

OBSESSED

By

David Loughery

October 15, 2007

FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS - EARLY MORNING

A two-story California Craftsman with a SOLD sign in the front yard.

A Yukon SUV pulls into the drive and stops.

The driver's door opens and DEREK CHARLES steps out, a handsome and likable African-American in his early 30's; a guy who's fought hard to make himself a success in business and life. Derek wears a business suit and the first thing he does is cross the lawn to the SOLD sign.

With a new homeowner's look of satisfaction, Derek grips the SOLD sign and pulls it out of the ground.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Derek?

Derek looks over to where his pretty wife BETH is standing beside the SUV, holding their cute 2 year old son KYLE in her arms. Beth shakes her head with amusement.

BETH

What are you going to do with that?

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

The SOLD sign, now in pieces, burns brightly in the fireplace. The rest of the room is empty except for KYLE who is nearby, asleep in his stroller. Derek and Beth's VOICES drift down from upstairs.

BETH'S VOICE

This is coming down.

DEREK'S VOICE

Why?

BETH'S VOICE

Do you want people to think we put it up?

DEREK'S VOICE

(soft chuckle)

I don't know. I kind of like it.

BETH'S VOICE

Please tell me you're joking.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - SECOND FLOOR

Derek and Beth stare up at their own reflections in a huge ceiling mirror. The rest of the room is vacant.

DEREK

All I'm saying, before we take it down...
maybe we should try it out.

(playful)

You know. Christen the new house.

BETH

And what do you suggest we use for a bed?

DEREK

What do we need a bed for when we've got
a fine shag carpet?

BETH

(laughs)

Because I'm gonna have fine shag carpet
tattoos all over my --

Derek puts his arms around her waist and pulls her close.
Beth resists -- but only slightly.

BETH (cont'd)

Don't you have to go to work?

DEREK

(nuzzling her neck)

Told 'em I'd be late.

BETH

What about...

DEREK

Kyle? That boy wouldn't wake up if a
nuclear bomb went off.

BETH

Maybe not, but the movers...

DEREK

Won't be here for another hour.

Beth smiles, giving in. They look up at themselves in the mirror like naughty teenagers.

BETH

Derek, you are so bad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Isn't THAT why you married me?

As they begin to kiss passionately...

CUT TO:

CEILING MIRROR - MINUTES LATER

Distorted images of Derek and Beth in the mirror's reflection, naked bodies intertwined, making love on the carpet.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kyle continues to snooze in his stroller. Outside the window, a moving van arrives and BLOWS its horn.

INT. BEDROOM

Beth, drowsing in Derek's arms. They stir at the sound of the horn.

DEREK

Want me to stay? Crack the whip on these guys?

BETH

No. Go to work and earn that promotion.
Somebody's got to pay for all this.

They share a quick kiss and then Beth swings over to find her clothes.

As Beth dresses, Derek stares up at himself. He smiles with satisfaction. Life is good.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

MOVERS bring in furniture, placing a big glass table in the dining room area below the stairs.

Nearby, Beth opens a box and removes family pictures. She arranges them with loving care on the mantle above the fire place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRAMED PHOTOS of Derek and Beth in their early dating days, at their wedding, celebrating holidays, Beth pregnant, the birth of Kyle; photos illustrating the history of this happy family.

CUT TO:

INT. YUKON - DAY

Picture of Beth and Kyle smiling at him from the dash, Derek drives the freeway toward the skyscrapers of downtown. He listens to the stock and financial report. Then, switches over to CD and Gnarl's Barkley's "Gone Daddy Gone" blares out. The two sides of Derek Charles.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LA - DAY

ANGLING DOWN from a towering glass and steel office building as Derek's Yukon enters the parking garage.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR

Derek and several others ride up from the parking garage. Derek scans the Business page of a folded newspaper.

The elevator stops on the ground floor, the door slides open and MORE PEOPLE get on. The doors shut and the car ascends.

At other floors, people get on and off until it's just Derek and one other passenger: LISA SHERIDAN, balancing an arm load of thick files. She's in her mid-20's, white, beautiful, glasses and hair pulled back projecting an efficient, smart and sophisticated look; simple blouse and skirt, high heels, great legs.

Lisa glances over at Derek, intrigued.

LISA
Gage/Bendix?

Derek looks up from his paper with a distracted smile.

DEREK
Excuse me?

LISA
I couldn't help but notice we're both going to Seven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK
Right. Gage/Bendix. I work there.

LISA
I thought you might.

DEREK
Do you have an appointment with us?

LISA
Why? Do I look like a client?

DEREK
Actually, you do.

LISA
(pleasant laugh)
Well, I hate to shatter the illusion but
I'm just a lowly temp.

DEREK
(genuinely surprised)
You're a temp?

LISA
Just here for the day.

DEREK
Well, you could have fooled me.

Lisa shifts on her feet.

LISA
I'm beginning to think these heels were a
big mistake.

Derek glances down at her shapely legs.

LISA (cont'd)
I should have worn my track shoes.
They've got me running all over town
picking up these disclosure --

That's when the pile in her arms slides south. The files
fall to the floor and spread out in a mess.

Lisa LAUGHS and drops to her knees.

LISA (cont'd)
God, I'm such a klutz.

Derek bends down to help. Their hands touch briefly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEREK

No problem. Happen to anybody.

They straighten up, look at each other.

The door slides open, revealing the sleek and vast offices of GAGE BENDIX, ALTERNATIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT.

LISA

Thanks. I owe you one.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Derek through a warren of cubicles where STAFF WORKERS attend phones and computers. He becomes aware that Lisa is right behind him.

DEREK

(with humor)

Are you following me?

LISA

No. I'm taking these files to Mister Charles' office. They said it was this way.

DEREK

Derek Charles?

LISA

I guess you probably know him.

DEREK

Oh, yeah, I know him.

(lowers his voice)

Kind of an asshole, takes himself waaaay too seriously. But don't tell him I said that.

LISA

I could get you into trouble?

DEREK

Deep trouble.

Approaching a desk where Derek's assistant, a mild-looking man in his late 30's named PATRICK looks up and smiles. Across from Patrick is another desk and another assistant, a middle-aged woman named MARGE.

PATRICK

Morning, Derek. How's the new house?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DEREK

Total chaos. Lucky for me, I sneaked out as soon as the movers showed up.

PATRICK

Beth must have loved that.

DEREK

If she calls mad -- and she will -- tell her I'm in a meeting.

PATRICK

Remember who used to sit at this desk? She'll know I am lying.

DEREK

(with a smile)

Good point.

Patrick CHUCKLES as Derek enters his office and vanishes inside. Patrick notices Lisa standing there with her arm load of files.

PATRICK

(to Lisa)

Can I help you?

Lisa stares at Derek's office.

LISA

That's Derek Charles?

PATRICK

Yes.

Lisa breaks into a smile; obviously charmed.

Patrick takes amused notice of Lisa's interest in Derek.

PATRICK (cont'd)

(teasing)

Watch it, girl. He's married.

LISA

The good ones are always married.

PATRICK

(dramatic sigh)

Or straight.

CUT TO:

INT. MEETING ROOM - LATER

Derek sits at a long table with his silver-haired boss, JOE GAGE and his best friend and co-worker BEN KINGMAN. One wall of the room is glass, giving a view of the outer office activity.

GAGE

(to Derek)

Did you talk to our German friend, Herr Ganz?

DEREK

Matter of fact, I just got off the line to Berlin.

GAGE

And?

DEREK

Ganz doesn't like the way the Stock Market's been gyrating and he thinks the hedge fund wave is about to crest.

GAGE

You think he's right?

DEREK

Hell, no. I think he's a hundred percent wrong. We haven't even gotten close to that point yet. Hedge fund demand is coming from individual investors which is why it's gaining mainstream acceptance. You know Ganz. He gets paranoid when anything goes mainstream. He started making Auf Wiedersehen noises but I managed to talk him into a private equity portfolio instead... to the tune of 155 mil.

GAGE

(pleased)

I knew there was a reason I promoted you. No offense, Ben.

BEN

None taken, Joe. I'm just honored to be allowed to exist in Derek's world.

Derek looks over at Ben who winks at him. They're friends and good-natured ribbing is part of their relationship.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAGE

Good. I want you to throw Derek all your support on this one.

That's when Lisa walks by on the other side of the glass. Gage perks up.

GAGE (cont'd)

Whose legs are those?

BEN

Never seen 'em before.

DEREK

I think she's one of the temps.

BEN

You mean temptress...

GAGE

Remind me to call that agency and have them send over a couple more just like her. Doesn't hurt to have a little eye candy around the office, does it, boys?

Ben agrees. Derek merely nods. He's not comfortable with this tone of sexism.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

End of the day. Workers are leaving. Derek passes an open office door. Ben sticks his head out.

BEN

I scored an extra Lakers ticket for tomorrow night. Think you can get free?

DEREK

I'm moving into a new house.

BEN

So?

DEREK

Do I look like a man who wants a divorce?

BEN

I could call and say it's a work emergency.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Thanks, but I think I'll stay married instead.

BEN

(laughs)
Coward.

Ben ducks back into his office. Derek walks past a cubicle on their way to the elevator.

LISA

Good night, Mister Charles.

Derek stops, turns and sees Lisa sitting at a computer station. She smiles.

LISA (cont'd)

You punk'd me.

DEREK

(laughs)
Sorry but you set me up.

LISA

(with humor)
Don't worry. I'll get my revenge. And by the way, you might like to know everybody who works here strongly disagrees with you.

DEREK

About what?

LISA

About Derek Charles being an asshole. They all say he's the nicest guy in the firm.

DEREK

Well, that just proves he's got 'em all fooled.

LISA

And he's humble, too. I'm Lisa, by the way. Lisa Sheridan.

DEREK

Well, it was nice to meet you, Lisa Sheridan. Good luck with your next job --

Derek continues on to the elevator. Lisa calls after him:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LISA

Actually, they're keeping me on a few more days, so I'll probably see you on Monday.

Can't tell if he heard. Lisa watches him go out of sight, then, curious, she turns to her computer and pulls up Derek's bio and picture on the company web site:

"Derek Charles graduated from UCLA with a major in finance. Began his career with major Wall Street Brokerage firm before joining Gage/Bendix working with clients to help them accomplish their investment objectives. From asset allocation and investment planning, pension analysis, etc."

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - KYLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kyle is asleep in his crib. Derek and Beth look down on him, smiling, then move quietly toward the door. Before they can sneak out, Kyle lets out A CRY. They look at each other.

DEREK

Damn. Almost made it.

BETH

Your turn.

Derek returns to the crib and picks up Kyle.

DEREK

Hey, little man. What's wrong? You should be...

