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THE RESIDENT

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MARKED
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EXT. BROOKLYN - LATE NIGHT

STREET SIGN: Brooklyn Ave.

A torrential rain falls all around. Off the sign, the camera follows rain water as it rushes in the gutter. Then... *

...The sound of GUNSHOTS in the distance just as...

...a CAR FLIES BY, obviously speeding. Camera whip pans with it just in time to catch sight of the car...

...CRASHING into a street sign, then a closed kiosk. It slides to its side then flips on its roof and bounces against the corner of a building, causing it to spin so hard that the CAR'S DRIVER (CARLOS) IS THROWN from the vehicle and sloshes down the slick street like a grotesque body boarder.

The Driver slides out of view. Then...

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Chaos in the ER. Camera skitters from person to person, patient to patient - Finally stopping on a...

BLEEDING TEENAGER - It is Carlos from the car wreck. He has a gunshot wound in his chest and neck. It looks bad. Gloved hands enter to attend the victim. Camera rises to reveal... *

JULIET DERMER, ER doctor in pale green scrubs and surgical hat. Though her hair is covered, her slender neck and honest eyes reveal that she is utterly beautiful and sensitive. There is a firm confidence in her every gesture as she assesses the victim's wounds with methodical precision.

JULIET
Punctured left ventricle and
lacerated esophagus. Prep OR 3
stat.

INT. HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

Juliet performs surgery on Carlos. FAST CUTS take us through the operation as she removes the bullets from his chest, stabilizes his breathing.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Juliet steps from the OR and catches her breath, dropping her bloody scrubs in a waste bin.

DR. HOLSTROM
A zone 3 carotid GSW? I'm starting
to suspect you're a glory hound.

Juliet looks up to see DR. HOLSTROM, her Supervisor.

JULIET
 (smiling humbly)
 Just happened to be there.

DR. HOLSTROM
 Your colleagues will be jealous.
 Your shift ended three hours ago.
 Please. Go home and get some rest.

At the mention of the word "home," a pain runs across Juliet's eyes.

EXT. HOSPITAL - SAME MORNING, DAWN

The Automatic doors to the hospital open, and Juliet exits.

She looks out onto the vast dawn, appearing to be a lost soul. She is clearly more comfortable working than she is facing the outside world and herself.

She takes a breath of courage, approaches a vendor, and opens up the Times to the RENTAL PAGE. She puts down her money and walks away without her change, reading the listings.

INT. NARROW TENEMENT STAIRWELL - SAME MORNING

Juliet, with a to-go coffee and her now-tattered newspaper, makes her way up a gruelling five flights of narrow stairs. She squeezes past a descending couple with two small children, a stroller and a dog.

Their LAUGHTER pierces Juliet's loneliness as she feels that she is watching a portrait of a family that she may never have.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
 (os)
 You must be Juliet.

Juliet looks to the top of the stairs where an over-eager Sales Agent waits.

JULIET
 Yes...

INT. TINY APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Out of breath, Juliet walks into a miniscule apartment, about the size of a large elevator.

JULIET
...Which way is the bedroom?

The Real Estate Agent pulls down a Murphy Bed.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
It's your bedroom...

She pulls down a table from another wall.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
Your dining room, kitchen and study
all in one: Real New York living.
And of course, the view is AMAZING.

Since there appears to be no window, Juliet is perplexed.

The Real Estate Agent pushes a chair towards Juliet and gestures to the narrow window that sits eight feet off the floor.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
Go ahead.

Juliet steps onto the chair and looks out the window. Indeed, the view is amazing.

JULIET
It IS a good view...

REAL ESTATE AGENT
Interested?

JULIET
(no way)
I'll think about it.

And the Murphy Bed SNAPS shut, startling the Two Women.

INT. LOFT - SAME DAY

Juliet is shown a large loft space by another Real Estate Agent. In the middle of the light-filled space, A MAN teaches a LITTLE BOY how to play guitar.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
 Rashid only holds his classes during the day, from around nine to six. And every other Saturday. The rest is yours...

Suddenly, the Acoustic Guitar goes ELECTRIC - Blowing the two women out of the room. They move into the hallway:

JULIET
 ...I don't get it.

REAL ESTATE AGENT
 It's a shared space. I've found it works quite well if you're hours are right. And you can't beat the location or the price.

ON JULIET: Trying to remain hopeful as she watches the Boy play off-key Electric Guitar in the next room.

INT. ANOTHER APARTMENT - SAME DAY

Juliet looks at a perfectly nice, but slightly dreary studio-apartment looking out onto a brick wall.

SUPER
 It used to have a great view, all the way to Manhattan, but they built a condo last year. That's why it's only 2500 a month.

Juliet's eye locks on a cockroach slowly crossing the floor.

INT. SECOND FLOOR OF BROWSTONE - SAME LATE AFTERNOON

A nice floor-through with large picture windows. The Irish Owner walks Juliet through it. She loves it.

JULIET
 How much is it?

IRISH OWNER
 It's seven thousand a month. We have a waiting list. Would you like to sign it?

Juliet wearily looks down at a long list of people.

EXT. FRONT STOOP, ANOTHER APARTMENT BUILDING- SAME EVENING

Exhausted, Juliet looks up the front stoop to a stunning old apartment building that has the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge across it. She takes a deep breath and rises.

She RINGS the doorbell and waits. This is her last chance.

She RINGS once more, but nobody answers. Defeated, she turns to walk away, but notices that the front door is slightly ajar.

Then she sees a small sign that has fallen to the ground:

APARTMENT FOR RENT: NINTH FLOOR.

Juliet pushes the door open...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Juliet stands in the middle of an impeccably kept foyer with a spiral staircase rising. Her gaze sweeps across the details of the building as if it were the body of a beautiful woman. *

INT. ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Juliet rides up the elevator, noticing it is about the same size as the first apartment she looked at.

INT. NINTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Exiting the elevator, Juliet hears A LOUD SOUND coming from down the hall.

She enters a door to see a MAN ON ALL FOURS meticulously sanding the hard wood floors. He is in the center of a gigantic and empty living room. His name is **MAX**. *

JULIET

...Hello...?

She says something else, but neither we nor Max can hear it because of the sound of Max's power tool. Juliet KNOCKS on the door loudly.

Max switches off his power tool and turns around. He wears goggles, with a white protective mask over his mouth. He just stares at Juliet.

JULIET
Uhm. There's a rental here...?

Max pulls off his mask.

MAX
Yeah. It's not ready yet.

JULIET
Could I see it?

MAX
You're looking at it.

Max starts packing up his power tool. Juliet looks around this gorgeous, immaculately-kept apartment. It has 15 foot ceilings.

JULIET
...Oh. I can't afford this...

She turns to leave.

MAX
(not turning around)
It's 28.

Juliet pauses...

JULIET
What...?

MAX
28. The place is 28.

JULIET
Thousand?

MAX
(is she an idiot?)
Hundred.

Max approaches her.

MAX
Hundred.

Max takes off his goggles only to reveal that underneath he wears glasses with paint splattered on them.

JULIET
What's the catch? Are you putting a
disco in on the first floor?

MAX
 (not answering her
 question)
 Utilities are separate.

Max walks away down the hallway towards the bedroom.

MAX
 It takes a lot to heat a place like
 this, so expect Con Ed to sock it
 to you in the winter.

JULIET
 (can't quite believe it's
 true)
 ...Right...

Juliet looks around the place. There are little alcoves and intricate moldings all over the walls. She peers down the short hallway, notices something strange: Many of the walls are not 90 degrees, they seem to come together at odd angles.

The Camera follows Juliet as she approaches the expansive window in the bedroom. Outside, the East River flows beneath the Brooklyn Bridge, the Manhattan skyline behind.

MAX
 This is the best view in the
 building.

JULIET
 Are you the Super?

MAX
 I own it. My family bought this
 building in the forties. And to
 answer your question: No, no Disco
 downstairs. I'm gonna start
 restoring all the apartments. All
 the tenants have finally moved out
 except a few old ladies. But, until
 I'm done, it could get crazy with
 the noise during the day. And I
 figured even a pain-in-the-ass
 tenant would keep his - or her -
 mouth shut at that price.

JULIET
 (wants the apartment)
 I'm not a pain in the ass.

A small smile from Max.

*

JULIET
After a 20 hour shift, I typically
go comatose for 8 hours.

MAX
Twenty hours?

JULIET
ER.

MAX
You're a Doctor.

JULIET
Yes.

MAX
So, then. You have an income. You
can pay the rent.

JULIET
Definitely.

Max takes off his glasses and wipes the paint off his lenses.
Juliet notices his arresting green eyes. But he avoids
looking straight at her.

MAX
There are a few things about the
place. Cell phones don't get the
best reception.

JULIET
(wants the apartment)
I'll get a land line.

Suddenly the BUILDING RUMBLES slightly, Juliet is surprised.

MAX
And the F Line.

JULIET
...Jesus...

The RUMBLING subsides.

MAX
It's a maintenance track that runs
under the building.
(Apologetic)
...Usually at night.

Max walks away into the bathroom. Juliet follows.

MAX

I'll need a social security number
for a credit check, an address and
references.

Max runs the water in the sink, the tub and the toilet,
demonstrating they are all in good condition.

JULIET

I can get you all of that, plus
records of my taxes for the last
five years if you want.

MAX

(referring to the water)
All new pipes.
(Referring to the tiles)
No cracks. Anywhere. All original
subway tiling. I fixed and replaced
every one by hand.

JULIET

It's beautiful. *

Max runs his finger carefully around the rectangular edge of
the tile, outlining its borders. *

MAX

Most people want new tiles - tiny,
green, glass. Modern.
(Turning to her)
Where are you living now?

JULIET

(uncomfortable)
...Oh, Uhm. A hotel.
(Trying to make a joke)
A very modern, bad hotel.

MAX

...A hotel?

JULIET

Temporarily. Unless this place is
available now.

A moment.

MAX

I prefer no pets.

JULIET

Of course.

MAX

...The heaters bang in the morning.
Loudly.

JULIET

I like loud heaters.

MAX

(very quiet)

Ok.

CLOSE ON: Max drops the key in Juliet's hand.

JULIET

But you haven't checked my
references ...

MAX

I will.

And Max is gone. Juliet stifles SCREAMS of joy as she looks around at her new HOME.

INT. MOVING TRUCK - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

From the darkness, the frame fills with blinding white light as the truck's cargo door lifts open, revealing Juliet.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

OPPOSITE ANGLE, JULIET'S POV -- The truck is one-third filled with cardboard boxes and miscellaneous furniture items.

A loud-mouthed MOVING MAN approaches from the side, pulls a loading ramp out of the rear, pushes a dolly in her face and checks his watch.

MOVING MAN

I gotta be Uptown in exactly 100
minutes, so you got 60 to get this
shit out of my truck or I gotta
charge you another day.

JULIET

Take a deep breath. I don't want
you to strain yourself talking...

MAX (O.S.)

You hired the only moving man in
New York who doesn't actually move
the furniture?

Juliet looks down to see Max emerging from the basement entry of the building. As usual, he is covered in dust and paint, but she is relieved to see him. Maybe he can help.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SAME DAY

Max enters carrying part of a bed frame, followed by Juliet with a box. They are both sweating. But there really isn't much stuff, and the apartment looks empty.

MAX
You travel light.

JULIET
I needed a new start. So I got rid of a lot. I would have liked to saw the bed in half and burn it, but I need a place to sleep at night.

A moment. Juliet realizes she has said way too much.

MAX
What did the guy do?

JULIET
Let's just say he did it in our bed.

Juliet's eye lands on the bed frame that Max is holding. He quickly puts it down.

JULIET
I'm not quick at forgiving.

MAX
That's not all you are.

JULIET
...What?

MAX
(staring at her)
Saw in half? Burn? You've got a temper.

An easy chemistry grows between them. Juliet deflects it.

JULIET
...Couch...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING ENTRANCE - DAY

Max and Juliet try to load the last piece, her COUCH, into the ELEVATOR, but it won't fit. JUMP CUTS chart their attempts. They try to stand it on its end, then angle it in catty-cornered. But nothing works. Finally...

...They stand, staring at the couch. They both turn to see the large looming stairwell.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRWELL - DAY

Max and Juliet carry the couch up the stairs. He is holding the majority of the weight. The sign on the wall reads: "8th Floor."

JULIET

You okay?

MAX

One more flight.

And they start up the final flight, when suddenly an OLD MAN (August) is standing behind Juliet.

Juliet is startled, and loses her grip on the couch. It bangs on the stair and nearly tumbles down on top of Max, but his strength prevents further disaster. Juliet quickly grabs her end and helps set it down for a rest.

JULIET

(to Max)

I'm so sorry.

MAX

It's not your fault.

(Referring to the Old Man)

This is my Grandfather. August, Juliet. Juliet, August.

*

JULIET

...I'm the new Tenant.

*

AUGUST

(gruff)

You got pets?

*

JULIET

...No.

AUGUST
Are you loud?

JULIET
(can't help but giggle)
Not at all.

August looks deep into Juliet's face. Now she also can look closely at him: AUGUST JAEGER, 90, old and frail, but with a strong energy.

AUGUST
(to Juliet)
I'm sorry I scared you.

August puts his hand out to Juliet, and she shakes. His grip is much stronger than she would have expected.

Then August gives a glaring look up to Max....

MAX
(to Juliet)
Ready?

*

*

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM- NIGHT

ANGLE INSIDE THE REFRIGERATOR: The door opens to reveal Juliet's face peering in. There is nothing in the fridge but a six pack of beer. She grabs one.

MOMENTS LATER: In underwear and wife beater, Juliet stands at her stove - Boxes, still not unpacked, are everywhere. She sips her beer and eats warmed canned beans straight out of the pot: A portrait of solitude.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Juliet stands in front of the FULL LENGTH MIRROR. She runs her hand over the mirror, sweeping away some steam from the shower. She looks at herself in the low light.

She runs lotion up her arms, legs, back. Over her breasts, and bottom, lost in a private moment, when suddenly the FULL LENGTH MIRROR RATTLES, at first almost imperceptibly.

Juliet cautiously puts her hand out and touches the mirror FULL PALM. Just then, the entire BUILDING RUMBLES as a subway train roars past underground!

Spooked, Juliet quickly lifts her hand from the surface. Then pulls her hand now completely away from the mirror, leaving the camera to focus on a GREASY HANDPRINT from the lotion. For a long moment it remains center frame, vibrating almost imperceptibly.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - LATER SAME NIGHT

CLOSE ON Juliet's eyes-- She is fast asleep. Her face alternates between light and darkness as cars move swiftly past on the bridge outside her window. Camera pulls back to reveal her body draped in a bed sheet. She dreams of kissing a dark haired man. Then, suddenly... A few nightmarish images of her arguing with the same Man: Her Ex?...

Juliet jolts forward in bed. She senses something, looks into the darkness beyond the foot of the bed and sees a small source of light glowing faintly from the hallway. Her gaze remains fixed, even as a LARGE SHADOW passes undetected directly in front of the lens. Juliet exhales, then rises to her feet and passes slowly into...

...the HALLWAY as the old floorboards creak softly beneath her weight. As she turns the corner, she can see...

...the FRONT DOOR OF HER APARTMENT IS AJAR.

She stops dead in her tracks, heart is pounding. There is a SUDDEN MOVEMENT amongst the murky shadows. She recoils in fright. Her eyes move towards...

...the LIVING ROOM, where a DARK FIGURE IS STANDING in the shadows. The ominous form stares straight back at her...

Juliet is frozen with fear, her breathing races. Her trembling hand rises from her side and moves tentatively towards a LIGHT SWITCH on the wall. With a firm CLICK, the overhead light erupts, flooding the room with light...

The DARK FIGURE is gone. The room is empty.

Juliet exhales deeply. It was just a shadow cast from the bridge outside. First night paranoia? After a long beat she returns her gaze towards...

...the FRONT DOOR, which is now closed. Was it ever really open? She walks to the door. It's locked. She takes a deep breath. The shadows are playing tricks on her. Then she HEARS...

...Something outside in the hallway - the elevator doors. She puts her eye to the peep hole. Nothing. But then...

...Max walks by carrying groceries. Late night shopping.

She checks the lock to make sure it's secure.

Then she reaches out for the light switch to turn it off. But decides NOT to turn it off, and returns to her bedroom in the light. As she walks back to bed...

THE CAMERA STAYS IN THE LOCK AS THE MUSIC RISES, THEN SUDDENLY STOPS.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - EARLY MORNING - ESTABLISHING

The sun rises majestically over the Brooklyn Bridge.

EXT. EAST RIVER WATERFRONT - EARLY MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The PATTERN of footsteps. A pair of running shoes fills the frame, moving at a rapid pace. The Camera moves up from the shoes revealing...

JULIET, as she cuts quickly down a dirt path on the waterfront. Manhattan looms as a stunning backdrop. She rounds a corner and runs directly towards the lens.

EXT./INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Juliet, back from her run, jogs up the front steps. Her cell phone vibrates, she looks down, sees who it is from, erases it, and continues up the stairs.

MOMENTS LATER ON THE SIXTH FLOOR LANDING: Juliet hands a package and a few letters to MRS. ROSENBAUM (80's) who stands at her front door. She smiles graciously.

MRS. ROSENBAUM
(loud, hard-of-hearing)
I knew he'd pick a pretty one. They
always do.

JULIET
Men are predictable creatures.

MRS. ROSENBAUM
What?

JULIET
(louder)
Men are predictable.

MRS. ROSENBAUM
They're worthless bastards! All
women learn that one day.

Rosenbaum turns away, leaving Juliet with an ironic smile in her eye.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE JULIET'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Juliet, out of breath, has run up all the stairs to her apartment. She finds a gift basket at her door - Full of wine, cd's...It's lovely.

A card is attached:

CU. - CARD: It reads: "Welcome to the building. Max"

Juliet finds this a bit much, but sweet. *

She opens the front door. As she does so, reveal behind her... *

...AUGUST STANDING in the shadows at the end of the hallway. She doesn't notice him.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRWELL - DAY

The hollow sound of HEELS in an open corridor accompanies...

HIGH ANGLE above a flight of stairs descending into darkness. There are TWO FIGURES moving down, their shadows stretched behind them like capes.

MAX

(vo)

I want to use the original plans.
I'd do it myself, but I need
drawings for the city.

ARCHITECT

(vo:)

There are significant dead spaces
here and along these walls. There's
a lot more we could do to maximize
your property's potential.

ANGLE DOWN ON MAX'S FACE.

MAX

We'll stick to the plans. My
Grandfather prefers it that way.

Max and the Architect have reached the bottom floor.

ARCHITECT

(to Max)

I'll call you Monday with a bid.

MAX

Great, thanks.

Max, without much thought, swipes a flying moth into his fist. Through the tiny gaps in his fingers, Max observes the moth flying inside his palm. And he gets lost in the moment.

JULIET

(os)

Hey.

Max looks up to see that Juliet has entered the building.

JULIET

About to start making a lot of noise?

Max nonchalantly releases the moth out of his palm and lets it fly away.

MAX

After I get the City's approval.
Lots of dots and crosses to do
around here.

Juliet hesitates...

JULIET

...Thank you.

MAX

Hmmm?

JULIET

For the present. That was
incredibly sweet. Really generous.

Max cocks his head confused.

JULIET

Outside my door...yesterday?

Max seems mystified a moment longer, then comes to a realization. Shakes his head with a smile.

MAX

Ahhh... it wasn't me.

For a split second Juliet seems confused, then comes to her own realization.

CUE: KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - SAME EVENING

August opens the door to find Juliet in the hallway.

AUGUST
Before you get mad, just let me say
I want you to have it.

JULIET
It's overwhelmingly thoughtful.

AUGUST
I just put myself in your shoes.

A moment, as August stares at Juliet.

AUGUST
And I thought, what would I want,
as a woman alone? A new apartment.
Surrounded by strangers? I'd want
familiarity, a glass of wine. Some
music. Bath salts, laundry
detergent, a bath plug.

Slightly inappropriate, and Juliet can't help but giggle.

A WHISTLE from a tea kettle sounds in August's apartment.

AUGUST
Tea.

He stares lasciviously at Juliet. Is that an invitation?
Juliet doesn't want to go in. So, she begs off.

JULIET
Thank-you.

She backs away as August slowly closes the door and vanishes.

INT. OR - EARLY EVENING

OPERA PLAYS in the OR as Juliet operates on a patient.

INT. HOSPITAL LOUNGE/LOCKER ROOM - AFTER THE OPERATION

Juliet removes a surgical mask and sits exhausted on a bench.

Her phone VIBRATES again, and she immediately erases it as she did before.

Then, a fellow resident, SYDNEY - six months pregnant - trails in through the door. Sydney is also getting off her shift at the hospital.

SYDNEY

Heard you had a long one.

JULIET

Insane day.

SYDNEY

Corey and I are going to one of those outside movies at the Bridge. You wanna come?

JULIET

I don't know...I haven't been sleeping so well. I think I'm going to get to bed early.

SYDNEY

Ok, Grandma. You got to stop thinking about that Motherfucker.

JULIET

I'm not thinking about him.

SYDNEY

Jules...Come on.

JULIET

What am I supposed to do - Say, wow, I feel so great, so beautiful, so happy. The love of my life cheated on me in my own bed...Every time I look at myself, all I see is someone who wasn't enough...

SYDNEY

Don't say that.

JULIET

I don't know if I want him dead or want to marry him again. It's a fucking nightmare. I go back and forth. All night long.

Sydney forces eye contact with Juliet, who sees genuine concern in her friend's eyes.

SYDNEY

It's a movie. It won't kill you.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - SAME NIGHT

This is some kind of Brooklyn Idol. The Bridge and the night loom beautifully - with twinkling lights - as crowds of hip Brooklynites sit together with picnics watching THE PRINCESS BRIDE on the big screen.

Juliet, sitting with Sydney and her husband, tries to have a good time, taking a deep breath of fresh air, and looking around:

JULIET'S POV: COUPLES and young families abound.

A four year old sits on her mother's lap as her mother feeds her grapes.

Another little girl gives another little boy kisses all over his face and he wipes each one off, while in the background, the parents whisper to one another.

Another young family is all dressed the same in bamboo fibre clothing, and they drink from environmentally safe metal canisters.

Juliet turns to Sydney whose husband's hand sits lovingly on her pregnant belly.

The look on Juliet's face says: GOING OUT was the wrong thing to do. She looks up at the screen. The Prince and Princess kiss. Juliet SIGHS.

AFTER THE MOVIE:

Juliet, Sydney and her boyfriend leave the movie, pressing against the friendly crowd.

Juliet bumps into someone. Then she practically trips over a kid's stroller. And another's kid juice spills on her nice shoes. Finally, Someone else bumps into her!

JULIET

Watch it.

The "Someone" turns around, and it is MAX.

JULIET
Oh.

MAX
Hey...

Max has cleaned up. He is not wearing his paint and dust-covered clothing. He looks down-right handsome and well groomed. Juliet and Max are both momentarily stunned by one another.

SYDNEY
(the matchmaker)
Who's this...

JULIET
This is Max.
(To Max)
I hardly recognized you outside the building.

MAX
You too.

SYDNEY
Oohhhh. I haven't heard about you.

JULIET
This is Sydney. From work.

SYDNEY
Why don't you come out for a drink with us?

MAX
Oh, I'm..no. I'm not really the go-out-for-a-drink-type.

JULIET
(interrupting)
He's my Landlord.

SYDNEY
(so?)
Yes...?

JULIET
And I'm his...Tenant.

SYDNEY
You mean, what if it sucks and you can't get away from each other?

JULIET
 Something like that. It's not
 recommended. Neighbors. Tenants.
 Landlords. The whole thing.

SYDNEY
 So you've thought about it.

Now Juliet is really blushing.

MAX
 (to Juliet)
 Lemme walk you home...

Juliet feels trapped.

JULIET
 ...Thanks.

SYDNEY
 Good night sweetie.

Sydney kisses Juliet. Juliet whispers to her:

JULIET
 I will be killing you later on.

SYDNEY
 (whispering back)
 He's cute, in a weird way.

JULIET
 (whispered)
 Fuck off.

ON MAX, waiting for Juliet, not hearing any of what they are saying.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - LATER

Max and Juliet walk with one another.

JULIET
 I'm sorry...

MAX
 What?

JULIET
 My friend. She's worried about me.
 It's kind of embarrassing.

MAX

I'm used to it. My Grandfather worries about me. People from his generation were already married with ten children by my age.

JULIET

August is kind of a unique guy, isn't he?

MAX

You could say that. Unique. Difficult. A pain in the ass would be another way to characterize him.

JULIET

Is he ok?

MAX

He's been sick for years...
 (he dares to admit it)
 A lot of years. And...
 (a little ashamed)
 I take care of him.

*
*
*
*
*

JULIET

What's he sick with? If it's ok to ask...

*
*
*

MAX

Well...It's hard to know anymore. One thing after another...needed to be treated.
 (He'd rather not talk about it)
 I don't know...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

JULIET

And your parents...?

*

MAX

My God, you don't let up.

*
*

JULIET

I'm sorry. Really. Forget it. I'm just curious...

*
*
*

MAX

No. It's good. I don't talk about this stuff much. My parents.
 (Gets the nerve up to say it)
 Died in a car wreck when I was six.

*
*
*
*
*
*

JULIET

I'm so sorry.

*

Max takes the plunge and opens up to Juliet.

MAX

My father passed instantly. But my mother was in surgery for hours. And when the Doctor came out, I had been holding this necklace of hers and praying on it over and over again - Let her live. But the news was bad.

*

Juliet looks at Max. He is a damaged, but a sensitive and sweet man.

JULIET

(very pained)

I've been that doctor before, giving that bad news. They don't warn you about that in Medical School.

MAX

(changing the subject)

And yours?

JULIET

My parents? Kind of after-the-fact-Hippies. My Mom lives in Mendocino. And My Dad does Contact Improv. in Amsterdam.

*

MAX

So you were the black sheep of the family.

JULIET

For me, rebellion was going to Med. School. Free love sucked as far as I could see. It led to a quick divorce on my parents' part. So I was weekended with my Dad here or there. I really never knew where my home was, not until Jack and I moved in together.

*

*

There. She's said her husband's name.

MAX

"Jack."

JULIET
My Mom thought he was all wrong for
me from the beginning.

Juliet WHISPERS...

JULIET
Afterall, he's a Republican.

MAX
But, you thought he was the One...

JULIET
He was attracted to me and my
ambitions, but when it came down to
it, he wanted me home with an apron
on, cooking dinner instead of out
dissecting cadavers.

Max smiles at her humour. There is an attraction between
them...

MAX
I thought hippie kids had weird
names.

Juliet blushes, rolls her eyes.

MAX
You do, don't you? What's your real
name?

JULIET
Juliet is my real name.

MAX
What's your middle name?

JULIET
No way.

Juliet's eye is taken by some little kids on a fire escape
across the street. They are lighting bits of paper and
watching them float down to the ground. It's beautiful and
magical.

Max follows Juliet's gaze.

JULIET
(seeing something else)
Look.

And they both look up at a family having a party in another window. Old people and young, together.

JULIET

(opening up to Max)

When I was little I used to walk around my neighborhood. Look into windows. At families around televisions. Brothers, sisters, parents, talking, playing around, eating. I couldn't touch them...

*
*

This peaks Max's interest...

*

MAX

...Touch them...?

*
*

JULIET

I mean, I knew I couldn't be a part of a family. Of warmth. And love. But I could imagine it; in my mind, I could be part of a real family.

*
*
*
*

Max looks at Juliet. He very much sees part of himself in her.

But then he notices that Juliet is blushing. He follows her gaze to another fire escape on which a couple makes out - hot and heavy. They feel each other up.

Then the couple looks straight at them watching. And Juliet is mortified.

JULIET

(cute, embarrassed)

Oh my God.

MAX

Come on.

And Max and Juliet walk away, quickening their pace, then running around the corner. They stop - out of breath - against the wall of a building.

*

Juliet looks at Max. She really likes him, and feels compelled to tell him her secret:

JULIET

Bliss.

MAX

"Bliss?"

JULIET

Yup.

It takes Max a moment to realize what she's saying. Then he gets it.

MAX

God, I'm sorry. It's a good thing you dropped your middle name.

JULIET

I told you they were hippies.

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT BUILDING - SAME NIGHT

We are looking at an imposing DARK-HAIRED MAN who watches from across the street as Juliet and Max enter the building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Juliet and Max exit the elevator on their floor. Juliet pulls out her key and opens the door, then turns to Max.

JULIET

(shy)

Thanks.

Juliet leans in, gives Max a kiss on the cheek. For a moment, she closes her eyes and breathes him in. Juliet moves to kiss Max on the lips, but he swiftly pulls away.

JULIET

...I'm sorry. God, I'm an idiot.

MAX

No. Don't be sorry. I just...No...It's not a great idea.

JULIET

Of course. It's an awful idea. No. Thank you for an incredible evening.

MAX

I didn't mean it that way...

JULIET

You're totally right. I'm all fucked up, out of practise. Reading the wrong signals.

She gives a sad laugh. Then opens her door and vanishes. Max bites his lip, letting her go. He turns and enters his door down the hall.

...The Camera remains in the hallway, moving slowly down the walls as if some unseen presence were stalking the corridor.

EXT. THE STREET BELOW JULIET'S APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

THE MALE FIGURE ACROSS THE STREET looks up towards Juliet's window where she crosses her dark living room in her underwear.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SAME MOMENT

Juliet takes a moment to rifle through the gift basket from August. She pulls out bath salts, candles, a bottle of wine and a bath plug.

But she can't help but find her eye pulled towards one of her unpacked moving boxes. In it is a voice mail machine. *
*

She takes a deep breath, grabs it, plugs it in and hits OUTGOING MESSAGE. Her EX'S VOICE PLAYS. His VOICE is really warm, masculine, friendly - Not what we would expect from a husband who betrays his wife:

JACK
(on the tape)
Hey, it's Jack.

JULIET
(on the tape, chiming in)
And Juliet.

JACK
(on the tape)
Please leave a message...

JULIET
(on the tape)
After the beep.

A GIGGLE on the tape from Juliet, and then BEEP!

In the living room, Juliet's eyes are wide, she feels very alone.

CUT TO:

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - SAME NIGHT

Trying to forget her Ex, and get comfortable in her new home, Juliet rests neck-deep in a steaming bath; candlelight flickers from the far corner of the room: It's working. This is so luxurious. *

Juliet remains perfectly still, the water around her is smooth as glass.

As she reaches for her glass of wine at the edge of the tub, low VIBRATIONS move across the floorboards and into the warm water. The tranquil surface begins to ripple. Juliet doesn't stir, She's been through this before. *

A few moments, and the vibrations of the subway pass. She lifts the glass to her lips and sips. Then puts the glass down. *

She closes her eyes and moves a bar of soap over her body, past a mole on her upper back that she touches lightly.

CLOSE ON: Her hand slides down her legs, around her buttocks, and then she splashes her head inside the water, and comes up for air. She moves her hand down between her legs again - this time more erotically, then stops. Her eyes dart to the side. Then she closes her eyes and pushes her hand down deeper. Her eyes open and she notices...

...a sudden ABRUPT PULSE of energy pushing through the surface of the wine in her glass.

The motion startles her. She sits up straight, alert.

Listening intently, she SLOWLY TURNS HER HEAD towards a faint NOISE outside the bathroom door. At that moment, her hand KNOCKS THE GLASS from the tub, sending it...

CRASHING to the floor. There is a shimmering mess of liquid and shattered glass spread across the tiles.

JULIET

Shit...

She cautiously steps out of the tub, and peers out through the doorway into the pitch-black.

ANGLE FROM WITHIN THE BEDROOM -- Staring back at her from within the darkened room, the camera captures her silhouette framed against the candlelit bathroom. She begins to walk as...

The CAMERA MOVES 180 degrees to capture her from behind as she disappears into darkness...

Camera tracks closely as she moves with caution across the wooden floor into...

...the BEDROOM, leaving a speckled trail of water glimmering in the candlelight. She proceeds with caution.

Large SHADOWY FORMS undulate within the faintly flickering light from the Bridge outside the window, light that slips into the room through a break in the curtains.

The sound of her BREATHING rises. She moves swiftly towards the bedroom WINDOW and throws the CURTAINS wide, flushing out the darkness....

The room is exposed in pale moonlight: a collection of unpacked boxes and clothes lies in a jumble.

JULIET
(relieved)
Jesus Christ, Juliet. Calm the fuck
down.

Juliet exhales and exits, quickly blowing the candles out in her bathroom. She returns, sits gently on the bed...She pushes a strand of wet hair from her face.

EXTREME CLOSE UP on a single DROP of water as it rolls gently off her finger and through the air in SLOW-MOTION.

LOW ANGLE from under the bed on the floor as the DROP EXPLODES.

IS THIS SOMEONE'S POV?

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - ONE WEEK LATER, AFTERNOON

Paramedics burst into the ER with a HOMELESS MAN on a stretcher. One of the paramedics is giving the guy CPR.

Juliet rushes over to meet the incoming as he is wheeled into an isolated ER station, cut off by the rest of the ER by curtains.

PARAMEDIC
Cardiac arrest. Pulse is weak and
irregular. On CPR for 12 minutes.

JULIET
Defibrillators.

A nurse pushes forward with the unit and they rip the man's dirty shirt from his body as Juliet grabs the defibs and takes a squirt of conductant onto it.

JULIET

Clear.

Everyone moves away as she SHOCKS THE GUY. No response, and she tries again. And again. But still no response. Finally, Juliet RAISES HER HAND. They guy is dead.

JULIET

T.O.D.: 1520.

An ER tech throws a sheet over the dead body as A YOUNG INTERN asks a question.

YOUNG INTERN

What happens to him now?

JULIET

He'll be taken to the county morgue, and if the body isn't claimed, he'll be cremated. Ashes thrown away.

The Intern nods- just another piece of info in the ER. But for Juliet, this Dead Man's lack of family resonates in a way that makes her sad about her life.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - SAME LATE AFTERNOON

Juliet finishes changing out of her work clothing. She opens her locker and looks at the places where tape used to hold photos of her and her husband.

She pulls a stray piece of tape off, then dares to reach to the top shelf where the photos are stuffed and dog-eared.

JULIET'S POV: The photos are of her and her Ex. Juliet and her husband looked really happy together: A time of innocence.

Jack is very striking, athletic and dark. But he also looks LIKE THE MAN WHO WAS WATCHING JULIET'S BUILDING ON THE NIGHT SHE WENT OUT WITH MAX!

Then Juliet's phone VIBRATES, and this time, she can't stop herself from answering.

JULIET
 (into the phone)
 Jack.

JACK
 (sexy masculine voice)
 You picked up.

Juliet isn't sure what to say. She wants to talk to him, but she is still so pissed and hurt.

JULIET
 (harder than she means to be)
 What do you want?

JACK
 Well...
 (not sure how to break the ice)
 I just called to say HI.

This is NOT what Juliet wanted to hear. She needs an immediate apology.

JULIET
 Well, Hi.

And she hangs up - Sad and angry with herself for answering in the first place.

Then, her phone VIBRATES again, and she immediately picks up.

JULIET
 It's not a good idea for us to talk.

MAX
 (through the phone)
 ...Juliet?

JULIET
 (mortified)
 Max?

A moment.

MAX
 (thru the phone)
 ... Listen. Juliet, I'm sorry I've been out of touch for a few days. August died this afternoon.

*

Juliet's face fills with empathy, and a strange kind of relief: Now she knows why Max hasn't been around. It wasn't because he was avoiding her.

INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - DAY

The CAMERA moves through August's apartment like a roving eye. The place is dark, hasn't been touched. Suddenly...

...LIGHT as Max throws open a curtain that covers the huge Bridge-view window. Juliet is also there.

JULIET

Are you sure you want to do this?

MAX

I'm just gonna put it in storage.
Or sell it. *

JULIET

What happened?

Max wants to tell Juliet everything. But he's not sure he's ready, so he diverts attention by picking up a beautiful series of miniscule paintings of ships behind glass. *

JULIET *

Did he paint those? *

Max gets the courage to tell Juliet: *

MAX

I want to tell you something. I've never told anybody. In some ways, not even myself. *

JULIET *

...What is it? *

MAX *

...August took drugs. At first it was for back pain. And then, my whole childhood, I never knew what kind of man I was going to deal with. A really sweet one, who was happy and high. Or someone coming down, who was in a rage... *

JULIET *

...That's a lot for a little kid to deal with. *

MAX

Yeah. Well, I guess he was pretty tough, cause he kept on going. But in the end, it was a stroke that got him. I'm almost happy he got his peace.

*
*
*
*
*

Juliet is impressed with his strength, and touches Max's shoulder. He can feel her touch down to his very core, and it excites and moves him. But he is too scared, so he redirects things:

*
*
*

MAX

So...I know you need furniture.

JULIET

But everything here is antique and exquisite. I just couldn't...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

THE CAMERA moves through Juliet's apartment that is now warm and filled with curtains, antiques, gorgeous pieces of furniture from August's apartment that Max has put in.

Juliet's boxes are unpacked, and the house looks like a home.

The CAMERA continues into the...

BEDROOM where Max's legs stick out from under the frame of a lovely ANTIQUE BED.

Max tightens the last screw with a SCREW GUN, and slides out from under it.

Juliet stands nearby watching. Still not sure about it.

MAX

...August would have loved you to have it.

JULIET

If you won't let me pay you, at least let me buy you dinner.

MAX

If I can cook it.

Juliet looks at Max: Amazed by him. He gives her a sweet smile.

MAX

Come on.

INT. GREEN MARKET - EVENING

MUSIC PLAYS. Through a window, we see Max and Juliet buying groceries together.

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER SAME NIGHT

THE CAMERA watches from across the street as Juliet and Max run into the building. The Camera shifts to see Juliet's former matrimonial bed thrown away with the trash.

INT. JULIET'S KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

Candlelight fills Juliet's now-homey apartment. Max cooks an incredible meal for her. There is a great ease between them.

They both steal looks at one another when the other is not watching.

JULIET'S POV: Max's strong hands break into the carcass of a chicken and stuff it.

MOMENTS LATER: Juliet chops up a series of succulent multi-colored vegetables.

Max shows her how to prepare the meal, grabbing pinches of salt, dicing garlic, squeezing lemon...

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - LATER SAME NIGHT

Juliet and Max eat an incredible meal together on the fire escape as the MUSIC FADES INTO AMBIENT MUSIC COMING FROM WITHIN THE APARTMENT.

Max holds out the bottle of wine over Juliet's glass.

JULIET

Yes, I think this is cause for celebration.

MAX

What are we celebrating?

JULIET

The end of my matrimonial bed. And as soon as a couple of more months pass, this tan mark will be gone, and we can celebrate that.

Juliet puts her hand out, and Max takes it. There is an immediate chemistry between them when they touch.

Max looks down at the tan mark on Juliet's ring finger from her wedding band.

MAX

Nice.

Max lets go of Juliet's hand. He sprays some old fashioned seltzer into another glass for her.

MAX

The secret to drinking is, two glasses of Eli's Brooklyn Seltzer with every glass of wine. You'll never have a hang over.

JULIET

(referring to the seltzer)
Where did you get this?

Juliet looks at the old fashioned antique and blue seltzer bottle.

MAX

It gets delivered once a month. It's even nice having the empty bottles around..

Juliet tastes the seltzer. It's wonderful. Then she tastes the wine. Incredible.

JULIET

You like old things...

MAX

I'm not really one of the text message MYSPACE crowd. Technology seems to be about telling everybody your deep dark secrets. And I think secrets should be secrets.

JULIET

So what's your secret?

MAX

Me?

Juliet looks down through the fire escape to the sidewalk.

JULIET

Why aren't you married?

MAX

I never found anybody who...

JULIET

Who what?

MAX

Got me, I guess. That I got. I just never found anybody right.

They look at one another.

MAX

And...I'm not very social. Because of August's condition, and I guess cause of the way I grew up, my whole life has been taking care of this building, and of what little family I have.

(a big admittance)

Going to that film the other night was a big deal for me.

JULIET

(referring to the kiss)

I'm sorry about that night...

MAX

No, no. I was surprised. That you....

JULIET

That I what?

MAX

...Wanted to kiss me.

JULIET

Why wouldn't I?

Max blushes.

This is very exciting for both of them, but they don't dive in quite yet. Juliet looks away from Max's overpowering gaze. She glances into her apartment, and something huge strikes her.

Her apartment looks warm, inviting, candlelit. Gorgeous. Her breath is suddenly taken away, tears almost come to her eyes.

MAX

What?

JULIET
 It feels like what I used to look
 at. Other people's houses. Warm.
 Safe. Inviting. Home. And you did
 it for me.

Max looks at Juliet - how beautiful and sweet she is. He has
 done what he had hoped to do for her.

MAX
 Good.

INT. JULIET'S FRONT DOOR - LATER SAME NIGHT

Juliet opens the door for Max. She is NOT going to make the
 first move this time.

Max looks down. Not sure whether to make the move or not.

JULIET
 (letting him off the hook)
 Landlord.

MAX
 (getting it)
 Tenant...

JULIET
 Messy...

And Juliet closes the door on Max.

Now in her apartment, she leans her head back on the closed
 door, taking a moment to feel the slow burn of what is going
 on between her and Max.

But she can't stop herself. She looks through the peephole.
 Nobody there.

Then, suddenly, Max's eye!

Juliet jumps, and then giggles at her own fear. She brings
 her mouth to the crack in the door.

JULIET
 (whispered, playful)
 You scared me.

MAX
 Let me in.

Juliet opens the door.

Entering, Max pushes the door closed, backing Juliet up against it.

And then, as if not another second could go by without their kissing, Max kisses Juliet Passionately.

CUE: THUNDER!!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - NIGHT - RAIN

A STREET SIGN: Brooklyn Ave.

A torrential rain falls all around. Off the sign, the Camera follows rain water as it rushes past in the gutter.

Max walks alone late at night in the tempest. He seems to be lost in thought, staring out into the rain. Then...

...a CAR FLIES BY, obviously speeding. It nearly hits Max, who dives to safety as...

...The Camera whip pans with the car just in time to catch site of it CRASHING into a street sign, then a closed kiosk. It slides to its side then flips on its roof and bounces against the corner of a building, causing it to spin so hard that the CAR'S DRIVER (CARLOS) IS THROWN OUT of the vehicle and sloshes down the slick street like a grotesque body boarder.

We recognize this as the FILM'S FIRST SCENE.

(NOTE: For the next few scenes we will be seeing parts of the First Act again. But this time, we will be seeing new story details)

Max looks up as SIRENS can be heard, and a POLICE CAR rounds a corner.

Thirty yards down the street, Carlos, though badly injured, produces a HANDGUN and starts FIRING TOWARD THE ONCOMING POLICE CAR.

The two Cops and Carlos start a shoot-out.

Max crouches in the gutter, trying to stay out of the line of fire as BULLETS FLY all around him. Then there is quiet. Max looks up to see one of the COPS LYING CRUMPLED ON THE GROUND. The 2ND COP is desperately calling for back up.

2ND COP
 10-13.I repeat: 10-13. Officer
 down. I need immediate back-up.

On the opposite side, Max sees that Carlos is now lying in the gutter, the rushing rainwater flowing over his face in such a way as to make him look like he's wearing a grotesque mask.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Chaos in the ER. Camera skitters from person to person, stopping on a BLEEDING BOY; he's been shot. Now we know who he is - Carlos from the car crash.

The doctor in charge is Juliet. She is examining Carlos's gunshot wound.

Carlos GROANS. Juliet looks down at him with empathy.

JULIET
 Don't worry. I'm going to take care
 of you.

Then we hear...

MRS. PORTES
 (os)
 Where's my son?!

Carlos's Mother and family burst in. MRS. PORTES, his mother, weeps.

NURSE
 The Doctor is taking care of him.

MRS. PORTES
 Carlos!

Mrs. Portes runs up to Carlos and Juliet....

...Right past MAX who sits in the waiting room with a small wound from the shoot-out.

MAX'S POV: He sees Juliet through the doors. He is instantly taken towards her vulnerability, strength and beauty.

Juliet introduces herself to Carlos's family.

JULIET
 I'm Dr. Dermer.

Mrs. Portes starts to lose it, praying in Spanish.

JULIET

We need to operate immediately. I need you to hold back so that I can do my best with him.

(To the nurse)

Let's go.

Juliet, the medical team and the kid disappear into the OR.

And as the door closes, Max can no longer see Juliet. But has witnessed the entire drama. He looks over at Carlos's family. Who are in tears.

MOMENTS LATER:

Max signs a release form and turns to leave the hospital. As he does so, he glances through...

...The swinging door windows toward the OR where he sees Juliet, just out of surgery, talking to Carlos's mother. He can't HEAR what they are saying, but when Carlos's mother breaks down in tears of joy, Max knows that Juliet saved the woman's Son's life.

Seeing Juliet save a family strikes something deep in Max - Something he wished had happened when his own mother was hospitalized. He wants to approach Juliet - but does not have the courage.

So, with a look that he will never see her again, Max turns to leave. But as he is steps toward the exit, he passes...

...a LARGE BULLETIN BOARD full of notes and ads. And one catches his eye. It is...

INSERT - BULLETIN BOARD AD: ...An ad for an "ER doctor seeking an apartment."

At the bottom of the ad are several hanging tabs with a phone number on each. And above each number is the name "Dermer". He remembers...

JULIET (V.O.)

I'm Dr. Dermer...

Could it be the same Dermer? He hesitates, makes a decision, then rips off one of the tabs.

CUT TO:

INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT - DAY

August, simultaneously more angry and decrepit than we have seen him before, pounds his fist down on his kitchen table, upsetting a large array of prescription drug bottles.

He is yelling at Max.

AUGUST

What is wrong with you? Is this how you get women now?

August pops a pill. Max stands against the wall, withstanding the same abuse he has had for years. *

AUGUST

I know what goes on in this building. Just like I know what goes on in your head. You think I don't know how your brain works? She's a Tenant for god fucking sakes!

August hits Max. And then there is a KNOCK at the door! *

Will either of them move?

MAX

(baldly honest) *

Just say you gave it to her. It's a gift basket. It will help her get accustomed to the new apartment, to the neighborhood. *

(Significantly to his Grandfather) *

I have something for you... *

August understands what Max refers to, and without saying a word, moves to the door and looks out the peephole. *

AUGUST'S POV: Juliet stands outside.

August doesn't move. Just watches her for several beats.

Max, in the background, is sweating. *

August can sense Max's anxiety, and makes a decision. He turns to Max. *

AUGUST

(very quietly)

This building is mine.

Everything inside of it is
mine...You understand?

MAX
(pushed to the wall)
Yes.

Satisfied, August opens the door to Juliet, while Max pulls
back into the shadows.

AUGUST
Before you get mad, just let me say
I want you to have it.

JULIET
It's overwhelmingly thoughtful...

Satisfied that August is smoothing things out with Juliet,
Max slips into... *

...THE KITCHEN. He takes out a small baggy of dope from his
pocket. *

He heats it in a spoon over the gas stove. *

He pulls the liquid into a syringe, and August, having just
finished his conversation with Juliet, appears at the door. *

AUGUST
Where did you get that? *

Max doesn't answer his question, just says: *

MAX
Here. *

Max rolls up August's left sleeve. August, calmed by his
Grandson "taking care of him," allows Max to shoot him up
with dope. *

AUGUST
You're a good boy. You always have
been... *

Max's eyes water as he watches his Grandfather's eyes start
to relax, and we begin to understand the utter sadness and
sickness of this relationship. *

Max finishes shooting August up and moves to the curtained
window. He opens a fraction of the fabric and the light hits
his eyes. He looks out into the world: The world which scares
him, from which he is imprisoned. *

And he takes a deep breath of courage and hope. *

CUT TO: *

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE OUTDOOR MOVIE - EVENING

OVERHEAD SHOT: As Juliet and her friends approach the Movie, Max follows them - many yards away. He follows for blocks.

AFTER THE MOVIE: Max looks in the crowd for Juliet. Then finds her and moves towards her, bumping into her.

JULIET

Watch it.

Juliet looks up at Max. She is surprised and happy to see him.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE JULIET'S APARTMENT - LATER SAME NIGHT

Juliet and Max return from their date.

JULIET

Thanks.

Now that we are seeing the scene from Max's perspective, he seems infinitely more nervous than before, and Juliet seems cool as a cucumber.

Juliet leans in, gives Max a kiss on the cheek. For a moment, Max closes his eyes and breathes her in. Juliet moves to kiss Max on the lips, but Max is so overwhelmed by her touch that he jumps and pulls away.

JULIET

...I'm sorry. God, I'm an idiot.

MAX

(flustered)

No. Don't be sorry. I just...No...It's not a great idea.

JULIET

Of course. It's an awful idea. No. Thank you for an incredible evening.

MAX

(red-faced)

I didn't mean it that way...

JULIET

You're totally right. I'm all
fucked up, out of practise. Reading
the wrong signals.

She gives a laugh. Then opens her door and vanishes. Max stands in the hall, a shadow passing over his face. He closes his eyes in frustration and anger with himself.

We follow Max down the hall to his apartment. He vanishes into darkness.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Max closes the door as the bars of the windows paint themselves across his body and trap him. He is contemplating something. Seems to be struggling with a decision, with something deep inside him.

*
*

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING PASSAGES - NIGHT

In utter darkness, a thin SLICE OF LIGHT races towards the camera as a door opens towards us, revealing...

The DARK SILHOUETTE standing some distance away at the opening. The figure enters the darkness, and the bright light vanishes behind him. PITCH-BLACK. Then...

CLOSE ON a single pale BLUE LIGHT BULB as it begins to flicker from the ceiling. Just as the reluctant bulb crackles to life, the CAMERA TILTS DOWN, revealing The figure entering at the bottom of the frame. We follow, but cannot tell who it is.

The figure makes its way through a SECRET PASSAGE hidden deep inside the walls of the building. The passage is less than 3 feet wide, and as tall as the rooms on either side, just enough room for one person to walk abreast. The old framing is visible as is the plumbing and electrical wiring. The single blue light overhead casts the person like a fiend in the darkness as he trudges his way down the dusty corridor.

The figure slows to a stop as he reaches the far end of the passage. At his feet is A WOODEN STAIRWAY leading down to the lower floors. The figure reaches into the shadows nearby and pulls out...

A small WOODEN CHAIR. It's apparent from his agility in the narrow passages that he has been here before. He places the wooden chair on the ground and sits down on it.

He gently tugs at a pillowed section of INSULATION in the wall exposing a PEEP HOLE.

CAMERA PUSHES IN THROUGH THE HOLE REVEALING THE FIGURE'S POV:

...Juliet's LIVING ROOM. The lights are on, but it is empty.

The person pulls back and takes a few steps further down the passage, revealing Another PEEP HOLE.

CAMERA PUSHES IN THROUGH THE HOLE REVEALING POV:

Juliet passes by the KITCHEN and out of view. All the lights within her apartment go out, but only a few feet away in the cold passages, a WARM LIGHT illuminates the darkness.

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

In the bathroom, Juliet turns the tap on to start a HOT BATH. She lights a candle and then moves into...

...THE BEDROOM, where she kicks off her shoes and lets her dress drop to the ground. She moves back toward the bathroom.

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - SIMULTANEOUS

We can hear the hot water rushing through nearby pipes as the person approaches the LIGHT a few paces away. After a few tense moments, the source is revealed...

A FULL-LENGTH TWO-WAY MIRROR that gives a clear view into JULIET's BATHROOM. Steam climbs up the mirror as the hot bathtub fills, but at that very moment...

...JULIET APPEARS on the other side, and WIPES THE CONDENSATION from the mirror. The person is staring right at her, only inches away.

Juliet turns the water off, and places a glass of wine on the edge of the tub.

Streaks of water slide down the mirror, leaving small vertical trails through which the camera can see her. It makes for a striped-sort of voyeurism.

The Voyeur in the wall's BREATHING rises as Juliet steps into the steaming bath. Her figure is hidden in the flickering shadows as the camera starts to rotate and move fast toward a faint light within the passages, revealing...

...a SMALL ACCESS DOOR that leads into Juliet's KITCHEN.

Seconds later, the figure pushes through the door and into...

...an old unused WINE CLOSET (all seen from the figure's POV). It looks like it was once part of Juliet's apartment, but now is part of the passages.

A hand is carefully placed on a SECOND DOOR that leads directly into her kitchen.

The intruder hesitates, but then pushes the door open into...

INT. JULIET'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Just then... CRASH! The glass breaks in the bathroom. The Camera wanders through the darkened room and into...

...The HALLWAY, where we can see Juliet standing still, peering out into the corridor. (She has gotten out of the tub because of the noises, just as in the first time we viewed the scene).

She listens intently then passes by and into...

...Her BEDROOM.

(NOTE: We are reliving the scene from Act I from completely different angles.)

Juliet moves swiftly towards the bedroom window and throws the CURTAINS wide, flushing out the darkness...The room is exposed in pale moonlight: a collection of unpacked boxes and clothes lies in a jumble.

JULIET
(relieved)
Jesus Christ, Juliet. Calm the fuck
down.

She exhales with relief. She has no idea that someone is in the room with her.

**The CAMERA ROTATES behind the bedroom door to reveal...
...Max's face as he stands in complete silence. The figure
has been revealed. Now we can see who he really is.**

Directly in front of him, Juliet walks to the bathroom to blow out the candles.

Max sees his chance, and is about to escape, but then he hesitates. Glances toward the open bathroom door. And then, rather than moving toward the kitchen and out of the apartment...

...he SLIDES UNDER THE BED instead. He seems simultaneously scared and stimulated.

A moment later Juliet walks back in, still dripping from the bath.

Max watches her feet.

Juliet sits on the bed, and wipes water from her hair.

(This is the moment where the water drop fell from her finger in slo-mo in Act 1.)

A moment later, the BED and MATTRESS push down toward Max as Juliet settles in and slides under the covers.

As she turns off the light, and gets under the covers...

...Max silently turns onto his back so that he is directly below her. He takes a deep breath as if he were sexually stimulated. He puts his hands on the mattress, feeling her weight. His breath grows shorter.

The mattress moves slightly as she breathes, the springs making the slightest sound as they contract and expand. He tries to control his own breath, then mimics Juliet's inhalations so that he is breathing in time with her - perfectly in sync. He lies there excited - but filled with fear and conflict. He loves being close to her, but knows it's wrong.

ON THE BED, Juliet turns onto her side toward the huge window and away from the bedroom door, which is open.

Max can tell what side of the mattress she's on, and so, seeing his chance, he slowly slides out from underneath the bed and toward the doorway.

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - CONTINUOUS

Back in the passages, Max moves towards his own apartment.

He walks by an open DOORWAY that leads into a small area that is designed to look like a stairway. There is also a series of PEEPHOLES that peer into each room of that apartment.

But Max does not stop to look, instead he makes his way through the wall. Some of the passages are blocked with barbwire, as if off-limits. Then...

...a slight noise. (A door opening?)

Max stops.

The Camera starts to close in toward the darkness. Max stands there, considers what's going on. Suddenly...

...Something moves nearby. A sound. He freezes. Is he hearing things now? Paranoid? Then...

...BREATHING. Barely audible. Then silence again. Max peers into the darkness but only sees PITCH BLACK. He can hardly move as the camera closes in on his face.

CUE: BANG! BANG! BANG!

INT. MAX'S CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Max is BANGING NAILS INTO THE SECRET DOOR at the back of his closet. He uses it to access the passages.

He is clearly more obsessed than we thought.

Max goes to his single bed, lies on his back, and looks up at the shadows on his ceiling, which seem to be coming down to strangle him. He is trapped in his own nightmare as shame and guilt wrack his entire being. *

CUT TO:

INT. JULIET'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Now, we are back to where we left off. Max and Juliet are kissing:

CLOSE ON: Max and Juliet's eyes are open, as if they can see into one another's souls.

CLOSE ON: Their mouths separate...

And as though Max has invited her to do so with his gaze, Juliet starts to unbutton her blouse. This is perhaps what Max has waited a lifetime for. And now that we know what we know, it takes on an entirely different, and frightening tone.

Max's eyes shoot to the side, and he lowers the blinds, approaching Juliet. Finally, Max allows himself to touch her completely, moving his hands everywhere, exploring her body. As she, too, touches him.

MAX

You're so beautiful.

And he pushes her down, moving his eyes and hands all over her half-naked body. She enjoys it, but starts to feel uncomfortable as Max's gaze is so intense: and she gently pushes him away.

JULIET

Max.

But Max keeps touching her everywhere, as if his fingers can't help but drink in her every molecule.

JULIET

I can't do it.

Max doesn't understand what she is saying.

JULIET

I can't get him out of my mind. I want to, but...

MAX

What are you talking about?

JULIET

Jack.

Juliet may as well have stuck a knife into Max's heart.

MAX

(quickly trying to make it
alright)

I was going too fast.

JULIET

You're great. You and I have been
so honest with each other...

Max is starting to feel sick as his entire world crumbles around him.

JULIET

(trying to hard to
explain)

I still only know his smell, the
way he touches me. I don't want it
to be this way...

MAX

(too quick)

I understand. It takes time.

JULIET

(relieved)

You get it, right?

MAX

(repressed rage)

Uh-huh.

Acting the part of the understanding male, Max gets up.

MAX

I'll call you tomorrow.

And Max walks out as vertigo and despair hit him. He exits through the living room that he knows so well in the dark, and out the front door. *

Juliet is left, holding her knees up to her chest, looking around this room full of shadows. *

It all seemed like home earlier. But now, she feels like it is a Stranger's home. Not hers at all. Full of odd furniture, from a history more frightening than she can imagine.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Max stands in a prison-like corner next to an alley, watching the world pass him on the adjoining street - He feels so profoundly not a part of it. *

Then he sees... *

...Juliet as she rounds a corner on her way to work. She is headed his direction. *

His heart races. Can he confront her, or does he not have the ability or the courage? *

He takes a deep breath and finds the strength to enter the flow of foot traffic and move straight towards her, as if he just happened to be coming around the corner at that same second. *

Juliet sees him and smiles awkwardly as he approaches. He seems calm and confident on the surface.

JULIET

Hey. Morning.

MAX

Morning.

Max moves to Kiss Juliet, but she averts her lips so that Max kisses her on the cheek. Max is stung, but tries to deal with this head-on.

MAX

Listen, Juliet, about last night...

JULIET

Yeah...I'm sorry I suddenly felt weird. It had nothing to do with you. I just need more time.

MAX

(sensitive)

It's okay. That tells me you take being with someone seriously. I like that.

But then Max realizes that there is something more complicated to her hesitation. He tries to cover up his vulnerability by rejecting her first.

MAX

But...I was thinking about it and, maybe we shouldn't have done that, living in the same building.

JULIET

(is he serious?)

Really?

MAX

I honestly didn't mean for anything to happen. I'm so used to having August around. I just needed company. I wouldn't want it weird between us.

Juliet relaxes slightly. She knows it was all a mistake.

JULIET

I'm so glad you feel the same way.

Max smiles, but we can see MUSCLES IN HIS NECK tighten and his JAW CLINCH slightly. This is not the reaction he wanted.

JULIET

...It's meant a lot to me the last few weeks.

*

Juliet hesitates, then gives a cute wave and leaves.

Max stands alone on the sidewalk. He remains still a moment, before his smile fades.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Max sits- Intensely staring at the entrance to the secret passages - the ENTRANCE HE BOARDED UP in his guilt.

CUT TO:

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - CIRCA 1979/80 - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

...THE LIVING ROOM, where a FAMILY OF FOUR watches TV (MAN, WIFE, 14 YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER and 8 YEAR-OLD SON).

They eat TV Dinners and watch the television as Mr. Roarke fulfills a fantasy on Fantasy Island.

Light from the TV on the opposite wall cuts through the darkness with intensity, casting long hard shadows on them.

The Camera moves closer, and we see them all - one by one - as the Camera keeps turning - now looking at the wall behind the family...

INT. SECRET PASSAGES (1979/80) - SIMULTANEOUS -FLASHBACK

8 YEAR-OLD MAX sits on a child's chair in the darkness, secretly watching TV with the neighbors. He also holds a TV Dinner in his lap and eats.

Camera pushes close on his eyes - He feels a part of the family. But he cannot touch them.

Then, the fourteen year old DAUGHTER stands up and stretches. She looks strikingly like a younger version of Juliet. The Daughter leaves the room.

Young Max quickly moves to the back bedroom peephole and peeks through, seeing the 14 year old Daughter close the bedroom door and pull pajamas from a chest of drawers. (Note: This is Juliet's bedroom in the present)

ON YOUNG MAX as he spies on the Girl undressing. His face is illuminated by the pinpoint of light through the peephole.

Suddenly,

...a FLASHLIGHT BEAM cuts right into his eyes, blinding him.

A DOOR SLAMS FROM THE NEXT SCENE!

CUT TO:

INT. AUGUST'S APARTMENT IN THE SEVENTIES- SAME NIGHT

August SLAMS the secret door shut, having dragged Young Max out of the passageways.

AUGUST

I built the passages so that we know what happens in our building. They aren't for you.

MAX

I was looking for Mama...

AUGUST

(slapping Little Max)
Don't be ridiculous.

*

Little Max looks at his grandfather with wide and sad eyes.

AUGUST

Go to your room.

Young Max starts to walk away.

AUGUST

Go to your room!

And little Max runs into...

...HIS BEDROOM, shuts the door, and stands in his tiny cubicle with the shadows of bars across his body. He is about to explode with rage, sadness and a feeling of entrapment.

*

*

*

He has only one way of giving himself comfort:

*

Little Max goes to his closet, reaches in, and - behind everything - hangs a single dress of his deceased mother's.

*

*

Little Max walks into the fabric of the dress, allowing its lingering smell to envelope him and mother him.

*

*

CUT TO:

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Juliet is asleep, and Max - sweating and nervous - is standing above her!

He wants to touch her, that's all he has been longing for. He runs his hand just an inch above her skin.

But she moves in her sleep! And he quickly retreats, moving out of the bedroom and down the hall, through the darkness of the kitchen, but then he...

...bumps into the counter, sending a METAL SERVING BOWL falling to the ground with a loud CLANK.

He catches it on the bounce, but freezes.

IN THE BEDROOM Juliet's eyes open. Did she hear something? She sits up.

IN THE KITCHEN, Max slides into the access door, and then quickly through the second wine closet door.

But the second door is NOT TOTALLY CLOSED.

IN THE BEDROOM, Juliet turns toward the front of the apartment and down the hall, she sees...

...An eerie BLUISH LIGHT glowing from within the kitchen. She pauses for a moment, confused.

She makes her way towards the light and enters...

...THE KITCHEN. On the opposite side of the room she sees a fine brilliant line of blue light slicing down the height of the wall behind the refrigerator. She is scared and confused.

IN THE WALLS, Max sees her coming. She is about to find the passages. What should he do?

Juliet extends a trembling hand towards the source, grasping the outer edge of a small wooden door. She pushes firmly on the door, revealing...

...A large space within the kitchen wall.

She peers into the dark interior revealing a well-concealed anteroom roughly the same dimensions as her closet. The door disguising the entry is a skillfully crafted section of wall fabricated to pivot on an unseen hinge -- It is absolutely invisible when closed.

With a few cautious steps, she stands amongst the broken cobwebs and dust laden wood beams, bathed in the strange blue light. With every step, the unfinished floorboards creak faintly under her weight.

Her hands search out the far wall for a light switch. She discovers one or two old empty WINE BOTTLES resting in WINE RACKS.

She shoves the fridge to the side so that the door will open further, and finally gets a clear view of the newly discovered room.

Now we see why the passages have the wine racks: Because they hide the passages in case of discovery. To Juliet, the little room looks just like a little wine closet.

She examines the area closely, but does not discover the second door that leads into the passages proper.

IN THE WALLS, inches away, Max feels totally aroused and scared by how close he's come to danger, and how close he's come to Juliet discovering his secret.

INT. JULIET'S KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Max stands in Juliet's kitchen looking at the open door she has found. He checks inside to make sure that the inner door is shut and hidden. It is.

MAX

I never realized your kitchen had one of these little wine closets. There's one in my kitchen and August's old place, but they must have covered yours up years ago.

Juliet buys it.

JULIET

I think it's kind of cool. Can I use it?

MAX

Sure, of course. Why don't I fix this up for you and get out of your hair?

JULIET

Well, I've got work...

MAX

I can do it while you're gone.

JULIET

...You're sure?

MAX

No problem. I don't want this coming off the hinge. It needs to be fixed.

JULIET
 (smile)
 Thanks for being such a good guy.

Ouch. That hurt.

Juliet kisses Max's cheek without an ounce of sexuality. She turns away, leaving Max standing alone in her apartment.

LATER: WHOOM. WHOOM. Max vents all his fury and hurt into the CORDLESS NAIL GUN as he repairs one of the fallen shelves in the new wine closet.

He sets the nail gun on an upper shelf and steps back to examine the racks, making sure the final secret door into the passages is not visible.

Max turns to Juliet's cabinets. Pulls out one of her flowered mugs and fills it with coffee.

Then looks at the rest of the apartment: He has something in mind. *

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL LOUNGE/LOCKER ROOM - DAY

CU - COFFEE VENDING MACHINE, as a cup of black coffee drips down into a Styrofoam cup.

Juliet takes the cup from the machine and sips as she sits down. She is on a break, and alone in the room.

For a moment, she thinks, and then she pulls out her cell phone, dials.

But she snaps the phone shut before the call goes through. She seems nervous, but then rolls her eyes.

She hits redial, but then disconnects again.

JULIET
 Oh my god.

She types a text into her phone, and stares at it. (*We do not see the text itself.*)

CU - JULIET'S PHONE: she hits 'send'.

Juliet snaps the phone shut again, wondering if she should have sent the message at all. Feels vulnerable for having put herself out there.

But then she blows it off and drains the coffee, throws the cup away in preparation to return to work. Just then...

...BEEP BEEP BEEP. A return text has come through. She looks at the caller ID. It says... "Jack."

Seeing who it is, her breath is taken away. She opens the text. It says...

CU - JULIET'S PHONE: ..."I miss you"

Juliet closes her eyes in relief and joy.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - SAME DAY

Max opens Juliet's closet. He looks at her clothing. He dares to bring his face to them, and closes his eyes.

CLOSE ON: His hand squeezes the fabric of one of her dresses.

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - LATER

Max, fully dressed, lies in Juliet's empty tub, feeling the place where her body has been.

LATER: Max brushes his teeth with Juliet's BLUE ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH.

INT. JULIET'S LIVING ROOM- EARLY EVENING

Now dressed, Max stands looking out her window. His heart skips a beat when he sees...

MAX'S POV: Juliet walks home with groceries.

For a moment, Max stands there, waiting.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - SAME EARLY EVENING

The elevator door opens, Juliet emerges and moves toward her door. She slides the key in and opens it. Just then...

MAX

Hey.

Juliet glances over to see...

...Max standing in the doorway to his apartment.

MAX

Let me help you with that.

JULIET

Oh, that's sweet. No, I got it.

MAX

No prob.

Max is determined to break through with Juliet on a "normal" level, but she seems uncharacteristically hurried and nervous.

Anyway, Max takes Juliet's groceries. He looks in the bags. It's the same stuff they bought when he cooked her dinner. He smiles.

MAX

(trying to connect)
Cooking?

JULIET

(rushed)
Yeah.

They move into...

THE KITCHEN, where Max puts the bags on the counter. But one of the bags tips over, pouring all of its contents onto the floor. A ROASTED CHICKEN falls out of its packaging, its gravy flowing like a river along the kitchen floor tiles.

Max stares at it for a moment embarrassed.

MAX

...I thought I smelled chicken.

JULIET

Shit.

MAX

I'm sorry. Let me make it up to you. I can help make dinner.

JULIET

No. No. It's ok.

She picks up the chicken and tries to wash it off -
Attempting not to lose her temper with Max.

*

Max takes a deep breath. He is sweating, and brings up the
courage to finally break through to Juliet.

*

*

MAX *
I wanted to try and speak with you *
about something...It's a little *
confusing for me, because you *
kissed me first... *

Juliet is taken aback by this strange remark. *

JULIET *
...I don't understand... *

MAX *
Well. We... *
(doesn't know how to say *
it) *
You made the first move. And now *
you act like nothing happened. *

JULIET *
Oh my God, I'm so sorry. I didn't *
mean to lead you on... *

MAX *
(hearing pity in her *
voice) *
You don't have to pity me. *

JULIET *
No. I just, I barely know you. *

MAX *
But we told each other everything. *
I told you so much. *

JULIET *
We were getting to know each other. *
That's what people do. *

MAX *
No. People don't do that. I've *
never done that. *

JULIET *
(feeling sad for him) *
I just, found that I'm not ready *
for a relationship yet. *

MAX *
I can give you time. *

JULIET *
No. That's not what I mean. *

It sits in the air. A sad awkwardness occurs as Max - having built up so much courage to confront Juliet - realizes the door is SHUT.

And Max leaves.

JULIET

Max...

But Max has left.

INT. SECRET PASSAGES/JULIET'S APARTMENT - LATER SAME NIGHT

Max approaches the peephole into Juliet's apartment and looks in her kitchen. He can see...

MAX'S POV: Juliet, nervous and fucking up, is preparing a meal the same way he taught her.

Max moves to look at the living room: He sees two places set at the table. It is a table that HE gave Juliet. He is starting to understand that there is another man and it is killing him!

MAX

(to himself, quoting
Juliet)

"I'm not ready for a relationship."

Furious and hurt, he moves back to the kitchen peephole:

Juliet's cell phone RINGS. She checks who is calling. It immediately makes her happy.

JULIET

(Flirty and shy)

Hi...Ten minutes sounds good.

Juliet walks out of the kitchen and out of sight.

Max runs to a few peep holes, trying to find Juliet. He finds her in...

...THE BATHROOM, where Juliet, excited, quickly brushes her teeth with the same blue electric toothbrush that Max used earlier!

IN THE WALLS, Max fights his feelings of rejection, but he is devastated. He paces like a trapped animal, his fury and sadness growing inside the walls that have held him trapped his whole life.

He feels compelled to do something he would normally never do:

MOMENTS LATER:

IN THE KITCHEN, THE SECRET DOOR OPENS SILENTLY. And Max enters Juliet's apartment. He looks around the kitchen, not seeing what he is looking for. He moves into...

...the LIVING ROOM, where he sees Juliet's handbag.

He can hear the electric toothbrush still running, so he knows he has time. He picks up the bag and looks through it. Finds...

...her CELL PHONE. He checks the recent calls, but sees no names on the list, just phone numbers. But he does see one number called 3 times that afternoon, and two of those calls came within minutes of each other.

He realizes that is probably her date's phone number and quickly writes it on his palm.

But just then...

...BUZZZZZZZ! The front door buzzer.

Juliet walks into...

...the HALLWAY, flipping the light switch, revealing...

...Max now stopped behind her, against the wall. She hasn't seen him. He's trying not to panic as...

...Juliet activates her front door buzzer. It has a VIDEO FEED to the front stoop, and on the little monitor she can see... JACK.

JACK
(on the front door
monitor)
Hey, I brought a friend.

He puts a big Golden Retriever Lab with a protective white plastic cone collar up to the camera. It barks.

JULIET
Oh no...Look at him.

Juliet presses the enter button, opens the apartment door and steps out into the hallway, waiting.

But she is still in direct eye line of Max, and he cannot leave his hiding place. Juliet's long SHADOW is only a few feet away as it stretches across the floor from the hall.

Then Max hears the ELEVATOR DOOR OPEN down the hall.

IN THE APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY, the Lab with the cone runs out of the elevator, a leash trailing behind him. The pooch runs to Juliet, clearly excited to see her. He laps her face.

JULIET

Oh Duke, I missed you so much.

Her movement takes her out of the doorway and allows Max to move into...

...THE KITCHEN, where he slides past the refrigerator, towards the secret door.

OUT IN THE HALL, Jack steps from the elevator. He is dressed to kill, and carrying a bottle of wine. He is outrageously manly and gorgeous.

JULIET

Wow, look at you.

Jack smiles awkwardly. He is also nervous.

JACK

Didn't really know what to wear to a dinner like this. Here.

Jack hands Juliet a bottle of red wine.

JULIET

I like it. But...I'm allergic to red.

JACK

Fuck. I'm an idiot.

JULIET

(nodding to the living room)

I have some white already chilling.

JACK

I'll go get another bottle.

JULIET

Don't be ridiculous.

*

JACK
 (total admission)
 I'm nervous.

This fills Juliet with incredible happiness.

There's an energy between them. But Juliet isn't ready for that yet, so she breaks the tension.

JULIET
 Come in the living room.

IN THE KITCHEN, Max pushes on the secret door carefully. It sticks, and then makes a SQUEAKING SOUND.

He stops cold, but Juliet did not hear it. Max pushes the door closed since it is stuck, turns to retreat from the room. He is in the middle of the kitchen when...

The CAMERA leaves him and goes into...

THE LIVING ROOM where Juliet takes the leash off Duke and lets him run free. The Dog is a Bull in a China shop, running through the hallways, leaving footprints on Max's meticulously sanded floors.

Juliet follows, going to the... *

...THE KITCHEN, where she flips the light switch. The room is exposed. Max is nowhere to be seen. Did he get out?

She pulls two glasses from the top shelf. Camera swings around behind her to reveal...

...The secret door to the passages is now closed.

CU of Duke as he moves through the apartment. His PAWS CLICK across the hardwood floor as he explores. He wanders down the HALLWAY with the confidence.

As he walks across an area rug, the noise of his paws goes silent. When he reaches the hardwood/tile of the...

...BATHROOM, his little nails start clicking again. It gives the scene a tense, slightly annoying backdrop as he explores the apartment.

IN THE BEDROOM, Duke moves through darkness toward the bed, then peers beneath it.

Duke's POV: NOTHING, no one there.

IN THE LIVING ROOM, Jack and Juliet are seated on the couch, drinking wine.

JULIET
What's up with Duke?

JACK
He picked a fight with a shepherd
at Doggie Day Care.

JULIET
Why are you taking him there?

JACK
I've been out of town a lot the
last few weeks.

She nods. Was he with a woman?

JACK
(answering her unspoken
question)
No. It was business.

JULIET
I wasn't thinking that.

An awkward moment. How long can they avoid talking about Jack's affair? *

JACK
(changing the subject)
This place is huge...

JULIET
And cheap.

JACK
How much?

JULIET
(proud)
2800.

JACK
Are there any other apartments?

JULIET
What do you mean?

JACK
For me to live in.

JULIET

You?

JACK

I could move in, we could be like
Mia and Woody...

JULIET

(almost interrupting)
He cheated on her.

JACK

...Right.

JULIET

I don't want to talk about it...
(the affair)

JACK

(interrupting)
I can tell you every single detail.

JULIET

(almost interrupting)
I don't want to know.

JACK

I was angry. I felt like you were
never home...

JULIET

(her anger ignited)
Don't you dare say you fucked
someone else because I was working
too hard.

JACK

I'm not. I just, I was sick of
being alone every night. You were
gone at work. I wanted...

JULIET

...A housewife.

JACK

I wanted you, and you weren't
there. I always wanted, just you.

A moment between them. Will it all go to Hell, or will they
heal their wounds?

JULIET
 (getting him back)
 I slept with someone.

Jack takes a deep breath. It hurts to hear this.

JULIET
 It was a fling. A flirtation,
 really...But it felt amazing for a
 moment...

Duke BARKS and runs into the living room, wagging his tail.
 He knocks a WINE GLASS OVER.

It shatters and red wine spills across the floor inches from
 Max's face! Now we see that Max has been behind the couch
 this entire time.

Duke runs away at the sound of the crash.

JACK
 Shit.

Juliet grabs Jack's hand and prevents him from leaning down
 to gather up the glass, and thereby discovering Max.

JULIET
 Leave it. Leave it.

Jack sits back down. Her hand is still on Jack's wrist.

JULIET
 I want to be clear about something.
 He was nice. But he was never you.

ANGLE OF MAX: He feels stabbed. He can hardly breath.

JACK
 Was he the nerdy guy with the
 glasses?

JULIET
 How do you...?

JACK
 I followed you one night. I was
 going to ring your bell, but...

JULIET
 ...You followed me?

*

JACK
 (honest)
 I had to. It wasn't good anymore.

JULIET
 What?

JACK
 ...Life.

A moment.

JACK
 Without you.

Jack looks down. He has exposed too much. But Juliet is unbearably moved, and kisses his hand. Jack looks up at her.

He touches her face, and then they kiss. They know one another's chemistries perfectly. *

Jack takes Juliet's hand and brings her into the bedroom.

Before they are even out of the room...

...Max rises from behind the couch and watches them disappear down the hallway.

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - MOMENTS LATER

The secret door opens from inside Juliet's apartment, and Max enters the passages. He closes the door quietly behind him. Still breathless, he walks towards the PEEPHOLE THAT LOOKS INTO JULIET'S BEDROOM.

With trepidation, he puts his eye up against it and sees...

MAX'S POV: ...Juliet and Jack KISS on the bed, pulling at each other's clothing.

...And on the bed that Max gave Juliet!

ON MAX as he watches. He is struggling with betrayal, rejection and disgust. *

Finally, he can bear it no longer, and he doubles over, almost vomiting. He feels dizzy, but tries to gain control as he pounds away through the dark passageways like a caged tiger! *

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

A few hours have passed, and Juliet, now in her robe, is cleaning the kitchen, when Jack approaches. He's partially dressed - that morning-after look.

JACK
I'm sorry dinner burned.

Juliet turns toward him and puts her arms around him.

JULIET
I'm not.

They kiss. Juliet pulls back and glances at the fact that he is dressed.

JULIET
You're not staying?

JULIET
I've got a 7 AM meeting. And I'm no way prepared. I'm gonna be up all night catching up.

She gives him a look.

JACK
I want to see you tomorrow for lunch.

Jack grabs Juliet with an immense sex appeal. Juliet melts.

Jack moves toward the front door, but then turns back.

JACK
You want to keep Duke tonight? Watch dog?

JULIET
No pets allowed.

JACK
Duke!

Duke comes running around the corner and straight to Jack.

Jack leaves. As Juliet watches him go...

IN THE KITCHEN...ECU ON HER WINE GLASS. A SHADOW PASSES.
Then...

...a CLEAR LIQUID CASCADES down into the wine, and disappears in a faint swirl.

Juliet returns to the kitchen. For the first time, she radiates true happiness. She grabs the wine glass and moves back towards her bedroom.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Juliet is asleep in her bed. The LIGHT CHANGES as several CARS PASS on the Bridge outside. Shadows, light, shadows, light; the light slicing in through the drawn curtains. The room is empty except for Juliet. But then, the VIEW POPS TO UNDER THE BED!

And Max is lying beneath Juliet again, breathing in rhythm with the mattress that moves up and down with her rhythms.

And then...

...Juliet's HAND FALLS from the side of the bed and into his view.

He looks at it, and then slides toward it. He puts his face very close to it and fights his desire to touch her. But this time, he knows that it may be safe to do so.

So he moves his lips to her palm, gently taking in her scent. Then he brings his lips to her skin, and Juliet, who is passed out, moves sensually in her sleep.

MOMENTS LATER:

Max is now sitting on the bed next to Juliet. He has gained an immense amount of bravery in his attempts to be near her.

He touches her vulnerable neck. Her hair. Brushes his hand across her cheek. He is, in his mind, loving her. Then he holds her hand and Juliet's eyes open!

Max panics. Juliet is drugged, and bleary, but not enough.

Max's eye goes straight to Juliet's wine glass on her night table. She only drank half of the glass!

Juliet starts to groan in an attempt to see straight.

SHE TRIES TO MUMBLE something. It just comes out a long groan.

Terribly rattled and confused, she attempts to get up, but Max panics.

*
*

For years, Max has been trained to calm his grandfather with drugs, and now he is pushed to do the same with Juliet. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a LOADED SYRINGE. It's a 2- inch needle. *

Max removes the PLASTIC CAP that covers the actual needle and places the cap on the bed. *

Quickly, he takes her foot. She is trying to look at him, but cannot move her head, control her muscles. Then... *

...he pushes the NEEDLE UNDER HER TOENAIL (so as not to leave a mark).

She groans as the sting of the needle shoots through her body. *

Max's eyes fill with tears as he watches Juliet's eyes finally calm, and then, close. *

The CAMERA starts pulling back out of the room, causing Max, and the unconscious Juliet, to slowly fade from focus. *

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ. The alarm clock is going off loudly. For a moment it screams across the screen, so loud it's piercing.

Juliet does not respond. The alarm blares on. Then slowly, (ECU) Juliet's eyes open. They are bloodshot, have sleep crusted in the corners.

She reaches over and turns off her alarm. Then momentarily, still caught up in last night's erotics, she moves in the sheets. Then she rubs her head - it hurts.

Looks around and suddenly remembers her vision, her dream - or was it?

She looks at her body. Slowly leans down and examines herself. She can't find anything out of ordinary.

She realizes that she's late. Jumps up and moves quickly, throwing on clothes as the camera moves down the opposite side of the bed, keeping her in focus.

Once at ground level (and peering under the bed across the floor), a SMALL OBJECT comes into frame, out of focus. We remain on Juliet's legs as she rushes to get dressed. But then we rack focus off Juliet's feet to reveal...

...the object in the foreground is the plastic SYRINGE COVER from Max's syringe. It has been left behind, and is now lying on the floor just under Juliet's night table.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Juliet moves into the living room. She's nervous, but not quite sure why. Senses something's wrong.

Then a far-fetched, fucked-up possibility enters her mind, and she fights back trembles.

She sees a flash of movement out of the corner of her eye. Through her front door monitor she sees a construction worker enter the building.

An idea starts to form...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - EVENING

A SECURITY TECHNICIAN is at her place helping her set up 2 MINIATURE VIDEO WEB CAMS.

CU - on the first small camera, which he is hiding on a bookshelf in THE HALLWAY.

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

It's like a Dictaphone with a voice activator. The record feature is triggered by movement.

The Security Technician moves his hand in front of the camera.

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

It's wireless and feeds directly into it's own hard drive that can be played through your TV or computer.

He puts the second camera in HER BEDROOM, again hidden on a bookshelf so it cannot be seen.

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

These positions will cover as much of the apartment as possible with just 2 units. But it still leaves the kitchen and the bathroom uncovered.

JULIET

That's okay. As long as I've got
the front door and the bedroom.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING - SIMULTANEOUS

Max, walking home from the grocery, enters the building as...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - EVENING - SIMULTANEOUS

...the Technician further explains the cameras.

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

And it has automatic night vision.
So no need to leave a light on.
It'll catch whatever moves.

(Beat)

You gonna sublet?

JULIET

What?

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

Most people put these in for
parties or if they're gonna sublet,
or baby-sitters. Make sure no one
steals anything.

JULIET

(lying)

Oh... yeah. I'm gonna sublet.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - EVENING - SIMULTANEOUS

Max steps from the elevator, enters his apartment and closes
his front door just as...

... Juliet's door opens, and the Technician - his gear now
packed up - steps from Juliet's apartment.

SECURITY TECHNICIAN

Call if you have any questions.

JULIET

Thanks.

She closes the door behind him and he moves toward the
elevator, Max having missed seeing him.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

In the BEDROOM, a few minutes later, Juliet throws a few things in her duffel bag. Once the bag is full, she throws it over her shoulders and passes into...

...the LIVING ROOM and toward the front door. Without a look back, she leaves, locking the door behind her. As the door closes behind her...

...we focus on THE WALL. Is Max there?

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - NIGHT

The Camera moves through the passages slowly, and finds Max sitting at one of the peepholes into Juliet's apartment. His head is leaning back against the wall. He is asleep.

He starts awake, realizes where he is. Glances into...

MAX'S POV:...Juliet's apartment. It's empty.

He activates his wristwatch's light - dimly illuminating his face from below - and checks the time. 4 am.

Where is she?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING SECOND FLOOR - LATE AFTERNOON

It is a rainy afternoon as Max sits in the shadows of the empty second floor office space staring at the building's front entrance. His eyes now show dark rings. He hasn't slept much lately. He has been waiting for her to return for 30 hours now.

Then something hits him - an idea. And he looks at the faded phone number on his palm: Jack's number:

JACK
(from the phone)
It's Jack. Leave a message
and I'll call you back.

Max hangs up the phone. Then quickly GOOGLES Jack's phone number, and in short order (jump cuts), he finds his website and his ADDRESS.

EXT. NY STREET, UPPER WEST SIDE - NIGHT

It is raining hard as Jack emerges from the subway station and walks towards his apartment building. He is carrying take-out for 2, and is the only person on the sidewalk.

He moves quickly in order to stay dry. Keeps his head down. Then suddenly...

...he BUMPS INTO SOMEONE. Where did he come from? He is knocked back, but manages to keep his footing. The guy walks on, head down. Doesn't turn around.

JACK

You wanna watch where you're going?

The guy doesn't respond at all. Just keeps walking.

Jack looks at him, but takes the last few steps to the entrance of his building. When he has disappeared inside...

...the guy turns around. It's Max. He stops, letting the rain soak him as he watches the windows of the building. He eyes one in particular. There is a light on in that room, and he stares at it as he gets wetter and wetter. Then he sees...

...2 SILHOUETTES pass each other in the room.

It is Juliet in there with Jack.

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

The sun rises over the bridge as Max exits the building and goes for his morning bagel.

A few moments after he has disappeared around a street corner...

...Juliet appears from the subway station entrance and moves toward the front entrance.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SAME MORNING

As she enters...

...the surveillance system clicks on, it's little red recorder light announcing that it is currently recording.

Juliet walks up to the system and sees that it has recorded something. She quickly hits "playback" and sees...

ON TV:...Herself walking in the front door moments later.

Then she checks the unit's INFO SCREEN more closely, and sees that NOTHING HAS BEEN RECORDED over the last 48 hours. No one was in her apartment.

She sighs a little in reaction to her own paranoia.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Juliet reads a magazine on the sofa, with a glass of wine. Music plays softly in the background. She seems calm now that she has eased her fears. As she flips a page...

...The Camera moves toward the KITCHEN, where it finds an open bottle of wine on the counter. Then...

...behind the bottle (and out of focus) the SECRET DOOR in the wine alcove SILENTLY POPS OPEN, and a DARK FIGURE can be seen standing behind it.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Juliet finishes her wine in THE LIVING ROOM. And so, gets up and enters...

...the KITCHEN, where she pours another glass. Now the secret door in the wine alcove is once again shut and camouflaged.

Juliet checks the locks on the front door. Satisfied that they are secure, she moves toward the bedroom. But then...

...She decides to turn around and set the surveillance to record any movement during the night.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING PASSAGES - NIGHT

Max moves through the PITCH-BLACK with frightening dexterity, guided by his memory...

We experience the interior through MAX'S POV: - a world overflowing with darkness, strange obstacles, claustrophobia, sadness, and a feeling of being trapped. *
*

There is a rich topography of SOUNDS that array themselves: water rushing through pipes, Max's pants brushing against an object, shoes treading on broken bits of plaster, the swish of a rat's tail as it scurries to safety.

The dense atmosphere is rife with a feeling of claustrophobia.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - DAY

Juliet awakens in bed when something startles her. A sound. Shuffling. Is something behind the curtains. She sits up but then sees...

...PIGEONS at the window.

She looks at the time: It's almost noon. What?

She jumps out of bed and grabs her land line. She dials as she starts dressing. Someone answers her call.

JULIET
Hey, it's Juliet Dermer.

Suddenly, Juliet notices...

...something on the ground under her side table.

She kneels down to pick it up. It's the SYRINGE CAP. She stares at it. What the fuck is this? How did it get there?

She looks around the room, trying to figure it out. Her gaze falls on the EMPTY WINE GLASS on the bedside table.

PERSON ON PHONE
(from phone)
Hello?

JULIET
(into phone)
I'm sorry I'm late but somehow I seriously overslept. I'll be there in 10 minutes.

She drops the phone and starts dressing.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Now dressed, Juliet rushes out of the apartment. As she closes the door behind her...

...The Camera settles on the surveillance system, which has recorded something during the night.

INT. HOSPITAL ER - DAY

Juliet is on duty, checking charts, when Sydney approaches.

SYDNEY
(quietly)
I saw you were late again...

Juliet lowers her voice so the other doctors won't overhear.

JULIET
I slept through my alarm 3 times in 2 weeks. I never oversleep.

SYDNEY
(teasing her)
Yeah? You been out late?

JULIET
I've been seeing Jack.

SYDNEY
Oh no. Jules...

JULIET
We're taking it slowly. It's going really well. But it's this weird sleeping thing for me. Like a log.

SYDNEY
So buy a louder alarm.

Sydney walks away, leaving Juliet considering it all.

INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY

Juliet is TAKING BLOOD from her own arm into a small vial. On the counter is a full TOX SCREEN PANEL.

INT. HOSPITAL ER - DAY

Juliet hands a ziplock bag containing the vial of blood, the UA cup and a work order to an ER technician/nurse.

JULIET
I need a TR on these asap, please.

The Tech nods and takes the samples.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Jack walks down the street toward Juliet's apartment building. He is tapping a text message into his cell phone.

He sends it as he enters the building.

INT. HOSPITAL ER - AFTERNOON

Juliet is reading over charts when she feels her phone vibrate. She picks it up and sees...

...a new text message from "Jack." It reads:

"Hey baby dinner at your place around 7 PM"

Juliet smiles and shuts the phone.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Max stands in Juliet's darkened bathroom, holding one of her dresses. Creepy.

Suddenly he hears...

*

...the FRONT DOOR OPEN, and Jack walks in and takes the groceries to the kitchen.

*

Max hides behind the bathroom door. He stares through the crack and sees that Jack has a key to the apartment.

*

IN THE KITCHEN, Jack is putting away the groceries, standing right next to the new wine alcove, the door of which is standing wide open. (Max didn't bother shutting it all the way when he came in a few minutes ago)

Jack thinks nothing of it as he puts a couple items in the fridge, then he pulls 2 bottle of wine from the bag.

Jack quickly opens one to let it breathe, then turns to the open wine closet, intent on putting the other bottle in the racks.

But he stops cold when he sees...

...The back wall of the wine closet is cracked.

Jack steps into the alcove - cautiously - not exactly sure what he's looking at, but sure that it seems odd. He reaches out and puts his hand against the back wall, which suddenly MOVES BACKWARD ON ITS SECRET HINGES, opening into the secret passages.

Jack is stunned. But is drawn into the alcove further. He pushes the secret door ALL THE WAY OPEN, revealing the passages.

Whatever this is, it isn't good. He puts his head into...

...the SECRET PASSAGES, and looks around.

JACK

Shit...

Jack turns to get out of the apartment, but is shocked to run right into MAX!

*

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ER - SAME AFTERNOON

Juliet's cell phone RINGS! And she answers.

JULIET

Dermer.

LAB TECHNICIAN (O.S.)
(Thru phone)
Doctor, I faxed the toxicology
report you ordered.

Juliet steps into her ER station and grabs a fax from the machine.

As she reads it, her face grows weak, her jaw slack. She is clearly reading something that is throwing her for a loop.

ECU - TOXICOLOGY REPORT: ...camera focuses several medications that are in her system: "VICODIN, VALIUM, DEMAROL."

EXT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON - MOMENTS LATER

Juliet, still in her scrubs, is running down the road with her cell phone to her ear. She is leaving a breathless message.

JULIET
Jack, don't go to my apartment. I
don't know how the fuck it
happened, but somehow...

The call drops with a beep-beep-beep.

JULIET
Fuck...

She doesn't bother calling back. Just runs down the street faster.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun is long behind the buildings as Juliet peers around a corner. She is breathless from running, and her fear is intense.

She glances at her cell phone. One bar of reception. She tries to call Jack's cell phone, but the call drops.

Slowly, she starts walking toward the front entrance.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

The elevator door opens, and Juliet steps out into the hallway. She walks quietly toward her apartment, pausing slightly as she passes Max's door.

When she reaches the door, she slowly grabs the handle and turns. The door is already open, and so she let's it swing open.

JULIET

...Jack?

She dares to enter her apartment.

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Juliet moves through her living room and towards THE KITCHEN, where she sees...

...The bags of groceries that Jack brought over.

JULIET

(almost no voice)

...Jack?

She looks through the rest of the apartment. Empty. Returns to THE LIVING ROOM where she notices that...

...a RED BLINKING LIGHT on the surveillance system INFO SCREEN is announcing that something has been recorded.

She hits playback and sees...

...ON HER TV: Jack enters her apartment with groceries and goes into the kitchen. But that is the last thing recorded.

There is no record of him leaving the kitchen (which is not covered by the cameras), much less the apartment itself.

She considers it, but then notices that...

...the surveillance system's info screen lists ANOTHER RECORDED INCIDENT.

CU on the INFO SCREEN which has the date and time of the recording. The time is 2:31 am the night before.

Juliet is momentarily frozen. Something was recorded moving in her apartment last night while she slept.

For a moment she hesitates in fear, but then she hits "Playback".

CLOSE ON THE TV. The screen comes to life, revealing the security monitor view from the LIVING ROOM CAMERA feed. The recording begins to play...

The SCREEN contains the LIVING ROOM, and in the upper left-hand corner, the entrance to the BEDROOM. Playback jumps ahead in time to find a moment of movement in the room...

In jerking time cut-style editing, Juliet watches herself from the night before as she walks back to the bedroom after having turned the system on.

INSERT: TIMECODE displays 03:23:05:36:08

The tape stops. For a moment, she watches a paused image of the empty room. Then...

...It jumps forward in time again.

INSERT: TIMECODE displays 03:01:05:36:08

Something moves near the front door, or maybe in the kitchen - Both of which are just off camera. Then...

...a FIGURE STEPS into the frame.

Juliet GASPS, and freezes in fear as she realizes what this means: Someone was in her apartment while she was asleep.

The FIGURE is facing away from the camera. Who is it? She cannot see a face yet. Then, in excruciating slow-motion, he turns, revealing himself... MAX stands at the threshold of the room!

Juliet expels a PAINED WHIMPER...

...On TV, Max passes into the bedroom, and disappears from this camera's view. The screen goes to static, and then black.

Then, after a gap of time...

INSERT: TIMECODE displays 03:01:55:36:08

Max leaves her room. Juliet has trouble controlling her BREATH. What happened during those 45 minutes?

JULIET

...45 minutes...Oh my God...

She tries to calm herself as she watches...

The tape goes black.

Then jumps ahead to...

...This MORNING when she woke up.

On the verge of hysteria, with SHAKING HANDS, Juliet takes the remote, and changes the feed to...

The BEDROOM CAMERA. The SCREEN displays a CLOSE HIGH ANGLE view of the BED.

On the screen, Juliet enters the room and settles into bed. Her eyes radiate a RED GLOW, as if caught in the flash of a cheap disposable camera.

The tape jumps forward in short cuts, revealing her movements during a restless slumber. Then a long moment, Juliet lies in complete stillness, when suddenly...

...MAX ENTERS the room.

ENTER SOUND (O.S.): Juliet begins to BREATHE HEAVY.

...Max stands above her bed, then kneels down beside her. His eyes seem to be glowing with an even greater intensity. He stares at her, then slides under the bed and is gone. Then...

TIME CODE moves forward by ten minutes and reactivates the image on the screen...

...Max rises from under the bed. The light and camera makes him look purple, and combined with the effect of his reddish eyes, he looks like a silent demon.

As Juliet watches, she starts shaking violently, stunned. Her hand is white-knuckle as she grips the armrest.

And then it begins.

Her horror grows by the second, and she starts to HYPERVENTILATE as she watches herself on screen.

Juliet cannot move. Stunned into a frozen terror.

...She can take it no longer, and manages to find the strength to break her frozen anguish and squeeze the remote's STOP button. But she hits the PAUSE, causing it to stop on...

...Max's RED EYES, sweaty face.

Trembling, the remote falls from Juliet's hand, and so she slams her palm against the recorder, hitting the STOP button, and causing the horrible image of Max to disappear.

Then...

...KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

Juliet jumps at the sound. She tiptoes towards the door to see...Max standing in the hallway. Juliet catches her breath and creeps away from the door. But then...

...the KNOB STARTS TURNING. The door isn't locked. Juliet steps into the kitchen as...Max peeks his head in.

MAX

Juliet?

IN THE KITCHEN, Juliet grabs a knife.

Max enters carrying a bottle of wine.

Juliet hides the knife in her sleeves, and steps out into...

THE LIVING ROOM

Seeing her, Max smiles.

MAX

You just get home?

Juliet tries to hide her fear.

JULIET

...Yeah.

He hands her the bottle. She takes it with the hand that is not holding the hidden knife.

MAX

I found this great old bottle in August's wine closet.

JULIET

I'll open it.

Juliet controls her trembling, as she takes the wine and steps into...

...THE KITCHEN. She sets the knife down, and opens the bottle. She pours two glasses.

After pouring the glasses, Juliet pulls from her scrub's pocket - a FULL SYRINGE in a paper wrapping.

Quietly, she tears the wrapping, and then squirts the clear contents of the syringe into one of the wine glasses.

She is about to walk back into the Living Room, when she stops and grabs the knife, shoves it in her waistband and baggy scrub shirt, and then takes the glasses into...

...THE LIVING ROOM, where she hands Max the glass of spiked wine.

MAX

Thanks.

A moment passes. Juliet takes a sip. Then Max takes a sip. Both watching each other carefully.

Juliet is about to completely lose it, she is so fiercely on edge.

MAX

You ok?

JULIET

Exhausted. Not sleeping well...

She's having trouble thinking through her fear.

JULIET

I'll be right back.

She reaches her hand out to grab her wine, but her hand is shaking so hard she can barely grab it. She looks straight at Max who watches her carefully, and she decides to leave it.

She goes into...

THE BATHROOM, where she sits down on the toilet to catch her breath and calm herself down. She checks her cell phone. Still no signal.

She checks her watch, and then splashes water on her face. A moment later, she cautiously opens the door and steps out from the bathroom to find...

Max pouring himself another glass of wine.

MAX

I like this wine.

JULIET

Yeah, it's nice.

She glances at Max, who looks a little dizzy.

JULIET

Are you alright?

MAX

(fighting dizziness)
...Yeah...

JULIET
You want to lie down?

MAX
Maybe.

Juliet helps Max to the sofa where he stretches out. His BREATH grows shallow, as Juliet stands above him.

Then she steps away to check her cell phone. There's a signal! She dials.

JACK (V.O.)
(Thru the phone)
It's Jack, leave a message.

JULIET
Jack, where the hell are you?

Juliet fights tears, and turns to see MAX IS NO LONGER ON THE COUCH! She freezes.

She slowly moves toward the couch and finds...

...Max lying on the floor. He has tried to get up, but has fallen.

Juliet is now really crying.

MAX
...Why are you calling him?

JULIET
Where is he?

MAX
Why did you give him the key to your apartment? He cheated on you.

JULIET
What did you do to him?!

MAX
Come here.

Juliet backs up.

MAX
I don't think you understand something...

Max puts his hand out, and Juliet carefully approaches.

*

*

*

*

*

*

JULIET
 ...Understand what?

*
 *

MAX
 (getting more bleary)
 What you've done to me. You've
 changed me.

*
 *
 *
 *

JULIET
 (crying)
 Where is Jack...!?

*
 *
 *

Suddenly, Max grabs Juliet's hand hard!

Juliet SCREAMS!

Juliet yanks back as Max sits up and stares at her.

She is terrified.

JULIET
 But you drank...

MAX
 No.
 (Beat)
 You drank it.

Juliet's eyes panic as she realizes that he switched the
 glasses when she went to the bathroom.

Instantly, she knows she only has a few moments before she
 will fall prey to the effects of the drug she meant for him;
 just a few minutes to save herself.

She spontaneously grabs the knife from her waist and lunges,
 slamming it into Max's shoulder twice before he can fend her
 off.

But he grabs her hard and shoves her down to the ground,
 looking at her. And he is scary.

MAX
 Stop. Making. Me. Hurt. You.

Juliet, trembling and crying, is about to totally give up,
 when a surge of self-preservation hits her, she kicks Max in
 the balls, and runs from the room! Into...

...The KITCHEN, where she grabs a larger CARVING KNIFE from
 the counter.

Max comes up behind her as she spins and lunges at him, catching his shirt with the blade. She runs at him again with the knife, as he steps back into the WINE CLOSET.

Max just gets through, as Juliet manages to SLICE HIS FOREARM and slam the wine closet door on his HAND!

Max SCREAMS IN AGONY, but manages to push the door slightly her way, and pull his damaged, bloody hand into the passages.

With her adrenaline and terror empowering her, Juliet quickly pushes the REFRIGERATOR OVER so that it FALLS AGAINST THE WINE-RACK DOOR, thereby locking it from her side.

(Remember, she doesn't know about the passages. She just thinks he is caught in the little wine closet.)

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - SAME MOMENT

Max, his hand and crotch in crushing pain, moves along the walls as...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

...Juliet catches her breath. Starts to FEEL THE DRUGS kick in. She stumbles, starts to freak, so grabs her land line to call for help but...

...NO DIAL TONE. She has no time to wonder about it, and checks her cell. No signal.

She moves toward her front door.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

Max, holding his bleeding hand, emerges from the passages, and moves toward his front door, moving into...

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...He moves toward Juliet's front door as...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

...Juliet stumbles toward the other side of the door. She reaches out to open it just as...

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUS

...Max, standing on the other side, takes hold of the intricate woodwork and twists. Suddenly...

...The WOODWORK MOVES IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT LATCHES THE DOOR SHUT FROM THE OUTSIDE.

Within the intricate design of the door's panels, Max has installed a HIDDEN LATCH that will lock the door from the outside.

He leans against the door, biting the pain in his hand. Then...

...the DOOR RATTLES. Juliet is trying to open it from the inside. Slowly Max walks away as...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

...In a panic, Juliet struggles to open her front door. She starts to shake with fear, doesn't know that Max is just outside the door, and so has no idea what's going on.

Trembling, she grabs her CELL PHONE, and moves around the apartment looking for a signal, but it is no use. There is nothing.

She is stuck in her own apartment, no way to get out, with a mad man in her kitchen wine cellar, and she is drugged.

She checks the internet - no connection.

She can feel the drug starting to hit her, and she STRUGGLES TO KEEP HER EYES OPEN.

Worried that she will fall asleep, (start JUMP CUT MONTAGE to take us forward in time) she is...

...IN THE KITCHEN. She piles more things upon the overturned refrigerator so that it is heavier, more weight on the wine cellar door...

...IN THE LIVING ROOM she locks the front door from the inside, just in case.

...IN THE BATHROOM, she rifles through her medicine cabinet, grabs headache medicine, and checks the ingredients: CAFFEINE and PSEUDOEPHEDRINE. She quickly slams down 4 pills.

Then she moves into THE BEDROOM, flips the lock, and lodges a chair under the door. She stumbles to the window, exhausted. Fighting her feelings of exhaustion and defeat. What has she gotten herself into - and how can she get out?

The camera captures her from behind, and pushes in slowly, moving over her shoulder and...

...OUTSIDE THE WINDOW in a seamless transition.

The angle turns back towards the window to frame Juliet's face in CU as she stares out onto the enormous city.

The camera continues to pull away from Juliet in a smooth continuous motion, rising slowly as it moves further and further away.

Juliet stands alone at the window, her size diminishing as the camera's movement gains speed. It races backwards past tall looming buildings and high above the city streets until Juliet completely disappears from view.

Our pace increases until the camera soars all the way above the city and transitions into a SATELLITE IMAGE high above Brooklyn and Manhattan... now we realize her isolation.

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT

Juliet moves away from the window and falls on top of her bed. After a few moments, her energy fails, and her eyes close - Nothing she can do about it. The scene shifts into a single continuous...

TIME LAPSE: Juliet sleeps on the bed as the SUN SETS through the window...

SHADOWS START GROWING LONGER, quickly filling the room with undulating darkness as AFTERNOON turns to...

...NIGHT... The film resumes normal speed.

It has been a few hours since her fight with Max. The KNIFE RESTS BESIDE HER, but now out of her grasp.

Peering down from the ceiling, the camera holds on Juliet as she lies motionless on the BED...

Out of frame, a sudden flicker of PALE GREEN LIGHT, and a SOFT RHYTHMIC BUZZING SOUND start to grow.

We move quickly, in a SWEEPING ARC, from above Juliet, down past her body, beyond the mattress, eventually coming gently to rest on the floor, revealing...

Juliet's CELL PHONE lying on it's side, pulsing with light. The phone VIBRATES as it receives an INCOMING CALL.

As it rings...

...the camera slowly rotates 90 degrees on its axis to center her image in the frame. As it settles into place...

...MAX'S FACE appears out of the dark depths beneath the bed. He is illuminated for a moment in an eerie GREENISH HUE before plunging back into darkness on the fading of the screen.

As the phone lights up again, Max's face rises out of the shadows with an eerie glitter in his eye.

On the bed, Juliet's EYES OPEN slowly. Then she hears the buzz, sees the greenish flicker below. Realizing what it is, she lunges off the bed and reaches down for...

...The phone, revealing that MAX IS NOW GONE from under the bed!

Juliet grabs the phone, and puts it to her ear. The Camera follows her movement as she rises back to the bed, then pulling back slightly, reveals...

...Max towering over her.

JULIET
Hello? Hello?

Too late. The call has gone.

JULIET
No...!

She desperately tries to redial as...

...Max's HAND moves in at a torturously slow-pace: gliding past her hair... around her neck... and then with a SUDDEN BURST OF FORCE, it grips her THROAT.

His other hand finds her MOUTH in time to stifle her SCREAMS.

Juliet is momentarily stunned, defenseless.

Max silently and very carefully pulls his hand away from her mouth. A moment passes. Then another. They study one another. Who will make the first move? *

Juliet realizes her only defense right now is psychological, and she forces her body to relax. *

JULIET
I'm scared... *

MAX
...of what? *

JULIET

You.

MAX

(realizing how brutal he
is being)

That's the last thing I want to
be...

*
*
*
*

JULIET

(trying to play along)

I know. I know.

*

MAX

You're different. You're like me.
Not like those people out there.
Not like Jack.

*
*

JULIET

What do you want?

MAX

...I've been watching you.

*

This scares the shit out of Juliet.

MAX

And then you touched me, and I
stopped watching. You gave me hope
that I could come out and be real,
human, with you.

*
*

A long moment passes across the darkness of the room. Passing
lights stroke Juliet's body. She is scared to death, but at
the same time, there is a terrifying eroticism in the air.

Juliet unbuttons the buttons on her blouse. She takes off her
silk blouse. Her hands are shaking. It's taking everything in
her power not to SCREAM.

And then she reaches behind her, unfastens her bra, and takes
it off. Puts it on the table next to her.

Her breasts glow in the darkness of the shadows of her
apartment.

Her eyes invite Max, and he slowly touches her. Tears fill
his eyes as he is fulfilling his life's dream.

*
*

But he seems unaware that Juliet's hand SLOWLY MOVES TOWARDS
THE KNIFE.

*

Max touches Juliet's face, Juliet lifts the knife, and, without a moment's hesitation, Max grabs her wrist!

*

Juliet struggles, and FALLS off the opposite side of the bed, SMASHING HER FACE on the floor, as Max leaps after her.

His hands pull on her leg, but she kicks free in time, and runs into...

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...Where she slams the door closed, locks it, and cowers in the corner, gasping for BREATH.

Once again, she is safe from within, but has nowhere to go. She can hear...

INT. JULIET'S HALLWAY - SAME MOMENT

...MAX BANGING on the bathroom door. Then...

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...the BANGING STOPS. For a moment, SILENCE as...

Juliet catches her breath, turns on the LIGHT, and then looks around desperately. Having lost the knife, she fumbles for anything to protect herself: The stool, the shower curtain rod, and finally...

...The camera finds a HAIR PIN resting on the sink. Juliet pulls it from its place, unlatching the sharp silver needle that holds it together.

She stares at the bathroom door. She knows Max is lurking on the other side; She knows he'll try to get in. But she can't hear a single thing from the apartment.

Silently, she moves toward the door, listens. Still nothing.

She lowers her FACE TO THE FLOOR so that she can LOOK UNDER THE DOOR.

There is a movement of SHADOWS.

When she sits back, she catches sight of HERSELF IN THE FULL LENGTH MIRROR. Her face is a mess.

She leans in towards the mirror to examine her painful eye, putting herself within a few inches of the glass.

In ECU, we can see her ENTIRE EYEBALL - a portion of it marred by a series of broken blood vessels.

The impact of Max's brutal blow has created an oozing sea of blood just beneath the surface. We watch in macro close-up as the edge of the BLOODY CLOUD GROWS around her iris. Then...

...BASH! An EXPLOSIVE BURST of glass comes streaming towards her as the full-length MIRROR EXPLODES in front of her face.

Through the center of the burst, MAX'S FULLY EXTENDED ARM strains towards her neck in incredible slo-motion.

At the moment his hand grabs her neck, our camera begins to rotate. From this dramatic side view, we begin to turn 180 degrees... always maintaining focus on Juliet's horrified face.

We move impossibly through the wall, behind Max's straining body, and then back to an opposite angle. We now view both Max and Juliet struggling, divided down the center of the frame by part of the wall and broken mirror that still separates them.

Juliet fights to free herself, but Max is able to...

...pull her THROUGH THE MIRROR and into...

INT. SECRET PASSAGES - CONTINUOUS

...Where he throws her to the darkened floor like a rag doll.

Juliet writhes in pain, as Max hovers over her. His eyes are filled with tears and rage.

MAX

Why are you making me hurt you...?

In the shadows, Juliet's hand fumbles. The Camera catches a GLEAM OF SILVER LIGHT, then...

...Juliet plunges the ANTIQUE HAIR PIN into Max's leg. He lets out a HOWL OF PAIN, as blood spews from the wound.

Juliet gets to her feet and runs down the passage way and into the darkness.

Max pulls the pin from his bleeding leg, catches his breath, and bites down the pain. He straightens up in the faint light from the bathroom and, knowing Juliet has nowhere to go, listens intently.

The sound of HER RUNNING FOOTSTEPS is trailing through the darkness. We pull back through the shattered mirror, back into...

INT. JULIET'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

...Where we FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF SOUND from the interior of Juliet's apartment as she races for her life.

With lightening speed, we move through...

INT. JULIET'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

...Maintaining focus on the wall. We cannot see Juliet, but the sounds of her feet let us know that we are following her closely.

Will she get down the stairs? Maybe find help from the Tenants two floors below?

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. SECRET PASSAGES -- SIMULTANEOUS

...Juliet's POV: She struggles intently through the darkness, her BREATH AND HEART POUNDING in sporadic rhythm. She is running as fast as she can in complete darkness, through the narrow passage when...

BANG!!!! A tremendous explosion of sound!

...As Juliet COLLIDES with a BRICK WALL. She has reached the end of the passage with full force. The world goes OUT OF FOCUS.

The heavy SOUND of her body crumbles to the floor...

ANGLE BACK ON MAX - MANY YARDS AWAY: He is still staring off into the darkness. But he starts walking slowly down the passages toward Juliet.

ANGLE BACK ON JULIET WHO STRUGGLES TO GET UP. But she is dazed. Her hands feel through the darkness, hopelessly. Tears of fear fill her eyes just as...

Her hand discovers the set of NARROW STAIRS leading down to the lower floors.

She stands and staggers down the stairs.

ANGLE BACK ON MAX. He can hear Juliet going down, and starts moving as fast as he can through the passages toward her.

Ahead of him, Juliet runs down the stairs, looking for any way out. She quickly discovers that the stairs leading further down than the 8th floor have been blocked off with BARBED WIRE.

She can HEAR MAX approaching. She is trapped...

She begins running with her arms outstretched, as if sleepwalking through a fast-paced nightmare. It is a frightening crap-shoot, as she careens past beams and over debris on the floor.

ANGLE BACK ON MAX: He reenters the darkness and climbs the stairs, shaking the entire building as he goes...

Juliet, in the darkness, looks up, realizes that Max has left. She is trapped, and has no way to get out other than to go back UP the stairs.

With shaking intensity, she slowly goes up the stairs and finds herself in a strange space. For the first time, she has a moment to look around, and she can see shafts of light criss-crossing, coming from the holes to her apartment.

Slowly, she approaches one of the peepholes. She looks through. It is her living room! This is terrifying to her.

She runs to the next peephole! Looking into her bedroom!

Terrified, Juliet runs through the darkness, blind, as fast as she can, until she trips and falls to the floor. Her hand comes crashing down onto the wall at her side--the impact has revealed the WINE-CELLAR ENTRANCE.

Juliet starts to realize how Max has been getting into her apartment the entire time.

SHE POPS IT OPEN, AND JACK'S DEAD BODY FALLS ON TO HER! SHE SCREAMS BLOODY MURDER!!

ANGLE ON MAX: He runs and runs through the passageways until he finds his way back to the FULL-LENGTH MIRROR, he climbs through. He runs into...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...To see that the wine closet door is now open. He looks inside. Juliet must be back in the apartment! Max grabs...

...old BARBED WIRE from the floor, wraps it around his hand, causing blood to trickle out from his knuckles.

He stumbles from room to room. They are all empty. He is systematically closing in on her.

There is only one room left, and so he approaches...

INT. JULIET'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max looks to the far corner of the room and sees A SHADOW standing in the corner. He pushes the door open further and a shaft of light reveals...

...JULIET. She is standing against the back wall.

Max sees her, and her beauty stuns him. He can't stop himself. He puts down his hand and lets the barbed wire fall from his fist.

He approaches her. But she does not move.

MAX

I fell in love with you when I saw
you at the hospital. I took the
tabs with your phone numbers cause
I didn't think you'd go on a date
with me. I called you because I
wanted to bring you into my house.
I wanted to watch you inside, hold
you with my eyes. Never hurt you.
And then you turned around, and you
felt me, kissed me, talked to me,
and I thought, maybe you can pull
me out of these walls...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Juliet is in the shadows. Impossible to read and totally silent.

MAX

And so...I dared to touch you back.
..

*
*

Max reaches out to touch Juliet. Just at that moment, Juliet raises her hands toward him and...

*

WHOOM! WHOOM! WHOOM!

Max stands, frozen in time. He sees that Juliet holds...

...The CORDLESS NAIL GUN that he left in the wine closet when he fixed it. (She found it when she happened upon the closet moments earlier)

Max steps back, and the NEW ANGLE reveals...

...3 NAILS STICKING OUT OF HIS CHEST. Blood starts to stain his shirt.

Max looks at Juliet. He can't believe it.

Juliet is devastated, immediately overwhelmed with grief about the entire thing. She lowers the gun.

She stands frozen, and then, she jumps on Max, trying to save him: It is, her instinct.

From the ceiling, the CAMERA FLOATS DOWN over Max lying on his back.

CLOSE ON Juliet frantically pumping Max's chest.

CLOSER ON: Juliet brings her lips to Max's, attempting to give him mouth to mouth. But his breath is vanishing.

CLOSE ON: A river of red flows from underneath Max's shirt, straight towards the lens.

CLOSE ON Max's finger, as a SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD coalesces and falls to the floor. It hits, and explodes in macro.

CLOSE ON: In slow motion, Juliet's devastated BREATH rises from Max's mouth. She cannot save him, and she is overpowered with operatic grief, as she looks around, locked inside this haunted house.

The CAMERA pulls up into the ceiling as Juliet looks like a small figure inside the center of this house of death, sadness and loneliness.

Her head raises up to the ceiling, her mouth opens wide, and she SCREAMS A SILENT SCREAM as blood flowers out from the blood bath that she has unwittingly been a part of.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NEW APARTMENT - DAY

We are inside a unique and stunning space with Mediterranean style windows and interior design. But there are also several unpacked MOVING BOXES piled along the walls. Someone has just recently moved in. Then...

...That Someone enters the place. A woman. Watch her feet as she enters. Juliet?

INT. NEW APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

CU of Juliet putting up curtains. The wounds on her face are healed. Some time has passed.

Focus on her hands and face as she makes her new apartment her home. She places a chain holding two wedding rings in her jewelry box, and closes the lid.

JUMP CUTS of female hands using a HANDSAW TO CUT WOOD. Then they are TURNING SCREWS. When it's all done...

THE NEW BED FRAME, now put together. And it lies completely on the floor with NO SPACE UNDERNEATH since she has CUT THE LEGS OFF.

TIGHT ON JULIET'S FACE. She is strong.

Camera pulls away from her, then through the window behind her and out onto...

EXT. HOUSEBOAT, HUDSON RIVER - SAME MOMENT

...The deck of a gorgeous HOUSEBOAT. It's not an apartment after all. It is the only boat in the vicinity. No exterior walls, no neighbors, and no entrance from underneath.

Duke, Juliet's Golden Retriever, runs onto the deck of the boat as Juliet exits and hugs him.

As the SUN BREAKS THROUGH, a mass of billowing clouds send brilliant shafts of light across the horizon, and The Camera rises further out revealing that the boat is docked on a small wooden dock that extends out into the water, with Manhattan rising above.END