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INT. ROOM - MORNING

A set of pale hands turn the knob on an old AM/FM radio. The channel is changed. There is WHITE NOISE. Then NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO comes in tune. Then a NEWS REPORTER. SCREAMING. Then some OLDIES.

The pointer finger turns off the radio all together. CLICK. Silence.

INT. STAIRWELL - MORNING (CONT'D)

A yellow high heel steps on the wood stairwell a red heel following, a little higher, mismatched. The heels step down the stairs, one by one.

They get to the bottom and walk towards the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING (CONT'D)

A mirror cabinet is opened. Yellow pill bottles fill the inside. A box of syringes is in there as well. The hands grab a syringe. Closes the cabinet, and walks out.

A CHAIN RATTLE is heard from a different room.

The heels click on the floor, and walk down a hall. There is a door at the end of the hall, it is opened. The syringe squirts out a liquid. We here an agonizing moaning.

CHAIN RATTLE.

BLACK OUT

TITLE CARD: "THE SECRET LIFE OF MARY WYZWOLONY"

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

There is static on the television in the background.

MARY, 16 years old, sits and pokes at her lunch at the dining room table.

ELIZABETH, 46, wears a business suit, runs into the dining room, flustered, her mismatched heels click on the floor. She rushes into the kitchen and pours herself a cup of coffee. She throws in two pills and stirs it around.

ELIZABETH

Mary-- You didn't even eat. Maybe you'll finally lose some weight. So I'm leaving in 10. You better not misbehave.

(beat)

You remember rule number one, right?

MARY

No guests.

Elizabeth downs her cup of coffee, slams it on the table, then takes a can of chewing tobacco out of her purse, and shoves a giant pinch in her bottom lip. She throws multiple papers into a leather briefcase on the counter.

ELIZABETH

So, dinner is in the fridge.

Elizabeth wipes her mouth.

MARY

Thanks.

ELIZABETH

DO NOT, forget to feed your father. His food is in the freezer-

Mary looks over her shoulder on the floor. There is a thick rusty chain tied to the bottom of the dining room table, it leads out of the room.

Elizabeth spits her saliva in the sink, and turns on the sink to wash it down. She clears her throat.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

And rule number two?

MARY

No answering the phone.

Elizabeth walks over and glares at Mary. She grabs her chin and pulls it up.

ELIZABETH

You need to speak up young lady.

You're not two anymore.

(beat)

If Bob gets out of hand, his accoutrements are in the bathroom.

She grabs her briefcase, itches her head, and looks Mary in the eyes. She puts up her pointer finger.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Rule number one.

Elizabeth pushes Mary's hair out of her eyes. She then heads towards the door.

The door slams. Mary looks at her food.

INT. DINNING ROOM - AFTERNOON (MOMENTS LATER)

Mary turns up the radio.

CHAIN RATTLES. Mary jumps. Startled.

BOB, mid 30s, drugged, dilated , stares at the television, 'zombie like' in the living room. The chain wraps around his neck and trails off into the other room, no end.

MARY

You need to stop frightening me like that.

Bob says nothing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON (MOMENTS LATER)

She sits next to Bob on the couch. Bob stares at the static.

MARY

(to Bob)

You know, this isn't personal.

(beat)

But you know as well as me, that Mom would castrate me if I let you escape. And I'm sorry she does those things to you, I try to stop her. I would if I could. I'm actually having a guest over to work on a school project, so I'd like it if you could be on your best behavior-

Mary rubs Bob's shoulder.

Bob quickly hits Mary's arm away. He yanks on his chain, its stuck. He's angry. He runs towards the front door, fast. The links get caught on the table leg. Bob gets thrown back.

MARY (CONT'D)

(frightened)

Oh God.

Mary runs to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

Mary runs into the bathroom, opens the cabinet mirror. A collection of yellow pill containers are organized next to a few syringes.

She grabs a syringe. Runs out.

INT. FRONT DOOR - AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

The door is open. Bob, is gone.

MARY

(yelling and worried)

Shit. Shit. Shit!

She runs out.

EXT. HOUSE WALKWAY - SUNSET (CONTINUOUS)

Mary sees Bob limping fast, away. She kicks off her shoes. Her bare feet pound the pavement.

She catches up to his broken chain. She grabs it and pulls back. THUD.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A syringe squirts a liquid. Prick.

Bob thrusts up and falls to the ground. His body twitches a bit. Mary wipes her hands, as if she just completed a days work.

MARY

I'm sorry, I don't know how many
times I've told you-

The door bell RINGS.

MARY (CONT'D)

(startled)

Great.

Mary briskly grabs Bob and drags his dead weight towards the basement. His leg gets caught in one of the chairs. She pulls harder. Still stuck. The door bell RINGS again. She kicks his foot out of the chair.

She drags him fast down the hall. The chain rattles on the floor.

Doorbell RINGS.

MARY (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Hold on!

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING (CONTINUOUS)

Mary takes a breath, and opens the door.

MRS. MICHAELS (O.C.)

Are you Mary?

We see MRS. MICHAELS, Nathan's mother, 50s, at the front door.

MARY

Yes. I am. Are you the new neighbor that just moved in?

MRS. MICHAELS

No, I am actually Nathan's mother.

MARY

(under her breath)

Oh.

MRS. MICHAELS

He said that you guys were going to view a movie tonight and I just wanted to make sure that it's okay with your mom. Is she around?

Beat.

MARY

You know. My mom is really not feeling well. And she's on a business call, and she said she is about to get into the shower.

(beat)

So, can I take a message?

MRS. MICHAELS

Well, I just wanted to make sure everything was okay for tonight.

Bob's CHAIN RATTLES through the house.

MRS. MICHAELS (CONT'D)

Is that her?

MARY

It is. I mean no, that's my, Dad, working in the basement.

The dinning room table is being pulled by Bob's chain. It screeches on the wood floor.

MRS. MICHAELS
(skeptical)
Okay. Well if you guys need
anything Nathan has my number.

Nathan steps into the house.

MARY
(smiling)
Hi.

NATHAN
(embarrassed)
Hello.

MRS. MICHAELS
Nathan, don't forget to call me
after the movie.

NATHAN
(irritated)
I won't mom.

MRS. MICHAELS
Okay, you two have fun.

Nathan's face glows of embarrassment.

NATHAN
I'm so sorry. My mother is a nut-
case.

Mary SLAMS the door.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT (AN HOUR LATER)

A flame lights the two long candle sticks. "Ava Maria" from
The Sound of Music is playing on the record player.

Mary and Nathan face each other. Nathan has a napkin tucked
into the collar of his shirt. They eat spaghetti and
meatballs.

NATHAN
My mother actually used to make me
take voice lessons, and I had to
sing this song to her.
(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It just became a habit. I sang this in the shower, doing the dishes, cutting open frogs, you know. It became a part of my life.

MARY

(giggling)

That's really cute.

NATHAN

I don't know if cute explains it.

Mary puts her fork down.

MARY

(playful)

You know, you're probably the nicest friend I've ever met from school.

(beat)

Seeing as I have so many friends.

Nathan swallows.

NATHAN

It's okay. I don't have any friends either. I mean maybe one or two.

MARY

You're a cute friend too.

NATHAN

Well. You're a very pretty girl, too, Mary.

MARY

(giddy)

Thanks.

Mary gazes into Nathan's eyes.

MARY (CONT'D)

You have a little sauce on your lip.

Nathan is a little embarrassed at the comment. Mary reaches over with her napkin and wipes it off.

NATHAN

Thank you.

Nathan puts his hand on Mary's shoulder, closes his eyes and slowly leans in. Mary bites her lip, and giggles.

We hear the front DOOR UNLOCKING. Mary is horror-struck.

MARY

Fuck!

Mary looks at the door.

MARY (CONT'D)

Come here. Come here!

Nathan gets up worried, Mary grabs him and pulls him towards the hallway.

The DOOR OPENS.

ELIZABETH (O.S.)

(shouting)

Mary?!

Mary opens the basement door and shoves Nathan in. She tries to walk casually down the hallway. She takes deep breaths.

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

I'm home early!

Mary walks into the dinning room pretending everything's okay.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Thank god, I only had to stop by the office. I was about to have to speak to Mr. Unintelligent and the group about--

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

We hear footsteps in the dark.

NATHAN (O.S.)
(whispering to himself)
Oh Jesus. This is great.

CHAIN RATTLES.

NATHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(whispers loudly)
Hello?! Hello?!

Silence.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Who's there?!

CUT TO:

INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Elizabeth quickly looks towards the hall, noticing the sounds. She then becomes fixated at all the food. Mary is silent, worried.

ELIZABETH
(overwhelmed)
You made this for me?

Elizabeth grabs Mary and pulls her in for a hug. She kisses Mary on the cheek. Mary puts on a fake smile.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Elizabeth grabs the tobacco from her mouth and drops the slimy mess onto a napkin. She begins to stuff her face.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

NATHAN
Who's there?! Hello?!

Nathan begins pounding on the door to get out.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Help! Help! Please!

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth, turns her head towards the basement door.

ELIZABETH
(irritated)
What the hell is Bob doing?!

Mary is horrified.

MARY
He's in a bad mood. Just leave him
alone. Can I show you my painting I
did, in my room?

Banging and screaming from the basement is heard from the
dining room.

Elizabeth gets up and wipes her mouth.

ELIZABETH
I'm going to check on Bob.

Elizabeth downs her wine. Burps.

Mary is afraid.

MARY
(suddenly)
No!

Elizabeth stops.

ELIZABETH
Excuse me?

Mary stands. Looks to the ground. Elizabeth hurries down the
hall, heels echoing the house.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Elizabeth opens the door. The light floods in the basement.

Nathan looks at Bob. Nathan SCREAMS, horrified. Bob is stunned, silent.

ELIZABETH
(furious)
Who is this?!

Elizabeth glares at Mary. Nathan is about to cry.

NATHAN
(stuttering)
My name is-

Mary walks up behind Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(to Nathan)
Quiet! I was not talking to you!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (AN HOUR LATER)

Elizabeth stands and stomps her heels around. Nathan has tears running down his face, Mary and him sit on the couch.

ELIZABETH
You know, I just don't know what to do with you. I've done everything a mother can do: lock you in your room, give you medication-

Elizabeth scratches her head, she then spits her saliva on the ground. She then sits.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(whispering, smiling)
I've hit you--
(beat)
I even spent all my extra money on your therapist, and nothing ever changes you.

Mary stares at the floor

Elizabeth sits cross-legged on the floor. She spits behind her shoulder. Wipes her mouth. She goes in a praying position. Looks up.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(mouths)

Help me.

She gleams at Mary.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(bellowing)

I just don't understand you! I give
you two rules. Two.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

And you break both of them. Rule
one. Rule two. DOWN the damn drain.

Elizabeth begins to laugh. She makes a sad face.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Oh baby. Are you okay?

Elizabeth crawls towards Mary. Mary is still. Eyeliner races
down her face. Elizabeth grabs Mary's cheeks, and begins to
pull them.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Baby going to cry? Oh look at you.
So sad, yet so simple minded.

Elizabeth lays on her back, and takes a deep breath. She
laughs. Mary's head is buried in a pillow.

Elizabeth spits out more tobacco chewed saliva. Some is stuck
on her lip. She sits up. She gestures her hands to Mary like
she's going to grab her. Elizabeth makes a growling noise.
She barks like a dog.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Bad mother. Am I a bad mother? I'm
such a bad mother.

The door bell RINGS. Elizabeth whips her heard.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Who is it?!

It RINGS again.

Nathan and Mary look alarmed towards the door. The door slowly opens.

MRS. MICHAELS (O.S.)

Hello?

Elizabeth quickly sits up, wipes off the drool. Dusts her self off and walks to the door. Elizabeth opens the door all the way.

MRS. MICHAELS (CONT'D)

Hi, you must be Mary's mother?

Mrs. Michaels reaches out for a hand shake. Elizabeth shakes her hand. Elizabeth smiles wonderfully.

ELIZABETH

It's so nice to meet you. Mary and Nathan Just got done watching a horror movie.

MRS. MICHAELS

It wasn't rated "R" was it?

ELIZABETH

Of course not, I wouldn't let my little girl see those kind of movies.

Mrs. Michaels is relieved.

MRS. MICHAELS

(laughing)

Good thing, you never know what the kids learn from those horrible things.

ELIZABETH

I know, it's so frightening these days. We were just talking about that at the PTA.

MRS. MICHAELS

Oh! You were there? I was too.

ELIZABETH

Oh great! I didn't even see you.

They laugh. Nathan walks up to the door.

NATHAN

Mom, I need to go home and finish my homework. Mary is going to help me, if that's okay with her mother.

ELIZABETH

Of course! Is that fine with you?

MRS. MICHAELS

I don't mind. And, I can drop her off after they're done.

Elizabeth has a huge smile. She rubs her head. Mary follows Nathan out of the house.

ELIZABETH

Well. It was great meeting you.

MRS. MICHAELS

It was my pleasure, have a great night.

Elizabeth looks down. Mrs. Michaels walks towards her car. Elizabeth drops her smile, and SLAMS the front door.

INT. MICHAEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A fire burns, and Christmas novelties scatter the house. Mary and Nathan sit on a couch and play chess.

NATHAN

And I thought my mom was crazy.

They laugh. Nathan looks at his mom in the kitchen. Mrs. Michaels doesn't notice them.

MARY

(whispering loudly)

Thank you for not saying anything to your mom.

NATHAN

No problem, I can keep a secret.

MARY

My mom is such a screwball. It's probably where I get my weirdness.

(beat)

But, she is my mother.

NATHAN

Weird is good. And you're nothing like your mother.

Mary smiles. Nathan looks at his mom in the kitchen. The oven DINGS.

INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth lies passed out, motionless, in front of the T.V. A broken wine glass is next to her. Mary unlocks Bob from his chain. CLICK. Mary then grabs a blanket from her couch and lays it over her mother. There is a CHAIN RATTLE. We see the chain go out the front door.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

The moon lights Bob as he limps, and escapes to freedom. Chain rattling behind.

FADE TO BLACK.