SLIT

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FADE IN:

INT. CANDICE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

CANDICE RODGERS, mid 20's, mildly attractive sits in front of her bedroom mirror brushing her hair in sink with the count of her husband Odell who sits behind her examining her actions. Odell is in his mid 30's, well-kept, with a red-neck quality.

    ODELL
    88.

She brushes.

    ODELL
    89.

She brushes.

    ODELL
    90.

She brushes. Candice stares blankly at her own reflection. Tears form in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM -- EARLIER (FLASHBACK)

Odell angrily stands over an emotionally distraught Candice.

    ODELL
    What is wrong with you?!
    Are you trying to kill me?!
    Why didn't you finish cooking the roast?!

    CANDICE
    Odie, it was finished. It was well done.
He kicks her.

ODELL
The hell it was, Candy. Did you see that shit?! I cut it, that meat was damn near raw!

Candice weeps.

ODELL
Look at you. You're disgusting. Sweating and shit, sitting on that dirty floor.

Odell turns on the shower, the steaming hot water flows into the tub.

ODELL
Get your ass up!

He forcefully picks her up.

CANDICE
Odie, it's too hot, it's too hot!! Please, Odie.

ODELL
Shut up and get your ass in there. Its not too hot!

He pushes her in.

ODELL
Pick up the soap with your left hand and your loofah with your right hand.

She horrifyingly complies.

ODELL
Pour the soap onto the luffa a quarter inch in
diameter, like I showed you, and put the soap back down with your left hand. Rub the loufah on your body counter-clockwise.

She does what Odell demands.

ODELL
Counter-clockwise, counter-clockwise, counter-clockwise. Rub the luffa on your body counter-clockwise.

He exits as Candice scrubs.

ODELL
Counter-clockwise, counter-clockwise, counter,...counter-clockwise. Rub the loufah on your body...

End F/B

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM -- LATER

Candice lies in bed next to a slumbering Odell. She stares out of the nearby window. Her eyes tell of a hopeful future.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN CARTER MUSEUM (FLASHBACK) -- DAY

14th Century body armor is on display in the elegant museum. Patrons wonder throughout the building observing the pieces in admiration. Candice leads Odell through the exhibit, he is not as intrigued as she is.
ODELL
This is boring as hell,
Candy. Why are we wasting
our time bring here?

CANDICE
Odie, this is Michelle's
first big exhibit. So we're
here to show support to my
big sister. Just grit your
teeth and hold on, we'll be
leaving soon. It's not like
we ever go out anyway.

ODELL
Whatever, I'm going to go
find a bathroom and a
concession stand or
something.

Odell walks away from a slightly disappointed
Candice. She moves on to admire a sparkling
shining breastplate and helmet. Her reflection
bounces off of the magnificent metal. Another
person’s reflection approaches behind hers.
Ezekiel Rawlins, black, late 20's, handsome and
very well-kept, stands a respectable distance
behind Candice.

EZEKIEL
It's amazing how they were
able to restore this piece
to its original luster.

CANDICE
(startled)
Oh, yeah. It's amazing.

EZEKIEL
I didn't mean to scare you.

CANDICE
Oh, you didn't scare me.
EZEKIEL
I just had to come take a closer look at this piece and attempt to hold a conversation with the beautiful woman who has the sad expression on her face.

Candice is shocked by Ezekiel's directness but doesn't yet face him.

EZEKIEL
My name is Ezekiel Rawlins. I saw that you were accompanied here by a gentleman. I'm not trying to take up too much of your time. I just wanted to let you know that not all of life has to be as hard as your expression is saying it is.

She looks over her shoulder at a seductive Ezekiel, who slides past her and props his business card up against the armor. He moves away from her to admire art. Candice looks at the card for a moment, then removes it. Odell draws near.

ODELL
The bathroom was real nice but they ain't got no concession stand or people walking around with trays of food or nothing. I am hungry as hell, we're leaving.

CANDICE
Odie, the real presentation hasn't even started yet. We can't leave now.

ODELL
Now, Candy! Go tell your sister that you ain't feeling good or something. I'll be waiting in the car.