(feeling him)

Uh oh. Poopy diaper. Beth...

BETH

(in the doorway; with a laugh)
I've been changing him all day.

Beth leaves. Derek carries Kyle over to the changing table, opens Kyle's diaper and turns away.

DEREK

Whew. What's that woman been feeding you?

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Derek and Beth sit at a table on the outside deck that overhangs a sheer drop to the canyon below. In the distance, the LA basin sparkles like a diamond in the night.

Derek and Beth are happy but exhausted. In front of them is an empty pizza box. Derek picks up a bottle of champagne and pours some for Beth and himself. They're both a little drunk.

BETH

Well, we toasted the house --

DEREK

Toasted Kyle --

BETH

Your promotion --

DEREK

But I've saved the most important toast for last...

(raising his glass)

To my beautiful wife who I love and adore more than anything in the world.

BETH

And to my handsome husband. I asked for the moon and he gave me the stars.

They clink glasses and drink.

BETH (cont'd)

Derek...

DEREK

(yawns)

Uh huh?

BETH

How would you feel about trying out that mirror again? This time in our own bed.

DEREK

(perks up)

Yeah? Give the magic mirror another test drive?

BETH

You know how I like looking at your sexy butt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK
(laughs)
Beth, you are so bad.

BETH
Isn't that WHY you married ME?

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE - MORNING

Derek arrives to find Lisa sitting at his outer desk in Patrick's place. She looks up and smiles. She's not wearing her glasses and her hair is down giving her a softer, less severe look.

LISA
Hi. Remember me?

DEREK
Lisa Sheridan, Girl Temp. Where's Patrick?

LISA
Out with the flu. I did some trading with the other temps and wrangled your desk. I hope that's okay.

DEREK
Uh... sure.

Looking over at the assistant outside the other corner office.

DEREK (cont'd)
Hey Marge.

MARGE
Good morning, Derek.

Back to the temp.

DEREK
Grab your pad and follow me.

Derek goes into his office. Lisa collects her things and does as told.

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE

Derek goes behind the desk as Lisa enters and sits down on the couch. She crosses her legs. Those great legs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA

I put a memo on your desk about the Christmas party this Friday.

DEREK

Is it that time already?

Derek picks up the memo and scans it.

LISA

Why don't they invite spouses?

DEREK

How's that?

LISA

To the Christmas party. It says "for employees only."

DEREK

It's like that in most companies. They think people are more inhibited in front of their spouses, less likely to kick back and enjoy themselves and mingle with co-workers, which is what the party is about.

LISA

So, does this party get pretty wild?

DEREK

Just the opposite.

LISA

Well that's no fun.

Derek notices a container of Starbucks coffee.

LISA (cont'd)

I called Patrick. He said you like it black with two sugars.

Derek is impressed. He opens the container.

LISA (cont'd)

If it's cold, I can run down and nuke it in the Break Room.

DEREK

(takes a sip)

No, it's perfect.

Lisa is pleased. She raises her pad and pencil.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LISA

Fire away.

DEREK

Well, it's Monday and first thing on Monday...

LISA

I took care of that.

DEREK

Took care of what?

LISA

On Mondays you always send your wife a dozen long-stemmed red roses.

(off Derek's look of surprise)

I called to confirm they've been delivered.

DEREK

Thanks.

LISA

I think that's incredibly sweet. How long have you two been married?

DEREK

Three years in March.

LISA

And you still send her flowers every Monday morning? Lucky girl.

DEREK

It's kind of a tradition.

LISA

Patrick said you started sending them back when Beth worked here as your assistant. Is that how you won her heart?

DEREK

Well, it took a little more than roses.

(getting down to business)

We need to run some calls.

LISA

(poised)

Ready when you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DEREK

(amused)

Are you always this efficient?

LISA

Does that surprise you?

DEREK

Well, it's just that most of the temps we get here...

LISA

I think you'll find I'm not your typical temp.

DEREK

No. Definitely not.

(then)

Okay *not your typical temp*... start with Phil Trendle at Emerson... set up a lunch for end of the week. Wherever he wants but push the Water Grill. Then Terry Mills at Imagio. Am I going too fast for you?

LISA

No. Go faster. I can handle it.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Beth is feeding Kyle while talking on the phone to Derek.

BETH

It's a beautiful little park with a duck pond and close enough to push Kyle.

INTERCUTTING DEREK IN HIS OFFICE, while he listens and goes over reports.

BETH (cont'd)

I've already met a dozen other women with kids the same age. One of them, Lauren something asked if we'd like to come over for a barbecue on Saturday.

DEREK

I don't know. It's shaping up to be a work weekend.

Outside, at her desk, Lisa eavesdrops on her headset, listening with interest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

You can work at home and then we'll go to the barbecue.

As Beth chats on, Derek gets a weird feeling. Still on the phone, he slowly gets up from his desk and moves quietly to the door. He looks out, expecting to catch Lisa listening in. Instead, she's not at her desk. She's standing several feet away at a file cabinet. She turns and smiles at him.

LISA

Do you need me?

Derek shakes his head no and steps back into his office.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Derek finishes some work on his home computer. In the background, Beth sits in bed reading a book.

BETH

Work at the office. This is home. Come to bed.

DEREK

In a sec.

Derek finishes. He rises, walks over to the bed and climbs in beside Beth. She puts her book on the night table and switches off the light. They cuddle together. Beth CHUCKLES.

BETH

The card that came today with the roses...

DEREK

Uh huh?

