
odds are pretty fuckin' good right
now. And I want to keep those odds.

ALEX
How come I haven't seen your kids?

Samantha looks at Alex quizzically.

ALEX (CONT'D)
How come I haven't seen your kids?!
Or your wife?! Or any semblance of
a family?!

SAMANTHA
Because there's no remote on the
TV.

ALEX
I don't give a FUCK! Show me them
in your fucking wallet or
something. Christ!

Samantha looks in her pockets. She has a WALLET in one and a
KEYCHAIN in the other.

SAMANTHA
They emptied our pockets.

ALEX
Huh?

He looks down, carefully guides his arms, his hands, his
fingers, to open his pocket.

They're empty.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch. Son of a fucking
bitch.

19. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex looks around in thought.

ALEX
You know Joel and I approached an
adoption agency.

SAMANTHA

Oh yeah?

ALEX

We even got to see some potential matches.

SAMANTHA

That sounds wonderful.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

(beat)

You know, there was this one kid there. Her name was Jasmine- five years old. I remember her eyes lit up when Joel and I walked into her room. She gave us one of her dolls- a little paper doll with a paper dress- and we played dolls with her. And we all laughed together. And when we were leaving, she gave us each the biggest hugs she could. I felt her little heart beating on my chest.

SAMANTHA

What happened to her?

ALEX

Well, we went back a few days later with all our paperwork and they said she'd already been adopted.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry.

ALEX

Yeah, we were too. Until we walked past the orphanage a few weeks later and saw her playing in the yard.

(beat)

That's why I envy you. You have a wife. You have kids. Do you ever hug them so tight you can feel their heart beating against your chest?

SAMANTHA

Alex, I already said I'm sorry.

ALEX

I'm over it. I'm over it. I would've done the same thing for that kid. I would've done the same thing...

20. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They look to the next bottle.

ALEX
So what's this one?

SAMANTHA
Sight? Sound?

ALEX
What's the third one? There's three
bottles. What's the third?

SAMANTHA
Balance? Space? Time? Heat? There's
a lot of things it can be.

Alex FLOPS his arm on the table, relying on gravity to help him move. He slowly crawls his hand towards the next pill bottle.

Samantha gets up to help.

ALEX
Stop! I need to learn how to do
this on my own.

She sits back down and watches as he lightly grabs the pill bottle. He twists off the cap, using the table as support. But he JERKS it up, sending the bottle, and subsequently the pill, flying.

Alex SCREAMS in frustration. Samantha gets up, rushes to get it.

SAMANTHA
It's ok. It's ok, Alex. I'll get
it.

She hurries up the pill bottle, but there's no pill inside. She looks over to Alex.

Both his arms are now flopped on the table as he watches her.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I just need to find the pill!

She smiles, gets on her hands and knees, and starts crawling on the floor.

Samantha manages to find it easily. She grabs it, waits a moment, and continues crawling on the ground.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Almost got it!

She gives it a few more moments before standing up. She turns towards Alex.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I found...

She sees Alex, huge smile on his face, holding a pill. He slides it into his mouth, tilts his head back, and swallows.

ALEX

Fuck you.

21. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha pockets her pill and runs over to him. She looks him up and down like he's a magician hiding the trick in his clothing.

SAMANTHA

Where is it? Why'd you do that?

ALEX

Tell me what sense you lose when you eat my pill.

He laughs as she pats him down. But he really swallowed the pill.

She SLAPS him, leaving a huge red hand print on his face. Right next to his smile.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Can't feel.

Now Samantha SCREAMS in frustration. She pushes him off his chair.

From the floor:

ALEX (CONT'D)

Go take your pill.

The CCTV footage starts to flicker. Samantha notices. She takes out her pill and crouches next to Alex, making sure to get in his face.

SAMANTHA

Fine.

And she swallows the pill.

ALEX

Now help me up.

SAMANTHA

Help yourself up.

She goes to the table and sits down.

22. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex struggles to his seat. But eventually he makes it. He flops his arms back onto the table.

ALEX

Don't worry, you'll get used to it.

She shakes her head at him.

SAMANTHA

Why'd you do that?

ALEX

It's only fair. And look.

He nods towards the light.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's within the rules.

He WINKS. Samantha stands up, walks away so she doesn't have to look at Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You know what? I'm glad I don't have kids! I can't IMAGINE not being able to feel their hug, hun.

He focuses on the TV, on his Joel.

Samantha hurriedly walks back to the table and notices Alex's gaze.

SAMANTHA

You really love him, huh?

ALEX

More than you your wife.

SAMANTHA

Let me ask you a question.

ALEX

What?

SAMANTHA

Do you blow him or does he blow you?

ALEX

What? What fucking question is that?

SAMANTHA

Because it's gonna be real hard to get hard, if you catch my drift.

ALEX

What? Why are you- [bringing this up?]

SAMANTHA

It's gonna be real hard to orgasm if you can't actually feel. You ever try to grab your dick with a dead hand? Your life is going to be a shit show if you make it out.

ALEX

I've already lost three senses. I'm pretty sure I'm gonna make it out.

SAMANTHA

Have you thought about what happens when you lose the others?

ALEX

I... Huh?

She smirks- she got him.

SAMANTHA

What happens when you can't hear or see?

ALEX

My neighbor is blind. I'll be fine.

SAMANTHA

Close your eyes.

ALEX

What?

SAMANTHA

Close your eyes.

ALEX

No.

SAMANTHA

Just do it. Watch.

ALEX

Blow me.

SAMANTHA

Do it and I'll let you choose the next pill.

A beat. Then Alex begrudgingly closes his eyes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Touch your head.

Alex shakes his head at the stupidity of this exercise and goes to touch his head.

He palms his eyes instead.

ALEX

What else, Queen Dipshit?

SAMANTHA

Open your eyes.

He does and jumps in his seat- it's too dark! He moves his hand away and lets it dangle at his side.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You rely on your other senses more now than you know. If you lose your sight and sound, you're not going to be able to walk.

Alex, shocked, listens.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You're not going to be able to move. You're going to be a vegetable, except you'll be able to wish you were dead.

ALEX

You're... Full of it...

SAMANTHA

Your mind is going to start playing tricks on you. Hallucinating. You won't be able to feel anyone, see anything, or hear the world around you. Your mind is going to trap you in a chaotic hallucination of life that you can't ever escape.

ALEX

Why are you telling me this?

SAMANTHA

Get up.

She stands up. Alex remains seated.

ALEX

Why?

SAMANTHA

Because you should while you still can.

She walks away.

23. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX

While I still can?

He stays at the table, letting her words marinate as he waits patiently for the light to change.

Samantha paces behind him, almost like she's waiting for something to happen.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What are you doing back there?

He turns in his chair and FALLS OVER BACKWARDS like a tree in a windstorm. He lands with a loud THUD.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

Samantha stops, smiles.

The light turns green.

Samantha walks over to Alex. He's looking out, eyes wide, like he's being hypnotised.

SAMANTHA

Why are you just laying there,
Alex.

ALEX

I... The room is spinning.

SAMANTHA

The room is spinning?

He nods.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Let's get you up.

She helps him up again with the same ease. She helps him into his chair. He tries to carefully turn to the table, but falls off his chair again.

Samantha walks back to him, crouches to him.

ALEX

Don't help me.

SAMANTHA

You need help.

ALEX
DON'T HELP ME.

He rolls on the floor, almost effortlessly, as he looks around, struggling to figure out which way is up.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Have you ever had vertigo?

Samantha nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Yeah, well, I can't feel gravity either...

He flops again, almost like a fish out of water.

Samantha SIGHS. She takes her shirt off- fortunately she wears two layers.

SAMANTHA
Come on big boy.

She grabs Alex, helps him to his chair. She puts his arms behind his back and ties them to the chair with her shirt. She walks back to her side and sits.

24. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAMANTHA
You know, that was my pill.

Alex closes his eyes as he struggles to stay up on his chair.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
You know you took my pill.

He struggles to get the words out as he tries to keep his balance.

ALEX
I... know.

SAMANTHA
That could have been me.

ALEX
Don't... remind me.

SAMANTHA
Do I owe you a thanks?

ALEX
No...

A beat.

SAMANTHA

Well thanks.

ALEX

Fuck off...

Another beat.

SAMANTHA

It was balance. The pill.

Alex finally has some sort of control over his speech as he continues swaying in his chair like a drunkard.

ALEX

How do you know all this shit?

She smiles, almost like this is the moment she's been waiting for.

SAMANTHA

Because I'm a psychologist.

ALEX

That's great... So tell me doc, what should I do if I feel like killing someone?

SAMANTHA

I'd have to report you.

ALEX

And what if I wanna kill me?

SAMANTHA

I would advise you against it.

ALEX

Great... Cool... I'm glad I'm not paying for this session. I can't fucking wait until the hallucinations begin.

SAMANTHA

There might be ways to get your senses back.

ALEX

I'd say that smells like bullshit but I have NO SENSE OF SMELL!

SAMANTHA

Fine. Keep them how they are.

She looks to the bottles.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Which one do you want?

ALEX

What?

SAMANTHA

The light is green. You took mine last time and lost a sense. So which do you want this time? Mine or yours?

Alex finally opens his eyes.

ALEX

Take them both.

SAMANTHA

I can't.

ALEX

THERE'S A SENSOR, TAKE THEM BOTH!

(beat)

They can't see if you take two. All they'll know is both were swallowed.

SAMANTHA

But you just screamed it at me.

ALEX

They obviously can't fucking hear.

The light turns red.

25. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They both look up to the TV. The feed flickers as the figure comes back.

ALEX

WAIT! I WAS KIDDING! STOP!

The figure takes the knife. They hold it up to Joel's arm for a slash, but they shake their head- not this time. They grab their chin like they're thinking. They bring the knife back for another stab. But again, not this time.

More thinking... Until... The figure nods. They have it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What are you doing?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

The figure HACKS JOEL'S FOOT OFF! Joel screams in inaudible pain as his foot comes off. The figure shoves it in his mouth, shutting him up.

But Joel just spits his foot out. The figure grabs it and FORCEFULLY shoves it in his mouth.

Vomit starts leaking out the edges as the foot goes in further.

The figure grabs rope from the floor and ties it around the foot and Joel's head. It ain't going anywhere now.

More vomit leaks and the figure leaves.

The light turns back to green.

Alex stares in horror, tears in his eyes, and vomit on the side of his mouth too.

This is the first time he was able to sit still.

Samantha slowly turns towards him. She sees the vomit and nearly vomits herself.

ALEX (CONT'D)

They can hear.

Samantha nods as she gets up. She takes off one of her socks and wipes away his vomit.

ALEX (CONT'D)

They can hear and they took his foot.

Samantha tosses her sock away and sits back down.

ALEX (CONT'D)

They're gonna kill him.

SAMANTHA

Alex, they aren't going to- [kill him]

ALEX

They're gonna kill him and it's all my fault.

SAMANTHA

Well, yeah, but...

ALEX

I went against the rules and they cut his foot off.

SAMANTHA

So now you know they can hear.

Alex looks to Samantha and falls off his chair. It tumbles with him since he's still tied to it.

Samantha starts to get up.

ALEX

Leave me.

SAMANTHA

I don't want- [to leave you]

ALEX

Leave me!

He wriggles, but the chair keeps him steady. Samantha notices.

SAMANTHA

Fine, but I'm joining you.

She takes two pill bottles and sits next to him on the floor. She holds out the bottles, one in each hand.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I know you don't- [wanna think about this right now]

ALEX

Left hand.

SAMANTHA

Hmm?

ALEX

Left hand. Give me the one in your left hand.

SAMANTHA

Ok.

She puts the other on the floor and gets out Alex's pill. She holds it in front of his face.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Open.

He opens his mouth. She puts it inside.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Close.

He closes his mouth.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Swallow.

He tries to swallow, but can't. He just drools on the ground instead. Saliva and the pill leak out.

ALEX

I can't feel my throat.

SAMANTHA

Let me help you.

She unties his hands, freeing him from the chair. She puts him in her lap like a baby and grabs the pill from the unopened bottle.

She also grabs the pill he just tried to swallow.

And Alex is none the wiser she has both pills.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Open.

Again, he opens his mouth. She puts in both pills.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Close.

He again closes his mouth. She helps him tilt his head back.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

And swallow. You're doing great.

A big GULP. Alex swallows the pills.

ALEX

Thanks.

SAMANTHA

You're welcome.

26. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She gently helps him up to his feet, always making sure she has a hand on him.

SAMANTHA

Let's sit you back down, alright?
You wanted to sit in my chair,
right?

She helps walk him to her chair like he's a baby. She sits him down and ties his hands to the back. He closes his eyes, swaying gently in his chair.

Then she grabs his chair, brings it over, and sits in his spot.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Open your eyes.

He shakes his head, no.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You're tied to the chair. You'll be fine.

He opens his eyes. Slowly. Like he's just given up on everything. He continues his drunken swaying.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

So when did you know you were gay?

Alex speaks slowly, putting air before his answers, keeping his depressing eye contact with Samantha.

ALEX

I've always known.

SAMANTHA

Always? Surely there was a turning point for you?

ALEX

Once I hit puberty, I started looking at dicks while my friends looked at pussies. It wasn't a big deal.

SAMANTHA

Have you ever been with a woman?

ALEX

No. I know what I like.

SAMANTHA

You've never even... Thought about it?

ALEX

Are you seriously flirting with me right now?

She looks at him. She smiles. She laughs. Almost like she has something sinister planned.

SAMANTHA

No, not really.

ALEX

Than what's this all about?

SAMANTHA

I just wanted to get to know you.

(beat)

Have you ever even seen a pussy?

ALEX

Have you ever seen porn? It's hard to miss.

SAMANTHA

No, no. In person.

ALEX

No. Why, are you offering?

Samantha stands up. Alex watches as she takes off her trousers, revealing a simple black thong.

SAMANTHA

Why not? Do they scare you? Do they make you feel bad?

ALEX

They make me feel like I want dick.

She starts teasing him, grabbing her thong seductively.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this?

She stops. Smiles. Gets her sinister laugh back.

SAMANTHA

I thought it might be funny if the last thing you ever saw was a pussy.

ALEX

What?!

The light turns green.

27. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Despite his wide open eyes, Alex falls to the floor again. Samantha puts her trousers back on as Alex breaths heavily on the floor, like he's letting out all his tears.

She walks over and tilts him back upright.

SAMANTHA

There there. I know you can still hear.

Alex cries, his eyes opens but dead. Samantha SLAPS him across the face, HARD. The sound echoes throughout the room.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Did you hear that? That was me slapping your face you bitch. Not that you'd know.

Alex starts swaying violently. He looks up at the ceiling. Drool spills from his mouth. It bubbles, like he's struggling to breath.

Samantha tilts his head down. The drool spills out of his open mouth onto his clothes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You're fucking disgusting. You just drooled everywhere!

She watches with glee as Alex struggles to stay upright. She watches with glee as he falls on the floor. She watches with glee as the drool pools up around his mouth.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Can you talk?!

Alex moves his mouth like a fish out of water. He struggles to speak.

ALEX

A...M... I ta...king...?

SAMANTHA

Wow, did losing your sight really do that much damage?

ALEX

I... Ca...Nt... Fe, eel... My... Thr...Oat.

Samantha walks over to him. She sits down, holds him against her body like a baby again and rocks him.

SAMANTHA

I'm holding you. I'm rocking you back and forth like a baby.

ALEX

F...Uck... Y...Ou...

SAMANTHA

Shhh shhh. I haven't given you the last pill yet. I figure I'll let you have this moment before.

She starts whistling his familiar reggae tune. Alex still struggles to speak, to breath. He gasps as she whistles and rocks him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You like that song?

He moves his head in a random manner.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I'll take that as a yes. Guess what you're doing now?

ALEX

W...Ha...T?

SAMANTHA

(whispers)

You're fingering my pussy.

Vomit spills out of Alex's mouth again. It gets on his chest, a little bit on Samantha's arm.

But she doesn't mind. She starts to mimic like she's having an orgasm.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Ohhh... Ohhhh... I think I'm about to cum.

He tries to vomit again, but there's nothing left to come up.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
AHHHHH!!!

She continues rocking him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
You would've made a fine straight man.

She goes back to whistling the tune.

28. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As she finishes, she gets up, letting Alex drop HARD against the ground. She walks LOUDLY to the back of the TV. She opens up a small, hidden compartment. Inside is a GUN and a RINGBOX. She jangles the gun around in the compartment, looking over to Alex as she does.

He swings his head in all directions, oblivious to where it's going. Samantha smiles.

She stops. Takes out the ringbox, pockets it, and closes the compartment. She walks back to Alex.

SAMANTHA
You know what that sound was?

No response.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
There was a hidden compartment in the table with a phone you could've used. It also had a beautiful diamond ring inside.

She gets close to his ear.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
You know, maybe Joel would like it. Maybe if he gets out alive, I can give it to him?

Tears fall from Alex's lifeless eyes. The green light shines brightly from the table. Samantha gets an idea.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
What?! What's happening?!

Alex starts fidgeting in her arms.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
The light- it's red!!

More fidgeting. But he can't see, can't feel, can't do anything, so Samantha easily contains him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
No no no no. I think we took too long. The man, he's... He's showing off the knife.

Alex fidgets even more as Samantha tells him this false story.

Samantha ups her hysterics.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Wait, no, he put it down. He's picking up... IS THAT A CHAINSAW?!?!

A dark spot forms on Alex's crotch. Samantha doesn't notice- she's way too in to her story.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Oh no. He started it up... He's putting it on Joel's open wound. Joel's screaming. SCREAMING! No... No, what's happening now?! He's CHAINSAWING OFF JOEL'S OTHER LEG!!! I'm so sorry Alex. I'm glad you can't see this.

Alex fidgets as Samantha caresses him. She whispers into his ear:

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Don't worry. Joel's still alive.

She TOSSES Alex onto the ground. He rolls, slightly, but stays still for the most part. Samantha gets up, walks to the table.

29. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She sits down at the table, leaning back like she owns the joint. And instead of bringing Alex closer to the conversation, she just yells at him.

SAMANTHA
You almost had me! Like once or twice I thought maybe you'd catch on. But you didn't! Oh my goodness, Alex.
(MORE)

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

This was such an adrenaline rush.
When you kicked me in the face?
That was amazing.

Almost like a subconscious response, Alex balls his hands into fists. He digs his fingernails into his palm, drawing blood as Samantha talks.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I was not expecting that. But I loved it. You know, for a minute I thought maybe this whole thing was gonna backfire. I thought we were never gonna switch pills and I'd lose my sense of balance! How fucked would that have been?

Samantha moves her hand into her crotch like she's getting some sick sexual satisfaction from this.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

But you pulled the switch off Alex. You pulled it off! And you punched me in the face even? That was incredible. I did have a feeling you'd do that. But it was nice.

She closes her eyes as she gets more and more stimulated.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You could've won so easily. Ohhhh. If you hadn't switched sides with me, I would've been fuuuuuucked. But you're so predictable.

She bolts up. Walks over to Alex. She moves her moist hands next to his ears, letting him get a good listen to the SQUISHY sounds they make.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

That's from my pussy. And now it's on your face.

She wipes her hand on his face. Walks back to the table.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I wasn't lying about the psychology part though. I'm a fucked up person, Alex. I figured it. But now I know it.

She laughs.

30. INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Samantha grabs the last two bottles. She takes out the pills and brings them over to Alex.

SAMANTHA

The last bottle actually had zero duds. If you had just been one move unpredictable, I'd be losing my sense of hearing too. But you weren't. Now open up.

She opens his mouth and shoves the pills inside. She tilts his back and massages his throat.

Alex swallows the pills.

Samantha grabs his shoulder, his bum, to push him into a ball. But his bum is wet, squishy. She sniffs.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I think you shit yourself there Alex.

She goes to his bum, takes a sniff, reels back.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Yep. That's shit Alex. You're inept.

He starts shaking as she ignores the shit and pushes him into a nice little curled up ball.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

This room stinks Alex.

She walks to the table, takes a remote out of her pocket, and presses a button.

The CCTV footage gets interrupted again. The figure comes back into frame.

Samantha hits buttons on her small remote.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

No. No. No.

She pauses the footage. She presses a different button on the remote and opens up a vent in the ceiling.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

By the way Alex. They were watching. Because it was me. And guess what?

She walks over to him and puts her head on his chest.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Joel is alive.

His heart starts beating faster, louder.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

And I'm gonna bring him in here.

Faster, louder.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

And he's gonna see you balled up on
the floor covered in your own piss
shit and vomit.

Gasping as Alex struggles to get his breath out.

The light turns green.

PITCH BLACK.

NO SOUND.

NOTHING.

31. INT. DARK ROOM

A sliver of LIGHT shows as a door opens up. Creaky wheels enter the room as Samantha pushes in a highly disfigured Joel.

He's not only missing a foot, but also half an arm and a sliver of his abdomen. His body is covered in bloody bandages. Tears stain his face, as does dirt and blood.

He reels back in disgust.

JOEL

The smell.

SAMANTHA

Shhh shh, I know.

She wheels him over to the blob of Alex on the floor. The vomit covered, piss covered, shit covered Alex.

JOEL

What is...? Is that...?

SAMANTHA

Yeah don't bother talking to him.
He can't hear.

(beat)

Or see or smell or feel or walk or
taste or pretty much do anything.

Joel just stares at Alex.

JOEL

W...W...Why?

SAMANTHA

Good fucking question.

She wheels Joel over to the table. Locks his chair and takes a seat opposite him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Go on then. Ask your questions.

JOEL

Why?

She raises her finger up- hold on one second. She walks over to the TV. She takes something, a cover, off the back of it.

Inside is a gun. She takes it out and brings it to the table.

JOEL (CONT'D)

What the fuck?! I'm sorry!

SAMANTHA

Relax Joel.

She puts the gun on the table, out of Joel's reach.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You get five questions. If they're good questions, I'll let you keep the gun. And if they're bad questions...

She looks at the gun. At the Joel.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Well, let's just say you're gonna want to ask good questions. Ok, question one. Go!

A beat.

JOEL

Why us? Why me and Alex?

SAMANTHA

Technically that's two questions but I'll let it slide this time. You two are predictable little cunts.

32. EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Alex walks down the pavement with his Tesco uniform on. He walks past a curious Samantha. She checks her watch and smiles.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
 I always knew I'd see him walking
 to work at 9:46 AM. Every day,
 Monday to Friday.

33. EXT. HOME - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A familiar scene- Joel and Alex fighting in the kitchen.
 Except this one involves more yelling, Alex fighting back- a
 different fight.

Samantha stands across the street, watching.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
 Every night you guys would fight
 over something stupid. And it
 always happened at 7:33 PM.

34. INT. DARK ROOM

Back to the dark room, to Samantha answering Joel's question.

SAMANTHA
 You two guys were the most
 predictable people I've ever come
 across. So why you? Because it was
 easy for me. Next!

Another beat.

JOEL
 Why... This... Game?

SAMANTHA
 Oh, caught yourself there! Nice job
 Joel! Why this game? Why go to an
 amusement park? Why go surfing? Or
 skydiving? Because it's fun, Joel.
 This is fun. Games are fun. Next
 question.

Joel looks around, thinking.

JOEL
 Was that you in the mask?

SAMANTHA
 That was me. That was also a shitty
 question Joel.

She takes the gun, tucks it in her trousers.

JOEL
 I'm sorry I'm sorry!

SAMANTHA

Too late. I'm bored of you.

She stands up and wheels Joel over to Alex. He looks up at her, pleading.

JOEL

I'm sorry, I didn't mean whatever I did.

SAMANTHA

Do you love him?

JOEL

What?

SAMANTHA

Do you love him?

She stops Joel right in front of Alex. Joel looks down, struggles to speak, but eventually...

JOEL

I do.

Almost like a huge weight has been lifted off his shoulders:

JOEL (CONT'D)

I do. I do.

SAMANTHA

Good.

She TIPS over the wheelchair, plopping Joel on top of Alex's disgusting body.

Joel SCREAMS. He tries to push himself off, but his stumps are tender. He rolls off Alex's body.

Joel lays next to Alex, covered in Alex's bodily fluids.

Samantha crouches down next to him. She pulls out the gun.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I was gonna leave this here with you. I figured you might wanna put him out of his misery, maybe even put yourself out. But now...

She puts it back in her trousers.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

It's mine. Good luck. No one can hear you. No one can see you. You're boyfriend is slowly wishing for death next to you and you can't really do anything about it.

She takes out her remote, points it towards the vent. It closes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
 You're now trapped in a shit
 smelling room. Maybe he doesn't
 have it all that bad.

Samantha wheels out the wheel chair and closes the door behind her.

Leaving Joel to lay next to his vegetable of a boyfriend.

35. INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Samantha walks into a professional looking study in a small, cozy home. Psychology books, notes, a computer- she definitely wasn't lying about being a psychologist.

She goes to a filing cabinet. Takes a key from her keychain and opens it up.

Inside is a single folder. She takes it out and brings it to her desk.

She opens it up.

Inside is photos of Joel and Alex. Of research documents. Of scientific studies done about sense deprivation and how human senses work. Some things are circled, some highlighted.

The file label says "Case 001". Underneath is, it says, "what happens when you lose all your senses?"

She takes a RED PEN from her desk. She writes, very elegantly, SUCCESS.

36. INT. DARK ROOM

Joel lays on the floor with Alex. He struggles to contain his emotions as he looks at Alex.

JOEL
 Alex, can you hear me?

Alex just shakes on the ground, unaware of anything.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry for
 everything.

Joel rolls over to Alex, hugs him with his stumps. Hugs him tight despite the nasty fluids.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 I was acting like a total jerk.
 (beat)
 I did get a haircut, by the way.

Joel chuckles at his little anecdote.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 I did get a haircut but I didn't
 want you to... To have a victory. I
 was... I was too selfish.

He lets go of his hug. He looks at Alex in the eyes. In his cold, cold, blind eyes.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 I was scared of losing you, Alex. I
 was scared of losing you...

Joel takes a long look into Alex's eyes before rolling back on his back.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 No sense of anything. I wonder what
 that's like.

He closes his eyes, tries to calm himself, breaths through only his mouth... But it's not use.

He rolls to his stomach and crawls towards the table. He tries to hoist himself up, but can't get a grip with his lack of limbs and excess of bandages.

He falls, but tries again. He manages to get up this time, get high enough to see the table top.

It's empty.

He drops back to the ground and crawls towards the TV. He goes around back, sees the open compartment. He tries to push himself up to see inside, but it's too high.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 FUUUUUCCCKKKK! HELP! HELP!

His voice echoes, but he knows he's screwed. He crawls back to Alex.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 See you soon.

Joel curls up next to him. The two lay down- Alex simply breathing, Joel bawling- as they wait for death to overtake them.

FADE TO BLACK.

END