

MISSING

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EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

A ROW of orbs resembling torch lights move along a dark and unfocused background. They slow down to a stop.

Silhouettes of human figures move across their path causing the orbs to flicker like candles. After a few moments the orbs begin to move again.

The image becomes more focused and the orbs of light become headlights of moving traffic along a city road.

SIDEWALK

A tall, slender WOMAN in her mid forties her name is MARY, is walking up the sidewalk with a short stack of posters in her arms.

She is bundled in a yellow fall jacket, blue jeans and sporting a schoolbag on her back. Her long dark hair is flowing gangly over her shoulders. She is listening to an iPod.

She comes across a bus stop and billboard. She grabs one paper and staples it to the billboard. It's a poster of a missing girl, her daughter LEAH. The girl is young, around ten or eleven years old, with long black hair and a precocious smile.

A gust of wind suddenly blows a few sheets of paper from her hands. Mary runs after the swirling sheets desperately trying not to drop anymore.

One paper drifts onto the road.

ROAD

A car runs over the picture destroying the image.

Mary picks up the rest of the scattered missing girl posters. She continues to walk up the sidewalk.

She turns the corner of the main street into a more residential neighborhood.

A group of TEENS are following close behind her. As soon as Mary looks over her shoulder, and sees them, they begin to rush her.

The large MALE teen reaches Mary first and wrestles her to the ground. She drops the stack of posters. They scatter in all directions.

Two other teens work together to take off her book bag. A fourth teen, FEMALE, brandishes a knife from her hoody and holds it against Mary's neck.

Finally Mary gives up the fight for her bag and jacket. She lets them take it off her.

A few moments later Mary is sitting against a car shivering from shock.

EXT. MARY'S HOME - ESTABLISHING - SAME

A middle class house shrouded in darkness with only the porch light visible.

Mary emerges from the darkness and walks towards the front door of the house.

She turns the door handle, but it's locked. Mary bangs on the door with her fist. After a few moments an ELDERLY NEIGHBOR hears the commotion and comes to her aid.

They embrace.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Cradling next to a blanket is Mary. She is staring at the dancing flames in the fire place. The older woman enters the room and throws another log on the fire. She turns to Mary and places a cup of coffee on a small table in front of Mary. Mary can't take her eyes off the flames.

EXT. RAVINE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Crossing a small ravine is a cement and steel bridge surrounded by trees and rocks. Under the bridge is a group of teens gathering around a make shift fire pit.

EXT. UNDER BRIDGE - SAME

Huddled under a heavy raggedy quilt sit three teens, one girl and two boys. One of them is smoking pot. Four more teens are squatting in a little circle distributing stolen items amongst themselves.

Four girls are sharing a bottle of cheap beer. The rest are scattered around the fire pit. They appear to be down trodden, cold and dirty street kids.

BECCA a 16 year old girl wears the yellow fall jacket she stole from Mary the night before. She watches on as the four boys rummage through Mary's bag looking for valuables.

They find her wallet and quickly distribute the contents amongst the four teens who participated in the robbery. The others look on with envy and anger. Once the spoils have been distributed, the bag is discarded by the big red headed teen.

More teens arrive on the scene with liquor. A cheer goes through the group.

Becca picks up the discarded school bag and looks inside it. She sees missing girl posters. She picks one up and inspects it.

Her eyes narrow in concentration. She looks up at the girl sitting in front of her between the two boys. Her head is resting on the chest of her boyfriend who is covering her face with the quilt.

Becca looks at the red head teen that is holding Mary's wallet. She then looks at the poster again. Becca smiles.

EXT. UNDER BRIDGE - NIGHT

Under the bridge it is pitch black but the glow of a single flashlight breaks through the darkness. Becca is crouching beside a tin garbage can. She is alone. In her lap lay the contents of Mary's possessions. Two boys yell out her name from the bushes.