BETH

... was addressed "To Betty."

DEREK

Betty?

BETH

(with humor)
Yeah. Who's Betty? Your other wife?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Blame it on the new girl. Patrick called in sick and I had a temp on my desk.

BETH

I thought we had a deal. No female assistants.

DEREK

Honey, I don't control the temp pool.

BETH

She pretty?

Derek gives Beth a look.

BETH (cont'd)

Just asking...

DEREK

Yeah, she's pretty... plain.

BETH

(joking)

I don't care. I want her fired immediately.

DEREK

Actually, she did a great job... aside from the card.

They get comfortable. Beth puts her head on Derek's chest.

BETH

Night, Derek.

DEREK

Night... Betty.

Beth LAUGHS, gives him a playful punch.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

TWO DELIVERY GUYS come out of the stairwell, struggling with an undecorated Christmas tree. Marge directs them to a spot to put it.

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE

Beth and Kyle are visiting. Derek has Kyle on his desk, letting him play with his keys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

Hope you don't mind us dropping in unannounced.

DEREK

You kidding? This is a treat.

BETH

Sheila's meeting us for lunch at Central Market. Then I'm taking Kyle to the Grove.

(to Kyle)

And who are we going to see at the Grove?

KYLE

(excited)

Santa!

BETH

(to Derek)

You want to come? Get your picture taken on Santa's lap?

DEREK

I'd love to but I'm all jammed up. But say hi to your sister.

BETH

That guy she was seeing, the one we met at Thanksgiving... Jack.

DEREK

The one she said was perfect.

BETH

Apparently he's not so perfect. He told her he just wants to be FWB.

DEREK

FWB?

BETH

Friends With Benefits.

DEREK

What does that mean?

BETH

You know. Sex but no commitments.

DEREK

And Sheila's got a problem with that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Beth laughs. Lisa appears at the door.

LISA

Excuse me.

They turn. Lisa smiles sweetly.

DEREK

Lisa, this is my wife Beth. Beth, Lisa.
She's temping for Patrick.

BETH

(friendly but checking her out)
Hi.

LISA

It's great to meet you, Mrs. Charles.
(eyes lighting up)
And this must be Kyle. I can already
tell he's going to grow up to be a
heartbreaker.

Lisa comes over. Kyle presses shyly against Derek.

LISA (cont'd)

Hi, Kyle. I'm Lisa.

When Kyle doesn't respond...

DEREK

Kyle, say hello.

BETH

He can say hello. He's usually not this
shy around strangers.

LISA

What a handsome boy.
(to Derek)
He looks just like you.

DEREK

Actually, most people think he takes
after Beth.

LISA

Talk about the perfect family. The three
of you should be on a magazine cover.

BETH

I hope my husband's not working you too
hard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LISA
 (cheery tone)
 He is. But I like it. I'm learning a lot.
 (to Derek)
 Joe Gage needs to see you when you get a minute.

BETH
 Well, that's our cue to leave. We just dropped in to say hi.
 (taking Kyle from Derek)
 Come on, big boy.

Lisa steps back, moves off to the door.

LISA
 It was great to meet you... Beth.

BETH
 You, too... Laura.

She did it on purpose, winking at Derek. He smiles.

LISA
Lisa.

BETH
 Excuse me?

LISA
 It's Lisa. You said Laura.

BETH
 I did?

If Lisa knows she's being fucked with, she doesn't show it.

BETH (cont'd)
 Sorry. Lisa.

LISA
 (waving)
 Bye, Kyle. Say hi to Santa for me.

Lisa exits. A beat.

DEREK
 (to Beth)
 That was intentional.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BETH
Wasn't me. Blame "Betty." So what's the deal with her?

DEREK
What do you mean?

BETH
She knew I was taking Kyle to Santa.

DEREK
So?

BETH
So she was obviously listening at the door.

DEREK
Well, she probably didn't know when to come in.

BETH
I thought you said she was plain. Derek, that girl may be a lot of things but one of them is not plain.

DEREK
How would I know? I only have eyes for you.

BETH
(laughs)
Oh, you are so slick.

They put Kyle in his stroller.

DEREK
Come on. I'll walk you to the elevator. You can say hi to the old gang.
(beat)
Ever miss it?

BETH
I like to think I traded up.

Derek beams. They share a kiss.

EXT. ELEVATOR

Derek, Beth and Kyle are surrounded by office workers making a fuss over Beth and Kyle. Even Joe Gage comes out of his office to embrace Beth and chat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lisa watches from a distance. Her face betrays no emotion. After a moment, she turns and enters Derek's office.

Lisa sits behind the desk in Derek's chair and look at a framed picture on Derek's desk -- Derek, Beth and Kyle, the perfect happy family.

Nearby, Lisa sees a pile of CD's. She looks through them and smiles with an idea.

CUT TO:

INT. SUV - DAY

A warm LA morning with a hot sun coming up. Derek drives to work, listening to Gnarl's "Crazy."

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Workers hang bulbs and decorations on the Christmas tree. A festive holiday spirit is in the air.

Derek exits the elevator, heads to his office. Patrick is back at his desk.

DEREK

Hey, Patrick. Feeling better?

PATRICK

Much. Thanks.

(beat)

You know it's going to take more than the flu to keep me away from that Christmas party.

LISA (O.S.)

Not sure we can say the same for Marge...

Derek turns to see Lisa, now sitting at Marge's desk.

DEREK

You get around don't you?

LISA (CONT'D)

Poor thing called in with a fever...

PATRICK

Yeah... She's not speaking to me at the moment.

The three share a laugh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Alright. You two behave yourselves out here...

Derek goes into his office. We stay with Patrick and Lisa.

PATRICK

(whispers to Lisa)

So, how many times did you get busted listening in on Derek's calls?

LISA

(light laugh)

I'm way too devious to ever get caught. Besides, I thought all you assistants listened in.

PATRICK

(with a smile)

We do.

A beat. Lisa wonders if she might make a friend here.

LISA

How long have you worked here?

PATRICK

Ten years this Spring.

LISA

I'll bet you know more about what goes on behind these closed doors than anybody.

PATRICK

Oh you got that right girl. I know all the dirty little secrets.

LISA

Well maybe we should grab a drink some night after work for a little girl talk.

PATRICK

(lonely guy; flattered by her interest)

Listen, honey, if you think you can buy my silence with a couple of Cosmo's... you're right.

They share a laugh, bonding.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Deserted at lunch hour. Derek, in shirtsleeves, emerges from his office and approaches the Break Room.

INT. BREAK ROOM

Derek enters, opens the refrigerator and takes out a lunch bag. He hears a slight SNIFFLING NOISE, turns and is surprised to find Lisa seated at a corner table, a little tearful.

Lisa looks up, quickly wipes her eyes with her hand and puts on a smile.

LISA
Sorry. I thought everybody was at lunch.

An awkward moment. Lisa starts to rise.

LISA (cont'd)
I should go...

DEREK
No. Stay. I was just gonna take this back to my office.

Lisa sits back down. Derek starts to leave; hesitates.

DEREK (cont'd)
Anything I can do to help? I mean... if you want to talk about it.

LISA
It's nothing.

DEREK
Most people I know don't cry over nothing.

LISA
(with humor)
You think I was crying? This is just my allergies.

DEREK
Uh huh. What are you allergic to?

LISA
Men, apparently. Actually it's more like they're allergic to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK
Boyfriend trouble?

Lisa hesitates, wondering if she can confide.

LISA
It's stupid really.
(a beat)
This guy I've been seeing just calls and dumps me. Middle of the day. No warning. No explanation. Just "I don't think we should see each other anymore."

DEREK
OUCH!!! That's pretty cold. How long were you together?

LISA
Two months.
(small laugh)
Actually, it was one of my longer lasting relationships. I don't know what it is but sooner or later I just seem to scare men off.
(beat)
I'm starting to think there's something wrong with me.

Derek sits down beside her. He puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

DEREK
(like a big brother)
Nothing wrong with you. Your boyfriend's a fool, that's all.

LISA
I wish I could believe that.

DEREK
Maybe you just haven't met the right guy yet.

LISA
I'm beginning to think all the good ones are taken.

DEREK
Look, I'm no expert but if it didn't work out, maybe it wasn't meant to be. When the right guy comes along... you'll know it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She looks up at him; smiles.

LISA

Is that how it was with you and Beth?

DEREK

Actually, yeah. We both knew pretty quick.

LISA

Love at first sight?

DEREK

It does happen.

LISA

Great. Now I'm jealous.

DEREK

Why?

LISA

She's got it all. Perfect husband, perfect child, perfect marriage.

DEREK

Nobody's perfect. There are problems in every relationship. The important thing is to keep moving forward.

(trying to buck her up)

Don't get down on yourself. You're a bright, attractive girl. Any man would be lucky to have you.

LISA

Oh, yeah. Right.

DEREK

No, really. If I was single...

LISA

But you're not.

DEREK

I just meant...

LISA

I know. You're just trying to make me feel better.

(touches his hand)

And you have.

Lisa gets up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LISA (cont'd)
Thanks, Derek.

DEREK
(encouraging)
Hang in there. It'll happen.

Lisa nods. She smiles and exits.

Incident forgotten, Derek opens his lunch bag and takes out a sandwich.

Ben appears in the doorway, grins at Derek.

BEN
What was that all about?

DEREK
Poor kid got dumped by her boyfriend.

BEN
Really? I wouldn't mind taking up the slack. That is one hot piece of ass there.
(off Derek's look)
Like you haven't noticed.

DEREK
(amused)
Hey, I'm a happily married man. And so are you.

BEN
Doesn't mean we can't look.

Ben goes to the refrigerator, opens it and starts rooting around.

BEN (cont'd)
Not like the old days, back when you could get away with a little office nookie on the side and not get nailed for it.
(turns and gives him a grin)
Don't give me that "I'm appalled" look. That's how you got together with Beth, isn't it?

DEREK
Ben, if you're looking to start something with that girl...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BEN
You saw her first?

DEREK
Fuck off.

BEN
Besides, I don't think I'm her type. Now you on the other hand...

DEREK
Ben, do me a favor...

BEN
All I'm just sayin' is a lot of these single gals see the work place as a hunting ground.
(cocking his finger like a gun)
And this one's got you in the cross hairs.

With a grin, Ben "pulls the trigger -- bang!" and exits.
Derek looks a little annoyed.

CUT TO:

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE - DAY

Derek at his desk. He notices an envelope with his name on it. He opens the envelope. A note and a home-made CD slide out.

"Thanks for the shoulder, Lisa. (Thought you might like these.)"

Curious, Derek feeds the CD into his computer, lowers the volume and is hit with Gnarl's Barkley in concert. He turns down the volume and smiles, continues to listen.

He hear the ding of an IM on his computer. It's from
TEMPGIRL:

TIS THE SEASON TO BE GNARLY.

Derek considers, types back.

WHERE DID U FIND THIS

Reply: CONCERT BOOTLEG. TOTALLY ILLEGAL. WE COULD BE ARRESTED.

He responds: WORTH THE RISK. I LUV GNARLS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reply: ME 2

He responds: THANX. GET BACK 2 WORK.

She replies: GONE DADDY GONE.

Derek smiles, then goes back to work.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Breakfast. Beth and Derek at the table. Derek is feeding Kyle. We can see a naked, undecorated Christmas tree in the next room.

BETH

On your way home, can you pick up those Baby Einstein DVD's for you know who.

DEREK

I'll have to do it tomorrow. Office party's tonight.

BETH

I forgot. Well, if you drink too much, take a cab, okay?

DEREK

If it's anything like last year, I'll be home early.

(then)

Kyle, I want you to eat this.

Kyle shakes his head "no" and points at the Christmas tree.

KYLE

Santa!

DEREK

Yeah, Santa. And he's coming soon. So eat. Don't you know Santa only brings presents to boys who eat all their food?

Kyle considers; then furiously eats. Derek and Beth LAUGH.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Derek sits at the bar by himself, reading the paper. He looks up and sees Lisa come in. Lisa catches Derek's eye, surprised. Then she smiles, starts to make her way over...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA
 (gesturing to the empty stool
 next to him)
 This seat taken?

DEREK
 (always a good guy)
 No. Be my guest...

A HALF-HOUR LATER

Lisa is sitting next to Derek at the bar. The food has come.

DEREK (cont'd)
 (chewing)
 Still the best burger in town.

Lisa chews and nods in agreement.

DEREK (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 (whispers)
 ... And the best Margarita.

LISA
 (raises her eyebrows)
 Really?

DEREK
 We used to cut loose here after a long
 day at work.

LISA
 Work hard, play hard. Right?

DEREK
 (laughs)
 Back in the day...
 (beat)
 How's that boyfriend trouble coming?

LISA
 Keep moving forward, right?

DEREK
 Exactly.

LISA
 How about you, Derek? What's the grand
 plan?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEREK

You know, run the company by 35. Jet by 40. Retire to my private island and own the Lakers by 50.

Lisa laughs.

LISA

Lakers suck.

DEREK

Not with me in charge.

Touche. They both smile.

LISA

You want one?

DEREK

What?

LISA

A margarita?

DEREK

Oh, I don't know.

LISA

C'mon big talker... it's Christmas time. Works dead --

Derek's not sure.

LISA (cont'd)

I won't tell if you don't.

DEREK

All right. One. What do you like? Strawberry?

LISA

Rocks. Salt...

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

The Christmas party is in full swing with MUSIC, TWO BARTENDERS and lowered lights. The tree is all lit up. The mood is happy and playful and people are getting a little tipsy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A MALE WORKER gives A FEMALE WORKER a back massage with a computer mouse.

Joe Gage, in a Santa suit, is passing out gag presents.

Lisa is in a group with Patrick and some other women, chatting. She glances over and sees Derek.

He's off to the side with Ben, sipping drinks.

Desks and furniture are shoved back and workers are free-style dancing, crowding into the center of the room.

Marge grabs Derek by the arm and pulls him out. Derek makes some half-hearted dance moves, then gets into the spirit. It's crowded, people are close together and a moment later, Derek finds himself dancing face to face with Lisa.

LISA
(with humor)
Well, if it isn't the Office Asshole.

DEREK
That's Mister Office Asshole to you.

LISA
I'm impressed. You can dance.

DEREK
All those years watching Soul Train.

LISA
(laughs)
I wasn't sure I was going to come tonight.

DEREK
Why not?

LISA
Well, it's not like I've been here that long.

DEREK
I'm sure everybody's glad you decided to show up.

LISA
Even you?

DEREK
What do you mean "even me?" I'm your number one supporter around here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

This makes her smile happily.

LISA
(looking up)
Uh oh.

Derek looks up, too. They're under the mistletoe.

DEREK
How did that get there?

They look at each other, smile. An awkward moment. Derek laughs it off.

LISA
(playful)
Maybe a quick one on the cheek? If we don't, people will really suspect there's something going on.

But Derek steps away.

DEREK
Guess we'll just have to take that chance.

LISA
(good natured laugh)
Coward.

The music changes, breaking the mood. Derek smiles at Lisa and slips away, rejoining Ben.

Derek looks at his watch.

BEN
You're not thinking about bailing, are you? Fun's just getting started. Remember last year? Sally Sloane did a table dance.

He indicates a pretty secretary LAUGHING and accepting another drink.

BEN (cont'd)
I give her one more drink, then stand back. How about you, buddy? Need a re-fill? Come on, where's your holiday spirit?

DEREK
With Beth and Kyle. I'm gonna take a piss and sneak out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BEN
You're no fun.

Derek heads down the hall, a little unsteady.

INT. MEN'S ROOM

Derek enters. No one else around. He goes to the urinal and begins to unzip. About 30 seconds later he hears the door open and close but thinks nothing of it because it is a large public Men's restroom in the workplace with 4 urinals and 2 stalls.

But suddenly, a hand snakes around his waist and grabs his crotch. Derek whirls around, face to face with a brazen, smiling Lisa who dangles a sprig of Mistletoe in her free hand. Her eyes flash with desire.

DEREK
(alarmed)
What are you doing?

Lisa tries to kiss him. Derek resists. He staggers away from the urinal with Lisa still holding him.

DEREK (cont'd)
Lisa --

They knock open a stall door and fall in. Derek goes back against the toilet and Lisa is now practically straddling him.

DEREK (cont'd)
Lisa, stop --

LISA
Why?

DEREK
Are you out of your --

That's when someone comes in. Derek kicks the stall door shut with his foot just in time. He and Lisa freeze, pressed close together as A DRUNK MALE WORKER staggers to the urinal and unzips.

Lisa hides a GIGGLE. Derek is horrified they'll be discovered.

Then...

The Drunk begins to piss. Loudly. And then begins to sing Santa Claus is coming to town... even more loud.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In the stall, Lisa and Derek are face to face. His hand grabs her wrist as she squeezes his crotch. He tries to remove it but her grip is like a vice.

DEREK (cont'd)
For god's --

LISA
Oh, come on...

Hearing something, the Drunk hesitates in mid-piss, looks back over his shoulder.

DRUNK
(bleary)
Hey, who's there?

Derek is trapped. Lisa gives him a naughty smile. She's in control and enjoying this, turned on by the thrill of getting caught.

DRUNK (cont'd)
Somebody in there?

Lisa is about to answer. Derek hushes her.

When there's no reply, the Drunk resumes pissing.

Lisa smears the Mistletoe sprig against Derek's face, then starts to go down on him. He clutches her head with both hands forcing her to stop. She looks up at him, eyes gleaming with passion.

DEREK
(hissing)
Don't do this...

The Drunk continues his piss. Endless. Finally.. finished. He clumsily zips back up, lurches over to the sink. He looks at himself in the mirror, runs his fingers through his hair, smiles at himself and then stumbles out the door.

The stall door bangs open as Derek pushes Lisa aside and staggers out, trying to zip up his fly.

LISA
(confused)
Wait. Where are you going?

DEREK
(flustered)
You've got the wrong idea!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lisa doesn't seem to understand but she's amused. Derek is already out the door.

INT. OFFICE

It's a wilder scene now. Sally Sloane is doing an uninhibited table dance to the delight of everyone gathered.

Patrick, standing off, sees Derek hurry down the hall and head for the elevator.

A moment later, he sees Lisa come down the hall and rejoin the party. A little tipsy, he walks over to her.

PATRICK

Living dangerously, aren't we?

LISA

Oh, Patrick, you're such an old queen.

(then)

Come on. Dance with me.

Lisa pulls Patrick out with the other dancers.

LISA (cont'd)

(as they dance; teasing)

I'll bet you've never been this close to an actual woman.

PATRICK

Honey, I've never been this close to an actual man.

CUT TO:

INT. YUKON - NIGHT

Derek drives home. He's agitated, trying to calm down, trying to make sense of what happened.

That's when he hears a SIREN. Derek's eyes go up to the rear view mirror in panic as a police car with flashing lights gains on him.

Derek pulls over, heart pounding. This is all he needs right now.

The police car flies by on its way to some emergency.

Derek closes his eyes; lets out a deep breath.

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - NIGHT

Swept by headlights as Derek pulls into the drive.

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM

Dark. Derek looks in on his sleeping son.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Dark. Derek approaches the bed where Beth sleeps. He slips in beside her.

BETH
(sleepy)
How was the party?

DEREK
I only stayed for two drinks.

BETH
That dull, huh?

A long beat. Derek considers telling her.

DEREK
Beth...

BETH
Not tonight, honey, okay? I'm really tired.

And Beth is already back asleep.

Derek lies there, in Hell. He looks up and sees his own dark reflection in the ceiling mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - MONDAY MORNING

Derek gets off the elevator and walks to his office, turns a corner and sees:

Lisa coming the other way, carrying files. Derek tenses and stops, expecting the worst. Lisa merely gives him a pleasant smile and walks by.

LISA
Good morning.

DEREK
Morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Like the other night never happened. Lisa continues on her way, delivering the files to a co-worker.

Derek stands there, observing Lisa, wondering. Ben appears beside Derek.

BEN
You okay, bro?

Derek turns, a little startled. He registers Ben.

DEREK
Yeah. I'm fine.

BEN
You should have stuck around.

DEREK
What?

BEN
The Christmas party. Hank in Human Services tossed his cookies on the Christmas tree.

DEREK
(barely registering)
Really? Sorry I missed that.

Derek goes to his office. Ben goes to his.

CUT TO:

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE - LATER

Derek is at his desk, working. Lisa appears in the doorway. Derek looks up; tensing.

LISA
Bad time?

DEREK
(wary)
No...

LISA
Joe wants to know if you're done with the Ganz portfolio.

DEREK
Tell him he'll have it end of the day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA
(starts to go)
Thanks.

DEREK
You're working Joe's desk?

LISA
Just for today.
(light laugh)
He's a real screamer, isn't he?

DEREK
Don't let him fool you. His bark really
is as bad as his bite.

Lisa smiles and exits. Derek is thinking Great, maybe she doesn't remember.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEREK'S OFFICE - LATER

Derek is at his desk working. It's the end of the day and workers are leaving. Patrick appears at the door.

PATRICK
Okay if I take off?

DEREK
Yeah, go home.

PATRICK
See you tomorrow.

