

THE NEXT SCENE

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INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Music BLARES and glasses CLINK and a group of late 20's and early 30-something COWORKERS mingle in the modern, immaculately decorated loft.

Everyone is in professional attire, clearly not long after the end of the work week.

DAVID - well groomed, dapper - carries a glass of wine as he makes the rounds. He's about to take a sip when something draws his attention:

DAVID
Dammit, don't throw your cigarettes off the balcony.

He rushes out onto the balcony...

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

...just in time to catch JAMES - tie loose around his neck - as he's about to toss a cigarette butt over the railing.

David grabs the cigarette and taps it out in an ashtray. Several other GUYS on the balcony just stare.

DAVID
James. There are ashtrays. Use them.

JAMES
Sorry, David, it's okay to breathe.

DAVID
Any of you guys seen my brother?

JAMES
Man, I haven't seen your brother in ages. Where's he been?

DAVID
That is the question.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Back in the loft, the front door swings open and ROB - late 20's, aloof - walks in carrying a bottle of wine.

David intercepts him as he walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rob tosses the bottle onto the kitchen counter and opens it, pouring himself a full glass and taking a hard swig.

DAVID

Thanks for coming, Rob.

ROB

Yeah, we're brothers.

He takes another gulp of wine.

DAVID

So. Where's your girl?

ROB

She's in the car. I'm here though, right?

DAVID

Sure.

He pours himself a glass from the bottle.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This is good.

Rob empties his glass and grins.

ROB

You have no idea.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

The front door opens and we follow JESSICA - mid-20s - as she makes a quick walk around the party, hardly noticing the people trying to get her attention.

She moves to the kitchen and finds...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...Rob and David still drinking. She tosses her purse down in front of them.

JESSICA

Thanks for waiting.

ROB

You told me not to.

DAVID
Hey, Jess...

2 INT. ROB'S CAR - NIGHT

Rob drives. Katie's in the passenger seat. Both sit in complete silence.

After several beats:

KATIE
I'm sorry it has to be this way.

Rob inhales deeply, searching his mind for something to say.

Light flashes across passenger side of the car as Rob turns to face her.

ROB
Katie, I -

CUT TO:

3 INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The alarm clock on the night stand reads 7:59. It switches to 8:00 and BUZZES obnoxiously.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Rob reluctantly gets out of bed.

He stands in the bathroom staring at his reflection in the mirror. He lamely tries to pat down his bed head, but gives up. He glances up and sees a small cut on his forehead.

Rob stands in his tiny apartment in front of the TV. He's still got his bed head. Bowl of cereal in hand.

Milk dribbles down his chin and onto the floor. A small DOG rushes over to lick it up.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rob leaves his apartment building wearing a robe, the dog leading him by a leash.

As the dog stops to lift its leg on a tree, a gorgeous blonde - Katie - passes in skin, tight jogging clothes.

KATIE
He's cute.

Rob is stunned by the attention.

ROB
Excuse me?

KATIE
Your puppy, he's so cute!

ROB
Oh...

He frowns down at the dog which has now wound its leash around the tree. Rob attempts to untangle it.

ROB (CONT'D)
He's okay.

She crouches to the level of the dog, giving Rob a pretty good view of her cleavage.

KATIE
So, what's his name?

ROB
(dreamily)
Rob.

Sarah scratches the dog's ears.

KATIE
Aw, Rob! You're a cute little doggie!

ROB
Sorry. I'm Rob. The dog's name is Bosco.

KATIE
Bosco! You sure are a handsome boy!

ROB
Yeah, he's a real heartbreaker.

Katie stands, wiping dog spit from her hands onto her sweats.

KATIE
I'm sorry, I'm Katie

She extends her slobbery hand and Rob shakes it, then wipes the spit onto his robe.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I work at the veterinary clinic
down the street.

ROB
Oh man, that's great. Now I know
where to take him if anything
horrible ever happens.

She smirks at him, sizing him up, taking in his disheveled appearance.

KATIE
So you're Rob, huh.

ROB
That's me.

KATIE
So... what do you do? You look
like a writer or something.

ROB
Close. I work from home.

KATIE
How is that close?

ROB
Well both require you to sit in one
spot for a long period of time.

She laughs, a little forced.

KATIE
Well I gotta go, but we're
practically neighbors so I guess
maybe I'll see you around.

ROB
For sure, Bosco and I are always in
the mix.

KATIE
Great, then I'll see you soon.

4 INT. ROB'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Rob reenters his building and pushes the button for the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Rob boards the elevator and its creaks loudly. He presses the button and waits, not noticing SARAH - blonde, dressed down, but clinical looking - in the corner, staring and smiling at him.

After a beat he finally catches her out of the corner his eye, but doesn't look at her.

ROB

What are you smiling at?

SARAH

Nothing, I'm just getting the mail,
see?

She holds up a stack of letters.

ROB

I didn't see you there.

She laughs.

SARAH

I guess you gotta wake up still.

ROB

I haven't seen you around the
building.

SARAH

I've been here.

ROB

I've been in my apartment a lot, I
guess

SARAH

You've been busy

ROB

Trying to be.

SARAH

Trying to get over it.

ROB

I guess.

Beat.

SARAH

So, why do you have the dog then?

ROB
It was her's. You know that.

SARAH
Just like that cut.

He instinctively dabs the cut on his forehead with his finger and looks down it, covered in blood.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Ouch.

The elevator chimes and she gets off, turning as the doors shut behind her.

SARAH (CONT'D)
You better get that looked at.

5 INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rob throws his keys down and lets the dog run wild.

INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He steps into the bathroom and turns on the light, illuminating his reflection in the mirror. He examines his face - the scratch on his forehead looks worse.

He gets a Band-Aid out of the medicine cabinet and places it on the scratch, a little spot of blood quickly soaking through.

He looks up at his reflection as copious amounts of blood suddenly pour from the Band-Aid, splattering onto the counter and down to the floor.

Rob grabs his face and SCREAMS as the blood washes over his hands. But when he looks back up at his reflection, the blood is gone.

6 INT. BRITTANY'S LOFT - KITCHEN - DAY

Rob sits on a stool at the bar in Brittany's kitchen, an open bottle of red wine next to him.

The dog is standing at the sliding glass door yapping at something outside.

David's drinking wine.

DAVID
Could you shut that thing up?

ROB
No, I really can't. I have no control over it.

DAVID
Well, put it on the balcony, I don't want it shitting on your carpet.

David's wife, BRITTANY - 30s, intelligent looking - sits on the couch reading.

BRITTANY
For God's sake, David, so what if the dog shits? Dog's shit!

DAVID
It's a tough stain to get out.

BRITTANY
You can't put the dog on the balcony, he might fall.

She gets up and picks up the dog, bringing it over to the sofa.

ROB
You know, you might just get her the dog before she starts wanting a kid.

DAVID
Oh God.

Across the room, Brittany is cradling the dog like a baby and rocking it. David takes a big swig of wine.

ROB
You can always have Bosco.

DAVID
I don't want that dog.

ROB
Me neither. Hey, Brittany, put Bosco out on the balcony.

BRITTANY
Screw you, Bosco and I are going for a walk.

EXT. BRITTANY'S LOFT - BALCONY - LATER

Rob leans against the railing, looking down at the view, puffing on a cigarette.

David stands next to him still drinking his wine.

DAVID

So when are you gonna get over this
and come back to the office. It's
not the same without you.

ROB

I want to be there with you guys
but I have to figure this out,
first.

He takes a drag.

DAVID

I know it's easier said than done,
but I think it's time to move on.

A trickle of blood leaks from the Band-Aid on Rob's forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What the hell happened to your
forehead?

ROB

You don't remember last weekend's
party?

David looks confused.

DAVID

Which party?

ROB

Do you have anymore wine?

DAVID

You know it's a blood thinner.

ROB

Yeah, I'm good.

DAVID

Rob, you're almost there, you've
been doing great. You're going to
meet so many other girls who you
think are the one. It happens to
all of us.

ROB
She was the one.

7 EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Rob sits, half dozing at a bus stop. Sarah walks up and sits next to him and leans against him in a swaying motion.

SARAH
Wake up, buddy.

Rob wakes up dazed.

ROB
What are you doing here?

SARAH
My job, what's it look like?

ROB
What?

SARAH
You been drinking again?

ROB
Only a bottle. It helps.

SARAH
What happened to your car?

ROB
I don't remember.

SARAH
How many times do you have to keep bumping your head until you realize?

Rob is silent for a beat.

ROB
I'm almost there.

Lights from passing cars FLASH over them.

SARAH
There's your ride.

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INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rob lies in bed staring up into the blackness. Just as he starts to drift off, lights from outside FLASH into the room and his eyes pop open.

INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He moves to the bathroom and stares at his reflection and at the cut on his forehead. The cut has grown, extending out from behind the Band-Aid.

Rob peels it off and stares at the cut, deep red.

KATIE (O.S.)
It's getting worse, stop messing
with it.

Rob glances up at Katie's reflection next to his own.

ROB
Sorry, did I wake you up? I
couldn't sleep.

KATIE
I wouldn't be able to sleep with
that cut either. Let me look at it.

He sits on the counter and she stands between his legs. Katie dabs at the cut with alcohol and he flinches.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Wow you're tough, I don't know why
you insist on doing this.

Katie gets right in his face. He stares at her dreamily. She finishes cleaning it, then uses a butterfly bandage to bind it.

He stays sitting for a few beats.

ROB
I think I'm going to take Bosco
out, you should sleep.

KATIE
I'm not tired, I'll be waiting for
you.

Katie heads to the bedroom.

ROB
Do you want to go to a party
Saturday night?

9 INT. ROB'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rob walks down the hall in his robe with the dog on a leash.
He passes Sarah walking into her apartment.

She smiles and gives him a nod.

INT. ROB'S APARTMENT BUILDING - GARAGE - NIGHT

Rob walks down the stairs into the garage below his building.

His CAR sits in its spot, not a scratch on it. He gets in
waits for a beat then has to get out.

He stands at the car in disbelief.

10 INT. ROB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rob walks into his apartment. We hear a VOICE MAIL:

KATIE (V.O.)
Hey it's me I'm going to be a
little late for the party so don't
wait up for me.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Rob throws open his closet and rummages around through his
clothes. He grabs a tie and a sweater vest and tosses them
onto his bed.

Fully dressed, he enters the kitchen, opens the cupboard and
grabs a bottle of red wine, checks himself in a mirror and
heads out.

11 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rob speed walks down the sidewalk with his bottle of wine.

A CAR - identical to his own - pulls up in the street
alongside him. The window rolls down and Sarah sits in the
driver's seat.

TSARAH
You look like you're late. Want a ride?

CUT TO:

INT. ROB'S CAR - NIGHT

Rob fidgets in the passenger seat, gripping the wine bottle tightly.

SARAH
So much for not drinking and driving.

ROB
I know my limit.

SARAH
Good looking out.

He glances out the window.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Making sense of everything yet?

ROB
Everything's perfect. Que sera sera.

SARAH
We're almost there.

ROB
I tried my best. What else do you want from me.

SARAH
Wake up. It's almost over. Don't you get that?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The car pulls up in front of David's building.

INT. ROB'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ROB
Why did it ever begin?

Rob gets out of the car slams the door.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Sarah exits the car after Rob and tosses the keys at his back.

SARAH
These are yours.

12 INT. DAVID'S LOFT - NIGHT

The party is in full swing and David looks like he's going to have a heart attack.

He rushes across the room and out onto the balcony.

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

He shuts the door behind him walks up to a group of people and a cigarette flies off the balcony. He grabs the cigarette from Mark-early twenties, also well dressed.

DAVID
Dammit, don't throw your cigarettes off the balcony.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rob climbs the stairs with his bottle of wine, shoving his car keys into his pocket. He reaches the door to David's floor and enters the loft.

INT. DAVID'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

He walks right past David and James as they enter from the balcony and moves to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S LOFT - LATER

The party goes on. People pass in and out. Drinking. Laughing. Mingling. Flirting. Through the crowd, Rob exits the kitchen and storms out of the loft. Jessica follows soon after him.

13 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Katie follows Rob down the stairs.

KATIE

This was never supposed to end like this.

He stops and looks up at her.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I can't keep doing this with you.
It was fun at first but this is
murder, just forget about me.

Rob ignores her and starts down the stairs again. She follows.

KATIE (CONT'D)

You have this perfect idea of what
you want life to be, but this isn't
it Rob, nothing's perfect. You
deserve so much more. I have
nothing left to give.

As Rob reaches the door, Katie grabs him from behind.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Relationships are hard. It's not
your fault Rob. Don't do this
again. There's nothing you can do
to stop this now.

Rob stays motionless, not looking at her.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ROB'S CAR - NIGHT

Street lights flashing by.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry it has to be this way.
This isn't the end.. This is just
the beginning of the next scene.

Rob inhales deeply, searching his mind for something to say
Light flashes across passenger side of the car as Rob turns

KATIE (CONT'D)

Just the way you like it...
remember?

CLOSE ON: Katie's hand as she reaches for Rob's.

BACK TO:

They touch for an instant, then the car is suddenly filled with light: headlights from an oncoming car.

Katie closes her eyes.

Glass flies through car.

Both Katie and Rob jerk as the car spins.

Blinding white light fills car.

Then BLACK.

FADE TO:

15 INT. ROB'S CAR - NIGHT

Sarah - dressed as a paramedic - leans into Rob's car through the driver's side window. Rob sits behind the wheel, dazed, a huge gash in his forehead and blood covering his face.

SARAH

Rob, you're gonna have to wake up
for me, buddy.

Rob's head lolls as he turns to where Katie was sitting. But she's gone.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

16 INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A faint BEEPING sound gets louder and then subsides as Rob lies in a bed hooked up to a monitor.

The BEEPING sound suddenly stops.

CLOSE ON: Rob open his eyes.

FADE OUT:

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

BRITTANY (O.S.)

Rob. Are you awake? My name is
Brittany, I'm here to help you with
a few things.

Rob turns over and looks towards the door, his vision goes in and out of focus.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
You see, you were in an accident
three months ago.

Rob SCREAMS in excruciating pain.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
You were screaming for someone
right before you woke up.

Brittany closes Rob's file and grabs his hand.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Just relax your mind for a second

Rob lays his head down as his vision twitches in an out of focus again. He sighs.

BRITTANY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Let me ask you Rob what do you
remember about the name Katie?

Rob looks down and waits a couple beats..

FADE OUT.

CUT IN.

EXT. DAVID'S STREET- DAY

Rob walk up to David's door and knocks. A woman answers the door. Rob notices kids playing inside.

ROB
(confused)
Is David here?

WOMAN
There's no one here that lives by
that name?

ROB
Do you know where he is?

WOMAN
I've lived here for 22 years. I'm
sorry I have to go.

She shuts the door and yells for the kids.

CUT TO: BLACK