

Marionette

ACT ONE

SHOT- FAST MONTAGE OF SHOTS, RAPID CAMERA WORK.

INT- RESTAURANT; GLASSES RAISED, PEOPLE CELEBRATING

CLOSE UP; RONNIE, LAUGHING AND ENJOYING

CO-WORKER

How does it feel to have
everything you ever wanted?

RONNIE

I wouldn't say everything

VALERIE

Come on, Ronnie; Sean's a hunk
and your children are delightful!

Glasses raise again, she feels her chest.

CO-WORKER

I think someone's had too much to
drink! Can't take the pace!

VALERIE

I'd better get her in a taxi...

CUT TO:

EXT- OUTSIDE RESTAURANT

Valerie helps Ronnie to a waiting private cab.

POV- FRONT OF CAB- MACREADY SITS BEHIND THE WHEEL.

VALERIE

Take care of her

MACREADY

I will miss

EXT- THE CAR PULLS AWAY...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT- WAREHOUSE

Car stops, Macready gets out and lifts Ronnie in his arms.

CUT TO:

INT- BEDSIT

Silence. The camera pans in close up- the door, the beer cooler, bottled water and vacuum packed sandwiches. The camera pans to the bed, up the side, we see...Ronnie, asleep on the bed. The camera drifts down. She's naked inside a dark green boiler suit. We see her arms, her body shifts, a blanket barely covers her middle, the camera goes down her legs to the ankle cuffs, and her bare feet. A chain around one ankle links to a longer chain, looping off the bed. The chain pools on the floor and its other end is attached to the end of the bed.

VALERIE

(v.o)

Sean? This is Valerie. What's wrong? Ronnie didn't come home? How long has she been gone? Why didn't you call me? She'd had too much to drink. I assumed she was going straight home to you. You did what? You've called the police??? I'm sure this doesn't require the police, Sean!

CUT TO:

EXT- WAREHOUSE

INT- STAIRCASE

Valerie climbs the stairs, talking.

VALERIE

Look, I'm sure there's an explanation. Got to go. Tell Christopher and Josie their Godmother says not to worry, and...tell them mummy's away on business. It's a simple lie, Sean. Okay. Take care. I'm sure wherever Ronnie is, she's absolutely fine...bye...

Valerie hangs up, composes, and enters...

INT- BEDSIT

Ronnie wakes, looks about. Valerie is petulantly annoyed. Macready is by the window, a big man with a gun.

VALERIE

How's our guest, Macready?

MACREADY

She's had a bad night, Miss.

VALERIE
 (catty) I'm so pleased. Your
 husband's called the police!

RONNIE
 Good for Sean

VALERIE
 This doesn't change a thing but
 it's...inconvenient. How's the
 bed? Comfy?

Ronnie climbs off the bed, dangerous.

RONNIE
 Try it and find out...

VALERIE
 Now now, dear- no need to get
 angry. We don't want the
 histrionics of yesterday!

INT- BEDSIT / SERIES OF IMAGES FROM DAY ONE

Ronnie waking up alone / disbelief / struggling with the
 chain / trashing her bed in anger / pleading with Macready
 / depression, sat alone on the floor, back to the wall,
 hugging her knees and head down with face hidden.

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE
 What do you suggest I feel? This
 is insane, Val!

VALERIE
 No, no...not at all...

RONNIE
 You bring me here, tell me I've
 three days to live and for what?

VALERIE
 To make you realise you can't
 escape, can't fight me, you can't
 win. Not this time. There's no-
 one you can control like a puppet
 to make this go away.

RONNIE
 I don't control people!

VALERIE
 You can twist anyone round your
 finger to do whatever you want!
 (MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 You seduced Sean when he should
 have been mine...

CUT TO:

INT- GIRLS TOILET- TWENTY YEARS AGO

Ronnie drags Valerie in, Ronnie giggling, Valerie unsure.
 Ronnie tosses a coin whilst we hear voice-off from present.

RONNIE
 (v.o)
 We tossed a coin! It was a double
 date and we couldn't decide so we
 tossed a coin!

VALERIE
 (v.o)
 You couldn't decide!

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE
 Is that what this is about?

VALERIE
 That was just the start! All my
 Friends came through you! All my
 respect comes from knowing you!
 I'm not known for being Valerie,
 oh no! I'm just your friend. I'm
 just your Lawyer! (*mimic*)
 "Please, Val, be a dear and ask
 Ronnie to do me a birthday card,
 thank-you card, sympathy card"
 I'm only known for being part of
 your Empire!

RONNIE
 It's only a card shop for God's
 sake! I don't understand...

VALERIE
 I really thought you'd have
 accepted your fate by now!

RONNIE
 I haven't done anything wrong!

VALERIE
 Sean will be told you've had an
 affair...

RONNIE
 No I haven't! I've been faithful!

VALERIE
 (speaking over her)
You've had an affair, and after
 three days of reflection,
 overcome with remorse...

RONNIE
 Val! I've never had an affair!!!

VALERIE
 ...you decided you can't live

RONNIE
 (calmer, a single tear)
 Val, this is wrong

VALERIE
 ...so overcome with guilt, you've
 killed yourself in a reservoir.
 In two more days, to be precise.

RONNIE
 (launching herself)
 You BITCH!!!!

Macready holds onto her and drags her back to the bed.

MACREADY
 You're making her angry, miss!

VALERIE
 I don't see why she's so upset!
 This is right! I've been denied
 my chance in life and all because
 of her! Anyone would say so!

MACREADY
 Just go! Please!

Valerie goes to answer, but stomps out. Macready holds
 Ronnie until she finishes thrashing, he sits on the bed,
 her on the floor in front of him, trapped in his arms.

MACREADY (CONT'D)
 That's it, miss- just calm
 down...anger won't help. That's
 it, just breathe...

RONNIE
 (upset)
 What did I do wrong?

Ronnie is calmer, Macready holding her.

MACREADY

I don't know, miss. I just do as
I'm told, you see. I...don't
normally do this sort of work.

EXT- WAREHOUSE

Valerie exits, ruffled. Distant FX: police siren rises and
fades. She reacts, startled, then relaxes when it goes away
and carries on, self satisfied air, to open her car.

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE

What's that got to do with
anything?

He stands and moves away. She remains sat, draws her knees
up to her chest and hugs them, watching him.

MACREADY

How far back do you want to go?

RONNIE

Everyone has a trigger- children
aren't born evil.

MACREADY

(concerned)

Is that how you see me? Evil?

RONNIE

(appraising him)

I can't judge you, Macready- I
don't even know you.

MACREADY

I've...(ashamed) done things

RONNIE

I don't doubt.

CUT TO:

EXT- NIGHT- WAR ZONE

A camo blacked Macready with a pistol a figure from behind
in the gloom. Macready's nervous, trembling, aims...

MACREADY

(v.o)

(sudden pride) Did my first man
in the gulf. (pride recedes)
Easier than I thought. Two taps,
puff of smoke, his head came
apart. Bits of juice went
everywhere and he just...fell.

FX: TWO GUNSHOTS AS WE CUT BACK TO BEDSIT.

RONNIE
(revulsion)
How did you feel?

MACREADY
Good at first, then I got so
angry, Punched out an officer.

RONNIE
So why get involved in this?

CUT TO:

INT- NIGHTCLUB DOOR- MACREADY AND OTHERS IN SUITS CHECKING
TICKETS AS CLUBBERS ENTER THE PREMISES. V.O. CONTINUES

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

MACREADY
All I got was bouncer jobs, or
drivers for dodgy blokes with
money. Liked bouncer work! Girls
were prettier...Bouncer Projects
strength, see? Can stop a fight
before it starts!

RONNIE
I don't want to fight anyone!

MACREADY
Glad to hear it! Only miss
Valerie said you once rabbit
punched a guy in college. Knew
where to hit him.

RONNIE
He was all over Valerie. Should
have let him, the way turns out.

Macready turns away from Ronnie- her body's fatalistic,
accepting, but her eyes are sharp, judging him.

MACREADY
Are you hungry, miss? You don't
have to stick to sandwiches

RONNIE
Don't tell me- you've hidden a
microwave under my bed?

MACREADY
Nah, but there's a burger
place...

She pulls a face, he sees, he's let her down.

MACREADY (CONT'D)

I could bring you a flask of tea
or something?

RONNIE

Coffee, if it's any good.

MACREADY

Coffee. Sure! Just don't tell
Miss Valerie cause I'm afraid of
her, see...

RONNIE

What's she got on you?

MACREADY

Got me a reduced sentence didn't
she? But (fearful) I'll not go
back...She knows things about me.
One phone call to the wrong
people, and I'm history, miss!

She stands, stretches, winces. Starts stretching.

RONNIE

And I thought she was my friend-
ow, that's stiff! Have you got a
first name? If I'm stuck here for
two more days, I can't keep
calling you "Macready"

MACREADY

Rather you didn't know it.

RONNIE

It can't be that bad!

MACREADY

I'd rather not...

RONNIE

Go on...

MACREADY

Stop it!(pause) you're being
really good about all this.

RONNIE

How do you mean?

MACREADY

Thought you'd be ranting,
throwing stuff. Like yesterday.

RONNIE

What's the point? Can't escape so
I have to make the best.

MACREADY

Hang on, you're not being nice to
get me off my guard, are you? Get
me close so you can strangle me?

RONNIE

Macready, if I throttled you with
the chain which, coincidentally I
doubt I could do, who'd get my
coffee?

MACREADY

Oh yeah, hadn't thought of that.

She begins to stretch. He takes his gun out and carefully
puts it down on the table by the window. She watches.

RONNIE

Don't let that thing go off, will
you? Hate to die before my time.

MACREADY

That's pretty funny, coming from
you. You're not what I expected.

RONNIE

I'm pragmatic. Valerie said I'm
to drown in a reservoir? Guess
that rules out a bullet!

CUT TO:

EXT- RESERVOIR

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

MACREADY

You've a nice face, miss- hate to
spoil it.

RONNIE

Least that answers how I'm to die

MACREADY

I'm not comfortable talking about
this miss...

CUT TO:

EXT- RESERVOIR

Macready pulls Ronnie (cloth bag over head) out of his car, hands tied and barefoot. He drags her struggling to the water's edge. Perfect pile of her clothes near. V.O. Continues.

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE

Oh humour me! You're my jailor
but also, I guess, my
executioner?

MACREADY

That's not been told to me yet.

RONNIE

You know I'd scream all the way?

MACREADY

Valerie said we should kill you
here. Taps are plumbed in.

RONNIE

(face falls)

I see...so about this coffee

MACREADY

You know, I shouldn't give you
too much coffee.

RONNIE

Valerie's orders again?

MACREADY

No, I read somewhere people who
drink too much coffee might have
problems in later life.

RONNIE

...You're really sweet, you know
that?

MACREADY

Am I? No-one's ever said that to
me before!

CUT TO:

EXT- PASSAGE OF TIME

EXT- WAREHOUSE- NEXT DAY

Macready returns with a coffee. Valerie parks up.

VALERIE
What have you got there?

MACREADY
Coffee, miss.

VALERIE
For yourself?

MACREADY
(lying badly)
Yes, miss.

VALERIE
Or is it for your prisoner? Has
she been talking, Macready?

MACREADY
She talks, miss.

VALERIE
She talks and she twists people,
Macready! You've no idea how far
she would go!

MACREADY
I didn't know, miss.

VALERIE
So, if I thought she'd started to
wrap you round her finger...

MACREADY
She's not done that, miss.

VALERIE
Time is of the essence, you see.
I don't trust her, Macready. She
knows she's got to die and now
the police are involved the poor,
dear Ronnie I know would do
anything to delay that date.

CUT TO:

INT- BATHROOM- HANDS PUT PLUG IN / TURN TAP ON.

CLOSE UP- RONNIE SLEEPING IN THE BED, STIRS.

Macready leans over with rope, gathers her hands and ties
them behind her as she wakes.

RONNIE
What? Macready...

MACREADY
Don't talk, miss..

He helps her to stand and walks her to the bathroom.

RONNIE
What? Macready, NO!

She starts to back pedal but he pushes her into the room.

INT- BATHROOM

RONNIE
MACREADY, NO! IT'S TOO SOON!

He forces Ronnie to her knees, head over the bath.

MACREADY
Don't struggle, miss! Please!

He pushes her head into the water and her feet kick out, push him back and her head emerges.

RONNIE
(gasping for breath)
Macready, this won't work!

MACREADY
Just relax, miss! It'll be over
in a second!

RONNIE
(nearly hysterical)
You'll be caught!!!

He pushes her head under water, holds it, deciding if she's telling the truth- he pulls her head out, she's gasping.

MACREADY
What you on about, miss?

RONNIE
(thinking fast)
Reservoirs have different water
than the stuff from a tap.

MACREADY
No, that's not true- water from
taps comes from reservoirs!

RONNIE
It's treated with chemicals!
Drown me here, they'll pump my
stomach and analyze the water-
they'll know it's murder and
you'll go back to prison!

MACREADY
..No! You're having me on!

RONNIE

Forensics are good, Macready.
She's letting you take the rap
for this. Don't you think she's
covered her own back? The hold
she's got over you?

He stands, retreats, terrified of prison, disbelieving.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

If I'm telling the truth, killing
me will send you back. If she's
right, you've nothing to fear.
It's your call, Macready.

Trembling, Ronnie lowers her face over the water, daring
him, hoping he won't take the bait.

INT- BEDSIT

Macready leads her inside and drapes a towel over her head
before untying her hands. She sits on the bed, shaking in
relief. He paces, turns, like an apologetic child. He puts
the coffee alongside her in silent guilt.

MACREADY

And she said it was the perfect
murder.

RONNIE

Valerie's not that smart.

MACREADY

So we'd really have to throw you
in the reservoir?

RONNIE

And I'd kick and scratch all the
way. My injuries wouldn't be
consistent with suicide.

CUT TO:

EXT- RESERVOIR

Same as before, but Ronnie gets a hand free and scratches
Macready. He struggles to pin her hand back.

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

MACREADY

We could drown you here with
water from the reservoir?

RONNIE

Pity the poor sod who carts all
that water up here.

MACREADY

This drags everything out. And
the longer we take, the more
likely the police will find us.

RONNIE

Can't blame a girl for wanting to
save her own life...

MACREADY

You're playing me, aren't you?

RONNIE

No, Macready. You're a decent man
doing the decent thing- and if
the police ever get here first,
I'll be the one telling them you
just saved my life in there.

MACREADY

But I have to do what Miss
Valerie says! I don't want to,
but I have to!

RONNIE

I know. And if it comes to
that... I know it's not you.

MACREADY

So how do we kill you without
making it look dodgy?

RONNIE

Think I'm going to tell you that?
Looks like you'll have to buy me
more sandwiches...

INT- BEDSIT

Ronnie sleeps, dreams...

CUT TO:

INT- BEDSIT- DAY 3

Ronnie wakes as Macready enters, apologetically; he's
carrying a bag, and a coffee he puts on the cooler.

MACREADY

You okay, miss?

RONNIE

I was dreaming...

MACREADY

Bought you something to help pass the time. I was going to buy you a crime novel, but I didn't think you'd be into them..

RONNIE

Perhaps not

MACREADY

Then I saw the big books, but then I reckoned you'd hate to not get to the end before...you know

RONNIE

That would be annoying...

MACREADY

Stop smiling! You're not supposed to smile!

RONNIE

What else can I do? I can't escape, I don't have any tools or weapons, I've no way of fighting back!

MACREADY

Even so...you're making this easier than I thought.

RONNIE

Watching over me?

MACREADY

Taking care of you

An uncomfortable silence grows, she catches herself.

RONNIE

So, what did you get me?

Macready pulls an artists pad and pencils from a bag.

MACREADY

Seeing as you're an artist...

RONNIE

(delighted)

Macready, you shouldn't have!

MACREADY

Asked the girl in the shop what a proper artist would use.

Ronnie opens them, admiringly.

RONNIE

You're really wonderful, you know?

MACREADY

I'm just trying to help. Could you do me a favour and hide them under your pillow when she comes?

RONNIE

She's coming back to see me?

MACREADY

She wasn't too happy about the water, so yeah, she's coming.

RONNIE

Don't worry- I won't get you into trouble.

MACREADY

Glad to hear it- how's the coffee?

RONNIE

In all the excitement, I'd not noticed!

She drinks the coffee, feeling warmer. Macready turns away to clean his gun. Behind her, Ronnie puts a pencil in her fist, the sharp end jutting out between fingers.

MACREADY

Valerie said you would do anything to live.

RONNIE

Wouldn't you? (pause) Macready, can I ask you one more favour?

MACREADY

Sure!

RONNIE

I draw with half a pencil, so could you break these in half for me please?

MACREADY

Break in half? How?

RONNIE

Stand on them?

MACREADY

Er...

RONNIE

I'm in bare feet...?

MACREADY

Oh! Right! Sure!

He takes the pencils and stands on them, cracking each. She takes them back and begins to sharpen the first one.

RONNIE

When's Valerie due?

MACREADY

Any time. She's got this guy called Taylor. I don't like him. She's had him speak to your husband, wearing your necklace as a gift from his' girl.

RONNIE

...Classy.

Ronnie holds the first pencil through her fist- a weapon.

MACREADY

That's the last one

RONNIE

Valerie's tough street thug...

MACREADY

Is that what you think of me?

RONNIE

Nothing like that- just a phrase

MACREADY

Oh...that's ok then

RONNIE

You ever been with a woman?

Macready shuffles, embarrassed to admit he hasn't.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry; I didn't meant to embarrass you...what are we going to do if I need the shower? Only after yesterday, I don't feel like a bath anytime soon...

MACREADY

I'd look the other way

RONNIE
 Could you get me a towel? Shower
 gel? Soap? Anything?

MACREADY
 (eager to please)
 You'd like that?

RONNIE
 It would help...

His mobile goes off with a text. He reads it.

MACREADY
 She's on her way. Can you hide
 the pencils?

Her smile lights up his world. He's like the nervous boy
 smiled at by the prettiest girl in the school.

RONNIE
 For you? Sure...

She hides the sharpened pencil in the rolled up cuff of her
 sleeve and turns her back to open the boiler suit.

CUT TO:

INT- STAIRCASE

Valerie storms up the steps, fuming.

INT- BEDSIT

Valerie enters, slams her briefcase on the table. Ronnie
 stares back, folds her arms, standing. Macready looks
 bashful and Valerie glares at him. (complex looks from both
 Ronnie and Macready)

VALERIE
 Pencils? Gifts? Get rid of them!

MACREADY
 I only wanted to...

VALERIE
 I said get rid of them!

Macready goes to answer but he's whipped. He gathers up the
 art supplies and leaves. Ronnie hides her expression- a
 flicker of sympathy for him behind disgust for her.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 Only you could be so low!

RONNIE
 That's hilarious coming from you

VALERIE

Do you know how long it takes to
fetch water from the reservoir?
We'll drown you and Sean can get
the suicide note.

RONNIE

I'll never sign it!

VALERIE

I think you will.

RONNIE

What makes you so sure?

VALERIE

Your road is so busy, Ronnie!
What if little Christopher were
to have an accident?

CUT TO:

EXT- RONNIE'S ROAD

A car driving fast down the busy housing road. Sound of car
screeching, a child's cry, an impact...

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE

(losing control)
Val...you wouldn't...

VALERIE

What would Sean think? To lose
his wife to suicide and his son
to a tragic accident in the same
week...

CUT TO:

EXT- GRAVEYARD

Sean kneels at a grave-side, shaking.

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE

Val, please...what did I do?

VALERIE

Made my life unbearable!

RONNIE
By making you rich?

VALERIE
Not as rich as you

RONNIE
I'd trade it all to have my
family back! You want money? Take
the business! Please! I'll sign
anything you draw up! Just leave
my children alone!

VALERIE
Tempting...

RONNIE
You've won, Val- please!

VALERIE
No. I prefer silence. Your
business will be mine anyway, and
your poor husband will have to
turn to me for comfort when he
learns of your death- as will
your darling children...

RONNIE
But you can't take the business

VALERIE
I've drawn up documents so I can
hold the company for your
children. If Sean he doesn't fall
for me, he also might meet with
an accident, leaving the little
darlings in my tender care...

RONNIE
I don't care about the company!
Just don't touch my children!

VALERIE
Don't care about...oh please!

RONNIE
(thinking fast)
I thought you wanted to marry
Sean, not kill him off?

VALERIE
I intend to marry him. After all,
he will need someone to comfort
him in his grief.

CUT TO:

INT- LIVING ROOM- VAL COMFORTING SEAN IN A HUG

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

RONNIE

(shaking the vision)

How can you think Sean will fall for you? What if he sees you for the murderer you really are?

VALERIE

(shocked)

I'm not a murderer, Ronnie! A murderer is someone who intentionally kills an innocent person! You are far from innocent! I'm merely correcting an imbalance from years ago!

RONNIE

How can you justify this?

VALERIE

Because it's the truth.

RONNIE

That's just your twisted lies...

VALERIE

It's the truth!!! What will be done is for the best!

RONNIE

You need help, Val- please!
You're not making any sense!

VALERIE

I'm making perfect sense.
Everyone would say so.

RONNIE

Sean will see right through you.

VALERIE

If I took your shares for myself it would look suspicious, but holding them for your children...

RONNIE

Sean will look for me.

VALERIE

Then I shall have to stop him.

CUT TO:

INT- BEDSIT

Sean sits in a boiler suit chained to the bed, head in his hands, Valerie pacing before him, gloating.

BACK TO:

INT- BEDSIT

Macready enters. Ronnie's fearful of what might be.

RONNIE

You'd turn this into a killing room? How many more have to die, Val? You'll never get what you want! Killing me, or Sean, won't achieve anything!

VALERIE

I'll achieve what I deserve!

RONNIE

What about Macready? Will you kill him too?

VALERIE

(purring round Macready, who gets nervous)
Macready is far too useful to do away with- is that really the best you can do? Try to turn him against me? Why would I kill him? I couldn't get near him. You think I'd stand a chance against a man like Macready?

RONNIE

You could get under his guard.

VALERIE

I see you tried that already. The coffee? The pencils?

MACREADY

I'm sorry, miss Valerie

VALERIE

Don't worry, Macready. You're not the first man she's tried to seduce, but you are the last. You'll make sure of that...

RONNIE

So humour me, how will you dispose of my body?

VALERIE

We'll drown you here and leave
you floating in the reservoir!

RONNIE

I'd kick and scream. They'd find
traces under my skin, they'd find
your DNA.

VALERIE

Macready's, not mine.

MACREADY

Hang on, I'm not getting fingered
for a murder! I'll not go back!

VALERIE

Drowning too good for you now?

RONNIE

Can't expect me to make it easy.

VALERIE

Very well. Macready? Shoot her.

RONNIE / MACREADY

...What?

VALERIE

If we can't drown her we might as
well get it over with. Put her on
her knees and shoot her- or I
make a phone call and send you
right back to prison, Macready...

Hesitantly, Macready pushes Ronnie to her knees before Val.
He doesn't want to do this, and Ronnie starts to panic.

RONNIE

Macready, no...Val, please!

VALERIE

Do it now, Macready.

He doesn't want to but slowly draws his pistol.

RONNIE

Val! Think of my children-please!

VALERIE

Bit late for that, Ronnie. Did
you think you were playing me?
Does it feel helpless to know I'm
pulling your strings? Macready?

Macready slowly chambers a round and hesitantly puts the
gun to Ronnie's head. She flinches from the barrel.

RONNIE

We were friends, Val. I loved you

VALERIE

We hurt the one's we love,
Ronnie. I loved you, and you have
no idea how much this pains me.
The only one you can't hurt is
Macready. (to him) Wait till I'm
gone and finish this. Clean up
after. Your life depends on it...

Valerie leaves.

CUT TO:

INT- STAIRCASE

Valerie walking away, heels clacking on the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT- BEDSIT

Macready stood at Ronnie's left side, trembling, steadying himself, shaking his head- tears in his eyes.

CLOSE UP- RONNIE'S RIGHT CUFF- SHE SLIPS THE PENCIL OUT AND PROJECTS IT THROUGH HER FIST. SHE'S ALSO CRYING SILENTLY.

MACREADY

I don't want to hurt you...

RONNIE

Just...don't look. Hold me
close...and close your eyes.
It'll be over in a second.

Macready crouches down on her left side, his left hand holds her round the front of her shoulders, heads almost touching, his bowed and his eyes closed. She raises her right fist with the pencil. He puts the barrel to her head.

MACREADY

I'm sorry, miss...

RONNIE

So am I...

CUT TO:

EXT- WAREHOUSE

Valerie leaves and looks up at the window.

FX: Gunshot and flash of light.

Valerie smiles, and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT- BEDSIT

Track shot- slowly across floor- until we see Macready's boot, leg, body, and a widening pool of blood comes into view.

End of script.