

Think of me and I'll be there...

An Original Short Script

by

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OVER BLACK

MEGHAN (O.S.)

Roll film.

GRAINY BLACK AND WHITE VIDEO

A TEDDY BEAR sits upright at one end of a metal table. Worn and fluffy. One eye missing.

MEGHAN (O.S.)

Alright, Kate. Call to him now.

The bear does not move.

MEGHAN (O.S.)

Remember how you want Teddy, Kate...more than you've ever wanted anything in the whole wide world.

The bear twitches. First an arm. Now its legs.

MEGHAN (O.S.)

That's it, Kate. And Teddy wants you, too, doesn't he? Call to him, Kate.

The bear stands!

It raises its arms and begins to walk -- a staggering, drunken sleepwalk on padded paws.

There are O.S. MURMERS of shock and disbelief.

MEGHAN (O.S.)

(sharp)

Quiet...please! Or I'll be forced to clear the room.

(softer now)

It's alright, Kate. Don't lose your focus. You're doing great. Teddy wants you sooo much. And he's almost there...

A misstep from Teddy. He falters -- then pitches forward onto his face.

Teddy lies still.

An audible SIGH from Meghan O.S.

MEGHAN (O.S.)
Kill it.

BLACK once more, then --

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM

MEGHAN CHI (30s) steps over to the table and picks up the bear. She shoots an icy glare at the handful of SPECTATORS.

KATE (O.S.)
I'm sorry, Miss Meghan. I
really tried.

Meghan smiles down at KATE, seated at the table. An eight-year-old girl in pigtails, seen only from behind.

Meghan kneels and hugs the girl.

MEGHAN
Sorry? Kate...you were
magnificent!

EXT. EXAMINATION FACILITY - DAY

Kate exits and turns her face to the sun. She wears thick, dark sunglasses.

Kate is blind. So she does not see the huge, white German Shepherd bounding directly towards her.

The dog tackles her -- and they roll together as one across the manicured lawn of the office complex.

KATE
Jacks!

The dog licks Kate's face as they frolic in the grass.

INT. EXAMINATION FACILITY

TREVOR -- 40, in a very expensive suit -- watches pensively through a large office window as Kate tumbles across the lawn with her dog.

Meghan stands beside him.

TREVOR

Is she in any danger? From these...experiments?

MEGHAN

To be honest, we've never seen one this strong. And she's getting stronger. This is uncharted territory for us. For anyone, really.

TREVOR

And you believe this...this enhancement...that it's tied to the accident somehow?

MEGHAN

The power can manifest itself in any number of ways. And yes, grief is one of those triggers.

Meghan turns to face Trevor.

MEGHAN

But I would stop immediately if I thought she was in any danger. You believe that, don't you?

Trevor nods, still watching the girl and her dog.

EXT. EXAMINATION FACILITY - DAY

Trevor, holding the teddy bear, exits the building as a limo rolls up to the curb.

The limo HORN sounds -- it plays "La Cucaracha".

Kate -- the tune is clearly for her benefit -- turns and waves to the driver.

KATE
Hi Charlie!

The car window slides down to reveal CHARLIE -- a muscular black man with a wide grin and a chauffeur's cap.

CHARLIE
(teasing)
I just know that stinky ol' dog
ain't ridin' in my car!

KATE
He's not stinky!

Kate squeals as Trevor sneaks up behind her and scoops her into his arms.

KATE
Daddy!

TREVOR
You almost forgot something.

He places the bear into Kate's hand. She squeezes the bear with one arm and hugs Trevor's neck with the other.

KATE
Thanks, daddy. Can we go
home now?

TREVOR
Had enough excitement for
one day?

Kate gives a tired nod yes.

EXT. MANSION - DAY

The limo pulls into a wide circular drive. The HORN sounds its tune once more to signal their return.

A flock of startled herons HONK in response as they rise up from a large lake behind the mansion.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

It is the bedroom of a young girl. EVIE (30s) lifts a framed photograph of a lovely woman from off the wall.

