REYNARD: DOORS & RINGS

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Trick or treaters run up to a well kept home.

Little fingers of giggling princesses and monsters reach up to push--

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

The doorbell RINGS amid a baby's CRIES elsewhere in the house.

MARCUS, 35, stocky breadwinner, BEATS on the bedroom door.

MARCUS

Lauren... Open the God--Open the door, Lauren.

Another doorbell RING goes ignored hand in hand with the drone of the baby's exasperated WAILS.

MARCUS

Let's work this out, Lauren. Tell me what you want.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

An empty prescription bottle DROPS to the floor, wedding rings BOUNCE and scatter from it.

MARCUS (O.S.)

You know I'm going to come in there, so just open the damn door now, Lauren.

LAUREN, 30, bruised black eyes cloaked in indifference, slips beneath the clear water of a full bathtub.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

POUND POUND! Marcus RATTLES the locked door handle for good measure. The baby WAILS.

MARCUS

Lauren... Stop playing and open the door, Lauren... LAUREN!

He steps back, BAM! kicks open the door then enters the...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fists clenched, his focused attention scans from bed to window to closet to...

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lauren rests still beneath the bathtub water.

For several long moments Marcus stands there under the weight of pros and cons.

He notices the rings on the bathroom floor, picks them up and pockets them.

Elsewhere in the house the baby WAILS.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marcus heaves Lauren's drenched lifeless body onto the bed, effort boils into anger.

MARCUS

Stupid! Stupid! I should've known! You're such a stupid girl!

He sits down then jerks her body up to his lap.

MARCUS

You're so selfish! So hopeless! Why do you do this to me?!

Anger supporates into rage.

MARCUS

I should've known you couldn't be an adult! You're so hopeless! It's always all about YOU, you stupid... CHILD of a woman!

Rage burns into despair.

From the closet REYNARD, a cloaked fox-man in the shadows, clutches the doorway. His yellow eyes narrow.

MARCUS

What...? How...? What am I...?

Eyes shut, Marcus pulls Lauren to him as he bows.

The room about him dissolves into...

INT. DARK BEDROOM - DAY

Through a surreal gauze of distortion elsewhere in the house the baby WAILS.

Lauren's body is no longer in the arms of Marcus who looks about the room.

His confusion smolders into aggression.

Reynard recedes into the closet shadows.

Haunted LAUGHS of playful children echo down the hallway outside the bedroom.

MARCUS

HEY! Get out of my--

INT. DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Marcus looks for the little intruders only to find an empty hallway.

INT. DARK BEDROOM - DAY

He turns to search the bedroom but stops at an ash colored boy who scrawls on the bedroom wall.

MARCUS

You little bastard! I'm going to beat--

Marcus' aggressive step toward the boy causes the ghost to LAUGH and run through the closed bathroom door.

In black charcoal the wall reads:

"What despair has brought hope returns, to the realm where soft light burns. No hope."

MARCUS

No hope? Lauren... ?! Lauren...! Did you see one of the neighbor's brats run through here?! Little bastard just drew on the bedroom wa--

He turns to the sound of adults RUNNING down the hall.

A woman in dark dress runs past the hall door followed by Reynard in dark cloak.

MARCUS

Lauren!

He bolts into the...

INT. DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Reynard chases the dress tail around the corner.

MARCUS

Lauren, wait!

Marcus pursues.

Ahead of him Reynard chases the dress tail around the corner.

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

MARCUS

Lauren?!

Marcus pursues.

Ahead of him Reynard chases the dress tail around the corner.

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

MARCUS

I'm going to murder you, you bastard!

Marcus continues to pursue.

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

MARCUS

I'm going to make you pa--

He rounds the corner again: dead end.

Marcus SLAMS into the bare wall, curses and circles about.

His eye catches movement to his left. Alarmed and confused he barks at it.

MARCUS

Hey! Who...?

It's his own reflection in a corroded mirror. A corrupted Dark Marcus.

Dark Marcus screams without sound and points behind Marcus.

Marcus wheels about, sees Reynard and the ghost children on the floor. Fists fly as they BEAT the dark dressed woman.

MARCUS

Hey! You stop that right now!

With violent force Marcus seizes fistfuls of Reynard's cloak at the shoulders, throws him away then kicks at the ghost children, but they vanish into ether.

The dark dressed woman on the floor is Renard.

The "Renard" Marcus threw away is Dark Lauren, her lifeless body vanishes, the cloak crumples.

GIGGLING ghost children RUN down the hallway.

Marcus' rage returns to Renard. He grabs the fox-man by the shoulders, heaves and SLAMS him to the floor.

MARCUS

Where's my wife!

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

Renard also vanishes. With wrath Marcus crumples the dress and throws it to the hallway corner.

Something BEATS on glass.

Marcus looks to the mirror where Dark Marcus BEATS against the other side of it.

Dark Marcus choke holds Reynard by the neck.

MARCUS

Yeah! You hold that bastard! Make him tell us where Lauren is!

All with MUFFLED ECHOES Dark Marcus SLAMS Reynard into the wall and yells at him, Reynard resists, Dark Marcus insists.

Reynard mouths something, holds out his left hand, points to ring finger, expresses give.

Marcus, trapped outside the mirror, is angry and frustrated.

Dark Marcus turns to Marcus, points to Marcus' pants pocket, gestures to him to give Reynard the rings.

MARCUS

Hell, no! I'm not giving him my rings!

Dark Marcus struggles with Reynard, they have a heated muffled exchange.

In the mirror Dark Lauren chases the GIGGLING ghost children behind Dark Marcus and Reynard.

Marcus wheels about to an empty hall, turns back.

Dark Marcus with angered emphasis gestures to the crumpled empty dress on the floor then demands the rings from Marcus.

Pissed, Marcus shoves a hand in his pocket, retrieves the rings, holds them up.

MARCUS

Fine! Here's the damn rings! Just gimme that stupid bitch.

Dark Marcus forces Reynard to a submissive kneel, right arm twisted to back and his powerful hand cupped beneath the fox-man's muzzle from behind.

Reynard extends his left hand through the mirror to Marcus who seizes his wrist with vicious power and shoves the rings in his hand, but Reynard refuses to hold them.

MARCUS

Do you want them or not?!

Dark Marcus' twist to Reynard's arm forces another MUFFLED heated exchange.

Dark Marcus yells and gestures for Marcus to place the rings on Reynard's ring fingers.

MARCUS

You have got to be kidding?!

Dark Marcus pulls a suffocating choke to Reynard's throat, they struggle.

In the mirror Dark Lauren walks up behind Dark Marcus and kisses his cheek.

MARCUS

Lauren!

Reynard's yellow eyes turn and stare at Marcus, they plead mercy.

MARCUS (to Reynard)
I hope you burn in Hell.

Marcus shoves the wedding then engagement rings onto Reynard's finger.

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

Dark Lauren reaches out along Reynard's outstretched arm and gently pulls it from Marcus' grip.

Marcus grabs at Dark Lauren in the mirror but to no effect.

She looks at Dark Marcus and smiles, pats Reynard on the shoulder, the three vanish.

MARCUS YOU LYING BASTARDS!

Marcus explodes into anger of epic proportions.

He SMASHES the mirror, DESTROYS the frame, KICKS the walls, and THRASHES against everything around him.

LAUGHING ghost children RUN down the hall. Livid, Marcus pursues.

From behind, Reynard and Dark Lauren watch Marcus disappear around the far hall corner.

Elsewhere in the house the surreal baby WAILS.

Dark Lauren smiles and thanks Reynard.

He bows, takes her hand, and leads her to the bedroom door.

INT. DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

She enters alone, lays down on the bed, smiles in peace, and closes her eyes.

The room about her dissolves into...

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

On the bed Lauren CHOKES out water, GASPS, and sits up.

Elsewhere in the house the baby WAILS.

She bursts into joyful smiling tears, pulls the blankets around her soaked body and rushes out the bedroom door.

INT. DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Reynard and the ghost children run across the hallway from door to door.

Irate, Marcus SCREAMS at and BEATS on everything in pursuit from room to room and endless hall turns.

FADE OUT: