

FADE IN:

EXT. URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

A quiet block. Only a slight wind breaks the silence.

Rows of brown stone apartment buildings. Each building looks the same.

A stop sign sits at the end of the block under a flickering street light.

FOOTSTEPS seem to echo as they approach O.S.

Under the flickering light, a hand comes into view with an axe in its grip. The identity remains hidden.

Heavy breaths. The MAN with the axe only stands there, looks over the neighborhood, the rows of apartment buildings at either side.

The MAN enters the neighborhood further, disappears into the shadows.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRANDON (30), bags under his eyes, seems as if he hasn't slept in days as he sits on his couch.

He sits in the dark, watches television. The bluish light from the television glows onto his face.

TELEVISION (V.O.)

(urgent)

The city wide search for escaped serial killer, Noah Tate, continues after several gruesome murders in the Brooklyn area Thursday and Friday nights since his escape. Mayor Gaston has set an eight o'clock curfew for all city residents. It is highly recommended that every residence lock their windows and doors...

A cat MEOWS from the window sill, draws Brandon's attention away from the television.

Brandon lowers the volume on the television, stands up and walks over to the window.

He pets the cat.

BRANDON

What are you meowing about?

Brandon looks out the window, down onto the street in front of his building.

SOMEONE stands at the sidewalk across the street. Brandon moves his face closer to the window to get a better look.

He wrinkles his brow when he sees that this SOMEONE looks exactly like him, but in a robe.

Suddenly, the SOMEONE looks up, directly at Brandon.

Brandon jumps a bit, backs away from the window. With caution, he approaches the window again - Nobody's there.

Brandon sits back down on the couch and thinks for a moment. He stands back up, disappears O.S.

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Brandon, in a robe, walks out the front door. Silence. Only a slight breeze.

Brandon looks to his right and to his left - Nobody in sight. He approaches the sidewalk and continues to scan the block.

A MEOW from O.S.

Brandon follows the noise, looks up at the apartment building across the street. In the second floor window, he sees a CAT. Very similar to his.

Suddenly, SOMEONE appears in the window, looks down at Brandon. Brandon freezes, his eyes wide.

They stare at each other. SOMEONE disappears, backs away from the window.

Brandon turns around, runs back into his building.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brandon sees his cat still on the window sill. Brandon walks towards the window, but freezes a bit.

BRANDON

You're losing it, Brandon.

Brandon shakes his head and sits down on the couch instead. But he remains on edge. He can't look away from the window.

Brandon stands back up, slowly approaches the window. He looks out and sees SOMEONE cross the street with a kitchen knife in his hand.

The hairs stand up on Brandon's arms as he watches SOMEONE approach his apartment building!

Brandon backs away from the window again. He breathes heavily, eyes wide. A cold sweat drips down his forehead.

Brandon walks into the...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Brandon grabs a kitchen knife off of the counter, tiptoes to his front door.

He puts his ear to the door, listens. FOOTSTEPS ascend up the stairs, O.S.

Suddenly, a jolt as the doorknob turns aggressively - Brandon jumps back, knife ready.

The doorknob continues to turn aggressively, but the door is locked.

BRANDON

Who are you?! What do you want?!

The turning of the doorknob stops. Silence. FOOTSTEPS descend down the stairs from O.S.

Brandon runs back into his...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brandon rushes to the window, sees SOMEONE walk away from his building to the building across the street.

SOMEONE looks up at Brandon. A brief stare. SOMEONE disappears into the apartment building across the street.

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Brandon hurries out of the building, knife in hand, walks aggressively to the apartment building across the street...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Brandon approaches the front door, takes a deep breath, knife in his hand.

He slowly turns the knob to the front door - It's open. Brandon lets himself in.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Brandon slowly walks up a narrow, dimly lit staircase. He looks around, seems befuddled.

He walks up to the...

INT. SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Brandon approaches apartment 2-B. With his knife ready, he slowly reaches out to the doorknob. Suddenly, he shakes the doorknob aggressively - but its locked.

He continues to jiggle the doorknob.

SOMEONE (O.S.)
(Brandon's voice)
Who are you?! What do you want?!

Brandon freezes, takes his hand off the doorknob. He stares at the door frightened. He slowly backs away, walks back down the stairs.

EXT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Brandon hurries away from the apartment building across the street. As he reaches his own building, he stops and looks up at the second floor window across the street.

Brandon sees SOMEONE in the window. They share a brief stare. Brandon enters his apartment.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

He hurries up the stairs. The narrow, dimly lit hallway looks exactly like the stairway from the building across the street.

INT. BRANDON'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brandon runs to the couch, plops down and picks up the phone. He frantically dials a number.

The PHONE RINGS and RINGS O.S.

Finally...

FRANK (V.O.)
Hello?

BRANDON
(frantic)
Frank? It's me! Listen --

FRANK (V.O.)
Baseball bat.

Brandon raises his eyebrow.

BRANDON
What?

FRANK (V.O.)
Baseball bat.
(beat)
You told me to tell you that.

BRANDON
What are you talking about? When?

FRANK (V.O.)
You literally just called me two
minutes ago, Brandon.

Brandon freezes. He breathes heavily, near hyperventilation.

FRANK (V.O.)
You told me that if you were to
call back, just to say, baseball
bat.
(beat)
What's going on, Brandon? Are you
all right?

Brandon drops the phone - it hangs from its wire.

Brandon slowly approaches his window. He looks to the second floor window across the street.

Brandon and SOMEONE stare at each other.

Brandon's eyes widen when he sees a MAN with an axe approach SOMEONE from behind.

The MAN tiptoes behind SOMEONE, raises his axe into the air.

Brandon sticks his head out the window.

BRANDON

Behind you!

Before SOMEONE can turn around, the MAN swings his axe down at him. SOMEONE disappears, onto the floor.

The MAN swings his axe down on SOMEONE repeatedly - blood spurts into the air.

Brandon looks on with utter shock. Suddenly, the MAN with the axe stops, looks at Brandon.

Brandon turns around and runs into the...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Brandon hurries to his front door. He looks at the knob, sees that he had left it unlocked.

Brandon thinks for a moment, locks it.

He stands there in silence, thinks to himself. He turns, looks to a linen closet, opens it.

Inside the closet, he looks at a baseball bat.

BRANDON

Baseball bat.

Brandon picks the bat out of the closet.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brandon paces back and forth in front of his couch, baseball bat in hand.

BRANDON

What the hell is going on?

He sees the phone off the hook. He hangs it up, picks up again. He dials a number.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Nine, one-one --

BRANDON
(frantic)
Listen, I think I've just witnessed
a murder! My address is 55
Sherwood! Get here quick!

Brandon hangs up, walks over to the window with his baseball bat.

SOMEONE stares at him from the window across the street.
Brandon seems confused.

BRANDON
How the hell?

SOMEONE cups his hands around his mouth...

SOMEONE
Behind you!

Brandon turns around - the MAN swings his axe at Brandon.

Brandon quickly jumps out of the way. The MAN gets his axe stuck into the window sill.

Brandon looks at his baseball bat, then at the MAN with the axe.

Brandon swings his baseball bat, hits the MAN in the face with it. The MAN drops to the ground.

Brandon hits the MAN several more times in the face - blood spurts onto Brandon's face.

Brandon stops, looks down at the MAN, now unconscious.
Brandon looks at the television.

INSERT - ON THE TELEVISION

A photo of the MAN with the axe - NOAH TATE.

BACK TO SCENE

Brandon looks down at the body, back to the television.

SIRENS approach from O.S. Brandon drops the baseball bat to the floor, looks across the street.

Blue and red flashing lights illuminate the block.

Brandon sees SOMEONE in the window across the street.

SOMEONE, cat in his arms, stares right back at Brandon, walks away from the window.

FADE OUT:

THE END