DISARM

written for the screen by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

A Korean man in his early-20s walks alone on a quiet street holding a bag of groceries. He is DANIEL BANG. There’s a dark presence about him.

As he turns a corner, he’s met by TWO HOODLUMS (non-Asian). The hoodlums smirk menacingly. Daniel’s eyes shoot up, alarmed.

DANIEL

Oh, shit!

Daniel drops the bag as he runs away from them, but the hoodlums are too fast. They tackle Daniel then beat him to a pulp.

HOODLUM #1

What’s wrong? Can’t use your kung-fu?

HOODLUM #2

Yeah, Jackie Chan, why don’t you use your karate, big shot!

HOODLUM #1

(to Hoodlum #2)

Ha! Good one!

Hoodlum #1 gives Hoodlum #2 a hi-five then we...

CUT TO:

Daniel’s POV as he lies on the ground...

HOODLUM #2 (O.S.)

Let’s see if Jackie Chan can defend my foot!

Hoodlums laugh like hyenas as Hoodlum #2’s foot comes at us (Daniel’s POV) hard, and we quickly--

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE: “DISARM”

FADE IN:
INT. DANIEL’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

FELICIA, early-20s, busty, pretty without makeup, sits cosily on the couch deeply immersed in a book titled The “I” in Limbo written by Daniel Bang. There are many different colored post-its attached to pages throughout the book.

The door opens. Daniel enters with a black eye and a tattered bag of groceries.

FELICIA (without looking up from the book)
Oh, hey, babe. I’m just re-reading your book. I don’t know why you think you’re not good at writing. This is really fantastic!

She puts the book down then sees Daniel’s condition.

FELICIA (CONT’D)
Oh my God!

She quickly rushes to him, touching his face.

FELICIA (CONT’D)
What happened?!

DANIEL
Nothing.

FELICIA
Don’t nothing me! Something clearly happened!

DANIEL
I said nothing happened! Okay?!

FELICIA
Then how’d you get that black eye?

Daniel slaps Felicia’s hand away from his face then brushes past her. Hard.

DANIEL
Just leave me alone...

Daniel takes out a half-empty bottle of whiskey from a kitchen drawer then opens it, takes a swig, and then takes it to his desk where he starts typing on his typewriter.

Felicia watches him. She looks hurt, her eyes starting to get teary.
FELICIA
Honey... what happened?

DANIEL
Shut up! I’m trying to write!

Daniel takes a bigger gulp of whiskey then digs through his drawers aggressively.

DANIEL (CONT’D)
Where are my fucking cigarettes?!

FELICIA
You... You quit--

DANIEL
Shut up! I need my God damn cigarettes!

Felicia’s face grows redder as she tears up more.

FELICIA
They’re gone, remember? We threw all them away in the toilet because you said you were quitting for me.

DANIEL
God damn it! I have to do everything for you!

Daniel slams a drawer. Felicia covers her ears, shocked. Daniel types away at his typewriter. A small stream of blood spills down his bruised eye as we see an...

EXTREME CLOSE UP OF DANIEL’S FACE as we follow the stream of blood from the bruised eye collide with a tear drop from his non-bruised eye. They form a pinkish color that is surprisingly alluring.

Felicia grabs a first-aid kit from the kitchen, and approaches Daniel cautiously.

FELICIA
Babe, let me nurse your wounds.

DANIEL
Why don’t you nurse this!? 

Daniel flings his bottle of whiskey just past Felicia’s head. It SHATTERS against the wall. The contents of the glass form a shape that vaguely resembles a threadbare American flag.
Daniel types and types. Felicia’s close to Daniel now. She slowly puts her hand on his shoulder. Daniel quickly grabs it with both hands, and flips her over his back. THUD!

\begin{quote}
DANIEL (CONT’D)
You bitch! You fucking slut! How dare you touch me when I’m writing!?
\end{quote}

Daniel quickly runs to the spot where the whiskey glass shattered. He laps up some of the whiskey then grabs a shard of glass and stabs Felicia’s stomach violently. Felicia’s eyes widen then close as she loses consciousness. Daniel’s eyes widen as well. He can’t believe what he’s done. He slowly backs away from Felicia then runs out his apartment.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

It’s a full moon night. Daniel runs to the edge of the apartment building. He looks down at the street (Hitchcock dolly zoom shot). He gulps, closes his eyes, and then quietly says...

\begin{quote}
DANIEL
Felicia... I’m so sorry. I’ll be with you shortly...
\end{quote}

Daniel is about to take his last step ever, but suddenly, a voice speaks.

\begin{quote}
VOICE (V.O.)
Don’t do it, son.
\end{quote}

Daniel looks around confused.

\begin{quote}
VOICE (V.O.) (CONT’D)
There’s more to life that you don’t know about yet.
\end{quote}

\begin{quote}
DANIEL
(scare)
Who... who’s speaking...?
\end{quote}

\begin{quote}
VOICE (V.O.)
Me, silly.
\end{quote}

Daniel looks around again then stops and looks up. At the FULL MOON.

\begin{quote}
DANIEL
But... how?
MOON (V.O.)
Life’s mysterious, Daniel. And that’s what makes life so darn interesting.

DANIEL
But I don’t deserve Life. I killed my girlfriend because... because...

MOON (V.O.)
Because you were angry.

Daniel nods timidly.

MOON (V.O.) (CONT’D)
That’s a part of human nature, Daniel. People get angry. That’s how I made you guys.

DANIEL
Made us...? But you’re just the moon...

Daniel makes an epiphany expression.

DANIEL (CONT’D)
You’re... you’re... I can’t believe I’m talking to... You.

The Moon, who will now be referred to as “GOD,” shines even brighter, causing the moon craters to be more visible, and we see that the craters make a formation that resembles a winking and smirk expression.

GOD (V.O.)
Why did you kill Felicia?

DANIEL
I don’t know... I guess... well, I got beat up, and I haven’t been able to write anything good since my last novel. I think I just ran out of things to write about.

GOD (V.O.)
Run out of things to write about? But I made you guys to never run out of things to write about.

DANIEL
What do you mean?
GOD (V.O.)
Think about it. You can write about anything.

DANIEL
Like what?

GOD (V.O.)
Think about your life. What interesting things have happened? Look at where you are now.

Daniel looks down at the street again (Hitchcock dolly zoom shot).

DANIEL
I’m about to kill myself... because I killed my girlfriend... (doing an epiphany expression)
That’s it! I’ll write about my night! With the hoodlums, and stabbing of the girlfriend, and talking to You!

God glows again. The craters form a smiling expression.

DANIEL (CONT’D)
But... won’t my readers think I’m a bad guy for killing Felicia?

GOD (V.O.)
They’ll forgive you for being honest about it.

Daniel takes a step back to safety. He looks happy for a moment then looks depressed again. He steps back onto the ledge.

DANIEL
No... God, I killed her. I’m a murderer.

GOD (V.O.)
You were angry. Those hoodlums got you in that state.

DANIEL
You’re right.

A beat.

GOD (V.O.)
It’s not your fault.
DANIEL
I know...

God gets closer to Daniel.

GOD (V.O.)
It’s not your fault.

DANIEL
I know.

God gets closer to Daniel.

GOD (V.O.)
It’s not your fault.

DANIEL
All right.

God is now in front of Daniel, who is looking down sadly.

DANIEL
(looking at God)
Don’t fuck with me.

God comes even closer. They’re face to face.

GOD (V.O.)
It’s not your fault.

Daniel pushes God away.

DANIEL
(tearing up tears of anger and catharsis)
Don’t fuck with me, alright!?
Don’t fuck with me, God. Not you.

GOD (V.O.)
It’s not your fault.

Daniel breaks down and cries. He grabs God in his arms and weeps into God’s shoulders. We move into a...

CLOSE UP of Daniel’s tears as the bloody stream from his bruised eye magically turns ethereal.
INT. DANIEL’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Daniel enters his apartment and runs to Felicia who bleeds profusely from the stomach. He takes her in his arms.

DANIEL
I’m sorry. I’m so sorry...

BEGIN MONTAGE as The Smashing Pumpkins’s “Disarm” plays in the background...

- Daniel places paper towels on the whiskey on the floor.
- Daniel mops up the blood on the floor.
- Daniel cleans up the glass shards with a dustpan.
- Daniel lights a candle, puts flowers in a vase, and places them on the dining table.
- At a wine store, Daniel picks up a bottle of wine.
- When he leaves the store, he sees the hoodlums. They make eye contact with him. He goes back into the store. Is he scared?
  - Daniel comes out with another bottle of wine. Gives it to the hoodlums. They hug him, apologize, and make a “you’re all right” gesture.
- Back at the apartment, Daniel grabs a pot roast from the oven and places it on the dining table.
  - Now that the apartment is clean and dinner is prepared, Daniel works on nursing Felicia’s wounds. He pulls out the glass shard jammed into her stomach.
- Daniel bandages her wound.
- Daniel force feeds her a few aspirins.

MONTAGE ENDS.

Daniel performs CPR on Felicia. No response from her.
Daniel begins to cry. After a long tense moment, she coughs. Daniel smiles. She sniffs the air.

FELICIA
You cooked dinner?

DANIEL
(smiling)
Yeah.
She looks at her wounded stomach. It growls.

FELICIA
Well, I sure am hungry.

They laugh.

FELICIA (CONT’D)
What are we having?

DANIEL
Pot roast.

FELICIA
(smiling)
My favorite.

A beat.

DANIEL
I’m sorry, baby. I love you.

FELICIA
I love you too.

We watch the two lovers embrace and cry together as we move out the opened window of the apartment, the apartment building, and slowly move towards the moon where we hear a BEEPING sound -- like an EKG. As we get closer to the moon, the beeping slows down gradually, and eventually, flat-lines as the moon deteriorates, causing the whole screen to fade out to complete darkness...