TRANSFORMATIONS

by

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FADE IN:

INT. - MOTHER APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is furnished with outdated furniture, the walls are lined with old photographs and sets of crystal glasses and mugs are on display in the glass cupboard.

Old little statues stand on the shelves of the sideboard. It is evident that it is an apartment of a retired woman.

LEON, dressed in an expensive suit with a bright tie, a well-groomed, a little full-bodied man of about thirty-five, is sitting on a high back chair at a beautifully served round table.

He wears an expensive branded watch, shirt and shoes.

The table is served with a tea set, a bowl of candy, jam and a plate of cream cakes.

His MOTHER of about sixty-five, dressed in a beautiful old fashioned dress, is pouring tea from a teapot with a strainer in addition to boiling water from the kettle.

MOTHER
It is wrong not to believe in something nowadays. Lara, for example, last year on a perfectly regular city beach saw an alien with her own eyes.

Leon takes a bite of cake, a sip from a cup of tea and looks with irony at his Mother.

LEON
(with a slight smile)
How did your sister know that it was an alien?

MOTHER
(with conviction)
She told me later that it was a very hairy man, and though he looked like a regular person...
LEON
(ironically)
Really?

MOTHER
...she immediately felt - that is an alien!

LEON
(smiles)
Why hasn't she made acquaintances? Still interesting...

MOTHER
Of course, she really wanted to, but he looked at her and gave a telepathic order: "Do not come!" After that, he quickly left.

LEON
(laughs)
Mom, how can you believe in such nonsense?

MOTHER
Why shouldn't I believe? I read somewhere that all the astronauts saw different UFOs, but then the authorities marked it Top Secret and forbade them to talk about it.

LEON
It is still debatable whether it was a UFO or just some weird optical phenomena.

MOTHER
What are you talking about? I myself once saw a flying saucer. It flew and shone, and, as soon as I wanted to take a picture, it rose high and disappeared, as if it felt something.
The mobile phone rings. Leon answers. He talks hard and with concentration.

LEON
Yes? And by how much? If it falls below one hundred twenty, buy a thousand shares. And what about the nickel?
(pause)
No, it should continue to rise; we'll wait another day or two.
(pause)
Okay, I can't talk now. I'll call you later.

Leon ends the conversation and with a guilty smile turns to his mother.

LEON
Sorry, Mom, business.

MOTHER
So do you believe me about the flying saucer? Take a cake.

Leon dutifully takes a slice. Bites off a piece.

LEON
You, mother, I do believe. You have prepared a very tasty meal today, and the cakes are delicious. They melt in the mouth...

MOTHER
By the way, yesterday I saw in the newspaper a photograph of a human skeleton on the Moon.

LEON
On the Moon!? How could the skeleton reach the moon by himself?

MOTHER
You always make jokes, but in this case, your irony is
misplaced. There's a picture in the newspaper!

LEON
Well, if you have a picture, then it is another matter. And how do they explain it? How did it get there?

MOTHER
It is known that aliens abduct people from the Earth sometimes. Apparently, they caught one person, put him in a UFO, took him to the Moon, and then pushed him out of the ship to see what will happen.

LEON
(exaggerated)
It's an outrage! Aliens do whatever they like around here and nobody stops them. Why doesn't the government do something?

MOTHER
But since it is written in the newspaper... A world sensation! It is strange that you know nothing about it.

LEON
I don't know and do not want to know. The papers, Mom, sometimes write such nonsense! Don't you see they are ready to print scandalous nonsense with the purpose of raising their circulation?

MOTHER
You have to agree that many people in their daily lives are faced with phenomena that even scientists can't explain.
LEON
I never encountered
something inexplicable. I
never met devils, angels or
aliens. I, generally, have
difficulty in perceiving
things that can not be
touched by my own hands.

MOTHER
You never believe in things
that are unexplainable?

LEON
I do not believe and advise
you to do the same. Nothing
can be done, mother, that is
the way I was born. Well, I
must go. Thanks for dinner.
See you next week.

MOTHER
You're always in a hurry...

LEON
As usual business is
waiting. I still have to
continue working at home.

Leon finishes the remainder of tea in the cup and rises
from the table.

MOTHER
Thank you for your visit and
for remembering occasionally
to visit me.

Mother with a sigh of regret rises from the table, and
together they go to the exit door.

Leon hugs his mother and she gives him a kiss on the
cheek.

LEON
Take care of yourself and
read less rubbish in the
newspapers,
(jokingly)
otherwise you may dream it
at night.
MOTHER
Don't worry about me, I sleep like a baby. But still, I think that anyone can encounter an unexplainable situation!

LEON
I won't! Only extremely emotional gullible people get into unexplained situations. It won't happen to me!

MOTHER
Well, all right. Give my regards to your wife. By the way, she can also call in to see me occasionally. Otherwise I started forgetting her looks.

LEON
Don't be angry, mother. Goodbye. Next time we'll come together. I promise. If you need anything, call me.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Leon leaves hurriedly his mother's house, quickly gets into his luxury car and leaves the parking lot with a jerk.

The mobile phone rings. Leon continues to drive and answers the call.

LEON
Yes, dear, I'm in the car already, I'll be home in half an hour.
(pause)
I'm right. Love you.

Leon approaches the traffic lights, stops at the red light and automatically looks around.

Leon sees a man with a fish head behind the wheel of a nearby car (in the style of Bosch).
Leon stares at him in amazement for some time, then closes his eyes, shakes his head from side to side, to regain his senses and to get rid of the vision, but the man with the fish head is still there.

The traffic lights change to green and the other car moves away.

Leon follows it for some time, watching from behind the driver's fish head, but soon the vehicle in front of him turns abruptly into a side street and disappears.

Leon continues to drive and arrives at his magnificent house. His face is thoughtful and focused. He enters the handsome foyer, laden with flowers and pictures, said hello to the concierge, and takes the elevator to his apartment.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - DAY

His ultramodern apartment is equipped with the latest technology, luxurious furnishings, fixtures, abstract paintings on the walls and a large rug that covers the floor.

His Wife is a slender, beautiful woman of twenty-five years old with an angry expression on her face.

She is dressed in a pink trouser suit and silver shoes with average heels.

The Wife approaches Leon and embraces and kisses him formally.

WIFE
Hi, dear. How is your Mom?

LEON
She is well, thank you. She is looking forward to your visit. She was quite disappointed that you did not come.

WIFE
Disappointed again? You know that I have absolutely no time to spare; I'm torn as it is... Has anything happened?
LEON
No! Why do you ask?

WIFE
You have a strange expression on your face. You look stressed. I sense that something has happened to you. Am I wrong?

LEON
Yes, something really stupid...

WIFE
So? Tell me...

LEON
While I was driving home from my mother, I saw in a nearby car a man with a fish head.

WIFE
What?

LEON
At first I thought I was imagining then I thought it was someone dressed as a clown type, but it appeared to be real.

WIFE
Are you kidding me, Leon?

LEON
No! But if somebody told me about this, I wouldn't have believed him.

WIFE
Are you making a joke?

LEON
Not at all! I'm absolutely serious but now I don't know how deal with it.

WIFE
Have you actually seen it?
LEON
Yes, I have. Strange, isn't it?

WIFE
(worried)
Has anything like this happened to you before?

LEON
What do you mean?

WIFE
Hallucinations!

LEON
Why hallucinations? I saw him as clearly as I can see you! A man with a fish head was driving in the car next to me! Do you think he smelt like a fish?

Leon tries to laugh, but is not very successful. He walks to the bar, pours himself a glass of whiskey, adds a few ice cubes from the fridge and gulps it down.

WIFE
Calm down, please. Don't worry.

LEON
I'm not worried.

WIFE
This happens from overexertion. You need to relax urgently.

Leon begins pacing nervously around the room, approaches a large mirror, looks at the reflection of him, and suddenly sticks his tongue out.

LEON
I don't want to rest, I'm not tired. And do not look at me with such a worried glance.
WIFE
It scares me. Why did it happen to you? By the way, your friend Brett, if I remember correctly, is a psychiatrist. You should talk to him straight away.

LEON
Just the thing I need! Why should I?

WIFE
Consult him, discuss the situation. He certainly knows what to do in such cases.

LEON
(nervously)
You don't have to make a madman out of me. I am absolutely healthy and... normal!

WIFE
But you do realize that this is fantasy?

LEON
I realize it, but that's what I saw! In the car next to mine sat a man with a fish head!

WIFE
You seem convinced! In my opinion, you have a problem!

LEON
And in my opinion, it's more his problem than mine! Imagine for a moment me returning home with a fish head, what would you say?

WIFE
It's just what I need!

LEON
I think that you would divorce me at the drop of
the hat! Truthfully, would you be able to live with a man-fish?

WIFE
You're kidding, but I am not humored! Okay, let's forget about it. Will you have dinner?

LEON
Thank you, I'm not hungry. Mom fed me for two days in advance. I will go and work a little bit.

Leon goes to his study. Wife follows him with a cool appraising stare, and compresses lips in displeasure.

After Leon leaves, she looks at the closed door and dials a number on the mobile phone.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon leaves the house hurriedly, gets into the car and drives to work.

He parks the car at his personal space in the parking lot, greets the watchman and enters to the office building of his small company.

INT. - BROKERAGE OFFICE - MORNING

Some employees sit in front of computers, examining the graphs and tables of the stock exchange market.

INT. - LEON STUDY - MORNING

Leon enters his study and dials a number on the switch board.

LEON
Serge, please come to me.

SERGE, a smart young guy of twenty-three, enters. He has long cropped hair, tied back with a red ribbon. Informal clothing and wrist thread.

LEON
Well, how is nickel doing on the market? Is it rising?
SERGE
Hey, chief. I worry about the trade with nickel. The market is very unstable and can rise high and then fall so low that we will be unable...

LEON
Don't worry, we'll beat them. I smell big money here...

SERGE
I wouldn't take such big risk being in your place!

LEON
Well, I know your panicked view on all my adventures. That's why you're my main advisor. Someone has to restrain me when I go beyond the bounds of reason.

SERGE
I honestly am amazed by your decisions on the stock exchange, and still, you win! It blows my mind!

LEON
You know, there is an old tale about a Jew always winning at the races. Once, one his friend broke down and asked, "Abram how is it that you always win?" "Very simple", answers Abram, "I've arrived to the races on a bus number three and today is seventh of the month, so I multiply three by seven, get twenty-four and put money on horses number two and four". "But three times seven is twenty one!" "I win, and you teach me arithmetic" - Abram answers indignantly!
SERGE
Very funny! But you can't get away with it on pure luck!

LEON
That is left to be seen! Okay. That's it! Now I'll continue with the routine work and tomorrow we'll discuss our strategy in detail.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - MORNING
Leon is sitting at the table with his wife and eats breakfast.

His wife examines Leon carefully and lights a cigarette.

WIFE
How do you feel?

LEON
Fine, why do you ask?

WIFE
Well, no nightmares at night? Fish heads, or other things?

LEON
Leave alone those heads. It's impossible to tell you anything!

Wife gets up and leaves the table in a temper.

WIFE
But I'm worried. Why don't you understand?

LEON
I'm sorry, dear, I overreacted a bit. Don't worry. Everything will be fine.

Leon gets up, goes and hugs his wife.
WIFE
You don't love me.

LEON
I do love you, but I'm a little bothered today. I have important decisions to make.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon drives the car listening to music and passes several intersections quietly; he stops at the red lights, patiently waiting.

For something to do, he turns his head from side to side.

In the car on the right, he sees a man with a fish head.

He closes his eyes, then turns to the other side and there too, in the car to his left, sits a man with a fish head.

The lights change to green, all the cars drive away, but Leon remains in his place in a stupor, as if paralyzed.

The car behind him starts beeping loudly. Leon wakes up and begins to move.

After a short while, he drives to the side and stops.

Nervously, obviously very excited, he gets his mobile and dials a number.

LEON
Hi, Brett. How are you? I want to meet you straight away. Let me stop by your office. I need to talk to you...
(pause)
I have an urgent problem, and need your help...
(pause)
Thanks, I'll be there after eleven.

The traffic policeman knocks with a rod on the glass.

Leon sighs, opens the window and presents his identification and car license.
INT. - LEON OFFICE - MORNING

Leon sits in his office across Serge, who is holding a large folder with documents.

LEON
You have brought the folder for nothing, we won't talk about shares. Better tell me, Serge, have you ever seen something unexplainable?

SERGE
Sure! The stock market can never be explained. You can never know what tomorrow will bring.

LEON
I mean something else, in life. Have you ever seen a really unexplainable phenomenon?

SERGE
UFO or something like that? No, I have never encountered such a thing. Why do you ask?

LEON
Well, you see, something really weird happened to me yesterday; suddenly I saw in the car next to me a man with a fish head.

SERGE
Really? Are you serious?

LEON
At first glance - an obvious insanity, but otherwise, all other reactions are normal. I tested it myself, spoke to my wife, and found no psyche deviations.
SERGE
So why are you so worried?

LEON
You see, when I saw the first fish head, I laughed, but some bad sediment remained, and just now, on my way to work, I saw two drivers with fish heads.

SERGE
Generally speaking, it sounds pretty weird. Does it disturb you?

LEON
Of course! It drives me crazy! I made an appointment with a psychiatrist, a friend of mine.

SERGE
You think it may help?

LEON
I don't know, but what else can I do in such situation?

SERGE
In my opinion, ignore it. I've just remembered that I once something peculiar happened to me too. One night I woke up and saw myself at home in bed with my mistress. Just saw her lying next to me. I panicked. How did she get there? Any moment Nina will enter the bedroom and all hell will brake loose! Even in a nightmare it is unfeasible to imagine such things!

LEON
And?

LEON
Then I took a good look closely, and it turned out
to be - my wife! And you talk about fish heads!

LEON
Well, you reassured me a bit. We have finished for today. Now I'm on the way to the psychiatrist.

SERGE
I don't really trust psychiatrists. Some years ago I had a girlfriend, a psychiatrist. I still wonder how she didn't drive me mad and made me marry her.

LEON
All your examples of life are always associated with women.

SERGE
What can I do when life is so...

INT. - OFFICE PSYCHIATRY - DAY

BRETT, a serious man of thirty-five in a light sweater, welcomes Leon in to his office.

Brett warmly shakes Leon's hand, friendly smiles. It is evident that he is happy with the meeting.

BRETT
Hi, Leon. What's wrong with you? Why the urgency?

LEON
I don't know how serious my situation is. To you it may seem ridiculous. Something rather strange and inexplicable happened to me.

BRETT
Sit down, Leon, and tell me calmly what happened. You are so excited today.
Leon obediently sits on the visitors chair offered to him, looking cautiously around.

LEON
I have is a reason to worry. Yesterday I saw in the car next to mine, a man with a fish head.

BRETT
Seriously?

LEON
Very! That is, at the beginning I took it pretty lightly, even joking while I told it to my wife. However, she was terribly worried, immediately began talking about hallucinations and advised me to talk to you.

BRETT
A very good advice. Well, go on, you saw a man with a fish head, and what happened next?

LEON
Everything was very normal. He waited for the green light and drove off. I was very surprised, but today on my way to work I saw two drivers with fish heads. This made me very uneasy, and I called you.

BRETT
Just two? Each time one, or two at once?

LEON
Both at once! At the crossroads, in the car on the right and in the car on the left. Can you imagine? I'm really scared. Tell me honestly, am I out of my mind?
BRETT
People do not go crazy so easily! Usually it requires a more serious reason.

LEON
What could be more serious! I personally think myself perfectly normal, but on the other hand - fish heads! Am I crazy?

BRETT
To go crazy - it can be said, is a privilege! Not everyone can feel so acutely.

LEON
Then tell me what was it? What is happening to me?

BRETT
Nothing out of ordinary! Just sometimes you see people with fish heads.

LEON
But is it a hallucination?! In fact, in reality they do not..., that is..., it is just my imagination!

BRETT
Who knows? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't! Sciences are still struggling with the question what preceded: matter or consciousness? So, in other words, has spirituality created our reality or matter has generated spirituality.

LEON
I don't understand why am I the scapegoat of this philosophy? Why did this happen to me?
BRETT
Calm down, this can happen to anyone, nobody is safe. You claim to have seen people with fish heads and who has the right to doubt it? What reason do I have not to trust you?

LEON
I saw them with my own eyes, absolutely real, but now I doubt very much that they really exist. On the whole, I myself don't know whether to believe it.

BRETT
Don't worry! Now it is very popular to assume that faith makes life easier, so the majority of mankind believes in something.

LEON
Are you sure?

BRETT
Yes. Nowadays one believes in Science and Technology, others in Fate and Providence, and the third in God and an afterlife...

LEON
But I do not want to see people with fish heads!

BRETT
That is a good reason, this is a particular request, with which I can help you. Let's conduct a short session of hypnosis.

LEON
What, just now?

BRETT
Yes. You should be helped to get rid of the so-called
post-traumatic stress syndrome.

LEON
I don't think this can be done. I tried once for laughs...

BRETT
Nonsense, everybody is susceptible to hypnosis, but not everybody realizes it!
Sit down on this chair, put your hands on your knees, close your eyes and repeat after me everything I say.

Leon, after some hesitation, obediently sits on a chair in the center of the room and closes his eyes.

Brett stands in front of him. He stares at Leon and slowly moves the fingers of his relaxed hands.

BRETT
My feet are warm.

LEON
My feet are warm.

BRETT
My hands are warm.

LEON
My hands are warm.

BRETT
I am happy to sit here and I'm sleepy.

LEON
I am happy to sit here and I'm sleepy.

BRETT
I'll never see people with fish heads.

LEON
I'll never see people with fish heads.
BRETT
I'll never see people with fish heads.

LEON
I'll never see people with fish heads.

BRETT
I wake up, I am well, and I rested and had a wonderful dream. There were no people with fish heads in the dream.

LEON
(opens eyes)
Sorry, I think I fell asleep. You promised to hypnotize me.

BRETT
I've finished already. Your reaction was perfect; you are very sensitive. You will not see people with fish heads anymore.

LEON
Is that at all? You're just a magician, Brett! I feel like a different man, cheerful, optimistic, and I am no longer afraid to live.

BRETT
That's perfect. Now you can return to your work. But please don't drink today anything alcoholic. Goodbye, I have to return to work too, patients are waiting for me.

LEON
Thank you, Brett, you saved my life. Goodbye. I'll call and take you out to a good restaurant on the weekend. We'll sit down, have some
drinks and have a good time,
my call.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

Leon, in a good mood, drives around the town. He turns on the radio, hums a tune, happily looking around.

He passes a few streets and stops at a red traffic light.

Leon looks to the right, there behind the wheel sits a man, he looks to the left, there in the driver's seat, sits a woman.

Leon smiles with satisfaction, lights a cigarette and closes his eyes.

LEON
(whispers)
I'm so happy! I'll never see people with fish heads.

The green light goes on, all the cars begin to move, but Leon doesn't notice. He is still at the traffic lights with his eyes closed humming a tune.

The car behind him starts beeping loudly. The driver is buzzing occasionally, and then a loud continuous beep.

Leon angrily looks back and sees that the driver in the car behind his has a bird's head (in the style of Bosch)!

Leon freezes and remains as in a daze.

His cellphone rings. He shudders, starts to move away, leaving the junction, then stops at the side, lets the car behind him pass and looks in amazement at the driver with a bird's head in it.

Then Leon resumes movement and answers the call. He speaks through the microphone, mechanically, like a robot.

LEON
Hello, I'm listening.

WIFE
(by phone)
I just spoke to BRETT. He told me that you came to him in a terrible state that he
conducted hypnosis on you
and now you feel better.

LEON
(grimly)
Yes, that's true.

WIFE
(by phone)
Are you still seeing people
with fish heads?

Leon looks around, then looks back warily.

LEON
No! I don't see them
anymore! Fish heads are not
there anymore!

WIFE
(by phone)
Thank God! I'm so happy and
so excited for you. I was
worried terribly, couldn't
find a place for myself!

LEON
But just now I saw a man
with a bird's head.

WIFE
(by phone)
How? Why? Brett had
promised! He said it has to
help you!

LEON
I think that Brett's hypnosis
worked: bird's heads look
much better than fish.
Probably, each treatment has
its own side effects.

Leon cautiously looks at the drivers of neighboring cars.

WIFE
(by phone)
Are you crazy?! What are you
talking about? Call Brett
urgently!
LEON
Do you think this will help?
I think I'll have to bear
monsters next to me until
the day I die.

WIFE
(by phone)
What are you hinting at?

LEON
Calm down, dear, not you!
Okay, I'll call him. Let's
discuss it this evening,
bye.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - DAY

The doorbell rings. Leon's Wife lets her GIRLFRIEND, an
extravagantly dressed twenty-five years old lady.

Girlfriend wears a bright manicure, big round pink
glasses, a short skirt and a blouse.

Wife habitually pours coffee from a coffee machine and
pours fruit juice into tall slender glasses containing
pieces of ice from the refrigerator.

They sit on the couch in front of a coffee table, light
up with pleasure cigarettes, drink coffee and alternately
sip juice through a straw.

On the table lay a lot of women's magazines. One is open
on a picture with different models of bras.

WIFE
Have you seen the latest
model? This
(points)
I wouldn't have refused. Do
you like it? I can order of
course via internet, except
I want to try it on before...

GIRLFRIEND
This model doesn't suit me.
I bought some while I was in
Basel, but something in them
makes me feel uncomfortable.
WIFE
Listen, I wanted to consult with you, but don't tell anyone. No hint to anybody. Leon will kill me if he gets wind of it.

GIRLFRIEND
What are you talking about, don't you trust me?

WIFE
You see, I have a problem, rather, he has. I am afraid that it's a very serious one. It may affect his ability to function and his business. Then what?

GIRLFRIEND
Explain clearly! What happened?

WIFE
You promise to keep the secret?

The friend inhales deeply on the cigarette and lets out a thick stream of smoke.

GIRLFRIEND
Mute like in dead!

WIFE
He lost his mind! Sees people with animal heads around him.

GIRLFRIEND
Wow! Was he drunk? I heard that it happens; they see all sorts of devils, various monsters...

WIFE
Yes, well, but he does not drink. Sometimes a glass or two with company, but usually he doesn't drink.
GIRLFRIEND
Is he ill?

WIFE
No, just doesn't drink.

GIRLFRIEND
I didn't know such people exist. I thought that all are the same when comes to drinking. Mine is kind of quiet, but after a drink, watch out...

WIFE
And Leon lost his mind. Suddenly he sees people fish heads everywhere.

GIRLFRIEND
Don't tell!? Wow! This really is a problem.

WIFE
For the first time in my life I don't know what to do, how to behave...

GIRLFRIEND
You get excited ahead of the time. It may still pass? Wait a bit, you'll see, by itself, or by the aid of medicaments.

WIFE
Wait until... cured? And if not? His Mom will turn it so, that not only won't I get my rightful half, I'll remain in dept...

GIRLFRIEND
Maybe then you shouldn't wait and file for divorce immediately?

WIFE
You see, it all happened suddenly. I had no time to prepare financially.
GIRLFRIEND
What do you mean?

WIFE
Well, first, there are a lot of arrangements to make; write over the apartment, the house in the country, the car, all the property...

GIRLFRIEND
Apply for a divorce. Sue, as his wife, for a half of everything! This will be enough for your whole lifetime, till the grave. I bet, there are millions there.

WIFE
This is the problem! His brokerage firm has very good lawyers - real professionals, they are not easy to take on, and I have no money for a decent lawyer.

GIRLFRIEND
Then you need to declare him insane, lock him up in an insane asylum, and have it all!

WIFE
It is not possible! His school friend works there. He'll never agree to it.

GIRLFRIEND
Don't you know how to get a man to do things in your favor? Are an imbecile?

WIFE
But he is a very close friend of his for many years.
GIRLFRIEND
That is the reason wives
sleep with their husbands
good friends... They are
always near at hand! Once is
enough to sleep over with a
man and he becomes smooth
like silk. All men are
cowards; threaten to tell
your husband or his wife,
and he will do anything for
you.

EXT. - SQUARE - DAY

Leon passes several intersections and parks the car near
a small park.

He gets out, walks through the alley, sits on a free
bench, looks around, and then dials a phone number.

LEON
Brett, hi. Forgive me, but
after your hypnosis, I just
saw a man with a bird's
head!

(pause)
No, I have no complaints to
you, but...

(pause)
Of course, I can come again,
if you guarantee that next I
won't see people with
crocodile heads.

(pause)
I'm not angry with you,
Brett, I'm trying to figure
out what to do now. It is
impossible to on this way...

Leon disconnects the cell phone. He sits on the bench,
deep in thought. It is a nice summer day.

Leon looks at the sun, the foliage of trees, the grass,
at the strolling couples.

Leon sees several young men approaching. When they come
closer he notices that they have boar heads.

They walk through the alley, continuously pushing each
other and grunting happily.
Leon closes his eyes, grits his head with his hands and whispered something silently.

It is evident that he is exerting great efforts, takes himself in hand, gets up from the bench, straightens and adjusts his clothes.

He leaves the park with mechanical steps gets into the car and slowly drives along the city streets.

INT. - OFFICE PSYCHIATRY - DAY

Leon enters the familiar office where his friend Brett sits with a colleague.

DOCTOR is a stocky, heavy, around fifty year's old man in a light suit, with glasses. It is evident that he is in command.

BRETT
Sit down, Leon. The chief of our department was kind enough to consul you. The best expert we have...

The Doctor makes a protesting gesture, as if rejecting inappropriate compliments.

DOCTOR
Not at all, colleague. Let's see our patient. So what happened? What are you worried about?

LEON
I told already, but my illness is rapidly progressing. Half an hour ago I saw a group of teenagers at the park having boar heads and they were behaving in a piggish manner.

DOCTOR
Were there people with ordinary heads as well?
LEON
Yes, of course. Most were ordinary, normal only this group unashamedly screamed and grunted...

DOCTOR
That is, I realize not only have you seen people with boar-heads, but you also heard them grunt?

LEON
Yes, now I apparently have not only visual, but auditory hallucinations as well.

DOCTOR
Well, no need to rush ahead and produce a diagnosis, there are experts for it.

BRETT
Yes, Leon, do not rush to hasty conclusions. First of all we need do analysis.

LEON
To me personally, it is clear that something weird is going on in my mind. Strange obsessions! Unbelievable things!

BRETT
Calm down, we do believe you. Nothing supernatural is going on. We just need to find a reasonable explanation for the unnatural appearances.

A young nurse with a kind, somewhat silly and agreeable expression enters the room.

She smiles shyly at the attending physicians, puts on their desk several folders with chronicles of disease, and heads for the exit.
LEON

A sheep!

The sister looks back in surprise and leaves the office without any reaction.

BRETT

What?

DOCTOR

Why?

LEON

She is a sheep! She has the head of a sheep!

DOCTOR

You saw her from the beginning with a sheep's head?

LEON

No, I saw her enter as a rather pretty girl, and then, while she leaned over the table, I suddenly saw her sheep's head. This is a strange feeling...

DOCTOR

What seemed strange to you there?

LEON

I got the feeling that she is completely submissive. She can be pushed around at will, suffer quietly, and perform without question and never complain.

DOCTOR

(surprised)

Do you know her?

LEON

No, no, but... somehow I knew right away. I saw her character, her essence, if you like. She is a sheep! This sheep, who chews her own
grass and thinking about nothing irrelevant.

DOCTOR
(surprised)
It is amazing! Not really knowing her, I must tell you, that you drew an extremely accurate portrait. I work with her so many years very closely, but saw her in such a perspective only now.

LEON
But I do not want to see people in this perspective! Can you do something about it, can you somehow undo it?

INT. – MOTHER APARTMENT – EVENING

It's Mother's apartment. Leon is sitting on a couch in a pensive pose and smokes. Near him there is a massive crystal ashtray with some cigarette butts.

He watches a TV basketball game, but his expression is aloof. It is evident that he doesn't really care about the game.

Mother enters the living room with a cabbage pie laden on a tray.

MOTHER
You look troubled, without sentiment, telling nothing. There is an impression that you have a problem that gives you no rest.

LEON
And who is without problems?

MOTHER
But in the past you coped with your problems easily, at least, in a more optimistic way.
LEON
I was younger, so everything was perceived much lighter...

MOTHER
If you signed yourself up as an elderly, what am I supposed to do, and I still don't give up.

LEON
You are right, Mom, we should never give up, you and I still have everything ahead of us.

MOTHER
Can't you tell me what happened?

Leon is uncertain, he wants to tell, but something stops him.

LEON
It's okay, Mom, don't worry.

MOTHER
Share with your mother, it will make it easier for you.

LEON
I can cope with the problem by myself.

MOTHER
Well, as you want. You know better.

Leon smiles apologetically.

LEON
No offense, Mom. Everything will be fine.

MOTHER
I hope so.

LEON
I think I'll go, it is getting late.
MOTHER
You have either eaten or
drank nothing. Let me warm
it up for you quickly. I have
a soup and a cabbage pie,
yum.

LEON
No, Mom, thanks, I'm not
hungry. Next time I'll taste
your soup.

MOTHER
Give my regards to your
wife.

LEON
Don't be offended, she is
very busy. Although I can't,
by the world of me, tell you
with what.

INT. - LEON APARTMENT - EVENING
Leon sits in his office in front of the computer. On the
screen can be seen Serge.

SERGE
Can you understand what is
going on with the nickel? In
three days he rose twelve
percent already! Moreover, I
specifically looked at their
quarterly reports; they have
no potential, but still it
is rising! This is some sort
of a psychosis!

LEON
You understood right.
They'll go under. I can even
suggest who benefits from
it. So, tomorrow they'll
give another four percent,
the day after tomorrow -
five percent, and the day
after tomorrow night, right
before the closer, we'll
sell it! Is it clear? And
what about the airline firm?
SERGE
At the peak of the deep!
They went into a tailspin
from which can't get out!

LEON
Keep an eye on them, they
intrigue me a lot.

SERGE
What is there to monitor?
They will soon crash.

LEON
When is soon?

SERGE
Well, maybe another couple
of months, and then crash.
Moreover, no economy program
can help them anymore.

LEON
So is it worth to buy them
when they realize that they
are at the deep end.

SERGE
Buy a doomed company? Who
can think of such a thing?

LEON
Me!

SERGE
You're kidding! But what
for? Have you nothing else
to do with your money? Give
it to me. It will take no
persuading; you can always
count on me.

LEON
I know, but I think the time
has come when we can lay our
hands on it.

SERGE
How's that?
LEON
It is an opportunity; they are helplessly in debt like wrapped in silks, you can easily take them by a single blow.

SERGE
Can you imagine how much you'll have to invest? Everything works on parole there. The fleet is worn to the limit. Have you even looked at my report? It is very clearly stated there the company is doomed. It will soon completely bankrupt.

LEON
Seen and read carefully. The risk is great, but such situations happen once in a lifetime

SERGE
Also to be run over by a train can happen only once in a lifetime.

LEON
She has a capital of three hundred million, and it can only be taken just before the crash. I was waiting for this moment, by the way, for one and a half years, should I miss it now?

SERGE
First, we have to sum up the risks. When such machinery is drowning, she can easily drag the rescuers with her?

LEON
But I want it!

SERGE
This is certainly a strong argument, but one such an
operation can break your neck. First you acquire a firm which goes bust, sue creditors for years and, ultimately, lose everything you have in the process! Don't you care?

LEON
Of course I care, but I am willing to risk it! Please try to calculate the approximate amount of investment...

Leon hears that the Wife returned home.

LEON
That’s all, Serge. We'll continue tomorrow ...

Leon disconnects the computer and leaves the office.

Wife, in a smart trouser suit, with a special hair make and a set of jewelry around her neck, fingers and wrist, removes her shoes, and with a sigh sits down on the sofa.

LEON
Well, how was it? Have you enjoyed?

WIFE
Yes, the concert was good, I'm just very tired. By the way, I saw a lot of our friends there, everybody asked about you, why you are not enjoying yourself.

LEON
But you, as I see it, enjoy to the limit.

WIFE
Can't I go to a concert, listen to the songs, the music? Should I bury myself within four walls?

LEON
Well, leave it.
WIFE
I told you about the concert two weeks ago, you yourself refused.

LEON
Sorry, I just got exhausted at work today...

WIFE
Did anything happen?

LEON
I'll sum it up for you. It's, either you will have to get a job and earn money for our keep after my financial transactions, or we will become millionaires.

WIFE
Why risk so much, I don't want to look for a job!

LEON
Without a risk, there is no champagne.

WIFE
This is wrong. What will happen to us, if you lose all your money? How will we live? Work for peanuts? Have you thought of me, you unfeeling selfish beast?

Leon freezes suddenly, his eyes wide open, and he looks at her in amazement.

LEON
You are a snake!

WIFE
What are you talking about?

LEON
You've got a snake's head and a forked tongue. A viper!
Leon grabs his head and begins to sway from side to side.

WIFE
Have gone out of your mind completely?

LEON
I'm sheltering a poisonous snake on my chest. A viper! You don't yet swallow me just because you are well fed, dressed and warm, but the minute it should stop, I'm dead!

WIFE
You're completely mad, you belong in the madhouse. I'm serious. You are raving like a madman.

LEON
A Viper! How come I haven't noticed before, with whom, in fact, I live?

The wife looks at him with hatred. Suddenly her eyes change, she smiles, then begins to laugh nervously, laughing loudly.

WIFE
Better look at yourself, then you can judge me...

The Wife sees Leon with a head of a donkey.

LEON
What?

WIFE
You are a donkey!

LEON
Your insults will not help you; now everything is clear. I saw through you, the snake!
WIFE
You have a donkey's head and floppy ears! The donkey! My dear, lovely donkey!

The Wife approaches, strokes him and pats him on the cheek.

WIFE
Don't worry, dear husband, we'll patiently wait together. You don't turn away from such...

Leon looks in the mirror and sees himself with a donkey head.

Leon (in his normal form) takes the phone and calls Mother.

His Mother picks up the phone.

LEON
Mom, I suddenly realized that I am an ass! And my wife is a snake, a viper!

MOTHER
(by phone)
This is no news for me. I'm sorry of course, Leon, but I always knew her real price! How could you marry such a woman?

Leon bows his head. With a heavy sigh, he ends the conversation and hides the mobile phone in his pocket.

They stand in their luxury apartment facing each other as in a duel.

Leon with hatred and fear looks at his wife, and she stares at him with a satisfied smile on her face of the winner.

Suddenly, lust appears in her eyes. She slowly begins to undress, simulating striptease.

There are sounds of appropriate music. She takes off her jacket, unbuttons and pulls down the bra.
Leon after a moment of hesitation approaches and hugs his half-naked wife.

WIFE
(whispers passionately)
Let's start from the beginning, forget everything that just happened here.

Wife is breathing hard and passionately, she removes Leon's clothes.

LEON
Well! I've already forgotten!

WIFE
(whispers passionately)
Let's make love, as at the first time. Then we were so good. Do you remember?

They lie down on a mat on the floor. Leon covers her with passionate kisses, she squirms and moans.

She lies beside him, her "snake" hands constantly in motion, constantly caressing his body.

LEON
(passionately)
I remember! I remember it all!

WIFE
(whispers passionately)
Do not be afraid, hold me tight. I'll give you pleasure, like you never had, you'll enter another, beautiful world...

Wife licks a place on his neck, then with evident pleasure bites with her teeth.

Leon shudders and freezes in place without moving, a slow trickle of blood runs down his neck.
A phone rings. Phone shows in close-up. Ring sounds continue, but nobody comes to the phone set.

The camera returns, and we see on the carpet a dead donkey and a snake crawling on the floor of a fashionable apartment.

THE END