Odell storms off and Candice follows but not before she steals a glance from Ezekiel.

d end F/B

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT
Candice closes her eyes, fading off to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MONTAGE (FLASHBACK)-- DAY
Candice picks up the phone and withdraws Ezekiel's card from her pocket. She dials the numbers.

CANDICE
Hello, Ezekiel Rawlins?

EZEKIEL
Call me, Easy.

EXT. PARK -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- DAY
Ezekiel and Candice walk together in the park, laughing at one another.

CANDICE
You don't know me, but we met at the museum. Well you left your card.

EZEKIEL
Of course I remember you. I was beginning to think that you wouldn't call. I've been waiting anxiously by
the phone.

INT. CLASSY RESTAURANT -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- DAY

They eat together in a nice restaurant, testing each other's food.

    CANDICE
    I can't believe I'm doing this. I'm sorry for bothering you, this was a mistake.

    EZEKIEL
    Sweetie, there are no such thing as mistakes, just life lessons. It would be ashamed for you to hang up now and not find out what life is trying to show you.

EXT. PARK -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- NIGHT

In the pitch black night Candice and Ezekiel make love under a tree while it is raining.

    CANDICE
    You seem to know a lot about life.

    EZEKIEL
    Let me teach you what I know. When can we meet?

End F/B montage

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Candice prepares a large breakfast. She stares blankly into the pan as she scrambles the eggs.

CUT TO:
Candice and Ezekiel lay in bed naked, cuddling in his lavish bachelor pad.

CANDICE
Easy, this has been amazing.

EZEKIEL
Well, you know, I do what I can.

She lightly taps him.

CANDICE
You know that's not what I'm talking about. I mean, that was great too but I'm talking about this, us. It's just been amazing. I haven't been this happy in a long time.

EZEKIEL
Yeah, I've really enjoyed myself too.

CANDICE
Why couldn't I have met you before I got married?

EZEKIEL
Well, everything happens for a reason, baby. Just be happy that we're with each other now.

CANDICE
I don't want this to end.

EZEKIEL
Yeah, this is pretty nice.
CANDICE
No I mean it, Easy. I want to be with you forever.

EZEKIEL
Baby, calm down. Don't over fantasize about something that can't happen.

Candice disengages from the cuddling due to Ezekiel's sudden burst of realism.

CANDICE
Easy, I know I'm married, but... what if I wasn't?

EZEKIEL
Candice, you are married and you're not going through some messy divorce because of me. That's why there's no use over fantasizing about it.

They both sit a moment in frustration. He pulls her back to their engagement, embracing her from behind.

EZEKIEL
It would be nice though, baby. It would be nice.

end F/B

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM -- LATER

Candice and Odell finish their breakfast in silence.

Beat.

CANDICE
Odie, I have something to tell you. I want a divorce.

Odell sits back in his chair, pushes his plate back and looks at Candice, emotionless. He turns around in his chair and reaches into a drawer behind him. He pulls a gun out of it and sets it on the table. He again looks at Candice, who is so frightened that she can't move.

ODELL
Candy, I'm not a stupid man. I know that I'm a dick to you sometimes. There are very few people that would actually put up with my shit. Fact of the matter is, you're one of them. So, we're not getting a divorce and you're not leaving me. If you even think about it, I will kill you. And with the swamps we have out here, I'd get away with it too. I'd just chop you up and hide a different part of you in each bayou. They'd never find you and I'd just head my ass to Mexico.

CANDICE
Odie,...

He stands in great anger and advances toward Candice, standing over her.

ODELL
Don't Odie me, bitch! If you leave me, I'll kill you. 'Till death do us part, you hear me?! 'Till death do us part!!
CANDICE

Odie?

ODELL

What?!

CANDICE

I knew you'd say that.

Candice backs away and on queue Odell's stance becomes wobbly. His vision blurs and he falls to the ground knocking everything off the table in the process. He convulses.

ODELL

What did you do?

With only a few tears shed, Candice answers.

CANDICE

'Till death do us part.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKWOODS LOUISIANAN BAYOU ROAD -- NIGHT

The front right tire blows as Candice's car speeds along the highway. The car skids, then comes to a screeching halt.

INT. CANDICE'S CAR

Candice pounds the steering wheel ballistically, with tears streaming down her face.

CANDICE

Fuck, fuck, fuck! Two fucking miles away and this has to happen?! Shit! Okay, okay. Think, think, think.

EXT. BACKWOODS LOUISIANAN BAYOU ROAD

Candice exits the car, slamming the door.
CANDICE

Fuck!!

Panicking she moves to the right side of the car and kicks the tire. She paces back and forward. Continuing on to the rear of the car, with shaking hands, she opens the trunk and stares at the contents for a moment.

CANDICE

What the fuck am I doing?
What the fuck am I doing?

She pulls out two severed arms, then drops them and throws up. Regaining her composer, she picks the limbs up again. She walks off the highway to a nearby swamp and throws one of the limbs in. Taking a deep breath, she throws the second limb in and slips in the mud.

CANDICE

Shit!! Great, fucking great!

She picks herself up and looks at the car, desperately.

CANDICE

Two fucking miles.

Candice turns and walks in the same direction she was driving.

CUT TO:

EXT. EZEKIEL'S HOME -- LATER

A dirty and tired Candice goes up to the front door.

CANDICE

Your car's not here. Why aren't you home? I need you.
Candice moves to a nearby plant. She looks under it and picks up a key.

CANDICE
For the nights when you're too drunk to remember what pocket you put your keys in, and too lazy to care, right Easy?

Candice laughs to herself and unlocks the front door, entering the home.

INT. EZEKIEL'S HOME

Candice walks through the home as if it were her first time there. She admires paintings, parts of architecture, and runs her fingers along furniture.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BATHROOM

Candice strips away her clothes as if they were sins and she turns on the shower. Setting it to her desired temperature, she allows the gentle streams to dance on her hand. She enters and washes off the dirt revealing a glistening beauty.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Candice walks throughout the bedroom in a silk bath robe. She gets comfortable in bed enjoying the texture of the sheets. The front door SLAMS. Candice sits up in excitement.

EZEKIEL
Baby, will you stop?! We'll be up stairs in a minute.

WOMAN
(giggles)

Candice's expression is as if she is dying. The Woman, early 20's, Hispanic, gorgeous, SCREAMS.
Panicking, Candice scrambles to a nearby closet and hides from the playful couple as they enter intoxicated and lustful. They immediately fall upon the bed.

INT. CLOSET

Candice weeps uncontrollably yet silently as she peers at the spectacle before her through a slight crack in the door. Anger, pain, despair, and disappointment all read on her face at once.

EZEKIEL
(groans)
You're incredible, baby.

WOMAN
(moans)
Easy, just don't stop. Keep going just like that, baby.

The Woman SCREAMS again.

CUT TO:

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Ezekiel and the Woman cuddle as they drift off to sleep.

WOMAN
Hold on baby, I'll be back.
I need to get a drink, my throat is dry. Do you want anything?

EZEKIEL
(groggy)
NO baby, just hurry back.

She gets out of bed bringing the sheet with her. It clings to her perspiring body. She exits.

INT. CLOSET
Candice's face exudes a cold disposition. She is emotionless. She silently exits the closet.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM

Candice walks past a slumbering Ezekiel as a ghost gliding through the room.

INT. EZEKIEL'S KITCHEN

The Woman bends over looking into the refrigerator, unaware of Candice approaching. Candice presses her pelvis against the Woman's well developed ass. The Woman welcomes the uninvited gesture by backing up into Candice's pelvis.

  WOMAN
  Easy, didn't you get enough earlier? I don't think that I can handle another round.

Pushing her further in with her pelvis, Candice grabs the refrigerator door and SLAMS it on the Woman's head. Before the Woman can recover, Candice takes a butcher's knife from a drawer, pulls the Woman's head back and SLITS her throat. The Woman is unable to scream.

INT. BEDROOM

Candice enters slowly, silently. Bloody footprint soak the carpet behind each step she takes. Candice eases into bed next to a slumbering Ezekiel.

  EZEKIEL
  (groggy)
  What was that sound, baby?
  Did you drop something?
  Ooh, your feet are cold.

  CANDICE
  (whisper)
Easy?

Ezekiel opens his eyes and turns to look at Candice.

**EZEKIEL**

Candice?!! What... what are you doing here?!

Ezekiel hastily attempts to get out of the bed. He notices the blood at the bottom of the covers and the carpet. He falls from the bed as Candice sits up.

**EZEKIEL**

What,... what did you? Where's...

**CANDICE**

Don't you dare say her name again. You've been saying it all night. She's not here to get in our way, honey, no one is. Now come back to bed. We can be together now.

**EZEKIEL**

Candice, what did you do?

**CANDICE**

Easy, you said yourself that it would be nice if we could be together.

**EZEKIEL**

Candice that was a fucking year ago? I haven't seen you in 10 months.

**CANDICE**

No baby that was only last week, I'm sorry it took me so long but I had to move
Odie out of our way.

EZEKIEL
Move Odei,... you crazy bitch, what did you...

Ezekiel rises to his feet and leaves the bedroom.

CANDICE
Easy? Easy?!! Don't speak to me like that. Do you know what I've gone through for us?! Easy?!

INT. EZEKIEL'S KITCHEN

Ezekiel rushes to the lifeless Woman's side.

EZEKIEL
Shit!! Baby, what did that crazy bitch do to you?!

Ezekiel feebly attempts to stop the blood flowing from the Woman's neck. He cries due to horrific site before him.

Candice stabs the knife into his back twice. Ezekiel turns swinging his fist, punching Candice to the floor. He reaches for a nearby cordless phone. Candice cuts his Achilles tendon. Ezekiel crashes to the floor. Attempting to get away, Ezekiel crawls from the kitchen.

EXT. OUTSIDE DECK

Ezekiel crawls onto the deck.

EZEKIEL
Help!! Help!! Somebody call the police! She killed her, somebody help!!

Candice stalks him, crying.
CANDICE
Where you going, baby? Did you want to go skinny dipping in the hot tub again?

Candice drops her robe.

EZEKIEL
Fuck you!

CANDICE
You did!

Candice gives one last fatal stab to Ezekiel's back leaving the knife there.

CANDICE
No baby don't stop now, we're almost there.

Candice gives one last fatal stab to Ezekiel's back leaving the knife there.

CANDICE
It'll warm up in a minute. Now, honey you can't skinny dip with these on.

Candice grabs Ezekiel's wrists, dragging his body the few remaining feet to the hot tub. She turns it on and pulls him in.

CANDICE
When I said that I didn't want this to end, I meant it. You're too amazing to let go, Easy.

Candice lays against the side of the hot tub and pulls Ezekiel close to her, embracing him from behind. She gazes skyward.

CANDICE
Look at those stars, baby. We should get married under stars like these. What do you think? Yeah, there's no time like the present.

She kisses his neck and removes the knife from his back. She lightly bites his neck and nibbles on his ear.

CANDICE
Flesh of my flesh,...

She traces the knife across his chest.

CANDICE
And blood of my blood.

Candice lifts both of her hand out of the water and SLITS each wrist.

CANDICE
Even in death we won't part.

Candice lies back deeply embracing her love as their blood mixes together in the bobbling hot tub.

CUT TO:

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Candice awakens in a cold sweat breathing hard. Ezekiel rises behind her.

EZEKIEL
Bad dream baby?

CANDICE
Yeah, but I'm okay.

EZEKIEL
Okay, go back to sleep.
CANDICE
Easy?

EZEKIEL
Yeah, baby.

CANDICE
Thank you. A lot of men wouldn't have understood.

EZEKIEL
You're my baby, when I said that it would be nice, I meant it. Go back to sleep. We'll clean up in the morning.

Candice lays her head back down. She adjusts her leg positioning and fidgets her feet at the bottom of a bloody bead. The long crimson stained comforter leads down to the floor revealing a trail of bloody footprints.

Fade out.