

MARY AND DIONYSUS

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE SEA - DAY

The calm sea, wide, deep and endless.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

MARY, a woman in her mid-thirties, walks through the empty and barren front garden of a large but abandoned looking country house.

She has a suitcase in hand and she's wearing an old, worn-down dress. Visible on her arms are cuts and marks. She has slippers on her feet, her toenails in general are long and dirty and her pinkie nail is broken and bloody.

Mary comes upon the front door and stops, she opens the suitcase - which is filled with bottles of vodka, a scattering of clothes and some packets of crackers - takes out a vodka bottle and starts drinking from it.

She tries the key to the door but finds that it's already unlocked, so she opens it and walks in.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

She walks through the entrance hall, passes by the living room and goes up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

She enters a bedroom, drops her suitcase down and with the bottle in hand, exits and walks downstairs.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary enters into the living room, only to find a naked man drawing on a big canvas.

She drops the bottle and lets out a CRY, which in turn startles the man and makes him turn around.

The man, DIONYSUS, is in his mid-forties, handsome but uncombed and unshaven.

MARY

What is this, what're you doing?

DIONYSUS
Oh hello there.

MARY
What'd you want here?

DIONYSUS
I'm painting.

MARY
This is private property. This is my place. You shouldn't be here.

DIONYSUS
How do I know this is your place?

MARY
How -- I - I've been coming here since I was little. This was my parent's holiday home. You are trespassing and would you please put some damn clothes on.

Dionysus puts on trousers.

DIONYSUS
I was just exhibiting my natural state of being. There, feel better now?

MARY
Please leave this house!

DIONYSUS
No, I don't think so. I've been living here for two years now. This is my home.

MARY
It's my home.

DIONYSUS
I claim squatters' rights. You can't just kick me out.

MARY
Yes, I can. You can't claim squatters rights after 2 years, it's gotta be 10 or more at least.

DIONYSUS
Let's agree to disagree.

Mary tenses up in anger and her hands mold into fists.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Easy there love, you might burst a vessel.

MARY

Do - do you want the police to get involved?

Dionysus puts a brush in paint.

DIONYSUS

Go get them if you want to. I'm not going anywhere.

MARY

Look - listen to me. I've come here to - to be alone. I really need to be alone.

DIONYSUS

Why?

MARY

What do you mean why? Because!

DIONYSUS

Well, I won't interfere with your quest for solitude, not one bit. I myself have come here to escape the horrors of modern society and this place has been really good for me. It's out of the way, it's surrounded by gorgeous nature and it has inspired me to be creative again. Sorry but I am not leaving it.

MARY

But you got to leave. This is madness. Please just leave.

DIONYSUS

No, sorry.

Mary goes right up to Dionysus.

MARY

Get out of here!

DIONYSUS

No.

Mary is inches away from Dionysus and stares angrily into his eyes. He just looks back at her in a calm way and smiles slyly.

MARY

Fuck!

Mary turns around in rage and storms off.

MARY (CONT'D)

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary walks out the front door and starts pacing up and down in anger. Soon her frustration gives way to desperation and she starts to cry.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary comes back to the room as Dionysus is getting fully dressed.

She is trying very hard to stay composed.

MARY

Will you please go now?

DIONYSUS

Nope.

Mary sighs.

MARY

OK, OK, this is what we are going to do. You don't want to leave, fine, stay but stay the hell away from me and do not interfere for a second with the things I do. Do you understand?

DIONYSUS

Yes, that's no problem, no problem at all. I thank you for your hospitality.

MARY

Don't. Just stay out of my way and do not cause me any further grief.

Mary turns to leave.

DIONYSUS
I'm Dionysus.

Mary turns around.

MARY
What?

DIONYSUS
It's my name. I thought since we
are going to be living together we
might as well introduce ourselves.

MARY
What kind of a stupid name is
Dionysus?

DIONYSUS
It's the name of the God of wine,
ecstasy, and theatre.

MARY
I don't care about any of that. And
we're not going to be fucking
living together. You will keep your
space and I will keep mine. We'll
stay the hell out of each other's
way. Do you understand me?

DIONYSUS
So, how long has it been since you
last came here?

MARY
Do you fucking understand?

DIONYSUS
Why such hostility?

MARY
Please tell me you understand what
I'm saying to you.

DIONYSUS
I understand.

MARY
OK, finally.

DIONYSUS
So, what's your name?

Mary turns around and once more starts walking away in anger.

MARY

Cunt.

DIONYSUS

That's your name?

MARY

Fuck.

She exits the living room.

DIONYSUS

(Calling after her)

I don't mind paying rent. Actually,
I do. I don't have much money left,
you see but - I guess I could put
aside a bit each month. Maybe.
Hello? Miss - hello?

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The day comes to an end and Mary is in bed rolling tobacco into a cigarette. She lights it with a match and sits there smoking away until tears appear running down her face and she buries herself in a pillow. She starts punching away at the bed as her crying becomes wilder.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting at the table and is ready to devour the plethora of food that is in front of him.

The table is perfectly set with cutlery and candles and there is plentiful of red wine in a big jug. Dionysus begins eating his meal. He takes his time, really savouring every bite, and drinks a good amount of the wine too.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up with a bad cough and finds daylight hitting her across the face.

She looks pale and tired as she gets up and walks slowly and dizzily to the window.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY/EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Just as Mary is about to pull the blinds shut she sees a shocking sight: Dionysus is in the garden by a tree and is urinating with a big grin on his face. Mary pulls the blinds shut in anger and disgust.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary - wearing the clothes she slept in - is lying on the floor of her bedroom looking up to the ceiling. The room is dark and she takes sips from a vodka bottle.

Suddenly, the *Carmina Burana* starts being HEARD coming from a distant room, and Mary sighs and downs a large amount of alcohol.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is working frantically and furiously on his surreal painting, his movements in entrainment with the loud music.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary BANGS the bottle on the floor, repeatedly, but the music persists.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary - still in the same clothes - is sitting on the floor eating crackers and washing them down with vodka.

The room is dark, but for a lit candle that's on the table.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is in his underwear - native sounding MUSIC blasting from a mini, battery-powered music player - and is dancing ecstatically to what seems to be a native dance.

Light is arranged around him ceremoniously.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary closes her eyes as the MUSIC and the CLACKING noise of Dionysus dance start getting on her nerves.

She gets up and BANGS on the kitchen wall repeatedly.

The noise continues.

MARY
For fuck's sake, just stop it!

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus seems oblivious to Mary's pleas as the MUSIC and dancing reach fever pitch levels and he seems totally lost in the moment.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary starts pacing up and down in the kitchen, getting angrier by the second.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fueled by rage, she heads for the living room to confront Dionysus but suddenly stops, turns and heads back.

She quickly reaches the kitchen sink and throws up.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary is sitting on the toilet seat and is smoking a cigarette. The ashtray is by her feet and it's full of smoked buds.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Dionysus is riding a bicycle through the field that is positioned further up ahead along the property.

He is challenging himself by riding on difficult terrain and he manages to fall off. Unhurt he mounts the bicycle again with childlike laughter and continues his ride.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is in bed and is holding on to a vodka bottle which she slowly sips from.

She places the bottle down, then digs the nails of her left hand into her right arm.

INT. DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is doing some light stretches.

He gets in bed and blows off the big candles that are by his bedside table. He closes his eyes to sleep but soon opens them again and lights the candles with a lighter.

He opens the drawer of the bedside table and takes out a book of erotica.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary - her arm full of red marks - squashes the end part of her cigarette in an ashtray that's on her bedside table.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is sitting and meditating on a cushion on the floor. Around him are some burning candles and incense.

Mary walks in with a cigarette in her mouth and sighs.

MARY

What's that bloody smell?

Dionysus keeps meditating while Mary looks through the large bookstand that is filled with books.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hell is that?

Dionysus continues meditating and Mary goes right next to him, the smoke of her cigarette now getting in his face.

MARY (CONT'D)

Dionysus!

Dionysus opens his eyes.

DIONYSUS

What?

MARY

What's that smell?

DIONYSUS

Maybe it's that cheap tobacco you're smoking.

MARY

No, it's not this cheap tobacco I'm smoking. It's that crappy stuff you've got burning. It's giving me a headache.

DIONYSUS

It's called incense and it has a rather pleasant smell. If your head hurts it might be due to heavy intoxication and the absence of a decent meal.

MARY

I'm not drunk and I'm not hungry, so screw you.

Mary walks to the bookstand.

MARY (CONT'D)

Get the hell out of my house.

DIONYSUS

I am going to choose to ignore that remark.

Mary picks a book out, then pulls out another one and lets it fall to the ground with a THUMP.

She walks off.

Dionysus closes his eyes to meditate once more.

He opens them again and sighs in frustration:

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Great, there goes that.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary enters her bedroom and lies belly-down on the bed. She opens the book she picked up and starts reading it.

Suddenly, she closes the book in anger, turns and throws hard to the wall.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary stands by the sidewall of the house and is smoking.

Dionysus goes her by carrying two big buckets of water.

MARY

What're you doing?

DIONYSUS

I've been getting water for us all morning. There's no running water so I usually get some from a stream nearby. I need to get more now that the lady of the house has returned.

MARY

Don't be doing me any favours.

DIONYSUS

It's no burden for me.

Dionysus walks to the house.

MARY

Mary.

Dionysus turns around.

DIONYSUS

What was that?

MARY

My name, it's Mary.

DIONYSUS

It's a beautiful name.

MARY

Just - get on with it, OK?

Dionysus smiles.

DIONYSUS

OK then.

He turns and walks into the house.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up to find that she slept in her clothes and that she has vomited on the bed.

She sits up, dazed and confused and holds her head.

She breathes in deep, slaps her thigh, then her face.

She picks up the bed cover, throws it to the ground and gets undressed.

She picks up a new bottle of vodka from her suitcase and new clothes and carries them to the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

She walks in only to find the shower occupied by a SINGING Dionysus who is using a bucket to wash himself with.

MARY

Fuck.

DIONYSUS

Oh.

Mary quickly turns, walks outside and KNOCKS hard on the door.

DIONYSUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Just finishing off. Won't be long now.

CUT TO:

Time has gone by and Mary, her right leg shaking anxiously, is still standing outside the bathroom door, naked and holding on to the bottle and her clothes.

She KNOCKS on the door even harder.

Dionysus opens the door, fresh and wet, with a towel wrapped around his midsection. He smiles at a naked and angry Mary as he passes by her, then stops and turns to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Oh, good lord, you definitely need to shower. You've vomit stuck to your hair.

MARY

Go fuck yourself, Dionysus.

Dionysus turns around and walks away whistling happily to himself.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting by the table having a glass of wine and reading through a spirituality magazine.

Mary enters the kitchen and stands in front of him.

MARY

I want a word.

Dionysus puts down the magazine.

DIONYSUS

Yes.

MARY

I'm really - I mean, not really but
- just that-

DIONYSUS

I'm so sorry, is this going to take
long?

MARY

No, it's not going to fucking take
long. You have not for a second
obeyed the one rule that we have
agreed upon regarding coexistence
in this house. You are constantly
tramping on my personal space and
disturbing me with your loud,
flamboyant, annoying, extravagant
and utterly ridiculous lifestyle.

DIONYSUS

Lies and wild exaggerations. I've
been most courteous and
gentlemanly. I'm accusing you in
turn of slander and wrongful
prosecution.

MARY

This is not a fucking game. Just
leave already.

DIONYSUS

Are you aware that you have quite
the tongue on you? A lady shouldn't
curse as much as you do. Why you'd
make a sailor blush.

MARY

Don't tell me what I should or
shouldn't do, you damn idiot.

Mary throws Dionysus' glass on the floor.

MARY (CONT'D)

You're not listening to me. Find an area other than the living room to practice your pointless, artistic endeavors in. I don't know, like your fucking bedroom maybe.

DIONYSUS

My bedroom's not big enough for-

MARY

Just fucking do it. Stop making such a racket and...

Mary starts to weep.

MARY (CONT'D)

Just do it. Please.

Dionysus lowers his eyes.

DIONYSUS

I'm sorry. I am very sorry, you are right. You are the lady of the house-

MARY

Stop saying that.

DIONYSUS

-and I have acted like a damn fool. I am truly sorry. I will change, I promise.

Mary wipes away the tears.

MARY

You better or else you have to go. I do not, I repeat, do not, ever, want to have to converse with you again. I don't even ever want to stand in your ugly presence again. OK? - OK?

DIONYSUS

Absolutely.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary, looking furious, is standing in front of a naked Dionysus who is standing on a chair in a position reminiscent of classical Greco-Roman statues.

He is doing a good job ignoring Mary who is offering him his clothes.

MARY

Don't ignore me, damn you. Stop this nonsense and put your bloody clothes on.

Dionysus stops being a statue and grabs the clothes Mary is holding for him.

DIONYSUS

What do you want? I'm not in the house. Why are you giving me trouble for?

MARY

You cannot continue going around naked. It's very disconcerting and - downright disturbing.

Dionysus starts getting dressed.

DIONYSUS

It's natural.

MARY

It's not, it's weird. Do it somewhere where I cannot see you.

Dionysus is now fully dressed.

DIONYSUS

Look, this is an outcry. You're trying to take away my basic human rights. I came here so I could get away from that big dictatorship that's modern society. I will not be a caged bird, I am a free man.

MARY

You are an idiot.

DIONYSUS

And you are a Nazi.

MARY

I really want to punch you right now.

DIONYSUS

If it'll help release stress and anguish go right ahead. I present myself as a sacrificial lamb.

Mary tenses up and makes a fist but then let's go.

MARY

What is up anyway with all this ridiculous fascination with antiquity?

DIONYSUS

You wouldn't understand. It's to do with the ideals of the past. With freedom, truth, and love.

MARY

Is that why you use that stupid name?

DIONYSUS

It's not stupid. Dionysus was the man-God of pleasure and sex and wine. He inspired ritual madness and ecstasy. Known as Bacchus, he was the patron deity of agriculture and the theatre. Known also-

MARY

Shut up, I don't give a shit. Just shut it.

DIONYSUS

You asked.

MARY

I don't care. Just leave me alone.

DIONYSUS

You're the one always coming after me when I'm naked.

MARY

Go fuck yourself.

Mary turns and walks angrily away.

DIONYSUS

What is it with you wanting me to always do that to myself?

Mary is further away now.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

(Calling after her)

Is it like a Freudian thing?

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is lying in bed in her dress and is smoking.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

MARY

No.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)

It's only me.

MARY

Go away!

The door opens revealing a smirking Dionysus holding a bottle of wine.

DIONYSUS

How's the lady of - how is Mary doing tonight?

Mary sits angrily up on the bed.

MARY

What're you doing? This is my room. Go away right now.

DIONYSUS

Wanted to see if you wanted some wine.

MARY

I don't want anything of yours. I never ever will. Leave me be.

DIONYSUS

OK, I'll go. There's just one thing I want to tell you. It'll put a smile on your face.

MARY

If you don't leave I will kill you. I swear I will.

DIONYSUS

No, listen, listen a second. There is a guy who wakes up and is really late for work. Now, this man's got an important presentation so he's desperate to get there.

Mary falls back on the mattress.

MARY

Oh God.

DIONYSUS

So he is rushing through the traffic, driving like a mad man and he reaches his destination but there's no parking space at all. So he's sweating and panicking and looking desperately around but nothing. So he looks up and says: God if you give me a parking space I'll be a new man. I will never lie, I'll help strangers, I will be at church each and every Sunday.

MARY (O.C.)

Fuck off.

DIONYSUS

So right then, out of nowhere, as in a miracle, a parking space appears. So the man looks up and says, never mind I just found one.

Dionysus bursts out laughing but a vase hits the wall next to him and shatters, cutting his laughter short.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

OK, good night.

Dionysus hastily exits.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is at the dining table, by a bright lamp, drinking wine and writing in a notebook.

Mary comes over with a cigarette in the mouth, and sits at the table on the opposite side.

Dionysus continues what he is doing, purposely ignoring her. Mary is about to say something but she stops herself at the last moment.

She composes herself and tries again.

MARY

Excuse me.

Dionysus ignores her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Excuse me!

Dionysus picks up his glass and sips the wine without looking Mary's way. Mary stands up and is about to explode in rage but just manages to control her nerves at the last moment.

She sits down again.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm not here to pick a fight with you.

Dionysus continues to write.

DIONYSUS

That's a bloody surprise.

Mary sighs.

MARY

Just listen to me. I don't want to argue or yell. I'm here as one soul reaching out to another for - some assistance.

Dionysus looks at her.

DIONYSUS

Go on.

MARY

I'm running really low on the vodka so I was wondering if I could have some of your wine today?

DIONYSUS

You want some of my wine?

MARY

Yes. May I have some?

DIONYSUS

No.

MARY

Why not?

DIONYSUS

Because you are not very nice.

MARY

Oh, fuck you.

DIONYSUS
Yes, that's the way to go about
this.

MARY
Asshole.

DIONYSUS
Go away.

MARY
This is my bloody house. This is my
kitchen. You aren't even paying any
rent. The least you can do is offer
me some wine.

Dionysus thinks about it.

DIONYSUS
OK, but only if you promise to be
more civil in your attitude towards
me.

MARY
I promise.

DIONYSUS
OK then.

Mary reaches for the bottle.

MARY
Thanks.

She starts downing the wine.

DIONYSUS
Hey, no, hey wait one freaking
minute here.

Mary ignores him, so he gets up and takes the bottle from
her.

MARY
What are you doing? You said I
could have some.

DIONYSUS
Pour yourself a glass like a normal
human being. God knows what
diseases you carry.

MARY

I don't carry - OK, I'll get a glass.

DIONYSUS

And I never said you could have the whole bloody thing.

Mary gets a glass from the cupboard and comes back to the table.

MARY

Glass, see?

She pours wine into it.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm following your stupid instructions. I don't want to argue with you. I am tired of it.

Mary takes out some tobacco and paper and begins rolling a cigarette.

MARY (CONT'D)

Want one?

DIONYSUS

No, thank you.

Dionysus reaches into his pocket and takes out his own tobacco.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Have my own. This is from the Pinar del Rio province of Cuba.

Dionysus takes in a deep breath.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Ah, beautiful. I could roll you one if you want.

MARY

Why're you trying to show off? You think you are better than me, is that it?

DIONYSUS

I'm not trying to show off. It's what I have on me. I thought you promised to be nicer to me.

MARY

I'm trying but you're not making it
easy for me.

DIONYSUS

OK. I'm just going to continue with
my poetry.

MARY

Poetry?

DIONYSUS

Yes?

MARY

Nothing.

DIONYSUS

OK then.

MARY

Fine. Good.

Mary gets up and grabs her glass.

DIONYSUS

You can sit here and drink with me
if you want. If you promise not to
attack me at any point.

Mary sits down.

MARY

You think I like talking to you?
Because I don't. I really do not. I
- I'd rather talk to a big fat
roach to be perfectly honest with
you Mr. Dionysus, Mr. Poetry Man.

DIONYSUS

Either be quiet or head for the
basement, there are plenty of
cockroaches there. Lots of mice too
for that matter.

MARY

Fine, no talking.

DIONYSUS

Great.

MARY

Fantastic.

Dionysus stops himself from answering back.

They sit in silence.

CUT TO

Mary and Dionysus are sitting at the table embroiled into a heated discussion. There is a new bottle of wine opened and a lot of smoked cigarettes.

DIONYSUS

But Mary, it's silly. It's such a ridiculous concept.

MARY

So you're saying I'm ridiculous? Thank you for that.

DIONYSUS

No, don't twist my words. I'm saying that the concept of God is ridiculous.

MARY

Hell do you know about anything? You're hiding from everything, pretending you are some goddamn 'avant-garde', wanna be intellectual'. So pathetic.

DIONYSUS

I could say a lot here, a lot, but I won't because I don't wish to scoop down to your savage and barbaric level.

MARY

Oh yeah, you think you're so good eh? Go on; say what's on your mind. Come on, you fuck, give me your best shot.

DIONYSUS

No, there's - no. You're just incapable of sustaining an adult conversation.

MARY

You are. You're so closed minded, it's ridiculous.

DIONYSUS

Am I? Look, an external, separate from our nature, all mighty God is a concept for simple-minded people, for sheep only. Like Marx said: religion is the opiate of the people. Can't believe you can't see that. What is wrong with you?

MARY

What's wrong with you? Most people believe in some God. But no, you just got to be so different. You are not a sheep; you don't follow what everybody else does. You are just so special, aren't you?

DIONYSUS

Personal attacks. A clear sign that your argument is so weak.

MARY

Fuck you.

DIONYSUS

See what I mean?

MARY

You're really annoying me.

They go quiet for a few seconds.

Then:

DIONYSUS

Wouldn't have pegged you for the religious type.

MARY

Didn't use to be, never cared one way or the other. But then one day I became a believer. My eyes were opened.

DIONYSUS

What happened?

Mary stands and leans close to Dionysus.

MARY

Trust me there's a God - and I hate his fucking guts.

Mary throws her chair to the floor and walks away.

DIONYSUS
(Calling after her)
You're so very mature.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is pacing up and down in her bedroom.

She picks up a bottle of vodka and starts drinking from it.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on his bed and looking intently at a framed picture of a WOMAN.

He suddenly stands up in a flash of anger, goes to the window, but struggles to open it.

Once successful, he throws the picture out.

He walks back to the bed.

DIONYSUS
There, should have done that ages ago.

He sits down.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Feels right, good.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is sitting in the middle of the bed drinking from the vodka bottle.

She slaps her thighs.

MARY
Such - a - weakling.

She slaps herself again.

MARY (CONT'D)
Good - for nothing.

And again.

MARY (CONT'D)
Worthless.

One more time she slaps her thighs.

MARY (CONT'D)
And so much more.

She drinks.

MARY (CONT'D)
So - much - more.

Tears appear in her eyes.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on his bed but suddenly looks towards the window.

He gets more and more agitated.

He stands up.

DIONYSUS
Ah, damn it.

He runs out of the room in a hurry.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dionysus is preparing a big casserole dish and a Greek salad, while Mary is smoking away and nibbling on some crackers.

Dionysus waves his hand in the air, annoyed by the cigarette smoke.

DIONYSUS
Must you smoke in here?

MARY
Yes.

DIONYSUS
Just checking.

Dionysus starts glancing at Mary as she is standing there, nibbling and smoking. He notices how pale and skinny she looks. He starts singing a TUNE and tries to keep his wits up.

He looks back at Mary, smiles and keeps humming the tune.

He looks at her one more time.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Oh for crying out loud, let the crackers be this instant.

MARY

Fuck off.

DIONYSUS

No, I won't fuck off. Listen to me. Let's make a deal here. If you agree to stop nibbling like a little mouse and have the food I'm making; I will let you have all the wine you want.

MARY

All the wine I want?

DIONYSUS

Within reason.

MARY

What the hell does that mean?

DIONYSUS

We open two bottles.

MARY

Three.

Dionysus thinks about it.

DIONYSUS

OK but you also help me with the dishes.

MARY

Is that a joke?

DIONYSUS

No dishes no deal. I wash, you wipe. OK?

MARY

Whatever.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (LATER)

Mary and Dionysus are having dinner at the table.

Dionysus devours with relish the feast that he has created, Mary, by contrast, is barely touching her meal and concentrates on drinking the wine and playing with her matches.

She takes out her tobacco and rolling paper.

DIONYSUS
Don't even think of smoking now.

MARY
I'm going to roll one for later.

DIONYSUS
Eat something, damn it.

MARY
Not hungry in the least.

Mary continues rolling her cigarette.

DIONYSUS
We had a deal. You have to eat now
or I am going to take the wine
away.

MARY
Oh Fine.

Mary in an overly theatrical way picks up a piece of *feta* cheese from the salad bowl, puts it in her mouth and chews it in an overly exaggerated manner.

MARY (CONT'D)
Happy now?

Dionysus' face turns red.

DIONYSUS
Go - go and fuck yourself!

Mary is momentarily shocked by Dionysus' response.

MARY
Fine, I'll have some more. Jesus,
calm down.

CUT TO

Dionysus is in the kitchen washing the dishes. Next to him stands an annoyed and fidgety Mary, unwillingly holding on to a towel.

Dionysus hands her a washed plate and she proceeds to dry it in a hurry.

She puts it aside half-wet.

DIONYSUS
Can you please do a better job?

MARY
No.

DIONYSUS
We had a deal.

MARY
I'm doing it, aren't I? What'd you want from me?

DIONYSUS
I want you to stop acting like you are an extra from a George Romero movie.

MARY
Just get on with it, I don't want to be here all night.

Dionysus hands Mary another plate but as she starts wiping it, it slips from her hand and breaks on the floor.

DIONYSUS
See; see what happens when you don't even try?

Mary throws the towel away, dips her hands in the sink, picks up a load of soapy plates and slams them on the floor.

She walks away as Dionysus tries to hold back his anger.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
They're your plates you know.

Dionysus grabs the wine bottle and starts drinking.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is in her bedroom and is looking through her luggage, scattering clothes and her belongings around the room.

A rope becomes visible as she looks through her suitcase and finds a very small bottle of vodka.

MARY
Goddamn it.

Mary downs the drink in one go then throws the bottle hard on the wall and sits on her bed.

She slaps herself hard.

She pulls hard on her hair with both hands and starts crying.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

Mary is startled, then she wipes her tears.

MARY (CONT'D)
Fuck off.

The door opens slightly and a hand holding a white handkerchief pops through.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)
Don't throw anything. I just want to have a word, if I may.

MARY
No Dionysus, go away, go away now.

DIONYSUS (O.C.)
Just be a second.

Dionysus pops his head through and Mary lowers her head to her hands.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
I just wanted to apologise about earlier on. I was out of line with my behaviour. Never meant to use the 'f' word and I didn't mean to yell at you for breaking the plate. I've been under stress lately but that is no excuse for me to take it out on you.

Dionysus waits to see if Mary says anything but she just keeps on having her head lowered in her hands.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
OK, I said what I came here to say so now I shall bid you a good night.

He swings the door to close but at the last moment changes his mind.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Oh wait, I nearly forgot. I have another joke to tell you.

Mary looks up in shock, disbelief, and hopelessness.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Think you will like this one. It's a bit naughty but bloody good. Now listen before I start, I have to tell you it's not a racist joke. I'm not a racist. I learned this joke from an Irish friend I used to know. OK. Just a harmless joke, that's all.

Mary continues looking at Dionysus in silence and disbelief.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Here goes. So there's an English man, a Scotsman, and an Irish man and they are in the jungles of the Amazon exploring and all that when they get caught by a tribe of cannibals. The cannibals explain to them that they only got one chance for freedom. Each one of them will have to go in among the trees and get one kind of fruit and stick five pieces of it up their bums. Whoever makes no sound while all five pieces go up there, that person won't be eaten. So in goes the English man and comes out holding apples. He puts one in, then with the second one he goes ouch. That's it; he'll be dinner. So it's the Scotsman's turn. He comes out with raspberries. He puts one in, two in, three, all going well, puts the fourth raspberry in but right then he starts laughing. He gets eaten too. Then, in heaven one day, the Englishman meets up with the Scotsman. The Englishman goes: 'too bad we were eaten.' 'Aye, a right shame', says the Scotsman.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Englishman goes: 'But what happened, you were so close, why did you start laughing?' The Scotsman replies: 'Well, see now, right at that moment that I stuck the fourth one in I saw the Irishman coming out from the trees holding on to pineapples.'

Dionysus bursts out laughing. He looks at Mary but she is just staring at him, not saying a word.

Dionysus composes himself, nods and closes the door.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary is on her knees, hugging the toilet bowl and throwing up.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - DAY

Dionysus is awake in bed, looking through his erotica book and sketching figures on a note-pad.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary is searching through her room and gathering all the bottles of vodka but they are all empty.

As she searches, she opens a drawer and finds a *Mafalda* comic strip paperback. Mary stares at it, getting more and more distressed with each passing second, then quickly puts it back and closes the drawer.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Dionysus is at the front of the house, in the garden and he is meditating.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary is sitting in the corner of her bedroom, holding onto her knees and shaking. She starts to cry and bang slowly the side of her head on the wall.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

Mary - the top side of her head slightly bleeding - walks to the bathroom but finds the door locked.

MARY

Oh yeah, yeah, you think this will stop me?

Mary takes her panties off, squats to the floor, lifts her dress and urinates right on the spot, just outside the bathroom door. She finishes and walks away.

Dionysus comes out of the bathroom, freshly washed, with a towel along his waist and steps right in the fresh puddle of urine.

DIONYSUS

Ah, what fresh hell is this? Oh God, this is urine, isn't it? Oh, that's just disgusting. Shame on you, Mary. Shame on you.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting on the ground, on a cushion and is meditating while listening to mystic sounding MUSIC.

Mary enters the living room, wearing the dress she always wears and walks up to him.

MARY

What're you doing?

Dionysus stays silent.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hello? What is this, are you meditating?

Dionysus sighs and looks at Mary.

DIONYSUS

Was trying to.

MARY

Why?

DIONYSUS

Because it's good for you.

MARY

Why?

DIONYSUS

It calms the mind, increases brain size; promotes overall health. You should seriously try it.

MARY

Don't think so. Where do you keep the wine?

DIONYSUS

Somewhere, why?

MARY

I want some.

DIONYSUS

You want some or you need some?

MARY

What's the difference?

DIONYSUS

Do you care to enjoy a nice glass of quality wine, to smell its aroma, to feel it warm your belly, to glow in the bliss of the aftertaste? Or are you just in desperate need to numb yourself from your surroundings and from your own being?

MARY

Obviously it's the second thing.

DIONYSUS

I don't think I should give you any wine then.

MARY

Stop being an asshole.

DIONYSUS

Flattery will get you nowhere.

MARY

Look, just want to have some of your wine that's all. I let you stay here rent-free, it's the least you can do.

DIONYSUS

You'll not let me be unless I concede, will you?

Mary nods her head Yes.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

OK, fine. A few things though. Give me an hour to finish up here and meet me at the front of the house. We'll have wine together with some delicious savouries and we will engage in a delightful conversation. This is non-negotiable.

MARY

Fine, whatever. We can eat club sandwiches and sing lullabies if you want, don't care.

DIONYSUS

Good. I'll see you in an hour.

MARY

Enjoy sitting on the ground doing nothing.

DIONYSUS

Thank you. Glad you dropped by.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus is sitting by the steps of the house smoking a rolled-up cigarette and looking out into the night.

Next to him is a bottle of wine, two wine glasses and a plate with bread, prosciutto, various cheeses, and olives.

Candles are lit all around.

Mary appears at the open door and comes over to join him. She sits next to him and Dionysus pours wine into the glasses and offers it to her.

They drink in silence for a while.

DIONYSUS

It's beautiful out here, isn't it?

MARY

What's so beautiful about it?

DIONYSUS

What? What's so... the smell for starters, clean and fresh.

Dionysus breathes in deep and exhales with joy.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

The millions of stars up there
smiling down on-

MARY

The fucking bugs crawling all up
your arse.

Mary slaps her leg in disgust.

DIONYSUS

You have to learn to appreciate
what an absolute miracle this life
is. There's boundless beauty all
around you.

MARY

Can't we just drink in silence, is
that too much to ask?

DIONYSUS

No, the deal was that we have a
nice conversation.

MARY

That's impossible.

DIONYSUS

Only because you are not willing to
try.

Mary sighs.

MARY

OK, can we at least not talk about
stupid shit?

DIONYSUS

Well, what's your definition of
stupid shit?

MARY

Anything along the lines of beauty
all around or the miracles of life
or anything of the sort.

DIONYSUS

OK, let's change the topic. What is
your political point of view?

MARY

Couldn't care less.

DIONYSUS

I don't blame you, not one bit.
These days there is no political
movement one can truly belong to.
It's all a joke. Everything is
controlled by the mega-corporations
and all the leading politicians
just obey their wishes as if they
were puppets. It's all just a
circus of lies, of hypocrisy, of-

MARY

Christ! I'd rather you continued on
about the fucking miracle of life
and the smiling stars.

Dionysus waves his hands in exasperation.

DIONYSUS

You're not giving this a chance.

Mary downs the rest of her wine.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You're not getting any more.

MARY

Oh yeah?

Mary grabs the bottle, stands up and starts downing it.

DIONYSUS

You devil woman.

Dionysus gets up and tries to get the bottle from her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Give me that.

MARY

Don't you fucking put your hands on
me.

DIONYSUS

This is not your bottle.

MARY

This is not your house.

She takes a big gulp of wine and throws the bottle at
Dionysus who just manages to catch it.

MARY (CONT'D)
I told you to leave. I told you. I
told...

Mary turns around as tears appear in her eyes and then walks back into the house.

INT. THE SEA - DAY

The endless ocean, vast and deep.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mary wakes up startled from a bad dream and tries to catch her breath as if she's drowning.

She falls off the bed and takes deep breaths.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is on a bicycle and is approaching the house. He has a large brown bag at the pannier rack and two plastic bags on each of the handles.

Mary is by the front door, cigarette in hand as Dionysus parks the bicycle and unloads.

MARY
Did you get what I asked for?

DIONYSUS
Hi to you too.

MARY
Did you get what I asked for?

DIONYSUS
Yes, it wasn't particularly
difficult to forget: Vodka and
cheap tobacco.

Dionysus hands her the brown bag.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Now you have to keep your end of
the bargain.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is standing in front of a blank canvas with a drawing pencil in his hand.

He is deep in thought and concentration and keeps looking back and forward from the canvas to Mary who is posing for him wearing a brand new dress that he got for her.

The dress looks odd on her, as she has made no effort to comb her hair or wear makeup and has adopted a look of dismay and futility. There is a bottle of vodka near her feet.

DIONYSUS

Would it have hurt you to have fixed yourself up a bit? Don't you own a comb?

MARY

Just get on with it, I have things to do.

DIONYSUS

Yeah, like what?

MARY

Like drinking and smoking, in my room, on my bed, in peace and quiet.

DIONYSUS

How exciting.

MARY

I like it.

DIONYSUS

Fine; let's begin.

Dionysus starts to work on the canvas.

CUT TO:

Mary is trying her best to stand still so Dionysus can paint her but she is also holding on to a bottle of vodka and occasionally drinking from it.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Can you not drink right now?

MARY

You said pose with new dress. You never said anything about not drinking.

DIONYSUS
How foolish of me.

They continue in silence for a while. Dionysus really focusing on Mary's facial features. Mary, in turn, is fidgeting on the spot, sighing and taking sips from her bottle.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
I have to say, your features are so classy. Like a Hollywood starlet in the golden age of cinema. It's the artist's eye speaking here. It speaks only the truth.

MARY
Ha, sure. Me and Cary Grant would have made quite the pairing.

Dionysus looks at her and smiles.

DIONYSUS
Ah, he's my favourite.

MARY
Yeah, right.

DIONYSUS
Honestly.

Mary looks from the bottle to Dionysus.

MARY
Well, he's my favourite too.

DIONYSUS
Oh, wonderful. Favourite movie?

MARY
We're not doing this.

DIONYSUS
Oh, come on, Mary.

Mary drinks from the bottle.

MARY
Fine - don't know, *His Girl Friday*?

DIONYSUS
Love it but I have a real weak spot for *Only Angels Have Wings*. I mean, I'm cra-

MARY
More painting, less talking,
Dionysus.

DIONYSUS
OK, fine.

CUT TO

Dionysus brings a tray full of sandwiches and places it on a sheet that is laid on the floor of the living room where Mary is lying and drinking wine.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Tuna and cucumber sandwiches. Just
like mother used to make.

Dionysus picks one up and digs into with relish.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Why aren't you eating?

Mary smiles in exasperation.

MARY
Just not hungry, Dionysus.

Dionysus picks one up and offers it to her.

DIONYSUS
Take it; it's nice.

MARY
I don't want it.

DIONYSUS
Come on, if you put some effort
into eating one you will probably
get your appetite back.

Mary gives him a demeaning look.

MARY
You are such a huge dumbass.

They both go quiet as Mary looks away annoyed and Dionysus lowers his head.

Suddenly Dionysus starts laughing and Mary looks at him in surprise.

MARY (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

DIONYSUS

A dumbass?

MARY

Yeah, what?

DIONYSUS

Don't know; guess I just didn't expect to hear that word from you.

MARY

My - husband was American. Used to say it all the time for fun.

DIONYSUS

So you were married?

Mary tries to get up.

MARY

Can we just finish off with the painting now?

DIONYSUS

Wait, I'm still eating.

Mary lies back down.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Give me a few minutes here. Look the dumbass line back there. It's a compliment for me.

MARY

Well, why wouldn't it be, you are one after all.

DIONYSUS

No, listen. I love donkeys. Modern society regards them as stupid creatures and disrespects them both in art and literature. It's not fair.

MARY

I like them. They do look quite stupid though but I still like them.

DIONYSUS

They've gotten the wrong end of the deal, that's all.

(MORE)

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Did you know that even in mystic traditions such as Paganism and Gnosticism that a donkey had a negative connotation as it represented the lower, animal aspect of a person, the side that prevented them from becoming awakened? The ego if you may. For example, in Christian esoteric mythology, when Jesus is riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, that scene was symbolic of him having conquered his lower, mortal side, thus realizing his true divinity of the immortal Christ.

MARY

What the hell are you on about?

DIONYSUS

I don't think that it is fair; donkeys are special creatures in their own right too.

Mary looks at Dionysus with a bewildered expression.

MARY

You are truly bizarre, you know that?

DIONYSUS

Why thank you.

MARY

It wasn't a compliment. I think that you might be clinically insane.

DIONYSUS

Maybe.

MARY

You do talk crazy all the time.

DIONYSUS

Have a sandwich and I will not say another thing for a while. What do you think?

MARY

I think it's a good bargain.

Mary picks up a sandwich and after a slight hesitation, she bites into it.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - LATE EVENING

Dionysus and Mary walk through fields of wheat that surround the house; it is late evening and the sun is beginning to descend.

A bottle of vodka is shared between them as they sit on the ground under a tree.

They are silent for a while but then Mary begins to softly cry.

INT. THE SEA - DAY

The vast sea on a sunny day.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - LATE EVENING

DIONYSUS

If you want to talk about it; I'll listen.

Mary wipes away her tears.

MARY

Three years ago I was lying on the beach with my eight-year-old daughter, Ava. We were both sunbathing. I must have dozed off for what seemed like a few seconds but as I opened my eyes she wasn't lying next to me anymore. I looked towards the sea but couldn't see her. I - I started frantically calling her name. I - started asking everyone around if they had seen my little girl but no one had noticed her. No one. I rushed into the water looking for her, some men followed me in. We looked for ages but there was no trace of her. Two days later the local costal police found her drowned body. One year later I was divorced. Tom couldn't even stand being in the same room as me. To be fair to him, he did try but he couldn't bring himself to forgive me and I couldn't forgive myself. I will never forgive myself.

They stay in silence.

DIONYSUS
I'm truly sorry.

MARY
Just pass me the bottle.

DIONYSUS
Just a sec.

Dionysus takes a gulp from the bottle and then hands it to her.

Mary drinks as well and gets up.

MARY
Let's head back.

They walk back to the house in silence as the sun reaches the lowest part of the sky.

DIONYSUS
Listen, Mary, I want to confess something.

MARY
What?

DIONYSUS
I didn't just come to this place to escape from the madness and sickness that is modern society. I didn't just come here to find myself and live a life of freedom and-

MARY
Is this going to take long?

DIONYSUS
Just listen.

MARY
OK.

DIONYSUS
I came here cause I caught my wife in bed with another man.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A slightly younger Dionysus, with a neat haircut and wearing a suit, opens the bedroom door only to be introduced to the scene of his wife ANNE, (the woman from his picture), having sex with a young man, TOBY.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)

Thing is - I walked in on them
close to the -- end of their act
and they both seemed to be heading
for a climax.

Anne and Toby are really going for it; grunting and moaning.

ANNE

Don't stop, fuck me; fuck me!

TOBY

Oh Jesus, oh shit, oh fuck.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)

I mean, they - you know, they
actually freaking saw me standing
there and for a few seconds just
kept at it; kept humping away like
damn dogs, with me the hopeless
spectator.

A moaning Anne and a grunting Toby are both looking at Dionysus.

The act comes to an end while Dionysus stands there looking at them in shock and disbelief.

As the intensity subsides; there is a moment of silent contemplation.

Then:

ANNE

Oh shit, you came didn't you? You
fucking came in me.

Anne jumps out of bed.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You fucking idiot; I told you to
pull out at the last minute. I told
you, you could have come on my
belly. Fucking idiot!

TOBY

I'm so sorry - I didn't mean to.

ANNE
Screw your sorry.

Anne - all the while ignoring Dionysus - rushes to the adjoining bathroom.

Dionysus and the naked Toby are left there in true, uncomfortable silence.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus stand in silence looking at each other.

Mary bursts out laughing surprising Dionysus.

DIONYSUS
Oh, you found that funny, did you?

MARY
(While laughing)
I'm sorry; it's just ridiculous.

DIONYSUS
Well, it's my life. It's not funny.

Dionysus starts laughing too.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Who am I kidding, it's utterly pathetic.

The laughing ceases and Dionysus turns serious.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
That's not the end of it.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The younger Dionysus is in the middle of a serious conversation with Anne.

DIONYSUS
Why don't you want to discuss things with me? Give us a chance to try and work things out.

ANNE
There's nothing to discuss. I'm not going to apologize to you.
(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)

This marriage has been a joke for many years now. You catching me fucking someone else was the best thing that could have happened really. It's such a relief.

DIONYSUS

Look, I'm willing to put that behind us. All we need is to see a marriage counselor.

Anne laughs.

ANNE

What the hell for?

DIONYSUS

What do you mean what for? To help us with our problems.

ANNE

Are you that blind? It's time for a new beginning for both of us. This is a good thing, it might not seem so but it is. Anyway, the writing has been on the wall for ages now. It was obvious that things were over between us.

DIONYSUS

Not for me, they weren't.

Dionysus approaches Anne and grabs her arm.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

One last chance, I love you.

ANNE

Well, I don't love you.

Anne gets away from Dionysus.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Please go.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dionysus is wearing his hat and coat and is holding on to two suitcases. He is looking depressed as he walks down a street.

DIONYSUS (V.O.)
See, even after what I had
witnessed, I was still willing to
stay with her. I was so pathetic, I
didn't know if I could live without
her. I didn't know if I could be on
my own.

FLASHBACK ENDS

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary hands the bottle to Dionysus who smiles and drinks from it.

They both look in each other's eyes and there is evident mutual affection and attraction. They seem to be about to kiss when Mary walks away and into the house.

Dionysus walks in too. Mary heads quickly to the stairs, turns and looks at Dionysus standing by the door.

MARY
Can you give me the bottle, please?

DIONYSUS
Sure.

Dionysus walks up to Mary and hands her the bottle.

Mary hesitates but then quickly walks up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus wakes up from a bad dream.

He lights the bedside lamp and composes himself. He quickly gets out of bed and rushes to the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT (LATER)

Dionysus comes out of the bathroom and notices Mary's door is ajar and some candlelight from within.

He goes over and KNOCKS on the door but there is no reply. Dionysus looks inside the room.

DIONYSUS
Mary?

Mary is not in the room. Dionysus starts feeling worried and runs down the stairs.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary.

Dionysus thinks about going outside but notices a light coming from the living room area.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He walks in to see Mary on a chair with a rope around her neck which is also tied to the chandelier.

DIONYSUS

No!

Mary pushes the chair from under her and starts to hang by the rope.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Jesus.

Dionysus rushes and grabs Mary by the legs.

MARY

Let me go. Let me go.

Mary struggles to get free.

DIONYSUS

Stop, please, stop it.

MARY

Leave, damn it.

Dionysus reaches out and unties the rope from Mary's neck and lets her down.

Mary slaps him hard.

She does it again but on the third attempt, Dionysus grabs her wrists and holds her close to him.

They start to passionately kiss and undress.

They fall on the ground and start having sex, with Mary on the ground and Dionysus on top of her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wait - wait.

DIONYSUS
Oh, sorry, sorry.

Dionysus tries to get off from her.

MARY
No, no, stay inside. It's my back;
it hurts to be on the ground, let's
switch.

DIONYSUS
Oh, OK.

Dionysus rolls to his back on the ground and Mary sits on top
of him.

They continue having sex in a very intense way.

CUT TO:

They both lie exhausted on the ground holding each other.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus - towels wrapped around their bodies from a
wash - are standing over the table and vigourously eating
food.

They keep at it, occasionally glancing at each other and
smiling.

DIONYSUS
How're you feeling?

MARY
Good, really, really good.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Mary is bent over the toilet bowl and is throwing up while
Dionysus keeps her hair in his hands.

DIONYSUS
You need to cleanse your system.

MARY
You think?

She throws up a bit more.

DIONYSUS
That's it; let it all out.

MARY
Can you please shut up.

DIONYSUS
Sorry.

MARY
Make me coffee.

DIONYSUS
No, not coffee.

MARY
Why not, don't we have any?

DIONYSUS
We have some excellent, Arabian
coffee but you need green tea now.

MARY
Green tea? No, coffee.

DIONYSUS
You're getting green tea and that's
final. Not another word.

MARY
Dionysus?

DIONYSUS
Not a word.

Mary sighs.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT(DREAM SEQUENCE)

Mary is in bed sleeping.

Now a young girl, AVA, is in bed sleeping instead.

Mary is at the edge of the bed looking at Ava. The little
girl opens her eyes and sits up.

AVA
Mummy.

MARY
Yes, sweetie?

AVA
Are you OK?

MARY
Yes, why do you ask?

Mary is now the one sitting up in bed and Ava is sitting by the edge.

AVA
I'm not here.

MARY
Why say that?

AVA
I'm not.

MARY
Ava, don't say such...

Mary stops in fear.

MARY (CONT'D)
Ava?

The little girl is gone.

A KNOCK is heard.

MARY (CONT'D)
Ava?

More KNOCKING now.

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus enters into Mary's room, and Mary wakes up with a YELL.

DIONYSUS
Mary?

Mary looks at him confused. She is shaking, sweat pouring down her forehead.

Dionysus goes to her and holds her. He feels her back with his hand.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
You're soaked. You have to change.

He places his hand on her forehead.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
You have a fever.

He gets up and gets clothes for her.

He helps her into dry clothes.

He puts a wet cloth on her head.

INT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on the ground and is sipping from a bottle of wine.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus comes out of Mary's room holding to a tray with a full plate of food on it.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is lying his bed smoking.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dionysus enters into Mary's room and places a hot cup on the bedside table. Mary is sprawled out on the bed; drooling and still asleep.

Dionysus opens the blinds and lets the sun into the room, waking up Mary in the process.

MARY
Mmm, no. No.

DIONYSUS
Rise and shine.

MARY
Get out!

DIONYSUS
Time to get up. It's a marvelous sunny day outside.

MARY
I don't care.

DIONYSUS
You should care.

MARY
I feel exhausted.

DIONYSUS
Here, have this.

Dionysus picks up the cup.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Sit up now, and sip it.

Mary puts the pillows behind her and sits up.

She takes the cup Dionysus hands her and smells it.

MARY
Fuck is this?

DIONYSUS
Do you always have to curse?

MARY
Smells like water.

DIONYSUS
It is water. It's freshly boiled
water. Careful you don't burn
yourself.

MARY
Why?

DIONYSUS
It's hot.

MARY
No, why water?

DIONYSUS
It'll help cleanse you. The
Japanese follow this procedure
every day and they live like
forever.

MARY
I'm not Japanese and I don't want
to live like forever. What's the
point in being really old?

DIONYSUS
Every age has its own beauty. Being
elderly is a very special time.

MARY

A time for soiling yourself all over again.

DIONYSUS

Not if you've been healthy and drunk your warm water every day. Now drink up and we'll go for a long walk, enjoy the sun and recharge the batteries.

MARY

I hate you.

Mary looks at the water with a dismayed expression on her face. She slowly brings herself to drink it.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary washes in the bathroom.

She combs her hair.

She puts makeup on.

She wears the dress Dionysus got for her.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is mixing colours and getting ready to continue working on the painting.

Mary appears fully made up and wearing the dress and Dionysus is surprised and taken back by her.

DIONYSUS

You're beautiful.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in front of the sink and around them are bottles of vodka.

MARY

Don't think this is a good idea.

DIONYSUS

Look at it as a symbolic gesture, as a ritual. Be really present.

MARY

Stop saying these things. You just sound stupid.

DIONYSUS

It's nothing but common sense. This has to be done or you won't be able to move on.

MARY

Maybe I can't move on.

DIONYSUS

Yes, you can.

MARY

Maybe I don't want to.

DIONYSUS

I don't believe that.

MARY

Who cares what you believe. I'm not doing this; this is fucking stupid.

Mary picks up two bottles and pushes them hard on Dionysus' chest.

MARY (CONT'D)

You bloody do it.

She storms off.

Dionysus lowers his head and bangs the bottles on the sink surface.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary - hands shaking - lights a cigarette and inhales deeply.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mary is looking at herself in the basin mirror. A bottle of vodka is on the sink. Candles illuminate the room.

She slaps herself while looking in the mirror.

MARY

Magic mirror on the wall, who's the biggest cunt of them all?

She slaps herself again.

MARY (CONT'D)

You are, Mary, you are.

She grabs the bottle and starts drinking from it without pause. She gulps it down, the drink spilling onto her clothes.

She stops and spits some on the mirror.

She looks at her distorted image staring back at her.

She throws the bottle at the mirror and shatters it.

She takes a piece of broken mirror glass, turns her arm over and places the sharp shard on her skin.

She cuts herself and blood appears sliding down her arm.

She starts crying and puts the piece of glass down.

She breathes in deep then puts her arm to her mouth and sucks the blood from the cut.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary picks up each bottle of vodka and slowly and carefully empties the liquid content down the sink.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is in bed awake.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

He opens and sees Mary standing there looking at him wild-eyed.

She rushes to him puts her hands on his face and kisses him. Dionysus pulls back and looks at her arm in concern.

DIONYSUS

You're bleeding.

MARY

It's nothing.

She kisses him again and Dionysus picks her up and takes her to the bed.

CUT TO:

Mary and Dionysus are in bed holding each other.

MARY (CONT'D)
Never getting married again.

DIONYSUS
O - K.

BEAT

MARY
Don't want us to be a normal
couple.

DIONYSUS
What's normal about us?

MARY
And just - I don't want...

DIONYSUS
What?

MARY
Don't know. Don't - take me for
granted.

DIONYSUS
I won't.

MARY
And if you lie to me, lie good, so
I never know.

Dionysus pushes himself up and looks at Mary.

DIONYSUS
I won't lie to you.

MARY
You're lying already.

DIONYSUS
Jesus wept!

MARY
What?

DIONYSUS
You're being - intense.

MARY
No, I'm not. I just don't want you
to - have expectations.

DIONYSUS
Expectations? I just wanted to lie
here and enjoy the afterglow of our
lovemaking until the sandman
arrived.

Mary gets up and gets dressed.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Where're you going?

MARY
My room to sleep.

DIONYSUS
OK.

Mary reaches the door.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Good night, Mary.

Mary turns and smiles.

MARY
Good night, Dionysus.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the barren garden area.

Dionysus is trying to get Mary to ride the bicycle.

DIONYSUS
That's unacceptable, Mary. Hop on,
I'll help you learn.

MARY
I am not getting on that thing.

DIONYSUS
Come on, it'll be fun.

MARY
Don't care, I'm not doing this.

Dionysus gets on the bicycle.

DIONYSUS
OK. Look, sit in front and we'll go
for a ride together.

MARY

What?

DIONYSUS

It'll be safe. Trust me.

MARY

Looks like it's going to rain.

DIONYSUS

Nothing wrong with a bit of water,
hop on.

Mary gets on the front of the bicycle and Dionysus starts peddling away.

MARY

Don't know about this.

DIONYSUS

I got you.

They ride through the big garden and reach the little stony road and continue around a large field.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Rain starts springing down.

MARY

Told you it was going to rain.

DIONYSUS

Refreshing.

They continue riding the bicycle as the rain comes down harder.

Dionysus loses control of the bicycle as it leaves the little road and goes into the field.

They fall off and to the muddy ground and just lie there, letting the water wash over them.

They burst out laughing and turn affectionately to each other.

They start kissing and touching each other and taking each other's clothes off.

Dionysus starts kissing Mary's feet, legs and works his way to between her legs.

Mary lies back, moaning.

The rain continues to fall on them.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary is trying her hand at painting while Dionysus supervises.

MARY

I'm going to be very bad at this.

DIONYSUS

Have some faith in yourself.

MARY

I don't know the first thing about painting.

DIONYSUS

I'll teach you.

MARY

It'll take forever.

DIONYSUS

I'm a good teacher.

MARY

I'm a bad student.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Dionysus is riding through town on his bicycle.

CUT TO

He buys some bread from the bakery.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary is painting in front of a canvas. She stops and lights a cigarette. She starts feeling anxious and soon has difficulty breathing. She storms out of the house.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

She takes a deep breath and composes herself.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary wakes up in fear from a bad dream, next to her sleeping is Dionysus. She gets up, picks up a candle and walks out.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary is sitting on her bed as she lights a cigarette. She notices that her hand is shaking.

Mary starts pacing up and down and finally decides to sit on the floor with her back to the wall.

She grabs on the back of her thigh and her nails push into her flesh.

She stares at the desk at the other side of the room.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Ava is sitting on a chair at the same desk, drawing on paper. Mary - youthful and bright - appears by her side.

Ava shows her what she's been drawing.

AVA

What do you think, mummy?

MARY

It's beautiful.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary - on the floor - is now crying away.

INT. HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dionysus walks into Mary's room and finds her sitting at the same position, on the floor.

DIONYSUS

Mary!

He goes to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

Mary opens her eyes as Dionysus puts his hands on her shoulder.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Thank God.

MARY
What are you doing? Let me go.

She pushes his hands away in distress.

MARY (CONT'D)
You're suffocating me.

DIONYSUS
Sorry. You want some water?

MARY
No, I don't want no fucking water.
Go away.

DIONYSUS
I was just worried.

MARY
Just let me be for a bit, please.
Go meditate or stand naked or
something.

DIONYSUS
OK, OK, I'm going.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is painting as Mary walks in the room holding on to a shopping bag.

DIONYSUS
How was it?

MARY
I'm exhausted.

DIONYSUS
I thought you got lost; you were gone so long, I got a little concerned. I'll warm some food for you.

MARY
That's okay; I grabbed something while I was out.

DIONYSUS

You want some tea, we could read together?

Mary shakes her head NO.

MARY

Just want to be alone tonight, I'm so tired.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary is carrying two buckets of water, careful not to spill them and is approaching the house.

Dionysus walks out the front door.

MARY

Keep it open.

Dionysus does so. Mary reaches near.

DIONYSUS

You went to the well?

MARY

Very observant, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS

That's my duty.

Mary stops and carefully places the buckets down.

She catches her breath.

MARY

What do you mean?

DIONYSUS

I've always done that.

MARY

So, do you have the exclusive rights in the water gathering department? Is it forbidden for me to get it?

DIONYSUS

No, I just - I'm surprised that's all.

Mary picks up the buckets.

MARY

Whatever.

She walks past him and into the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary walks into the house, lights a candle then finds Dionysus sitting down in the living room with a glass of wine.

MARY

Still up?

DIONYSUS

Didn't feel like sleeping. I thought you'd be back sooner.

MARY

I got lost.

DIONYSUS

Have you eaten?

Mary shakes her head NO.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Do you-

MARY

No.

Dionysus sips the wine.

DIONYSUS

You didn't used to like going out this much.

MARY

You say it like it's a bad thing.

DIONYSUS

I just like having you around, is that bad?

MARY

I don't exist for your fucking amusement, OK?

DIONYSUS

What the hell does that mean?

MARY

You're being possessive.

DIONYSUS

Am I? God forbid; that's one of the seven deadly sins, isn't it?

MARY

OK, you're clearly drunk.

DIONYSUS

What if I am, I can be drunk if I want to as long as I don't take you for granted.

MARY

You're acting like a child. I'm going to go to bed.

DIONYSUS

In your bedroom no doubt.

MARY

Drink some - boiling hot water and sleep it off.

DIONYSUS

I don't want to.

Mary walks up the stairs.

MARY

You're such a child sometimes.

DIONYSUS

You're a child.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A young woman, ABELLE - dressed in very revealing clothes and with lots of makeup on - is sitting on a chair cross-legged and is smoking while Dionysus opens a new bottle of wine.

DIONYSUS

I'm running out of bottles but as you're my lovely guest for the evening we have to celebrate and toast to love.

ABELLE

Is your name really Dionysus?

DIONYSUS
Is your name really Abelle?

ABELLE
Sure it is.

Dionysus pours wine and offers a glass to Abelle.

ABELLE (CONT'D)
So, what would you like to do then?

DIONYSUS
I would like to get to know you.

ABELLE
Oh, I see you like a bit of
romance; a bit of illusion? Me, not
so much.

Abelle lifts her right foot and starts rubbing Dionysus in
the groin area.

ABELLE (CONT'D)
Like Elvis said: A little less
conversation, a little more action,
please.

Mary walks into the kitchen.

MARY
Fuck is this?

ABELLE
That's more like it.

DIONYSUS
Mary, come join us.

Mary walks towards them.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Abelle, this is Mary, Mary, this is
Abelle. Her name means bee, isn't
that fascinating.

MARY
Very. What the hell is she doing in
my house?

DIONYSUS
Having some wine.

MARY

And rubbing your cock with her
foot?

DIONYSUS

Um, yes, there was a bit of that
too, I guess.

MARY

You went and brought a prostitute
in the house? Are you mad?

ABELLE

Hey, the politically correct term
is whore, OK?

DIONYSUS

I thought we could try something
different.

Mary slaps Dionysus hard and storms out.

Dionysus goes after her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Come back here, why'd you do that?

MARY

Because you are a complete and
total asshole.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Mary makes her way to the front door.

DIONYSUS

What did I do?

Mary stands by the door, her back to Dionysus.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You're being immature and
possessive, Mary.

Mary turns around.

MARY

You're so fucking infuriating and
stupid.

DIONYSUS

I don't understand why you're so upset, we're not a normal couple, are we?

MARY

We are not a couple at all, Dionysus. Go fuck your - whore; I hope she shoves a large cucumber up your arse.

Mary opens the door, steps out and slams it hard.

Abelle appears at the entrance of the living room.

ABELLE

I don't mind the cucumber thing if that's what you're into.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Mary walks down a stony path that is surrounded by nature. It is quite dark, the moon is the only thing providing some light.

The night seems to have a calming affect on Mary and the tears and anger subside with each step she takes.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus and Abelle are lying in bed drinking wine. They still have their clothes on.

ABELLE

Have you learned enough about me yet?

DIONYSUS

I don't know anything about you.

ABELLE

I told you so much already.

DIONYSUS

You gave me a brief overview of your excessive sexual history.

ABELLE

I thought you'd like that.

DIONYSUS

Do you think she's alright? It's quite late and it's fairly dark out there.

Abelle stands.

ABELLE

I know what'll take your mind off her.

She starts undressing.

DIONYSUS

Oh, God, no, don't do that.

Abelle gets completely naked.

ABELLE

Don't you like me?

Dionysus gets up.

DIONYSUS

Of course, I bloody like you.

He kisses her on the forehead and runs to the room's door.

He turns his head to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Make yourself comfortable, do whatever you like, there's wine and food downstairs. I have to go.

ABELLE

You do?

He opens the door.

DIONYSUS

I'm sorry; I have to go after her.

He exits.

Abelle is overcome with emotion:

ABELLE

(In French)

Wow, he really is romantic at heart.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Dionysus is walking as quickly as he can through the stony road surrounded by trees and darkness.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - PLATFORM - NIGHT

Mary is sitting on a bench at the train station.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Dionysus is in town looking around for Mary.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - PLATFORM - DAY

Mary wakes up in pain on the bench.

She gets up and tries to stretch.

A train is approaching the station.

Dionysus walks onto the platform as the train stops and people start coming out.

MARY (O.C.)

Dionysus?

Dionysus turns around and sees Mary standing by the bench.

MARY (CONT'D)

How did you know I was here?

DIONYSUS

I've been looking everywhere, but when I saw the station, I felt something.

MARY

Did you feel that I would board a train or jump in front of one?

DIONYSUS

Both.

MARY

You should have stayed with - the bee woman.

DIONYSUS

No, that was - I was just being stupid. Please, forgive me.

Dionysus walks up to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Please.

MARY

You're in luck. I'm too tired to stay mad at you.

Around them, PEOPLE board the train, while OTHERS say goodbye to each other.

Dionysus puts his hand on top of Mary's.

MARY (CONT'D)

Will we kiss now, like old lovers apart for too long?

They look in each other's eyes, then kiss as such.

MARY (CONT'D)

Don't think we can make this work, Dionysus. We're worlds apart deep down.

DIONYSUS

We're more similar than you think. It - it happens that I have another confession.

MARY

How many of those will you fucking spring on me?

DIONYSUS

Last one, I promise. See, the real reason I came to the house was also to end my life. I used all my savings on wine, tobacco and good food. When the wine ran out was the day I would have done it, well, if you hadn't come along.

Mary smiles.

MARY

Would you have gone through with it, do you think?

DIONYSUS

Yes.

Dionysus re-thinks his answer, a realization coming to him.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Damn -- no, I guess I would have
chickened out.

The train's ENGINE roars into life, startling them a bit.

MARY
So, what now?

DIONYSUS
Let me propose that we simply ride
this till the wheels drop off?

Mary now puts her hand on Dionysus.

MARY
OK, Dionysus. OK. Let's go home.

As they walk off, the train leaves the station.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' BEDROOM - DAY

Dionysus is looking at loose change and notes spread out on
the bed. It isn't much. Mary is by the window smoking.

