' The Brother '
by
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(A Short Film Script)
FADE IN:

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

DANIEL(20s) sits at a kitchen table, looking vague and disorientated. DAISY(20s) his girlfriend stands over him, wearing a dressing gown. He wears jeans and a white shirt.

    DAISY
    Daniel, you're not answering me?

Daniel just stares ahead.

    DAISY
    Daniel. Why?

EXT. A STREET - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

    DAISY (V.O.)
    Daniel! Wait!

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY

DAISY stands over DANIEL.

    DAISY
    Daniel, answer me. Why?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DAISY is in bed with STEVE(20s) kissing passionately. DANIEL opens the door. They both look shocked to see him. Daniel walks to the side of the bed looking at Daisy threateningly, his eyes firmly on her. Steve gets out of the other side, picks up his clothes and makes for the door. Daniel momentarily goes for him, but Steve's gone.

EXT. A STREET(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

    DAISY (V.O.)
    Daniel! Wait!

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL walks slowly towards DAISY. She looks petrified.
DAISY
Daniel! No!

Daniel goes for her, but she slides to the other side of the bed and gets out, naked. She makes for the door, but Daniel gets there before her. He turns her around.

DAISY
No Daniel! No!

INT. A PUB - DAY

DANIEL sits at the bar, drinking a beer. Two empty glasses on the bar, his reflection in a mirror ahead.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL puts his hands around DAISY'S neck, pushes her against the wall.

INT. A PUB(CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL knocks a glass off the bar, shattering it. A BARMAN looks threateningly at him. Daniel gets up and runs out of the pub quickly.

BARMAN
Hey! Wait!

EXT. A STREET(PART REPEAT SCENE) - DAY

DANIEL running fast down a road.

DAISY (V.O.)
Daniel! Wait!

Daniel runs past a car. A MAN looks out of the car.

MAN IN CAR
Daniel! Wait!

EXT. A ROAD CLOSE TO A HOTEL - DAY

DANIEL running, pulls to a stop, exhausted, can't run any more. He doubles up, holding his stomach, hardly able to breathe. He looks up and sees where he is. The HOTEL SIGN.
INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

DANIEL takes a piping hot shower, rubs hard with soap.

INT. HOTEL BAR - DAY

DANIEL sits drinking a beer at a table, intense, deep in thought. A number of GUESTS sit at tables close by.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DAISY lies by the side of the bed, on the floor, motionless.

INT. HOTEL BAR (CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL sitting at a table, opens his hands outstretched and looks at them.

An ELDERLY MAN and ELDERLY WOMAN sit at the next table to Daniel. The Elderly Man raises his glass to the woman, to toast her. The Elderly Woman responds. They clink glasses, and move close to each other.

Daniel finishes his beer and stands up quickly.

He passes the elderly couple's table. The Elderly Man glances at him. Their EYES MEET.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Daniel asleep in bed.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANIEL squeezes DAISY'S neck. He releases his hands. He watches her slide down the wall. SOUND of a woman screaming.

INT. HOTEL ROOM (CONT'D) - NIGHT

DANIEL, in bed, wakes up suddenly. He looks all around.

DANIEL
(anguish)
No! No!

Daniel slumps to his side in a heap.
INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN (CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL sits at the table. DAISY sits down opposite him and takes hold of one of his hands. Daniel stares at her.

    DAISY
    Daniel please answer me. Why?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Early morning light shines through the window. Birds are heard singing. DANIEL, dressed, looks at himself in a wall mirror. Daniel opens the door.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

A POLICE OFFICER faces him.

    POLICEMAN
    Is your name Daniel Hardman?

    DANIEL
    Yes.

    POLICEMAN
    I'd like to ask you a few questions, sir, if you don't mind?

    DANIEL
    Questions? What about?

INT. HOTEL ROOM (REPEAT SCENE) - NIGHT

DANIEL, in bed, wakes up suddenly. He looks all around.

    DANIEL
    (anguish)
    No! No!

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR (CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

    POLICEMAN
    You stayed in that room last night?

    DANIEL
    Yes.

    POLICEMAN
    Number 57?
Daniel turns to look at the number on the door.

DANIEL

Yes.

POLICEMAN
Did you hear anything in the night?

DANIEL
Hear anything?

POLICEMAN
Any noises?

DANIEL
Noises?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY
DANIEL stands over DAISY who lies motionless on the floor. He looks at his outstretched hands.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY
The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

POLICEMAN
Yes, sir. Coming from the room next door?

DANIEL
No. Why?

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK
The ELDERLY MAN and ELDERLY WOMAN sit at a table. The Elderly Man raises his glass to the woman, leans forward and clinks glasses.

POLICEMAN(V.O)
A woman was murdered in the room next to you.

The Elderly Man looks DANIEL in the eyes as he passes by.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR(CONT'D) - DAY
The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL.

DANIEL
Murdered?
POLICEMAN
Yes, sir. A woman was strangled.

DANIEL
Strangled?

POLICEMAN
Yes, sir. Strangled. Her husband strangled her.
(beat)
Are you sure you didn't hear anything? Any screams?

INT. A BEDROOM (REPEAT SCENE) - DAY
DANIEL squeezes DAISY’S neck. He releases his hands. He watches her slide down the wall. SOUND of a woman screaming.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR (CONT'D) - DAY
The POLICEMAN faces DANIEL. Daniel just stares.

POLICEMAN
Sir, are you all right? You look a bit white.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - DAY
DANIEL sits at a table staring ahead, an untouched full English breakfast in front of him.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - DAY
DANIEL is about to go to his room. He sees that the room next door is open. He slowly walks towards it. Police tape cordons off the room. Daniel looks towards the unmade bed. The POLICEMAN stands by the bed.

POLICEMAN
Something jogged your memory, sir?

DANIEL
What? No...No.
(hardly audible)
What happened?

POLICEMAN
I beg your pardon, sir?

DANIEL
What happened? Why?
POLICEMAN
Why what, sir?

DANIEL
Why did he strangle his wife?

EXT. A STREET - DAY
DANIEL walks very slowly.
Daniel stands outside of a terraced house. The front door is wide open. Daniel walks slowly to the door. A MAN carries a music system down the stairs, and walks past Daniel.

INT. A HOUSE - HALL - DAY
DANIEL stands in the hall, the front door open.
Daniel slowly unlocks the door to a ground floor flat. He pushes it open and does not move. Scared to go any further. The MAN comes in from outside and walks up the stairs, empty-handed. After several seconds, Daniel pushes the door wide open.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY
DANIEL steps inside, closes the door without looking round. He scans the room. A lounge, dining room, TV, sofa, and a kitchen area, with a round table and chairs.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY
DANIEL pushes the door open and enters. The bed is unmade. No one is in the room. He looks surprised.

DAISY (V.O.)
Daniel, where have you been?

DAISY enters wears a dressing gown.

DAISY
Daniel, I was worried stiff. You've been gone all night. Where did you go?

Daniel stares at her. She puts her arms around him.

DAISY
I thought something had happened to you.
INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR (CONT'D) - DAY

The POLICEMAN is in room 58. DANIEL stands at the open door.

POLICEMAN
The man found his wife in bed with his brother a month ago, caught them in the act. Turns out his brother and his wife had been having an affair all their married life. For thirty years.

DANIEL
His brother?

POLICEMAN
Yes, sir. They came to this hotel, for the week-end, to try to patch things up, make a fresh start. Some fresh start, ah, sir?

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The ELDERLY MAN closes the door of his room, wearing pyjamas and walks past Daniel's room. He looks in a trance.

POLICEMAN (V.O.)
The man gave himself up. In the middle of the night.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM (CONT'D) - DAY

DANIEL and DAISY face each other.

DANIEL
I thought you were dead.

DAISY
Dead? What're you talking about? Why should I be dead?

Daisy touches his hand, and holds it.

DANIEL
I thought I'd come home, and find you dead.

DAISY
Daniel, you're not making sense. I was so worried. I didn't know what to do. I thought of calling the police, but I thought, no, he'll be back.

Daniel stares ahead. She kisses his forehead.
DAISY
But you never came back.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY
DANIEL sits at the table. DAISY sits down opposite him.

DAISY
Daniel, you still haven't answered me. Why did you run away?

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY
DANIEL and DAISY making love. Daisy is on top. He comes. She smiles and kisses his lips.

DAISY (V.O.)
We were making love. You got off of me, and ran off.

She looks towards the closed door where Steve left from. Daniel follows her look towards the door.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN(CONT'D) - DAY
DAISY takes hold of DANIEL'S hand.

DAISY
Why? Why did you do that? Daniel?

DANIEL
(hardly audible)
You looked away.

DAISY
What? What did you say?

DANIEL
You looked away from me.

DAISY
Daniel, what do you mean, I looked away?

DANIEL
We were making love, and you looked away from me.

DAISY
Daniel, I don't know what you're talking about.

She releases her hand.
DAISY (standing)
You must be hungry. Shall I cook you some breakfast?

EXT. A HOUSE - DAY

A van pulls up outside of the house.

DAISY (V.O.)
Your brother called last night. He's moving in the flat upstairs tomorrow. Remember? He wants you to help.

INT. HOUSE - HALL - DAY

DANIEL opens the door to STEVE, who carries a small armchair. Steve smiles at Daniel. DAISY stands at the flat door, her arms folded, smiling at Steve.

DAISY
Give Steve a hand, Daniel.

LATER

Daniel and Steve carry furniture up the stairs. Daisy stands by the open door.

DAISY
I've made some tea for you both, when you're ready.

Steve smiles at her, as he walks up the stairs.

INT. DANIEL'S FLAT - LOUNGE/KITCHEN - DAY

STEVE, DANIEL and DAISY sit drinking tea. Steve animatedly talks to Daisy. Daniel sits opposite, looking serious and intense. Daniel is staring at a newspaper.

INSERT NEWSPAPER 'Elderly Man strangles his wife in hotel room.'( A holiday photo of the Elderly Man and his wife smiling)

Daniel looks at it, intently. The Elderly Man seems to be smiling at him. Daniel looks up and stares at Steve and Daisy, engrossed in conversation.

FADE-OUT: