

A WIFE'S REVENGE

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dark. All the window blinds shut tight. Someone runs inside, breathing hard, fast.

It's unknown whether it's a man or woman.

The person jerks open a drawer, looks fast, then slams the drawer.

He/she snatches a knife from the storage block set on the counter.

The person rushes out of the room.

Something terrible is going to happen...

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

ON THE SCREEN: Two Weeks Earlier

A two-unit situated in an upper middle-class suburb. Budding maple trees, shrubbery surround it. In the left driveway, a mid-size car and BMW. In the right, another mid-size.

INT. BEDROOM

A married COUPLE make love, passionately, lovingly. They kiss throughout.

MARY MASTERS, late 20's. Attractive, but more plain-looking. Very likeable and caring.

STEVEN MASTERS, near 40. Extremely good-looking, charismatic. Self-assured and likes to be in control of things.

When they finish, both left breathless.

MARY

I love you...

Steven kisses her again.

INT. BATHROOM

Mary and Steven shower together. Steven slips his hands around her waist. Feels her belly.

STEVEN

Mary, you're sure we're not hurting  
the baby at all?

Mary grins.

MARY

No, for the hundredth time, no.  
Besides, do you want to go the next  
five months without having sex,  
'cause I sure don't.

Steven grins, kisses Mary's neck. He feels her belly again.

STEVEN

Have you noticed you're starting to  
show?

Mary almost laughs.

MARY

Steven, will you be serious. I'm  
only gonna be four months.

STEVEN

All right, I know.

He kisses her, checks again.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

But it does look to me like  
you're...

Mary just kisses him long to shut him up.

INT. KITCHEN

Classical music plays on the RADIO. Muffins and a half pot  
of coffee ready on the table.

A casually dressed Mary pours two glasses of juice at the  
counter. More comfortable in jeans, but a knockout when  
dressed up.

The music ends.

FEMALE D.J. (V.O.)

And I'll be back in a moment with  
the headlines and our local weather  
right after a word from...

As Mary shuts off the radio, Steven enters wearing a dark,  
very expensive-looking suit. Mary takes notice.

MARY  
You look good.

STEVEN  
Good? That's it, good?

MARY  
Okay, you look, very good.

She hands Steven a glass.

STEVEN  
Oh, that's so much better.

Mary grins, pushes him to the table.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Steven's BMW heads down in morning rush-hour traffic.

INT. BMW - MOVING

Steven on his cell phone as he steers through.

STEVEN  
Yeah, so have those contracts ready  
for me first thing. Got it? I'll  
be there in five minutes.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Contemporary-looking, one level. Set back from the busy street. The name to one side boldly marked: MASTER COMPUTER COMPANY.

Steven's BMW pulls into the nearly filled parking lot, located on the side of the building. Parks in the first spot marked RESERVED.

INT. HALLWAY

A woman wearing a short dress and heels, around 25, checks through a manila file folder containing various documents. TRISH LEVY, single, gorgeous and knows it.

The first document in the folder, a typed letter ready for signature. The letterhead reads: STEVEN MASTERS, PRESIDENT.

Trish closes the folder and takes off.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE

Large and expensive decor. Books, artwork, etc., very neatly situated. No personal items displayed though. Not even a photo of Mary.

Steven sits comfortably at his desk while on the phone.

STEVEN

Yeah, that's the best software package for you. It'll more than meet your company's needs... Definitely. Let me have one of my technicians call you then and set up a time frame. Okay?...

Trish enters, holds up the manila file folder.

Steven motions for her to come forward.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Great. And call me if you have any other questions... Bye.

As Steven hangs up, Trish leaves the folder in front of him. Steven grins.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

And how is my favorite sales rep doing?

TRISH

All right.

She sits opposite Steven.

STEVEN

Just all right?

Trish gives a slight shrug, smile.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Well, we'll see if we can't do something about that later.

TRISH

How about getting out early today?

STEVEN

Don't push it, Trish.

TRISH

Just thought I'd ask.

As Steven walks around the front of his desk...

STEVEN

So, tell me how your meeting went with CIM. Are things looking good for us?

TRISH

Yeah, I'd say they are. And speaking of looking, you look really great today.

Steven grins, loving this.

TRISH (CONT'D)

New suit. Right?

STEVEN

Yeah. You don't miss a thing, do you?

TRISH

Not usually.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - BACKYARD DECK - DAY

Beautifully decorated with potted plants and colorful flowers. Mary plants some marigolds and petunias in a long flower box.

Her neighbor in the adjoining unit, CAROLYN, 35, comes around from the front. Single, outgoing and career-minded. A medical sales rep.

CAROLYN

Hey, Mary.

MARY

Hi. So what did the doctor say?

As Carolyn joins her on the deck...

CAROLYN

Well, the good news is two weeks of medication, then I should be okay. No ulcer operation.

MARY

That's great. So what's the bad news?

CAROLYN

I've gotta stay home for the two weeks.

(MORE)

CAROLYN (CONT'D)  
 Jeez, I hope this doesn't screw up  
 my commissions this quarter.

Mary rolls her eyes at her.

MARY  
 Carolyn, do yourself a favor and  
 take the rest. My God, you work  
 virtually twelve hour days,  
 traveling every...

CAROLYN  
 I know, I know. But it's just  
 gonna be two really long and boring  
 weeks.

Mary just shakes her head at her. Carolyn switches subjects,  
 watches how neatly Mary plants the flowers.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)  
 So, have you given any more thought  
 to applying for that teaching job?

MARY  
 No, I don't think so.

CAROLYN  
 But it's first grade. Just like  
 you taught before. C'mon, I know  
 you must miss it.

MARY  
 Yeah... But the baby will be here  
 in the fall.

CAROLYN  
 So? You can still work.

Mary shoots her a look like they've had this conversation  
 before.

MARY  
 You know Steven wants me to be a  
 stay-at-home mom. And I agreed to  
 that.

CAROLYN  
 (kids her)  
 You could change your mind...

MARY  
 I could... But I'm not...

She looks at her very sincerely.

MARY (CONT'D)

Look, I'm really happy. I've got a great husband, a beautiful home, a baby on the way...

CAROLYN

Okay, okay. I'm not gonna ask you anymore. The only question I'll ask is when and if you need a baby-sitter.

MARY

Now that's a deal. Between my family back in California and Steven being alone...

CAROLYN

I thought he has a brother?

MARY

Nope, only child. I'm sure that's why he wants children, plural.

CAROLYN

Well, maybe you'll get lucky and have twins.

Mary almost glares at her.

MARY

Would you like to sit for twins?

CAROLYN

Never mind.

INT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - KITCHEN - DAY

As Steven fixes himself a cup of coffee, GEORGE, mid-30's enters. Married, congenial type, the top technician.

STEVEN

George, do we have any time frame yet for...?

GEORGE

Roth and Company, next Tuesday, eleven o'clock. Handling it myself.

STEVEN

Thanks, buddy. Appreciate that.

GEORGE

No problem.



He then studies Steven a second with a smile.

STEVEN

What?

GEORGE

Nothin'. You're just looking like you're on top of the world, that's all.

Steven grins.

STEVEN

Well, I am, buddy. I've got the best wife, great home. Got a successful business here...

He spots Trish walking in, but still addresses George.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I've got everything I want.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - SPARE BEDROOM - DAY

Looks like an office, but will become the nursery.

On one side, a hutch containing a variety of books, computer and office supplies.

In the other corner, a gallon of yellow paint, two tubes of wallpaper.

Mary works on the computer. Stops to answer her cell PHONE.

MARY

Hello?

STEVEN (O.S.)

Hi, it's me.

MARY

(kidding)

Me?

INTERCUT Steven on the cell phone in his car.

STEVEN

Yeah, you know, that great, sexy guy you live with.

MARY

Oh, right...

STEVEN  
Right... Listen, babe, I'm gonna  
be a little...

MARY  
Late. Right?

STEVEN  
Yeah. I've gotta go out and meet a  
customer, but I shouldn't be too  
long.

MARY  
Then I'll just start dinner later.

STEVEN  
No, don't do that. I'll just...

MARY  
I want to wait for you. Okay?

STEVEN  
Okay, thanks. See you later, babe.  
Love you.

MARY  
I love you too.

Steven disconnects, steers along a tree-lined road.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM

Mary approaches the dresser. Takes out a dark, sexy  
negligee.

She holds it up against her, staring in the mirror.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Early evening. A few cars go by. One pulls into the  
driveway next door.

INT. DARKENED ROOM

Steven takes off his tie, shirt and tosses them aside. He  
goes over to...

TRISH, wearing only her bra and panties. They embrace and  
kiss deeply. Over and over.

Steven backs her onto the bed, then gets on top.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Two place settings ready on the table.

Mary checks on a small roast in the oven.

The front door SHUTS.

Mary turns the temperature down. Checks a pot of vegetables on the stove.

Steven walks in with a smile, utterly carefree.

Mary clearly happy to see him. And obviously clueless about Steven.

STEVEN

Hi, babe.

MARY

Perfect timing.

They kiss, hug each other.

STEVEN

Wow, that smells great.

MARY

Hungry?

Steven kisses her again.

STEVEN

I'm starving.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Patrons casually walk throughout, browse and make purchases.

One stack marked: PARENTING

Mary approaches, looks over the selection.

Steven off by himself, engrossed in a current software manual.

Mary now at a stack: DECORATING. She glances through one book.

Steven approaches Mary and slips his arm around her waist.

STEVEN

Can I buy you dinner?

Mary puts the book back.

MARY  
You sure can.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Comfortable, quiet sort of place.

Steven and Mary finish up with dinner in a corner booth.  
Their WAITRESS refills Steven's coffee then moves on.

They share one dish of ice cream between the conversation.

MARY  
I was wondering...

STEVEN  
Oh, no, here it comes.

Mary nudges him.

MARY  
No, listen.

STEVEN  
Okay.

MARY  
I was wondering if you plan on  
doing anything to the cabin this...

STEVEN  
The cabin?

MARY  
Yeah, now that spring's started.

STEVEN  
No, I don't think so. I'm  
surprised you even thought about  
that.

MARY  
Why? Don't you ever want to fix it  
up?

STEVEN  
Maybe, someday...

MARY  
But...

STEVEN

We need to get the baby's room ready now.

MARY

I know, but that's gonna be easy to do. We agreed to keep the room simple for the beginning. Right?

She pushes the rest of the ice cream to him.

STEVEN

Right...

MARY

So you're not interested in fixing up the cabin?

STEVEN

No, I think we should take advantage of our time now before the baby comes and go to... Bermuda.

MARY

Bermuda?

STEVEN

Yeah. We can celebrate our third anniversary there.

MARY

Steven, it'll be our second anniversary.

Steven looks thoughtful a second.

STEVEN

Jeez, seems longer...

Mary gives him a shove.

MARY

You are so bad!

Steven laughs.

STEVEN

I'm kidding, I'm kidding! I knew it was second.

MARY

You'd better.

STEVEN  
So, what do you think about  
Bermuda?

Mary looks at him then breaks into a grin.

MARY  
I think I'd like to go.

STEVEN  
Knew you would.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary gets into bed and adjusts her pillow. She appears a little tired.

Steven approaches with a small gift bag. Climbs in next to Mary and places the bag in front of her.

MARY  
What's this?

Mary opens it and beams. Takes out a stuffed white teddy bear with a blue bow.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Oh, it's adorable... Did you get  
this today?

Steven nods.

STEVEN  
I'm surprised you didn't catch me.

Mary admires the bear a second then motions to the blue.

MARY  
And could this possibly mean you're  
hoping for a boy?

Steven grins, shrugs.

STEVEN  
Possibly.

MARY  
But if it's a girl?

STEVEN  
Hope she's just like you.

Mary sets the bear aside then embraces Steven.

MARY

Do you know how much I love you?

STEVEN

I love you too.

Mary kisses him tenderly several times.

Steven gently takes her face. They kiss passionately, over and over.

They slide down in bed. Steven kisses along her neck, caressing her.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven and Trish wrap up a few items at the work table.

STEVEN

Okay, so give your file on CIM to Debra and have her do the standard papers.

Trish gives a nod, gathers a few files.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I want to make sure they get the contract tomorrow.

TRISH

No problem.

STEVEN

Anything else?

TRISH

No, that's it.

Steven checks his watch then gives Trish a smile.

STEVEN

You free the rest of the afternoon?

TRISH

Nope, I have an appointment.

STEVEN

Where?

As Trish leans back in her chair...

TRISH

Oh, a little place somewhere near the mountains...

STEVEN

Yeah? Well, I could go for a little spin up to the mountains myself...

NANCY, 45, the receptionist, has walked in the office without them noticing.

NANCY

Excuse me, Steven.

Startled, Steven and Trish quickly look over to her.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I thought you might want this message right away.

She hands it over. Steven checks it.

STEVEN

Yeah. Thanks a lot, Nancy.

NANCY

Sure thing.

Steven watches Nancy leave then turns back to Trish.

STEVEN

Give me a couple of minutes. Okay?

Trish leans toward him with a grin.

TRISH

Sure thing.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - SPARE BEDROOM - DAY

The white and blue teddy bear sits on the corner of the desk.

Mary stares at the computer screen, very annoyed.

The PRINT MENU.

Mary clicks on the mouse, again and again.

Nothing. The SCREEN looks the same.

Mary sighs in frustration. Checks her watch then makes a phone call.

Several RINGS.



NANCY (O.S.)  
 Good afternoon, Master Computer  
 Company.

MARY  
 Hi, Nancy, it's Mary Masters. How  
 are you?

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

NANCY  
 Just fine, Mary. How are you  
 doing?

MARY  
 Oh, pretty good. Would Steven  
 happen to be around?

NANCY  
 Sorry, Mary. He's out of the  
 building and I'm not sure where he  
 went. But I could try to find out  
 from Debra.

MARY  
 No, no, that's all right. This can  
 wait till tonight.

NANCY  
 You know, I did hear him mention  
 though, something about the  
 mountains -- if that helps you any.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Carolyn gets her mail.

MARY (O.S.)  
 Hi, again...

CAROLYN  
 Hey, Mary. What's up?

Mary approaches her, car keys in hand.

MARY  
 Well, since it's such a beautiful  
 day today and you said you're  
 feeling better, I thought you might  
 want to take a ride with me up to  
 our cabin. It's only about a half-  
 hour from here.

Carolyn gives a disappointed look.

CAROLYN

Oh, I'd love to, but I have a conference call in about fifteen minutes.

MARY

Oh, okay. I'll take you another time.

CAROLYN

Why are you going up there though? I mean, this is the first I've ever heard of you going to the cabin.

MARY

Yeah, I know, but I have a feeling that Steven might be there checking it out.

CAROLYN

For renovations?

MARY

Yeah, maybe. And if I'm right, I'll just surprise him.

EXT. TWO LANE ROAD - DAY

The area surrounded by massive pine trees and over-grown bushes. Appears fairly isolated.

Mary's car passes by.

INT. CAR - MOVING

Mary appears quite relaxed while steering along. Listens to classical music on the STEREO.

EXT. NARROW ROAD

Mary's car drives up, pulls into a gravel driveway and parks at the bottom.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Mary climbs out of her car and looks up the long driveway.

She sees Steven's BMW and another car parked at the top of the driveway. Then the cabin. Medium-size surrounded by pine trees and bushes. No other cabins in sight.

Mary grins to herself.

MARY  
I was right.

She heads toward the cabin.

UNIDENTIFIED CAR

Mary casually walks alongside and looks into the front passenger's area. She abruptly stops and moves closer.

She sees an employee photo I.D. badge on the passenger's seat. It reads: TRISH LEVY. MASTER COMPUTER COMPANY.

Also, some mail addressed to Trish Levy.

Mary looks extremely puzzled.

EXT. MARY'S BACKYARD - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

Mary, Steven, and his employees enjoy a barbecue on a beautiful summer afternoon.

From across the yard, Mary, in shorts, a tank and sneakers, sees Trish with Steven. Trish, in a tight dress and sandals, leans in, whispers something to Steven who smiles.

George approaches Mary.

MARY  
George, who is that again with  
Steven?

He looks over.

GEORGE  
Trish Levy. She works in sales.

MARY  
She's really pretty.

GEORGE  
I never noticed.

Mary just looks at him, seriously? Then they both break into laughter.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - TRISH'S CAR - PRESENT DAY

Mary heads to the cabin.

EXT. FRONT OF CABIN

Mary carefully looks in the window.

She sees no sign of Steven or Trish, just the living room area which has a small sofa and end table. The plain kitchen area has a small table and two chairs.

Mary quickly heads around toward the back.

BACK OF CABIN

Mary comes around, careful not to step on any branches or twigs. She quietly approaches the window then stands near the corner.

She carefully peers in and sees...

The bedroom area. Some clothes left on the floor.

Mary edges over slightly to see better.

Shoes, more clothes left by the foot of the queen-size bed.

Then, Mary sees...

Steven and Trish having sex. No kissing, just intense sex.

Mary spins around utterly shocked, horrified, and covers her mouth.

As quietly as she can, Mary runs away leaving Steven and Trish completely unaware that she was ever there.

INT. MARY'S CAR - MOVING

Mary soars down the road with tears streaming down her face. She swallows hard. Looks like she's going to be sick.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Early evening, still some light left. Carolyn's car parked in her driveway.

Mary's car comes down the road, fast. Makes a sharp turn into the driveway and parks.

Mary climbs out and races to her front door. She trembles unlocking it and hurries in.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary staggers in. Drops at the foot of the bed and breaks down.

She sobs uncontrollably. Never so shocked, devastated in her entire life.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Steven sits on the edge of the bed in his boxers. Trish lies under the sheets and reaches down in her handbag. She takes out a cigarette, lighter.

STEVEN

Don't smoke in here. I don't want my clothes smelling of smoke.

Trish just sighs. Tosses the stuff back in her handbag.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

And you better get dressed.

As he puts his pants on...

TRISH

Why? It's still early.

STEVEN

Come on, Trish, let's go.

TRISH

No, wait a minute...

She moves right behind Steven.

TRISH (CONT'D)

We don't have to go yet.

She slips her arms around his neck and nuzzles him.

STEVEN

Trish, c'mon...

TRISH

Please? It's early. We still have some time.

She runs her hands along his chest, kissing him.

STEVEN

Trish...

Trish persists. Kisses, bites his shoulder.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I gotta get going.

TRISH

No you don't...

She kisses along his neck.

TRISH (CONT'D)

I know you want me once more...

She feels along his chest.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Don't you?...

She pushes him down on the bed and climbs on top. She kisses him deeply.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mary takes some tissues from the night table and wipes her tear-stained face.

She takes a deep breath and tries to get control of herself.

Mary approaches the dresser and quickly takes out some clothes.

A sharp pain abruptly hits her in the stomach. She winces. After a moment, it passes.

Mary grabs more clothes.

Another pain hits her, extremely intense. Mary gasps and drops the clothes on the floor.

She doubles over.

MARY

(to herself)

Oh, no...

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Trish is on top, having sex with Steven.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM

A panicked Mary is on the phone.

Several RINGS.

CAROLYN (V.O.)

Hello?

Mary cries in pain.

MARY

Carolyn, it's Mary...

CAROLYN (V.O.)  
Mary, what's wrong?

MARY  
Can you please come over right  
away? I need help...

CAROLYN (V.O.)  
I'll be right there.

The phone DISCONNECTS.

Mary hangs up.

INT. HALLWAY

Mary slowly heads out of the bedroom, clutching her belly.

She carefully goes down the stairs.

Another terrible, sharp pain hits her.

INT. STAIRCASE

Mary lets out a cry and drops on the stair.

She tries to breathe, but grows pale.

The front door abruptly OPENS.

CAROLYN (O.S.)  
(calls out)  
Mary?

MARY  
(cries)  
Here...

Carolyn runs up to her.

MARY (CONT'D)  
It's the baby...

Carolyn helps her up. Tries to calm her.

CAROLYN  
Okay, Mary. It's gonna be okay.

INT. CAROLYN'S CAR

Mary in the passenger's seat, clutching her belly.

Carolyn quickly climbs in and starts up.

Mary looks down at her pants then turns so scared.

MARY  
Carolyn, I'm bleeding.

Carolyn stays calm for her.

CAROLYN  
Okay, just breathe slow. I'm gonna  
get you to the hospital as fast as  
I can.

Carolyn throws her car in gear.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Carolyn's car flies by.

INT. CAR - MOVING

Carolyn races toward the hospital.

CAROLYN  
Mary, did you call Steven? Do you  
know where he is?

Mary tries to breathe. Lies to Carolyn about Steven.

MARY  
No. No, I don't know where he...

Mary abruptly stops, wincing in terrible pain. She clutches  
her belly.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Please hurry!

CAROLYN  
Okay, hold on...

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Carolyn's car quickly pulls into the main entrance way.

INT. EMERGENCY ENTRANCE

An ORDERLY rushes Mary in on the stretcher, moving quickly  
past the hospital workers, patients.

Carolyn runs after them, trying to catch up.

Mary looks so sweaty and pale. She holds her belly.

The front of her pants are blood stained.



INT. HALLWAY

Carolyn takes her cell phone and quickly dials.

Several RINGS.

STEVEN (VOICE)  
Hello, you've reached 973-35...

Carolyn disconnects.

CAROLYN  
Shit!

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY

Nurses busy at their station. A female doctor in scrubs instructs one.

The elevator doors open. The Orderly swiftly pushes Mary out and down the hall through another set of doors.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Carolyn's car is back in her driveway.

Her living room lights are on with the curtains parted.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Carolyn anxiously paces by the window.

CAROLYN  
(to herself)  
C'mon, Steven. What are you doing?

EXT. TOWNHOUSE

Finally, Steven's BMW comes down the road and pulls into the driveway behind Mary's car.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Carolyn sees and runs out.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Steven climbs out of the BMW and heads toward his front entrance.

CAROLYN (O.S.)  
(calls out)  
Steven...

STEVEN  
Hey, Carolyn.

Carolyn hurries up to him.

Steven sees the anxious look on her face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Something wrong?

CAROLYN  
It's Mary.

STEVEN  
Mary? What's the matter?

CAROLYN  
I had to take her to the hospital,  
Steven.

Steven looks shocked.

STEVEN  
What?! Why? Why didn't somebody  
call me?

CAROLYN  
I did! I've been trying to call  
you, but I...

STEVEN  
Well what happened? Is she okay?

CAROLYN  
She had a lot of pain and she  
started bleeding. You'd better get  
over there now.

Steven turns panicked.

STEVEN  
Oh my God, the baby. Did some-  
thing...?

Carolyn quickly motions for him to stop.

CAROLYN  
I don't know, they wouldn't tell me  
anything. I just wanted to get a  
hold of you.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Steven barrels through the main entrance and races past those who come and go. He nearly collides into someone.

INT. HALLWAY

Steven runs up to the elevators and frantically pounds the button.

INT. RECOVERY ROOM

Mary lies awake in bed. No one else is in the room.

She looks so pale and shaky.

INT. HALLWAY

Steven rushes past some visitors to the nurses' station. He quickly motions to the two NURSES.

STEVEN

Can somebody tell me what happened to my wife? Mary Masters. She was brought in a little while ago.

The older NURSE, 50's, turns to Steven, expressionless.

NURSE

What was the name?

STEVEN

Mary Masters. She's pregnant.

NURSE

And you're the husband?

STEVEN

Yes! Steven Masters.

The Nurse looks for the chart, slowly.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Dammit! Will somebody please just tell me what the hell happened to my wife! Doesn't anybody...?

DR. GIBSON, 40, female, quickly approaches Steven.

DR. GIBSON

Mr. Masters, I'm Dr. Gibson.

She takes Steven aside.

STEVEN

My wife, Mary, is she okay? She's pregnant. Is the baby okay?

The Doctor gives a compassionate look.

DR. GIBSON

I'm very sorry, but Mary had a miscarriage. We did a D and C on her and she's resting now.

Steven just looks at her in complete anguish.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)

But she's going to be fine, physically. She'll be all right.

INT. RECOVERY ROOM

Mary keeps her face turned away from the doorway and just stares out at nothing.

The door OPENS.

Mary shuts her eyes.

Steven quietly enters and tries to keep composed. He sits on the edge of the bed.

Mary doesn't move one inch. Keeps her eyes shut.

STEVEN

Mary?

Steven strokes her forehead.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I'm here, babe.

Mary remains still. Does not confront or respond to him at all.

Steven kisses her forehead.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry we lost the baby...

Mary does absolutely nothing.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

But you're gonna be fine. Okay? Just fine.

Steven gently embraces her.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Everything will be okay. I  
promise.

The door OPENS.

Dr. Gibson enters.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
(to Doctor, concerned)  
She's still asleep. Is that okay?

The Doctor approaches Mary.

DR. GIBSON  
Mary? Mary?

Mary slowly opens her eyes. Pretends that she can hardly stay awake while the Doctor checks her pulse.

Mary goes back to sleep.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)  
(to Steven)  
It's all right. Some people are just more sensitive to the anesthesia. Just stay with her and I'll check back soon.

Steven nods and watches the Doctor leave.

Mary continues to pretend to sleep.

Steven strokes her forehead again.

STEVEN  
It's gonna be okay, babe.

Again, Mary does nothing. For now.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Mary's car and the BMW in their driveway.

A young woman passes by pushing her toddler in a stroller.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

The white and blue teddy bear still on the desk.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

A tired-looking Steven climbs the stairs and heads for the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary sits up in bed, staring outside. She looks completely despondent, drained.

Steven quietly approaches and sits next to her.

Mary makes no eye contact.

STEVEN  
Can I get you anything?

Mary barely shakes her head.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
No?

MARY  
No.

Steven caresses her hand for a long, silent moment.

STEVEN  
Babe, you know the doctor said we  
can try again in...

MARY  
Don't.

STEVEN  
What?

MARY  
Don't say it.

Steven squeezes her hand.

STEVEN  
I know that you don't want to  
hear...

MARY  
You're right.

Mary looks straight in his eyes.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I don't want to hear it.  
(beat)  
I can't.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Carolyn waits at Steven's front door with a casserole dish.

Steven answers.

CAROLYN  
Hi, Steven. How you doing?

Steven nods slightly.

STEVEN  
Um, Mary's taking this pretty hard.  
I'd ask you in, but I'm...

Carolyn motions to stop.

CAROLYN  
No, don't be silly. I just wanted  
to give you this.

She hands the dish to Steven.

STEVEN  
Thanks, Carolyn. I'm sure she'll  
talk to you tomorrow.

CAROLYN  
It's okay.

She looks at him a moment, feeling his pain.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)  
Give her some time, Steven. She'll  
be all right.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steven and Mary eat the casserole in silence.

Mary's plate looks barely touched. Mary pushes the food  
around with her fork.

Steven watches her then tries desperately to make some  
conversation.

STEVEN  
I'm meeting with a potential  
customer later in the week. Stern,  
Kramer and Cole. The law firm. It  
could be one of the biggest  
accounts ever.

Mary barely looks at him.

MARY  
Good.

Another uncomfortable, silent moment.

Mary gets up from the table.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna go upstairs.

Steven holds her arm before she can leave.

STEVEN  
Mary...

But he doesn't know what to say.

MARY  
Please. I just want to go  
upstairs.

Steven gives a nod. Lets her leave.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary lies awake in bed. Keeps her back toward the door.

Steven appears in the doorway. He stays there, staring at Mary, expressionless.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Mary makes her way down. She looks better, but moves a little sluggishly.

She goes through a door marked: BARBARA STRAUSS, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

INT. OFFICE

BARBARA STRAUSS, 45, takes notes at her desk. Married, conservative appearance, very business-like.

Mary sits opposite her and fidgets with her wedding ring.

And, she does not reveal the truth about Steven.

MARY  
Um, even though we've only been  
married a short time, it's been  
mostly, unhappy, distant.  
(beat)  
I miscarried recently. There's no  
reason to stay any longer.

Barbara looks at her with sympathy.



BARBARA  
I'm very sorry.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM

A group of candid photos of Mary and Steven sit along the fireplace mantel.

In every one, they both clearly look so happy.

INT. BARBARA'S OFFICE

Barbara finishes up with Mary.

BARBARA  
So, you want me to have the divorce papers drawn-up, but we won't proceed with anything until our next meeting. Correct?

MARY  
Yes. Thank you, Barbara.

BARBARA  
And are you certain that you want nothing from your husband?

Mary nods.

BARBARA (CONT'D)  
You are entitled.

MARY  
I know, but I don't want a thing from Steven.

BARBARA  
All right...

Barbara looks at her notes a moment then turns back to Mary.

BARBARA (CONT'D)  
Maybe you and your husband will be able to work out your differences after all.

Mary just gives a slight nod.

MARY  
Well, if you'll just let me know the amount, I'd like to pay you now for this appointment.

She opens her purse and takes out some cash.

BARBARA  
Of course. Let me get my  
assistant.

She reaches for the phone.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - DAY

At the back of the building, George smokes outside of the  
door marked: SHIPPING/RECEIVING.

Steven comes out to this designated smoking area.

STEVEN  
Hey George, can I bum a cigarette  
off you?

As George gives him one...

GEORGE  
Sure, but I thought you quit.

STEVEN  
I did.

After he takes a drag...

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Mary just had a miscarriage.

George looks really surprised.

GEORGE  
Oh no, I'm really sorry. I didn't  
know you guys were expecting.

STEVEN  
Yeah, Mary didn't want me to say  
anything yet.

GEORGE  
How's she doing?

STEVEN  
She'll be okay. We can just try  
again in a couple of months.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven reads an e-mail at his computer.

Trish sits opposite him, checking the contents of a manila  
folder.

TRISH

This letter is all ready for your signature. Then I'll get it out to Beck and Ryan.

She leaves the folder in front of Steven who pays no attention.

TRISH (CONT'D)

Steven.

Steven looks over.

TRISH (CONT'D)

The letter's ready.

STEVEN

Okay, good.

As he signs the letter, Trish takes his appointment calendar from the desk.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

TRISH

Checking to see if you're free later. And you are. So...

She grins, staring at Steven.

Steven leans back in his chair.

STEVEN

I don't know.

Trish moves closer.

TRISH

Yes, you do.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary enters and takes her cell phone out of her purse.

She sees she has a voice message then plays it.

STEVEN (VOICE)

Hi babe, it's me. Sorry, but I have to go out tonight. Meeting a customer for dinner. Hope you're having a good day. See you later. Love you.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Early evening, still some light left.

Mary's car flies by the tree-lined area.

INT. CAR - MOVING

An intense-looking Mary checks her watch while steering through.

EXT. NARROW ROAD

Mary's car drives up and comes to a stop with only the parking lights on.

In the distance, is the CABIN, Steven's BMW and Trish's car parked next to the cabin.

INT. MARY'S CAR

Mary's eyes are filled with hatred, rage.

She swiftly turns the car around and soars back down the road.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - NIGHT

Only a few cars in the lot.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE

Mary searches through the folders and papers left out on the desk.

She tries to access the desktop computer, but no luck. The passwords she enters don't work.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

A male EMPLOYEE, 30, nice suit, ambles down, reading something on his cell phone.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE

Mary tries to open the center desk drawer, but finds it locked.

MARY  
(to herself)  
Shit!

Mary tries another drawer. Locked also.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

The Employee heads toward the closed office door.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE

Mary heads over to the work table and searches through the folders, etc.

Her back faces the closed door.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

The Employee approaches the door, reaching for the knob...

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE

Mary engrossed in a file.

The door abruptly OPENS.

Mary whips around.

But it's a JANITOR who enters this office, heading toward the wastebasket.

The older man sees Mary's alarmed expression.

JANITOR

Sorry. Didn't mean to scare you.

He dumps the basket into his large one.

MARY

That's okay.

The Janitor gives a nod.

JANITOR

You have a nice evening.

MARY

You too.

She watches him leave and close the door.

INT. TRISH'S OFFICE

Modern furniture with bright, stylish decor.

Mary enters and immediately locks the door. She smells Trish's perfume which sickens her.

AT THE DESK

Mary looks through some files. She finds one that's marked:

STERN, KRAMER & COLE

She looks through and sees an e-mail:

From Steven to Trish and George. Marked high importance. Please make sure to have everything ready for our meeting with Stern, Kramer on the 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

Mary puts the file back. She moves the chair aside.

The center desk drawer looks slightly open.

Mary opens it all the way.

The drawer contains miscellaneous office supplies, gum, a half-pack of cigarettes.

Mary takes the cigarettes. Briefly examines then puts them back.

She carefully searches through the drawer. Moves a note pad which hides some business cards. She takes one.

The CARD reads along the top: TRISH LEVY, SALES REPRESENTATIVE.

Mary puts the card in her pocket.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lights left on. Steven comes home and leaves his brief case by the chair.

He looks inside the kitchen.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Steven heads to the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Steven enters and checks his watch.

Mary in bed already and appears to be asleep.

Steven quietly approaches and sits on the edge of the bed.

STEVEN

Mary? Are you okay?

No response from Mary. Sound asleep.

Steven softly kisses her cheek.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Love you.

He leaves her.

Mary opens her eyes and gives an ice-cold stare.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Mary about to enter a gardening store, but something catches her eye.

A MAN, mid-30's who looks somewhat like Steven. Sits on a bench with his BABY BOY.

Mary watches them, expressionless.

The Man playfully lifts the Baby over his head. Each time, the Baby laughs.

A WOMAN, 30, exits a children's store and joins them. She takes the Baby then gets a big smile from him.

Tears stand in Mary's eyes. She looks so pained. This should have been her, Steven and their baby.

She quickly enters the gardening store.

INT. GARDENING STORE

Mary slowly heads down an aisle, searching through the various products.

An elderly FEMALE SHOPPER approaches her.

SHOPPER

Excuse me...

She shows Mary a container.

SHOPPER (CONT'D)

But do you think this fertilizer is safe? I have two cats at home.

Mary takes a look.

MARY

No, this one is pretty toxic. I'd get the one made by Caldor.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

That's much safer, especially if  
pets get into it.

SHOPPER

Thanks so much.

MARY

You're welcome. And I'll take that  
fertilizer if you don't mind. I  
don't have any pets at home.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

An energized Mary makes Lasagna at the counter. Among the  
box of pasta, jar of tomato sauce, cheese, etc., is the  
container of fertilizer.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Steven's BMW heads down the road and pulls into the driveway.

INT. KITCHEN

Steven enters, loosening his tie, and sees...

One place setting on the table.

A big hunk of Lasagna left on the stove.

Steven heads for the Lasagna. He stops though, changes his  
mind, and walks out.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The bathroom door closed.

The SHOWER RUNS.

Steven approaches the door and stays a moment.

He removes his tie and shirt.

INT. BATHROOM

Mary takes a shower and seems fairly relaxed.

The bathroom door OPENS.

Mary looks over.

MARY

I'll be right out.

Beat. The shower door OPENS.



Steven joins her.

STEVEN  
Don't worry about it.

He kisses Mary's shoulder.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
How you doing?

Mary struggles to remain calm, relaxed.

MARY  
All right.

Steven caresses her shoulders.

STEVEN  
Babe, you're so tense. What's the matter?

MARY  
Nothing. I'm okay.

Steven feels all along her back.

Mary remains still.

STEVEN  
Let me relax you.

He slips his hands around Mary's waist and slowly kisses along her neck.

Mary shuts her eyes, repulsed.

Steven gets into it more.

Mary faces him and forces a smile.

MARY  
I'm gonna get out now, okay? I've been in here a long time already.

STEVEN  
So just a couple more minutes...

MARY  
No, you go on. Take your time.

She kisses Steven on the lips and gets out of the shower.

Steven looks very disappointed. The shower door OPENS again.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Oh, I made you Lasagna. I'll heat  
some up for you.

STEVEN  
Okay, thanks.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Two glasses of juice ready on the table.

Mary makes breakfast at the stove.

Scrambled eggs cook in a fry pan. Two sunny-side eggs on a  
plate near the pan.

Mary shuts off the stove. Empties the scrambled eggs on  
another plate.

Steven enters, wearing an expensive-looking suit, but appears  
slightly pale.

MARY  
Good morning...

She sets the scrambled eggs down for Steven.

STEVEN  
Good morning to you. You're in a  
good mood I see.

MARY  
Uh huh...

She sits down with the sunny-side eggs for herself then takes  
a bite.

Steven joins her, but lifts his plate to her.

STEVEN  
Here, let me switch with you. I  
know you love scrambled.

MARY  
No, that's okay. I'll just stick  
with this.

STEVEN  
Well let's split.

MARY  
No, I really wanted these. But  
thanks.

STEVEN

Okay...

He sips his juice.

MARY

So, did you meet with that law firm yet? Kramer...?

STEVEN

Stern, Kramer and Cole. We meet this morning. And it's gonna be a huge account if we can get it. Then I can start looking to buy a bigger building.

Steven digs into his eggs. Mary watches.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven works at his computer, but clearly looks pale, very uncomfortable.

He gets dizzy and stops working. Winces in sharp pain from his stomach.

Trish enters and sees Steven's appearance. She approaches the desk, concerned.

TRISH

Steven, are you okay? You don't look too good.

Steven shakes his head.

STEVEN

Look, you've gotta handle Stern, Kramer for me. I'll never make it through the meeting.

Trish turns panicked.

TRISH

Oh no, they just got here. Debra's bringing them to the conference room now.

STEVEN

Dammit...

His pain intensifies and he breaks into a sweat.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Listen, just tell them I had an  
emergency. Okay?

TRISH  
An emergency?

STEVEN  
Yeah. Get a hold of George and you  
both handle the meeting. You know  
what to cover. All the material's  
ready.

Trish really worried, afraid.

TRISH  
Yeah, but I don't know if I...

Steven bolts out of his chair, irate.

STEVEN  
Dammit, Trish, just do it! Can't  
you see I'm in no shape to meet  
with these people!

Trish just stands there, stunned.

Steven points to the door.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Go!

Trish glares at him and takes off.

INT. HALLWAY

A pale Steven rushes into the MENS ROOM.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary on the phone.

MARY  
Thanks for offering, Carolyn. I  
really appreciate it.

CAROLYN (V.O.)  
Well, I mean it. If you need  
anything...

INT. LIVING ROOM

Steven drags himself inside, looking like death warmed over.  
Drops his briefcase near the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN

Mary looks out to the living room.

MARY  
(to Carolyn)  
Huh, that's weird. Steven just  
came home.

CAROLYN (V.O.)  
Well I'll let you go then. Talk to  
you soon, Mary.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Steven holds his suit jacket and slowly loosens his tie.

Mary approaches him.

MARY  
Hey, what's the matter?

STEVEN  
I don't know. It must be a flu or  
something.

Mary feels his sweaty forehead, cheeks.

MARY  
God, you're like ice. Do you want  
me to call the doctor?

STEVEN  
No, no. I'm just gonna go  
upstairs. I'll be okay.

MARY  
Are you sure?

Steven nods. Slowly climbs the stairs.

Mary watches him then walks up a few steps.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I'll fix you something a little  
later.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

At the counter, Mary sprinkles a small amount of the  
fertilizer into a steaming bowl of broth. She stirs it,  
making sure it completely dissolves.

She leaves the spoon in the sink then gets a clean one.

INT. BEDROOM

Steven lies awake in bed, looking like total crap.

Mary enters with the broth and sets it on the night table by Steven.

STEVEN  
I don't want anything.

MARY  
C'mon, you'll get dehydrated. It's only broth.

She sits on the edge of the bed.

STEVEN  
Don't. I don't want you to catch this.

Mary feels his forehead, cheeks.

MARY  
I'm not gonna catch it.  
(beat)  
Were you able to make your meeting with Stern, Kramer?

Steven shakes his head, beyond dejected.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

STEVEN  
I can't friggin' believe this. The most important meeting this year and this had to happen. I never get sick.

MARY  
I know. Take some of this broth though. Okay?

No response from Steven.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Steven? You've gotta get something into you.

STEVEN  
Okay, you can leave it here.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Mary curled-up on the sofa. She looks at the wall clock.

The time of 9:40 p.m.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary quietly enters.

Steven appears to be asleep.

Little or none of the broth was taken.

A disappointed Mary takes the broth and walks out.

INT. BATHROOM

Mary flushes the broth down the toilet.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - DAY

At the back of the building near the shipping door, Trish smokes. She clearly looks to be in a bad mood.

Steven comes outside, looking a hell of a lot better.

Trish stares at him, cool.

TRISH  
Feeling better?

STEVEN  
Sorry I didn't get back to you  
yesterday, but I'm sure you and  
George didn't have any problems  
running the meeting. Right?

TRISH  
No...

STEVEN  
So everything went well?

TRISH  
As far as I know. Although Mr.  
Cole didn't seem too pleased that  
you weren't there.

STEVEN  
Well look, let me take you out to  
lunch and you can fill me in on  
everything. Okay?

No response from Trish, only the look.

Steven moves closer and grins.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
C'mon... I promise to make it  
worth your while.

Trish softens a bit.

TRISH  
I'm gonna count on that.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Mary's cell phone on the night table RINGS.

Mary answers.

MARY  
Hello?

WOMAN (V.O.)  
Hi, Mary. How are you and Steven?

Mary sits on the bed. And doesn't reveal the truth to her mother for now.

MARY  
Hi, Mom. Fine. How's everyone out  
there?

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Oh, pretty good. Dad and I are all  
ready to go to Cancun.

MARY  
Oh, that's right. You're gonna  
have a great time there.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
I'm sure we will. So, how's your  
morning sickness, Mary? Are you  
over that now?

Mary's entire expression changes.

MARY  
Yeah. It's over.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Good. So everything's going  
smoothly then?



Mary struggles to sound convincing.

MARY  
Yeah, it is.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Well, I can't tell you how much I'm  
looking forward to being a  
grandmother...

Mary's eyes begin to fill with tears.

MARY  
I know... Mom, I'm sorry, I don't  
mean to cut you short, but a friend  
just drove up and I have to go.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Late afternoon. Trish leans against her parked car, smoking.

Steven's BMW pulls up near Trish.

She puts the cigarette out.

As Steven climbs out of the BMW, Trish approaches.

TRISH  
Jeez, took you long enough...

She tries to remove Steven's trench coat, but he stops her.

STEVEN  
So impatient!

He removes the coat himself. Tosses it on the hood of his car.

Trish laughs at him.

Steven moves to kiss her, but Trish backs away, grinning.

She runs to the front door of the cabin, teasing.

Steven chases after her.

Steven's coat slips off the hood onto the ground.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mary comes out of the bathroom in her nightgown and heads for the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary enters and instantly looks surprised, taken-back.

Steven already in bed, waiting for her.

No choice. Mary gets in.

MARY  
You're turning in early.

STEVEN  
Yeah.

Mary just gives a nod.

MARY  
'Night.

She kisses Steven on the cheek then lies down with her back to him.

Steven doesn't move. Just looks at her.

Mary so nervous, uneasy.

Steven then moves closer and strokes her cheek.

Mary remains still. Her heart races.

Steven kisses along her shoulder.

Mary grows more uneasy each second. Not sure what to do.

Steven now turns her toward him and kisses her cheek, neck.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Steven, I can't...

Steven doesn't stop.

STEVEN  
I know.

More kisses, stroking.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I just want to...

He kisses Mary passionately, deeply on the mouth.

Mary loses it and shoves him off.

MARY  
I said I can't!

She bolts up.

MARY (CONT'D)  
It's too soon!

Steven stares at her in sheer amazement.

STEVEN  
I know that, Mary.

He moves away and turns defensive.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I wasn't pressuring you for sex. I  
just wanted to get close to you.

Mary makes no eye contact.

Steven grows more frustrated.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Look, I think I've been really,  
really patient with you, but I  
don't know what's wrong with you  
any more. Every time I come near  
you, touch you, you pull away.  
What the hell's the matter?

Mary, on the verge of tears, says nothing.

Now Steven turns angry.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I asked you what's the matter?!

Mary about to crack and reveal the truth, but just lashes  
out...

MARY  
I lost my baby!

STEVEN  
It was my baby too!

He tears out of bed and explodes.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You act like it was my fault or  
something!

Mary turns away from him.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I didn't cause this, Mary! You  
didn't! It was a miscarriage,  
plain and simple. That's it!

Tears run down Mary's face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You'd better get some help!

As he storms out...

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Some serious help...

Mary covers her mouth and cries hard.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUED

Steven barrels in.

He snatches the nearest glass off the counter and hurls it  
across the room.

The glass SMASHES against the wall.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - MORNING

A young couple jog by.

INT. KITCHEN

Mary sits with a cup of coffee, expressionless. Her eyes  
look a little red, swollen from crying.

Steven quietly enters, ready for work. Doesn't look at Mary  
whatsoever.

He leaves his coffee mug in the sink then heads back out.

Mary's voice cracks as...

MARY  
I'll try to...

Steven turns back.

STEVEN  
What?

MARY  
I'm gonna try to get through  
this...

Steven looks at her, rather cold.

STEVEN

I hope so.

He walks out.

Mary glares after him.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

Located in the mall. Mary enters and heads toward the area where all the reptiles are kept.

A MALE EMPLOYEE, around 17, approaches Mary.

EMPLOYEE

Wow, you like reptiles? I don't know any women that like them.

MARY

Well I don't exactly *like* them. I'm looking for my nephew. He's ten.

EMPLOYEE

Oh... You want to see a Leopard Gecko? They're really cool.

MARY

No, not that...

EMPLOYEE

How about a Green Tree Frog? Or a Long-tail Lizard?

MARY

No...

She moves toward the snakes.

MARY (CONT'D)

I was thinking more of a snake.

EMPLOYEE

That's cool.

As Mary takes a closer look...

MARY

Do you have any Garter snakes?

INT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - RECEPTION - DAY

Steven, briefcase in hand, approaches Nancy at the reception desk.

He speaks with Nancy briefly then heads out.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Steven approaches his BMW and climbs in.

INT. BMW

Steven starts up. Takes his cell phone and dials.

The Garter SNAKE slithers around the back floor of the BMW.

Steven changes his mind about the call and disconnects. He puts the car in gear and takes off.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO.

Steven's BMW pulls out onto the street.

EXT/INT. MARY'S PARKED CAR

Mary watches Steven drive away from across the street.

INT. BMW - MOVING

Steven steers through light traffic.

The snake slithers under Steven's seat.

Steven changes lanes.

The snake glides along Steven's left shoe.

EXT. STREET

The BMW turns onto another street.

INT. BMW - MOVING

The snake slides along the top of Steven's left shoe.

Steven steers around a delivery truck.

The snake glides up Steven's left sock.

Steven glances at his watch.

The snake now slithers up Steven's left pant leg.

This causes Steven to look down. He sees the snake and freaks out...

STEVEN

Jesus!

He jerks the wheel, losing control.

EXT. STREET

The BMW quickly veers off and STRIKES a pole head on. Air-bags explode.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary anxiously waits on the sofa, staring at her cell phone on the coffee table.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Trish strolls in, checking her cell phone. She glances toward the desk and does a double-take.

TRISH

Steven, I was wondering where you've been.

STEVEN (O.S.)

Close the door.

Trish does then heads toward him.

Steven sits at his desk. He appears unhurt, but clearly, totally pissed-off.

TRISH

What's up?

STEVEN

What's up? Try a snake in my car.

TRISH

What?

STEVEN

I'm in the middle of driving to my meeting before, and what do I find going up my leg? A friggin' snake!

Trish shocked.

TRISH

A snake?

STEVEN  
Yeah, from the cabin yesterday!  
The damn thing must've got inside  
my coat!

Trish breaks into laughter.

TRISH  
Oh my God...

Steven bolts out of his chair.

STEVEN  
Oh, that's really funny, right?! I  
hit a friggin' pole!

Trish gasps then turns serious.

TRISH  
Really?

STEVEN  
Yes, really.

He furiously paces.

TRISH  
(timid)  
Um, how bad is the damage?

STEVEN  
Bad!

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary checks on dinner in the oven.

The front door SHUTS.

Mary carefully looks out toward the living room and appears  
baffled.

MARY  
(to herself)  
Nothing happened?

INT. LIVING ROOM

A very somber Steven sits on the sofa, rubbing his brow.

Mary silently enters and nervously studies Steven for a  
moment.



MARY

Hi.

Steven looks at her and motions.

STEVEN

Come here a minute please.

Mary sits by him, very uneasy.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I had a car accident today.

Now Mary pretends to be shocked.

MARY

What? Are you all right?

STEVEN

Yeah.

MARY

What happened?

STEVEN

Some asshole cut me off on Northfield Avenue. I swerved into a pole.

MARY

My God... Why didn't you call me?

Steven shrugs.

STEVEN

Everything got taken care of.

He motions outside.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Got a rental for a while.

MARY

Is it that bad?

Steven sighs.

STEVEN

Yeah... it's totalled.

MARY

I'm so sorry this happened.

STEVEN

God, that car was only a year old.

Mary touches his arm.

MARY

You're sure you weren't hurt  
though?

STEVEN

No, I'm okay.

MARY

Good.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Steven does some paperwork at the table. A glass of wine  
nearby.

His cell phone RINGS.

Steven grabs it.

STEVEN

Hello?

TRISH (V.O.)

Steven, where the hell were you? I  
waited an hour for you at the  
cabin!

Steven sighs.

STEVEN

Jeez, I forgot...

TRISH (V.O.)

You forgot?!

Steven turns defensive.

STEVEN

Yeah. I've got a lot on my mind.

Trish totally pissed-off.

TRISH (V.O.)

Yeah? Well it's clear what wasn't  
on your mind was tonight! I...

STEVEN

Look, I'm sorry. Okay?

TRISH (V.O.)  
No, you listen! I don't like being  
taken for granted, and I...

STEVEN  
(whispers, pissed)  
Give me a break! You know the day  
I had!

TRISH (V.O.)  
And I just wasted my whole night  
coming and going!

STEVEN  
Well I can't do anything about that  
now!

He angrily disconnects.

MARY (O.S.)  
Something wrong?

Steven very startled. He sees Mary come in.

STEVEN  
(snaps)  
No. I thought you were upstairs.

MARY  
I just wanted something to drink.  
Is that all right?

She grabs some juice from the refrigerator.

Steven calms down.

STEVEN  
Sorry. Sorry...

As he leans back in his chair, Mary studies him.

MARY  
That must have been some  
conversation to make you this  
angry.

STEVEN  
(even calmer)  
It was just a communication problem  
with one of my employees.

He gives a quick smile then drinks some of his wine.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO - PARKING LOT - DAY

Looks nearly filled.

STEVEN'S RENTAL CAR

Mary approaches the driver's side.

She looks throughout the lot, making sure that no one is around.

Mary reaches inside her purse and pulls out a utility knife.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Steven grabs his jacket, briefcase and heads out.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Mary still by the driver's door of Steven's rental, checking all around.

She places a business card on the ground a few steps away.

INT. TRISH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Steven enters, looking for Trish, but sees she's not there. Just as he heads out, a young female ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT comes in.

ASSISTANT

Oh, excuse me...

STEVEN

No problem. Is Trish around?

ASSISTANT

No. She called this morning and said she wouldn't be in.

STEVEN

Did she say why?

ASSISTANT

No. But she'll be back tomorrow.

STEVEN

Do me a favor. I'm heading out now, but if she calls, tell her to call my cell. Okay?

ASSISTANT

Sure.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Mary swiftly approaches her car, about to open her door...

GEORGE (O.S.)  
(calls out)  
Hey, Mary.

No choice. Mary forced to look back.

George makes his way over to her.

Mary forces a smile.

MARY  
Hi, George. How are you?

GEORGE  
Good, good.

MARY  
Bet Steven's keeping you busy.

GEORGE  
Yeah, the slave driver... How are you doing?

MARY  
I'm okay.

GEORGE  
Are you coming from or going to see Steven?

MARY  
Um, coming from. I was in the area and thought I'd take him to lunch, but I didn't see him around. I guess he was in a meeting.

GEORGE  
Didn't Nancy know?

MARY  
She was away from her desk.

GEORGE  
Oh. Well I'll find him and have him call you.

MARY  
No. No, that's okay. It's not a big deal. I just thought I'd take a chance...

GEORGE  
You sure? It's no trouble.

MARY  
Yeah, I'll just catch him another  
time.

She checks her watch, but accidentally drops her purse.

George immediately picks it up.

GEORGE  
Boy, this sure is heavy.

Mary nearly alarmed.

MARY  
What?

George breaks into a grin, kidding.

GEORGE  
I know, I know. You carry  
everything and the kitchen sink.  
My wife does the same...

He hands the purse to Mary who smiles, secretly relieved.

MARY  
Right... Well, I'm gonna get  
going.

GEORGE  
Sure.

He opens the car door for her.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - MOMENTS LATER

Steven heads out the main entrance with his briefcase.

PARKING LOT

Steven approaches his rental, keys in hand, but abruptly  
stops.

The left front tire flat and slashed at the bottom.

STEVEN  
What the hell...?

He examines the tire.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Son of a bitch...

He checks along the ground for possibly broken glass.

Then he spots a business card and picks it up.

The name on the CARD reads: TRISH LEVY.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
That bitch.

INT. STEVEN'S RENTAL CAR

Steven, in the driver's seat, furiously makes a call on his cell.

After several RINGS:

TRISH (VOICE)  
Hey, it's Trish. Leave me a quick message and I'll call you back. Maybe. Chow...

Steven fumes into the phone.

STEVEN  
If you think I'm gonna put up with this shit, you're out of your damn mind! You're fired!

He slams his cell off.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary and Steven eat dinner in silence.

Steven keeps his eyes on his plate, somber.

Mary watches him closely a moment then goes fishing.

MARY  
Steven? You're so quiet. You haven't said anything since you got home.

Steven turns his attention to her.

STEVEN  
I'm sorry.

MARY  
Has something happened at work?

STEVEN  
I, um, lost an employee today.

MARY  
Why?

STEVEN  
They got a better job offer.

MARY  
Who was it?

STEVEN  
You never met him.

Mary tries to trip him.

MARY  
Her?

STEVEN  
No. No, I said him.

MARY  
Oh. Was he a technician or in  
sales?

STEVEN  
Sales rep.

Mary gives a nod.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
He wasn't with me long, but he was  
really good.

Mary looks deeply hurt by that remark.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

The computer up and running. Papers spread across the desk.

Steven shuts the hutch doors then glances over toward the doorway.

STEVEN  
(calls out)  
Mary...

Mary, in her robe, reluctantly enters.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
What did you do with the nursery  
stuff? The bear?



MARY  
(quietly)  
I put it away.

Steven starts to get angry.

STEVEN  
You threw it away?

MARY  
No. I said I put it away. In the  
hall closet.

Steven moves closer.

STEVEN  
Why? It bothers you that much to  
see it?

Mary sighs. Doesn't want to get into this.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
What? Does this mean you can't  
look at anything having to do with  
a baby?

MARY  
No.

STEVEN  
Then why would you put everything  
away?

MARY  
I don't know. I just did.

Steven moves closer.

STEVEN  
Mary, in a couple of months, we can  
try again. It's not that far off.

No response from Mary whatsoever.

Steven becomes more frustrated.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
What is the problem, Mary? You do  
want to try again. Don't you? My  
God, you can't think that you're  
gonna have a miscarriage the next  
time.

MARY  
I really don't want to talk about  
this now.

She heads out, but Steven grabs her by the arm.

STEVEN  
Why not?!

MARY  
Let go!

He does. Now Mary turns angry.

MARY (CONT'D)  
You know, all you seem to care  
about is trying to have a baby.

STEVEN  
What?! What are you talking about?

MARY  
You heard me. I feel like all you  
want is to have a baby.

STEVEN  
I do want a baby, but...

He sighs loudly, frustrated.

Mary eyes fill with tears.

MARY  
Stop pressuring me. Just stop  
fighting and arguing with me.

Steven backs down.

STEVEN  
I didn't mean... I don't mean to  
fight with you, Mary. I don't. I  
just want to get things back on  
track.

Mary composes herself a moment.

MARY  
I want to go see my parents when  
they get back from their trip.  
Unless you're gonna give me a hard  
time about that too?

STEVEN  
No, no...

He slowly embraces her.

INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven at his desk, on the speaker-phone with a customer.

STEVEN  
So, you want the upgrade on model  
451. Right?

MAN (V.O.)  
Let me double-check the requisition  
here...

An irate Trish comes in and almost slams the door.

TRISH  
(through below)  
I want to talk to you, Steven.  
Now!

MAN (V.O.)  
Yeah. 451 and also on the 632...

Steven looks absolutely furious.

STEVEN  
(into phone)  
Sorry, Lou. Let me call you right  
back.

He disconnects and bolts from his chair.

As Trish backs away, Steven grabs her by the arms. Hard.

Trish turns scared.

TRISH  
What the hell's wrong with you?!  
You're gonna fire me just because I  
missed...

STEVEN  
(not giving her any  
chance)  
Shut up! I don't want to hear it!

Trish tries to break free of his hold.

TRISH  
Let go of me!

STEVEN

You just shut up and listen!  
You're gonna get a severance, and a  
recommendation, and have nothing  
more to do with this company.

TRISH

I can't believe you're...!

STEVEN

(cutting her off)  
Believe it! I'm not gonna put up  
with your shit!

He gets right in her face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

And if you ever, ever think of  
crossing me, I'll make your life a  
friggin' nightmare.

Trish glares.

TRISH

Don't you threaten me.

STEVEN

You just remember that.  
Understand?

Trish just tries to break free of his grip.

Steven squeezes her arms. Harder.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

I said, do you understand?!

TRISH

Yes!

Steven lets go.

Trish quickly backs away holding her arms in pain.

TRISH (CONT'D)

(mutters)  
Bastard.

Steven jerks the door open.

STEVEN

Get out.

Trish slowly leaves, glaring at him all the way.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Large, very attractive with beautiful landscaping. Steven's rental pulls into one of the visitor parking spaces.

FRONT ENTRANCE

Steven enters through the large glass doors marked: STERN, KRAMER & COLE, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Steven and two members of the firm complete the deal at the table.

MR. COLE, 60, a partner, rather stern-looking. He signs the contracts.

SUZANNE, 35, the office manager. Single, sophisticated-looking. She sips her coffee while eyeing Steven.

Mr. Cole gives Steven the signed contracts.

MR. COLE

So, George personally will begin our installation in two weeks then. Correct?

STEVEN

Yes, as soon as you're ready, Mr. Cole.

MR. COLE

Excellent. This way, all of the training will be finished before summer vacations.

(to Suzanne)

Agreed?

SUZANNE

Yes, the timing's perfect.

STEVEN

Well, let me take you both out to lunch now. All right?

MR. COLE

Sorry, Steven. I'm due in court in an hour. But I'm certainly glad you made our meeting this time.

Steven clearly embarrassed.

STEVEN  
Yes, and again, I apologize for  
that. And please, call me directly  
for anything.

MR. COLE  
I will.

STEVEN  
Suzanne, are you available?

Suzanne smiles.

SUZANNE  
Yes.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Upscale and mostly a professional-type crowd.

Steven and Suzanne enjoy their meals, wine, conversation at a  
corner table.

STEVEN  
So, you went to Princeton. I'm  
impressed.

SUZANNE  
I hope that's not all you're  
impressed with.

Steven looks at her and smiles.

STEVEN  
No.

SUZANNE  
Good.

STEVEN  
Well, have I impressed you at all?  
Or maybe it's too early.

SUZANNE  
No. You have.

Steven acknowledges with a nod.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)  
Except for one, small thing.

STEVEN  
What's that?

Suzanne gently touches his chin.

SUZANNE  
This spot of sauce.

Steven wipes it off then smiles at her a moment.

STEVEN  
I'll bet you manage your attorneys  
really well, Suzanne.

SUZANNE  
Well, I enjoy taking charge of  
situations. But some men find that  
intimidating.

STEVEN  
Some don't.

Suzanne smiles at that.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Is that why you're not married?

SUZANNE  
No...

She leans in.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)  
I don't want a husband.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

Mary enters with a grocery bag and leaves it on the table.

She takes her cell phone out of her purse and sees she has a  
voice message.

As she listens to it, she unpacks the groceries.

STEVEN (VOICE)  
Hi, it's me. I'm really sorry  
babe, but I won't be home for  
dinner tonight. A really important  
meeting came up and it's gonna be a  
long night. See you later.

Mary stops cold, looking beyond confused.

MARY  
(to herself)  
He fired Trish...

EXT. TWO LANE ROAD - LATER THAT DAY

Mary's car flies by the tree-lined area.

INT. CAR - MOVING

An anxious Mary drives as fast as possible.

EXT. NARROW ROAD

Mary's car pulls up. The parking lights go off. The car stops on the shoulder.

Mary climbs out and takes off.

EXT. CABIN

Steven's rental car parked at the top of the driveway.

Mary quietly rushes toward the back of the cabin.

BACK OF CABIN

As silently as she can, Mary comes around and heads to the window.

She carefully peers through the corner and sees...

Steven and Suzanne half-dressed, up against the wall in a heated embrace.

Steven intensely kisses along her neck.

MARY whips around, shocked, beyond livid. Another woman.

MARY  
(to herself)  
You fucking bastard.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - THAT NIGHT

A husky male WORKER sits behind the counter, scrolling through his cell phone.

Mary, now dressed in dark clothing, quickly approaches him, money in hand.

MARY  
A pack of cigarettes.

The Worker gives a strange look.

WORKER  
What brand?



MARY  
Anything, doesn't matter.

EXT. CINEMA - TICKET WINDOW - SAME NIGHT

Mary impatiently waits behind a couple being served.

She checks her watch then looks to the display of movie times.

The couple moves along. Mary steps up.

MARY  
One for the seven-ten show.

She pays, takes her ticket and heads inside.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - SAME NIGHT

Mary's car passes by.

EXT. SIDE STREET - SAME NIGHT

Mary's car pulls over and parks. Mary climbs out and puts on a dark baseball cap.

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - SAME NIGHT

At the back of the building, nothing and no one in sight.

Mary comes around, putting dark gloves on. She heads to the shipping/receiving door. Enters the code on the security keypad and goes in.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME NIGHT

Mary quietly, carefully checks each office, making certain that no one is in the building.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY

Mary comes around the corner and again, checks each room.

INT. SHIPPING/RECEIVING AREA

Contains all of the computers, printers, and software packages. Also toners, boxes of copy paper.

Mary comes in and checks the place over. She spots something and heads for it.

An open box of copy paper on the floor.

Mary grabs it and pushes it near a box marked: TONER.

Mary reaches in her purse, takes out a cigarette then lights up.

She places the burning cigarette on the copy paper. Uses a cigarette to make it look like the fire was "accidentally" started.

EXT. RESTAURANT - SAME NIGHT

Steven and Suzanne approach the upscale place marked: PANEVINO'S. Both clearly having a great evening together.

INT. MARY'S CAR - MOVING - SAME NIGHT

Mary pulls into a space back at the Cinema. Quickly parks, checks her watch and climbs out.

INT. CINEMA LOBBY - SAME NIGHT

A young female EMPLOYEE ambles around the theater entrance.

Mary approaches with a soft drink. She shows her ticket stub then heads inside.

INT. THEATER

Sounds of a CAR CHASE from the movie.

Mary enters down an empty row and takes a seat.

She puts her stub safely inside her purse. Her alibi.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Mary's car pulls into the driveway.

INT. CAR

As Mary parks, she spots Carolyn about to enter her home. Mary climbs out fast. Another alibi.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE

Mary waves.

MARY

Carolyn!

Mary heads over to her.

CAROLYN

Hey, how you doing, stranger? I haven't seen much of you.

MARY

I know, I'm okay. Sorry I haven't come over. I should've.

CAROLYN

Mary, don't be silly. I'm just glad to see you're doing better.

MARY

Yeah, Steven has another one of his late nights, so I went out to see a movie.

CAROLYN

Oh, I wish I'd known. You could've come out to dinner with me and my co-worker. Not that it would've been that exciting...

MARY

Thanks. But if you want, I could make us some coffee now.

CAROLYN

Sure, sounds good.

They head to Mary's door.

INT. STEVEN/MARY'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Steven enters just in his boxers and leaves his cell phone on the night table.

He climbs in bed and moves next to Mary who appears to be asleep.

He softly kisses Mary's cheek and holds her.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

Steven's cell RINGS. Wakes Steven and Mary.

He slowly answers.

STEVEN

Hello?

MAN (V.O.)

Steven Masters?

STEVEN

Yeah...

MAN (V.O.)

This is your security company,  
Acorn. We received an alarm  
notice, F three, fire alarm at  
Master Computer Company. I'm going  
to contact the fire department now.

Steven looks shocked. Mary watches him.

STEVEN

Okay, thanks. I'm heading there  
now.

He quickly disconnects and jumps out of bed.

MARY

What's the matter?

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - SAME NIGHT

At the back of the building, several FIREMEN are putting out  
the blaze in the shipping/receiving area.

Two fire engines and one police car there.

Steven's rental car pulls into the parking lot and heads  
toward the back.

STEVEN'S RENTAL

Steven climbs out and looks shocked beyond belief. He just  
stares at the flames.

FRONT ENTRANCE - SUNRISE

Steven impatiently paces.

A FIREMAN, 40's, comes out the front door and approaches  
Steven.

STEVEN

I'm the owner. Can you tell me how  
this happened?

FIREMAN

Well, we checked for any faulty  
wiring. That looks okay. But you  
had a lot of combustible materials  
in there.

Steven rubs his forehead.

STEVEN

I don't understand how this could happen. All of my employees are so aware.

FIREMAN

Well, maybe one got careless, or a smoker...

STEVEN

Smoker?

FIREMAN

Yeah, you'd be surprised how many fires are accidentally started that way. Even though people know now to smoke outside, it still happens.

Steven's mind starts to race.

FIREMAN (CONT'D)

You don't let your employees smoke any place inside your building. Do you?

Steven's expression turns ice-cold.

STEVEN

No, I don't.

EXT. TRISH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Steven RINGS the front door bell and waits off to the side.

Nothing. He RINGS again.

Trish opens the door just enough to look out.

Steven bursts through.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Steven slams the door.

Trish looks half-irate, half-afraid.

TRISH

What are you doing?! Get the hell out of here!

Steven wildly slaps her across the face.

Trish reels back in shock then bolts toward the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Trish tears in, tries to lock the door, but Steven KICKS it open.

Trish looks terrified.

TRISH  
You get the hell out of...

Steven viciously slaps her again.

Trish screams, reeling back.

Steven punches her in the face, knocking her to the floor.

He pounces on Trish and pins her.

Trish SCREAMS in utter terror.

TRISH (CONT'D)  
No, get off me, get off!

Steven clamps down on her mouth. Hard.

STEVEN  
Didn't I tell you not to cross me?

He presses harder.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Didn't I? But you didn't listen,  
you damn whore...

Trish struggles, but no match.

Steven grabs her throat and squeezes.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You know what I want to do to you  
right now...?

Tears stream down Trish's face. She can't breathe.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You better move far, far away,  
because if I ever see you again,  
even hear about you, I won't be  
responsible...

He presses with all his might against Trish.

Her agonizing SCREAMS muffled.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Hope you got the message this time.

He punches Trish again and climbs off.

Trish CRIES, gasping for air.

The front door SLAMS.

Trish rolls over, CRYING in excruciating pain, fear.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - BACKYARD DECK - DAY

Mary nervously waits on the deck. She checks her watch.

A very depressed Steven opens the sliding door.

STEVEN  
Can you come in?

INT. KITCHEN

Mary comes in, closes the slider, and takes a seat at the table.

MARY  
How you holding up?

STEVEN  
Not too good.

MARY  
Could they give you any explanation  
how the fire started?

Steven shakes his head.

STEVEN  
Nothing specific.

MARY  
Were any firemen hurt?

STEVEN  
No, I don't think so.

Mary gives a nod, secretly relieved.

Steven sighs loudly.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Well, there goes my chance to buy a  
bigger space.  
(MORE)

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
So now, not only do I have to  
repair the friggin' building, I'm  
gonna have to struggle to get  
Stern, Kramer up and running.

As he PUNCHES the wall...

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Son of a bitch!

Mary jumps, scared.

INT. CAROLYN'S LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Mary and Carolyn talk over coffee. Carolyn sighs, shaking  
her head in amazement.

CAROLYN  
I just can't believe what happened  
to Steven's building.

MARY  
I know. I've never seen him so  
devastated. Even when I lost...

She doesn't finish.

CAROLYN  
Mary, he was. Trust me. It's just  
that you two have had so much go  
wrong recently.

Mary sighs.

MARY  
It's more than just recently.

CAROLYN  
What do you mean?

MARY  
(starts to plant the seed)  
Our marriage isn't as great as it  
might seem.

INT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - DAY

Steven checks his cell phone in the reception area.

George comes in the front door.

GEORGE  
Hey, Steven.



STEVEN

Hey...

GEORGE

Thought you could use a hand.

STEVEN

Thanks, buddy. I'm gonna need it.

George gives a nod.

GEORGE

So, how's Mary dealing with all of this?

STEVEN

A hell of a lot better than I am.

GEORGE

Yeah, well...

(beat)

It was good to see her the other day.

Steven looks surprised.

STEVEN

When did you see her?

GEORGE

Um, about three days ago. In the parking lot here.

STEVEN

What was she doing here?

GEORGE

She stopped in to take you to lunch.

STEVEN

I didn't see her.

GEORGE

Yeah, she said she couldn't find you. That you were probably in some meeting.

Steven very puzzled.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

But it was no problem, she'd try another time, then she left.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I guess she never mentioned running into me?

STEVEN

No, she never did.

Now, a terrible thought comes over him.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

Look, this is gonna sound stupid, but, what time was it when you talked to her?

EXT. MASTER COMPUTER CO. - SAME DAY

Outside the front entrance, Steven on his cell, extremely anxious.

STEVEN

Look, before I let you go, Nancy, could you tell me if my wife was in, or left any message recently?

NANCY (V.O.)

No. I definitely would've let you known. In fact, I haven't talked to her in over a week.

Steven tries to recall.

STEVEN

Over a week...

NANCY (V.O.)

Yeah. She called on that one really warm day. But you had already left.

Steven's expression turns ice cold.

INT. BARBARA STRAUSS' OFFICE - SAME DAY

Mary meets with Barbara.

MARY

So, I'd like you to start the proceedings, whatever needs to be done as soon as possible.

BARBARA

All right. If that's what you've decided.

MARY

Yes. We just have different ideas on what a marriage is supposed to be like.

BARBARA

Well, because this case is fairly simple, irreconcilable differences, not asking for anything, the divorce should move along fairly quickly.

MARY

Good.

She removes a piece of paper from her purse and hands it to Barbara.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm going to be moving back to California to be with my parents, so if you could please send all bills, correspondence there?

BARBARA

Of course. That won't be any problem.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - SAME DAY

Steven's rental quickly pulls into the empty driveway.

INT. RENTAL CAR

Steven quickly calls Mary on his cell.

MARY (V.O.)

Hi, this is Mary. Leave me a...

He slams his cell off then rushes out toward Carolyn's place.

INT. CAROLYN'S LIVING ROOM

Loud, rapid KNOCKS as Carolyn quickly answers the door. She finds a desperate-looking Steven.

CAROLYN

Steven, what's...?

Steven just barges in.

STEVEN

Do you know where Mary is?

Carolyn looks very puzzled.

CAROLYN

No.

STEVEN

Have you seen her today?

CAROLYN

Yeah, earlier. But I don't know where she is now.

STEVEN

Do you know where she was two nights ago?

CAROLYN

She was with me.

STEVEN

The whole night?

CAROLYN

No. When she came back from the movies, we had coffee in your house, before you came home.

STEVEN

You said movies. She went to the movies?

CAROLYN

Yeah.

STEVEN

What was the time when she got back?

Carolyn grows very uneasy.

CAROLYN

Steven, why are you asking me all these questions?

STEVEN

Please, just tell me the time. Okay?

CAROLYN

I don't really...

STEVEN

The time, Carolyn!

CAROLYN  
I'm not sure! About nine-thirty?

STEVEN  
Has she been going in and out a lot  
the past week?

Carolyn shrugs.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Has she?!

CAROLYN  
I don't know! I haven't seen her  
that much.

As Steven flies back out...

STEVEN  
Didn't think so.

INT. MARY'S CAR - SAME DAY

Mary reads something on her cell.

FLIGHT TIMES to San Diego.

INT. CINEMA - LOBBY - SAME DAY

Steven barrels in and looks around for any employees.

One MALE EMPLOYEE, 17, moves out from behind the refreshment  
counter.

Steven almost pounces on him and shows him a wallet photo of  
Mary.

STEVEN  
Did you see this woman here two  
nights ago?

EMPLOYEE  
I only work the afternoon shift.

Steven losing it fast.

STEVEN  
Who else can I ask around here?

EMPLOYEE  
No one. You have to wait till  
five, when the night crew starts.

As Steven takes off, irate...

STEVEN  
I can't friggin' wait...

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME DAY

Steven climbs in his rental then tears out of the lot.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - SAME DAY

Mary's car parks in the empty driveway.

Mary climbs out and heads to her front door where Carolyn deliberately walks up with some mail.

MARY  
Hi again.

CAROLYN  
Hi. Thought you might want this.

She hands Mary a magazine.

MARY  
Thanks.

Carolyn then looks at her, hesitant, wary.

CAROLYN  
Mary, I don't want to get in the middle of anything, but...

MARY  
But...

CAROLYN  
Steven came over to my place earlier, looking for you. He was pretty upset.

A surprised look from Mary.

MARY  
He did? Why?

CAROLYN  
Because he wanted to know where you've been this past week.

MARY  
Where I've been? What are you talking about?

CAROLYN

He asked if you've been going in and out a lot. It seemed like he wanted to know what you've been doing the past week.

Mary's heart stops, but stays calm.

MARY

Did he ask you anything specific?

CAROLYN

Yeah. Like what time was it when you came home from the movies the other night.

MARY

What did you tell him?

CAROLYN

The truth. I hope I didn't cause a problem.

MARY

Steven's the one with problems.

CAROLYN

Well, I've never seen him act the way he did. He started yelling and...

MARY

(plants another seed)  
He didn't do anything to you. Did he?

CAROLYN

What do you mean?

MARY

Threaten you. Come after you.

Carolyn looks shocked at that.

CAROLYN

No! No. I know he'd never do that.

Mary just shakes her head, really playing it up.

MARY

Carolyn, he has a violent temper.

Carolyn moves closer, clearly worried.

CAROLYN  
My God, has he ever hit you?

MARY  
No. But, he really scares me  
sometimes.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Steven's rental flies down. Recklessly darts between the traffic.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

This is the opening scene, two weeks ago.

The room is dark. All the window blinds shut tight. Mary runs inside, breathing hard, fast.

She jerks open a drawer, looks fast, then slams the drawer.

Then, she snatches a knife from the storage block set on the counter and rushes out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Mary races up the stairs with the knife.

INT. BEDROOM

Mary runs to the night table at the far side of the bed.

She grabs a couple of tissues and wipes the knife clear of her finger prints.

She carefully sets the knife on the night table.

INT. BATHROOM

Mary flushes the tissues down the toilet.

INT. STEVEN'S CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Steven frantically steers through the traffic and pounds the horn repeatedly.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary nervously waits by the window.

She looks out and sees...

Steven's rental car quickly pulling in the driveway.



EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Steven climbs out of the rental and slams the door.

INT. CAROLYN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carolyn watches Steven through her curtains.

Steven's front door SLAMS.

INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven stands by the door, irate.

STEVEN

Mary, where are you?!

He storms into the kitchen.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary on the phone.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)

911, what's your emergency?

MARY

(desperately)

Please, I need a police officer!  
My husband just came home and he's  
gonna beat the shit out of me!

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)

Ma'am, what's your address?

MARY

Nine Park Lane. Mary Masters.  
Please, please just send...!

She abruptly hangs up and takes a deep breath.

INT. STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Steven races up the stairs.

STEVEN

Mary, get out here! I want to talk  
to you!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The knife sits on the night table.

Mary nervously waits near the foot of the bed.

Steven storms in.

MARY  
Why are you screaming?

Steven goes toward her.

STEVEN  
I want some answers. And we're not  
leaving this room till I get them.

Mary challenges and tries to leave.

Steven blocks her way, fast.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I mean it.

MARY  
You have no right to...

STEVEN  
I have every right!

Mary glares at him.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Where were you the night of the  
fire?

MARY  
What?!

STEVEN  
Just tell me where you were!

MARY  
I was with Carolyn.

STEVEN  
Before that!

MARY  
I went to the movies.

STEVEN  
Movies? Prove it.

MARY  
What, you want to see the stub? I  
have a stub.

STEVEN  
Why didn't you tell me you saw  
George in the parking lot?

MARY  
I forgot.

STEVEN  
Bullshit! Why did you lie to him?

MARY  
About what?

STEVEN  
Don't you play these games with me!  
You know you never came in the  
building!

MARY  
Yes I did. I...

STEVEN  
Don't you lie to me!

Mary says nothing.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
When was the last time you were up  
at the cabin?

Mary remains silent.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Answer me!

Mary's expression turns ice-cold.

MARY  
When I saw you fucking Trish.  
(beat)  
Hope it was worth it.

Steven takes this in, rage building.

STEVEN  
You little bitch...

He slaps Mary across her face. Hard.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
You've known the whole time!

Mary just backs away, feeling her stinging face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
Haven't you!

MARY  
Fuck you.

Steven moves closer, growing more furious.

STEVEN  
You were the one who slashed my  
tire! And you made me sick for my  
meeting, didn't you?!

Mary backs away.

MARY  
No...

STEVEN  
Then you go and start a fucking  
fire in my building, didn't you?!

Mary's eyes filled with utter hatred.

MARY  
You are the most selfish, deceitful  
man. I trusted you. I gave up  
everything for you!

STEVEN  
Admit it! I know it was you!

Mary glares right at him.

MARY  
(defiantly)  
Well, if you're so sure about it,  
call the police.

Steven turns so enraged, he snaps and punches Mary in the  
face.

She bounces off the wall onto the floor.

STEVEN  
I want you to admit it!

Mary struggles to her feet.

She looks over at the knife.

Steven sees this and rushes over. He grabs Mary and throws  
her on the bed. Grabs the knife himself.

Mary scrambles to get off the bed.

Steven snatches her and drags her back.

Mary hits him in the face.

Steven climbs on top of Mary and holds the knife over her face.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

What were you gonna do with this?

MARY

Nothing!

Steven plunges the knife into the bed.

Mary SCREAMS.

STEVEN

You're fucking right, nothing! Is this the knife you used to slash my tire?!

MARY

No!

Steven pins Mary so she can't move her arms then waves the knife around her face.

STEVEN

You know what I'm gonna do with this?

Mary now utterly scared to death. Has no idea what Steven is truly capable of.

MARY

Please get off me, get off!

STEVEN

Admit what you did!

MARY

No, I didn't...!

Steven presses the knife against her face. It cuts her and blood instantly flows.

Mary gasps in shock, terror.

STEVEN

Admit it you bitch!

Mary says nothing, frozen in terror. Steven rips her shirt, exposing her bra. Slashes near the top of her breast.

Mary SCREAMS in sheer horror, pain.

MARY  
God, please stop, please!

STEVEN  
I'll stop when you answer me!

Mary just shuts her eyes in terror as blood pours down her chest.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A PATROL CAR pulls up in front. No lights or sirens on.

A husky, uniformed POLICEMAN, 30, climbs out.

As he heads toward the entrance, Carolyn runs up to him, panicked.

CAROLYN  
What's wrong? Did Mary call you?

POLICEMAN  
A Mary Masters.

He motions to Mary's door.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)  
That's her place?

CAROLYN  
Yeah.

They take off.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)  
It's her husband...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Policeman cautiously enters.

Mary SCREAMS, begs.

MARY (O.S.)  
Somebody help me...!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steven covers Mary's mouth and presses the knife against her neck.

STEVEN

Nobody's gonna help you now! I'm gonna slit your throat for what you did!

A bloody, battered Mary tries to scream.

Steven clamps her mouth harder.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

You fucking bitch!

The Policeman rushes in with his gun aimed at Steven.

POLICEMAN

Drop the knife!

Steven freezes in utter shock. Caught, right in the middle of the act.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Drop it!

Steven looks at the bloody knife.

STEVEN

I wasn't gonna...

POLICEMAN

Now! Do it!

Steven slowly drops it on the bed.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Now get off her and lie face down with your hands behind your back.

As Steven slowly does so, Mary tries to move away, grimacing in terrible pain.

The Policeman handcuffs Steven and pulls him off the bed. Makes him kneel against the night table.

STEVEN

Listen, she set me up...

POLICEMAN

Shut up!

He keeps his gun on Steven while he grabs a pillow and pushes it toward Mary.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)  
 Just keep this against you till I  
 come back. Okay? Don't try to  
 move.

Mary barely nods.

The Policeman grabs hold of Steven and shoves him out of the room.

Mary holds the pillow against her and breaks down, trembling. She SOBS into the pillow.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAYS LATER

Two kids ride their bikes along the sidewalk.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Mary on the sofa with a faraway look. Her face has stitches. Her chest bandaged.

The door bell RINGS. She answers.

A male POLICE DETECTIVE who's been investigating the case, stands there. 50's, married, soft-spoken.

DETECTIVE  
 Hi, Mrs. Masters. May I come in?

MARY  
 Yes of course, Detective.

He comes in. Mary takes a seat on the sofa and motions to the Detective to sit, which he does.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Were you able to talk to the people  
 at the movies?

DETECTIVE  
 Yes, we verified that you were at  
 the movies the night of the fire.  
 And your neighbor confirmed the  
 time also.

MARY  
 I didn't touch that knife.



DETECTIVE

We know. Your husband's prints were the only ones on it. But, he still insists you knew about his affair.

Mary's eyes instantly fill with tears and shakes her head.

MARY

I swear, I didn't.

She never told one person. Not even her lawyer.

Mary wipes her tears and thinks out-loud. Almost like she's still in shock.

MARY (CONT'D)

He was never the man I thought...  
He just, went crazy...

DETECTIVE

Well, the indictment was just handed down. Your husband will face attempted murder.

MARY

Does that mean he stays in jail till the trial or...?

DETECTIVE

Yes, the judge denied bail. You don't have to be afraid.

MARY

But, what if he isn't convicted?

DETECTIVE

He will be convicted. The officer witnessed the act. And with your testimony...

Mary gives a nod, but still appears unsure.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

He's gonna serve some time, Mrs. Masters. There's no doubt about that. He will serve time...

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR - DAY

ON THE SCREEN: One year later

Dark, cold-looking.

ECHOING SHOUTS from inmates.

INT. CELL

Steven, in his prison uniform, sits on the edge of his bunk.  
Looks utterly horrible.

His eyes ice-cold while staring at a piece of paper in his  
hands.

The paper has only two typed sentences:

YOU WANTED IT ALL

NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING

Steven slowly crumples it.

STEVEN  
(to himself)  
Wait till I get out of here...

FADE OUT