ANTICIPATING LOVE

Screenplay written by Natalie Zhivolup

FADE IN:

EXT. - A STREET OF LONDON - DAYTIME

A pretty dark-haired girl of 25 (Lisa) runs down a street of London. There is a traffic jam in the street. The girl runs down the road full of cars. She is out of her breath.

> LISA (V.O.) How come I am running in the middle of a street? I wish I knew! How could this happen to me? It is so silly and crazy! All this stuff seems to be so unreal! It started a couple of years ago...

INT. - HOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

The floor of a room. A blanket lies on the floor. It is an early morning. Rays of light are falling onto the floor through an open balcony. The sun is rising. The wind slowly moves the tulle. A girl (Lisa) stands on the balcony. The light doesn't let us see her properly. She has her hair loose. She's wearing a light half-transparent nightgown. The camera moves forward, flies above her left shoulder very quickly, goes up and up, turns around and shows the panorama of Venice in the light of rising sun.

EXT. - PANORAMA OF VENICE - MORNING

The camera soars, dives and moves down a canal very quickly. It goes up and dives into a window of another hotel.

INT. - HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

A guy (Duncan) sleeps on the bed. He is completely covered with a blanket. A ray of light creeps to his face and stops on his eye. The guy blinks and opens his eye. He turns over, sighs and stretches. The guy gets up, goes to the window and opens it widely. The noise from the street rushes into the room. The camera gets outside the hotel and moves along the canal. Gondolas and boats go up and down the canal; people are talking, screaming and laughing.

INT. - LISA'S HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

There is a knock at the door. The door opens and a girl's face (Sarah) in a brightly coloured carnival mask appears.

SARAH

Hello! Lisa! Are you

ready?

Lisa leaves the bathroom. She's wearing a carnival costume and a mask. Lisa looks at the mirror.

SARAH

Cool! You look great!

How do I look?

Lisa turns around.

LISA

You look ravishing!

Sarah comes up to the mirror and looks at her own reflection.

SARAH

Hate to admit it ... but

you are right!

They laugh and leave the room.

EXT. - STREET OF VENICE - AFTERNOON

Two guys (Sam and Duncan) go along the street.

SAM

What a hell are we doing here? I hate the city! We should have gone to Thailand! There's nothing here but dampness.

DUNCAN

What about the carnival?

SAM

What carnival? Rio de Janeiro! That's what I call a carnival! At least one can watch tits!

DUNCAN

I remember the shop must be somewhere not far from here.

SAM (annoyed) There are no shops here! There are no bars in the street! There are no streets! There are only canals, boats and water everywhere!

At this very moment some water flows on his head. The guys stop. Duncan bursts into laughter. Sam is in fury; he looks up and sees a woman, watering flowers on the windowsill. She smiles and shrugs.

THE ITALIAN WOMAN

Scusi!

She closes the window. The camera goes up and shows the sun. EXT. - CANAL - AFTERNOON The sun shines in a clear blue sky.

SAM

I need a drink or I'll get depressed! You know what I'm like when I'm depressed so you'd better give me a drink!

Sam and Duncan boat along a canal.

SAM

It's goddamn cool here! I thought it's gonna be hot here!

DUNCAN

It's February now. How on earth can it be hot here?

Sam addresses a gondolier.

SAM

Hey! We need a drink!

The gondolier shrugs. Sam articulates.

SAM

A drink!

Sam gesticulates, showing drinking.

SAM

Idiot! He doesn't even

speak English!

Duncan watches him smiling.

THE GANDOLIER (in Italian)

Fucking Americans!

DUNCAN (in Italian)

Actually, we are from Britain. We'd like to

have a drink

somewhere.

THE GANDOLIER (happily)

Oh! Si! Si, signore!

The gondola moors to a quay. The guys get out of it. Sam stretches, Duncan pays for the ride.

DUNCAN

Grazie!

THE GANDOLIER

Grazie!

The guys leave the quay and go down a street.

EXT. - CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

Sam and Duncan sit at a table and drink cocktails.

SAM

So, tell me one more time. Why didn't we go to Thailand - the capital of sextourism?

Duncan smiles.

SAM

Ok! I'll tell you! Because of the carnival! So, where is the carnival? You see, I've come here for the only reason - the carnival! And what am I seeing here?

He points at the street full of people in masks and masquerade costumes.

When I think of a carnival I can see naked girls, shaking their asses!

Duncan laughs.

SAM

Please! Please! For the next time, let me choose a place for holiday!

A group of people in masquerade costumes pass them by.

SAM

(addresses the people)

Cheers!

EXT. - STREET OF VENICE - AFTERNOON

Two girls fall behind the group. They are Lisa and Sarah. They go towards a bridge.

SARAH

You know, this mask is

driving me crazy!

She takes the mask off.

SARAH

What amazes me is that all these people are from all over the world! For example, yesterday I was drinking with a Swede, an American and a Russian and I'll never see them again! I mean you can do whatever

you like and nobody

will ever know!!!!!

Lisa laughs.

LISA

Yes, I got the idea!

They stand on the bridge looking down at the waters of the canal. They keep silent.

LISA

And you know what I've just thought of. The most romantic thing in the world is to find Love at the carnival of Venice.

Sam and Duncan pass by behind them.

EXT. - STREET OF VENICE - EARLY EVENING

The sun sets down behind the city and it gets a bit foggy. Two guys in masquerade costumes go down a street. They are Sam and Duncan.

SAM

Do you really think I can pick up a girl wearing this shit? DUNCAN I don't think you can pick up a girl wearing any shit.

Sam jumps upon Duncan and they start fooling around. After a couple of seconds they stop.

SAM

Where are we anyway?

DUNCAN

I have no idea! Let's go straight and the street will lead us somewhere.

They go down a narrow dark street that ends abruptly with a bright, light, noisy street full of people. The guys stop.

SAM

Always follow me! I say, let's go somewhere where I can find a chick.

DUNCAN

They are all around you.

SAM

Ok, I'm going east! Do you mind if I continue my search on my own?

DUNCAN

On your own?

SAM

You scare them off.

See you tomorrow.

Sam goes away. Duncan shakes his head slowly and goes in the opposite direction.

EXT. - LISA'S HOTEL - EVENING

The girls come out of the front door. They are dressed in masquerade costumes.

LISA

Where do we go?

SARAH

Yesterday we went there.

She points to her right.

LISA

Ok, today we're going there.

Lisa points to her left.

The girls laugh and go in the direction.

EXT. - STREET OF VENICE - NIGHT

The street is full of people. They laugh, dance and walk around. Sarah makes her way through the crowd holding two glasses of beverages in her hands. She comes up to Lisa.

SARAH

There are so many people here! Here you

are! It's cold here.

He gives a glass to Lisa. She takes it. Suddenly the sky is lit by fireworks. People cheer and shout!

SARAH

Wow!

LISA

Let's	go	to	the
bridge!	T.	here's	a
better	vi	ew	from

there!

They start making their way through the crowd. Sarah gradually falls behind. Lisa doesn't turn around; she tries desperately not to bump into anybody. Sarah bumps into a guy who's wearing a masquerade costume but has no mask. He is obviously an Italian.

THE ITALIAN

Hello!

SARAH (smiles)

Hi!

EXT. - BRIDGE - CONTINUES

Lisa walks among people. She chooses a place, stops and turns around.

LISA

Look there!

She is puzzled.

LISA

Sarah!

The girl looks around.

LISA

Sarah! Where are you?

Lisa stays on the bridge watching the fireworks. Suddenly a guy in a mask joins her (Duncan).

DUNCAN

Do you mind?

LISA

No, of course not.

DUNCAN

The best view is from

there.

He points at the far end of the canal.

DUNCAN

If you want to have a great view you should hire a gondola.

LISA (smiles)

If you want to get rid of me you're wasting your time. I was the first to stop here.

Duncan laughs.

DUNCAN

May I ask what your name is?

LISA

You may.

Duncan laughs.

DUNCAN

What is your name?

LISA (pauses)

Juliet.

DUNCAN

Ok! I'm Romeo.

LISA

Nice to meet you,

Romeo.

DUNCAN

Likewise. What would

you say if I bought

you a drink?

LISA

I'd say "thank you".

DUNCAN

I've been dreaming about it for all my

life. Let's go!

EXT. - CANAL - A MOMENT LATER

A gondola. Duncan and Lisa go for a ride in it. They talk, laugh and drink some beverages. Duncan points at houses and tells the girl something. They laugh.

EXT. - BRIDGE - NIGHT

Lisa and Duncan stay on the bridge.

DUNCAN

Are you sure? I'd be glad to walk you to your hotel.

LISA

No, thank you. It's not far from here. I'll be fine. Besides, I've got to find my friend.

DUNCAN

Ok… You know, it's the best evening I've ever had. Thank you.

LISA

Likewise.

DUNCAN

Can you give me your

phone number?

LISA

Let's do it this way: give me your phone number and I'll call you when I'm in London.

DUNCAN

Ok, it's 01833

499 500.

Lisa puts the number into the memory of her mobile phone.

LISA

Here you are!

She puts the phone into her tiny handbag.

DUNCAN

Good bye, Juliet.

He takes her hand and kisses it. Lisa curtsies.

LISA

Good bye, Romeo!

Duncan goes away. Lisa doesn't move.

LISA (whispers)

Oh, my God!

Suddenly her mobile phone rings.

LISA

Sarah!

The girl takes the phone out of her handbag and is going to answer the ring when a man bumps into her and the girl drops her mobile phone. It falls down into the waters of the canal.

LISA

No! Oh, God! No! My

phone!

INT. - DUNCAN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Duncan enters the room. He comes up to the bed and falls down on it. There is a scream. Duncan jumps up, shies away from the bed. Sam sits up on the bed.

DUNCAN

What a hell are you

doing here?

SAM

(a bit drunk and

sleepy)

What? Why?

DUNCAN

Why are you in my bed?

SAM

Oh! Sorry! My mistake.

Good night.

He gets up, takes the blanket, wraps it around himself and goes towards a door.

DUNCAN

You're going to my bathroom.

Sam stops and turns around.

DUNCAN

And give me my blanket

back!

Sam takes off the blanket and stands stark naked in front of Duncan.

DUNCAN

Oh! God! Keep it!

Sam takes the blanket wraps it around himself.

DUNCAN

Wait! Let me tell you

something.

Sam sits down on the floor with his eyes closed.

DUNCAN

Oh, just don't you die

right here!

He comes up to Sam and sits down beside him.

DUNCAN

I met a girl.

Sam snores. Duncan shakes him.

DUNCAN

She's amazing. I've

never met such a girl

before.

Sam snores even louder than before.

DUNCAN

I fucked her right on

the bridge!

Sam wakes up.

SAM

What? Where?

DUNCAN

Kidding. But she's

really gorgeous.

SAM

What does she look

like?

DUNCAN

I don't know. She was

wearing a mask and a

masquerade costume.

SAM

She may be ugly.

DUNCAN

No, it's impossible.

He stands up, goes to the window and sits down on the windowsill.

DUNCAN

I don't even know her

name.

Sam stands up and goes to the door.

SAM

You are nuts.

DUNCAN

May be. All I know for sure is that she's got wonderful long blond

hair.

INT. - LISA'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The girl enters the room. She goes to her bed, sits down on it and sighs. Then she takes off her mask. For the first time we can see her pretty face. Then slowly she takes off her blond wig. The girl has got dark auburn hair. She takes off her clothes lies down on the bed and closes her eyes.

INT. - LONDON - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

The alarm clock rings. Lisa's face. The girl wakes up. She lies in her bed in her house in London. She goes to her stereo system and turns on music loudly. The girl goes to her bathroom closes the door. The telephone rings. Lisa's got a toothbrush in her mouth. She goes to the nightstand and picks up the phone. Sarah phones.

SARAH (OVER PHONE)

Are you awake?

Lisa goes to the bathroom.

SARAH

Lisa! I've run a man over.

Lisa stops brushing her teeth. She is shocked.

SARAH

I'll be late for work. Will you cover me up? We're going to have some coffee.

Lisa shakes her head, goes on brushing her teeth.

SARAH

Lisa! Are you brushing

the teeth? Ok, don't

say anything. See you.

Lisa hangs up the phone.

INT. - KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER

Lisa adds some milk into her cornflakes. She pours some coffee into a cup. Something across the street attracts her attention. She stands at the window and looks at the street.

EXT. - HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET - CONTINUES

A guy tries to lock the door. He's got some problems with the lock. He drops the keys, picks them up.

INT. - KITCHEN - CONTINUES

Lisa watches the guy, shakes her head and drinks her coffee.

EXT. - HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET - CONTINUES

The guy locks the door finally and turns around. It's Duncan. He looks up at Lisa's window. He sees the girl and waves his hand to her.

INT. - KITCHEN - CONTINUES

Lisa gives a start and spills some coffee on her hand.

LISA

Damn it!

She forces a smile and waves her hand.

EXT. - STREET OF LONDON - CONTINUES

Duncan goes down the street. He reaches a corner of the street, comes up to a car, opens a door and gets in. Sam sits on the driver's seat.

SAM

You're late.

DUNCAN

Sorry, the lock gives

me pain every day.

SAM

Change it.

DUNCAN

I have no time.

They drive away.

EXT. - LISA'S HOUSE - A MOMENT LATER

Lisa leaves her house. She locks the door, puts the keys into her handbag and goes down the street. She meets some people and says hello to them. She comes up to a stall and buys an apple and a peach and continues her way. She reaches a crossroads, stops at the traffic lights, waits for the signal and crosses the road. The girl comes to a bus stop and waits for a bus to come. The bus stops. Lisa gets into it, pays the fee, chooses a seat, sits down and looks through the window. The bus drives away. INT. - DUNCAN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A lot of people walk about. Duncan sits in a booth in front of his computer. He picks up the phone and dials a number. Sam's phone rings. He picks up the phone.

DUNCAN (INTO PHONE)

I'm gonna try to upload an ad in the Internet.

Sam looks at Duncan who sits in the booth opposite.

SAM (INTO PHONE)

What ad?

DUNCAN

If she reads it she

may call me.

SAM

She never called you. You gave her your phone number and she never called you. Stop

humiliating yourself!

He hangs up the phone.

DUNCAN

She might ...

He looks at the receiver.

DUNCAN

She might lose the

number.

He puts down the receiver, looks at the display of the pc and sighs.

INT. - LISA'S OFFICE - AGTERNOON

Lisa sits in front of a pc and works. A man's voice (the chief).

Lisa! Where's Sarah?

LISA

Oh! Sarah! I'm afraid she's gonna be late today.

THE CHIEF

Is she? What a surprise!

LISA

She called me and as far as I could understand there's something's wrong with her car. A breakdown or something.

THE CHIEF

As soon as she comes tell her I'm waiting for her in my office. What about the project?

LISA

The project? Oh, it's ok. I think it'll take me a three or four days to finish it.

THE CHIEF

Good. I'm looking forward to it.

He goes away. Lisa sighs, looks at the display. There is and a design project of restaurant made in the Venetian style.

INT. - SUBWAY - EVENING

Lisa stands on an escalator going down. She looks a bit sad and tired. She goes to a platform and stays there to wait for her train. The train arrives. The sliding-doors open and Lisa gets in. She sits down, takes a book out of her bag and starts reading it. Then she looks through the window on the billboards on the walls. The girl looks around and sees a boy and a girl, who sit close to each other and kiss. Lisa smiles vaguely and sighs. The train stops. Lisa gets up and gets out of the train. She walks to the stairs and goes up.

EXT. - STREET OF LONDON - EVENING

Lisa walks down the street. It is dark in the street. The girl goes home. She looks into shop windows. She stops at a shop window with souvenirs. She enters the shop.

LISA

Good evening

THE SHOP ASSISTANT

Good evening

Lisa walks among shelves and takes a closer look at different things. She stops at a Venetian mask. Lisa looks at it attentively.

EXT LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa comes up to her house. She has a package in her hands. She comes up to the door, takes the keys out of her bag and unlocks the door.

INT HALL OF LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa takes off her shoes, turns on the light and picks up mail from the floor. She looks through it and throws it on a low table. She takes off her jacket and hangs it on the hallstand. Lisa takes the package and goes to the living-room. Without turning on the light she sits down onto the sofa and unwraps the package. The girl takes the mask. She examines it, touches it and sighs. The girl lies down on the sofa, holding the mask in her hands and closes her eyes. The moon light falls into the room through the window. Lisa lies with her eyes closed in the dark room. Suddenly the light goes on. The girl blinks and opens her eyes. Sarah drops onto the sofa beside Lisa.

SARAH

What a day!

Lisa sits up on the sofa.

LISA

Hello…

SARAH

I ran a guy over in

the morning as you

know.

She gets up and goes to the kitchen.

LISA

Is everything all

right?

Sarah takes a drink out of the fridge and goes back to Lisa.

SARAH

Yeah, I'm fine.

She sits down in an armchair and drinks the juice.

LISA

I meant the guy.

SARAH

He? Sure. Why?

LISA

You ran him over!!!!!

SARAH

Oh, I did. Well, not

exactly. I hit him

slightly so we went to

have some coffee.

LISA

Did you drink coffee

all day long?

Lisa gets up and goes to the bathroom and starts washing her face. Sarah gets up and comes up to the door of the bathroom.

SARAH

No, we didn't.

LISA

The boss was looking for you. I didn't know what to tell him so I said you were in hospital.

SARAH

Ok. What's wrong with

me? Concussion?

LISA

Permanent one, I think!

Sarah laughs.

SARAH

Let's go to a club tonight.

LISA

I can't. I'm too tired. I had to work for two of us today. Have you forgotten?

The girl takes a towel and wipes her face with it.

LISA

Besides, you have a concussion!

Sarah grabs the towel from Lisa's hands.

SARAH

Come on!

Lisa looks at Sarah attentively.

LISA

I don't feel like

going anywhere at all.

Lisa and Sarah go to the sofa. Sarah takes the mask into hands.

SARAH

Are you still thinking of this guy?

Lisa shrugs.

SARAH

You are the craziest person I've ever known. You can't go on looking for a ghost. It happened almost 2 years ago! Jesus Christ!

Lisa keeps silent.

SARAH

Now! You are dressing up right now and we are going to the best night club and picking up two guys and spend a wild night with them and I swear, after that you'll never think of this Romeo or how-d'ya-call-him again!

INT. - NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Everybody dances. A loud music sounds. Sarah dances with a guy. They are holding glasses in their hands. Lisa sits at a bar stand and looks at Sarah. Sarah takes the guy's hand and they walk to Lisa.

SARAH

C'mon! Let's go to the

dance poll!

LISA

No, thank you! I don't

feel like dancing.

SARAH

Bullshit!

Sarah grabs Lisa's hand and drags her to the dance hall. They start to dance. A guy at a table looks at Lisa.

INT. - BOWLING CLUB - NIGHT

Sam and Duncan play bowling and drink beer.

SAM

You know I can't

understand one thing.

DUNCAN

What thing?

SAM

What was so special about the girl in Venice? I mean you spent only several hours together. Why are you so obsessed with her?

DUNCAN

Do you think I can understand that? Chemistry, perhaps.

SAM

If I upload the ad into the internet, will it ease your mind?

DUNCAN

A great deal!

SAM

Ok, I'll do it because you're my friend. But if she doesn't answer in two weeks, you'll quit thinking about her and find yourself a girl!

DUNCAN

Deal!

They shake hands.

SAM

I'm gonna get some

more beer.

INT. - LISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Lisa gets dressed. She's wearing a beautiful summer dress. She chooses earrings. She puts them on, takes her handbag and leaves her house.

EXT. - LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa tries to catch a taxi but they pass her by. She takes a look at her watch and decides to go by foot. Has she hardly started to cross the road a car passes her by and splashes the girl with water from a puddle. Lisa stops abruptly and looks at herself.

LISA

She shakes off the splashes of water from her dress, shakes head and crosses the road. The girl goes to a bus stop. A bus arrives and Lisa gets in. The bus is overcrowded. Lisa squeezes herself into the bus. She stands close to a teenager. The boy examines Lisa. Lisa doesn't like the way he looks at her so she looks away. The boy looks at Lisa's handbag. He opens it carefully, puts his hand into it and takes the girl's wallet out of there.

EXT. - BUS STOP - EVENING

The bus stops at a bus stop. Lisa gets out of it. As she steps on the pavement a heel of her high-heeled shoe gets into a grating and sticks there. Lisa stops and looks down.

LISA

What a..?

She tries to draw the heel out of the grating but fails. The heel suddenly gets broken.

LISA

Oh! No! God!

She tries to walk. She lumps.

INT. - RESTAURANT - EVENING

The guy, who looked at Lisa in the night club, sits at a table. It is obvious he's been waiting for her for some time. Lisa enters. The guy gets up smiling, but his smile fades away as he sees the way she looks. Lisa holds her shoes in her hands. She is dirty and obviously she's ashamed of her looks. The guy clears his throat.

THE GUY

Hello, Lisa!

Obviously he feels uncomfortable because everybody in the restaurant stares at Lisa.

LISA

Hi! I'm sorry for this.

She points at her dress and shows her shoes.

THE GUY

You look great!

LISA

It's not true but

thank you.

The guy seats her on the chair. A waiter comes.

THE WAITER

How do you do? What

would you like?

The guy looks questioningly at Lisa. She smiles and shrugs.

THE GUY

Ok, two specials, a bottle of red wine. As for a dessert, we'll talk about it later.

The waiter nods and leaves.

THE GUY

Well, it was quite an

appearance!

LISA

It's obviously not my

day today. I'm sorry.

THE GUY

Don't be. Now I know

for sure that I met a

special girl.

The waiter brings a wine and pours it into the glasses. The guy takes a glass. Lisa stretches her hand to take the other and at the moment the waiter puts a dish on the table. Lisa jerks her arm back, hits the glass and the wine pours out on the guy's trousers. The guy jumps up. Lisa closes her mouth with a hand.

Oh, I'm sorry!

The girl grabs a napkin from the table and tries to wipe the wine. The guy pushes her hand away.

THE GUY

It's ok. It's just goddamn Gucci trousers!

LISA

I'm sorry. It was so clumsy of me. I'm really sorry.

The guy throws the napkin on the table.

THE GUY

It's ok. The only thing is that now I have to drive home and change but I'll be back in 15 minutes and then we'll continue our acquaintance.

LISA

I'm really sorry.

THE GUY

Shit happens. I'll be

right back.

He leaves the restaurant. The people stare at Lisa. Lisa looks at the clock on the wall. It is 5.30 p.m. The clock shows 6.45 p.m. The waiter comes up to Lisa's table.

THE WAITER

Excuse me. Some more

coffee?

Lisa raises her head.

No, I think I'd better go. He must be having some urgent things to do.

THE WAITER

He surely is.

LISA

Check, please.

The waiter nods and leaves. Lisa closes her face with the hands. The waiter comes and gives her the check. Lisa looks at the check, opens her bag and is going to get her wallet. Something is wrong. Lisa looks into the bag and starts searching it. The waiter looks at the girl attentively.

LISA

Um, I'm sorry. Can't
find my wallet.

She forces a smile. The waiter smiles coldly and goes to a security guy at the entrance, whispers something into his ear and nods in the direction of Lisa. Lisa searches her bag and takes some things out of it. She sighs deeply and closes her handbag. The waiter comes up to her.

LISA

Sorry. My wallet must have been stolen... Do you accept jewellery?

INT - HALL OF LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

The door opens and Lisa comes in. She throws her shoes into the corner, throws her handbag on the table and sits down on the floor beside it. The phone rings. Lisa glares at it and doesn't pick up. The phone goes on ringing. Lisa closes her ears with the hands. The phone rings. Finally Lisa picks up the receiver but keeps silent. It is Sarah. SARAH

You are in so early?!!!! LISA Don't you tell me anything! SARAH Why? What's wrong? How was the date? LISA Horrible! SARAH What happened? LISA I was late! A car splashed me with mud! I broke a heel! I poured the wine on his bloody Gucci trousers! He left me there alone and never came back! He let me pay for the dinner I never ate! And some bastard stole my wallet so I had to leave my diamond earrings in the restaurant!

SARAH

I think you should take a relaxing bath. Let's go to a nightclub tomorrow and

try one more time.

LISA

Go to hell!

Lisa hangs up the phone and gets up. The girl goes to the bathroom, switches on the light and turns on water. The light goes off. Lisa's voice in the darkness.

LISA

SHIT!

INT. - RESTAURANT - EVENING

Duncan sits at a table and waits for a girl. She comes in. The girl is very pretty. Duncan gets ups.

DUNCAN

Hello!

THE GIRL

Hi!

Duncan seats her at table. A waiter comes.

THE WAITER

Are you ready to

order?

The girl smiles.

DUNCAN

Sure! What would you

like?

THE GIRL

Please, do. I trust

you.

Duncan smiles.

DUNCAN

A bottle of red wine.

Two steaks and ...

The girl screams.

THE GIRL

Duncan and the waiter give a start. The girl is on the edge of hysterics.

THE GIRL

I'm a vegetarian!

INT. - RESTAURANT - EVENING

Duncan sits at a table with a girl. She is pretty but rather brutal.

DUNCAN

Some wine?

THE GIRL

No. Never drink that

shit! Get me some

beer.

Duncan forces a smile.

DUNCAN

Right. Nice.

INT. - RESTAURANT - EVENING

Duncan drinks wine. A girl sits at a table with him. She looks vulgar.

THE GIRL

So, what are we gonna

do tonight?

She takes off her shoe under the table and puts it on Duncan's chair between his thighs. Duncan chocks on the wine.

INT. - RESTAURANT - EVENING

Duncan listens to a girl talking. He is obviously bored.

THE GIRL

You can't even imagine! Worms even have the social hierarchy!

DUNCAN

No!

Do they?

THE GIRL

They do! It's amazing!

They...

Duncan glances at his watch.

DUNCAN

It is interesting indeed, but will you excuse me for a moment? I have to make a call.

THE GIRL

Sure!

Duncan goes to the door and comes up to a waiter.

DUNCAN

Where is a phone?

THE WAITER

Right there in the

corner, sir.

DUNCAN

Thank you.

INT. - HALL OF RESTAURANT - CONTINUES

Duncan dials a number.

DUNCAN (INTO PHONE)

Get me hell out of

here right now!

SAM (OVER PHONE)

Why? Don't you like Meg?

DUNCAN

Her name is Helen. And no, I don't like her.

SAM

You said you want her

to be smart ...

DUNCAN

You have 15 minutes!

He hangs up the phone.

INT - LISA'S OFFICE - DAYTIME

Lisa sits at the table and works on the computer. She is very busy. Suddenly somebody grabs her leg from below. Lisa jumps up and screams. Everybody in the office stares at the girl in surprise. Sarah laughs squatting on the floor.

LISA

(indignant)

What a hell are you doing?!

SARAH

I'm hiding from the chief.

LISA

Why scaring me?

SARAH

I couldn't help

myself. Sorry.

LISA

Why are you hiding? SARAH

He said he wants to see my project today.

LISA

You are not ready, are you?

SARAH

I was busy!

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LISA
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Yeah! Sure! But you may relax, he's gone to Brighton. SARAH I'm so goddamn

lucky!

She gets up.

SARAH

Well, nice to see you. I've gotta go.

She turns around and goes to her working place. Has she hardly gone a half of the way the chief appears in the far end of the corridor. Sarah gets panicked, shies away, bumps into a table and hides behind it. Lisa looks at all this process trying not to laugh out loud.

EXT. - CAFÉ - AFTERNOON

Sarah and Lisa sit at a table and enjoy the sunshine and warmth.

SARAH

Lovely weather, isn't

it?!

LISA

It is.

Suddenly Sarah's face changes. She is in panic. She gets under the table. Lisa is surprised. She looks down at Sarah.

LISA

You make me worry about your mental health!

LISA

Where?

Sarah points at the entrance. A guy (Ben) stands there talking to a waiter. Ben sees Lisa and goes to her table. Sarah grabs the table-cloth and pulls it down a bit so that Ben couldn't notice her.

BEN

Hi, Lisa!

LISA

Hello! How are you,

Ben?

BEN

I'm fine, thanks. You?

LISA

Oh, I'm great!

BEN

How's Sarah?

LISA

She is not too well,

I'm afraid...

Sarah listens to them carefully. She is surprised.

BEN

Why? What's wrong?

LISA

You know, she's a bit sick. She's had a car crush lately and now she is suffering from concussion.

BEN Is she? Horrible!

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LISA
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Yes! She is constantly forgetting things and sometimes she doesn't recognize even me!

Sarah is speechless. She punches Lisa under the table. Lisa gives a cry. Ben gives a start.

BEN

What's wrong?

LISA

Nothing. It's just a

hiccup...

Ben pours some water into a glass and gives it to Lisa.

LISA

Thank you.

She drinks the water.

BEN

So, is she so bad?

LISA

Aha. She is constantly crying. The doctors say she may need hospitalization. You know, a very bad mental condition.

BEN

Well. I hope she'll be fine. I just wanted to give her CDs back. I think I'd better send them by mail. Well, bye.

LISA

See you.

Lisa looks down under the table.

SARAH

What a hell did you

tell him?

LISA

Now, I'm sure he feels

much better.

SARAH

I'm not an angel!

LISA

I know...

Lisa gets under the table. They sit in silence for some time.

LISA

I wanna do something!

SARAH

Like what?

LISA

Like… I don't know. I

want to change

something!

SARAH

Go to another café?

LISA

No! I mean in my life!

SARAH

Well, I don't know...

LISA

I want to renovate my

living-room!

SARAH

Do you need some help?

LISA

I don't think so.

SARAH

Thanks God!

They laugh. A waiter kneels at the table and looks at the girls.

THE WAITER

Are you all right? Can

I help you?

LISA

Oh! No, thanks!

The girls get out of the table laughing.

INT. - LISA'S LIVING-ROOM - AFTERNOON

The windows are open. The weather is wonderful outside. There is no furniture in the room. Lisa is dressed in jeans, a T-shirt and a baseball cap. She tears off the wallpapers from the wall. A loud music plays.

INT. - LISA'S LIVING-ROOM - AFTERNOON

Lisa plasters the walls. Her clothes are stained with the plaster.

EXT. - STREET - CONTINUES

Duncan approaches his house. He carries a bag with food in his hands. The guy looks up and sees Lisa in the window. The girl re-paints the window-frames. Duncan comes up to the frontdoor of his house. Sam sits on the stairs and eats doughnuts. He sees Duncan and points at Lisa's window.

SAM

What a sight!

DUNCAN

Hi! How long have you

been waiting?

SAM

Long enough to eat your doughnuts.

Duncan unlocks the door. The guys enter the house.

INT. - DUNCAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUES

The guys enter the kitchen.

SAM

Did you buy any beer?

Sam searches the bag and takes out a bottle of beer out of there. He comes up to the window and looks at Lisa working.

INT. - LISA'S LIVING-ROOM - SAME TIME

Lisa paints window-frames. Suddenly she notices Sam staring at her. Sam smiles and waves his hand. Lisa smiles and nods.

INT. - DUNCAN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

SAM

Who is she?

Duncan is busy with the fridge.

DUNCAN

Who?

That

SAM

charming

creature.

Duncan comes up to the window and looks at Lisa.

DUNCAN

A girl.

SAM

Is she? Can't believe

that!

Duncan puts the food into the fridge.

SAM

What's her name?

DUNCAN

I don't know. If I'm not mistaken we went to the same school but I'm not sure. You know girls change a lot after school. Her name is Lisa or Alice or something.

Sam drinks beer thoughtfully.

SAM

I know why everything went wrong with the girls. They are not your kind. You need another type of girl.

Duncan doesn't look at Sam. He is busy with putting some food into a microwave oven.

SAM

You need a charming girl. A girl with a nice figure. A smart girl. A girl with dark hair...

Duncan listens to Sam.

SAM

A girl who can paint window-frames and walls...

Duncan comes up to window and looks at Lisa and Sam in turn. Duncan closes the window.

DUNCAN

Enough.

SAM Why? Come on! You have such a girl just across the street! Come on, date her!

DUNCAN

Stop talking nonsense!

SAM

I'm not! If you don't

date her, I will.

Spare a poor girl!

Duncan takes a plate with food out of the microwave oven and puts it on the table and starts eating.

SAM

I'm not hungry, thanks.

DUNCAN

You have eaten all my

doughnuts.

SAM

I have. I need to go

to the bathroom.

Duncan makes a gesture with the fork that shows the direction to the bathroom. Sam leaves the room. Duncan looks attentively at Lisa.

INT. - LISA'S LIVING ROOM - SOME TIME LATER

Lisa stands at the door of her living room and drinks juice. Then she puts the glass on the floor, takes a paintbrush out of a jar with blue paint. The girl comes up to a wall and paints some ornament with the blue paint. Then she steps back and looks at the wall. It is covered with blue flowers painted on it. Lisa looks around and looks at her renovated living-room and sighs with satisfaction.

EXT. - STREET - AFTERNOON

A taxi stops at Lisa's door. The girl gets out of the taxi. She holds a bouquet of blue irises in her hands. The taxi driver gets out of the car opens the trunk and takes out a large box out of it.

LISA

Thank you.

THE TAXI DRIVER

You are welcome, miss!

He gets into the car and drives away. Lisa unlocks the door and leaves it ajar. She comes up to the box and stares at it.

LISA

And how on earth am I

gonna get it in?

A man's voice behind the Lisa's back.

SAM

May I help you?

Lisa gives a start and turns around. Sam stands behind her back. He has a bottle of still water.

LISA

Oh! Yes, please! It

would be great!

SAM

Will you?

He gives the bottle to the girl. Sam picks up the box and takes it into the house. Lisa follows him.

INT. - HALL OF LISA'S HOUSE - CONTINUES

Sam stands in the hall and looks around. Lisa shuts the front door.

 \mathtt{SAM}

Where do I put it?

LISA

Oh! It's upstairs.

Sam goes upstairs. Lisa follows him. **INT. -** LISA'S LIVING-ROOM - CONTINUES Sam and Lisa enter the renovated living-room. There is some furniture in the room. The room is furnished with subtle taste. Sam is impressed. He looks around.

> SAM Wow!!! It's really impressive! LISA Do you really think so? SAM I... Well, yes, I do! Have you done all this by yourself? LISA Yes, I did! Oh! Put it

here. But, be careful.

It's fragile.

Sam puts the box on the floor carefully. Lisa gives him the water back.

SAM

What's in there?

Lisa opens the box and draws a package out of the box. She unwraps the paper and shows a long blue glass vase. Then she takes several more packages out of the box. These are identical vases but smaller in size.

SAM

Where are you gonna put

them?

Lisa takes the vase to a small table in a corner of the room. She puts it there and puts the flowers into it.

SAM

You're gonna need some water.

Sam pours the water out of the bottle into the vase.

SAM

Here it is!

LISA

Thank you.

They keep silent for a moment.

LISA

Would you like some coffee?

SAM

Oh, no, thank you. I gotta go.

LISA

Oh, ok.

INT. - HALL OF LISA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON The girl opens the door. Sam leaves.

LISA

Thank you for your help.

SAM

You are welcome. May I

ask you a question?

LISA

Sure.

SAM

Do you have a

boyfriend?

LISA

Excuse me?

SAM

Don't get me wrong. I have a friend. He is a great guy and he is single so I thought you may have a date or something.

LISA

(speechless)

I think... you'd better go.

SAM

Got the hint.

LISA

Thank you for your

help.

SAM

Bye.

Lisa shuts the door.

INT. - A NIGHT CLUB - RESTROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Duncan stand at the mirror and wash hands.

SAM

I	saw		your	
neighbour				
yesterday.				
	DUNCAN			

What neighbour?

SAM

The girl that can

paint window-

frames.

DUNCAN

Oh!

SAM

As far as I understood she is single.

DUNCAN

You asked her about such things? SAM Yes, why? DUNCAN You don't know her at all! SAM So what? By the way I almost succeeded in getting you a date. DUNCAN What?! Are you nuts? SAM Why? Don't you like her? DUNCAN It's not the point! The point is that you don't know her and you didn't even ask me if I liked her! SAM Do you like her? DUNCAN No, I don't! He leaves the restroom. EXT. - LISA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Lisa is standing at the door waiting for somebody. A car pulls over. Lisa gets in.

INT. - SARAH'S CAR - CONTINUES

SARAH

Remind me why are we going there so early in the morning?

LISA

To save your ass.

SARAH

Right!

They drive away. A moment later another car pulls over at the house across the street. Duncan leaves the house and gets in.

INT. - SAM'S CAR - CONTINUES

SAM

Hurry up! We gotta

fetch the girls.

They drive away.

EXT. - A FARM - DAYTIME

Sarah's car pulls over at the gate of a farm. The girls get out of the vehicle. Lisa immediately steps into cow's droppings.

LISA

I can't believe it!

SARAH

What's wrong? Oh,

my God!

LISA

It's all your

fault!

The girl tries to wipe the droppings away. The girls come up to a front door of the house. Sarah knocks at the door. The farmer opens the door.

SARAH

How do you do? I'm Sarah McDougan the company "Interior". We have an appointment. This is my personal assistant Lisa Brown.

FARMER

Yes, sure, come in.

The girls enter the house.

FARMER

You can work here as long as you

like. I'm going to

the stable.

SARAH

Oh! Thank you so much.

The farmer leaves.

LISA

Where did you get his address? What is so special about the farm?

SARAH

I found it on the chief's table. There was a note that they're going to use the interior for a new project. Just imagine the chief's face when I bring him all the photos and tell him I have an idea! LISA You're impossible! SARAH

But charming, don't

you think so?

Sarah takes her camera and starts taking photos.

EXT. - A LAKE SHORE - DAYTIME

Duncan, Sam and two girls sit on the grass and have a picnic.

SAM

Oh! I left the wine in the car. I'll go and get it.

DUNCAN

Let me help you.

The guys go to the car. Sam opens the trunk and takes a couple of bottles of wine.

SAM

So, how d'you like

the girls?

DUNCAN

They are nice.

SAM

Nice? They are hot! I'm after Joan.

She's a model. I love blondes! DUNCAN The blond girl's name is Melanie. SAM Is it? Makes no difference. DUNCAN I bet it does for her. SAM Don't be so gloomy. Smile! DUNCAN I'm not gloomy. It's just we've got nothing to talk about! SAM Don't talk! Act! Come on. They go back to the girls. SAM If we take the boat and cross the lake we can play golf. How about that? MELANIE Great! I love golf! I just can't play it! They go to the boat.

EXT. - ANOTHER LAKE SHORE - SOME TIME LATER Lisa and Sarah sit on the grass.

SARAH

Well, I think it was a perfect day! On Monday I'll show the pictures to the chief and he'll give me a promotion.

LISA

Yeah, he won't fire you if you are lucky.

SARAH

Still, the weather is great, the air is fresh... By the way, you shoe still stinks.

Lisa looks at her shoe. Sarah gets up and stretches herself.

SARAH

Anyway, even this smell can't spoil

my mood. Nothing

can go wrong!

At this very moment a golf ball hits her right in the forehead. Sarah falls down unconscious. On the top of the hill there appear Sam and Melanie, Joan and Duncan.

JOAN

Oh, my God! I've just killed a girl! They come down to Lisa kneeling at Sarah.

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LISA
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What have you done? SAM Is she alright? LISA She is not! Can't you see? JOAN We're sorry! We did not mean to hurt anybody! LISA You must be more careful! You might kill someone one day! DUNCAN I think you're exaggerating. She's fainted. It's not fatal. LISA I wonder what you would say in her shoes.

Lisa slaps Sarah's face gently. Sarah doesn't move. Suddenly Duncan pours some water on Sarah's face. The girl gasps and sits up.

SARAH

What a hell are you doing?

Was that necessary? SARAH Bastard! Oh, my head! Lisa helps her to get up and leads her to the car. MELANIE Can we help you? LISA No, thank you! Just stay away from us. She helps Sarah get into the car. LISA I'll drive the car. We must see a doctor. She cast a furious glance at Duncan and drives away. **INT.** - HOSPITAL - DAYTIME Lisa waits for Sarah to leave a doctor's office. Here she appears holding a bag of ice at her forehead. LISA

LISA

What did he say?

SARAH

Nothing serious, but I'm gonna have a bump.

LISA

Well, there's something about it. You can make

the chief feel for

you.

They laugh.

EXT. - LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa gets out of a taxi and goes to her front door. Across the street Duncan tries to unlock his. He sees Lisa and comes up to her.

DUNCAN

Excuse me.

LISA

What are you doing

here?

DUNCAN

I live right there.

He points at his house.

LISA

Great!	We are			
neighbours!				
DUNCAN				
Unfortunately. I				
was going to ask				
how your friend is.				
LISA				
She is	ok. But			
she'll hav	ve to stay			
in bed for a couple				
of days.				
DUNCAN				
You see, I	I told you			
there's	nothing			
serious.				
	LISA			

For you maybe. And now she'll have to stay at home and miss a meeting that is very important for her career. Hope you'll sleep well tonight.

DUNCAN

I will, I promise.

Lisa enters her house and slams the door.

LISA

Bastard!

DUNCAN

Bitch!

And he walks to his house.

INT. - LISA'S CHIEF OFFICE - DAYTIME

Lisa sits in a chair. The chief is looking through an album with drafts and drawings.

THE CHIEF Well, I like it. You did a very good job. LISA Thank you, sir. May I go? THE CHIEF Yes. By the way, where is Sarah? LISA Oh, yes. You see,

yesterday. Sarah got

a minor injury but a doctor told her to stay in bed for a couple of days.

THE CHIEF

I see…

Lisa is about to leave his office. The door opens a Sarah, a bandaged head, appears enters the room.

THE CHIEF

Sarah... I thought...

SARAH

the

I couldn't possibly

miss

appointment. I brought some photos and I'd like you to have a look at them.

Lisa shakes her head and leaves.

INT. - LISA'S OFFICE - SOME TIME LATER

Lisa stands at a coffee machine and drinks coffee. Sarah joins her.

SARAH

Shit! I have no money. Buy me some coffee.

LISA

What is this on

your head?

Lisa puts a coin into a slot. Sarah takes the coffee and drinks it.

SARAH

I decided you were right about his sympathy. The bondage just added to the effect. You won't believe it! He offered me some water and said I may go home and take an extra dayoff. Bye-bye!

She kisses Lisa in the cheek and strolls away.

EXT. - DUNCAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Duncan is going to unlock the door when he notices that it is ajar. Duncan frowns and gingerly enters the house.

INT. - DUNCAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUES

Duncan slowly and gingerly walks from the corridor to the kitchen. He noiselessly opens a drawer and takes a knife out of it. The guy turns around and sees and elderly woman armed with a frying pan. They both scream and shy away.

DUNCAN

Mother! What are you doing here? MRS.MILNE You scared me, son! DUNCAN You can't even imagine the way YOU scared me! How did you come in? MRS.MILNE have a key. I Ι

made a duplicate

key last time I was

here.

DUNCAN

Cool!

MRS.MILNE

I've come to take

care of you.

DUNCAN

Mother, I'm old enough to take care of myself.

Mother takes a kettle and pours some tea into two cups. They sit down at the table.

MRS.MILNE

Yeah, I can see that! You are 28 and still single.

DUNCAN (annoyed)

Mother!

MRS.MILNE

I'm not getting younger. I want to

see grandchildren.

DUNCAN

You might have some you just don't know about them.

MRS.MILNE

Still joking! I'm here to find you a girl.

DUNCAN

Oh, no! You should talk to Sam. He's hooked on the idea. MRS.MILNE You see! Even your friends are worried about you! You behave like a small boy who lost his favourite toy. Have you lost your dream girl?

Duncan looks at the street through the window.

INT - RESTAURANT - EVENING

There is a great fuss about it. People are running around, arranging something, taking bouquets of flowers, boxes, bulbs etc. A guy comes up to Lisa. He has a basket of fruits in his hands.

A GUY

Miss Brown, where do I

put this basket?

LISA

Oh, right there, in

the corner!

The guy leaves. Lisa's chief comes up to her and takes her by the hand.

THE CHIEF

Are you all right?

LISA

Yes, I am.

THE CHIEF

It's your first big

project.

Let's hope not the

last one.

The chief laughs. Lisa rushes forward.

LISA

(shouts)

No, no! Not pink. I

never ordered pink! I

needed red! Change

them now!

The chief comes up to her.

THE CHIEF

Lisa, calm down. You've done a great job! Look around! It's about the best place I've ever seen! It's just the place where I'd like to spend an evening! You'll be

just fine!

He taps her on the shoulder and goes away. Lisa sighs deeply and looks around. In spite of the fuss and a crowd of workers the place does look great. Sarah comes up to Lisa.

SARAH

Baby! It's great! You are a genius!

She hugs Lisa.

SARAH

I'm sure you're gonna get a raise. And you do deserve it, honey!!!!!

LISA

Thank you!

INT - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

An opening of the restaurant. Men wear tuxedos. Women wear evening dresses. The chief meets the guests. Duncan enters the restaurant. He carries a camera. He is a photographer. He looks around and takes a couple of photos of the interior.

Lisa stands at a table in the corner. She has a beautiful evening dress on. She drinks champagne thirstily. It's obvious she is nervous. Sarah comes up to her.

SARAH

Hey! What's wrong?

LISA

I'm nervous!

SARAH

You are to meet the

guests! Give it to me!

Sarah takes away the glass from Lisa.

SARAH

Come on! It's about to

start!

The light goes off. The only light comes from candles. The sounds of classical music fill the room. The curtain draws open and there stand dancers dressed in masquerade costumes of a carnival of Venice. They start dancing. Duncan takes the photos of the show. Then he stops and watches it attentively and thoughtfully. It obviously reminds him of the carnival he'd been at. Suddenly small fireworks go off in the corners of the room. The people start to applaud.

INT - RESTAURANT - SOME TIME LATER

The guests sit at the tables. The dinner is served. Everything goes well. Lisa watches the process. The chief comes up to her. THE CHIEF

Congratulations! It was

terrific!

LISA

Was it?

THE CHIEF

Yes, it was. Moreover, can you see those men at a VIP table?

Four men have dinner.

LISA

Who are they?

THE CHIEF

They are representatives of an American restaurant chain.

LISA

Fast food?

THE CHIEF

No! Real elite restaurants. They are planning a new project in New York. And they are looking for a designer.

LISA

And...?

THE CHIEF

And they said they'd like to listen to your ideas and suggestions.

LISA

But I have none!!!!!

THE CHIEF

You've got two days!

LISA

It's impossible!

THE CHIEF

Think it over. Your own new project! In New York City! It's not about the money. It's about your future!

He winks at Lisa and goes away. Duncan comes up to the girl from behind.

DUNCAN

So, it's all your work?

As Lisa turns around and they see each other their smiles disappear.

LISA

What are you doing

here?

Duncan shows her his camera.

LISA

So,	YOU	are	the
photographer			from

"Seasons"?

DUNCAN

I am.

LISA

Couldn't they find

another one?

DUNCAN

Sorry to disappoint you but they say I'm the best.

LISA

Well, then you'd better do your job and leave me alone.

DUNCAN

Don't worry I'm not gonna disturb you. Besides, there are no golf clubs here.

Duncan takes a glass of champagne from a tray.

DUNCAN

It's worth drinking for.

He drinks champagne. Lisa is obviously angry she turns around abruptly and bumps into a woman. The latter falls back. Her husband tries to break her fall but the woman is too plump so they fall down together knocking a waiter down. The tray with cakes crowns the pyramid. Lisa is horrified.

> Oh, God! I'm so sorry!

She and the waiter help the spouses to get up. Lisa's chief appears. He takes the woman by the hand.

THE CHIEF

LISA

Let me help you. Come on, I'll take you to the necessary place.

They go away.

DUNCAN

I'm sure everything's gonna

be alright.

Lisa runs away.

INT. - LISA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Lisa drinks coffee. There's a knock at the door. The girl is surprised. It is obviously she doesn't expect anyone. The girl gets up and goes to open the door.

Lisa opens the door and sees Mrs. Milne there. There latter holds a basket in her hands.

MRS.MILNE

Good morning, honey.

LISA

Good morning. Can

I help you?

Mrs. Milne peeps into the house over Lisa's shoulder.

MRS.MILNE

I hope I'm not bothering you. You see, I'm your neighbour. Well, the mother of your neighbour, to be exact. He lives right across the street.

Lisa seems to be confused.

LISA

I don't really...

MRS.MILNE

My son told me what happened

yesterday. I think he was inexcusably rude. I've come to apologize for my son. Here, take these cakes. I made them myself. LISA Oh! Would you like to come in? MRS.MILNE Sure! She comes in and looks around. LISA Would you like some coffee? MRS.MILNE Oh, no, thank you! I've just had breakfast. Do you live alone? LISA Well, yes, I do. MRS.MILNE Don't you have a boyfriend? LISA No, I don't... MRS.MILNE Oh, honey, I'm sorry. Sometimes I am being so

curious. Do forgive me. LISA It's ok. It's just... MRS.MILNE Oh, honey, I'm afraid I have to go. But we shall talk very soon.

She leaves and crosses the street very quickly looking around as if she's done something illegal. Lisa is bewildered. She shuts the door.

INT. - DUNCAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUES

Mrs. Milne enters the house and tip-toes into the kitchen. She comes to the window and looks at the street. Duncan stands leaning to the fridge behind her.

DUNCAN

Why did you go there?

Mrs. Milne gives a start.

MRS.MILNE

Oh, good morning,

honey! Did you

sleep well?

DUNCAN

I did. You didn't answer my question.

MRS.MILNE

Me? What question? Oh, this one? I went to apologize

for your rude behaviour. DUNCAN You did what?! MRS.MILNE Yes, I did! It is not the way for my son to behave! DUNCAN You shouldn't have done it! MRS.MILNE Yes, I should. She is such a nice girl. By the way, she is single too. DUNCAN Enough. I think it's better for you to go home. I'm sure your flowers are fading. MRS.MILNE You don't want me to stay with you? DUNCAN As long as you interfere with my private life, no I don't! MRS.MILNE

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I'm trying to
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DUNCAN

help!

Duncan hugs her.

Mother, I love you. But I love you even more when you are in York. Trust me, as soon as I find a girl I love you'll be the first to learn about it.

Mrs. Milne sighs.

MRS.MILNE

In this case, I'm afraid it'll never happen.

DUNCAN

It will happen. I promise. Sooner or later.

Mrs. Milne smiles.

MRS.MILNE

Will you drive me

to the station?

INT. - A NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Lisa and Sarah sit at a table.

SARAH

So you say she brought some cakes?

LISA

Yeah. By the way, they are so delicious! SARAH Cool! Do you know who you dropped at the opening? LISA No, who? SARAH The head of "British Empire" food chain and his wife! LISA No way! Goodness!

No way! Goodness! I'm gonna be fired! SARAH

No, you are not. I asked the chief he said when they learnt that you are the designer the husband even said that such things happen.

Duncan and Sam enter the night club.

LISA

Bastard!

SARAH I thought you'll be glad.

LISA

No! That bastard that hit you with a golf ball! SARAH Where?

LISA

There!

SARAH

I thought you liked his mother.

LISA

He is not his mother. Every time I meet him I make a fool of myself. It gets on my nerves.

SARAH

He's hot! I didn't notice that that day.

LISA

You were unconscious how could you notice that?

SARAH

See, I told you -

you like him!

LISA

I don't! He makes me sick!

Duncan and Sam stand at a bar stand drinking beer.

You've deprived me

of an ally.

DUNCAN

If you and my mother mind your own business I'll be much happier.

SAM

Oh! Frank is here! I'll be right back.

And he goes to greet a guy. They discuss something briefly and Sam returns. He's got a cigarette in his hand.

SAM

Where were we?

Duncan notices the cigarette.

DUNCAN

What is this?

SAM

Nothing.

He hides the cigarette behind his back.

DUNCAN

What is this?

SAM

A cigarette.

(addressing a bar

tender) Give me

matches, please.

The bar tender gives him a box of matches. Sam lights the cigarette. Duncan smells the smoke.

DUNCAN

Marijuana? Are you crazy? Give it to me!

He takes the cigarette from Sam

SAM

Hey! Give it back.

Duncan notices Lisa passing him by and going to the exit. Duncan rushes after the girl.

EXT. - NIGHT CLUB ENTRANCE - CONTINUES

Lisa appears in the street and walks quickly away from the club. Duncan follows her.

DUNCAN

Excuse me.

Lisa turns around.

DUNCAN

Hi! I think I must apologize for my mother.

LISA

Is it a kind of a family tradition to apologize for each other?

DUNCAN

I don't want to argue. I just wanted to let you know I don't share my mother's attitude towards you.

LISA

Of course you don't! Your mother is such a nice lady. You must have gone after some one else.

DUNCAN

You aren't flawless either.

LISA

I'm not, but I don't hurt people without

apologizing.

DUNCAN

Yeah, I noticed that at the restaurant. Just for the record: it wasn't me who sent this golf ball.

Lisa doesn't know what to say. She notices the cigarette in his hand. She grabs it just to play for the time.

DUNCAN

I wouldn't do it if

I were you.

LISA

Why not?

She starts smoking and coughing at the same time.

DUNCAN

You've never smoked

before, have you?

LISA

What kind of cigarette is this? DUNCAN

Actually, it is ...

He takes Lisa's hand with a cigarette. A male's voice.

POLICE OFFICER

Miss, sir, you'll

have to follow me.

INT. - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

A cell. Duncan and Lisa are in the cell. Duncan sits on a bench, Lisa stands at the grating.

DUNCAN

I have a feeling you want to kill

me.

Lisa doesn't answer.

DUNCAN

Just don't keep

silent.

Lisa doesn't answer.

DUNCAN

I didn't make you take the cigarette. I even warned you not to.

LISA

Can you, please, shut up? If you hadn't followed me I wouldn't be here now.

DUNCAN

I called my friend… LISA A drug trafficker? DUNCAN He promised to get

us out of here.

LISA

I don't need your help. All I need is not to see your face ever again!

A police officer appears.

POLICE OFFICER Duncan Milne, you

may go. You are released from custody on the security of £1000.

LISA

What about me?

POLICE OFFICER

I'm sorry, miss.

DUNCAN

I'm sure my friend can help you.

LISA

No! I called my friend. I'm sure she's coming here now.

Duncan leaves the cell. Lisa sits down on the bench. She glances at her watch - it's 11.45 p.m.

INT. - CELL - SOME TIME LATER

Lisa sleeps leaning to the wall. The police officer appears. He opens the door. Lisa wakes up.

POLICE OFFICER

You may go.

Lisa glances at her watch - it's 3.15 a.m.

LISA

(angry)

Sarah!

INT. - POLICE STATION - LOBBY - CONTINUES

Lisa gets her handbag and jacket back and goes to the exit. She stops shocked. There stands Duncan.

DUNCAN

I saw there's no light in your house so I decided that you friend hasn't received your message yet.

LISA

I'll give you the money back as soon as possible.

DUNCAN

There's no need to rush. After all it's my fault.

LISA

Thanks.

They leave the building.

INT. - LISA'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

The girl sleeps in her bed. The doorbell rings. Lisa frowns and turns on the other side. The doorbell rings again. The girl doesn't want to get up. She closes her head with a pillow. The doorbell rings over and over again. Lisa moans and gets up. She goes downstairs and opens the door. There stands Sarah.

SARAH

What took you so long? I've got so much to tell you!

Lisa shuts the door before Sarah. Sarah is bewildered. She rings the doorbell again. Lisa won't open the door. She goes upstairs. Sarah takes her mobile phone and calls Lisa.

INT/EXT - SPLIT BETWEEN LISA'S BEDROOM/LISA'S FRONT DOOR -CONTINUES

Lisa picks up the phone. It's Sarah.

SARAH (INTO PHONE)

I didn't get that!

What's wrong?

LISA (OVER PHONE)

What's wrong?

Cross the street

and ask my hot

neighbour!

She hangs up the receiver. Sarah dials Lisa's number again.

SARAH

What's wrong with you? Did I miss anything? I was out all night long and wanted to tell you about it. I didn't even go home...

Lisa opens the door still holding the receiver at her ear.

LISA

You weren't in all

night long?

SARAH

No! That's what I wanted to tell you about! What happened to you? You look horrible! LISA I was in prison. SARAH

You were where?!

She hangs up the phone.

INT. - LISA'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - DAYTIME

Lisa sits on the floor at the table. She is busy with a model of an interior. She constructs it out of tiny glass blocks. Suddenly the doorbell rings. Lisa gives a start, drops a block and ruins the construction.

LISA

Shit!

She sighs and goes to open the door. Has she hardly opened the door, two boys of 7 and 8 run into the house screaming and laughing.

LISA

What a...?

A woman (Barbara) of about 35 enters the house.

BARBARA

Quieter, boys! Hi,

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Lisa!
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She gives Lisa a kiss in a cheek and two heavy bags.

LISA

Barbara? What are

you doing here?

BARBARA

We've come to stay at your place for a while.

They go to the living-room that has already turned into a battlefield for two boys. They jump on a sofa and throw cushion at each other.

BARBARA

Boys, calm down!

They won't listen.

BARBARA

Aren't you glad? You haven't seen your nephews for ages!

LISA

Of course I'm glad, but... Is anything wrong?

BARBARA

My husband...

She starts crying.

LISA

Oh, God! Honey...

What did he do?

The living-room is now in havoc. The screaming is unbearable.

BARBARA

He... He is awful! I'm suffering so badly. I'm depressed. He...

She abruptly stops crying and shouts at the boys.

BARBARA

Shut

up,

you!!!!!!!!!

The boys give a start and freeze.

LISA

Boys, just go to

the kitchen. There

is some ice-cream

in the fridge.

The boys run out of the room.

LISA

What did Bill do?

BARBARA

I'm sure he's got

another woman.

LISA

Bill?! I'll never believe this!

BARBARA

Trust me. I know what I'm talking about. He comes home late at night and when I call his office they say "He left a couple of hours ago"!

She cries bitterly.

LISA

Did you talk to him about it? BARBARA

No, I didn't. And I'm not going to. I just took the kids and left.

LISA

But it's not sensible! You've got two children. You should talk to him. There must be some innocent explanation.

BARBARA

No matter what he says I won't believe him!

She gets up.

BARBARA

Well, I have to go

now. Boys!

The boys run into the living-room. They all stained in icecream.

BARBARA

Oh! Look at you!

She wipes their faces with a handkerchief.

BARBARA

Don't give them anymore ice-cream, Lisa. Well, honeys, be good to your aunt Lisa! LISA Be good...? What do

you mean? Aren't

they going with

you?

BARBARA

Of course not! You know our mother hates noise! Bye, babies!

She kisses the boys.

LISA

But you can't leave

them here!

BARBARA

Bye-bye, honey!

She kisses Lisa and leaves. The boys start crying loudly. Lisa is frightened.

LISA

No, boys! No! Don't cry! Your mommy is gonna be back in no time. At least I hope she is... Would you like to watch TV? Cartoons?

The boys stop crying and get interested.

LISA

Cool! Cartoons!

Come on!

She turns on the TV set.

INT. - A SUPERMARKET - DAYTIME

Lisa walks among the shelves. She rolls a shopping trolley. The boys run in front of her, grab different boxes from the shelves and throw them into the trolley.

No! Boys, we don't

need this.

Lisa puts the boxes back on the shelves.

LISA

Stop that!

The boys won't listen. Lisa looks exhausted. It's obvious the boys behave badly. Finally they get interested in a shelf full of chocolate bars and let Lisa to choose some things she really needs. At this very moment Duncan enters the shop. Lisa notices him and squats behind the trolley to hide herself.

LISA

Shit!

Duncan stops near the nephews. Lisa peeps from behind the trolley and hides back. Duncan goes to another part of the shop.

LISA (whispers)

Boys! Hey! Guys!

The boys can't hear her they are busy with taking as many chocolate bars as possible.

LISA

Mike! Fred! Boys!

At last they notice their aunt and come up to her.

LISA

Now! We're gonna play spies. See that guy!

She points at Duncan.

LISA

He is an enemy. Our task is get out of the shop without being noticed by him. Got it?

The boys nod excitedly. They like the idea.

Fred, you take the trolley. Mike you're gonna cover me. Ok?

MIKE

I want the trolley!

LISA

Ok, you take the trolley and, Fred, you're gonna cover me.

FRED

No!!!! I want the

trolley!!!!!

They are about to start fighting.

LISA

Hush! I take the trolley, you're gonna cover me! Ready? Go!

They quickly move between the shelves. The boys and Lisa try not to be seen but for different reasons. The boys like the game. One of them takes a cucumber and holds it like a gun. As they manoeuvre between the people, Duncan, who chooses vegetables, notices them. He gets interested in the process and follows them gingerly. He tries not to laugh. Lisa quickly gets to the cash desk. She impatiently waits for the cashier to finish, pays for the purchase, grabs the boys and runs out of the shop. Duncan chokes and shakes his head.

EXT. - PARK - DAYTIME

LISA

Lisa and Sarah sit on a bench and eat ice cream. Lisa's nephews run around the bench trying to catch each other. The scream and laugh.

SARAH

How can you bare these juvenile terrorists in your place? LISA I can't but I have to. SARAH When is your sister coming back? LISA I don't know. She promised to be back in a week but it's already been 10 days. SARAH It was nice of the chief to give you some days-off. LISA Yes. Otherwise Ι would either kill

SARAH

Well, I have to go now. The break is over. Let me know as soon as you get

them or myself.

rid of these monsters and we'll celebrate this somewhere.

LISA

Ok.

SARAH

By the way if you need help in getting rid of their bodies, just let me know.

They laugh. Sarah gets up and leaves.

SARAH

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Bye.
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Lisa waves her hand. She addresses the nephews.

LISA

Come on. It's time

to go home and

have dinner.

FRED

No! We don't want to!

LISA

Sorry, but you'll have to.

MIKE

We want to go to the zoo.

LISA

It's out of the question! Home! Now!

Duncan comes up to Lisa from behind.

DUNCAN

Hi!

Lisa turns around.

LISA

Hi. I was going to give the money

back tonight.

DUNCAN

It's not

necessary. It was

my fault.

LISA

I insist.

DUNCAN

It's funny we come across each other almost every day.

LISA

Well, we are neighbours...

DUNCAN

Yes, right. By the way, I was impressed by your hiding skills at the supermarket.

LISA

What? You saw us?

Duncan nods. Lisa is embarrassed.

LISA

You know, these

kids, they are so

lively and they

decided to play

spies and I had to

join them and ...

DUNCAN

Where are they?

LISA

Who? They are

right here.

She turns around just to see that the boys are gone.

LISA

What? Fred! Mike!

She looks around and sees some people walking in the park but the boys have vanished into the thin air.

LISA

Oh, no! I lost my nephews.

DUNCAN

I'm sure they are alright. They must have gone home without waiting for you.

LISA

It's impossible! They hated the thought! Oh, God! Why did you appear here?

DUNCAN

Why?

LISA

If you hadn't appeared and started talking to me I wouldn't have lost my nephews!

DUNCAN

That's too much! You blame me in everything on earth!

LISA

Every time I meet you I get in trouble! You are my curse!

DUNCAN

I didn't do anything! It was you who dropped those people! It was you who grabbed the cigarette!

LISA

God! What do I do? DUNCAN Let's look for

them in the park. They might have gone to the pond.

Lisa and Duncan walk quickly around the park. They ask people if they saw the boys but no one did. After some time Lisa falls onto a bench.

LISA

They are not here.

DUNCAN

Let's check the bus stop. They might be waiting

for you there.

EXT. - BUS STOP - CONTINUES

Duncan and Lisa run up to the bus stop but there is no one there.

LISA

May be we should ask at the Lost and Found? DUNCAN I'm not sure but... LISA

I'm desperate! My

sister's gonna

kill me!

DUNCAN

Ok, let's go.

INT. - LOST AND FOUND - SOME TIME LATER

Lisa and Duncan enter the office.

EMPLOYEE

Can I help you?

LISA (hysterically)

Yes, you can. Has

anyone found two

boys? Their names

are Fred and Mike.

They are 7 and 8.

The employer looks at Lisa as if she's crazy.

EMPLOYEE

You've come here because you lost

your kids?

Duncan closes his face with his hands. He is ashamed.

LISA

I know it sounds

crazy but if only

you could help me ...

EMPLOYEE

Sorry, but they are kids not gloves. You won't find them here. You should go to

the police.

Lisa runs out of the office.

DUNCAN

Thank you.

He leaves after Lisa.

EXT. - STREET - CONTINUES

Lisa stands leaning to the wall.

DUNCAN

Well, we should go to the police.

LISA

What do I tell my sister?

DUNCAN

I'm			sure
everything's			gonna
be	ok.	They	might
have		found	a

partner for their games or run after a dog, or...

LISA

Dog! They wanted to go to the zoo! Let's go!

EXT. - ZOO GATE - EVENING

Fred and Mike sit on the ground. They look sad and tired. Lisa and Duncan get out of a bus and run to the boys. As the boys see Lisa they jump up and run towards her. They hug each other.

LISA

How could you? Oh, God! I'm so glad we've found you! FRED

We are sorry!

MIKE

Yes, we are!

LISA

Let's go home.

She gets up, takes the nephews by the hands and they go the bus stop altogether.

EXT. - LISA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Lisa opens the door and the boys enter the house.

DUNCAN

Well, I'm glad everything is fine. LISA Yes, me too. Thank you for your help.

DUNCAN

You're welcome. Something tells me they're gonna behave properly tonight.

The sound of a vase breaking comes from the house.

LISA

Boys!

DUNCAN

Well, may be not.

Good night.

LISA

Good night.

She enters the house and shuts the door. Duncan goes to his house.

INT. - LISA'S OFFICE - DAYTIME

Lisa sits at the table. Sarah joins her.

SARAH

What's up? How are you?

LISA

Much better than I was last week. My sister has finally taken my nephews away.

SARAH

Congratulations! What about her husband? Does he have another woman? LISA Certainly not! He's not that type of guy. He just did some extra job to present her with a diamond necklace.

SARAH

Cool! Well, any

plans for tonight?

LISA

Not exactly.

SARAH

I'll call you

later, ok?

LISA

Sure.

Sarah leaves. Lisa opens Google and types Carnival of Venice.

INT. - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Duncan packs a suitcase. Sam lies in the bed.

SAM

When are you back?

DUNCAN

I don't know. The contract expires in a year, but if I do well I may stay for a longer time.

SAM

Good luck! By the way, can I use your flat?

DUNCAN

I hoped you would

come to water

flowers...

SAM

Sure! Any time!

EXT - DUNCAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUES

Duncan puts the suitcase into a trunk of a taxi.

SAM

To the station?

DUNCAN

Yeah. I'll go to see my mom in York and

then to the States.

SAM

Remind me to Mrs.

Milne.

DUNCAN

I will. So, take

care.

SAM

Bye.

They shake hands and Duncan gets into the taxi. The taxi slowly moves.

SAM

Hey! The keys!

He runs after the car. It stops. Duncan opens the door and gives Sam the keys.

DUNCAN

See you.

SAM

Good luck.

The taxi goes away.

INT - LISA'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Lisa looks through internet sites when she sees something that catches her attention. She opens "Classifieds" and reads an ad.

> "26th of February. Carnival of Venice. Juliet on the bridge. I'm waiting for your call. It's 01833 499 500.

> > Romeo"

LISA

God!

She grabs the phone and dials the number. Nobody answers.

LISA

What do I do?

She dials another number.

LISA

Hello, good afternoon. Can you tell me the address of a person if I give you the phone number? No, I don't know the name. Please, it is very important! The number is 01833 499 500.

She writes down the address and stares at the address. She grabs the shit of paper and runs to Sarah's table.

LISA

I found him!

SARAH

Don't shout! Found who?

LISA

The guy from Venice!

I got his address.

Guess where he lives!

SARAH

Where?

LISA

Just opposite my house!

SARAH

I didn't get that...

But the hot neighbour

lives across the

street from you ...

LISA

Exactly!

SARAH

You mean... What are you going to do? Call him?

LISA

I already have. He is not in. I'm gonna go there and wait for him to return.

SARAH

I thought you don't like him.

LISA

I... I just didn't have
a chance to get to
know him better.

SARAH

Honey, even if it won't work at least you'll satiate your curiosity! Go!

Lisa runs away.

EXT - LISA'S OFFICE - CONTINUES

Lisa runs out of the building and catches the taxi. She gets in.

EXT - DUNCAN'S HOUSE - SOME TIME LATER

The taxi pulls over at the Duncan's house. Lisa pays for the ride and gets out of the car. She stands before the front door hesitating. At last she knocks at the door. Sam opens it. He wears a bathrobe.

LISA

Oh! Hi! Actually I am looking for Duncan. SAM Hi! Nice to see you again. Duncan has left.

LISA

Oh! When is he coming back?

SAM

In a year, may be. Or may be later.

LISA

Really?

She looks upset.

LISA

Where did he go?

SAM

To the United States.

Why?

LISA

No, it's just… I saw an ad in the Internet. Well, it doesn't matter now.

And she turns around to leave. Sam shrugs and shuts the door. When Lisa is in the middle of the road Sam opens the door and shouts after her.

SAM

What ad?

Lisa looks back.

LISA

It is not important

now.

Sam runs up to the girl.

SAM

It is very important

now! What ad?

LISA

It is about a

carnival…

SAM

Carnival of Venice?

LISA

Yes. How'd you know?

A car honks. Sam grabs Lisa's hand and drags her to the house.

SAM

You are the Juliet?

LISA

I am.

SAM

I can't believe that!

But... Oh, God! What

time is it?

LISA

It's 2.15p. m. Why?

SAM

His train leaves at

2.45 We must hurry!

He rushes to the door and stops abruptly.

SAM

Shit! My car! It's

broken! Take a taxi!

Now!

He runs to the road, catches a taxi and seat Lisa into the car.

SAM

If you let him go I'll kill you both!

The taxi goes away.

INT - TAXI - CONTINUES

Lisa sits in a taxi that goes down a street of London.

LISA (V. O.)

Here I am! Trying to find the guy I hated some time ago. Am I crazy? Maybe. But you'll have to admit that you would do the same in my shoes.

The car stops.

LISA

What's wrong?

TAXI-DRIVER

A traffic jam.

LISA

Oh, no! I'm in a

hurry!

TAXI-DRIVER

Sorry, lady, I can't

help it.

LISA

Can't you find

another street?

TAXI-DRIVER

Too late, miss.

Lisa looks back to see they are blocked by other cars. She looks at her watch - 2.35 p.m. She takes some money out of her purse and gives it to the taxi-driver. The girl gets out of the car and starts running down the street full of cars.

LISA (V. O.)

Now you understand

where I'm running.

Lisa runs to the railway station and enters the building. She runs up to a cashier.

LISA

Where is the train to York?

CASHIER

Platform #6. It

leaves in two

minutes.

But Lisa won't listen to her. She runs to the platform. As soon as she gets there the train starts moving slowly. Lisa won't stop running.

No! Wait! No!

The train disappears in the distance. The girl stops. She is about to cry. She can hear Duncan's voice.

DUNCAN

Lisa? What are you doing here?

Lisa turns around and sees Duncan standing on the platform.

LISA

Why? Isn't it your train that has just left?

DUNCAN

No. It's platform #7.

Mine is there.

There's something

wrong with the engine

or something.

LISA

It's meant to be.

DUNCAN

What? Why are you here?

LISA

I saw your ad. I'm the Juliet. I dropped my phone into the canal so I couldn't call you.

Duncan is astonished.

DUNCAN

You are the Juliet?! I can't believe this! You... You've been so

close all this time!

Lisa nods.

LISA

I know that we caused a lot of troubles to each other and you might never want to see me again but... If we don't try we'll never know if all this is meant to be.

Duncan comes closer to Lisa and kisses her in the lips. They hug each other and kiss. The train honks and starts. Neither Lisa nor Duncan notices that. Only when the train disappears Duncan pays attention to this fact.

DUNCAN

What about my baggage?

They laugh.

FADE IN

THE END