TEEN BOY 1 & 2

OS

Becca come back! She took the money!

Becca turns off her flashlight and immediately dashes up the hill towards the city road.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - SAME

Becca walks along a housing district. She points her flashlight at the passing entrance ways, so that she can see the addresses. She comes across Mary's address "6007 148 St". She verifies it via Mary's driver's license.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

A knife is slicing its way through fresh parsley. Mary's hand picks it up and throws it onto a heated pan.

Suddenly a refraction of light coming from the window captures her attention. Mary looks out the window and sees Becca walking up the front yard. She hears a knock at the door. Mary instinctively picks up the phone. She stares out the window again. She notices Becca has her bag and jacket.

Mary puts down the phone and leaves the kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Mary stands before the door. She rests her head against it. She starts to quietly weep. A few moments later she composes herself and steps back from the door. She opens it. Before her stands Becca. Her face illuminated by the porch light and her arms resting inside her jacket.

Becca gives Mary the bag and jacket. Mary looks at her uncertain what to do. Becca turns around and starts walking down the drive way. Mary shouts a question.

MARY

Who are you?

BECCA

Who cares?

MARY

I do. It's a cold night. Do you want to come in for supper...What is your name?

BECCA

Becca.

MARY

Becca, that's a pretty name.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Dirty pots and pans litter the sink. Mary and Becca are sitting in front of a table filled with plats of food.

Mary cuts into a 12 ounce steak. She dips her fork into a pile of mash potatoes and puts it into her mouth.

Becca looks down at her plait and sees a plentiful assortment of veggies, potatoes and steak. Mary notices that Becca isn't eating. She stops eating and watches Becca carefully.

Becca slowly bows her head and begins to pray.

Mary reluctantly grabs Becca's hand and does the same.

Becca finishes giving thanks for the food and grabs the BBQ jack Daniel bottle and squeezes it over the steak.

She cuts into her steak and puts a piece of meat into her mouth enthusiastically.

Mary gives a half smile and looks over at the empty seat where her daughter LEAH, use to sit.

INT. MARY'S DAY DREAM, HALLWAY - DAY

In a hallway filled with haze and sunlight, a young Leah runs out of her bedroom down the hallway, her little blue dress bouncing around her legs. Mary is standing at other hand of the hallway waiting to receive her. Leah jumps into her mother's arms. Mary showers the little girl with kisses and a hug.

INT. MARY'S DAY DREAM, SUPER MARKET - CONTINUED

In the kid's cereal aisle, Mary is standing alone with a cereal box of lucky charms in her arms and arguing on her cell phone. She looks around, but she only another CUSTOMER turns the corner of the aisle with HIS shopping cart. She calls out for Leah but no answer comes. Mary drops the cereal box and runs down the hallway.

Suddenly tides of PEOPLE with shopping carts are walking in the opposite direction. Mary struggles to break through the crowd but can't.

She glimpses Leah being carried away by a BAWLD MAN in blue jeans and a red and black plaid hunting jacket.

MARY

LEAH!

The people suddenly disappear. A haze retreats into the parking lot. Mary follows it.

EXT. MARY'S DAY DREAM PARKING LOT - CONTINUED

A parking lot void of cars except for a single truck idling under the low drone of a diesel engine, Mary runs out of the building. She stares at the truck.

The bald man and Leah are standing beside the truck.

LEAH

(Shouts at Mary)

Mommy, daddy wants me to live with him.

She waves goodbye and blows her a kiss. Mary cries out...

MARY

Where are you going? Where are you taking her? Give her back you creep!

Mary begins to bolt for the truck.

Before she can reach it, the truck takes off, and burns rubber down the road. The parking lot fills with haze that eventually envelops Mary.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

Mary opens her eyes and wipes away the tears streaming down her face.

After the meal Mary ask Becca if she needs a place to stay. Becca reluctantly says yes.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Mary and Becca walk up the stairway into the hallway. Mary walks up ahead of Becca and closes a door at the end of the hallway.

