

Sacred Heart

by  
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FADE IN:

Darkness

It fades into shades of grey and white.

A face. Distant, yet very close...

The face sharpens into focus, hovering above-- It's A YOUNG FEMALE NURSE in a hospital room. She reaches and shakes the shoulder of a MAN lying on his back on a hospital bed.

NURSE

Paul, WAKE UP!

Paul quickly opens his eyes, gasping for air.

NURSE

Are you OK?

He glances at her for a long moment, then slowly nods.

PAUL

Bad dream.

She examines him.

PAUL GREENE is in his late 20's. Good looking with wavy dark hair.

NURSE

Your eyes are red.

Paul sits up in his as the nurse hands him a glass of water. He drinks it in one gulp.

NURSE

You need anything else?

PAUL

I'm ok.

NURSE

(smiles)

Well, everything went fine with your catheter and you seem to be in excellent health.

The nurse checks his HEART MONITOR, nods her approval, then folds her arms over her chest and turns to him.

NURSE

(smiles)

As long as your new heart keeps  
beating.

He paints a sarcastic smile over his lips.

PAUL

I sure hops so. It's been good for  
over a year now.

She looks at him for a long moment.

NURSE

You're gonna be OK, Paul.

A knock on the door, then it slowly opens...

JANET GREENE walks in. She is an elegant, strong woman in her  
mid 50s.

JANET

Hello guys.

NURSE

Oh, Hi Janet. Please come in. I'm  
finishing up.

The nurse leaves. Janet walks in as Paul, who's dressed in a  
hospital gown, slowly sits up on the side of the bed.

She rushes over and gives him a big, long hug...and he can't  
wait for her to let go.

JANET

Hi sweetheart.

Paul closes his eyes for a long moment and takes a deep  
breath.

PAUL

Hello mother.

She looks at him...her face streaked with tears. Paul hands  
her a Kleenex and she dabs her face with it, then smiles at  
him.

PAUL

Even though you promised...is it  
the hospital gown that bring tears  
into your eyes?

She paints a bigger smile over her lips.

JANET

These are the tears of joy. I can't help it. You and I made it happen didn't we??

He slowly nods. He can never win with her. Although a strong woman, but always pleasant, always clear about her purpose in this life.

PAUL

They should get you a gown.

She laughs.

A DOOR KNOCK

DOCTOR NORMAN KRAUS walks in. He is a tall, lanky man in his early 60's, sports a long gray beard and designer glasses.

DOCTOR NORMAN

(big smile)

Good morning everyone.

Janet shakes his hand.

JANET

Good morning to you, Dr. Norman.

He smiles at her, then walks over to Paul and checks his wrist...

DOCTOR NORMAN

So?

PAUL

(a bit sarcastic)

I feel like a champ. I can even sit in my own bed.

He places his Stethoscope over Paul's chest and listens, then nods his satisfaction.

DOCTOR NORMAN

Sorry, you were saying?

Paul rolls his eyes.

JANET

Everything OK, Doctor?

DOCTOR NORMAN

Beautiful. Your son is recovering very well, much better than we expected.

Janet nods as Dr. Norman motions to her to walk with him outside. He stops and looks at Paul.

DOCTOR NORMAN

Go live your life my friend. Enjoy every moment. Not many of us get a second chance. Your own father didn't. But you did. So go live it. I'll see you back in sixth months. Keep taking your medicine everyday and on time.

Paul nods slowly.

PAUL

Yes sir.

EXT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

They walk slowly down the busy corridor.

DOCTOR NORMAN

Janet, considering your family's history with heart disease, your son has made excellent progress. In my thirty years doing this, I've never seen a heart transplant patient make such a good recovery, in such little time.

Janet places her hand on his wrist, stopping him.

JANET

I just want the best for my only child, Norman.

He walks few steps, then stops and looks at her.

DOCTOR NORMAN

Janet, you did good for your son. You saved his life.

JANET

Thanks to you!

He looks at her for a long moment then smiles.

DOCTOR NORMAN

Anything for you, Janet.

She slowly nods and smiles as he walks away. She then leans back against the wall and closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

CAMERA DRIFTS IN over the city of Los Angeles, floating like a dream, dizzying us with a million lights...

...And WE ANGLE DOWN through the drifting canyons of buildings, CLOSING ON an endless empty street, finding no traffic at this hour...except for one lone car.

It's an early model Pontiac. It's occupants are brothers LUIS and RUBEN CRUZ, a couple of young gangsters.

Up ahead, they see a cluster of TEENS wearing gang colors.

There's a scuffle going on. One kid's getting pounded by two others while everybody else watches.

One GANG MEMBER, sipping a bottle of beer, turns and sees the Pontiac cruising slowly in their direction.

INT. THE PONTIAC - CONTINUOUS

RAP music plays as Luis, the younger of the two, reaches and lowers the volume as he watches the teen approaching the car.

Ruben, in the driver seat, slows down. His hand slowly reaches and pulls something from under the seat...a 9mm. Glock.

LUIS

What the fuck are you doing?!

Ruben's eyes are fixed on the approaching teenager.

RUBEN

I'm gonna fuck'em up!

The teenager abruptly stops and raises the bottle up for a sip of beer as he lets the Pontiac pass by.

EXT. JR LIQOUR - NIGHT

Parked in a quiet and dark spot. Luis, now alone in the car, lights a fat joint as he glances around.

INT. JR LIQOUR - CONTINUOUS

Ruben lingers amongst racks of wine bottles, monitored from behind the cash register by a nervous, middle-aged Korean Man who notices the Glock's handle under Ruben's shirt.

The owner reaches under the counter and touches something, obviously an alarm.

Ruben picks up a bottle of wine and places it on the counter, then leans on the counter with both hands in such way that the gun handle is visible to the owner from under the shirt.

RUBEN

How much?

The owner, his fingers shaking, takes out a bundle of cash and places it on the counter.

OWNER

(accent)

Take it... Just go!

Ruben places his finger on the bundle, separating the bills -- mostly single dollar bills -- then shoots a look at the owner and suddenly pulls out his gun and points it at him.

RUBEN

DO...NOT...FUCK WITH ME!

The owner raises his hands and backs up, slams against the wall behind him, smashing a cigarette rack in the process.

RUBEN FIRES A SHOT AT THE CEILING

The owner quickly reaches into the register and empties all the cash on the counter. Ruben picks it up .

CLOSE ON THE OWNER

The gun whacks him across the cheek and he falls sideways.

EXT. JR LIQOUR - SAME TIME

Luis is very alert after hearing the shot. The joint freezes between his fingers.

Suddenly, Ruben bursts out of the store and heads for the car, but at that same moment POLICE SIRENS are heard.

RUBEN

Motherfuckers!

Luis reaches quickly and turns on the ignition key.

LUIS  
COME ON! GET IN!

RUBEN  
No time! We're ditching. Get the  
hell out!

Luis bursts out of the car. Ruben throws a look to him, cocks his head...This way.

They start across the street, working their way into a dark alley.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE IN HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DARK

A two story SPANISH HOUSE nestled in the HOLLYWOOD HILLS with a manicured lawn, and a wooden fence.

A RANGE ROVER turns a corner, then pulls up on the circular driveway, and stops at the front door.

Paul and Janet get out.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Paul walks up a spiral stairway, then pushes open a door and walks into his bedroom.

A Beatles Poster and a Green Peace Flag hang on the wall next to numerous oil paintings.

FOLDED LAUNDRY on the bed. He grabs few T-shirts from the pile, and drops it into a drawer. He's just about to close it when he sees a PACK OF CIGARETTES. He touches it, then pushes it aside...something else catches his eye-- A BLANK CD ROM.

He takes it out, flips it around. Curious, he inserts it into a computer. A file window appears on screen and he HITS PLAY.

ON SCREEN

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD BIRTHDAY BOY PAUL spins round and round. The hands of other children keep him spinning. A young girl runs over to him, takes his hand and they both walk over to a table with a large BIRTHDAY CAKE and lit candles.

The words " HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAUL " appear on top of the cake.



A YOUNGER JANET shows up from behind. She holds him tight as they both BLOW OUT THE CANDLES.

MAN (O.S.)  
Janet, Paul, look here.

They both look into the CAMERA and wave. Then, the MAN behind the camera shows up into frame. It's GEORGE GREENE. A kind looking man in his early 40s. He holds Paul and stamps a kiss over his cheek.

A MOUSE CLICK. Paul freezes the screen and points the mouse at the now-still-face of George.

JANET (O.S.)  
He adored you.

Janet walks in and sits next to Paul.

PAUL  
He died so young. I feel so guilty for not...thinking of him more often.

JANET  
His heart, as beautiful as it was, gave out on him. Just like it did to his brother and father.

PAUL  
-- And me.

She sighs. This subject has a deep effect on her.

JANET  
But it wasn't your time. Not yet.

He places his hand over hers.

PAUL  
Who was it, mom? Who was the donor?  
What was his or her name?

Surprised with the question, and obviously caught off guard. She quickly shakes her head.

JANET  
Why do you ask? Who cares?

He looks at her in disbelief.

PAUL

Who cares? Do you hear yourself?  
I'm alive because someone else is  
dead. I CARE!

Janet is nodding like a doll in a dashboard window.  
Listening.

JANET

(furious)

Here you go again with that silly  
sentimental nonsense of yours...all  
has to make sense...ALL IS OK LIFE  
IS BEAUTIFUL! PEACE ON EARTH!

She gets up and walks across the room, then turn to him,  
still very furious.

JANET

(matter of fact)

Sometimes in life we have to make  
compromises.

He is very clueless.

PAUL

What are you talking about? Why are  
you not making any sense? You  
always make sense.

She takes a deep breath.

JANET

It is what it is. I don't wanna  
talk about it again...and for the  
last time I'm gonna say this, your  
dad slipped out of our hands as we  
stood and watched...enough is  
enough...

PAUL

And now we live happily ever after.

JANET

(very firm)

Absolutely! All I care about is  
you. You're alive, that's what  
counts...and STOP trying to make me  
feel guilty about it, because I  
won't.

He slowly nods, then gets up and leaves the room.

INT. SKYBAR - DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

A large plasma TV silently plays Monday Night Football to a young, hip crowd.

Various autographed pictures of Hollywood Stars look down from the wall as a cute waitress, SUZAN, a brunette in her mid 20's, walks over to a group of people seated at a corner table.

She places three CORONAS on the table as she exchanges a look and a smile with Paul, who's seated in the middle.

Seated next to him is JEFF and ASHLEY, a cute, athletic black couple, also in their late 20's.

SUZAN  
(smiling, flirting)  
You look like you could use a  
drink.

PAUL  
(flirting back)  
Have one with me.

She winks at him then motions " NO " with her finger.

ASHLEY  
So what do you guys wanna do later?

SUZAN  
Whatever. I'm off in an hour.

Suzan looks at Paul.

PAUL  
I'm cool.

JEFF  
Well, lets see, by the time Suzan  
gets off it will be what, three?  
How about we go home and go to  
bed...?

ASHLEY  
(rolls her eyes)  
Thanks, babe.

JEFF  
(smiles)  
What?

ASHLEY

(to Suzan)

Gold's Gym at FIVE AM...Jamba Juice  
at SEVEN...power breakfast at  
EIGHT...boxing At NINE.

(she throws her arms in  
the air)

I'm dating the Incredible Hulk!

Jeff laughs, pulls her closer and kisses her.

JEFF

(still laughing)

Ok, here's Ashley. Law school at  
SEVEN...Law school at EIGHT...Law  
school at NINE...Library at TEN,  
and then back to Law school for the  
rest of the day.

(he throws his arm in the  
air)

I'm dating Condelisa Rice!

They all laugh except Ashley. She shakes her head.

ASHLEY

Ok fine. Lets go home and go to  
bed.

Paul and Jeff exchange a quick look and a smile.

SUZAN

You guys are such party poopers!

PAUL

Hey, I said I'm cool. Whatever you  
guys want.

SUZAN

Yeah right. I saw how you guys  
looked at each other!  
Anyways...fine, me and Ashley are  
going for a walk on the beach.  
Alone!

ASHLEY

(approving)

And we'll sing love songs as we  
gaze at the stars.

SUZAN

We will?

Paul and Jeff burst out laughing as Ashley rolls her eyes.

Paul gets up.

SUZAN  
Leaving already?

PAUL  
(still laughing)  
No darling. I have an overflow of  
romance...I need to let it out.

SUZAN  
(as Paul walks away)  
Paul, you're such a jerk!

INT. SKYBAR - BATHROOM - LATER

Paul just finished washing his hands as he regards himself in the mirror.

He unbuttons his shirt, then traces a finger along a large SCAR above his heart, then slowly raises the hand to his cheek, as if confirming his existence.

Suddenly, a loud THUMPING sound is heard.

Paul quickly turns and looks around. He is alone in the bathroom. He takes a step toward the door as yet another THUMP sounds, louder than the first one, coming from behind the bathroom wall.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Paul walks out and looks at the adjacent door, it's the Women's bathroom. He knocks.

PAUL  
Hello? Are you Ok?

The very faint voice of a CRYING WOMAN is heard inside the bathroom.

PAUL  
Ma'am...are you Ok??

WOMAN (V.O.)  
Paul...

PAUL  
Suzan, is that you?!

He reaches for the door handle and tries to turn it. It's locked. He knocks again.

PAUL  
Suzan!

SUZAN (O.S.)  
Paul?!

Startled, Paul quickly turns...and finds Suzan and Ashley standing behind him.

ASHLEY  
Are you Ok?

PAUL  
There's someone in there,  
crying...I thought...

SUZAN  
Well she better get over it soon  
because I need to use the bathroom.

Suzan is about to turn the handle.

PAUL  
It's locked.

But the handle turns. Suzan opens the door and looks inside, the room is EMPTY.

She gives Paul a questioning look. He just shakes his head.

ASHLEY  
(teasing)  
Well, I guess Jeff was right after  
all. We go home and go to bed. We  
all need it apparently.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Los Angeles at night. City lights twinkle -- A soft wind blows some dry leaves along the ground...

...And out of nowhere, Ruben and Luis burst out of the darkness onto a narrow street with towering PALM TREES on each side.

Breathless, Ruben gestures a stop.

LUIS  
Where the hell are we, Ruben?

Ruben looks around cautiously. Police sirens are still heard in the distance.

RUBEN

Still in East LA. We gotta hide for  
at least a couple hours, until  
daylight.

Ruben scans around.

To their right is a patch of green meadow and a cathedral of  
mature trees, leading down to Hollenbeck Lake -- it's crystal  
water sparkling under the bright moon.

And to the left -- perched on a moderately steep hill -- is  
an enormous, austere building. It looks like an eerie,  
haunted place.

LUIS

Hide where?

RUBEN

Either in the park...or there.

He cocks his head toward the building. Luis follows his look.

A sign at the front reads: " LINDA VISTA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL "

LUIS

Hide in a hospital?!

RUBEN

I heard about this place, been  
abandoned for years...it's a good  
place to hide, lets go!

EXT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

They run across the long brick walkway leading up to the  
front door which is locked with a chain link.

Ruben scans around and finds a small boarded-up window. He  
draws back then kicks it hard, smashing the wood board in  
half...and they squeeze themselves in.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

The moonlight cast tiny silver beams into this eerie, shadowy  
place.

The brothers find themselves at the front desk. In the  
waiting area, the cushions of sofas and chairs have been  
pulled apart.

Dusty, broken doors and shattered windows litter the hallway floors.

Luis looks around then takes a step closer to his brother, eyes darting everywhere.

LUIS  
What the hell!

CAMERA IS POV

It looks down the hallway, twenty feet away from the brothers as they start to move in the opposite direction.

Luis suddenly stops and turns around. Camera quickly moves behind a wall.

With Ruben in the lead, they head deeper into the building...

LUIS  
I don't like this!

RUBEN  
(manages a smile)  
What're you, scared? Little brother?

...Past overturned, rusty hospital beds...and arrive at the center of large room. A spiral staircase leads to an upper level...and as they head up the stairs;

LUIS  
I didn't say I was scared...

He stops.

LUIS  
I need to use the bathroom.

RUBEN  
Who's stopping you?

LUIS  
Excuse me, I need an actual bathroom.

RUBEN  
You're such a pussy, you know that?

LUIS  
I don't care. I'm not pissing at a goddamn hospital wall.



Ruben shakes his head as they reach the end of a hallway and turn a corner.

RUBEN

There, pussy!

He points to a door with a dusty " RESTROOM " sign on it.

The door squeaks as Luis pulls it open. The room is dark.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a key chain with a small flashlight attached to it. He turns it on then flashes it at Ruben.

LUIS

I just remembered I have this.

Ruben's eyes narrow before he shields them with his hand.

RUBEN

Good thing you fucking remembered.  
Go take your piss.

LUIS

Alright. Don't go anywhere.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shrapnel of broken glass CRACK under his foot as Luis makes his way slowly to one of the dirty urinals, shining the flashlight ahead of him as he unzips his pants.

The tiny piercing light illuminates GRAFFITI on the dirty walls.

RUBEN (O.S.)

Are you done Jerking off?!

LUIS

Hold on!

The round spot of light traces along the walls and ceilings, slowly moving down...

LUIS

(trembling voice)

So, Ruben, when the hell are we  
getting out of here?

...Finding three bathroom stalls; the first one missing a door...the second with it's door wide open...and the third is intact with it's door shut.

LUIS

Ruben?

The light passes the third stall but quickly goes back to it...

A PAIR OF FEET sticking out.

The feet are dark, dirty and enormous.

CLOSE ON LUIS FACE

His eyes widen with horror.

He takes a step back as the flashlight shakes in his hand, then turns and bolts out.

LUIS

Ruben...RUBEN!!

A pair of hands suddenly reach and GRAB Luis by the collar, stopping him dead in his tracks. Luis screams loud.

It's Ruben.

RUBEN

What the hell is wrong with you?!

Breathless, Luis collapses to the ground. He tries to say something but the words won't come out. He then points inside.

RUBEN

What?!

LUIS

There's someone...someone in there!

RUBEN

So fucking what?! It's probably some homeless dude came in for a piss!

Ruben snatches the flashlight from Luis and heads into the bathroom. He stops as if calculating his next move, reaches into his waist and takes out his gun, then walks in.

Luis is still for a moment. Finally, he tries to get up, but finds he cannot move his legs.

LUIS

Ruben!

A sudden movement inside the bathroom, then, a single SHOT IS FIRED.

Luis is on full alert, breathing hard.

LUIS  
RUBEN!

Ruben suddenly emerges, coming slowly out of the darkness without the flashlight. He manages a smiles at Luis as he stops.

Something is not right about him.

Luis notices something strange about his brother's right arm-- the one holding the gun -- BLOOD OOZING slowly from the tip of his shoulder and his neck...then;

RUBEN'S ARM SUDDENLY FALLS OFF.

Luis lets out a horrible scream as Ruben cocks his head toward his completely severed arm on the floor, then slowly collapses on his knees.

And as he goes down, from somewhere in the darkness, the flashlight RISES...pointing directly at Luis' face.

RUBEN  
(last breath)  
Go, luis!

Luis is breathless, motionless and speechless for few long seconds as the reflection from the flashlight GLITTER in his eyes.

It suddenly DRAWS CLOSER.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - HALLWAY

Luis is running for his life down a long and dark hallway.

He spots a half-open double-hung window and makes a run for it, reaches it and looks out.

The window overlooks a narrow courtyard and a large parking lot in the back of the building.

He squeezes his body through and is about to jump -- a good twenty feet drop -- Luis hesitates.

CAMERA IS POV

The flashlight pierce through the darkness. It quickly turns a corner and arrives at that same window where Luis has been just moments ago, and now he is nowhere to be found.

The camera looks out the window down at the courtyard, searching in all directions but coming up empty.

CUT TO:

EXT. WILSHIRE BLVD - NIGHT

A late model BMW turns a corner and continues on the empty boulevard.

INT. THE BMW - CONTINUOUS

Paul is driving and talking on a cellphone.

PAUL  
I'm sorry, I feel like an  
idiot...No, I'm Ok now...

He looks around.

PAUL  
By the way I think I'm lost...I  
Just passed fifth...

He makes a quick turn onto a narrow street.

Paul is on that same street where Luis and Ruben were earlier. To his right is Hollenbeck park and to the left is Linda Vista Hospital.

Suddenly, a FIGURE appears out of nowhere, running across the brick walkway of the hospital and onto the street, directly ahead of Paul's car.

PAUL  
What the hell?!

He slows down a bit, matching the speed of the running figure, and to his shock, it's a NAKED WOMAN.

PAUL  
Suzan, let me call you back!

He drops the phone, then quickly gets out.

PAUL

Hey!

The woman stops and looks at him. She seems dazed and confused.

Paul gets out and takes a careful step closer to her. She steps back as she glances toward the hospital, as if someone will come out of there any minute.

PAUL

Are you Ok?!

She is a pretty, slender woman in her early 20's with long blond hair. Her hands tight around her chest covering her breasts.

WOMAN

Take me home.

He takes another step closer.

PAUL

Do you...ma'am do you want me to call the police? Are you alright??

WOMAN

(nearly crying)

I want to go home. Please take me home.

He motions " wait there " as he pops the trunk open and takes out a gym bag, pulls out a sweater and pants, then hands them to her.

She quickly puts them on as she glances again at the hospital.

PAUL

Come. I'll take you home.

Paul reaches to her with his hand. She takes it.

INT. THE BMW

Paul is driving at a somewhat faster speed as he rounds a corner. He looks at the woman, her head is relaxed back, looking the other way.

PAUL

What's your name?

WOMAN  
(without looking)  
Amy...Amy Sloan.

PAUL  
I'm Paul Greene...nice to meet you,  
I guess.

His cellphone rings.

PAUL  
(on phone, quick)  
Suzan, I'm gonna have to call you  
back...yes, I'm Ok...let me call  
you right back.

He hangs up and instinctively looks at Amy, and is startled to see her looking straight at him with her piercing blue eyes.

PAUL  
Are you sure you don't want me to  
take you to a hospital or  
something?

They keep looking at each other. She moves her hand closer and touches his face, then goes down and finds his scar, she traces with her finger around it.

AMY  
(softly, without looking)  
Paul...watch the road.

He is less than five feet from slamming into a car stopped at a red light. Paul hits the breaks.

INT. THE BMW - LATER

He turns another corner when Amy points;

AMY  
There.

He stops at a curb. The house she pointed at is mostly shielded from view with long pine trees. Paul can only see a long driveway with an old car parked at the end.

PAUL  
Is this it?

She nods as she stares at the house, then turns and looks at him.

AMY  
(faint smile)  
Thank you, Paul.

She gets out and heads to the driveway. He keeps looking at her.

PAUL  
Are you gonna be ok?

She stops and nods before she disappears in the darkness.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

A curtain is pulled. The sunlight reveals numerous oil paintings hanging on the walls.

Janet makes her way across the room and gently pulls back the covers and peers down at Paul's face, then places a hand on his cheek.

PAUL  
Mother, for God sake!

She smiles as she reaches with the tip of her finger and tickles his nose.

JANET  
Breakfast is served, my darling.

He looks at her for a long moment, then shakes his head.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Paul lazily comes down and walks through the living room with into an elegant kitchen, and joins his mother at the breakfast table.

ROSA (45), a kind looking Mexican woman dressed in black, brings a bowl of fruits and places it to next to a bowl of milk and cereal.

ROSA  
(accent)  
Good morning, mister Paul.

PAUL  
(lazy)  
Good morning, Rosa.

He seems lost in a deep thought as he dips the spoon into the cereal bowl, and slowly stirs...his mother is watching.

JANET  
Are you making cereal soup?

PAUL  
Ha?

JANET  
What's wrong with you?

PAUL  
Nothing, mother. I'm fine.

JANET  
(fast)  
NothingmotherImfine? No, you are  
not fine, look at you, you're a  
mess! So don't tell me you're fine!

PAUL  
Stop!

JANET  
You've been gone all night, you  
don't even call... I was worried  
sick about you.

PAUL  
Mother, I'm pushing THIRTY and I  
really think I'm entitled to  
leaving in the evening and coming  
home the next morning. I am a grown  
man! Something you seem to always  
forget.

She sits there quiet for a moment, looking at him. She then  
paints a smile over her lips.

PAUL  
What now?

JANET  
You remind me of your father when  
you're angry.

He forces a smile as he shakes his head.

PAUL  
Mom, please. It's been hard on me  
as it is. I'm still trying to get  
my life back on track, don't make  
it harder, please.

His cellphone rings. He looks at it.



PAUL  
 It's Suzan. She's outside.  
 (into phone)  
 Hey sweetie, come on in...yeah I'm  
 ready, come in for a minute.

He hangs up and looks at his mother.

PAUL  
 Be nice!

Janet rolls her eyes as Rosa opens the front door. Suzan walks in, looking good in a short skirt and tank-top. Paul walks over and gives her a tight hug. Suzan gives him a dirty look.

SUZAN  
 What happened to you last night,  
 why didn't you call me back??

Paul and his mother exchange a quick look.

JANET  
 Because he's a grown man and he's  
 entitled...

PAUL  
 Mother!!

Janet motions " what did I do now? "... As Suzan walks over and gives her a quick hug.

SUZAN  
 Good morning, Janet.

JANET  
 (fake smile)  
 Good morning. I love how and I  
 think the same way, sometimes.

SUZAN  
 (fake smile)  
 Feels good, doesn't it?

PAUL  
 (sarcastic)  
 Oh god, Rosa, get a camera please.  
 This is a watershed moment in my  
 life!

ROSA  
 Ha?

PAUL

Look! My obsessive girlfriend and my controlling mother are finally agreeing on something!

Both women quickly step away farther from each other.

INT. THE BMW - LATER

Paul is driving. Suzan flips the visor down and regards her eyes with the mirror...

PAUL

So, that's what happened. What do you think?

...She then pulls a tiny brush out of her purse and starts taming a flyaway eyebrow, completely ignoring him.

PAUL

Suzan...

She pushes the visor up and looks at him.

SUZAN

You know what, you're a very talented artist, Paul. I'll give you that, but a lousy liar. A very terrible one as a matter of fact.

PAUL

I knew this was coming.

SUZAN

Bullshit. You had no idea how I was gonna react to this bullshit story of yours, but you took your chances anyways, you always do that.

He shakes his head as he rubs his forehead. Something he does when he is irritated.

PAUL

Ok, fine. Couple of blocks and the truth shall set me free.

She has her arms crossed tight on her chest as she looks the other way.

Paul rounds a corner and spots the pine trees at the end of the block.

PAUL  
There it is.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The BMW comes to a full stop next to the house. Paul and Suzan get out and walk towards the long driveway with the old car parked at the end.

It's a modest BUNGALOW with overgrown bushes on every side. A dog parks, others pick it up as Paul pushes open a squeaky metal gate, then makes his way through the front yard to the front door, followed closely by Suzan.

SUZAN  
Are you sure it's the right house?

PAUL  
Yes I'm sure.

He hesitates for a moment, then knocks on the door...nothing. He looks at Suzan, she shrugs. He is about to knock again when;

MAN (O.S.)  
I AM THE BOOGIE MAN!

Suzan screams loud as she shields herself behind Paul.

An enormous, almost scary looking MAN in his early 30's appears at the side of the house holding a shovel, dressed in an army jacket and long rubber boots.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Ernie, Stop it! You're scaring them!

A shadow moves from behind a screened window inside the house, then seconds later the front door opens and EDNA SLOAN appears.

She is in her mid 60's. A large, short woman with an oddly wrinkled face and long gray hair.

EDNA  
(to Ernie)  
Get back to work, come on, go!

ERNIE  
She wants to play with the boogie man, no?

Suzan holds on tighter to Paul's hand.

EDNA  
No she doesn't, come on, go find  
your kitty.

Edna finally turns her attention to Paul and Suzan.

EDNA  
Sorry about that. Kids called him  
the boogie man since he was little,  
but he's a good boy...what can I do  
for you?

Paul looks at Edna for a long moment, then;

PAUL  
My name is Paul and this is  
Suzan...I'm here to check on Amy.  
She's your daughter I'm  
assuming...?

EDNA  
What?

PAUL  
Amy Sloan, she lives at this  
address, doesn't she?

Edna keeps staring at him.

EDNA  
How do you know Amy?

PAUL  
Well I kind of ran into her last  
night, and uh...she wasn't feeling  
too well, and she needed a ride  
home, so I brought her...here.

Edna takes a deep breath then shakes her head, as if to shake  
off a bad thought.

EDNA  
Who sent you here? The cops? What  
do you really want?

PAUL  
Excuse me?

EDNA  
(loud)  
I said what the hell do you want  
from us! GET OUT OF HERE!

She suddenly turns and heads for the door.

PAUL  
Ma'am, please wait!

Edna turns and looks at him. A tear rolls down her cheek.

PAUL  
Please. I just wanna make sure  
she's alright, she didn't look too  
good last night, please, she's your  
daughter, isn't she?

She closes her eyes, takes a deep breath and sheds another  
tear.

EDNA  
WAS my daughter. Amy died a year  
ago, now, LEAVE!

Edna walks in and shuts the door.

INT. SUNSET CAFE - AFTERNOON

An outdoor cafe on Sunset Blvd.

Paul, Suzan, Jeff and Ashley sit at a patio table. A young  
waitress brings four bottles of beer.

Paul leans backwards with his eyes closed. Suzan rolls a lock  
of her hair around her finger and seems lost in a deep  
thought.

Jeff takes a sip of beer and exchanges a quick look with  
Ashley.

JEFF  
(to Suzan)  
So what if the guy likes to hang  
out with dead women? You can't hold  
that against him!

Ashley and Suzan shoot him with deadly glares. Paul just  
shakes his head.

JEFF  
What? I'm kidding, alright?

ASHLEY  
You see, that's what I keep saying  
all the time; to you guys,  
everything is a joke!

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

And Paul, if this whole thing turned out to be a joke, which I think it is, then it's the meanest joke I've ever heard in my life and I'll never forgive you for it!

PAUL

It was NOT a joke!

ASHLEY

(fast)

Not a joke? Someone calls your name from an empty bathroom and then you end up giving a dead woman a ride home and you're telling us it's not a joke?

Paul sits up, takes a long sip of beer as he looks at Suzan, then turns his attention to Ashley.

PAUL

(very matter of fact)

Ashley, last night, on my way home, I saw a woman running naked, I stopped and offered my help, she asked me to take her home...and I did. Now, why the hell would I joke about such a thing?

Jeff is about to say something but Ashley gives him "the look", he motions "Ok, fine"

ASHLEY

(to Jeff)

Ok, what!

JEFF

Well, what if there were really a woman named Any Sloan and Paul really gave her a ride home...but her mom lied about it?

Suzan finally decides to enter the conversation.

SUZAN

IF...this whole really happened, and this is a big IF, then Why would her mom lie about it?? She has no reason to.

Paul just about had enough.

PAUL

I can't believe you guys! All of you! You're just sitting there questioning my honesty and even my sanity, and none of you thought once, just for a single damn minute that this might be true!

Jeff raises his hand, rather quickly.

JEFF

I did, partner.

ASHLEY

For Pete's sake, Jeff, would you drop it?! We're trying to solve a puzzle here can't you see that? We're catching a grown man in a horrible lie!

JEFF

We are?

Suzan nods her agreement. Paul blows a ton of hot air as he robs his sweaty forehead.

PAUL

(getting up)

OK! This conversation is officially over. I'm sorry for all the lies, you guys are right and I'm wrong!

He finishes his beer in one last sip, gets up and heads out.

SUZAN

Paul, wait!

ASHLEY

Let him go, Suzan. I don't know what's up with him lately, maybe he needs to be alone. He's been through a lot.

Suzan closes her eyes and shakes her head. Ashley shoots another glare at Jeff.

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - MORNING

Paul lies on his back, his head resting on his palms, staring at the ceiling.

A knock on the door, Suzan walks in. He looks at her, then looks back at the ceiling.

SUZAN  
Good morning.

No response.

SUZAN  
I tried calling last night...

He nods.

She sits on the side of the bed and holds his hand.

SUZAN  
Paul, I'm sorry about yesterday. Me  
and Ashley were just...

PAUL  
Don't worry about it. I'm over this  
whole thing, maybe it was a stupid  
dream. Just forget it.

SUZAN  
It wasn't.

He looks at her.

SUZAN  
Ashley did some research online and  
did find an Amy Sloan.

He looks at her for a long moment.

He slowly gets up and walks to the window, pushes it open and  
takes a breath of fresh air.

His window overlooks a breathtaking view of a Rose Garden. He  
stands there for a minute, then turns and looks at Suzan.

PAUL  
I can't do this, Suzan.

She shakes her head, what?

PAUL  
I don't know what it is. I don't  
know who called my name from that  
bathroom, I don't know who was in  
my car last night, and I don't  
wanna know anymore. I have lots of  
catching up to do, and this is not  
one of them.



SUZAN

You're just gonna forget the whole thing?

He points with both hands at various paintings on the wall.

PAUL

Yes. I don't need distractions in my life, I've had enough already. I just wanna go back to my art.

SUZAN

But what about the girl?

PAUL

There WAS no girl, seriously, just forget it...we have more important things to think about, Suzan.

She smiles as they hold each other in a tight embrace.

SUZAN

(soft)

Our own art gallery. God, this is my dream.

PAUL

We're almost there, baby, and we'll get that cute Spanish house on Ocean Avenue, remember?

Suzan holds him tighter as she nods.

SUZAN

You're absolutely right, my love. It's been a hell of a year... I can't believe we almost lost you. But now you're back. We are back.

Suzan slowly reaches up and they engage in a long kiss. She then buries her head in his chest.

JANET (O.S.)

Paul, it's time for your medications.

She is standing by the door, staring at Suzan.

PAUL

Thanks. But a knock would've been nice.

JANET  
(to Suzan)  
Let's go!

Paul rolls his eyes as Suzan follows Janet out of the room.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Suzan heads to the front door.

JANET  
Wait.

Suzan stops.

JANET  
I like to have a word with you, sit  
down.

Suzan looks surprised as she sits on a sofa.

JANET  
So, tell me what happened, right  
from the start.

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Paul stares at bottles of medicine lining up on a side table,  
then closes his eyes.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

SUZAN  
...And her mother told us she died  
a year ago.

Janet is listening intently, she then gets up, walks few  
steps then turns and looks at Suzan.

JANET  
You know, Paul was three when my  
husband George died. He left us  
with only three hundred dollars and  
an over drawn bank account...things  
could've gone either way for me and  
my son, but, you'll be surprised  
what a single mother is capable of  
when she's pushed to the corner...

Suzan slowly nods as Janet sits next to her, almost touching  
her, then looks her straight in the eye.

JANET

...And now I'm feeling the same way  
all over again, a single mother  
being pushed to the corner and is  
forced to protect her son...from  
You, AMY!

Suzan recoils.

SUZAN

Excuse me?!

JANET

You were there when he heard that  
voice in the bathroom. You were  
with him on the phone when he  
turned that corner and saw that  
girl!

SUZAN

You're crazy!

Suzan tries to get up but Janet holds her hand and forces her  
to sit.

JANET

I don't cook. I don't clean, and I  
don't do laundry either...because I  
stopped being a single mother long  
before you were even born...so, do  
NOT play with me, little girl, do  
NOT play or you'll burn, you hear  
me? BURN!

Suzan has fear written all over her face as she holds eyes  
with Janet for few seconds, then release her hand from  
Janet's strong grip and sprints to her feet and runs out.

Janet takes a deep breath and closes her eyes, opens them  
again and finds Rosa, standing there in the kitchen, staring  
at her.

The two women hold eyes for few seconds, then Janet looks up  
and finds Paul, up the stairs, glaring down from the landing.

CUT TO:

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A LONG SMEAR OF BLOOD across the white tile...leading to the  
lobby reception desk and going down a stairway...It's the  
lifeless body of RUBEN, dragged there by an unseen FIGURE  
from his remaining hand.

Upwards in the ceiling, above that same spot, a missing ceiling panel, through it we see a pair of eyes...THEY BLINK.

Luis pulls his body forward, lower his head down and carefully scans around. It's all quiet down below.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - RECEPTION DESK - LATER

Luis approaches the stairs and peers down. There is not much to see, just darkness.

He starts climbing down, reaches another hallway down in the basement. There, an anonymous sound. Curious, Luis heads deeper into the hallway.

A GLINT OF LIGHT beneath a closed door, and the strange sound grows louder and clearer.

Luis, braver and more determined than we've ever seen him, inches closer to the door. The handle is missing. He kneels and peers through a key hole, there, a horrible scene.

THROUGH KEY HOLE

Ruben's body stretched on a gurney under a very bright spotlight, in an otherwise dark room. A pair of hands in surgical gloves, holding a large butcher knife.

The knife is carving through Ruben's rib cage, making the sound Luis heard earlier...It's the sound of BONES CRACKING.

Blood drips from Ruben's body like an open faucet.

LUIS

Oh god, no!

The carving then stops and one hand reaches inside Ruben's body and does a circular motion, as if searching for something.

Suddenly, Ruben's head TILTS to the right. His eyes are wide open, looking straight at Luis.

Luis backs up quickly. His hand over his mouth as if about to throw up.

He turns and is about to run, but suddenly stops, realizing he is not alone.

Someone is approaching him fast, and, from out of nowhere, a hand with a LARGE OBJECT comes crashing down on his head.

WHAM!

Then everything goes dark.

INT. SUNSET CAFE - DAY

A front view of Linda Vista Hospital appears on a laptop screen.

ASHLEY (O.S.)  
Linda Vista Hospital. Shut down ten  
years ago.

Ashley looks up from the laptop at Paul and Jeff, both sitting there staring at her quietly.

ASHLEY  
That's where you saw Amy.

Paul nods.

JEFF  
Why was it shut down?

ASHLEY  
Well, from what I read, lots of  
people, especially in the media,  
asked that same question, and the  
answer they got was two words; code  
violations.

PAUL  
That's it??

ASHLEY  
Doesn't make sense, does it?  
(she answers herself)  
Of course it doesn't...and you know  
me how I get when things don't make  
sense to me...

JEFF  
(rolls his eyes)  
Yes, honey, we do.

ASHLEY  
Of course...so I called up a friend  
of mine who works at the D.A.  
Office, and he, too, couldn't find  
anything, but promised to look into  
it.

PAUL  
(irritated)  
So we've got nothing.

ASHLEY  
Oh yes we do, baby, we sure do. You  
just hold on to your horses.

Jeff smiles and winks at Paul. Ashley types up something and another window comes up on the screen.

ASHLEY  
Now comes the interesting part.  
Amy's mother, Edna Sloan, was a  
senior nurse at Linda Vista  
Hospital for the past fifteen years  
before they shut it down...

PAUL  
What?!

ASHLEY  
...And her nursing license was  
suspended by the state right after  
that.

JEFF  
Do we know why?!

Ashley shakes her head " NO " then punches another key.

ASHLEY  
AND...please meet AMY SLOAN!

A glamorous colored picture of a smiling Amy suddenly fills up the screen, her pretty blue eyes peering at us.

ASHLEY  
It's a head shot of her I found  
online. She wanted to become an  
actress.

Paul and Jeff are shocked. Ashley looks at Paul. He nods.

PAUL  
That's her...that's Amy.

ASHLEY  
She's pretty...

Paul and Jeff nod their approval.

ASHLEY

Paul, you really think this the same girl you saw last night?

PAUL

That's her!

JEFF

(smiles)

The ghost.

ASHLEY

The official autopsy report states she died from a drug overdose, after that her family had her body cremated and her ashes scattered in the ocean. Case closed!

PAUL

That's it?!

ASHLEY

That's it! Paul, again, are you absolutely positive this is the same girl who was in your car last night? Please think hard. This holds the key to everything.

PAUL

Absolutely. I never forget a face!

ASHLEY

So our friend Amy, for some reason, came back from the dead.

A long pause.

PAUL

I don't know what to say...I don't believe in ghosts.

ASHLEY

They're not ghosts. They're called spirits...and spirits DO exist.

JEFF

You really believe in these things, babe?

ASHLEY

My dad died when I was little...of all my brothers and sisters I was his favorite.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

That night when his heart stopped, I was asleep in my room. Everyone was surprised later that all crying and screaming didn't wake me up, but what they don't know, till this day, is that my father was in my room that night, he came in and sat on the side of my bed, played with my hair, kissed me goodnight and left...I never shed a tear.

Jeff moves closer and holds her hand.

ASHLEY

I believe in spirits. They really DO exist.

PAUL

So what're you telling us? Amy's spirit is out there somewhere?

ASHLEY

Yes. Yes she is. It's what they call a restless spirit.

JEFF

What?!

ASHLEY

She's refusing to surrender her soul. I think something bad happened to this girl which caused her spirit to become restless...Paul, be careful.

PAUL

From what?

ASHLEY

For some reason her spirit chose you. They're usually known to communicate only with other spirits, or with those very close to them, and you've never met this girl before, that's why I'm saying be careful because we don't know her intentions or what she's after.

Paul looks at her, then relaxes his head back and closes his eyes.



INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Paul walks in and opens up a cabinet above the sink. It's filled with PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES. He picks up one then walks into his bedroom.

He swallows a pill then sits in front of a computer screen. That same picture of Amy is displayed.

EXT. PAUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

CAMERA IS POV

Tree leaves are split apart and we see Paul through the window, leaning forward on the desk, still staring at Amy's picture.

Camera moves forward, approaching the window. Paul feels something, he looks up from the screen then turns and looks at the window. Camera quickly moves aside.

Paul stares at us for a moment then goes back to looking at the screen.

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

It's dark. The moonlight cast silver beams through the open window on Paul. He is deep asleep.

DOOR HANDLE

Slowly turning and the door is pushed open, then it's closed.

Someone is in the room.

A NAKED WOMAN FIGURE moves closer to the bed as the computer suddenly powers on, and Amy's pictures displays.

The bed sheet is pulled back revealing Paul, as the figure climbs into bed, and just now, a glimpse of BLOND HAIR, disappearing quickly as the sheet pulls again onto Paul and the figure.

Suddenly Paul moans softly...

PAUL  
(soft)  
Suzan...

...And we hear the soft giggle of a WOMAN from under the cover as Amy's picture looks on from the screen.

CLOSE ON PAUL'S BED

The wild sounds of LOVE MAKING grow louder. The woman's giggles turn into loud moans as the two bodies intertwine in an infinite moment of time.

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - MORNING

Paul is in bed. His hand stretches sideways and pats the pillow. He then quickly sits up and moves the cover.

The bed is empty.

EXT. OCEAN AVENUE - MORNING

Early morning joggers speed along a narrow strip which separates the beach sand from the stretch of expensive homes along PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY.

Paul sits alone at a park bench facing the ocean and seems lost in a deep thought.

SUZAN (O.S.)  
Sorry I'm late.

She sits and attempts to kiss his forehead but he holds her chin and kisses her on the lips.

His move surprises her a little but she smiles anyways.

PAUL  
(smiles)  
I was starting to wonder...

SUZAN  
I know. I'm sorry...but I'm sure  
you've heard.

PAUL  
Heard what?

SUZAN  
Oh, so she didn't tell you...?

PAUL  
You mean my mom?

She nods.

PAUL

I heard it all...I'm sorry, I should've said something, but you know how my mother is...everything to her is a conspiracy theory. Forget about it

SUZAN

I don't care what she thinks. All I care about is you, Paul.

He holds her hand and smiles.

PAUL

(teasing)

I don't know why we're even talking about it now. I thought we've already kissed...and made up, last night.

She is clueless but still manages a smile.

SUZAN

We did?

He runs his fingers through her hair and kisses her one more time.

PAUL

(whispers)

Oh yes, baby, we sure did...I want some more, right here right now!

She backs away and looks at him for a long moment.

SUZAN

Paul, what are you talking about? You want some more of what?!

PAUL

(still teasing)

Ok, fine...I want some more of this!

He reaches and is about to cup her breast. She holds his hand forcefully and moves it away.

SUZAN

What is wrong with you today?! I don't even know if you're kidding or you're being serious...?!

He stares at her. She stares right back at him.

PAUL

Suzan, you came to my room last night and we fucked each other's brains out...please don't tell me it was so easily forgettable!

She is deeply angry but tries hard to stay calm as she rubs her forehead and slowly shakes her head. She then looks at him, a tear rolls down her cheek.

SUZAN

I've had too many break-ups in my life, but none was as mean as this one.

PAUL

Would you please drop it?! Are you embarrassed or what?!

SUZAN

Paul, I WAS NOT IN YOUR ROOM LAST NIGHT! I HAVE NOT SEEN YOU OR SPOKEN TO YOU IN THE PAST TWO DAYS!!

PAUL

CUT THE BULLSHIT, SUZAN! I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU! I'VE HAD IT WITH ALL THE FUCKING LIES!

He rubs his forehead vigorously.

SUZAN

(getting up, crying)

I'm NOT lying, you fucking asshole! I leave you for a couple days and you go screw someone else?? And you have the audacity to come and tell me about it, you JERK!!

She turns and starts to walk away. Paul is in absolute shock.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DARKNESS

A tangle of voices. Muffled. Anonymous.

Darkness slowly fades into shades of grey and white.

Flutter.

A face. Distant, yet very close --

LUIS POV

-- THE FACE sharpens into focus hovering above him...EDNA SLOAN.

Luis is on his back, tied to a gurney. He tries to say something but is unable to. A thick piece of duct-tape covers his mouth.

Suddenly, a piercing, intense light...sharp like the sun, floods his face.

Edna suddenly peers down on Luis, eclipsing the light with her oddly wrinkled face.

Her attention is on his right eye as she reaches and lifts his eye lid and puts another piece of duct-tape over his eye lashes, taping them to his eye brows.

Luis attempts to scream but all he can manage is a deep, desperate groan.

Edna's hand disappears for a moment, then appears again, holding a very sharp surgical tool.

LUIS EYE POV

The tool is less than an inch from his eye and drawing closer, then it TOUCHES it.

The camera shakes violently as it tries to move as the groan grows louder with a higher pitch.

ON EDNA'S HAND

Pulling Luis' eye clear out of it's socket.

Then, the moaning and groaning stops...as we fade into darkness

INT. PAUL'S ROOM - DAY

Ashley bursts into the room and finds Paul sitting by the computer. He looks at her.

ASHLEY

(mad)

Are you out of your mind?! What the hell is your problem, Paul?

PAUL

Go ask your friend, I'm sure she'll tell you!

Ashley stands in the middle of the room, fuming, her hands on her waist.

ASHLEY

TELL ME WHAT!! SUZAN SPENT THE NIGHT AT MY PLACE AND DIDN'T LEAVE UNTIL THIS MORNING WHEN YOU CALLED HER!

PAUL

That's impossible! IMPOSSIBLE!

Ashley looks around at the bare walls. All the paintings have been taken down and thrown into one corner of the room.

ASHLEY

Paul, what's gotten into you?! What the hell is happening here?!

She then looks at the computer screen and finds Amy's picture, staring sharply at her.

ASHLEY

It's her...it's AMY!

PAUL

Ashley, for God's sake stop! STOP!

ASHLEY

I told you, didn't I? She's after you, Paul. This woman is after you and I warned you but you didn't listen! And look what she's doing to you now, to all of us!

He rubs his forehead vigorously.

PAUL

Where's she? Where's Suzan?

ASHLEY

She's at my place, but I think you should leave her alone for now, give her some space.

PAUL

I really need to talk to her.

Ashley takes a deep breath and shakes her head.

ASHLEY

I tell you what, come meet us at Sky bar tonight. Few shots of Tequilla should clear up both of your heads and get you back on track.

PAUL

That's not good. She doesn't mix well with alcohol.

ASHLEY

(rolls her eyes)

Yeah, well, thanks to you, Men... Alcohol became the brain's washing machine of the 21st century...it's Women's gate to sanity, the final frontier.

She turns and heads for the door.

PAUL

(teasing)

I just love it how you always manage to use these two words in one sentence, Men and Sanity.

ASHLEY

Excuse me, mister, I'm not the one running around screwing ghosts.

Ashley is about to walk out the door when she stops and looks at him.

ASHLEY

Don't be late.

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Pictures of a GRAVEYARD display on a computer screen.

Ashley, looking good in a sexy nightgown, leans forward and stares at the pictures.

A PAIR OF HANDS suddenly wrap around her neck, startling her.

It's Jeff. Shirtless. He kisses her neck and turns her chair to face him.

ASHLEY

(quick)

You know, some religions and philosophies believe in the soul having a...

He gently places a finger on her lips. She stops and looks at him as he kisses her neck again...then her cheek...then her lips.

She closes her eyes as his hand reaches and turns off the computer, then the light. The room goes dark.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

(sexy tone)

Jeff...stop it.

The sound of kissing continues.

JEFF (O.S.)

Sorry baby, you were saying?

She moans.

ASHLEY

(sexy tone)

Souls...

JEFF

Say what?

ASHLEY

Souls are immortal.

JEFF

Yeah...well I've got something immortal for you, brown sugar.

Ashley laughs, a very sexy laugh.

INT. SKYBAR - NIGHT

Rock music plays.

Ashley, Jeff and Suzan are at their usual corner table. The table is filled with shot glasses and empty beer bottles.

Paul walks in and sits next to Suzan.

PAUL

Hi guys.



ASHLEY  
 (smiles)  
 Welcome to the party.

Half drunk, Suzan completely ignores him as she downs another shot. She is looking very hot with high heels, short jeans skirt and a tiny red tank-top.

Jeff motions at Suzan " too many drinks "...Paul nods and looks at her.

PAUL  
 Hi, Suzan.

She keeps ignoring him as she pumps her fist and moves her hips to the music.

SUZAN  
 Woo-hooo!! I wanna dance!

She looks at the bar tender behind the counter.

SUZAN  
 EDDIE! TURN IT UP, BABY, I'M  
 FEELING IT!

EDDIE, in his early 20's, nods and reaches under the counter...and the music is up.

SUZAN  
 OH YESSSS!!!

Suzan gets up, barely keeping her balance, takes Ashley's hand and pulls her up. Ashley tries to resist but realizes it's useless as the two girls make their way to the middle of the room.

AT THE DANCE FLOOR

Red and blue lights flash on Suzan and Ashley as Gloria Gaynor's "I WILL SURVIVE" plays. The dance floor quickly fills up with dancing couples.

Ashley motions " come join us " to Paul and Jeff as Suzan pulls her closer then turns her, nearly sending her flying to the floor.

Ashley regains her balance and looks at the guys one more time. HELP!.

ASHLEY  
 Suzan, I need to use the ladies  
 room. PLEASE!

SUZAN  
Take me with you.

INT. SKYBAR - BATHROOM

Ashley and Suzan stand by the mirror, applying make-up.

ASHLEY  
Enough with the drinking ok?!

SUZAN  
I just needed a few to...

Suddenly, a loud knock on the door startles them.

ASHLEY  
HEY! WE'RE BUSY HERE! GIVE US A  
MINUTE WILL YA?!

And another knock, louder than the first one.

SUZAN  
SHE SAID GIVE US A MINUTE!! CAN'T  
YOU HEAR?!

Suzan rolls her eyes as she unlocks the door and opens it...  
Nothing but an empty hallway. She locks the door again.

SUZAN  
She's gone!

ASHLEY  
Good.

Suddenly, another loud knock, nearly breaks the door open.

SUZAN  
Hey, what's your problem??

Suzan reaches for the door again as the room suddenly GOES  
DARK.

ASHLEY (V.O.)  
What the hell?!

A sudden movement. A flash of something.

ASHLEY (V.O.)  
SUZAN! HELP!

The fast paced movement continues in the utter darkness...Suzan suddenly SCREAMS...the sound of her scream suddenly mixes with another sound, the sound of a WOMAN LAUGHING.

ASHLEY (V.O.)  
WHO'S THERE!! SUZAN!

Suzan screams loud as we hear the sound of the door handle being rattled.

ASHLEY  
THE FUCKING DOOR IS LOCKED FROM  
OUTSIDE...HELP! SUZAN!! HELP!

Then, the bright light floods the room.

Ashley shields her eyes for a second, adjusting to the light, then looks around.

Suzan is leaning forward, bending on top of the sink as if throwing up.

ASHLEY  
Suzan?

Suzan is motionless. Ashley walks over and puts a hand on her shoulder.

ASHLEY  
Suzan!

Suzan slowly rises up and turns...BLOOD DRIPPING FROM HER FACE LIKE AN OPEN FAUCET as she stares at Ashley.

Ashley lets out a horrible scream as she backs up against the wall.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Suzan lies in bed. Her face heavily bandaged. Paul and Ashley sit on either side. Paul runs his fingers slowly through her hair. Jeff walks in.

JEFF  
How you feeling?

Suzan's eyes flutter softly.

SUZAN  
(faint)  
Mutilated.

ASHLEY

You'll be fine, sweetie. Doctor said you're banged up and scratched as hell...only surface wounds though, couple days and you'll be OK!

Suzan reaches and holds Ashley's hand.

SUZAN

Thanks for lending me your bedroom.

ASHLEY

You're not going anywhere until you're fine.

Suzan cocks her head towards Paul. He leans and kisses her forehead.

ASHLEY

When the lights went, I felt something brushing against me, pushing me to the side...and that laugh, I'll never forget that laugh as long as I live.

SUZAN

It's funny, I don't remember a thing...I just felt my face getting warm, like it was on fire...then I blacked out.

JEFF

But why would she go after Suzan?

SUZAN

Jeff, stop! You're freaking me out!

ASHLEY

Call me crazy if you want, but I think we have a jealous spirit on our hands.

Jeff laughs to himself while everyone seems lost in a deep thought.

A long pause.

ASHLEY

We need to talk to her!

SUZAN / PAUL / JEFF

WHAT??

INT. DINING ROOM - DARK

A match flares. A candle comes to life.

Paul, Suzan, Ashley and Jeff sit around a small table covered with white cloth, and in the middle is the flickering candle, on top of Amy's painting.

Ashley spreads out a deck of PLAYING CARDS all over the painting, then waits.

JEFF

That's it?

ASHLEY

Sssh...I'm trying to concentrate!

JEFF

Sorry!

ASHLEY

Ok, here goes...

She places her palms together and closes her eyes.

ASHLEY

In the name of the godfather and...

SUZAN

Who?!

ASHLEY

Sorry. The father...

They quickly glance at each other, hiding their smiles.

ASHLEY

Would you just shut up?! I'm trying to concentrate! Quiet!

She squeezes her palms tighter.

ASHLEY

In the name of the Father and the Holly spirit, Amy Sloan, we are calling upon you...would you like to communicate with us?

A long moment passes. Nothing.

Paul scratches his head as he looks at Jeff, who tries very hard to hide his laugh.

Ashley turns to them, deadly serious.

ASHLEY  
(to Paul)  
Put your hand on it.

Paul grasps the edge of the painting.

Then, a single white curtain billows out, flapping gently in the breeze. They all look at the window, then at each other.

ASHLEY  
Amy, are you there?

Ashley starts shuffling the cards around the painting.

ASHLEY  
Paul, pick one and hand it to me.  
Don't look at it.

He picks up a card and hands it to her. She stares at it for a long moment, then shows it to him. It's the TWO of HEARTS.

She places it back with the rest of the cards as she shuffles them again.

ASHLEY  
One more time. Quick!

He picks up another one and hands it to her. She looks at it and frowns.

ASHLEY  
This is weird!

She shows him the card...again, it's the TWO of HEARTS.

JEFF  
Damn!

Suddenly, the CANDLE starts flickering strangely.

SUZAN  
Guys, we need to stop. This is  
creepy!

ASHLEY  
No. One more time.

She places the Two of Hearts card in her shirt pocket and shuffles the deck one more time.

ASHLEY  
(to Paul)  
Do it.

He picks up another card and hands it to her. She looks at it and suddenly SCREAMS LOUD as she throws it down.

It's the TWO of HEARTS...smeared with blood.

PAUL  
Jesus!! What the fuck!

Suzan suddenly bolts across the room and turns on the light, then stands there breathless, looking around.

SUZAN  
She's here, isn't she?!

ASHLEY  
(nodding slowly)  
Amy...talk to us, please. We want  
to help you.

They all look around without noticing the sudden sharp, piercing look in Suzan's eyes. She suddenly laughs, it's that same laugh she and Ashley heard in the bathroom.

They look at her with wide open eyes. She slowly reaches and removes the bandages from her face, revealing Suzan's face, without a single scratch.

PAUL  
Suzan...?

She looks at him. They hold their look for a long moment, then;

SUZAN  
(her voice is somewhat  
different, slightly  
deeper)  
Hello Paul.

ASHLEY  
(her lips trembling)  
Amy...

Suzan looks at Ashley, then walks slowly across the room.

Suddenly Paul's face cringes with pain as he reaches and places a hand on his heart.

SUZAN  
Hurts, doesn't it?

PAUL  
Only when you're around.

SUZAN

(slowly)

It's precious...don't let the boogie man take it away, Paul. Be careful.

ASHLEY

Tell us what happened to you, Amy. Please, we want to help you!

Suzan walks over and picks up the Two of Hearts card from the floor, then flashes it on Ashley's face...she holds it there for a minute, then drops it and suddenly collapses to the floor unconscious.

Paul and Jeff quickly bend next to her. Paul takes her in his arms. Suzan slowly opens her eyes and looks around.

SUZAN

(normal voice, faint)

Paul...

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Suzan makes her way fast across the front yard, then slams hard on the front door.

SUZAN

(furious)

OPEN UP! EDNA SLOAN, OPEN UP, I WANNA TALK TO YOU!

No answer.

Frustrated, she looks around then makes her way around the house, into the backyard and finds a wide open screen door leading into the house. She walks in.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Suzan walks slowly through the kitchen, looking around in every direction. Suddenly a LOUD WHISTLE sounds. She screams.

It's a TEA POT boiling on the stove.

She turns it off and turns, and is suddenly face to face with a giant, standing directly behind her. It's ERNIE.

ERNIE

You came to play?



SUZAN  
Where's your mother?

EDNA (O.S.)  
Right here.

Edna walks in slowly. Hands behind her back.

EDNA  
What do you want now?

SUZAN  
(mad)  
Your daughter's screwing up with  
our lives and she needs to stop,  
STOP!

Edna regards her for a long moment. Ernie reaches with his  
finger and touches Suzan's hair. She slaps his hand away.

EDNA  
(cold)  
I told you my daughter's dead.

SUZAN  
I don't give a damn if she's dead  
or alive, you better put a god damn  
leash on her or else I swear I'll  
kill her with my own hands, you  
hear me??

Suzan turns to leave. Suddenly Ernie reaches and grabs her  
hand. Suzan slaps it again but he holds on to her, then, she  
hears something behind her, she looks and sees Edna advancing  
on her with a large knife.

Edna lifts up the knife high and is about to strike, but then  
Ernie suddenly releases Suzan's hand, causing her to fall  
down and causing Edna to strikes nothing but air.

Ernie looks confused as he steps back. Suzan regains her  
balance and gets up on her feet. Edna attacks again with the  
knife. Suzan suddenly picks up the boiling tea pot and throws  
it at her.

The boiling water catches Edna by surprise as she screams  
loud and collapses to the floor.

Ernie becomes frantic and starts jumping up and down,  
striking his head with his hands.

Suzan turns to leave but is SUDDENLY STRUCK on her head and  
falls down half unconscious.

She manages one last look before she closes her eyes and is shocked to see JANET GREENE, standing on top of her with a shovel...

Janet reaches down and grabs Suzan from her hair.

JANET

I told you, do not play with me,  
little girl!

She then slams her head hard against the floor.

Janet drops the shovel and shoots Edna with a glare.

JANET

(furious)

What the hell is going on here,  
Edna!

EDNA

This is the girl I told you about,  
the one who came with your son  
and...

JANET

(loud)

I know who she is! I'm talking  
about Amy, how the hell do they  
know about her?? Have you told  
anyone?

EDNA

(shakes her head)

No. I have no idea. I was surprised  
when they came knocking that  
morning.

JANET

Well you better find out what the  
hell is going on! I don't wanna  
hear anymore of these bullshit  
ghost stories.

EDNA

What about her? Can I keep her?

Janet stares down at the unconscious Suzan, then shrugs.

JANET

She's all yours.

She turns to leave. Ernie walks toward her.

ERNIE

Do you want to play with the boogie man?

JANET

SHUT UP, retard!

Janet leaves.

ERNIE

Why she say that, mommy?

EDNA

Because she's rich and thinks she can do and say whatever she wants, that's why. But don't worry, baby. Soon we'll take of her as well.

They bend next to Suzan. Edna examines her cheeks, pulls her mouth wide open and looks inside with an expert eye, then lifts Suzan's hand and examines it, running her fingers over her skin, she then declares;

EDNA

That's good stuff!

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - EVENING

Paul walks in and heads for the stairs. Notices Rosa in the kitchen on his way up.

PAUL

Good evening, Rosa.

ROSA

Hello, mister Paul.

PAUL

Where's my mom?

ROSA

She left.

PAUL

Ok, thanks.

He continues up the stairs.

ROSA

Mister Paul...

He stops.

ROSA  
How are you?

PAUL  
(somewhat surprised)  
I'm fine, Rosa. Thanks for asking.

He lingers for a moment as she keeps looking at him.

ROSA  
I am very happy to hear that. You  
came a long way, mister Paul.

He stares at her for a long moment, then walks back down and  
walks to the kitchen.

PAUL  
(curious)  
I *did* come a long way, didn't I?

ROSA  
Of course you did. I cannot believe  
we almost lost you.

He lingers at this thought for a long moment.

PAUL  
Rosa...tell me more about it,  
please. That whole period of time  
has been blacked out of my head, it  
feels more like a dream.

She walks over and leans next to him on the counter.

ROSA  
You were asleep for three months...

PAUL  
You mean the coma...

She nods.

ROSA  
Your mother was so happy when she  
called the doctor and told him she  
found you a new heart...we almost  
lost hope.

Paul instinctively reaches and touches his heart.

PAUL  
Kind of unusual though don't you  
think? My mother finding me a  
heart.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Sounds like she went on Ebay and made a bid. Let's hope she got it with a warranty.

Rosa manages a smile.

ROSA

Your mother is very resourceful as you know. And, after that, everything was fine, everything went back to normal. Your mother was the happiest woman in the world.

PAUL

Rosa, I've asked my mother several times about this, but I also want to ask you; Do you know who was the donor?

Rosa looks at him for a long moment.

ROSA

It was a man from overseas.

PAUL

Yes I know, but my question is; Do we have a name? Do we know anything about that person who's heart is pumping in my chest?

Rosa takes a deep breath, then shakes her head. Paul slowly nods as he heads toward the stairs.

ROSA

The pretty girl...

He stops and looks at her.

ROSA

The one on your computer screen. What's her name?

Paul grimaces, surprised with the question.

PAUL

Amy. She's dead.

He then slowly shakes his head.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - DAY

A dimly lit room.

Suzan lies on the floor face down. She slowly moves her hand and touches the back of her head, right where Janet had struck her. She shakes off the pain and pushes herself up to her knees, then looks around with wide open eyes.

Bare, scratched walls. Rusty hospital beds scatter around. A broken file cabinet with it's drawers pulled open.

Suzan is in complete shock.

SUZAN  
Hello...? HELLO!!

She slowly gets up and stumbles toward a door, turns the handle but it's locked. She knocks hard with both hands.

SUZAN  
HELLO! HELP!!

And just now Suzan realizes she is dressed in a white hospital gown.

SUZAN  
(voice trembling)  
Oh my god! What's going on here??  
HELP MEEEE!!

She turns and walks slowly around the room, then spots something.

There, at one corner, is a hospital bed with a white sheet stretched on it...there is SOMETHING OR SOMEONE under the sheet.

Suzan walks slowly to the corner, towards the bed. Her body shakes from fear as she notices a BLOOD STAIN at the top of the sheet. Her trembling fingers slowly reach and grasp the edge of the sheet, then pulls it.

She suddenly recoils and lets out a LOUD, HORRIBLE SCREAM.

A DEAD MAN lies under the sheet. His face completely stained with blood, mostly at the right side where the eye appears to be missing.

IT'S LUIS.

Suzan quickly covers her eyes with one hand as she backs up...but something holds on to her hand, stopping her.

A BLOODY FIST GRIPS HARD ON SUZAN'S WRIST.

Suzan becomes hysterical as she lets out frantic, loud screams, trying to release herself from the bloody hand, then;

LUIS  
(faint)  
Help me...

Suzan is shaking hard but manages to slowly opens her eyes, and sees Luis, his head tilted, staring at her with his one remaining eye.

LUIS  
...Please.

His hand drops to the side of the bed. Suzan finally gathers her strength and is able to speak;

SUZAN  
Who...who are you? What happened to you?

Luis takes a very deep breath.

LUIS  
They fucked me up.

SUZAN  
Who??

LUIS  
They killed Ruben. They took my eye...they took my fucking eye!

SUZAN  
What's your name?

LUIS  
Luis.

SUZAN  
Luis, who did that to you?! Who are they???

LUIS  
...I don't know.

SUZAN  
Do you know where we are?

He slowly nods, obviously in a lot of pain.

LUIS  
Linda Vista Hospital.

SUZAN  
WHAT?? OH MY GOD!!

LUIS  
(almost to himself)  
They fucked me up.

SUZAN  
WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HERE???

Luis slowly shakes his head. Suzan looks around then walks to the file cabinet, searches for something in all of the drawers, then, looks around again and spots a metal cabinet, the kind used to store medical equipment, she opens a drawer and finds her target, a First Aid Kit. She takes it and walks back to Luis.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - OFFICE ROOM

Rosa brings a tray with two cups of coffee, then knocks on a door. Janet opens the door and takes the tray.

JANET  
Thank you, Rosa. This will be all.

Janet turns and walks in with the tray, leaving the office door half open. Rosa lingers by the door.

Doctor Norman sits on a comfortable chair, he reaches into his inside jacket pocket, takes out a cigar, lights and smokes it.

Janet serves him the coffee, he keeps looking at her, she sits across from him.

JANET  
So...Norman, what can I do for you?

He takes a drag, blows a circle, his eyes are all over her.

DR. NORMAN  
You know, Janet. I always envied George.

JANET  
He was your best friend, why would you envy him?

He keeps staring at her.

DR. NORMAN  
You're not dumb. You know why.



JANET  
Norman, what do you want!

DR. NORMAN  
You need to put a leash on your son. He's asking way too many questions...How the hell does he know Edna?

She shakes her head.

JANET  
Here's a question for you, Doctor... an ethical question...DO YOU GIVE A SHIT?

DR. NORMAN  
No I don't. But it's never a good thing when you run around asking questions, you might come across the wrong people...and you might get hurt.

She looks at him for a long moment.

JANET  
Are you threatening me?

He takes another drag and blows another circle.

DR. NORMAN  
(soft)  
Janet, I want you. I always have, you know that. George never deserved you.

She just had enough. Janet gets up.

JANET  
GET OUT OF HERE YOU SON OF A BITCH!

DOCTOR NORMAN  
After all I've done for you and your son?!

JANET  
GET OUT!

But Norman suddenly launches at her, throws her to the ground.

DOCTOR NORMAN  
I TOLD YOU I WANT YOU!

JANET  
GET OFF ME YOU SON OF A BITCH!

He is on top of her, he reaches for her blouse and rips it open. Janet screams and closes her eyes...she then hears a loud THUD. Norman falls to the side.

It's ROSA, standing ready with a frying pan over her shoulder.

Norman quickly gets up, his hand over his head, feeling the pain.

DOCTOR NORMAN  
I SAVED YOUR SON'S LIFE... DON'T  
YOU EVER FORGET IT!

He then turns and leaves. Rosa quickly kneels by Janet and helps her to her feet. She collapses on the chair, her face streaked with tears.

ROSA  
Are you OK??

Janet slowly nods.

ROSA  
This man is an animal!

JANET  
Rosa, please don't mention this to Paul.

Rosa slowly nods.

INT. SUNSET CAFE - DAY

Ashley shuffles through scattered papers on the table and packs up one, then flashes it to Paul and Jeff.

ASHLEY  
My friend made a few calls and was able to get to her medical records, Amy Sloan was in perfect health as of July 4th 2007, the day of her death. Nothing says she was a drug addict. This just doesn't add up.

PAUL  
She died on July 4th???

ASHLEY  
Yep!

Paul rubs his chin vigorously.

JEFF

What?

PAUL

July 4th is the day I had my heart transplant surgery!

JEFF

Oh shit! That's right, what a coincidence!

ASHLEY

Dear lord! This is getting really complicated!

PAUL

What else you got?

ASHLEY

Well, Edna Sloan's name keep getting lots of hits...she was investigated by the FBI few years ago, right around the time Linda Vista Hospital was shut down, for ties to an international organization specialized in selling body parts in the black market.

PAUL

What??

ASHLEY

Aha! Human body parts...but Her name was cleared for lack of evidence...even though I bet you this has something to do with taking away her nursing license...this woman is dirty!

Paul relaxes his head back and takes a very deep breath.

JEFF

Guys, my head is spinning.

ASHLEY

Yeah, me too. I feel we're running around a glass jar like rats, with nowhere to go.

PAUL

By the way, where's Suzan?

ASHLEY

I don't know. We were talking all night long, didn't even sleep. And she left early in morning, she was pretty upset.

PAUL

Why?

ASHLEY

She freaked out when I told her about, you know, Amy. She said she didn't remember a thing...then she freaked out even more after I told her what Amy said to you, she took off running...I thought she came to you.

PAUL

No. I didn't see her since last night.

Paul thinks for a moment.

PAUL

Hey, Ashley, remind me again, which part of the conversation freaked Suzan out?

ASHLEY

It was when Amy told you be careful from the boogie man.

Paul looks at her for a long moment.

PAUL

Boogie man?!

ASHLEY

Yes. You don't remember?

Paul thinks very hard.

PAUL

I heard this somewhere...boogie man...

Then;

PAUL

Oh shit! OH SHIT LETS GO!

He suddenly gets up and takes off running.

JEFF  
(getting up)  
Oh no, he lost his mind!

Jeff and Ashley take off running after Paul.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - LATER

Paul knocks hard on the front door. Jeff and Ashley looks on from behind.

ASHLEY  
So that's where she lived!

Paul nods as he knocks again.

ASHLEY  
This feels weird. I've read so much about this girl, I feel we're practically best friends.

Jeff walks along the front wall and looks through the walkway which leads to the backyard.

JEFF  
Should we?

ASHLEY  
That's called trespassing, my love. People go to jail for that.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Paul walks through the kitchen into the living room. Jeff and Ashley follow behind.

ASHLEY  
(whispers)  
I can't believe we're doing this!

Paul pushes open a side door leading to a bedroom. They enter.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Several posters for HOLLYWOOD STARS, side by side with academic plaques and awards.

Ashley moves along looking at framed pictures on a night stand...

ASHLEY

It's Amy.

CLOSE ON THE PICTURES

...Some with different men, others with Edna and Ernie. Paul picks up one of the pictures and stares hard at it.

PAUL

She was so full of life.

ASHLEY

HEY!

Paul and Jeff look. Ashley stands next to an open closet door, flashing BLUE JEANS AND RED TANK-TOP at them.

PAUL

THAT'S SUZAN'S!

He picks them up and takes a closer look.

PAUL

I got her those!

ASHLEY

We should call the cops!

JEFF

And tell them what? We broke into a house and saw a shirt we think it belongs to our friend, of whom we think was kidnapped by the mother of a ghost??

Ashley and Paul look at each other, then at Jeff.

PAUL

These are Suzan's clothes, I have no doubt about that, and I have no doubt something fishy is going on...but I think we should hold off on calling the cops, for now... There's one more stop I like to make first.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

Luis has a large bandage over his right eye socket. He watches curiously as Suzan dabs a wet cloth over his cheek, wiping out the last stain of DRY BLOOD.

Done. She takes a step back and looks at him proudly.

SUZAN

There! Now you look more like a human.

LUIS

Thank you.

SUZAN

My name is Suzan by the way.

He nods as he looks at her for a long moment, as if noticing her for the first time, liking what he sees.

LUIS

Why are you here?

She walks around the room, looking in every direction, examining every detail...

SUZAN

Long story...how the hell do we get out of here?

His eye is all over her, watching her bending down next to the front door, trying to look out.

Then, AN EXTREMELY SHARP AND LONG BLADE RIPS THROUGH the bottom of the door...aiming straight at Suzan's eyes...missing her by less than an inch.

She screams loud as she throws herself to the side.

Luis suddenly bolts, runs across the room and kicks the door hard.

LUIS

MOTHER FUCKERS!! I'M GONNA KILL YOU!! I'M GONNA FUCK YOU UP!

Breathless, Suzan crawl away from the door and hides behind the file cabinet.

SUZAN

It's her. It's Edna, she's back!

LUIS  
Who the fuck is she?

SUZAN  
She's the one who brought me  
here...she tried to kill me!

He picks up a large wood board from the floor and stands ready by the door.

LUIS  
Don't worry, I'll protect you!  
COME ON IN MOTHER FUCKERS!

Suddenly, the door bursts open and a GIANT SHADOW LOOMS IN...

...It detaches from the darkness and steps forward, arm raised...IT'S ERNIE, holding what looks like a SWORD.

Suzan screams.

Luis suddenly launches forward and strikes Ernie hard with the wood board. Ernie is unmoved, untouched, as if a FLY just landed on an ELEPHANT'S back...

With his free hand, Ernie spins Luis, controls him, almost breaking his neck, then slams him hard against the wall.

Luis falls hard. Ernie advances on him and lifts up the sword.

SUZAN  
ERNIE, DON'T!

Ernie stops and glances at Suzan, then smiles.

ERNIE  
Do you want to play with the boogie  
man?

SUZAN  
Yes, Ernie. I want to play with  
you. Please leave him alone.

He drops down the hand holding the sword and turns to her, then suddenly stops. His attention is somewhere else now. He just heard something.

VOICES IN THE DISTANCE.

Ernie quickly leaves the room, leaving the door wide open.

Suzan runs to Luis and kneels next to him.



SUZAN  
Luis! Are you Ok??

He slowly nods.

SUZAN  
He left the door open, we better  
get out of here NOW!

EXT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

Palm Trees in silhouette against a cherry sky, peering down  
at Linda Vista Hospital across the way.

Paul, Jeff and Ashley stand at the front door.

ASHLEY  
This place looks too creepy. What  
the hell are we doing here?

Paul looks inside through a broken window.

PAUL  
It all started here. This is where  
I found Amy. This is where her  
mother worked...call it a crazy  
hunch if you like, but I have got  
to go in there and take a look.

He looks at Jeff.

JEFF  
(nodding)  
I'm in.

ASHLEY  
Are you guys crazy?! What if...

MAN (O.S.)  
Can I help you?

A UNIFORMED, ARMED SECURITY GUARD appears from behind. JOSE,  
a kind looking man in his late 30's walks over to them.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - BASEMENT - SAME TIME

Suzan walks carefully to the door and looks out. Luis limping  
behind her.

Stark corridors...no one in sight...and they both take off.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Jose walks toward the RECEPTION DESK, followed closely by the group, he then stops and throws his arms in the air, as if confirming an earlier statement.

JOSE  
(Spanish accent)  
See? Empty like a woman's heart.

Ashley rolls her eyes. Jose then looks around and shakes his head.

JOSE  
This used to be a very busy place.  
I really miss those days.

JEFF  
You mean you've worked here when it was open?

JOSE  
(nodding)  
Till the last day. I practically walked out and turned off the lights.

ASHLEY  
Mister Jose, do you know why they closed it?

He takes a deep breath as he lights and smokes a cigarette.

JOSE  
I don't know. No one knows except few people in the government. Some say it was money problems. Some say it was a cover-up...I don't know, and I don't care. I'm just glad I still have my job.

PAUL  
What do you mean cover-up?

JOSE  
Well, some years ago it was rumored that patients were being cut up and their body parts sold in the black market, and when the government found out they decided to put a lid on the whole subject so the public won't panic...but that's only a rumor.

Ashley exchanges a quick look with Paul and Jeff.

PAUL

I was wondering, do you ever see anyone in here?

JOSE

What do you mean?

PAUL

Well, few days ago I saw a girl running out of here, and...

JOSE

(shakes his head)

This place is empty except from the rats, and on some occasions, ghosts.

(he laughs)

Maybe that's what you saw!

Paul looks irritated.

ASHLEY

Ghosts? You've seen any?

JOSE

No. But People tell me they hear voices in here all the time. You see, I only work in the day, you never know what goes on here at night.

PAUL

Do you mind if we took a look around?

JOSE

I'm sorry. This is City property. Can't let anyone in.

PAUL

Please, mister Jose. It's really important.

Jose thinks about it.

JOSE

Ok. But only for a short while, I don't wanna get in trouble.

PAUL

Short while, I promise.

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - BASEMENT

A very weakened Luis leans on Suzan as they make their way through an empty, dark hallway.

A piece of glass cracks under her foot. The hollow sound echoes through the darkness and they both stop and look around in panic.

SUZAN  
(whispering)  
There must be a way out of here.

LUIS  
Just keep going. There's a flight  
of stairs up ahead.

They continue walking.

SUZAN  
Hey you never told me, what the  
hell are you doing here in the  
first place?

LUIS  
I came in here to hide with my  
brother, Ruben.

SUZAN  
Hide from what?

LUIS  
Cops...we robbed a liquor store.

She stops and looks at him.

SUZAN  
Robbed a store?? What're you a god  
damn criminal??

LUIS  
I'm NOT a criminal. I am a GANG  
MEMBER!

SUZAN  
(rolls her eyes)  
Oh, excuse me. I didn't know!

LUIS  
(shakes his head)  
No problem!

Suzan suddenly stops.

SUZAN  
Listen!

LUIS  
What?

SUZAN  
I hear something.

She looks up at the ceiling.

SUZAN  
There's someone up there!

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - UPPER FLOOR

Paul kneels down. His hand still gesturing a stop to Jeff and Ashley as he leans forward near the ground and listens.

PAUL  
I know I heard something!

ASHLEY  
The ghosts!

A hand suddenly reaches from behind and touches Ashley's hair. Startled, she screams loud. It's Jeff, cracking up from behind.

ASHLEY  
Jeff I HATE YOU!

BASEMENT

Suzan looks up again. She just heard that scream.

SUZAN  
Oh my god, this is Ashley's voice!

LUIS  
Who?

SUZAN  
ASHLEY!! HELP!! HELP ME!!

UPPER LEVEL

The group is stunned.

PAUL  
 THAT'S SUZAN. SHE'S DOWNSTAIRS!  
 LETS GO!

He takes off running as fast as he can. Jeff and Ashley take off after him but he's already out of sight, and suddenly, a SPARKLE catches Jeff by the shoulder, sending him flying to the ground.

Ashley screams loud.

BASEMENT

Suzan is still looking up, trying to listen when she hears;

PAUL (V.O.)  
 SUZAN! SUZAN!

She becomes frantic all of a sudden.

SUZAN  
 PAUL, I'M DOWN HERE!!

Suzan and Luis take off running. Luis lags behind after a short distance.

Suddenly, Suzan is face to face with Paul. She jumps into his arms.

PAUL  
 Baby, what are you doing here? What the hell is going on??

SUZAN  
 (breathless)  
 A lot of things, but first we have got to get the hell out of here!

PAUL  
 Ok! Lets go!

He takes her hand and is about to take off running.

SUZAN  
 Wait, I almost forgot.

She stops and looks behind. Luis is gone.

SUZAN  
 Shit, where did he go?!

PAUL  
 Who???

SUZAN  
Luis! LUIS!!

UPPER LEVEL

Jeff moves his head. His eyes flutter as he looks around. He is alone in the hallway. He looks at his shoulder, it's dripping with blood.

Suddenly, Ashley screams.

Jeff jumps up to his feet, on full alert.

JEFF  
ASHLEY!!

ANOTHER SCREAM coming from behind a closed door up ahead.

Jeff pinpoints the door, runs to it and frantically tries the door handle, it's locked.

He draws back and kicks the door in, smashing it off its hinges, lunges through the doorway...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ERNIE looks away from Ashley, who stands there shaking from fear...her shirt ripped apart.

ASHLEY  
(crying)  
JEFF!!

JEFF  
(calm)  
Don't worry baby, I'm here.

Ernie throws a cold look at Jeff, his sword is on the floor few feet away.

ERNIE  
Do you want to play with the boogie man? Stupid boy?

JEFF  
Sure, mother fucker, I'll play!

Jeff moves one step forward and takes a fighting position, shadow-boxes slowly as he focuses on his very large target.  
ERNIE.

Jeff suddenly launches forward and throws a jab at him...Ernie just stands there, not even a dent.

Jeff tries again, but this time Ernie catches his arm and throws him to the side with such incredible force, Jeff goes flying across the room, landing hard on the floor...but manages to get up quickly.

Stunned, Jeff realizes the desperate situation he's in and makes a decision.

JEFF

(wiping the blood off his  
mouth)

Ashley...you need to go baby. Get  
out of here...this is gonna turn  
ugly.

ASHLEY

(crying hard)

I'm not leaving you alone! He will  
kill you!

JEFF

If you don't leave now, he will  
kill us both!

Jeff takes a step to the side, Ernie turns with him, keeping an eye on him, clearing a path for Ashley.

JEFF

NOW!

Ashley moves away from Ernie then runs to the door, but stays there.

ASHLEY

(screaming)

Jeff, lets go!

JEFF

(squeezing his teeth)

I'm not going anywhere. This mother  
fucker tried to kill me and was  
about to rape you...And now he has  
to pay!

ASHLEY

I'm not leaving either. We both  
live or we both die!

Jeff steals a glance at her, forces a very faint smile, then turns to Ernie, completely focusing on him. Ashley looks out to the hallway.



ASHLEY

PAUL! HELP!!

Jeff takes a step back, then advances quickly as he jumps up and launches a spectacular side kick to Ernie's neck. This works, almost, as Ernie loses balance and falls hard to the ground.

Jeff advances again, jumps on top of Ernie, launches a series of punches at his face. Ernie suddenly reaches and grabs Jeff from the neck, choking him, then throws him to the side. Ashley screams.

Ernie lifts up Jeff and throws him like a feather hard against the wall, and does it again, and again as Ashley screams hysterically.

Ernie advances one more time on Jeff and is about to step on him, Jeff moves to the side and miraculously manages to get up one more time on his feet.

Bloodied from the face down, Jeff has a savage look on his face, a look we've never seen before.

JEFF

(as if reciting)

RED is the color of my  
blood...GREEN is the color of my  
eyes...BROWN is the color of my  
heart...WHITE is the color of my  
soul...BLACK is the color of my  
skin! BLACK is the color of my  
skin!!

He then launches at Ernie, giving it all he got, attacking the GIANT with every possible kick and punch in the book, tossing, turning, flying and landing a kick after kick...AND FINALLY MAKING A DENT.

BASEMENT

Suzan and Paul move fast down the dark hallway. Suzan looks in every direction as they turn a corner...and suddenly stop.

A FULLY-LIT ROOM IN THE MIDST OF THE DARK HALLWAY.

PAUL

What the hell?!

SUZAN

Someone's in there!

Her heart pounding, Suzan holds on tight to Paul's hand as he leads the way to the room, slowly, with cat-like movement, stopping a foot or two short of the entrance...they slowly reach forward and look in.

THE ROOM

Neatly clean except from few broken shelves and cabinets.

A barefoot, gray-haired woman in a torn, ragged dress stands in the middle of the room in front of a chair with her back to us.

She is humming an anonymous tune and both of her hands are moving constantly, making a scissor-like sound, operating on something unseen by us.

She feels something and stops, then slowly turns her head.

It's EDNA SLOAN...with an odd smile over her lips.

Paul slowly walks in, Suzan is behind him, absolutely terrified.

EDNA

Well, well, well! Look who's back!

PAUL

I'm not even a bit surprised to see you here, Edna!

SUZAN

She brought me here...

Edna turns around. She has a large scissor in one hand and a lock of hair in the other.

SUZAN

She and your...

Paul frowns as he looks at Suzan.

PAUL

Who?

Edna suddenly turns the chair around revealing JANET, tied up and has a large piece of duct tape over her lips. A GLEAMING BUTTERFLY KNIFE rests on her lap.

Paul is absolutely stunned.

PAUL

MOTHER!!

He makes a move but Edna quickly drops the lock of hair, reaches for the knife and lifts it to Janet's throat.

PAUL  
LET HER GO! LET HER GO YOU WITCH!

EDNA  
(mocking him)  
Let her go! Let her go you witch!  
WHY?!

Paul makes another move but Edna squeezes hard with the knife, stopping him in his tracks. Janet moans.

EDNA  
(baby talk)  
Oohhh...the poor millionaire is  
scared...

PAUL  
I SAID LET HER GO YOU FUCKING  
BITCH!

EDNA  
...She's Scared her dear boy will  
know the truth...

PAUL  
What the hell do you want!!

Edna looks up at Paul, her eyes shooting him with death.

EDNA  
I want what belongs to me...I want  
your heart!

Paul stares at her for a long moment.

PAUL  
You're out of your fucking mind,  
you crazy bitch!

EDNA  
Crazy? Why? Because I got a  
butcher's knife to your mother's  
throat? You just don't get it, do  
you? DO YOU!!

PAUL  
GET WHAT!

EDNA  
I'll tell you...or maybe *she* should  
tell you!

Edna suddenly peel off the tape from Janet's mouth.

JANET

(screaming)

Paul, I did it for you! I did it to save your life. Do not believe this bitch!

PAUL

Mother, what are you talking about?!

JANET

The heart... The heart I got you is AMY'S HEART! I had no choice you were about to die...I had to do it, Paul, I had to! She sold it to me. Edna sold me her daughter's heart!

Paul is absolutely stunned as he stands there breathless. His trembling hand reaches and touches his heart.

SUZAN

You killed your daughter? You killed your daughter for money?!

EDNA

You rich people...you FUCKING rich people you think you own us with your money...you step all over us, spit on us and then turn around and call us killers!

JANET

I DID NOT FORCE YOU! YOU CALLED ME AND OFFERED YOUR DAUGHTER'S HEART AND I ACCEPTED! THAT RETARD SON OF YOURS KILLED HER WITH HIS OWN HANDS!!

(to Paul)

They killed her right here in this hospital. She told me Amy ran out naked, but Ernie chased her and brought her back, then slit her throat!

EDNA

(to Janet)

I want it back. I want Amy's heart back and I will get it! But before I do, I'm gonna rip yours out and feed it to your son!

Edna suddenly PLUNGES the knife into Janet's chest. Janet lets out a horrible scream as blood pours out of her chest.

PAUL  
MOTHER NOOO!!

Hysterical now, Paul launches at Edna with lightning speed and strikes her.

She hits the ground hard and the knife falls to the side.

Paul quickly starts to untie his mother when he suddenly hears a loud scream from behind. Edna had recovered the knife and is launching at him.

He jerks his head aside and the knife misses him by inches but gets him in the shoulder.

Paul falls down hard as Edna leaps forward, this time aiming straight at his own heart.

EDNA  
Die you son of a bitch!

Then, another loud scream.

It's Suzan coming at Edna, ramming solidly into her, both women falling hard to the floor.

But Edna proves very relentless as she holds on to the knife, pushes herself away from Suzan, gets up and gets ready to strike her in the neck. Suzan screams.

Then, A SHOT IS FIRED

Edna is dead even before her body hits the ground.

IT'S JOSE.

He stands there with his gun still pointed at Edna.

Suzan lies on the floor half conscious as Paul quickly unties Janet and lays her on the ground, then kneels next to her. She looks at him with half open eyes.

JANET  
(faint)  
I'm so sorry, my love.

He looks at her for a long moment, then attempts to get up.

PAUL  
I'm gonna get some help.

But Janet holds on to his hand as she shakes her head, then brings him closer to her.

JANET  
(faint)  
I did it for you, Paul.

PAUL  
Don't talk. Let me go get you help.

Janet pulls him even closer, then whispers in his ear.

JANET  
Forgive me...please forgive me. I  
tried my best.

Her hand then drops down.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
I believe her. She tried her best.

Paul looks up from Janet at Jose, who walks slowly toward Edna, revealing a FIGURE standing behind him.

AMY SLOAN.

Still dressed in the same outfit he gave her.

Paul is stunned.

Amy walks in, completely unnoticed by Suzan and Jose. She leans over the lifeless body of Edna and runs her finger over the dead, wrinkled skin.

AMY  
(still looking at Edna)  
They both chose you...over me. They  
took my life and gave it to  
you...sad, isn't it? Paul?

She then looks at him, then at Suzan and Jose.

AMY  
They can't see me. Only you can.

PAUL  
(mumbling)  
I'm so sorry, Amy...

She walks to him, then slowly reaches and runs her fingers through his hair.

AMY

Spirits can only communicate with  
the ones they love, and you have my  
heart.

Paul looks on lovingly into Amy's AURA.

Paul's eyes narrow as she steps away from him. She has a  
strange smile on her face.

AMY

You can rest your soul in peace,  
Paul. Now that you know.

She turns and walks to the door, stops and looks at him.

AMY

Don't be sad. Everything will be  
ok, Paul. It's only you and me now,  
together, forever.

PAUL

Amy...

UPPER LEVEL

Jeff looks extremely exhausted as he stumbles toward Ashley.

Ernie lies there on the floor, unconscious.

Ashley takes Jeff in her arms and they head slowly out of the  
room.

Then, in a split of a second, A PAIR OF HANDS wrap solidly  
and forcefully around Jeff's neck, lifting him off the ground  
with incredible force, choking him.

IT'S ERNIE

Ashley lets out a horrible scream as she watches Jeff's eyes  
closing, his hands stopped resisting and his head slowly  
tilting to the side.

Then, and out of nowhere;

A SHARP BLADE SHOOTS THROUGH ERNIE

He stands motionless for a second, then releases Jeff and  
drops down to his knees, revealing LUIS behind him with the  
sword tight in both hands.

LUIS

This is for Ruben!

INT. LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL - BASEMENT

Jeff, Ashley and Luis burst into the room. Ashley lets out a loud scream.

The bodies of Edna and Janet lay dead on the floor.

Paul and Suzan stand motionless in disbelief.

Jose still stands in the middle of the room holding the gun, looking dazed and confused.

JEFF

What the hell happened here??

Jose looks at him, then slowly shakes his head.

Jeff walks cautiously towards Paul and Suzan as he motions for Ashley to "stay back".

Suzan slowly looks up and stares at him.

JEFF

Are you guys ok?!

Jeff takes another step but Suzan suddenly cringes and draws back as she starts to scream.

Ashley runs to her and holds her tight.

ASHLEY

Paul what the hell happened??  
What's your mom doing here?? Talk  
to me!!

PAUL

It's all over. All over!

He collapses on his knees.

ASHLEY

WHO THE HELL DID THIS?!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SUNSET CAFE - DAY

Ashley rests her head on Jeff's chest as he runs his fingers through her hair.

Suzan and Paul sit opposite of them.



Paul has a suitcase next to him.

Bandaged bruises and cuts still cover their arms and faces.

ASHLEY

...Edna knew about Paul's condition through her medical contacts, then contacted Janet...that's how it all started.

JEFF

Did she know Edna was going to kill her own daughter?

ASHLEY

(nodding)

Edna claimed Amy was dying of a brain tumor and had six months to live...that's how she talked Janet into it...Rosa told me everything.

JEFF

And we know now this is not true.

Ashley nods.

JEFF

I still can't believe it. A mother kills her own daughter, rips her heart out and sells it.

ASHLEY

Well, not literally, but yes you can say that.

SUZAN

Obviously Edna had done it to so many people, I guess it didn't matter much anymore...she became a butcher.

ASHLEY

She had help from a couple of transplant doctors who she met at Linda Vista, including doctor Norman Krause. They were in on the scheme. And I bet you even the autopsy report was fake. Everyone conspired against this poor girl.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Edna was desperate for money after her license was suspended, she was gonna lose her house and everything she got...they even threatened to take way Ernie to a mental hospital if she couldn't afford his medication.

PAUL

Doctor Norman! I never liked this guy.

ASHLEY

Yes, him. He was arrested this morning and I bet you Amy's case will be reopened and many questions will be finally answered.

SUZAN

How much was it?

ASHLEY

How much was what?

SUZAN

How much did it cost...Amy's heart.

Paul abruptly blurts out...

PAUL

Hundred and fifty thousand. That's what Rosa told us.

Ashley nods her approval.

ASHLEY

But by the time doctor Norman and few others got the lion share of it, Edna probably ended up with peanuts. That's why she lashed out at everyone.

SUZAN

Poor Amy...even though she hated me.

PAUL

She didn't hate you...she was protecting the last shred of her soul, the last piece of her existence...her heart.

A tear rolls down Suzan's cheek.

PAUL

The selfishness and greed of those  
closest to her killed her.

JEFF

Everyone paid a heavy price. No one  
came out a winner.

They all look at each other for a moment, then go into their  
own deep thoughts.

ASHLEY

(to Suzan)

Did you hear from Luis?

SUZAN

(nods)

He's still getting treatment at a  
hospital after Edna pulled his eye.  
Police found it in a jar in some  
kind of liquid. Obviously Edna  
didn't know what to do with it.  
Poor guy.

Paul gets up, takes Suzan's hand and picks up his suitcase.

ASHLEY

So, what happens now, Paul?

PAUL

I rented a small place down in  
Venice for me and Suzan. We're  
gonna turn it into an art gallery,  
starting with all my paintings.  
Rosa will stay at the house until  
we figure out what to do.

Paul and Suzan turns to leave.

ASHLEY

It's all good in the hood.

Camera slowly winding away, over the city of Los Angeles...

...and it finds Paul and Suzan...looking out at an endless  
Ocean beneath a blazing purple sky fringed with pink.

Paul runs his fingers through a gentle wave, then brings his  
hand to his heart and looks out at the Pacific Ocean.

PAUL

May your soul rest in peace, Amy  
Sloan.

THE END