

K I L L I N G K A T I E

By

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EXT. SUNSHINE MOTEL - MORNING

Dogshit Hollywood. A block littered with dingy motels.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

JOSEPH COSGROVE, 50's, face like he spent all night in a casino and lost, is sitting on the edge of a bed facing another man, NATE.

The only thing Nate is wearing is towel around his waist.

Joseph is uncomfortable because he's never said anything like this out loud before--

JOSEPH

--I... I want you to kill my wife.

NATE

Why?

Nate's accent hails from tough guy town. A child of the Vietnam era with a distinct king Cobra inked down his right arm.

JOSEPH

K-- Katie... and I... we're fighting-- all the time. My first wife, Emma, took everything. Pension. House. Savings. Dogs. Ruined my credit...

(beat)

I own a small investment company now. Not gonna have it stolen away by some blood sucking lawyer.

NATE

Does she have an insurance policy?

JOSEPH

No.

NATE

That's good. No smoking gun.

Nate picks up a pack of gum and offers Joseph a stick.

JOSEPH

No... thanks.

NATE

Did you know the military supply gum to soldiers because it helps to soothe nerves and relieve stress?

JOSEPH

Actually, yeah. Old man's a jarhead.

NATE

I like him already.

Nate offers again. Joseph takes one, puts it on the bed.

NATE

Bring the cheese?

JOSEPH

It's... it's in the car.

NATE

Why is it in the car?

JOSEPH

How... how do I know you're not a cop?

Nate waves a hand over his bare chest.

NATE

You see a wire? Or you think I take a shower at the start of every meeting?

JOSEPH

This... this whole room could be filled with hidden cameras?

Nate gestures around the room--

NATE

--Be my guest. But you just asked me to kill your wife, that's conspiracy right there.

Nate grabs a cell phone by his side and hits speed dial--

NATE

--Go for blue team, we got him!

Joseph springs to his feet--

JOSEPH

--What the...

But Nate nonchalantly drops the phone back onto his mattress.

NATE

I'm joking, dickwad. Sit down.

The joke stung though. Joseph sits, his feathers ruffled.

NATE

I'm too smart to be a cop because I do my homework. If I was a cop I wouldn't know that you bought a microwave dinner from Ralphs last night. That's after you stopped at the Shell on third to fill up and buy a Pepsi. Regular... in a can, not a bottle.

Joseph sits up - Nate commanding a shit ton more respect.

NATE

Do you trust the person who vouched for me?

Joseph... blink...

NATE

Do you trust--

JOSEPH

--Ye..yes. Yes.

NATE

Then you know I'm not a cop. Did you bring a copy of the front door key and a layout of the house like I asked?

Joseph plucks a key and scrap of paper out of his pocket, shows Nate.

Nate hands him a clear sandwich bag.

NATE

Put them in there.

Joseph takes the bag, slips the items in and hands them back.

NATE

Do you have any pets, I don't wanna roll up and start doing the tango with a ninety pound Rottweiler?

JOSEPH

Just a goldfish.

NATE
I can handle a goldfish. Any guns
in the house?

JOSEPH
No.

NATE
Security alarm?

JOSEPH
No.

NATE
Well after this... get one.

Joseph - unsure if Nate is attempting humor.

NATE
There are over six hundred home
invasions in L.A. County every
month, don't be a dumb fuck.

Apparently not.

Nate leans to a bedside table and opens a drawer taking out a
sandwich bag containing a cell phone and charger.

NATE
This is an unregistered phone I
bought from a Seven Eleven.

Throws it into Joseph's lap.

NATE
I have another.
(beat)
I've programmed my number into your
one. It's the only one. Double
check it by calling me now.

Joseph takes the phone out of the bag. A cheap flip phone.

Flips it and navigates the menu hitting "call".

A cell phone on Nate's bed starts RINGING.

NATE
Congratulations. You haven't
fucked up yet which leads me to
believe we can do this.

Joseph hangs up.

NATE

On the day of the job, I'll call you one hour before you go to work to confirm. Make sure your phone is switched on, charged, and that you're somewhere you can take the call.

(beat)

Immediately after we've spoken, destroy the phone. Some cells still triangulate even when they're switched off, so get rid of it.

(beat)

Did you pick a time you know she'll be home?

Joseph swallows - in the mouth of the wolf now.

JOSEPH

Next Wednesday. Between ten and eleven. Works mornings in an accountant's office, but Wednesdays are her day off.

NATE

I hated Wednesdays too, fucking hump day. Nice choice to take off.

(beat)

This is good, routine is good. I'll aim to be there at ten thirty, you'll be at work, correct?

Joseph nods.

NATE

Ensure you act normal. Laugh at people's jokes, dribble over the hot girl, don't let nerves give you away.

(beat)

Don't speak about this, don't send any emails, don't even tell the goldfish. I'll be long gone but you're the one who has to maintain face. Remember, the husband is always a suspect. Standard protocol. Just let the dust settle and after today we'll never meet again. Questions?

Joseph shifts his weight...

JOSEPH

Will, will it be with a gun?

NATE

I can handle the steel but a gun is too clean. If I pop her between the eyes it'll look exactly like a hit.

(beat)

She drowned. By slipping in the tub and hitting her head. Happens all the time. It's a terrible thing.

Joseph, mute with anxiety.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

KATIE COSGROVE sits up in her bed. She is petit. From behind you'd think she was just a school girl.

The other side of the bed hasn't been slept in.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Katie topples against a sink and suddenly VOMITS into it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

Skyscrapers.

EXT. COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - MORNING

SECURITY CAMERA POV - As it monitors Joseph's SUV drive into an underground parking lot.

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

CEO plush, but it isn't quite Microsoft.

Joseph is sitting behind his desk toying with the flip-phone.

Eyes a photo of himself and Katie - happy times on a yacht.

Suddenly his door is swiftly pushed open and a zombie in his thirties, DANIEL, swaggers in with a wad of envelopes. Two dead eyes denote a man bored in life.

But there is something more. He is scruffy with a lack of pride for his workplace.

JOSEPH

I told you to knock...

But Daniel sniggers and throws a bunch of envelopes onto Joseph's desk. Turns away and leaves as another colleague, MICHAEL, ducks in.

JOSEPH
(dull)
--Good morning.

MICHAEL
Nothing good about this morning my friend.

Joseph shoots Michael a look, asking for more.

MICHAEL
Fucking insurance only covering half of my father's surgery. I gotta cough up the rest.

JOSEPH
You're kidding?

MICHAEL
Wish I was.

Michael nonchalantly places a document down on the desk.

MICHAEL
Need your John Hancock here.
(beat)
How you two doing anyway? 'D' for divorce still in the picture?

INT. ACCOUNTING OFFICE, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - DAY

Joseph paces before WALTER WALLACE, his chief accountant.

WALTER
We can't justify another pay-rise Joe. They'll all want one.

JOSEPH
So I'll take a haircut.
(beat)
He's got a newborn. He's a good kid. I wanna help him.

Walter almost chokes.

WALTER
If only we all had friends like you.

EXT. NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

The end of a school day. We favor a parked Saab.

INT. KATIE'S SAAB - STATIONARY

Katie is sitting at the wheel with tears streaming down her cheeks.

A flustered super mom, JENNIFER, approaches the Saab's back door, pops it and helps her six year old daughter, MARIA, in.

JENNIFER
 (to Katie)
 Thanks for meeting us. We should
 have the car back tomorrow.

Katie quickly wipes her eyes.

KATIE
 No... no problem.

JENNIFER
 (noticing)
 You okay?

KATIE
 I'm fine. Just a bad headache.

Katie winks at little Maria.

KATIE
 Hey, sweetie.

EXT. DRIVEWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph parks his SUV next to Katie's Saab.

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Joseph closes the front door, leans down to a phone table and grabs an address book, opening it.

CLOSE ON ADDRESS BOOK: Hand written phone numbers.

He grabs a pen and slips the phone Nate gave him from his pocket, flipping it to display Nate's number.

In the address book he scribbles down the words, ASSET
 MANAGER, followed by Nate's digits.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Joseph shuffles into the room to find Katie laying on the sofa with a mask over her eyes.

JOSEPH
You awake?

KATIE
No.

JOSEPH
Another headache?

KATIE
No, eye masks are all the rage.

Joseph shrugs her off. Sits at the dining table raising the lid of a laptop.

JOSEPH
Have you fed the fish?

KATIE
No, I'm slowly starving it.

She slips her mask off but catches Joseph curiously glancing into the bowl.

KATIE
What, you don't trust me?

JOSEPH
What happened to buying the bigger bowl I asked you about?

KATIE
I will. I haven't had time yet.

JOSEPH
I asked you weeks ago.
(beat)
I'm working sixty hours a week, how are we gonna be happy again if I can't even ask you to do one - simple - thing - rather than laying around on your ass all day!?

KATIE
I had another migraine--

JOSEPH
--Well go to the doctor.

KATIE
I've been to the doctor.

JOSEPH
So go again! Jesus, I feel like a
broken record here...

Joseph retreats back to his computer screen but Katie can't quite let it go.

KATIE
And to think you wanted to start
sharing the same bed again.

Joseph suddenly scoops his laptop up with both hands and SLAMS it down onto the table top, BAM, cracking the screen--

JOSEPH
--Goddamn it!

KATIE
Great. You've broken it.

JOSEPH
(ignoring)
Yes, three weeks ago I did wanna
start sleeping together, in the
same bed as my wife, but now...
fuck it, I'm better off in the
guest room!

Katie springs to her feet.

KATIE
Screw the guest room, lets just do
each other a favor and get on with
a fucking divorce, I'd rather be
dead than married to impatient,
selfish, ignoramus!

JOSEPH
Fine!

KATIE
And you know what else!

She bolts to her feet and charges over to the fish bowl violently grabbing it--

KATIE
--I'll fix this... right, now!

JOSEPH
What are you--

--She storms over to a patio door that overlooks the backyard and fiercely slides it open...

EXT. BACKYARD

Katie marches toward a swimming pool, and as she nears it, throws the entire goldfish bowl into it --

-- SPLOOOOSHMMMM! Joseph dashes out behind her.

JOSEPH

No!

KATIE

Big enough?!

Katie barrels back inside. Joseph grabs a net and tries to scoop the goldfish out.

FADE OUT:

SUPER:

wednesday

INT. GUEST BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Joseph, wide awake, is laying in bed with bags under his eyes.

A digital clock BLARES OUT: 6:50am

INT. BATHROOM

Joseph vigorously brushing his teeth.

INT. KITCHEN

Katie, wearing a bathrobe, is standing with her back to us doing some ironing and talking on the phone.

KATIE

It'll be okay, don't over think it.

Joseph saunters into the room wearing his office attire.

Katie can see his reflection in a window.

KATIE

I gotta go, I'll talk to you later.

Hangs up and continues ironing.

JOSEPH

Little early for phone calls.

KATIE

Not in New York.

Joseph nods. Considers something.

JOSEPH

Look. I've said some things lately
that I'm not very proud of. I'm...
I'm sorry.

(testing)

I-- love you.

But it's not enough.

JOSEPH

Sometimes I wonder how we got here.

KATIE

You deceived me... that's how we
got here.

(beat)

How did you ever expect this
marriage to work when it was built
on deceit?

Her voice haunts him.

EXT. PORCH

Joseph closes the front door. Hard to believe she'll be dead
by lunchtime.

EXT. ECHO PARK - MORNING

Joseph, holding the flip phone, is standing at the edge of a
lake. The phone starts RINGING - he flips it, puts it to ear--

JOSEPH

--Hello?

NATE (V.O.)

Are we good?

Joseph with the kind of face you never forget.

JOSEPH
Yes. We're good.

NATE
10.30am.

CLICK - the line goes dead.

INT. HONDA, STATIONARY - SAME

Nate lowers his own flip phone and bends it backwards, SNAPPING it in half. He is sitting in a Honda where the passenger window has been smashed out.

Turns a screwdriver that is jammed into the ignition and starts the engine.

EXT. ECHO PARK - SAME

Joseph takes a deep breath, swings his arm back and hurls the flip phone out into the lake - PLOP.

INT. ELEVATOR, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

Disney Music. Joseph riding the elevator.

INT. OFFICE KITCHEN, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

CLOSE ON: A clock on a wall - 8:14am and ticking.

Joseph looks down from the clock and stoops over a water dispenser just as Michael bowls in with a smile as wide as the grand canyon.

Excitedly holds up a paycheck.

MICHAEL
Thank. You. So. Much.

Joseph feigns glee.

Act normal.

Act normal.

Act normal.

JOSEPH
You're welcome.

A man hug.

MICHAEL

Listen. Springsteen is playing next Thursday. I got two tickets but I want you to have 'em... you could take Katie--

JOSEPH

--No, no, that's not nec...

MICHAEL

--Bullshit! You just saved my ass. I know you two are having problems but who knows... maybe it'll help.

Joseph considers it. *Not really a possibility.*

MICHAEL

--C'mon, when's the last time you surprised her?

But something suddenly dawns on Joseph.

JOSEPH

Okay. Deal. I'll surprise her.

MICHAEL

Boom!

Fist bump.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

Corporate America sitting around oakwood. Michael is making a presentation. Joseph is one of the SUITS on the receiving end, but he is not really listening...

WE HEAR WHAT JOSEPH HEARS: Michael's voice is a deep, dull drone.

Joseph checks his watch: 08:31am

INT. STAFF CAFETERIA

Joseph is sitting at a table with some of the OFFICE BOYS.

Everyone is shooting the shit, but Joseph gazes up at another clock - 9:09am.

Looks at his donut. Must eat. Must be normal.

INT. RESTROOM

SOUND of someone vomiting inside a stall.

INT. WAITING ROOM, DOCTOR'S OFFICE - SAME

Katie is sitting reading a magazine.

INT. DOCTOR CONNOR'S OFFICE - SAME

Doctor Connor takes a seat behind his desk, Katie sitting before him.

DOCTOR CONNOR
So, Katie. How have you been?

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

Joseph at his desk, fidgeting like a motherfucker.

Eyes the time on his computer display: 9:42am - *only 48 minutes until he is a widow.*

Suddenly his land-line BUZZES, he grabs it--

JOSEPH
--This is Joe.

Caught off guard.

JOSEPH
My wife? Yes, put her on.

Another line connects.

JOSEPH
Katie?

KATIE (V.O.)
Joe?

She sounds tearful.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION: Katie is sitting in her bedroom on the edge of the bed - tears streaming.

JOSEPH
What's wrong?

KATIE

I... I was up early... because I had an appointment with a Doctor and I couldn't sleep.

Joseph is all ears.

KATIE

I have a... tumor.

JOSEPH

What? W-- where?

KATIE

In my head. It's been causing the migraines.

JOSEPH

Wh-- what... I mean... they can do something, right?

KATIE

They think they caught it early enough, but I probably have to have an operation. There is a risk.

Joseph is floored.

KATIE

I... I love you too. I'm sorry I ignored you. I don't wanna get a divorce, I wanna make this work, I really wanna try and make this work again.

JOSEPH GOES RIGID.

KATIE

I think we should adopt, Joe. If I get through this, I think that's what we should do.

(beat)

Can you come home, I really need to be with you right now.

Joseph falls back in his chair for a moment--

--Until the situation comes rocketing back to him--

JOSEPH

--I'm on my way!

INT. MAILROOM

Joseph bowls in - a lone CLERK stacking boxes--

JOSEPH
--Dan, where's Dan!

CLERK
He's doing the mail round.

JOSEPH
Fuck!

Joseph slips his phone out, navigates to a number and hits send, but --

-- A cell phone on a desk next to him starts RINGING.

CLERK
(re: ringing phone)
That's Danny.

JOSEPH
Fuck!!

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE

Joseph steams back to his desk and grabs the land-line.

INT. BATHROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - SAME

SOUND of the land-line RINGING--

--But Katie is facing a mirror, toweling tears from her eyes.

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

Joseph hangs up. Checks the time. INSERT: 10:06am

JOSEPH
Fuck!

Dials another number...

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Katie's purse is on the bottom step of the stairs. Inside, her iPhone is VIBRATING...

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE

Joseph hangs up.

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV

Joseph thunders through a stop sign holding, phone to ear.

JOSEPH
Dan, where the fuck are you!

INT. COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - SAME

Daniel is wheeling a mail cart through the office.

JOSEPH (V.O.)
--I need you to call Nate and call
him off, something came up and I've
lost his number, just call him off--

--Daniel stops at Joseph's empty office. Opens the door and
throws some envelopes onto the desk.

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV

Joseph floors the gas pedal; SUV clock showing 10:13am.

Joseph taps another phone number.

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Inside Katie's purse her iPhone is VIBRATING again.

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDNG SUV

Joseph weaves through traffic.

JOSEPH
--Katie, it's me, I need the number
of an "asset manager", it's in the
address book--

--But he suddenly swerves - ERRCCHHHHH, almost crashing.

JOSEPH
JESUS, FUCK!

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

CLOSE ON: An answer machine as Joseph's voice crackles--

JOSEPH

--It's me, pick up, you gotta get out of the house, you gotta get out of the house, go next door, go to work, you gotta get out...

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV

Joseph on his phone--

JOSEPH

...Call me as soon as you--

--But suddenly - the blast of a SIREN cuts him off --

-- an L.A.P.D motorcycle riding alongside him.

EXT. JOSEPH'S SUV - STATIONARY

Joseph has pulled his SUV over. The MOTORCYCLE OFFICER is writing him a ticket.

The Motorcycle Officer looks at his watch and writes the time on the ticket:

CLOSE ON TICKET: 10:28am

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV

Joseph guns his SUV down a street, phone to his ear--

JOSEPH (V.O.)

--Come on, come on!

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

The land-line is RINGING again. This time, puffy eyed Katie crosses into the room and picks up--

KATIE

--Hello.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Katie!

KATIE

Joe?

--But oddly... Katie hears the floor CREAK behind her.

She turns... to find a MAN dressed in black and with a ski-mask over his head--

--SCREAMS.

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV

Joseph hears her--

JOSEPH

--No!

But the line goes dead.

EXT. DRIVEWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Joseph's SUV ROARS up outside the house -- white Honda with the smashed window parked next to Katie's Saab...

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV, STATIONARY

Joseph urgently pops the glove box and grabs something...

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Joseph blasts through the front door.

JOSEPH

Katie!

SOUND of RUNNING WATER... FROM UPSTAIRS.

Joseph double times it up to the--

TOP OF THE STAIRS

Joseph rushes for a door KICKING it open...

INT. BATHROOM

Katie is naked -- in the tub -- floating on her back -- a bloody head wound -- taps running at full speed--

JOSEPH

--NO!

But suddenly -- the tip of a golf club CRACKS him on the back of the head -- BWAK!

He falls like a tree, WUMP...

...Stunned... but still conscious...

...Rolls onto his back -- eyes centering on the masked man, NATE -- who is holding a nine iron.

NATE

What the are you...

But before Nate can utter more --

-- Joseph surges to his feet and jabs a TASER into Nate's chest -- ZZZzzzzz...

Nate's body SPASMS -- he drops the golf club as his legs buckle.

He slumps sideways, falling into the tub at Katie's feet --

-- But the water revives him -- and --

-- He THRUSTS his legs out KICKING the Taser from Joseph's hand --

-- Joseph leaps at him shoving Nate's head under the water--

JOSEPH

--What have you done!

As they struggle, Katie's head bobs and she suddenly HEAVES for breath... hands clawing at the rim of the tub --

-- But at her feet -- Nate lashes out at Joseph -- a tornado of splashing fists--

--One of them catches Joseph in the eye, WHAM!

Joseph reels...

Nate rises and executes a flurry of punches, BAM--BAM--BAM... POUNDING Joseph down into the water...

Nate SLAMS Joseph's head into the wall tiles -- brutal...

As they fight, Katie hauls herself out of the tub and drops to the floor with a THUD...

Hands and knees away...

Overpowered and outgunned, Joseph's head is pushed under the water, until --

-- Nate's foot slips on the porcelain, he loses his balance...

Joseph rises -- lurches and HEADBUTTS Nate with all his might, FOOOMP!

Nate is shaken...

Joseph capitalizes -- throws himself at Nate, battering him back into the water.

Joseph -- both hands around Nate's neck, drives his head under --

-- Nate THRASHES -- but Joseph is heavier -- and probably stronger when it comes to the crunch.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Katie, holding a phone, punches those three famous digits...

INT. BATHROOM

BUBBLES from Nate's mouth...

Joseph finds the strength of a thousand men.

JOSEPH

I... tried... to... stop... you...

Nate's hands flap around for something -- anything --

-- Trying to reach for his leg -- maybe his ankle...

But Joseph has the upper hand.

Nate's eye's BULGE through his ski mask...

Arms weaken - breaks his grip on Joseph's sleeves...

KICKS out again...

GASPS. GURGLES.

BUBBLES.

And then... stillness.

Joseph lets him go.

Nate floats.

Rips the mask off.

Empty eyes...

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Joseph rushes in dropping to his knees next to Katie.

Glass on the floor, the mirror in her makeup table smashed...

JOSEPH
Oh, God, oh, God!

She is barely conscious... a bloody mess in her hair.

Still has the phone in her hand, 911 OPERATOR'S VOICE crackling through--

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
--Police and ambulance are on route
Ma'am.

Joseph grabs the phone.

JOSEPH
Please! My wife, come quick...

But he suddenly stalls -- as something haunts him.

INT. BATHROOM

Joseph steams back inside and drops down beside the tub.

Frantically runs his hands up and down Nate's pockets, pulling out the front door key.

SIRENS...

INT. PORCH

LOUDER SIRENS...

Joseph races out of the house and into the road waving his arms.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE CAR, STATIONARY - AFTERNOON

Joseph is sitting in the back of a Police Car opposite his house.

JOSEPH'S POV OUTSIDE: More Police Cars and an ambulance.

A FEMALE OFFICER approaches Joseph's window.

FEMALE OFFICER
E.M.T's are still with her. Gonna
move her any minute.

INT. BATHROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

DETECTIVE BILL WALKER is in his late fifties and the type of guy where nothing keeps him awake at night -- but you can be damn sure he keeps bad guys awake.

He eyes the crime scene. The tub has been drained.

Squats at Nate's body.

SNAPS latex gloves on and runs a hand over Nate's black shirt and down his combat pants to his foot. A lump at the ankle.

Lifts the hem of Nate's pants to show an ankle holster concealing a short range revolver.

INT. POLICE CAR - STATIONARY

Joseph's phone starts RINGING.

He takes it out of his pocket and eyes the screen:

DAN

Lets it RING until it stops.

But SUDDENLY --

-- He jolts upright. Fear strikes him.

Raises his phone and stabs in a number.

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Detective Walker is edging through the kitchen.

On a counter, a red light on an answer-phone is blinking.

INT. POLICE CAR

Joseph urgently taps a four digit code into his phone.

AUTOMATED VOICE
Messages erased.

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Beside Detective Walker - the answer-phone light stops blinking.

INT. POLICE CAR

Joseph glances out as Katie is carried to the ambulance on a stretcher. The Police Officer up front pivots back.

POLICE OFFICER
We'll follow behind.

But Joseph looks down at his phone and another mental alarm bell goes off--

JOSEPH
--Wait!

Pops his door open and...

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Hustles toward the house approaching a POLICE OFFICER on the front door.

POLICE OFFICER
Sir, it's an active crime scene--

JOSEPH
--I'm going to the hospital, I need to get some things.

POLICE OFFICER
I understand, but--

JOSEPH

--Blood pressure pills, I need my pills. I gotta have 'em.

The Police Officer meets him halfway.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay. I'll get 'em myself, just tell me where?

Past the Police Officer, Joseph spots Katie's purse on the bottom of the stairs.

JOSEPH

Kitchen cabinet. Above the sink.

As soon as the Officer is out of sight, Joseph puts a foot into the house -- reaches inside Katie's purse and pulls out her iPhone.

Enters her passcode and thumbs the voicemail icon, deleting the latest one - from himself. Drops it back into the purse.

EXT. LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A Station Wagon with three adults inside SCREECHES up.

INT. KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Katie, hooked up to a heart monitor, is asleep.

A patch of hair has been shaved and replaced with a bandage.

Joseph is sitting at the foot of the bed.

EXT. HALLWAY, KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Two Women and a Man are standing before DR. WILLIAMS.

One of the women is FIONA, Katie's younger sister.

Bearing up next to her is MARTIN, Katie's father. HILLARY is Katie's well-to-do-mother, but she is currently living every well-to-do-mother's worst nightmare.

DR. WILLIAMS

She suffered a cut and a nasty bump but that's about it. Damage is probably going to be more psychological than physical.

The family breathe easy.

DR. WILLIAMS

This does change things regarding her tumor though. It's benign, but we'll need to expedite surgery to avoid a build up of any extra skull pressure caused by the trauma.

HILLARY

--Wait, what?
(beat)
What tumor?

Dr. Williams exhales. Big news.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An ABC news truck parked outside, a REPORTER yapping into camera.

An old, BLACK MUSTANG with dark windows crawls past.

EXT. LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Opposite the entrance, the BLACK MUSTANG is parked.

Joseph bowls out of the hospital entrance clutching his cell phone as Daniel gets out of the Mustang--

JOSEPH

--Are you outta your mind, I told you her parents are here--

DANIEL

--Mind explaining what went down!?
(beat)
I switch the news on to find Nate's been iced and they're calling you a fuckin' hero--

JOSEPH

--I tried to call him off!

DANIEL

Funny that when I hooked you and Nate up... you forgot to mention that Katie was the bullseye.

JOSEPH

You think I'm gonna have a village meeting about it!?

DANIEL

And you think you're just gonna pick up and carry on?

(beat)

Me and Nate did a five stretch, asshole! He even took heat for me, helped me make parole, and now you put him in the fuckin' bone yard.

Joseph tightens as Daniel leans closer.

DANIEL

Worse. He owed me for some shit, so guess what?

(beat)

You rubbed him out, you're paying his dues.

JOSEPH

I already paid you.

DANIEL

But he didn't. Seventy five.

(beat)

And way I see it, you don't got much choice--

--Daniel takes out his cell phone. Taps a button and holds it up as Joseph's voice crackles out--

JOSEPH'S VOICEMAIL

--Dan, it's me, where the fuck are you. I need you to call Nate and call him off, something's come up and I've lost his number, just call him off.

The blood drains from Joseph's face. Daniel turns back to his Mustang as Joseph spits venom.

JOSEPH

After all I've done for you! Without me... you wouldn't even have a fuckin' job--

DANIEL

--It's just business, cuz. You're a company man, you understand.

(beat)

I got a kid, how the fuck am I supposed to support a family on your chump change?

JOSEPH
Should'a thought of that before
starting chopping cars.

DANIEL
Easy for you to say, college boy.
(beat)
Seventy five. Three days.

Daniel gets into his Mustang and SLAMS the door. Switches the engine on and ROARS away, VROOMMMMMMMMMM.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

Martin's Station Wagon is parked in the lot.

INT. JOSEPH'S HOTEL ROOM

Joseph is sitting on a bed in the same way he conspired with Nate except this time he is facing Martin, Hillary and Fiona.

JOSEPH
She called and told me about the
tumor. When I got home, I saw the
broken window in the door so I
grabbed the Taser...

EXT. BALCONY, HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

Through a window - Joseph continues explaining to his family.

INT. JOSEPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

A digital clock reads: 3:02am. Joseph is wide awake.

INT. KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM, LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL - MORNING

Katie is laying in bed with her eyes open.

On one side, Hillary, Fiona and Martin, and on the other side, Joseph is holding her hand.

KATIE
(to Fiona)
How do I look, sis?

FIONA
(re: bald patch)
I like your new haircut.

Katie smiles. Slowly twists her head to Joseph.

KATIE

Thank you.

JOSEPH

Stop saying that.

She tightens her grip on his hand.

INT. WAITING ROOM

Fiona sits down in a chair with a newspaper.

Unfolds it to find a photo of Joseph on the front page followed by the headline: HERO HUSBAND

INT. DR. WILLIAM'S OFFICE - MORNING

Dr. Williams is sitting behind his desk, Joseph, Martin and Hillary on the other side.

MARTIN

Please, just level with us. What's the risk here?

DR. WILLIAMS

Katie's tumor is still young. The procedure won't need to be overly invasive.

Dr. Williams slides a paper laden clipboard to them.

DR. WILLIAMS

Having said that, surgery near the brain is always risky. Katie has signed the form but it requires dual signatures... ensuring absolute clarity in the authorization of the procedure.

(beat)

A parent or spouse would be legally acceptable.

Martin and Joseph eye the clipboard like it's some sort of death warrant.

But Joseph grabs it and signs on the dotted line.

JOSEPH

Anything to get her better.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR SLAMS a truck door shut.

The truck pulls away as an unmarked Lincoln rolls up and parks. Detective Walker gets out.

INT. LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL CAFE - AFTERNOON

Joseph, Martin, Hillary and Fiona are sat around a table.

JOSEPH

If only I'd have got home sooner...

Hillary cups Joseph's hand.

HILLARY

You didn't know, Joe.

(beat)

The good Lord'll see us through.

MARTIN

You saved her life.

Joseph, glum, gazes past Martin... to Fiona... but what he sees unsettles him.

Fiona is staring the life out of him, hostile, as if she knows something.

Joseph deflects.

JOSEPH

(ala Nate)

There are over six hundred home invasions in Los Angeles county every month.

(beat)

I'm gonna get an alarm system installed. When she comes home, I want her to feel safe.

MARTIN

Hell, we'll all get one.

But the family are suddenly distracted by a MAN in his late fifties who steps up to their table. Starvation skinny - but not because he smokes, because he's led a fit life.

His name is SCOTT.

SCOTT
(to Joseph)
Son.

Joseph gets to his feet and hugs him. He has a tattoo of an eagle on his sagging bicep, the mark of a U.S Ranger.

SCOTT
Took the first flight I could get.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - SAME

Detective Walker has a cell phone to his ear.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Inform the family they can return.
Thank you.

He hangs up and steps out of the room.

INT. LANDING

Detective Walker takes one last look around. Turns to a guest room and pushes the door open.

Peers inside. Those eyes. Something stirs their interest.

The guest room has been occupied. Bed is messed up - shirts, ties and other men's clothing draped around the room.

INT. KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM, LAKE COUNTY - EVENING

Katie is sipping water.

Martin, Hillary and Fiona are sitting in chairs on one side of the bed, Fiona holding Katie's hand.

Joseph is sitting on the other side, Scott sitting at the foot of the bed.

Katie hands the water to Joseph, who takes it.

JOSEPH
That's it, you gotta go dry now.

Katie nods and eyes Scott.

KATIE
Thank you for coming. Alice would've been proud of him.

SCOTT
Proud of both of you.

Scott stands up taking a ring sized box out of his pocket.

SCOTT
I brought you something.

He flips the lid to show her a military medal.

KATIE
Your bronze star?

SCOTT
You wanted to see it, but you can
keep it. I'm giving it to you.

He walks around and places it on Katie's bedside table.

KATIE
I can't keep that.

SCOTT
It's awarded for bravery. You most
certainly can.

Joseph smiles. Nicely done.

INT. MARTIN'S STATION WAGON - MOVING - NIGHT

Martin is driving, Hillary next to him.

In the back, Fiona is squeezed between Scott and Joseph.
Seems uncomfortable. Scott drapes an arm around her.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph is sitting at the dining table with his father.

JOSEPH
I drowned a man with my bare hands.

SCOTT
Not a man. A monster.

Joseph nods. Feels better.

SCOTT
Don't worry about the surgery.
We've been here before, remember?

JOSEPH

Mom had liver cancer... this is on the brain.

SCOTT

But look how many surgeries she went through? Katie faces one.

Joseph nods. Gets to his feet.

JOSEPH

Sure you're okay on the sofa.

SCOTT

I love the sofa. Reminds me of when your mother was around.

Joseph snickers.

JOSEPH

She does that to me too when I've had too many.

STAIRS

Joseph, holding a glass of water, reaches the top of the stairs.

Pauses, spotting Martin on his hands and knees in the master bedroom, scrubbing Katie's blood off the carpet with a bucket and sponge.

Hillary makes the sign of the Holy cross against her chest.

INT. OPERATING THEATRE, HOSPITAL - DAY

MONTAGE;

Katie having a cat-scan.

CLOSE UP of the tumor on an X-RAY

Katie with an oxygen mask over her mouth - anesthesia pumped in...

Katie's eyes closing

The bright lights of an operating room

Two SURGEONS behind Katie

SOUND of cranium drills boring holes into Katie's skull

Joseph, Scott, Martin, Hillary and Fiona in the waiting room

A Surgeon working a cutting tool inside Katie's head

Katie's E.C.G.

Concerned expressions on the Surgeon's faces - blood soaked gloves.

INT. WAITING ROOM - AFTERNOON

One of Katie's Surgeons, now in clean scrubs, pushes through a set of double doors and faces the room full of anxiety--

SURGEON

--Success!

Fiona and Hillary hug. Martin and Joseph beam and back pat.

INT. KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Katie is sitting up in bed with a bandage around her head.

Joseph, Scott, Martin, Hillary and Fiona are sitting around her.

KATIE

(to Joseph)

I wanna go home.

JOSEPH

Whoa, slow down baby. Soon.

Despite the pain, she smiles.

DR. RUBEN(V.O.)

Mr. Cosgrove, I'm a therapist and I work with victims of violent crime on behalf of the L.A.P.D.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Joseph is walking with a woman who would probably wear a suit to Disneyland. She is DR. RUBEN.

DR. RUBEN

Often we find that victims of violent crime pay a mental price.

Joseph listens.

DR. RUBEN

As Katie's husband, you'll play the biggest part in her rehabilitation.

Joseph nods.

DR. RUBEN

And to help you both deal with this, I'd like you to come to my office, together, twice a week, for what we call some aftermath sessions. How does that sound?

Joseph stops walking.

JOSEPH

Sounds like a plan. Thank you.

Joseph's cell phone starts RINGING. He takes it out and checks the screen.

JOSEPH

(to Dr. Ruben)

Excuse me.

INT. DETECTIVE WALKER'S OFFICE, POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Clinical clean. No post-its and no files or pictures on the walls. No need, because Detective Walker simply remembers everything.

A glass topped table and a laptop mark everything. Detective Walker is sitting on the business side, Joseph opposite him.

DETECTIVE WALKER

I'm glad she's in the clear.

JOSEPH

Can't wait to come home. Doesn't even wanna go to the rehab centre.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Women and hospitals go together like toothpaste and orange juice. My own wife was hit by a car and had both her legs broken, and even then... she wanted out.

JOSEPH

Woah. Hope... she was okay.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 She suffered some other
 complications... and eventually...

Joseph is unhinged.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 It's okay.
 (beat)
 She was an officer too. I like to
 think I work twice as hard now.
 For myself... and for Karen.

A Detective with a hard-on for justice - the last thing
 Joseph needs.

Detective Walker reads from his laptop.

DETECTIVE WALKER
*Wayne Warner. Ex military, did six
 years for misconduct. Punched a
 civilian so hard a tooth had to be
 removed from his lung.*
 (beat)
*A man with a temper and a problem
 with authority. No job since
 release from prison, probably short
 on money and resorted to a burglary
 lifestyle.*

News to Joseph.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 This man was beyond dangerous.
 Seems you got home just in time.

Joseph nods. It seems he did.

INT. CORRIDOR, POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Detective Walker is showing Joseph to the door.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 I'm curious about the status of
 your relationship with Katie. How
 is it?

Joseph tiptoes.

JOSEPH
 It's.. it's fine.

DETECTIVE WALKER
But you've been sleeping
separately?

Joseph pauses. *Shit!*

JOSEPH
Yeah we've... had a few issues
lately, been giving each other a
little space, that's all.

DETECTIVE WALKER
So... it isn't fine then?

JOSEPH
Well... she likes sleeping on her
own, complains I'm always hogging
the covers...

Curious eyes from Detective Walker.

EXT. LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL - EVENING

Joseph parks his SUV next to Martin's Station Wagon.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - STATIONARY

Joseph stares at the foreboding hospital building, the weight
of the world on his shoulders.

His phone starts RINGING. Takes it out and checks the
screen: DAN

He hangs it up.

INT. KATIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Katie is sleeping. Joseph sitting one side of her - Fiona
the other side. There is an obvious elephant in the room.

Fiona spots an opening--

FIONA
--Katie never wants to cause mom
any stress, you know... since mom
had the pacemaker put in.
(beat)
Scared any extra stress'll somehow
cause it to short out. Stupid
really.

(MORE)

FIONA (cont'd)

(beat)

She talks to me though.

She stares Joseph down -- challenging.

FIONA

I'm grateful for what you did...
but I know that you're having
problems.

JOSEPH

Everyone has problems.

FIONA

She told me the other day... that
you smashed her laptop screen.

Joseph pulls a face.

JOSEPH

She exaggerated.

Battles to suppress his voice in front of his sleeping wife.

JOSEPH

I dropped it. It was an accident.

FIONA

You dropped it?

(beat)

So... she lied to me?

Joseph quickly eyes Katie - hopes that she really is
sleeping.

JOSEPH

She exaggerated... Jesus Christ...
yes we had some problems but we're
getting over them, even had a date
at the Springsteen concert--

FIONA

--I also know that you're the one
who caused the problems.

Joseph desperately needs a counter. Finds an angle.

JOSEPH

What is this? Hardly the person to
start criticizing our marriage, eh?

Ouch - that hurt her. But--

FIONA

--It's because I'm divorced that I'm bringing this up. I can see the signs.

Joseph feels her sincerity.

FIONA

You didn't tell Katie before you got married that you couldn't have kids. The 'real' reason your first marriage broke down.

May as well have just kicked him in the balls.

JOSEPH

She never even wanted kids when we--

FIONA

--But she changed her mind, Joe! She's allowed to do that.

JOSEPH

No thanks to you! She was fine until you started pushing them out and bringing them over--

FIONA

You're infertile! And you hid it from her because you already got burned by it once--

JOSEPH

--She had no right discussing tha--

FIONA

--She had every right, she's my sister!

JOSEPH

We... we could've adopted--

FIONA

--Adoption isn't for everyone.

Joseph is stonewalled.

FIONA

How long did you pretend trying for a baby?

(beat)

Before you told her?

He can't win - screwed if he answers, screwed if he doesn't.

FIONA

You left her... to think that she was the one who had the problem... right up until you went to a doctor... even though you already knew--

JOSEPH

I made a mistake alright! But we're getting through it.

Fiona can tell she has reached the limit, eases off the gas.

FIONA

Good. I just hope that when she recovers from all this, she'll be able to explain her, 'exaggerations' in more detail.

Joseph smolders.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph is laying in bed. Wide awake but drunk with fatigue.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, LAKE COUNTY - DAY

Katie is sitting upright, sipping from a cup of soup, Martin and Hillary standing at the foot of the bed.

KATIE

I've been craving soup.

HILARY

(light hearted)
Maybe you're pregnant!

Katie smiles it off. Poor choice of joke. If only she knew.

Katie turns to Joseph and Fiona who are sitting beside her also smiling the bad joke off. Way off.

KATIE

(to Joseph)
Where's your dad?

JOSEPH

Fixing the bathroom up.

KATIE

Always the soldier.

But before she can take another sip, the door is abruptly opened and Daniel steps in holding a bunch of flowers--

--Joseph springs to his feet.

Katie's gut twists like a corkscrew - maybe even a little frightened now.

JOSEPH
What the Hell do you want!?

DANIEL
Family's family. Heard about it at
the office.
(to Katie)
I know we've had our differences,
but just wanted to wish you well.

Awkwardly places the flowers on the end of her bed, Joseph's eyes drilling holes into him.

MARTIN
And... you are--

JOSEPH
(to everyone)
--Just someone I work with.

DANIEL
Ah, don't be so distant cuz, I know
I mean more to you than that.

We can almost see the vein in Joseph's neck about to pop.

KATIE
(to her parents)
This... is Daniel... Joe's cousin.

Alarm bells start ringing through the family.

DANIEL
(to everyone)
Pleased to finally meet y'all.
(to Katie)
Pretty close call. Lucky Joe got
back when he did.

HILLARY
We're extremely thankful.

Daniel stares Joseph dead in the face.

DANIEL

If it wasn't for Joe, who knows
what could'a happened.

(to Katie)

You're very lucky to have him.

Joseph wants to gouge his eyes out.

DANIEL

Cell not working? I been calling?

Daniel turns to the doorway and makes tracks.

KATIE

That was weird.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Crickets.

INT. LIVING ROOM

A banner draped across a clean and tidy living room:

WELCOME HOME

INT. KITCHEN

Flowers.

INT. HALLWAY

A new alarm panel is bolted to the wall - blinking red light.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Martin's Station Wagon sweeps up onto the driveway.

Joseph hops out of the front and opens the rear door -
gently guiding Katie out, a bandage around her head.

Katie gazes at her house. Her eyes well up.

JOSEPH

It's okay.

But as Joseph helps her, he spots Dan's black Mustang pull
out from a space opposite and slip into the night.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Joseph, Katie, Hillary, Martin, Scott and Fiona are sitting around the dining table. Everyone has some cake but Katie hasn't touched her own.

Eyes a bigger goldfish bowl.

KATIE
Mr. Stevens has a bigger bowl.

JOSEPH
Sure does.

KATIE
I'm sorry I didn't get one before.

JOSEPH
It's not important.

KATIE
So -- is everyone staying here? Is there room?

MARTIN
Just relax honey, plenty of room.

SCOTT
Even if you had a bed I'd still be on the sofa. I prefer 'em.

Katie giggles. Hillary clasps her daughter's hand.

HILLARY
How do you feel, sweetheart?

KATIE
Tired. Really tired.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joseph carries Katie into the bedroom. New carpet.

Gently places her on the bed and sits down next to her.

KATIE
A new carpet?

JOSEPH
The other one was... worn.
(beat)
I'll get you some water?

But Katie quickly grabs Joseph's hand.

KATIE
Don't leave me.

JOSEPH
I'm not going nowhere.

Katie squeezes Joseph's hand and whispers...

KATIE
I want us to start sleeping
together. Can we be together now?

She shifts... placing her head into Joseph's lap.

He peers at the bandage on her head. *This is his doing.*

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

A MAIL MAN stuffs envelopes into the box.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Katie is asleep. Gradually opens her eyes, groggy.

Slowly turns and gazes across the bed... but --

-- Suddenly panics.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Martin, Hillary and Fiona are eating breakfast at the table.

Katie suddenly rushes in wearing a bathrobe--

KATIE
--Joe!

HILLARY
He had to check in at work, honey.

MARTIN
Didn't wanna wake you.

Katie's face sinks like a lead balloon.

EXT. LITTLE ARMENIA - MORNING

Graffiti. Trash and homeless tents littering the sidewalk.

Definitely not Joseph's office, but his SUV rolls up outside a shitty, rundown house.

INT. LIVING ROOM

A southern belle, BRITNEY, once the proprietor of a stripper body until she got knocked up yet again, is balancing a baby in one hand and a phone to her ear in the other.

BRITNEY

-- Yes, your cuz, Joe, he's here...
he wants to speak to you.

(beat)

You work at the same place -- why
is he here, Danny, is everything
okay?

INTERCUT WITH DANIEL - IN THE MAIL ROOM--

DANIEL

--Put him on.

Britney turns into the kitchen and hands Joseph the phone.

Joseph takes it while admiring a ten year old girl, CHLOE, as she eats a sandwich that's almost as big as her.

He breaks away and veers towards a back door.

EXT. BACKYARD

Broken toys. Joseph paces with the phone to his ear.

JOSEPH

Chloe's grown.

DANIEL

Get the fuck out of my house!

JOSEPH

I see why you need that dough, I
wouldn't want my family to live in
a dump like this either.

DANIEL

Get. The. Fuck--

JOSEPH

--You listen to me! I'm your sponsor, not your fuckin' sugar daddy. I sponsored you when you got out of the can, and now you go pulling this shit... comin' to the fuckin' hospital!

He changes ears--

JOSEPH

Here's what's gonna happen. A twenty grand advance and a promotion. Long term, it'll be worth more than your little voicemail scam.

DANIEL

Eat shit. I need my bankroll.

JOSEPH

Eat shit? Oh, yeah, eat shit!

Plays his ace...

JOSEPH

With you at work and Britney home with a bun in the oven it must be tough knowing Chloe has to walk to school... on her own... in a neighborhood like this...

Joseph takes the deepest breath of his life.

JOSEPH

Anything could happen.

Daniel grips the phone so hard his knuckles whiten.

JOSEPH

I take it by the silence we gotta deal. Stay the fuck away from my house.

(beat)

And when I get to the office...
I'll get my own fuckin' mail!

He hangs up.

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - MORNING

Katie slips a baseball cap over head/bandage. She is facing Fiona, who is anxiously sitting on the edge of an executive sofa.

Joseph suddenly flings the door open and blasts in--

JOSEPH

--Katie!

Katie, WEEPING, torpedoes straight into his arms.

FIONA

(to Joseph)

Sorry. She wanted to come.

JOSEPH

(to Katie)

What's wrong?

KATIE

I woke up and you were gone.

JOSEPH

I had an early meeting.

INT. DOCTOR RUBEN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Joseph is sitting in a chair holding Katie's hand. Dr. Ruben is opposite them.

DR. RUBEN

Joseph, you are indeed a victim too, but it's important is that you're both clear what happened that day wasn't your fault.

Joseph swallows the lump in his throat.

DR. RUBEN

Katie. Since this happened, how do you feel about being home now?

KATIE

Afraid. Never knowing who might come through the door.

DR. RUBEN

Who do you think might come through the door?

KATIE

Someone who -- wants to hurt me.

DR. RUBEN

Why would someone want to hurt you?

Joseph loosens his collar.

EXT. PATIO, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Martin, Hillary and Fiona are sitting by the pool.

Scott brings a tray of coffee out and sits down beside them.

MARTIN

(to Scott)

Hillary and I were talking and we're gonna buy Joe and Katie a cruise. I know Joe's always wanted to go on one.

SCOTT

Always with the boat fascination. Growing up, he was hooked on building the little model ones.

HILLARY

Maybe he'll pass it onto their kids and we'll have a sailor in the family--

--Enough is enough.

FIONA

Joseph doesn't want kids, Mom.

Everyone is taken back. Especially Scott.

SCOTT

What?

FIONA

(to Scott)

I thought you'd have known that?

SCOTT

Guys always say that.

MARTIN

Heck, I did. Four years later, two screaming pie holes to feed.

HILLARY

That's your fault. After Katie,
you had expansion on the brain.

FIONA

It's been seven years. They're
hardly newly weds.

Everyone reflects. But Scott has a flea in his ear.

INT. DETECTIVE WALKER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Detective Walker is sitting at his desk pouring over a document. Highlights something...

CLOSE ON DOCUMENT: An AT&T phone record.

A picture of his wife catches his attention.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Alright, alright. I hear you.

He scoots down to a mini fridge under the desk, takes a sandwich out and unwraps it.

DETECTIVE WALKER

I'm eating.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - MOVING

Outside their house, Joseph pulls into the driveway but leaves the engine running as he twists to Katie who is next to him.

JOSEPH

Sweetheart. I need you to go
inside now. Everyone's home, so
you won't be alone. I gotta go to
work but I'll be back soon--

--His cell phone starts RINGING. Glances at the screen.

JOSEPH

Speaking of...

He takes the call.

JOSEPH

Cosgrove.

But--

DANIEL (V.O.)
 --From now on I'll be sure to call
 your office so they patch me
 through...

Joseph plays it cool in front of Katie.

JOSEPH
 What is it?

DANIEL (V.O.)
 We need to straighten shit. I
 suggest you let Cinderella go
 inside, then -- you're gonna hit
 the road and buy me a beer to
 apologize for the little house
 call.

(beat)
 And don't let me down, hero, or my
 next stop'll be your front door.

CLICK, the line goes dead.

Joseph is spooked but fakes a goodbye.

JOSEPH
 Yeah, yeah, got it. On my way.

Joseph hangs up but steals a glance into his side mirror.

JOSEPH'S POV THROUGH MIRROR: Daniel's Mustang is across the
 street.

Joseph faces Katie--

JOSEPH
 --I gotta go, sweetheart.
 (beat)
 Remember. Baby-steps.

Katie looks at the house like it's some sort of trap.

EXT. THE RED ROOM BAR AND GRILL, PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Daniel's Mustang swings into a lot behind a bar and he parks.

Joseph follows in his SUV.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV

But as he parks - he spots Daniel get out of the Mustang with a BASEBALL BAT, a THUG joining them from the bar--

JOSEPH
--What the...

Joseph shifts into reverse -- but a pickup SCREECHES up, BLOCKING him...

Boxed in.

Joseph locks his door and goes for his cell, but --

-- Daniel stabs the end of the baseball bat through the driver's window, SMASHING it--

--Joseph SCREAMS as Daniel and his Thug haul him out through the window, dropping him to the ground with a THUD!

The end of the baseball bat hits Joseph in the face - WUMP!

DANIEL
Surprise, mother fucker!
(beat)
I'll take your job, but come near
my girls again, I'll subtract your
ass.

Daniel kicks Joseph in the face, KWAP!

Joseph curls.

DANIEL
I want my advance tomorrow, bitch!
(beat)
And it's a hundred now! Twenty
don't even come close.

Daniel spits on Joseph and then turns away with the Thug.

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Hillary slides a tray of freshly baked cookies out of an oven, places them on a work top in front of Katie.

KATIE
Cinnamon cookies?

HILLARY
Correct, for three points.

Katie beams, but she is here for a reason.

KATIE

Mom?

(beat)

I never asked you. Was I
planned... or was I an accident?

Hillary pinches Katie's cheek with a twinkle in her eye.

KATIE

It's okay, you can tell me the
truth.

HILLARY

You were a wonderful accident. So
wonderful, we had another accident.

KATIE

When you married... did you both
want a family?

Hillary can tell where this is going...

HILLARY

Honey. If you really love each
other... you'll find a way.

KATIE

I just... see how you are with
Fiona's boys. I don't want you to
be disappointed if--

HILLARY

--Katie -- your father bought a
Porsche and drove it into a tree.
That's something to be disappointed
about.

Katie nods, really trying to feel better.

HILLARY

We love Fiona but look what
happened to her marriage.

(beat)

At least one of our daughters got
it right.

She smiles and turns back to her cookies.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM, POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

A UNIFORM is sitting behind a desk filling out a report -- Joseph facing him with a fat lip and black eye.

POLICE OFFICER
How many of 'em were there?

JOSEPH
Four. All Asian.

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph walks in and grabs a bottle of water, downing it like he was lost in the desert.

On the kitchen counter, he notices the laptop wallpaper now displays a shot from his wedding day.

Unimaginable bliss - except for the crack in the screen that is virtually separating them.

VOICES outside steal his attention...

He edges to the kitchen window and glimpses out.

JOSEPH'S POV - Katie and Fiona are sitting talking. Joseph quietly pushes the window open to listen--

FIONA
--I spoke to him... about a few things that happened between you two, but he denied them.

KATIE
Joe's a good man underneath it all. We've had our ups and downs, but he doesn't mean any harm.

FIONA
Katie -- he avoided telling you something to cover up his own, selfish--

KATIE
--But look at what he's done now.

FIONA
That's not the point. I just hope there isn't anything else he's hiding.

(beat)

(MORE)

FIONA (cont'd)
 He also denied breaking your
 laptop. Said it was an accident.

Katie stoops her head like a shamed schoolgirl.

KATIE
 Yeah. I'm sorry I told you that.
 (beat)
 It was an accident. It slipped out
 of his hand. I-- I exaggerated...

Fiona's disappointment is obvious.

KATIE
 I was just... I was upset and--

FIONA
 --It doesn't matter.

But clearly it does. A lot. Fiona gets to her feet.

FIONA
 I'm probably gonna go home soon.
 The kids need me and all.
 (beat)
 I'll start looking for a flight.

Fiona heads inside prompting Joseph to clear the window.

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

Joseph, with bag of frozen peas to his cheek, steps out
 behind Katie who is still sitting--

JOSEPH
 --Don't panic.

She turns around and instantly jumps to her feet at the sight
 of his bruises...

KATIE
 Oh, my, God!

JOSEPH
 Some punks tried to steal the car.
 I've been with the police. I'm
 okay.

KATIE
 What... I can't believe--

JOSEPH
 --I'm okay. Bit shaken, but don't
 worry.
 (beat)
 Where is everyone?

KATIE
 Getting dinner.

JOSEPH
 I'm gonna take a shower. Don't
 worry, I'm alright.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Martin's Station Wagon rolls up and parks behind Joseph's SUV.

Scott is driving. Notices the SUV's broken window.

INT. BATHROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph, with a towel around his waist, is sitting on the toilet holding an ice pack over his lip.

Scott is balanced on the edge of the bathtub.

SCOTT
 You reported it?

JOSEPH
 Yeah. Caught 'em break the window
 but they jumped me.

SCOTT
 You gotta be more careful son,
 first your mom, then Katie and now
 this...

JOSEPH
 I'll live.

SCOTT
 I have a flight out tomorrow. If
 you don't feel up to it I'll get
 Martin to take me to the airport.

JOSEPH
 I'm okay.

SCOTT

Mind if we go a little early? Get some chow?

JOSEPH

As long as that's all it is.

Scott lingers but Joseph turns away, his mind in a whirlpool.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Joseph is in bed asleep. He opens his eyes.

The night has been cruel to his face. Turns to look at Katie. Sound asleep.

INT. DR. RUBEN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Dr. Ruben is sitting before Joseph and Katie.

DR. RUBEN

Joe, how do you feel about Katie being alone now?

JOSEPH

I worry.

DR. RUBEN

How do you think you could try and get back to a normal way of life?

JOSEPH

I don't know. Living alone maybe. Gotta houseful at the moment.

He faces Katie.

JOSEPH

Maybe... going out, a little...

DR. RUBEN

(to Katie)

Joseph tells me that you don't like leaving any doors unlocked or any windows open. How do you think you can start feeling more secure?

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

CLOSE ON ALARM PANEL: A finger double taps the number '2'.

Scott turns away to face Katie, who is watching him.

SCOTT
Double tap it fast and it'll
trigger. It's the panic code.

KATIE
Feeling safer already.

Scott nods. But he clears his throat, awkward--

SCOTT
--I'm... sorry I'm leaving. It's
just, I've been called back.

Katie affectionately touches his forearm.

KATIE
Don't be sorry, you've done so
much.

Katie hugs him.

SCOTT
I've been in two wars, but you're
the toughest gal I ever met.

EXT. JOSEPH'S SUV, DRIVEWAY - STATIONARY - AFTERNOON

Scott throws a sports bag into the back and SLAMS the door.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - DRIVEWAY

Joseph is waiting in the driver's seat with the engine running. His phone BEEPS--

CLOSE ON SCREEN: *'Advance. Today. Last chance, asshole'*.

JOSEPH
Goddamn it!

Scott gets into the passenger side and slams his door.

INT. JERRY'S DELI - AFTERNOON

Scott and Joseph are in a booth finishing lunch.

SCOTT

Son?

(beat)

Fiona said something that's been riding me pretty hard.

JOSEPH

She does that.

SCOTT

Said you didn't want kids. Kind'a hoping it wasn't true.

(beat)

You know what mom always said.

JOSEPH

(remembering)

'Family is the center of the world'.

Sincere, Joseph puts his fork down.

JOSEPH

There is something I should've told you.

Scott is eager to hear.

JOSEPH

Katie... can't have kids. She had an infection when she was young. Damaged her ovaries.

(beat)

Nobody knows. Not even her mom. She's pretty insecure. Thinks-- she's less of a woman and all...

Scott is setback.

JOSEPH

I tell people that I don't want kids, you know... to protect her.

SCOTT

She's infertile?

Joseph's expression confirms it.

SCOTT

Could always adopt.

JOSEPH
Adoption isn't for everyone.

SCOTT
You knew this before you married?

JOSEPH
Of course. But what you gonna do?

SCOTT
I admire her for telling you.
(beat)
At least she didn't hide it.

Joseph's poker face is first class. If this were Vegas he would have just beaten the house.

EXT. DEPARTURES TERMINAL - LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Joseph hugs his father goodbye. It's heartfelt.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - MOVING - AFTERNOON

Alone, Joseph drives into his underground space at Cosgrove Investments, and parks -- but before he can unbuckle his seat belt--

-- Daniel pops the passenger door open and slides in, SLAMMING it behind himself.

Joseph's jaw tightens as Daniel eyes his bruises--

DANIEL
--Ouch.
(beat)
I should see the other guy, right?

JOSEPH
Get out of my car.

DANIEL
Chill, partner. Here for my advance. Figured you wouldn't wanna do it in the office.

JOSEPH
There is no advance. You lost that after your little baseball game.

Daniel sits back. Nods to himself, as if finally accepting - but we can tell that a storm is coming.

JOSEPH

You release that voicemail and
you're just gonna fuck yourself.

DANIEL

Yeah, but I can roll on you. I
been in the clink before, I can
handle ten pounds of state jewelry
around my ankles.

(beat)

Question is... can you?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - AFTERNOON

Joseph is sitting alone at the sprawling conference table --
a nervous knee bouncing at hyper-speed.

Michael breezes through the door and seats himself opposite.

MICHAEL

Howdy. You put a shout out for me?

JOSEPH

Yah.

Joseph shifts in his seat. Rubs his face. It's serious.

JOSEPH

Look. Mike. There isn't really an
easy way to say this. About that
raise. We're not doing as well as
we thought...

INT. HALLWAY

Michael bursts out of the conference room, Joseph chasing--

JOSEPH

--Mike... Michael!

MICHAEL

Katie was right all along. You are
a fuckin' douche.

Joseph left squirming.

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW OFFICE - SUNSET

Joseph, sedate, is sitting in his chair looking out of the
window. It's an ugly world out there.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Cosy lighting.

Katie at the dining table -- two places set.

Joseph steps in holding a posh, silver serving platter with a solid silver lid over the top.

JOSEPH
Dinner is served.

KATIE
How have you been cooking for two hours? I don't smell anything?

But Joseph lowers the platter like a butler, places his hand on the lid and whips it off to reveal --

-- Four McDonald's cheeseburgers, french fries and two cans of coke.

KATIE
Oh, my--

JOSEPH
--A repeat of our wedding meal.

He sits down. Cracks a coke and toasts.

JOSEPH
Happy anniversary.

KATIE
Happy anniversary.

They clink tin and sip.

JOSEPH
We'll do something proper, I promise. Just thought you'd find this funny.

She smiles -- but not all the way.

KATIE
Joe?

Reaches into her pocket taking out the small box containing Scott's bronze star.

KATIE
I want you to have this. Think of it as an anniversary gift.

Joseph puts his drink down.

JOSEPH
I can't. Dad gave it to you.

KATIE
Yes. It's mine, to do whatever I want with. And I want to give it to you.
(beat)
You're the real hero, Joe. I'd be dead without you.

Joseph is touched. Forces a smile... and takes it.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Joseph and Katie are strolling arm in arm.

JOSEPH
How'd you get rid of them tonight?

KATIE
I sent them to a movie.

The walk is a refreshing pleasantry to both of them.

KATIE
Remember how hot our wedding day was?

JOSEPH
Nothing like Vegas in a tux'.

KATIE
I was thinking of us... before all this.
(beat)
I think that... I'm probably to blame... for a lot of the situation. I've had my share of mood swings--

JOSEPH
It's in the past. Lets keep it there.
(beat)
The tumor probably caused 'em. But it's gone now, lets just concentrate on the future.

Katie beams. They close in on their house, but pause...

JOSEPH

You eh, wanna try and stay home
alone now. Just the two of us?
Ship Ren and Stimpy back to
Sacramento?

KATIE

My sister goes home tomorrow.

JOSEPH

They could all go together?

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Martin, Hillary, Joseph, Katie and left over popcorn around
the dining table.

KATIE

Daddy, we didn't mean you had to go
now.

MARTIN

Fiona has to be back in the
morning, if we all go tonight
she'll get a refund on her airfare.

HILLARY

(to Katie)

You know what he's like in traffic,
rather leave tonight...

Joseph gets to his feet.

JOSEPH

I'll bring your bags down.

But first he holds up two cruise ship tickets.

JOSEPH

Thanks again for these.

MARTIN

Happy anniversary.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM

Fiona is packing her bag. Joseph lingers...

JOSEPH

I come in peace.

(knowing)

(MORE)

JOSEPH (cont'd)
 You have your little chat with
 Katie?

Fiona zips her bag up and turns to him--

FIONA
 --I owe you an apology.

JOSEPH
 It's okay.

FIONA
 No. It isn't.
 (beat)
 As mom always says - it takes two.
 I'm sorry I pointed a finger at
 you.

JOSEPH
 Forget it. What do you say we just
 bury the hatchet, right here, right
 now.

Fiona smiles. Joseph moves in for a hug. Lukewarm at best.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Joseph slams the Station Wagon's back door, Fiona already
 inside.

Katie and Hillary - hugs and kisses.

HILLARY
 We'll be back on the weekend.

Martin and Joseph shake and squeeze.

MARTIN
 Take care of my little girl.

JOSEPH
 You know it. Thanks again for the
 boat ride.

MARTIN
 Just one of the perks of running
 your own travel company.

Katie slams the door after her Mom.

MARTIN
 (to Katie)
 You're in safe hands here.

KATIE
I know, Daddy.

Katie blows a kiss. Martin slams his door and starts the car.

INT. BATHROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The light is dim.

Joseph splashes water into his eyes. Studies himself in the mirror.

The bathroom door is ajar casting a shadow over half of his face.

Half man. Half criminal.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Squawking crows announce another day in L.A. Detective Walker's Lincoln pulls up on the driveway.

EXT. PORCH

Detective Walker knocks on the front door, THUNK, THUNK.

After a moment, Joseph opens it.

DETECTIVE WALKER
(re: Joseph's face)
Joe? What happened?

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE

Joseph and Katie are sitting in the living room facing Detective Walker who is eating one of Hillary's cookies.

Outside, Joseph is slick, but inside, he's on fire.

Detective Walker regards a notepad--

DETECTIVE WALKER
--Joe... at 10:28am on the day of
Katie's attack, you were ticketed
near your residence for being on
the phone while at the wheel. Who
were you talking to?

JOSEPH

Katie. She was upset about the tumor.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Your cousin, Daniel Cosgrove, works with you at Cosgrove Investments, correct?

A nuclear bomb detonates behind Joseph's eyelids--

JOSEPH

--Ugh... yeah. Yes.

KATIE

But... they don't really talk much, the family doesn't get on with him.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Because of his criminal background?

Katie nods. Joseph pales.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Well, on the morning of the attack, Joe's cell phone records indicate that he called Daniel's cell and spoke for 28 seconds. What was that about, Joe?

Joseph's face goes dead.

JOSEPH

I... I don't really remember.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Must've been pretty important... at a time like that.

JOSEPH

He ugh... works the mail room, probably something regarding a delivery.

(bluffing)

Why don't you just ask him?

DETECTIVE WALKER

I intend to.

Joseph's gut coils like a rattlesnake.

KATIE

What has this got to do with anything, you got the guy who did it right, he's dead?

DETECTIVE WALKER

Yes. And probably nothing, but I'm investigating another avenue. A hunch if you like.

INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - MORNING

Joseph's SUV SCREECHES into a space.

INT. MAILROOM, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS

Joseph, clutching his phone, storms into the mail room to find a CLERK packing a box--

JOSEPH

--Where's Dan, he isn't answering!

CLERK

He took a sick day.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Katie is sitting on the sofa with a heavy mind.

She picks up a business card. Detective Walker's card.

INT. DETECTIVE WALKER'S OFFICE, POLICE DEPARTMENT - AFTERNOON

The same, clinical clean office, but this time Katie is in the hot seat facing Detective Walker.

KATIE

Why are you looking at my husband's phone records?

DETECTIVE WALKER

We have to be thorough.

KATIE

You... you don't actually think...

But she can't bring herself to finish--

DETECTIVE WALKER
Katie, in your statement, you said
that Joe got up early that day.

KATIE
Yes.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Does he ever get up so early?

Intriguing.

INT. DETECTIVE WALKER'S SQUAD CAR - MOVING - AFTERNOON

Detective Walker is driving, Katie in the passenger seat.
Pulls the car up outside Katie's house and brakes.

KATIE
First time I've been out on my own.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Well. Good job it's with a police
officer. Will you be okay?

She nods, but--

KATIE
--I can't stop thinking about it.

DETECTIVE WALKER
It's probably just like you said.
Joe was up early to get ahead in
the office. Nothing more.

KATIE
Yeah. Thanks anyway.

She gets out and SLAMS the door leaving Detective Walker
chewing his lip.

He turns back to the front and taps the steering wheel -- but
suddenly --

-- He is startled by something...

DETECTIVE WALKER
Son-of-a--

--Jams the car into gear...

INT. SECURITY BOOTH, COSGROVE INVESTMENTS - AFTERNOON

Detective Walker is eyeing some jerky security footage.

CLOSE ON BLACK AND WHITE MONITOR: As Joseph's SUV is driven under a barrier and into the company parking structure.

TIME STAMP on the video reads: 8:04am

INT. JOSEPH'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Detective Walker, alone, and drinking from a Starbucks cup, is sitting in a chair facing Joseph's vacant desk.

Joseph breezes in and closes his door.

JOSEPH
Twice in one day?

Joseph takes his seat opposite.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Told you I like to work for two.
(beat)
Actually, I was here to see Daniel.

JOSEPH
He took a sick day... apparently.

DETECTIVE WALKER
I know that now.

Detective Walker puts his drink down.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Quick question.
(beat)
On the day of Katie's attack, you left the house early, right?

JOSEPH
Yeah. Playing catch-up in this place.

DETECTIVE WALKER
Get everything done?

JOSEPH
Pretty much.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 Strange. Because there's a security camera over the parking garage. I just looked at the tape for that morning... but you got here at your usual time... around 8.04am to be precise.

Joseph's blood runs cold. He drops back into his chair as he searches for an angle, but there isn't one...

JOSEPH
 You didn't come here to see Daniel.
 (beat)
 --What is this... you think I'm involved? That I hired some, hot headed psycho, to kill my wife but then went home and killed him myself?

DETECTIVE WALKER
 You left home early on the day your wife was almost murdered, but you didn't get to work any earlier.
 (beat)
 So where did you go?

JOSEPH
 Who knows. I stopped for coffee... got stuck in traffic--

DETECTIVE WALKER
 --Where did you stop?

JOSEPH
 Where I usually stop--

DETECTIVE WALKER
 --Cash or credit?

Joseph stalls.

JOSEPH
 I think you need to leave now, Detective.

DETECTIVE WALKER
 I think you're probably right.

Joseph watches him get to his feet, but it isn't over yet--

DETECTIVE WALKER
 --Did you know that Wayne was armed, Joe?

JOSEPH

You told me. I was lucky.

DETECTIVE WALKER

That's right. I did. Odd how he had a gun... yet attempted to drown Katie.

(beat)

Unless he was trying to make her murder seem like something it wasn't.

JOSEPH

Or maybe he just didn't want the sound of a gunshot drawing attention.

DETECTIVE WALKER

Maybe.

And with that, Detective Walker doesn't bother waiting for a reply.

Joseph is starting to feel the heat. Grabs his land line, dialing--

INT. DANIEL'S MUSTANG, MOVING - AFTERNOON

Daniel is driving - his cell starts RINGING and he picks up--

DANIEL

--If it ain't about my money, I'm busy.

INTERCUT: With Joseph in his office.

JOSEPH

(knowing)

Sick?! You took a sick day!?
Where the fuck are you?

DANIEL

Sorry, I can't talk now, got an appointment with your wife.

CLICK, Daniel hangs up. The hairs on Joseph's neck stand.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A minivan is parked in the driveway.

INT. KITCHEN, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Katie and her girlfriend Jennifer are enjoying lattes - Jennifer's little girl, Maria, is playing on an iPad.

KATIE

(to Jennifer)

But he never, ever, gets up that early.

JENNIFER

I don't mean to defend him, but he saved your life, you said it yourself. Who knows, he could've just got up early that day to get out of the house, you two had been fighting?

A possibility.

JENNIFER

Look. Katie? Do you still love Joe?

Katie takes a moment... then positively nods.

JENNIFER

Then it's worth more than a random early morning. He almost died for you. The guy had a gun.

Katie stoops her head and nods again. Makes sense.

INT. MUSTANG - STATIONARY

DANIEL'S POV - of the house. Katie, on the doorstep waving to Jennifer who is getting into the minivan.

She heads back inside, closing the door. Daniel gets out of the Mustang and makes for the house.

INT. JOSEPH'S SPEEDING SUV - SAME

Joseph is driving like a Demon but his phone starts RINGING.

Slows down, answers--

JOSEPH

--Hey, hon.

Bad news.

JOSEPH

He, what!
 (beat)
 Put him on.

Joseph pulls over, this needs his full concentration.

INTERCUT WITH DANIEL - as Katie hands him the phone.

Daniel turns away from her for secrecy--

DANIEL

(into phone)
 --See that picture I just texted
 you. That's me on your doorstep--

JOSEPH

--Get the Hell off my property.

DANIEL

What, you can make a house call but
 I can't?

(beat)
 All I gotta do is hold up my phone
 up, hit your voicemail, and your
 ass is grass.

JOSEPH

Who the fuck do you think you are!?

DANIEL

I'm the guy who knows your dirty
 little secret.

Joseph tenses.

DANIEL

I want my advance, it's a hundred
 and twenty five now, or game over.

Joseph bites his tongue.

DANIEL

And another thing. I checked with
 that H.R. bitch. The job only pays
 four grand more than I get now. I
 want ten more. Fix it.

Joseph's anger smolders like the heat of a furnace - needs to
 unfuck this, now.

JOSEPH
 There's a coffee shop at 3rd and
 LaBrea. Be there in twenty
 minutes.

Joseph hangs up. Jams the heels of his hands into his eyes.

EXT. ROASTERS COFFEE - EVENING

Joseph strides up to an open air table, Daniel as cool as
 shit and already sitting with a drink.

JOSEPH
 You know that Katie doesn't like
 you!

DANIEL
 Not my problem, cuz.

Frustrated, Joseph pulls a chair out, sits down and leans in.

JOSEPH
 Wanna know what is your problem.
She knows something.

DANIEL
 I don't give a wet, rat's ass--

JOSEPH
 --I don't think you understand.
 (beat)
 I'm not buying your locked up
 bullshit, not from a father of one
 with another on the way. If Katie
 figures this shit out and I get
 busted, they're gonna wanna know
 where Nate... Wayne, whatever the
 fuck he went by, came from. And
 even if I don't talk, they're gonna
 come shake down everyone at home...
and in the office.

(beat)
 What do you think's gonna happen
 when they find out you two were
 bunked up in the can together?

(beat)
 Enjoy kissing your kids through
 glass for the next fifty years!

Daniel's face sinks... but Joseph is one step ahead.

JOSEPH
 Look. I know what to do.
 (beat)
 Have... have you got a gun?

DANIEL
 Have I got a gun? What... gonna
 ice her yourself now?
 (beat)
 How's that gonna look, Einstein?

JOSEPH
 Answer the question?

DANIEL
 You've seen where I live.

JOSEPH
 Is it registered?

DANIEL
 I'm a convicted felon, dumbass.

Joseph sits back, uneasy.

JOSEPH
 Katie and I have been going to
 therapy.
 (beat)
 Sometimes... victims of violent
 crime are known to spiral into
 depression... and... end their
 lives-- themselves, they can't cope
 with what's happened and all.

Daniel raises an eyebrow.

DANIEL
 Survived a tumor and then shot
 herself?

JOSEPH
 It's a tragedy.

DANIEL
 You're colder than a Polar Bear's
 ass.

But Joseph suddenly gets to his feet--

JOSEPH
 --We gotta be quick though. She's
 asking questions she was never
 supposed to be asking.
 (MORE)

JOSEPH (cont'd)

(beat)

I'll come get it later, and I'll
pay you half the advance for it.
Today.

Now he is talking Daniel's language. But--

DANIEL

--You ain't coming to the house
again.

Joseph looms over the table.

JOSEPH

Well if you want your money, fix
somewhere. And make sure there's
no fuckin' cameras--

--Joseph hikes away.

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - STATIONARY - EVENING

Joseph has parked opposite his house.

He is sitting in the drivers seat on the phone, his
anniversary cruise tickets in his hand.

JOSEPH

Okay, so what's the earliest
availability, if I upgraded?
(listens)
Thank you, I'll think about it.

He hangs up.

JOSEPH'S POV - back at his house. The living room light is
on. A glimpse of Katie as she walks past the window.

Dips his head to his lap. An A4 envelope full of cash.

EXT. BILLY BOB'S BURGER BAR - NIGHT

A BUM with junkie eyes is leaning against a wall.

BUM

Spare change?

Joseph, holding a tray of food, shuffles past him to a table.

Daniel is sitting picking at some onion rings. Joseph plunks
down opposite.

DANIEL
You're late.

JOSEPH
I was getting your money.

Joseph places an extra food bag onto Daniel's tray - except it isn't french fries in there.

Daniel returns the gesture by dumping a heavier bag onto Joseph's tray.

DANIEL
Slugs are loose.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alone, Daniel approaches his car, but the front tire is flat.

DANIEL
Mother...

INT. JOSEPH'S SUV - MOVING

Joseph is driving, his heavy fast food bag on the passenger seat.

EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Daniel rolls up and parks. Gets out, kick-checks the newly inflated tire.

INT. LIVING ROOM, DANIEL'S HOUSE

Daniel hustles through the back door...

DANIEL
Brit'!

But suddenly, a muffled gunshot, TUNK, and a bullet SLAMS into Daniel's back, knocking him onto the floor--

--Joseph walks through a doorway holding a cushion over the gun, heart beating like a jack hammer.

Daniel GASPS like a beached carp--

DANIEL
--It was you... you fucked up my tire.

Joseph advances, cushion still over the gun.

DANIEL
Brit'... what about Brit'...

JOSEPH
He didn't owe you any money, did
he? Just a cheap... fucking...
opportunist--

--But Daniel seems to be trying to say something...

DANIEL
S... sh... she...

Joseph leans closer feeling really, fucking superior...

JOSEPH
You think you can just threaten me,
you lowlife, piece of shit? You're
nothing but a greasy, fuckin'
bottom feeder.
(beat)
I should'a just dealt with all this
myself--

--Joseph fires again, TUNK, slug blasting into Daniel's
chest, WUMP!

Daniel GROANS... but manages four words--

--Four -- very -- important -- words--

DANIEL
--*She... knows...*
(beat)
She.. knows...

Dead.

Joseph drops the cushion spooked by Daniel's meaning.

Kneels, takes the cash bag out of Daniel's pocket. Stuffs it
into his own.

Pads Daniel's other pockets - finds his cell phone --

-- But also finds -- A SECOND CELL PHONE. Weird.

Checks the first cell phone he recognizes as Daniels:

CLOSE ON PHONE: Joseph hits the VOICEMAIL menu, scans through
it and deletes his own, incriminating message -- *goodbye*
evidence.

But as he gazes at the other phone -- his heart stops.

An unread text on the display --

FROM KATIE...

Joseph is GUT STRUCK.

SHOCKED...

Taps the screen to bring up the text window.

KATIE// DID U GET THE \$125,000?

Joseph - stunned...

Disbelief.

His world spinning.

He scrolls back...

KATIE// BIG PROBLEM. JOE KILLED UR GUY. I HANDLE, BUT NEED
2 TALK.

Joseph's mouth runs dry. Scrolls back further...

KATIE// COME TO HOSPITAL, PRESSURE HIM.

Trying vainly to calm himself.

But more - one from Daniel...

DANIEL// HE THREATENED MY FUCKING KID!!!

And her answer...

KATIE// SO GET EVEN. MAKE HIM PAY MORE \$\$\$

Joseph can't take much more. Scrolls..

KATIE// CALL IN SICK. COPS COMING TO OFFICE!!!

Joseph lowers the phone.

She played him. She knows. Her and Daniel together.

The pain feels like losing a limb.

Grips the phone in a fist - face uglier than the devil's
asshole.

EXT. BILLY BOB'S BURGER BAR - NIGHT

Joseph steps out of the burger joint with two food bags.

Turns to the Bum and hands him one.

JOSEPH
Merry Christmas.

BUM
Thanks, bro.

Joseph heads away as the Bum opens the bag and looks in.

Some cash -- and Daniel's original cell phone.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM, COUNTY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A RECEPTION NURSE frantically shakes her head at Britney, who is standing at the front desk crying while cradling her SCREAMING daughter--

RECEPTION NURSE
--I'm sorry, there's no record of your husband here.

BRITNEY
God, damn-it!! I got a call from a doctor telling saying my husband was in a car crash and I needed to get my ass here--

RECEPTION NURSE
--I'm sorry, are you sure you have the right hospital?

INT. HALLWAY, JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joseph unlocks the front door and steps inside holding a BILLY BOB'S BURGER BAG.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Joseph steps into the living room -- the TV is switched on and the volume is DEAFENING.

He immediately heads to it and lowers the volume, prompting Katie to walk in from the kitchen - no head bandage anymore.

KATIE
Oh. You scared me.

Gestures to the noisy TV.

KATIE

Dr. Ruben said that if I'm home alone, turning the TV on loudly so I can hear voices can help.

JOSEPH

I see.

Playing it ice cool Joseph moves in with a kiss to the forehead.

JOSEPH

Proud of you. First night alone.

Not only playing cool, playing hard. Holds up the bag--

JOSEPH

--And to celebrate... burgers!

KATIE

Great. I'm starving.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Joseph and Katie at the table eating -- each unaware of what the other knows...

JOSEPH

I think Dan got himself into some more shit...

Katie's breath catches in her throat but she rolls with it--

KATIE

Doesn't surprise me.

JOSEPH

He asked me for a hundred and sixty grand this morning.

KATIE

What! A hundred and sixty thousand dollars!?

JOSEPH

Yeah, that's what I said.

(toying)

Got some serious debts. Loans from the wrong people again.

KATIE
What did you tell him?

JOSEPH
I told him 'no'!

Her surprise at the amount is actually genuine--

KATIE
--Who does he think he is? A
hundred and sixty thousand...

JOSEPH
I only wish I had that kind'a cash
laying around.

Joseph bites into his burger but he can see that his words
are grating on her.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joseph is laying in bed, eyes closed. Katie is laying next
to him, wide awake.

Turns her head to Joseph's. He seems content.

INT. KITCHEN

Katie switches the light on. She is wearing pajamas.

Taps a button on the coffee maker, grabs a mug.

Hangs for a moment, ensuring the coast is clear, and then--

-- Goes for a cupboard under the sink. Opens the door and
rummages around grabbing something from the back.

Straightens up holding a cell phone, turns it on.

Types out a text...

But as she hits SEND --

-- AN INCOMING TEXT ALERT pings from the other side of the
room--

--AND--

--Joseph steps out of the shadows in his boxers/T-shirt.

He hold's up DANIEL'S SECOND CELL PHONE exuding enough rage
to feed an army with.

Katie's heart skips a beat.

Joseph reads the text out loud--

JOSEPH
 --160k? We agreed 125 you stupid
 cunt. What are u doing. U better
 not be playing me!

He lowers the phone and gives her a look reserved especially
 for her.

JOSEPH
 He didn't ask me for a hundred and
 sixty grand.
 (beat)
 I just needed to make sure this was
 what I thought it was--

KATIE
 --He told me, that you were paying
 his friend to kill me. And you
 were!

She eyes a KNIFE BLOCK as Joseph unravels her plan--

JOSEPH
 --And you didn't go to the cops...
 coz you turned Nate against me.
 That's why he hit me with the
 fucking golf club.

Katie sweats bullets--

JOSEPH
 --I die... you inherit the company.
 (beat)
 Split it with Dan and Nat--

KATIE
 --You paid a hitman to kill me!

JOSEPH
 (continuing)
 But... you didn't expect Nate to
 die... so you started using Dan to
 rip me off. To punish me.

No denying it.

JOSEPH
 Gotta get paid somehow--

--But SUDDENLY --

-- Katie swipes a KNIFE from out of the block --

KATIE

--Dan saved my life, not you!

JOSEPH

Funny, a few hours ago he was gonna
let me shoot you.

Katie is rattled -- and maybe, just maybe, it's genuine this
time and not part of her cover.

JOSEPH

All this time you were acting...
just to get my fucking money.

KATIE

This is *YOUR* doing, Joe. YOU DID
THIS!

(beat)

You deceived me, you knew all along
divorce judges would side with me
so you tried to have me murdered!

(beat)

I'm just sorry I survived the
surgery... guess you hoped it'd do
the job for you--

--Joseph's silence betrays him worse than any comeback.

KATIE

You're pathetic. You'll never be
half the man your father is.

(beat)

You're not even a man you--

--Joseph SNAPS but Katie whips the coffee pot off the machine
and throws boiling water into his eyes.

Joseph RAGES --

--Katie BOLTS into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Katie snatches the landline receiver but Joseph races to it's
base and rips the cable out of the wall--

--Katie throws the hand-set at him, dashes into the hallway--

INT. HALLWAY

Katie goes for the door, LOCKED, no key. BANGS and SCREAMS--

--Sprints to the alarm panel, double taps the panic code -
but no BEEPS...

Punches it in again - but display reads; INVALID...

Behind her, Joseph is coming with his own knife -- stumbles
while wiping his burning eyes.

Her only path -- the stairs.

SHE BEELINES UP...

INT. BATHROOM

The door CREAKS open and Joseph peers inside. Empty.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM

Joseph steps into the lonely bedroom that he used to sleep
in, hand firmly around the knife handle.

Eyes the bed.

Squats and glances underneath.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Joseph walks up to the open doorway and scopes out the room.

A window overlooking the backyard is flapping open. Joseph
races over to it and looks out.

JOSEPH'S POV - there is no ledge - she'd break a leg jumping.

He turns back into the room, his gaze fixing on a closet.

Approaches it. Grips the knife and--

-- suddenly whips the door open--

--Katie SCREAMS and slashes her own knife at him but Joseph
sidesteps and punches her in the face, KWAP--

--She crumples, dropping her knife.

Joseph towers over her - blood seeping out of her nose.

He picks up her knife.

Katie GROANS as Joseph steps out of the room.

She WAILS. The burning sensation of warm blood...

Joseph steps back inside holding a-- roll of duct tape.

Katie starts WEeping--

--Joseph kneels down on top of her, his weight pinning her.

JOSEPH

Time for this story to end.

(beat)

Don't worry, I gotta good one.

Frightfully calculated...

JOSEPH

*Woman suffering depression after
violent attack goes missing.*

(beat)

*Local police and distraught husband
find body at bottom of cliff.*

Katie SCREAMS and fights him as he grabs her wrists and duct tapes them together--

KATIE

--Please... please... Joe...

JOSEPH

Say hello to Dan for me.

Katie's face reads dilemma for a second --

--But Joseph grabs a fresh strip of tape and SLAPS it over her mouth.

Moves down her body wrapping tape all the way around her chest -- pinning her arms to her sides.

Duct tapes her ankles together.

With her body secure, he gets to his feet and heads out.

INT. GARAGE

Joseph makes for a roll of the old bedroom carpet.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Joseph dumps the old carpet down and unrolls it revealing the dried blood stain from Katie's head wound.

He grabs Katie's ankles and drags her onto the flat of the carpet taking a knee as she struggles.

JOSEPH

You know... When Emma divorced me,
I even had to pay her attorney
fees.

(beat)

Fuckin' believe that!? She raped
my bank accounts... and I had to
fucking pay her for it. You were
gonna pull the same shit too...
after everything I've worked for!

Katie is hysterical.

JOSEPH

Why can't I have the woman back who
didn't want kids.

(beat)

What happened to "*Not being the
motherly type*"?

He grabs the edge of the carpet -- but looms over her with a breathtaking lack of remorse.

JOSEPH

You. Deceived. Me.

And with that, he wraps the carpet all the way over her and rolls her inside.

Grabs the duct tape and starts winding it around the carpet roll, sheathing her.

But as he gets to his feet -- BANGING from downstairs -- followed by a MALE VOICE--

VOICE (O.S.)

--OPEN UP!

Joseph is startled.

More DOOR BANGING and a VOICE in the unmistakable style of--

--Law enforcement.

VOICE (O.S.)

OPEN UP!

Joseph peers out of a window: A YELLOW FLASHING SIREN

STAIRCASE

Joseph pads down to the front door, unlocks it and opens up to face a NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL OFFICER.

JOSEPH

Hey.

Patrol Officer has a hand on his gun holster.

PATROL OFFICER

Sir, I'm with A.D.F. Security, I need you to identify yourself.

JOSEPH

I'm Joseph Cosgrove, I live here.

PATROL OFFICER

Is there a problem at this location?

JOSEPH

Not at all. Why?

PATROL OFFICER

Sir, I'm gonna need to see some I.D.

JOSEPH

Sure.

INT. CARPET ROLL

If only Katie could SCREAM louder.

INT. HALLWAY

Joseph opens his wallet, hands the Patrol Officer his I.D.

The Patrol Officer takes it noting Joseph's coffee stained shirt. Eyes the drivers license.

JOSEPH

What's this about?

PATROL OFFICER

Got a code 4 from this location. Tried calling but the phone line died.

JOSEPH

A code 4?

PATROL OFFICER

When someone cuts through the alarm cable. You have a secondary service that sends a silent alert back to HQ.

Joseph stunts his surprise.

JOSEPH

Right. Must be faulty though, everything's good here.

PATROL OFFICER

Mind if I take a quick look around?

JOSEPH

Feel free.

Swallows his angst.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Patrol Officer skirts through the room. Seems in order.

INT. KITCHEN

Patrol Officer edges through the kitchen, Joseph behind.

Broken coffee pot.

JOSEPH

I ugh... burnt myself.

INT. HALLWAY

Patrol Officer steps back into the hall with Joseph.

PATROL OFFICER

Can I take a look upstairs?

JOSEPH

Is this really necessary?

PATROL OFFICER

It's necessary.

Patrol Officer's hand hovers around his gun hip.

JOSEPH
Be my guest.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM

The Patrol Officer hits a light and glances around. No sign of disturbance.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

The light is already on.

The Patrol Officer walks in to find the rolled up carpet -

--WITH A PERSON WRIGGLING INSIDE--

PATROL OFFICER
--What the...

But before he can act, Joseph grabs the kitchen knife and PLUNGES it into the Patrol Officer's back--

--The Patrol Officer SCREAMS AND GURGLES -- collapsing with a THUMP!

His hands clench as his body spasms.

Katie SHRIEKS through the carpet--

-- But as Joseph turns, he spots something -- along the bottom of the wall.

A line of cable has been severed - the alarm cable.

JOSEPH
Clever girl.

He urgently leans down to some drawers, opens one and frantically pulls clothes out.

INT. GARAGE

Joseph clicks the light on again. His boxers now replaced by jeans and shoes. Goes for another roll of old carpet.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Joseph is wrapping duct tape around a second roll of carpet.

Glances to Katie's roll, WHIMPERING from inside.

He gets to his feet and reaches into a drawer removing a pair of leather gloves. Slips them on and heads out...

FOOTSTEPS down the stairs. Katie wriggles harder.

Manages to push her head out of the top of the carpet roll.

Rolls herself over, wriggling and writhing--

--Tips over and KNOCKS against a bedside table. As she struggles, she hits the bedside table again, CLUNK... and Scott's Bronze Star falls off, landing next to her face.

It's shaped like a starfish with five sharp points.

A lifeline. Struggles to push her hands up past her face.

Forces her hands out of the top of the carpet, her wrists still bound, but grabs the Bronze Star.

Angles the tip of the star's sharp point onto the duct tape around her wrists, starts pushing it through the tape...

Makes a hole and starts hacking at the tape, splitting it.

Wriggles out of the carpet roll even further -- ONLY TO SEE--

The other carpet roll beside her...

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Joseph is sitting in a Security Patrol Car.

Reverses it up the driveway as close to the house as he can and pops the trunk open.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Joseph steps into the room, surveys the duct taped carpets.

Katie is back inside her carpet roll but wildly writhing.

Joseph steps up to her and kneels--

--He takes her carpet into both arms... and then lifts.

Katie SCREAMS through tape but Joseph heads towards the door.

Angles the carpet sideways to get through the doorway, but as he does --

-- a gunshot rings out -- BLAM!

Joseph wobbles.

A strange moment.

Looks down to find a smoking hole in the side of the carpet.

But what is even more disturbing -- the blood stain on his shirt.

He glances back to the bed - to the SECOND CARPET ROLL.

The Patrol Officer. He was armed.

Panic.

Joseph slowly turns back to the stairs. A shaky step, but--

--TUMBLES down the stairs with Katie's carpet roll.

INT. HALLWAY

Joseph and the carpet land at the bottom with a THUD!

Scrapes himself upright and leans against a wall - his breathing heavy and labored.

Katie wriggles herself out of the carpet - wrists free of the duct tape, one hand clutching the Patrol Officer's gun.

She drops it and rips the tape off her mouth frantically filling her lungs with air -- feels good.

She composes herself and focuses on the man she married.

But this is a new Katie. We've never seen this Katie before.

KATIE

You really thought I was stupid
enough not to know, Joe?

Joseph - moaning eyes.

KATIE

I hope you enjoyed the '*scared
little wife act*'. The therapy
sessions...

Joseph struggles as his lungs fill with blood.

Brazen, Katie crawls over to him and holds at eye level.

KATIE

I already knew the tumor was
benign-- just needed you to come
home.

Joseph blinks... holy fuck.

KATIE

I cut my own head with a piece of
glass from the mirror and put
myself in the tub, you idiot.

Joseph's eyes threaten to burst from their sockets.

KATIE

Shame you had that fucking Taser.
(beat)
But all I had to do was string you
along while Dan worked you...

Horror creases Joseph's forehead.

KATIE

Just had to make sure I kept asking
the right questions... kept laying
down the suspicion... just until
the right time. This time.

A Devilish smile.

KATIE

Wanna know the kicker?
(beat)
They're all so pre-occupied with
why you were up so early that
morning, they're not even thinking
about me.
(beat)
It was me who couldn't sleep that
morning Joe, because I knew what
was really coming...

Joseph - with that sinking feeling - a thousand pound canon
ball around his ankles.

Katie's face hardens - voice almost a gentle whisper now--

KATIE

--Oh, and... I've got a new story
for tonight.

(MORE)

KATIE (cont'd)

(beat)

How about, *"Wife exposes scheming husband. Kills him in self defense after he murders security patrol"*.

She slowly leans forward and raises the palm of her hand over his mouth.

KATIE

Happy anniversary, Joe.

Bone chilling.

She pinches his nose between finger and thumb.

He is too weak to fight. Spasms. Feet kicking...

Lungs burning - eyes bulging - head spinning.

Pressure in his throat--

--He can see the death tunnel -- until eventually --

-- His head sags. And droops.

Dead.

She takes her hands away and gazes at his empty shell.

INT. KITCHEN

Katie steps in and opens the microwave putting Dan's cell inside -- along with her own. *Nukes the evidence.*

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A sea of sirens.

INT. AMBULANCE - STATIONARY

Katie is laying in the back on a stretcher. Detective Walker eyes her from the sidelines. They share a moment.

EXT. JOSEPH AND KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Two CORONERS slide a stretcher into a waiting van.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - MORNING

Sunlight reflecting off thousands of glass windows.

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW OFFICE - MORNING

Joseph's vacant desk. The yacht picture from the beginning.

Happy times.

SOUND of the office door opening --

-- And Katie slowly edges into FRAME. We can tell it's her first time here since Joseph's death.

She looks fresh and rested.

Walks around and plops down into the executive chair.

Her executive chair.

She smiles.

SMASH TO BLACK:

THE END