She directs Becca to the spare bedroom nearest to the stairway.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - SAME

The door opens to the spare bedroom. It is quite plain to look at. There is a single bed and a desk with papers scattered about. It is connected to a personal bathroom.

Becca walks to the bathroom.

INT. PERSONAL BATHROOM - SAME

The bathroom is also pretty tidy and clean.

Becca hears the door close to the spare bedroom. Mary has left Becca alone.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The room is now dark. Becca climbs into bed wearing a T shirt and oversized sweats Mary left on the bed for her.

MONTAGE (TIME SPEEDS UP)

1. Becca is sleeping soundly
2. Mary is turning repeatedly in her bed.
3. Becca begins to turn in her bed
4. Split screen of Becca and Mary turning in their beds.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - SAME

Becca's eyes are closed. They open and are staring straight into the camera. We zoom out. Becca has thrown the covers off her body.

She is staring at the ceiling. She remains in this position until she sets up and gets out of bed.

She walks over to the closet and begins to change.

INT. LEAH'S BEDROOM - SAME

The door slowly opens and a single beam of light cuts through the darkness revealing a photo of young Leah. It sits on a dresser in the fore ground.

The flashlight stays on that spot momentarily then begins to move about, slowly scanning the room like a searchlight.

We see a bed, dresser, toys scattered about and a mirror where we see Becca's reflection. She enters the room and turns off her flash light.

BED POV

Through the darkness we can make out Becca's silhouette moving towards the bed.

The flash light turns on again.

ANGLE ON BED: is a stack of missing girl Posters. Becca looks at the posters and a smile creeps over her face.

INT. LEAH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The door to Leah's bedroom opens again. Mary peers inside the bedroom. She sees that the stack of missing girl posters is gone. Leah quickly leaves the room.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Mary is standing outside the spare room and knocks on the door. No one answers so she opens it. The room is empty except a missing girl poster.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - SAME

Mary's hand picks up the poster. She stares at it, longingly.

She flips it over and reads something on the back. Her reaction is moved by what she reads.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Mary runs to the kitchen. She sees another missing girl poster on the table. She quickly turns it over and reads an inscription.

INT. DOORWAY - SAME

She finds another poster. She quickly throws on her jacket and shoes. She runs out the door. She opens it again and quickly grabs the poster.

INT. MARY'S CAR - SAME

Mary is in her car driving down Whyte Avenue. Her eyes are intently looking for something.

Mary sees another missing girl Poster placed on a Bus stop.

EXT. WHYTE AVENUE - SAME

Mary exits the car and walks up to the bus stop and takes off the Poster. She reads it.

"She is waiting for you at the 99 Street bridge".

INT. MARY'S CAR - SAME

Mary looks out her passenger window and sees Becca standing off the road holding up a missing girl poster.

EXT. 99 STREET BRIDGE - SAME

Becca and Mary meet again. Becca motions for Mary to follow her and they walk down the side of the ravine together.

EXT. UNDER THE BRIDGE - SAME

The two figures walk into a wooded area of the ravine.

EXT. CAMP SITE - SAME

Walking along a nearly invisible trail, Mary can see a small clearing up ahead.

When she comes to the clearing she sees a dozen weather beaten tents grouped clumped together like a shanty town. Clothes are hanging from trees, and garbage is strewn across the ground, third world conditions.

MARY

What is this?

Standing in the middle of the camp ground is Leah, now a teenager. Her long black hair falling gangly around her shoulders like her mother. Her face is caked with makeup.

Leah raises a missing girl poster over her face. Just before Mary can run towards Mary, two dozen teenagers surround her.

Leah waves good bye to the group and runs towards her mother.

Mary and Leah finally embrace. Afterwards Mary walks up to Becca and gives her a hug.

The teenagers lift missing girl posters over their heads.

FADE OUT: