

CLOSURE

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FADE IN

EXT. CLIFF TOP - DAY

KATE LAWLER, early 20s, stands on the edge of the cliff and looks out across the sea. Her sandy blonde hair blows in the wind as she hugs herself tightly. Her eyes blank, void of emotion.

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS fly above her. She looks up.

FADE TO: WHITE

SUPER: THREE DAYS EARLIER

FADE IN

INT. PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate sits opposite DR. EMILY MARTINS, late 30's, smartly dressed.

Kate has her head bowed and her legs crossed in the chair.

Dr. Martins looks across at her, concerned.

DR. MARTINS

Kate, you've been making fantastic progress these last few months. You really shouldn't be getting so upset with yourself.

Kate looks across at her. Her eyes red from crying.

Dr. Martins smiles softly across at her.

DR. MARTINS

Last year, did you think you'd be back at school? Did you think you'd have a boyfriend?

Kate shakes her head slowly. A forced smile briefly appears.

DR. MARTINS

Well then? You should be proud of yourself. When was the last time you and Tom went out for a meal? Or you treated yourself? A new outfit?

Kate bows her head again. She speaks softly, barely audible.

KATE

I don't remember.

DR. MARTINS

Well I think that would be a good idea, don't you? Think of it as a reward for yourself. You know, for making such great progress.

KATE

I'm still having the dreams Emily.

She looks across at Dr. Martins, fresh tears form in her eyes.

Dr. Martins stands up and walks across to Kate. She kneels down beside her chair.

DR. MARTINS

Kate, they're only dreams. I know they upset you but they'll pass in time.

Dr. Martins smiles up at Kate and takes her hand. She squeezes it tightly.

INT. WAITING ROOM

Kate emerges from the office followed by Dr. Martins.

TOM, early 40s, stands from his seat at the sight of Kate. He looks intellectual with light beard and glasses. He walks over to the two of them and stands by Kate.

TOM

How did it go Kate?

Kate stays silent but takes Tom's hand.

Dr. Martins smiles at Tom.

DR. MARTINS

She's making good progress Tom. I was just suggesting you two go out for a meal sometime. I think that would be good...for both of you.

Tom looks down at Kate, the love in his eyes coax a smile from her.

KATE
Maybe, we'll see.

TOM
Any time you like honey.
(to Dr. Martins)
Thanks, Emily.

They turn and walk towards the exit hand in hand.

EXT. CAR PARK

Kate and Tom walk silently towards Tom's SILVER LINCOLN TOWN CAR. They get in and drive off.

INT/EXT. TOM'S CAR - MOTORWAY

Tom looks between the road and Kate. Worry in his eyes as Kate looks sadly out of the passenger window.

TOM
It's true you know Kate? You've
come so far since you started
seeing Emily.

KATE
I guess...

She looks at Tom and smiles. Almost childlike.

KATE
Maybe we should go for that meal?

Tom smiles broadly and looks back at the road.

TOM
Sounds great, you name the place.
Anywhere...and I mean anywhere.

Kate looks back out the window. She grins. Proud of herself.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

The two of them walk through the front door.

The red light on the answer machine flashes as Kate walks through to the kitchen.

Tom hangs up his coat then presses the button on the answer machine nonchalantly.

KATE
Cup of tea honey?

TOM
Yes please, darling.

The answer machine announces one message and BEEPS.

A distressed man's voice begins.

SAM(V.O)
Kate, it's Sam...I've got some bad news...actually I don't want to do this on a machine...call me when you get this OK? Thanks.

Kate runs back through to the hall. Looks at Tom for reassurance. He gives a worried face and hands her the phone.

She stares at the phone for a moment then hands it back to him.

KATE
You call him will ya? Please?

Tom dials on the phone as Kate sits on the bottom of the stairs.

TOM
It'll be nothing, he probably just wants to see how you're...
(into phone)
Oh, yeah hi it's Tom Henderson returning Mr. Benson's call...yes I'll hold...

Kate watches Tom intensely. Braced for the worst. Praying for nothing.

TOM
(into phone)
Hi Sam, we just got your message. Gotta tell you, you had us a little worried. Why couldn't you just...

Tom's expression drops. He looks at Kate in disbelief.

TOM
(into phone)
How could he be released? You told us 15 years minimum.

Kate looks up at Tom, a look of shock on her face. She runs up the stairs.

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - LATER

SAM BENSON, early 30s, dressed in a suit, sits at his desk. In front of him is Tom and Kate.

SAM

I'm sorry Kate, I truly am. These things can happen though. I mean good behaviour...

Sam sighs, his words making no difference to Kate. He looks to Tom.

SAM

They say he's found God. Been the model inmate.

Tom puts his arm around Kate who begins to cry.

TOM

I don't care what he's found, he got sentenced to 15 years. That's what he should serve, dammit.

Sam leans back in his chair. The repetition of these conversations having curbed his compassion a little.

SAM

I know, I know Tom. The Law's an ass. I honestly didn't think he would get an early release, but parole boards are getting softer what with overcrowding...I'm sorry.

Kate wipes the tears from her eyes with the back of her sleeve. She looks at Sam, claws her strength back.

KATE

When?

SAM

Tomorrow Kate. I really am sorry.

Kate stands up and walks out of the room calmly.

Tom looks after her, then back to Sam.

TOM
This isn't right, you know that?

He walks after Kate.

SAM
Oh, one more thing Tom. He wants to meet with Kate.

Tom turns back to Sam. Furious.

SAM
He says something about forgiveness...or closure...

TOM
Tell him he can fuck off with his forgiveness.

He storms out of the room.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tom leans back against the wall, phone to his ear.

He shakes his head repeatedly.

TOM
(into phone)
No, no, no Maude. I know exactly what she's been through and still going through. The worst possible thing she could do is meet with him.

Tom walks through to the -

KITCHEN

- dragging the phone lead with him. He sits down at the table.

TOM
(into phone)
She's still in the bedroom, she's been there since we got back.

BEDROOM

Kate lies on the king-size bed. Phone to her ear, her hand covers the mouthpiece. She listens silently.

KITCHEN

TOM

(into phone)

I've tried talking to her
Maude...yes, I know. Well we'll
just have to agree to disagree
won't we?

Kate appears in the kitchen doorway. She watches Tom hang up the phone. He looks around and jumps a little in his seat. He smiles.

TOM

How long have you been there honey?

Kate looks hurt as she walks into the kitchen and leans against a counter.

KATE

Did you call her or did she call
you?

TOM

She called wanting to speak to you
Kate. I wouldn't go behind your-

KATE

She made it perfectly clear what
she thought the last time we spoke
Tom. Now he's getting released
she's going to play the worried
mother? Fuck that.

Kate's face becomes ugly with the hatred. She turns and faces the window above the sink. Swipes at glasses in the dryer. They SMASH.

She begins to cry and sinks down to the floor on her knees. Heart-breaking, primal sobs. Tom rushes over and kneels down next to her. He holds her tight in his arms.

KATE

Why did they have to let him out
Tom? He ruined my life. I was
supposed to be able to trust him.

Tom rocks Kate in his arms softly. Her sobs die down gradually.

She looks at Tom composed, tranquil.

KATE

I want to meet him Tom. I want to show him that what he did to me hasn't fucked up my entire life. I want him to know that I'm over it.

Tom looks surprised. He strokes her hair as he looks off into the distance.

TOM

You don't have to prove anything to him Kate. He's just a part of your past now.

KATE

You're a psychiatrist Tom. Aren't you people always going on about closure and everything?

She stands up and adopts a mock man's voice.

KATE

You need closure Kate. You need to face your fears Kate.

(normal voice, angry)

Now you tell me I need to hide away? Who are you protecting Tom? Me or you?

Tom looks up at her, still on his knees.

TOM

Both of us Kate. I just don't want to see you get hurt.

Kate turns and walks out of the door.

KATE

I'm meeting him Tom.

Tom looks after her as she walks away.

EXT. PRISON GATES - DAY

The gates open slowly, reluctantly.

MICHAEL LAWLER, late forties, stands with suitcase in hand. He's a tall, skinny man. His long unkempt hair blows in the wind. His grey suit outdated and a couple of sizes too big.

There's a BLACK MERCEDES parked across the road. TONY BROWN, early thirties, leans against the bonnet. He's dressed impeccably and smokes a cigarette.

Michael walks towards Tony slowly.

TONY

Why the long-face Mr.
Lawler? You're a free man.

Michael opens the passenger's door without even a look to Tony and gets in. He throws his suitcase in the back seat.

Tony shrugs and takes one last puff of his cigarette and flicks it away. He gets in the driver's side.

The car drives off.

INT/EXT. TONY'S CAR

Michael stares blankly out of the front window as Tony lights another cigarette.

TONY

So you're not even going to thank
me? Not even a well done Tony,
you're the best god damn lawyer in
town?

He looks across at Michael and laughs.

TONY

She's agreed to see you, you know?

Michael's face brightens. He looks at Tony for the first time.

MICHAEL

Really? She really said she would?
When?

Tony chuckles and looks back to the road.

TONY

Slow down brother, things like this
take time. Let me have a word with
her lawyer about a suitable time
and place and then we'll see what
we can do.

Michael looks out the side window as the world he used to
know passes by. In a world of his own.

MICHAEL

I just want to know that she's
alright. That she doesn't...hate
me. God knows I hate myself
enough for the pair of us.

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate lies on the single bed naked. A MAN is on top of her.
His hand over her mouth as he forces himself onto her.

Muffled screams come from Kate as she struggles. The man's
grip is too strong.

She turns her head to the side.

A SMALL GIRL with blonde hair sits on the floor by the
wardrobe. Her hands covering her ears as she cries.

Tears run from Kate's eyes as she gazes at the girl.

SMALL GIRL(V.O)

(Michael's voice)

It's your fault you little Bitch!

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Kate wakes up with a scream. She sits up, sweat drips from
her.

She sits there for a few moments, breaths deeply.

Tom wakes up next to her. He sits up and puts his arm around
Kate. She flinches and looks at Tom.

TOM

It's OK Kate, it was just a dream.
You're safe. Nothing's going to
happen to you.

He puts his arm back around her, she allows him.

KATE

I want to meet him tomorrow Tom. I want this shit finished. I can't take it any more.

Tom guides her back down onto the bed. He strokes her hair softly.

TOM

Whatever you want Kate. Just sleep now OK? I'm here, nothing's going to happen to you.

Kate closes her eyes.

INT/EXT. TOM'S CAR - BEACH - DAY

Kate and Tom sit motionless. Kate shakes with nerves.

She looks out the window across the sand dunes. They head off into the horizon.

She looks back to Tom.

KATE

Do you think I'm doing the right thing Tom?

Tom looks across at her with a smile. He takes her hand.

KATE

I mean we could just turn right back around couldn't we?

TOM

We can do whatever you want darling. You want to go back, we go back.

Kate looks back out the window, she bites her bottom lip.

She opens the door.

KATE

Screw it. Let's get this over with.

EXT. BEACH

Kate and Tom walk huddled together. The wind beats their faces.

Up ahead Michael stands outside of his FORD PICKUP. He has his arms wrapped around himself against the cold.

As Kate and Tom approach his face breaks into a smile and he walks towards them.

MICHAEL

Kate, I'm so glad you agreed to this. Every day I've thought about what to say and now...

His smile drops. He looks lost.

MICHAEL

Well there isn't anything I can say really is there? Except sorry.

Kate laughs and walks off towards the dunes.

Tom stares at Michael in disgust.

In the B.G Kate bends down and picks something up. She pockets it.

TOM

If this was up to me she would never have seen you again. She wants to clear things in her head though so she can finally move on with her life.

Michael just looks over towards Kate in awe. He ignores Tom completely.

Tom yanks Michael's coat and pulls him to look at him.

TOM

Don't you fucking ignore me, you sick bastard. You might have fooled your way out of jail but I know you. I know people like you. They don't change, they just start feeling sorry for themselves. Sorry that they got caught.

Michael smiles as Tom releases his grip. He straightens out his coat.

MICHAEL
Are you finished? I believe my
daughter wants to see me.

Tom kicks the gravel footpath. Dust and gravel sprays out
over Michael and his car.

Michael walks off towards Kate in the -

DUNES

Kate walks slowly along and throws pebbles out into the
sand.

Michael catches up with her. Matches her pace.

MICHAEL
Kate? Sweetheart, I'm so sorry.

Kate continues to throw the pebbles. Only harder now. Her
face in a grimace.

MICHAEL
Won't you even look at me?

She stops and turns to her Dad.

KATE
Look at what? A washed up old man?
A pervert? What do you want me to
see...**Michael**?

Kate runs off ahead towards the cliffs edge. Michael looks
hurt. He takes a moment to let what she said sink in. He
runs after her.

CLIFF TOP

Kate throws pebbles over the edge of the cliff. The waves
lap below her.

Michael approaches from behind.

KATE
Every time I think of you I feel
sick. I just want to have a normal
life, normal friends, normal
thoughts.

She looks at her Dad with absolute contempt. He has his head
bowed. Shamed.

Kate reaches her hands into her pockets.

KATE

You took all of that away from me
Michael. Everything a child should
have you took from me, and you know
what?

Michael looks up. Gazes into Kate's eyes hopefully.

KATE

You couldn't care less. Oh yes, I
know you're hurting. That's for you
though, not me.

Michael bows his head again.

MICHAEL

I don't know what else you want me
to --

Kate pulls a heavy rock from her pocket. In one movement she
CRACKS it into the side of Michael's head.

He staggers. Looks amazed towards Kate.

CRACK! She strikes him again on the back of the head.

In the B.G Tom runs towards them.

Michael staggers closer to the edge of the cliff.

CRACK! She hits him again in the head.

He falls from the cliff.

Kate looks down onto the razor-edged rocks below.

A brisk wind forces her to hug herself tightly as she looks
over across the sea. Her eyes blank, void of emotion.

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS fly above her. She looks up.

Michael approaches from behind. Out of breath. He puts his
arm around her waist.

KATE

Goodbye Daddy.

They turn and walk back to the car.

Kate takes out her phone and dials.

KATE
(into phone)
Yes, Police please. My father has
just killed himself.

They walk far into the distance.

FADE OUT

THE END