DIONYSUS
I'm going to try and sell a
painting, hell, maybe take up
fishing.

Mary is silent, looking outside.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Mary?

Mary throws the cigarette out the window and turns around.

MARY
I want to find work.

DIONYSUS
You do?

MARY
I need to be out of the house as
much as possible, and I need the
distraction.

DIONYSUS
What will you do?

MARY
I don't know.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary is in front of a canvas painting and smoking. There is a KNOCK on the door.

Mary opens and finds Abelle standing there. She is holding a small, brown paper bag.

MARY

Oh.

ABELLE

Bonjour. Sorry to disturb.

MARY

What is it? Dionysus isn't here.

ABELLE

No, I wanted to see you. I felt bad about the other night.

MARY

No need to, everything's OK.

ABELLE

Oh good. He really cares for you, you know.

The two women stand there unsure. Then:

MARY

Sorry, would you like to come in?

ABELLE

No, I - I'm in a hurry. Just wanted to give you some seeds. I noticed the yard, it looked - too barren.

Abelle hands Mary the bag.

Mary stares at it, surprised by the gesture.

MARY

Thank you.

ABELLE

My pleasure. Au revoir.

MARY

Au revoir.

Abelle starts walking away but turns back.

ABELLE

Maybe - I come by sometime for a coffee?

MARY

I would very much like that.

Abelle smiles and leaves.

INT. GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the front garden, on the ground, their hands full of dirt as they're are planting seeds.

MARY

Do you think it's going to work?

DIONYSUS

Don't see why it wouldn't.

They stand up, their hands and clothes brown from the dirt.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

What's left?

MARY

Chilies, I think.

Dionysus stares intensely at Mary's face.

DIONYSUS

Oh wait, you have something.

MARY

What?

DIONYSUS

Right - there.

Dionysus swipes his finger on her nose, leaving dirt trace on it.

MARY

Is it gone?

DIONYSUS

No, wait, there's more.

Dionysus smudges some more dirt on her face.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

There, much better.

He tries to contain his laughter.

MARY
I've got dirt on my face, don't I?

DIONYSUS
(smiling)
No.

Mary places both her hands across Dionysus's face and swipes away.

MARY
There, how do you like it?

DIONYSUS
Quite an organic sensation,
probably great for the skin.

MARY
Oh, you think so?

DIONYSUS
I do. I think you don't have
enough.

Dionysus bends down to the ground and buries his hands in the earth.

MARY
What are you doing?

His hands comes back up again - black.

MARY (CONT'D)
Don't you fucking dare.

Dionysus puts his hands up and Mary starts running from him.

Dionysus chases her across the yard.

MARY (CONT'D)
Dionysus, don't.

He catches up to her and they both fall on the ground,
rubbing dirt on each other and giggling.

They soon start kissing.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leftovers of bread and hummus are on the floor.

Mary is smoking and reading a book, Dionysus is practicing his juggling skills.

He drops all three balls to the floor.

Mary looks up at him annoyed.

MARY

Can't concentrate with you making such noise.

DIONYSUS

Sorry. I'm usually a lot better than this.

Dionysus continues but Mary feels a slight chill. She looks his way again.

MARY

You must sort out the fireplace and gather wood, it'll be winter soon.

A juggling ball drops from Dionysus's hand.

DIONYSUS

Damn it.

MARY

Did you hear me?

DIONYSUS

Yes, your highness, wood, fireplace. I'm on it.

MARY

You don't have to be so damn condescending?

Dionysus puts the juggling balls away and picks up a paintbrush.

DIONYSUS

Sorry, I was doing well and you made me lose concentration.

MARY

Oh did the little boy drop the ball? Well woo-hoo.

DIONYSUS

Hey, I've told you I hate it when you talk like that!

MARY

Want me to read you a bedtime story tonight?

DIONYSUS

Ah, piss off you.

He leaves in a hurry.

EXT. VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is outside a house showing one of his paintings to a woman that is standing by the front door.

The woman shakes her head No repeatedly and walks back inside closing the door behind her.

Dionysus wraps the painting back up, gets on his bicycle and paddles away.

INT. JULES' HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on an old couch in a small but cosy living room, which is full of books and old vinyl discs.

An old man, JULES, brings over a tray with two cups of coffee and biscuits and serves Dionysus.

DIONYSUS

Ah, God bless you.

JULES

Just happy to have some company this afternoon. Always a welcome event.

Dionysus sips the coffee.

DIONYSUS

This is lovely.

JULES

Thanks. So, you paint?

Dionysus uncovers one of his paintings and shows Jules who examines it with great interest.

JULES (CONT'D)

I like it, you are quite talented.

DIONYSUS

That's good to hear, I was beginning to have huge doubts the past few days.

JULES

Ah doubt, that sly old foe.

DIONYSUS

So do you want it?

JULES

I want it. What can I exchange you for it? What do you like?

DIONYSUS

Money would work well.

JULES

No, no, not money. It is against my principles.

DIONYSUS

It is?

JULES

Of course.

DIONYSUS

But I need money.

JULES

No, you don't.

DIONYSUS

I could pretty much make a solid argument that I do.

JULES

No money. Don't prostitute your art.

Dionysus sighs.

DIONYSUS

What can we exchange for it then?

JULES

Tell me, my friend, do you like wine?

Dionysus's mouth morphs into a big fat smile.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus - in formal evening clothes - are walking along a path. Dionysus is holding on to a bottle of wine.

EXT. JULES' HOUSE - NIGHT

They soon reach the front of Jules' house and stop.

MARY
Is it this one?

DIONYSUS
Yes, told you it wasn't far.

MARY
How do I look?

DIONYSUS
Breathtaking.

MARY
Is that one of the bottles he gave you?

DIONYSUS
Didn't give, we exchanged, but yes.

MARY
Feels cheap, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS
What can I do? We don't exactly have much money left.

MARY
I suppose.

They walk to the door and KNOCK.

Jules opens.

JULES
Mary!

Jules gives her a big hug.

INT. JULES HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary, Dionysus, and Jules are sitting around a table in the dining room.

Roast beef and a vegetable platter are on the centre, plates are served and wine is being had by Dionysus and Jules. Mary is drinking water.

Jules is not eating, he is happily looking at Mary who is a little self-conscious and she smiles at him awkwardly.

JULES

Forgive me, love, I'm - I'm just so
happy that I can look at you again.
It warms my heart to see people
from the past.

He turns to Dionysus and makes a height gesture off the ground:

JULES (CONT'D)

Knew her since she was this high.

Dionysus smiles.

Jules turns back to Mary.

JULES (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, how's your
little one?

Mary's slightly caught off guard. She turns to Dionysus.

MARY

You - didn't...

Dionysus shakes his head NO.

JULES

Oh God, oh no.

Jules puts his hand over his face.

JULES (CONT'D)

I am so sorry, Mary.

MARY

It's OK.

JULES

God. That's the worse...

Everybody lowers their head.

Jules gets up.

JULES (CONT'D)

My apologies. I ruined things.

MARY

Forget it.

JULES

No, the air now is too heavy, too sad. I need to fix this. Excuse me for a few seconds.

Jules goes over to a vinyl player and puts on traditional, upbeat French MUSIC.

He comes and sits back down. He waves his hands through the air and breathes deep.

Mary and Dionysus exchange a look.

JULES (CONT'D)

OK, now we eat.

CUT TO:

Time has passed the plates are near empty and there are dessert and brandy on the table.

MARY

That was wonderful, Jules, thank you.

DIONYSUS

Best meal we had in a while.

JULES

It is I that should be thanking you. You are both wonderful company.

DIONYSUS

You're very kind.

Dionysus looks at Mary, she suddenly seems absent-minded.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

So Mary mentioned you had a bookshop in town. Do you still run it?

JULES

Yes, still at it, though much fewer people go in now.

DIONYSUS

Mary is looking for work, do you think maybe she can work there?

Jules turns and looks at Mary.

JULES
Can you start tomorrow?

MARY
Um - yes, of course.

JULES
You're hired.

MARY
Really?

JULES
Yes.

MARY
Thank you so much, Jules, that's very kind of you.

JULES
Nonsense, I'm a selfish bastard. I want the company you see and I want to travel around soon. So I should be the one saying thank you.

Mary and Dionysus look at each other and smile.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Jules is showing Mary around the shop.

It is a charming, small bookstore, the type of place where one can find old copies of the works of Jean-Paul Satre and Henry Miller, as well as old postcards and South American comic books.

Jules shows her the back room.

JULES
We have a little fridge, you can keep lunch in there.

MARY
OK.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY (LATER)

Jules presses buttons on the cash register and the till springs open.

JULES
Very simple, no?

Mary nods her head Yes.

JULES (CONT'D)
Good. OK, I go.

MARY
You're leaving?

JULES
Yes. I go to the pond and feed the ducks now.

MARY
But it's my first day.

JULES
You'll be fine. Don't worry.

Jules opens the door and exits.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mary comes back into the dark house with a grocery bag.

MARY
Dionysus?

Mary places the bag down and lights a row of candles that are near the door.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary chops some vegetables on a chopping block and lights a small gas cooker.

She places the vegetables in a saucepan, then lightly shovers and sighs in frustration.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mary stands in front of the fireplace which seems unused and bare.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary - now with a thick sweater on - is steering the vegetables.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mary is sitting on the couch, a blanket over her feet, and is drawing in a sketchbook.

The front door opens and a whistling Dionysus comes into the house.

DIONYSUS
Honey, I'm home.

He puts down his wrapped paintings, takes his jacket off and throws it on a chair.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Ah, there you are, I have to tell you, I'm so excited.

He walks up to her. Mary keeps drawing.

Dionysus kisses her forehead.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Guess what?

Mary doesn't.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
I sold a painting today. For genuine, actual real money this time.

He waits for Mary's reaction but it never comes.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

MARY
I'm cold.

DIONYSUS
Arrgg, the damn fireplace, completely slipped my mind.

MARY
It's slipped for 2 months now.

DIONYSUS
Oh come on, don't be like that, I had a nice day.

Mary puts the drawing down.

MARY

Oh no, we wouldn't want to spoil your nice day, would we now?

DIONYSUS

Look, this isn't even my fault, really. I wanted the power and water back on. We're not in a bloody Jane Austen novel.

Mary gets up.

MARY

You said you liked it like this too.

DIONYSUS

I - I did, for a while. But...

MARY

But what? Too much effort for you now, so you want the easy way out?

DIONYSUS

No! Look around you, this is mad, Mary.

Mary stares at him.

She walks away.

MARY

Sleep in your own fucking room tonight.

DIONYSUS

Gladly, happily.

Mary goes up the stairs.

MARY

Fucking child.

DIONYSUS

Potty mouth - fiend.

Mary's door is heard SLAM hard.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary is browsing through the shelves, checking titles out. She stops and picks out a copy of Huis Clos, and moves back behind the counter, as a WOMAN and a GIRL enter the shop.

Mary looks on as the Girl runs happily to the comic strip session and as her Mother catches up to her and strokes her hair tenderly.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A younger, bright-looking Mary is in the bookshop with an excited Ava who picks up a paperback copy of a *Mafalda* comic strip.

AVA

Can I have this one, mummy?

Mary picks it up and looks through it.

MARY

Sweetie, this is in Spanish.

Ava lowers her head in disappointment. Jules appears behind them.

THE CONVERSATION HAPPENS IN FRENCH:

JULES

You speak French?

MARY

Yes.

JULES

I'm sure there's a French version somewhere here.

Jules starts to look through the shelves.

MARY

See honey, it'll be alright.

Ava smiles at her mother and hugs her.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

The Woman and the Girl approach the counter with their comic strip but find no one there.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus, holding a lamp, walks up the stairs.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

He reaches the entrance to her room and finds Mary on the floor, a near-empty bottle of vodka and some vomit next to her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

Mary.

He runs to her side.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

You OK?

MARY

Fuck off, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS

What happened?

MARY

What do you think happened?

He puts his arms around her.

DIONYSUS

It's OK.

Mary tries to shrug him off.

MARY

No, get out, I don't want you here!

DIONYSUS

No.

She pushes him.

MARY

Yes.

Dionysus holds her again.

DIONYSUS

I got you, it's OK, we're OK.

Dionysus strokes her hair.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)

It's OK to fall down sometimes.

MARY

Is it OK to have your hair sticky
with vomit?

DIONYSUS

Yes, that's OK too.

MARY

Dionysus - leave me.

She starts to cry.

DIONYSUS

Never.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dionysus is listening to loud music and painting on a large
canvas.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary, her back against the glass next to the entrance of the
bookshop, is reading a book and smoking.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS ROOM - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are in the same bed together and are both
sound asleep.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary opens the bookshop, walks to the counter and sits down,
sipping her coffee. Suddenly she stands up and rushes to the
toilet to throw up.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Mary is holding and staring in shock at a positive pregnancy
test.

Her facial features ease up as the sensation of hope returns
to her after a very long time, only, a second later, to be
chased away by fear.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

It is late afternoon, the sun is descending on the horizon, and Mary is smoking and pacing up and down. She finishes her cigarette and lights another one.

The front door opens and Dionysus pops his head out.

DIONYSUS
You sure you're OK?

MARY
Yes.

DIONYSUS
It's cold, come inside.

MARY
I will when I'm bloody good and ready, OK.

DIONYSUS
OK, OK, relax woman.

MARY
Don't fu -- I'll be in soon.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary goes up to Dionysus who is sitting sprawled across the couch, reading and sipping wine.

He looks at her, standing there unsure, not saying a word.

DIONYSUS
What?

MARY
I'm expecting.

Dionysus quickly sits up.

DIONYSUS
Is it - mine?

MARY
Of course, it's fucking yours, what do - whose else could it be? Have you seen a herd of men parading outside my room each night?

Dionysus becomes elated.

DIONYSUS
 Sorry, it's just the way you said
 it.

MARY
 What about it?

DIONYSUS
 We're expecting.

Mary sighs.

MARY
 Fine, we're expecting. For now,
 anyway, don't know if I'll keep it.
 OK?

Dionysus gets to his feet.

MARY (CONT'D)
 OK?

DIONYSUS
 OK, yes.

Dionysus starts kissing Mary's belly.

MARY
 What're you doing?

He can't stop himself.

MARY (CONT'D)
 Stop that.

DIONYSUS
 Just a bit longer.

MARY
 Dionysus...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Dionysus, whistling merrily away, is riding his bicycle, off
 to town to sell some more paintings.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Mary gives a customer his change as Jules puts the book and
 receipt in a bag and hands it to them.

JULES
(in French)
Thank you. Enjoy the rest of your
day.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Dionysus has gathered some logs together and is holding on to an axe. He swings it on a log but the blade gets stuck in the front of the wood. Dionysus tries to get it out but can't.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary and Abelle are sitting opposite each other in the kitchen table, cups of coffee in front of them.

They both light a cigarette at the same time and inhale.

MARY
So, what is new with you?

ABELLE
I have a new boyfriend.

MARY
Is it serious?

ABELLE
He wants me to quit my job, so yes.

MARY
Will you?

ABELLE
I haven't decided yet.

They sip their coffee.

ABELLE (CONT'D)
And what is new with you?

MARY
I'm pregnant.

ABELLE
Oh wow, congratulations. Dionysus
must be thrilled.

MARY
To say the least.

ABELLE
Will you keep it?

MARY
I haven't decided yet.

Abelle looks at her cigarette.

ABELLE
Maybe one day we give this up then?

Mary sighs.

MARY
Maybe.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary is working on her painting while Dionysus rides around the place naked on his bicycle.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Dionysus is sitting on some rocks by the sea and has a fishing rod in his hands.

INT. GARDEN -DAY

Mary and Dionysus are in the garden sitting on the ground with their eyes closed and meditating.

Mary suddenly opens her eyes and sighs in boredom.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Time has gone by and Dionysus has started getting restless as nothing is happening with the fishing line.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are working on the garden, taking bad weeds out, cutting grass and checking on the seeds they planted.

INT. LAKE - DAY

Dionysus has now fallen asleep on the rock where he's been fishing.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are lying and holding each other on a thick blanket, on the floor, and in front of a warm fireplace.

MARY
Dionysus, tell me a joke.

DIONYSUS
Are you serious?

MARY
Yes.

DIONYSUS
I thought you didn't like me telling them.

MARY
It's different now.

DIONYSUS
I bet you still won't laugh.

MARY
Come on.

DIONYSUS
Oh alright. Hmm, OK, OK. A guy is sitting on his couch when he hears a knock on the door. He opens and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there is a knock at the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, "What the hell was that all about?"

Mary gives a half-smile.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
See, I knew you wouldn't laugh.

MARY
No, but I still liked hearing you say it.

She places her head on his chest.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary, Dionysus, Abelle, and Jules are in the kitchen playing strip poker. They are all down to their underwear.

EXT. FRONT GARDEN - DAY

Mary and Dionysus are spread out on the ground, smiling, as they are staring at a tomato fruit developing on the vine.

MARY
It's beautiful.

DIONYSUS
Sure is.

INT. HOUSE - DIONYSUS' ROOM - NIGHT

Mary and Dionysus are asleep together.

Mary awakes and sits up in worry and fear, waking Dionysus too.

DIONYSUS
Mary?

MARY
Something's wrong?

Mary pulls down the blankets, revealing excessive blood coming out of her and covering her nightgown and sheets.

DIONYSUS
Oh, sweet God.

Dionysus gets out of bed.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
I'll get help.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Dionysus is racing his bicycle on the road.

EXT. FRONT OF JULES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Dionysus KNOCKS hard on the front door.

A puzzled Jules opens.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus and Jules are waiting anxiously in a small room. A DOCTOR comes in, and Dionysus and Jules rush towards him.

DOCTOR
She's OK.

Dionysus sighs in relief.

JULES
Good, good.

DOCTOR
It was what's called: a complete miscarriage. Unfortunately common within the first few months of pregnancy. We performed an ultrasound and blood tests, her vitals were normal and there was no indication of ectopic pregnancy.

DIONYSUS
Can we see her?

DOCTOR
Yes. We will keep her here for the night, but she should be OK to go home tomorrow.

DIONYSUS
I wish to stay with her.

DOCTOR
Um, OK, I'll get a nurse to bring you a blanket and a pillow.

DIONYSUS
I appreciate that.

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus and Jules slowly enter Mary's room. She is in bed staring away at the wall.

She acknowledges them but then looks away, inconsolably.

DIONYSUS
Mary?

JULES
We're terribly sorry.

Mary stays quiet.

INT. HOSPITAL - FRONT LOBBY - NIGHT

Dionysus and Jules are conversing.

JULES
I'll be back here tomorrow, OK?

Dionysus nods his head.

JULES (CONT'D)
Hang in there, Dionysus.

DIONYSUS
Thank you for your help.

Jules hugs Dionysus, then places his hand tenderly on the side of Dionysus's face.

He turns and walks out.

INT. HOSPITAL - MENS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus walks into the toilet.

He is alone. He stands there for a few seconds.

He suddenly explodes in rage, starts banging his hands on the sinks, the cubicle doors, the walls, growling as he does so,

He stops the violence from exhaustion and grabs his right hand in pain.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

An agitated Nurse is applying a bandage on Dionysus's injured hand.

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Dionysus is sleeping on a couch chair, blanket over him. Mary though is pretending to sleep. She opens her eyes and looks over at Dionysus, then slowly and quietly gets out of bed and locates her clothes.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - EARLY MORNING

Mary is walking through the path that leads to her house. The sun is starting to rise on the horizon.

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Dionysus wakes up in his chair. He notices the bed is empty and gets to his feet.

DIONYSUS

Mary?

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Mary is nearing the house now.

Dionysus is anxiously riding his bicycle.

EXT/INT. HOUSE - DAY

Mary opens the front door, walks into the house and goes up the stairs. She comes down the stairs holding on to the rope.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

She enters the living room, grabs a chair and goes under the chandelier.

She ties the rope around it and around her neck and pulls the chair from under her.

She starts to choke and kick out with her legs.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Dionysus is paddling on his bicycle with all his strength.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary is getting strangled by the rope.

The chandelier starts to give way and dust starts falling from the roof.

Mary is still choking.

The chandelier gives way and falls off the roof and Mary drops down.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Dionysus storms into the house.

DIONYSUS
Mary? Mary?

He rushes into the living room and sees Mary on the ground with the broken chandelier on top of her.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
Mary?

Mary pushes the chandelier from her and slowly, painfully gets to her feet, holding on to her hurt stomach.

DIONYSUS (CONT'D)
You OK?

Mary looks at Dionysus incredulously.

Something shifts in her demeanour and suddenly she starts laughing away.

Her laughter gets stronger, and soon Dionysus can't help himself and starts laughing too.

As they both continue roaring merrily away, the sun rises fully on the horizon.

Even though it is winter, it looks like it will be a warm day.

FADE OUT

THE END