Evie is also pretty -- but not nearly so pretty as the woman in the photo -- and this is not lost on Evie as she frowns at the portrait.

But Evie smiles a thin smile as she unceremoniously plops the portrait into a box of framed photographs. All the photos are of the same lovely woman.

TREVOR (O.S.)

Evie...you can't even leave
the ones in here?

Evie dons her thin smile once more as she turns to face Trevor, who stands at the doorway.

EVIE

You know they give me the
creeps. And it's just not
healthy to keep these hanging
about the house.

Trevor steps up and gazes into the box of photos. He seems quite sad to see them gathered like this.

TREVOR

But these...they're Kate's.

EVIE

Honestly, Trevor...she can't
see them. She won't even
know they're gone.

She kisses Trevor on the cheek.

EVIE

And besides...
(closes the box)
...perhaps she'll want new
ones soon.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate enters in a robe and slippers, freshly scrubbed and ready for bed.

She hops up onto a chair and reaches for the wall.

KATE

Good night, Mommy.
I miss...

Kate's hand brushes the empty wall -- where the portraits used to hang.

Confused, she moves her hands in wide circles across the surface of the wall, searching.

KATE

They're gone...

She frowns, then turns back to her bed, where she knows Jacks is waiting for her.

KATE

She took them.

Dejected, Kate climbs down from the chair, then pads over to her bed and crawls in beside Jacks.

She removes her dark glasses and places them onto the nightstand.

Her eyes are hidden behind filmy, white cataracts.

Kate snuggles up with Jacks and Teddy -- then reaches out to turn off the bedside lamp -- bathing the room in darkness that is meaningless to her.

EXT. MANSION - THE LAKE - SUNRISE

The surface of the lake is dappled with rippling sunlight.

A streamlined heron bullets into the water -- emerging moments later with breakfast in its beak.

INT. STUDY - DAY

Evie turns from a window overlooking the lake as Charlie enters the study.

Charlie pulls the door closed behind him. Evie is nervous and intense.

EVIE

Do you have it?

Charlie nods.

EVIE

I want to see it for myself.

Charlie smiles as he pulls a photo from his pocket.

CHARLIE

Dead ringer.

Evie snatches the photo and examines it. She catches her breath.

EVIE

Remarkable!

CHARLIE

Could be twins.

Evie twirls and laughs.

EVIE

Wonderful! Perfect!

Evie grabs Charlie's tie and pulls him close.

They share a kiss -- animal and passionate -- as the photo slips from Evie's fingers and floats to the floor.

The photo lands face up. And the man in the photograph bears an uncanny resemblance to Trevor.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kate slurps cereal at one end of the kitchen table -- Jacks rests by her feet -- as Evie hides behind her newspaper at the opposite end.

Trevor enters with a suitcase. Kate turns at the sound as Trevor drops the bag onto the floor. She pouts.

KATE
I wish you didn't have
to go to...
(struggles with it)
...to Bel-gum.

Trevor steps over to Kate and kneels beside her chair.

TREVOR
Belgium...and it's just for week.
And if you're really good, I'll
bring you back some of the very
best chocolate in the world. I
mean it...the best. Can you be
that good?

That promise helps a little. Kate nods, less sullen.

TREVOR
Hey...do you know how much I
love you?

Kate smiles now -- she knows this game -- and she raises her hand with her thumb and forefinger mere inches apart.

KATE
This much?

TREVOR
No. That's too much.

Now Kate pinches her thumb and finger together tightly.

KATE
This much?

TREVOR
No...that's still too much.

KATE

Daddy...

Kate and Trevor share a laugh as he suddenly attacks her with a giant, growling bear hug.

Charlie enters and lifts Trevor's suitcase.

CHARLIE

Time to go, cap.

TREVOR

(to Kate)

How much do I love you?

KATE

More than the whole world.

TREVOR

That's right. And don't you forget it.

Trevor releases Kate and stands. Now he turns to Evie as she lowers the newspaper.

TREVOR

(to Evie)

Gotta go.

EVIE

Have a safe flight, dear.

TREVOR

Thanks, hon. I'll call you once I'm on the ground, OK?

EVIE

Don't forget.

TREVOR

Don't worry. I'll be fine.
Always am.

Charlie watches in stony silence and Trevor steps over to Evie and kisses her goodbye.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Trevor climbs into the back seat. Distracted, he checks his boarding passes and passport.

But then he senses a presence. He looks up -- then blinks, as if his eyes might be deceiving him.

Across from him sits DIRK -- the man from the photograph.

He wears an identical suit. His hair style is a perfect match. The resemblance is almost eerie.

TREVOR

Who are you?

DIRK

Well, today...

Dirk snatches the passport from Trevor's hands. He pops it open to examine the photo. A darn good match. He smiles.

DIRK

...today...I'm you.

Dirk snatches a taser from his pocket and drives it into Trevor's neck with a sickening, electric FIZZLE.

Trevor wilts into the leather seat.

Dirk slaps a strip of duct tape across Trevor's mouth, then another strip across his nose.

Trevor struggles. Dirk reapplies the taser -- ZZZZT -- then adds a punch to the face for good measure.

Now Dirk straddles Trevor, locking Trevor's arms with his knees. Trevor can only squirm -- and his eyes grow wide as Dirk begins looping the thick tape around his head.

Trevor's muffled screams fill the car.

CHARLIE

He grimaces at the rearview mirror -- as Trevor's face gradually disappears beneath loop after loop of the tape.

Charlie averts his eyes from the mirror.

He punches a switch, and the window that separates him from the passenger compartment slides closed.

But Charlie finds that the thin window does little to stifle the grisly, electric CRACKLE of the taser -- the muffled screams -- and the long, drawn-out SCRIIITCH of unspooling duct tape.

Charlie shudders as he keys the engine.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Evie pours a cup of coffee from a glass coffee pot.

KATE (O.S.)
I want them back.

Evie turns to find Kate behind her.

EVIE
Whatever do you mean, dear?

KATE
My pictures of mom. I know you took them.

EVIE
I packed them up for you. Safe and sound. I'm your mommy now, remember? We talked about that.

KATE
You're not! My real mommy would never take something that was mine!

Evie darkens. With Trevor gone, she drops the facade.

EVIE
Your real mommy...why, I could hang those frames back up with pictures of piglets in them and you'd never know the difference.

Evie chuckles at the thought while Kate fumes.

EVIE
Perhaps I'll do that anyway.
Would you like that, dear?
A compromise?

KATE
I WANT THEM BACK!

The coffee pot EXPLODES in Evie's hand!

Evie recoils in shock, then glares at Kate.

EVIE
You did that, didn't you?
You little monster! You
little freak!

Then Evie pauses. A slow realization. She lifts her hand to her cheek -- and when she pulls it away, she is shocked to find it covered with blood.

Evie turns to reveal a glittering shard of glass, like an icicle, embedded in her cheek.

Evie moans in pain as she slowly extracts the three-inch shard of glass that has pierced her cheek. Blood flows freely from the wound.

Evie stares for a moment -- horrified -- at the bloody shard in her hand. Then she scowls at Kate.

Trembling with rage she steps towards the girl, wielding the glass like a dagger.

With a GROWL, Jacks springs from his spot beneath the table, teeth bared.

The animal moves between Kate and Evie.

KATE
You're the monster!
I hate you!

Kate runs from the room in tears. And with a parting growl towards Evie, Jacks follows Kate out of the room.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

The limo rolls up to the unloading zone.

INT. LIMO

Dirk, alone in the back seat, gathers Trevor's bags.

Charlie turns around in his seat. All business.

CHARLIE

What are you drinking?

Dirk smirks.

DIRK

Shirley Temple.

With a snarl, Charlie reaches back and snags Dirk's collar in his thick fist.

CHARLIE

Don't...don't you treat this like some fucking joke. What are you drinking?

DIRK

Rum and coke.

Charlie releases Dirk.

CHARLIE

Damn straight. But you don't get drunk, you hear?

(nods to the suitcases)

You check those bags. And you pick them up when you get there. That's important. Don't forget.

Charlie hands him a cell phone.

CHARLIE

When you arrive, you call home. It will be late. You will get a machine, and you will not leave a message. Just hang up.

Dirk pockets the phone. Then Charlie hands Dirk a thick envelope. Dirk peeks inside. It is stuffed with cash.

CHARLIE

Then you throw that phone away.
You disappear. And we never want
to see your sorry ass again.

Dirk smiles as he pockets the envelope.

EXT. MANSION - YARD - DAY

Kate spins on a tire swing that hangs from a giant oak.

She twists until the rope is taut, then she lifts her feet to twirl round and round.

INT. STUDY

Evie peers from between the curtains, watching Kate. Evie now has a large bandage on her cheek.

Kate drops her foot and stops spinning. She turns towards the window, as if sensing Evie.

Evie snaps the drapes closed.

EXT. YARD

Kate lifts her foot once more and continues to spin in the old tire. Round and round and round.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANOTHER SPINNING TIRE

As it rolls slowly down a muddy path, sinking deep into the soft muck.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

The limo seems incongruous as it forges through the cattails and marsh, down a boggy path towards the lake.

It finally rolls to a stop before a dilapidated boathouse.

EXT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Charlie walks towards a canoe, upside down next to the boathouse. He kicks the boat over and it lands upright.

Charlie watches as a family of toads -- suddenly exposed to the sunlight -- leap away into the shadows beneath the boathouse.

Charlie tosses an oar into the canoe, then lifts the bow of the boat and drags it towards the shore.

AT THE LIMO

Charlie pops the trunk. A large bundle, wrapped in a tarp, awaits him inside.

LAKESIDE

Charlie drops the bundle beside the canoe.

The bundle GROANS. Charlie whirls.

CHARLIE

Oh, shit...

Trevor claws weakly at the tarp and tape covering his face.

His mouth is partially free -- as is a single, wide eye that peers out at Charlie.

TREVOR

(weak)

...charlie...what are you doing...

Charlie lifts the oar from out of the canoe, then steps over to Trevor.

TREVOR

...help me, charlie...

Charlie raises the oar above his head.

Trevor's unwavering eye never leaves Charlie.

Charlie draws the oar down -- but balks. He cannot do it.

TREVOR

...please, charlie...I can
pay you...

CHARLIE

I'm afraid we've gone too far
for that, Mr. Trevor.

Charlie clenches his teeth -- finds his resolve -- tightens his grip on the oar -- and finally brings it down with a dull, meaty THUMP.

Charlie shudders at what he's done.

But he shrugs it off -- and he finds that after the first strike, the rest come much easier.

Charlie raises the oar and brings it down again. And again.

BENEATH THE BOATHOUSE

From the shadows, the toads now serve as indifferent spectators to the brutal beating.

Droplets of blood spatter onto the ground before them. Then a tooth.

Their throats swell as they CROAK in response to the O.S. THUMPS of the oar.

EXT. LAKE - SUNSET

It is beautiful as Charlie oars to the center of the lake.

IN THE BOAT

The large bundle at Charlie's feet is now wrapped in chains, tied to a cinder block.

Charlie sets down the oar, then stiffens at the sound of another GROAN. He whirls on the bundle.

One blackened, bloody eye stares out at him from the tarp.

CHARLIE

Oh, sweet Jesus, no...

Trevor's voice, though muffled by the tarp, is sharp with fear. A dead man begging for his life.

TREVOR
...charlie...don't...

CHARLIE
I'm sorry. I swear it wasn't
supposed to be like this.

Charlie hefts Trevor up to the edge of the boat --

TREVOR
NO!

-- then drops him over the side with a splash.

Trevor bobs on the surface for a moment. His lone eye still locked on Charlie.

Tears well in Charlie's eyes as he lifts the cinder block.

TREVOR
...but kate...please...

CHARLIE
Shut-up, damn you!

Charlie tosses the cinder block over the side. Trevor is slowly dragged beneath the surface.

TREVOR
...kate...

Charlie sobs as he watches the bubbles -- until they finally subside -- and the water's surface is smooth once more.

CHARLIE
Please, just...shut-up...

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

Evie smiles as she peers through a telescope -- watching as Charlie turns the boat around and slowly paddles back towards the shore.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Evie pours herself a glass of wine. Swirls it. Lifts the glass to her nose.

EVIE

Mmm...

She takes a sip -- then winces as a small, wine-colored stain blossoms on the bandage that covers her cheek.

Evie moves her hand to the wound, then turns as Charlie enters through the back door, worn and haggard.

CHARLIE

What happened to your face?

Evie ignores the question. She pours a second glass and holds it out to Charlie.

EVIE

Try this. It's a Chateau Margaux. The fool's been saving it for years. But now it's ours, Charlie. It's all ours.

CHARLIE

Not interested.

She wags the glass beneath his nose.

EVIE

It's a 1995.

Charlie slaps the glass from her hand.

CHARLIE

I don't want it!

Evie looks down at the shattered glass, then back up at Charlie.

EVIE

So it's done, then?

Charlie nods, weary.

EVIE

Did he make the plane?

CHARLIE

He wasn't dead, Evie...

EVIE

But did he make the plane?

Charlie slams his fist on the table.

CHARLIE

Yes! He made the damn plane!

EVIE

So why all the drama?

CHARLIE

He wasn't dead, Evie! Are you even listening?

(soft)

When I tossed him from that boat...he was looking right at me, Evie...right at me! He was still alive...

(softer still)

...what have I done?

Evie eyes his weakness with contempt.

EVIE

Oh, please...get a hold of yourself.

(mocking)

What have I done?

(now smiling sweet)

You've made us rich, Charlie! Beyond your wildest dreams! And while they scour the streets of Brussels looking for my poor, missing husband, Trevor can relax at his precious lake forever...

(pokes her finger in his chest)

...unless you screw it up.

KATE (O.S.)

Why is daddy at the lake?

They whirl to find Kate behind them, in her nightclothes, holding Teddy.

EVIE

Kate, dear...why aren't you
in bed?

As she speaks, Evie slides open a drawer and pulls out a pistol. Charlie cannot believe his eyes.

CHARLIE

What the hell is that for?

KATE

Where's daddy? Why aren't we
going to get him?

EVIE

(to Charlie)
Loose ends.

Charlie grabs Kate and roughly pulls her to him.

CHARLIE

(to Evie)
Have you lost your mind, woman?

Kate squirms in his grip.

KATE

No! Let me go! I've got to
go find daddy!

Jacks appears in the doorway, summoned by Kate's cries.

The dog snarls at the sight of Charlie struggling with Kate.

Charlie releases Kate -- but Jacks charges anyway.

Evie smashes the dog with a chair, and Jacks skids across the floor back out the door.

Jacks regains his footing -- charges back towards the doorway -- but Evie slams the door shut.

The door rattles on its hinges as Jacks attacks it from the opposite side. Evie turns back to Charlie.

EVIE

The gun is for the mutt, you idiot! I can handle the girl myself...but now she's gone.

Charlie turns. The back door is wide open. And Kate is indeed gone.

Evie shoves the pistol into Charlie's hand.

EVIE

Go get her. She is heading for the lake.

Charlie is repulsed by the weapon.

CHARLIE

Damn it, Evie! I never agreed to any of this.

EVIE

Just...get...her!

Charlie glowers at Evie. He glances down at Kate's dropped teddy bear -- then back up to Evie -- then he slams the gun onto the table and races out the door after Kate.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jacks watches through the window as Kate runs towards the woods -- towards the lake. Charlie is gaining on her fast.

KATE

(muffled by
the glass)

Daddy! Where are you?

Kate's screams enrage the dog further.

Jacks snarls and claws at the window. Trails of saliva smear the glass.

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT

Charlie snags Kate's nightgown in his thick fist and pulls her to him.

She screams. Charlie clamps a hand over her mouth.

CHARLIE

Settle down, little girl.
Just settle down.

Kate bites his hand. Charlie releases the girl with a cry of pain.

KATE

Daddy! Help! Daddy!

Charlie lifts a hand to strike the girl --

-- as Jacks BURSTS through the window!

Jacks lands in stride and streaks across the yard -- his milky, white fur sparkles in the moonlight with glass and blood -- a snarling, glistening specter of vengeance.

Charlie now watches helpless in two directions -- as Kate disappears into the woods -- and as Jacks draws near.

CHARLIE

(desperate)

Good dog! Good Jacks! Sit!

In a flash, Jacks is at Charlie's throat.

They collapse to the ground. Jacks snaps his head back and forth before ripping away half of Charlie's throat.

The flesh dangles from the dog's jaws like fajita meat.

BANG! A gunshot flips the dog off Charlie.

Edie steps up with the gun and fires a second round into the dog. And a third. Jacks lies still.

Now Evie steps over and looks down at Charlie. Blood pumps from his torn neck at an alarming rate.

He reaches up towards her, but all he can muster is a wet, gurgling sound.

EVIE

What's that, Charlie? I can't quite make it out.

She puts a hand to her ear.

EVIE

You're sorry for being such a fuck up? Is that it?

Charlie makes another gurgle, this one weaker. Evie shakes her head.

EVIE

Sorry, Charlie. I just don't have time for this. We can talk once I've cleaned up your mess.

Evie turns and strides off into the woods after Kate.

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

Kate bursts from the trees and falls blindly into the water.

KATE

Daddy! Where are you?

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Evie makes her way through the trees as she follows the sound of Kate's voice. She forms a plan on the fly.

EVIE

(to herself)

The dog went crazy...he killed Charlie...yes...then he turned on Kate. I was trying to save her...but I shot her...I shot her while trying to save her.

Evie pauses as she chokes back sobs -- trying her little act on for size.

EVIE

(to herself)

A horrible, horrible accident.
I'll never be able to forgive
myself.

She shuts off the tears instantly. Smirks. Satisfied with her story, she continues towards the lake.

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

Evie emerges from the woods behind Kate.

Kate stands waist-deep in the water. But she is still now. No longer shouting.

Evie raises the gun.

EVIE

Are you ready to see daddy, Kate?

Kate whirls to face her.

KATE

He's already here, you bitch!

Evie pauses at that -- as the night-blackened surface of the lake begins to bubble and froth.

Then, Evie can only watch in shocked disbelief as TREVOR RISES FROM THE WATER.

Wet reeds dangle from his hair and shoulders. The silver tape still clings to his face -- but his lone, uncovered eye is locked on Evie.

And now Trevor staggers towards her.

Evie fires -- each lumbering step forward is met with another gunshot -- until her pistol CLICKS empty --

EVIE

...it's not possible.

-- until Trevor and Evie stand face to face.

Evie lowers the gun. It slips from her hand. There is a moment of still as Evie glowers -- back and forth -- from Kate to Trevor and back again.

She slaps Trevor in the face.

EVIE

You bastard! It was perfect!

Trevor locks his hands around Evie's neck. She drops to her knees -- struggles -- but his grip holds firm like a vice.

Trevor continues to squeeze until Evie collapses. Then he releases his grip and she drops to the ground.

He looks down, indifferent to the lifeless body before him.

Then he turns away -- and there is Kate behind him -- and Trevor's lone eye softens.

She throws her arms around him. He hugs her back.

KATE

I knew you would come.

As they embrace, Jacks emerges from the trees and staggers up to them, his white fur matted with blood.

He nuzzles against Kate's leg.

Kate reaches down and scratches his ears.

KATE

Jacks...

FROM ABOVE

And so they remain, together, bathed in the moonlight.

A small rustle from the foliage -- as Teddy now staggers from the woods and toddles towards Kate.

FADE OUT.