

Sister Switchblade

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

INT.TRAIN - DAY

The train has just pulled into the station. There is a hustle and bustle of people getting on and off.

We focus on MARIE (22) and MAY (17), two girls with red hair who jump onto the old fashioned train. The doors close and the train starts to move.

Seats are scarce as the girls move up the isles. They eventually find a seat for four and put their bags away then bask in what appears to be the first quiet moment they have shared in a while.

MARIE
(Sighing)
Alone at last.

MAY
Mum seemed pissed.

MARIE
Wouldn't you be?

MAY
I guess.

Silence.

MAY
We're doing the right thing, aren't we?

MARIE
Of course we are, May...
(Serious)
...you have a gift, trust me. It's gonna be fine. It's almost sad in a way.

MAY
Sad?

MARIE
Yeah, well, no, well. It's sad that in this day and age people still lap up shit like this, ya know?

(CONTINUED)

MAY

But I'm not hoaxing.

MARIE

I know we're not a hoax but I'm just saying that most people today are fairly skeptical of such things. That's one thing to keep in mind - we're living in a cynical age and no matter where we go we're always gonna meet skeptics. It's our job to change that.

MAY

Wait! You've confused me. It's sad that people lap it up, or it's sad because people don't believe us?

Marie thinks.

MARIE

You're too smart for me.

They laugh.

MARIE

No, my point is that we're gonna be all right. You've got a gift, girl.

MAY

(Smiling)

All right.

MARIE

I don't understand where this worry came from. You're the one who sees the future.

MAY

I can't see everything.

MARIE

Have you never seen your own future before?

MAY

I have, but I read somewhere that it isn't healthy to study your own future.

MARIE

Why?

(CONTINUED)

MAY

I forget the exact reason. But it makes sense, doesn't it?

MARIE

I guess. But you must sneak a peak every now and then. Come on!

MAY

Sometimes. But what makes our fortune exciting is the fact that it's uncertain.

MARIE

Said her psychic sister who was gonna make her a millionaire.

MAY

I know, I know! I'm not losing sight of what we're doing here, I'm really not. I just can't help but have my own feelings about it. It's hard sometimes.

MARIE

I know, May, I know.

Marie looks at fragile May, unable to find the words. She goes and sits on the same side as her little sister and playfully nudges her with her shoulder.

LEBRETSKI

(O.S.)

Excuse me?

We WHIP PAN from the girls up to MR NICK LEBRETSKI, a tall man in his early 30's. He is wearing a white suit and is very handsome, with dark hair.

LEBRETSKI

Sorry, I couldn't help but overhear, may I?

He points to the seat. Marie nods, both girls appear to welcome his presence.

LEBRETSKI

Okay, if I have misheard you then this is gonna make me look mighty silly. Did you say that you were a psychic?

He points to Marie.

MAY

I am.

LEBRETSKI

You are? Okay. See now I heard you talking and I'm sure you'll understand that when I started piecing your conversation together, my immediate response was: "Bullshit." But then I think, wait, these girls have no idea that I'm even listening. Why would they bullshit during a private conversation? And here we are.

MARIE

Here we are...

There is a brief silence.

LEBRETSKI

My name is Nick Lebretski. Nice to meet you.

He shakes the girl's hands.

MARIE

I'm Marie.

MAY

May.

LEBRETSKI

Marie and May. Okay, I'm hooked now, you gotta tell me what's going on here.

MAY

I can see the future. I literally can't remember a time when I couldn't do it. It's only recently that I figured out how to control it in some way. I used to just get flashes of peoples ugly fortunes as I was walking down the street which was fucked up.

LEBRETSKI

You're kidding. You're so normal.

MAY

I'm not.

(CONTINUED)

LEBRETSKI

No, I know. But, like, when you get an image of a girl with psychic powers I conjure up an image of a pale faced creep who tells me I shall die within the month. You're just another one of God's children.

May smiles, says nothing.

MARIE

She doesn't love talking about it. I'm her sister. We're taking on the world.

LEBRETSKI

The world?

MARIE

She has a gift. She needs to share it.

LEBRETSKI

Tell me something about me. Prove your gift, May.

May stares at Lebretski and looks deep into his eyes.

MAY

You were born on the sixth of June, 1979 at a hospital in St. Andrews, I can't be sure of the exact hospital. Your mother's name is Agnes Lebretski, maiden name: Wotherspoon. Your father's name was Charles Lebretski and he was an accountant. Your mother also worked so you were raised by the nanny and never kept close to your parents after you left. You got a job at a small oil company as an apprentice and worked your way up very quickly to become one of the youngest men to own a company in Scotland. Congratulations. You've never fallen in love before and your favourite food is Carrot Cake.

Lebretski sits back in his seat and looks at May, in awe.

LEBRETSKI

That was one hundred percent accurate. You're amazing! Would it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEBRETSKI (cont'd)
be asking too much for you to tell
me my future, May?

May looks at the beautiful man and shyly smiles.

MAY
Give me your hands.

Lebretski holds out his hands. May gently caresses them, moving her fingers up and down the lines as if she is on a journey. She stares Lebretski dead in the eyes, he stares right back.

We delve into May's psyche...

EXT.FOREST - DAY

Lebretski stands in a forest opposite a RED HAIREED GIRL. We cannot be sure who the girl is.

The sun is streaming through the leaves and they are standing next to a stream.

He appears to be in love as we track into him. He looks at the Girl with adoration in his eyes. He kisses her, her face still remaining unseen.

INT.TRAIN - DAY

Back to reality, May opens her eyes. Lebretski is still watching her with intense curiosity.

May appears to be excited and nervous at the same time. She looks at her sister who is watching Lebretski with a similar adoration which she saw in her premonition.

MAY
You're gonna fall in love.

She pauses.

MAY
You're going to adore this woman
more than anything in the world and
you're going to spend the rest of
your life with her and you'll have
beautiful children and your
relationship will stay strong all
the way to the end.

(CONTINUED)

LEBRETSKI
Really? That's nice.

May notices Lebretski takes a glance at Marie.

LEBRETSKI
I'm lost for words.

MARIE
We're taking on the world.

Lebretski, still looking at Marie, takes a card out of his pocket and places it on the table in front of the two of them.

LEBRETSKI
Listen, I'm the head of an-

He looks at Marie and laughs.

LEBRETSKI
As you know, I'm the head of a company and I'm at a place in my life where I can make some significant investments. I'm sure you two will do fine without me, but here's my card. I can help you.

Marie picks up the card.

MARIE
Thank you, Nick.

May appears haunted by her premonition.

INT.HOTEL - RECEPTION - DUSK

Marie and May walk up to the front desk and check in.

INT.HOTEL - HALLWAY - DUSK

The camera tracks along the hallway, looking at all the room numbers. It stops at Room 679. Our heroines enter.

INT.HOTEL - ROOM 679 - NIGHT

Marie puts her things down then goes into the en suite bathroom after turning the light on. May dumps her things next to one of the single beds and lies down on it.

(CONTINUED)

MAY

Are you going to call Nick?

MARIE

Yes, but not right away. We don't
wanna seem like he's our only
option. You wait three days at
least.

MAY

It's not like we're trying to date
him?

MARIE

Huh?

MAY

Nothing.

In the bathroom, Marie washes her face. May watches her
through the doorway. She thinks back on her premonition...

EXT.FOREST - DAY

Lebretski kisses the girl. The girl breaks the kiss and
turns around to look at us.

It is Marie.

MARIE

May?

Back to reality...

INT.HOTEL - ROOM 679 - NIGHT

May appears to have internal rage at this premonition.
Marie, back from the bathroom sits down on the bed opposite
her.

MARIE

You look agitated.

MAY

Do you like Nick?

MARIE

I like his wallet. Why?

(CONTINUED)

MAY

I don't know if we should trust every bimbo in a white suit who finds us on a train. He might not be the nice guy he appears to be.

MARIE

Well nothing's set in stone.

MAY

But is is!

MARIE

It's not. Unless...

Marie puts two and two together.

MARIE

Did you see us in his future?

MAY

No.

MARIE

You did!

MAY

Drop it, okay?

May stands up and heads for the bathroom. Marie follows her and stops her outside the doorway.

MARIE

Wait, wait, wait! What did you see?

May shoves Marie rather violently.

MAY

(Angry)

Nothing!

MARIE

Jesus. Calm down. Just tell me.

May calms down and sighs.

MAY

I saw him with you.

MARIE

With me? You mean...?

(CONTINUED)

MAY

He'll love you one day.

MARIE

Really? Well, so what?

MAY

I saw other things. I saw bad things. I saw him love me first and I saw you leaving me behind and I saw myself turning into nothing but a circus freak.

May starts to cry.

MAY

And all because of you. I deserve...I...

Marie comforts her.

MARIE

May, I love you, but you're being an idiot. Girl, you're good, but you ain't that good. I swear.

May slides down the wall and sits down. Marie follows her and crosses her legs opposite her. May wipes away her tears.

MAY

You don't get it. Just because you haven't done anything, doesn't mean you won't. Your word is horse shit.

MARIE

Jesus! Would you ease up! You're not gonna turn into one of those spoiled child stars are you? I can't be dealing with that shit, May!

May stands up once more and storms into the bathroom, locking the door behind her. Outside Marie bangs on the door. May looks in the mirror.

MAY

(Muttering)

It ends in tears.

May opens up the mirror/cupboard and takes out a switchblade razor, spins around and holds it to her wrist.

(CONTINUED)

She stops, looks up and at the door. After a beat of thought, Marie kicks open the locked door. May slices with the razor.

There is silence as Marie stands there. Blood starts to ooze from her eye. The razor has cut through her eyeball.

She falls to her knees and starts to scream. Her shrieks are disturbing as she writhes around like a fish out of water, blood shooting from the wound and onto her legs, the floor, May, everything.

May begins to panic and throws the bloody razor across the bathroom. She tries to help her screaming sister who will not stop. May shushes and shushes but Marie's cries will not yield.

Eventually she helps Marie up and drags her out of the room and they leave behind the bloody bathroom.