

Addict

by
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Current Revisions by
Fourth Draft, August 29, 2011

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FADE IN:

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - EARLY MORNING

An upward view of the forest canopy. The sun is mostly hidden behind it; occasionally revealing starved glimpses of sunlight.

Moving away from the canopy, reveals a car. It's parked at the edge of a narrow trail that leads into the thicket.

A YOUNG WOMAN sits on the hood of the car. Her summer dress tucked between her legs and her long brown hair combed to one side.

In her hand is a Saint Christopher necklace. She rubs it between her fingers.

Introducing KIMBERLY FOWLER a 28 year old surgical doctor.

A MAN emerges from the car; the drivers side and sits beside her. His name is ALFRED SHARKEY, a 30 year old oil patch worker.

He wraps his arm around her and gives her an intimate kiss.

KIM

Thank you for taking me here.

SHARKEY

No problem. So, there really is a lake beyond these trees?

KIM

Yes there is. I want to take you there.

Kim looks as if she might cry.

SHARKEY

It's okay. We are together now.

They kiss again.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - 6 YEARS AGO

An empty room. Kim and THOMAS FOWLER, a 22 year old man sit on the floor eating pizza.

There are medical books in front of them.

THOMAS

How many kids do you think we should have?

KIM

(Her focus on the book)

What?

THOMAS

Are you ready for that Kimberly?

KIM

Are you?

THOMAS

Give me an example of a chondroma.

KIM

Why?

THOMAS

Because I'm asking the question.

KIM

Um a cyst, wait a cartilage cyst found in bone marrow. Why?

THOMAS

I think you will make a great doctor one day.

KIM

I think we both will.

Kim lays herself on the ground. Thomas lays beside her and makes love to her on the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - DAY - 3 YEARS LATER

A picturesque view of the lake. Thomas and Kim are at one end near the shore.

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CONTINUED:

Thomas has his arms outstretched under Kim's body. He gently guides her over the water.

THOMAS

Keep your feet off the ground.

KIM

I'm going to sink.

THOMAS

You can do this.

KIM

I can't Thomas!

THOMAS

I'm going to let you go.

Thomas releases her from his grasp

Kim's head disappears under the water. Ten seconds pass.

THOMAS

Kim?

Thomas dives under the water. Kim surfaces a few feet away splashing and coughing.

THOMAS

I'm sorry.

KIM

This is hopeless.

SHORE

Kim sits near the edge of the water with a towel wrapped around her waist. Thomas is thirty feet away tending to a camp fire.

Kim stares at the water.

She gets up and runs into the water. She gets far enough that her feet can't touch the ground. She begins to struggle and sinks under the water.

THOMAS

Kim? Holy shit!

Kim resurfaces. She laughs.

KIM

I'm doing it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She swims towards Thomas who looks on in disbelief.

EXT. CAMP GROUND - DAY

A strong camp fire rages. Ten feet away is a tent and clothes scattered across the ground. Kim and Thomas are alone in the forest. They are huddled before the fire under a blanket.

KIM

What are you thinking about?

THOMAS

You. I love you. Maybe what life might be like for you if I should die.

KIM

What? But you aren't going to die Thomas.

THOMAS

Glad you think so, lately it's all I think about.

KIM

You beat it. You beat the cancer. You have a second chance.

THOMAS

Do me one favor.

KIM

It's okay. We are in this together. Don't ever quit. Fight. Do that for me.

THOMAS

Remember what you did here today. If you ever forget to believe in yourself.

KIM

I will.

INT. THOMAS FOWLER'S RESIDENCE - DAY - 1 YEAR LATER

Kim, her mother CHERYL FROST, her father DAVID FROST, and Thomas's parents, ANNE FOWLER, and LUKE FOWLER sit around a coffee table with a blue urn on top.

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CONTINUED:

ANNE

You had no right Kim to burn our son like some garbage. He was Catholic. Still is I guess. We told you no, but you did it any way.

KIM

I'm sorry. This was what he wanted.

Luke places his hand on Anne's.

LUKE

This was a selfish act. That's how we feel about it.

CHERYL

I understand your anger, but this was Kim's decision to make. What will you do with the ashes?

KIM

I don't know. It's a decision I never wanted to make.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. STAFF LUNCH ROOM - DAY - THE PRESENT

Kim is asleep in an armchair. A half eaten sandwich rests on her lap.

A MALE DOCTOR nudges at her arm.

MALE DOCTOR

Kim. Kim.

Kim comes to.

KIM

What?

MALE DOCTOR

Hurry up and eat your sandwich. We have a surgical debriefing in ten minutes.

Kim looks down at her lap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIM

Leave me alone.

The male doctor gives Kim a dirty look and walks out.

INT. WOMAN STAFF LOCKER ROOM - DAY - THE PRESENT

Kim sits alone in front of her locker. She stares at a pin up picture of Thomas.

She takes two antidepressant pills and closes the door.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kim sits on a curb. A CAR pulls up. It comes to a stop. Inside the car is Sharkey.

Kim gets into the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

KIM

Hey Sharkey. Thank you for picking me up.

SHARKEY

I'm on my sixth cup of coffee, and I thought my shifts were long.

KIM

Awe I'm sorry. I could have bussed it. Early night tonight?

Sharkey gives Kim a kiss.

SHARKEY

Well I should, but what's the fun in that? Two weeks I'm back at the patch. I want you for myself.

Sharkey and Kim kiss again more intimately.

INT. KIM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kim and Sharkey are in bed together. Sharkey is fast asleep, but Kim is still awake.

She leans over him and grabs a bottle of sleeping pills from her bed side drawer. She takes one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She falls back to sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Sharkey is making coffee for himself when a pile of past due utility notices catches his eye on the table. He quickly scans over them and puts it back.

Kim enters the kitchen in her bathrobe. She starts to massage Sharkey's back.

KIM

Can you make me breakfast?

SHARKEY

Oh ookay. Eggs and bacon?

KIM

All right.

Sharkey gets to work on breakfast. Kim notices the past due papers and quickly hides them in the drawer.

SHARKEY

You know, I make more than enough at the Oil patch. I can help out, if you need some help.

KIM

I make enough.

KIM CONT'D

Did you look through my mail?

SHARKEY

I glanced at it.

KIM

What we have. It's based on sex. Please don't get the wrong idea.

Sharkey sets up the table. He sits down and starts to eat.

KIM CONT'D

Thank you for the breakfast.

Sharkey tips his glass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHARKEY

To us.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Kim slams the door behind her that leads to the surgical room.

She angrily takes off her gloves and throws them into a biological hazard garbage dumpster.

The Male doctor comes out of the room behind her.

MALE DOCTOR

Hey Fowler you've done that procedure a hundred times. What the fuck happened?

Kim slams herself against the wall and sinks to her knees.

KIM

How could I be so fucking stupid?

MALE DOCTOR

Are you going to tell her or should I?

KIM

Yes. I said yes god damn it!

He storms away to the next call.

KIM

God damn me.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD, WAITING ROOM - DAY

In the emergency ward, a YOUNG WOMAN sits in silence. Her eyes roam the area. She looks like she's expecting bad news.

The woman wipes her nose with a clump of tissue paper. She looks dreadful.

Kim enters.

She kneels beside the woman and takes her hand. The woman embraces Kim, and cries.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIM

I'm sorry.

Kim struggles to hold back her tears and cradles the woman's head in her arms.

INT. WOMAN STAFF LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kim rummages through her locker. She finds that her bottle of Aropax is empty.

Kim touches her head as if she might faint. She pulls out a vial of white powder cocaine and quickly hides it in her white coat.

She looks around her.

INT. HOSPITAL MEDICAL SUPPLY ROOM - DAY

A birds eye view of a room full of glass cabinets. Kim pokes her head in the room.

She closes the door behind her and locks it.

She opens one cabinet door with a set of keys.

She grabs a bottle of Aropax and stashes it into her white coat.

Kim closes the door and sees her reflection.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY 1 YEAR AGO

Kim sits next to Thomas. His face is gaunt and his hair has fallen out.

She assists him with his medication.

THOMAS

You look beautiful today.

KIM

I have my moments. How do you feel?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

Like I'm losing. The morphine works well though. I can't feel the pain anymore.

KIM

Good. You're not suppose to.

THOMAS

Pain is a part of life. Learning to let go is the adjustment.

KIM

The same as yesterday, today and tomorrow.

She puts her hand on his.

THOMAS

Yes, the same as yesterday, today and tomorrow.

KIM

So that's it. You've given up?

Thomas nods his head. He takes off his Saint Christopher necklace and gives it to Kim.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL MEDICAL SUPPLY ROOM - DAY - PRESENT

Kim steps back and runs out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The clock on the wall spins fast until it reaches midnight.

INT. PATIENTS ROOM - NIGHT

A twenty something FEMALE PATIENT lies on her hospital bed. Kim carefully checks her body for tumors. She runs her fingers across her belly.

KIM

Try not to think about it. Talk about anything if you have to.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FEMALE PATIENT

When I was just a girl. My Oma taught me how to cook. It's all I wanted to do. Now I feed people for a living.

KIM

You have no regrets, good for you.

FEMALE PATIENT

Your fingers are cold.

KIM

I'm sorry.

FEMALE PATIENT

You look nervous are you nervous?

KIM

I'm feeling a bit under the weather.

FEMALE PATIENT

Should you be touching me?

KIM

I assure you I'm not contagious, but my humor is.

Kim forces a smile then ponders her own words.

KIM CONT'D

When I was a girl. I painted a red cross on my white lunch box. I would walk around the neighbourhood waiting for some one to get hurt so I could bandage them up. I thought it would make me popular.

FEMALE PATIENT

Did it work?

KIM

Yeah. Tomorrow you will have your results. Your organs appear to be fine. In the mean time get plenty of rest.

Kim walks towards the door.

FEMALE PATIENT

Doctor. Get well.

INT. KITCHEN - SUNSET

There is a glass of water with three small objects floating in them.

Kim sits at the table. She places the urn in front of her. In her other hand is pile of pictures.

She rests the pictures on the table in front of the urn in no particular order like a stack of cards.

KIM

I love you. I won't let you go.

Kim drinks some of the water in the glass.

From the kitchen window she watches the sun fade behind the horizon.

Kim closes her eyes.

The lid to the urn pops off.

Kim opens her eyes.

A light rises from the urn. A ball of light. It looks like a strobe light.

KIM

Thomas?

The ball lowers itself on a picture: Kim and Thomas standing next to a farmers field.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Kim stands in a empty field barefoot.

The field changes color: green, blue, red and orange. Balls of energy race from one end to the other. Kim tries to catch the energy fields.

Kim closes her eyes, then opens them

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kim looks at the clock on the wall it reads 10:30PM. She watches it and watches it. The clock doesn't change.

KIM V.O.

One, two, three, four...ten,
eleven, twelve...fifty, fifty
one... one hundred, one hundred
and two, two hundred... one
thousand, five thousand.

The clock reads 10:30PM.

The ball of light moves to another picture: Kim at her dance audition.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO - DAY

A mere spotlight shines on the floor. It cuts through the darkness of the room. Kim comes into view. She stands under the spotlight.

She just stands there, silhouettes of dancers move around her. Over and over again.

KIM

Stop!

The lights turn on. Kim sees bodies covered with bed sheets. She fights back her tears.

She accidentally trips over one BODY. The body gets up and walks out of the room. She touches a WOMAN. The same result.

She runs around the room touching body after body. THEY get up and walk out of the room.

There is one left.

She eagerly uncovers it. It's the urn.

KIM

No!

She sinks to her knees, grabs the urn and opens her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kim falls from her chair. She lands on top of the glass of water. Water splashes every where.

She watches the blood ooze from a deep cut in her arm. The blood is brilliant red like a gem stone.

Kim passes out.

Kim comes to. She stares at the pool of blood. She crawls towards the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kim opens the first aid kit and dumps the contents onto the floor.

She presses gauze on her wound and wraps it with a white towel. It stops the bleeding.

She laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

A lonely oil lamp shines through the darkness.

Kim drops the fire wood on the ground. She makes a fire with it.

Her tent is made just on the other side of the campfire.

Kim looks around. Not a single person or living creature insight.

FADE TO:

INT. TENT - DAY

Kim is huddled underneath a sleeping bag. Her body trembles from head to toe. Her face is covered with sweat.

Kim picks up her dairy. Her left arm is bandaged.

KIM V.O.
August fourteenth. My second day
out in the wilderness.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIM V.O. (CONT'D)

I have been detoxifying myself for the greater good. It's either come back a whole person, or die...

Kim attempts to drink a cup of water. She immediately pukes into a plastic bag.

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out her Saint Christopher necklace.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The camp fire is out. Kim shakes violently from sickness.

She holds onto her cell phone. The display screen shows it has no reception.

KIM

(very tired and weak)

Fuck. Come on you black piece of shit.

Kim struggles to get to her feet. She walks away from the camp. After 30 feet she collapses.

Success. One bar shows on her display screen. She dials.

SHARKEY O.S.

Hello.

KIM

(with a slur)

Baby it's me. I'm out in the wilderness. I need you to come get me.

SHARKEY O.S.

Where are you?

KIM

Bathesda Lake 20 minutes north of highway 14. Please hurry!

SHARKEY

What the christ are you doing there?!

KIM

For once trying to do the right thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The reception dies again, and the call is dropped. Kim loses consciousness.

Kim's body lies still on the forest floor.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Sharkey has a flash light in hand. He desperately looks for Kim but can't find her.

SHARKEY

Kim! Kim!.

He sees foot prints leading away from camp. He follows them until he sees Kim lying on the forest floor.

He picks her up and carries her back to his car.

EXT. SHARKEY'S CAR - NIGHT

Kim body lies in the back seat. Sharkey tries to focus on the road, but the night is dark and he can barely see the divider lines in front of him.

He struggles with fatigue but he presses on.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Return to Kim and Sharkey. They sit on the hood of the car.

Kim looks at Sharkey, and kisses him on the cheek.

SHARKEY

What now?

Kim grabs the urn from the car.

EXT. THE LAKE - DAY

Kim and Sharkey stand on a perch that over looks the lake.

She has the urn in hand. She screws off the lid and scatters the ashes into the water.

INT. SHARKEY'S CAR - DAY

Sharkey is driving and Kim stares at the passing landscape.

SHARKEY

I heard it's a nice little place.
Good atmosphere and people.

KIM

You don't have to sell me a bill
of goods. I know... this place is
for sick people... The truth. The
truth is I want to practice
medicine again. I want to help
people. If I need rehab to do it.
Then I'm checking in.

SHARKEY

What about us? For better or
worse?

Kim touches his cheek. She leans on his shoulder.

KIM

Today is a good day to go to
rehab.

Sharkey smiles.

FADE OUT.