Patrick leaves. Through the open door, Derek can see other workers leaving, getting on the elevator. Lisa is one of them. She doesn't even look his way.

Derek relaxes, goes back to his work.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Derek walks to his Yukon SUV, the only car remaining. He BEEPS it and the doors unlock.

As Derek opens the driver's door and slides inside, the passenger door opens and Lisa slips in, wearing her overcoat and an intimate smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK
 (startled)
 What are you --

LISA
 I owe you an apology for the Christmas party. I think I sort of took you by surprise.

DEREK
 (uneasy)
 We both had a few drinks. Just forget it.

LISA
 What if I can't?

DEREK
 Lisa... nothing happened.

LISA
 All right, have it your way. Nothing happened.

Lisa lets the front of her overcoat fall open. She's naked underneath.

DEREK
 (jolt of panic)
 You really need to get out of my car.

LISA
 Why?

DEREK
 This is so not right.

LISA
 Relax. Nobody's around to see us now. God, I almost went insane today, didn't you? Having to go pretend like I was concentrating on work when all I could think about --

DEREK
 (flaring)
 Lisa, get out of my car!

LISA
 (startled; confused)
 Derek, what's wrong? What did I do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Derek suddenly reaches across her and throws open the passenger door.

DEREK

I don't know if you're just dense or what's wrong with you but I want you to understand something. There's nothing going on between us. I would never -- never -- jeopardize my job with a co-worker.

LISA

Wow. Maybe you are an asshole.

DEREK

Get out!

Derek physically forces her out.

Derek quickly turns the key in the ignition, REVS the engine and peels out in reverse. The passenger door bangs shut.

Lisa stands there in her overcoat staring in mute disappointment as Derek speeds out of the parking garage.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - NIGHT

Derek lets himself in, determined to tell Beth everything.

DEREK

(calling)
Beth? Honey?

BETH'S VOICE

In here.

Derek heads for the dining room.

DEREK

There's something I need to...

He stops, seeing Beth at the table, looking upset with a bottle of wine and a glass.

DEREK (cont'd)

What's wrong?

BETH

I've been on the phone for the last hour with Rachel Hendricks.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: BETH(cont'd)

She found out Tim's been having an affair with a neighbor and it's been going on for the last year and a half.

DEREK
(stops dead)
Tim? Really?

Derek sits down at the table.

BETH
At first I couldn't even conceive of it. They've always seemed to be so much in love, totally devoted to each other.

DEREK
Tim... told her?

BETH
Just blurted it out last night when he came home from work. Then he said he was moving out. You know they've got three kids. Poor Rachel's a wreck.

DEREK
Yeah. That's tough.

BETH
Tough? It's a disaster. If it was me...

DEREK
Beth, you know I'd never cheat on you.

Derek reaches across the table and takes her hand.

BETH
I know.

He moves closer and puts an arm around her.

DEREK
Tim's an idiot.

BETH
He's a son of a bitch.
(beat; then)
What did you want to tell me?

There's no way he can tell her now.

DEREK
Forget it. Just a little problem at work.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) DEREK(cont'd)

(beat)
Nothing I can't take care of.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Derek, agitated, has confided in Ben who's both concerned and a little turned on.

BEN
Why didn't you tell me?

DEREK
There was nothing to tell.

BEN
Nothing to tell? She grabbed your cock?
Flashed her tits in your car? Come on,
man. I thought I was your best friend.

DEREK
You think this is funny?

BEN
I just... jeez. I mean, I kinda got she
was interested but I never figured
she'd...

DEREK
What the hell did I do? I was nice to
her, that's all.

BEN
Sure you didn't lead her on? Just a
little? I mean, a pretty girl... it
would be normal...

DEREK
I didn't do a damn thing.

BEN
Maybe she thinks she can make the jump
from assistant to wife, too?

DEREK
Thanks. You're a big help.

BEN
Sorry... What are you going to do?

DEREK
Report it to Human Resources...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN
Get her fired?

DEREK
I don't have a choice.

BEN
I'd be very careful if I were you. What if she makes trouble and says you came on to her?

Derek gives Ben a look. C'mon man...

BEN (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Look... it's not like you don't have a history of behavior here. When's the last time you had a female assistant on your desk? People are going to wonder.

DEREK
Then I need to get my side on the record first.

They look at each other.

BEN
(a beat; making a joke)
Wouldn't it be cheaper to just have her killed?

Derek frowns at him.

CUT TO:

INT. HUMAN RESOURCES - LATER

A determined Derek arrives and enters the offices of HENRY TRUMAN, IN CHARGE OF HUMAN RESOURCES. A SECRETARY looks up from her desk.

SECRETARY
Morning, Mister Charles.

DEREK
Hi, Connie. Is Hank in? I need to talk to him.

HANK
(from the inner office)
Derek? That you?

Derek enters Hank's office and closes the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Hey, Hank.

HANK

What's up?

DEREK

Well, it's sort of a personal matter. I need to talk to you about one of the temps, Lisa Sheridan.

HANK

Right. She worked your desk for awhile.

DEREK

(about to confess)

Listen, Hank, this going to be a little awkward...

HANK

If you're here to file a complaint about her performance, save your breath. Her agency called this morning and said she wouldn't be coming in any more. They already sent over a replacement.

DEREK

(hiding is surprise)

She quit? They give a reason?

HANK

No. Did you have some kind of a problem with her?

DEREK

Well, I just thought she was unqualified, sort of in over her head. But if she already quit...

HANK

Looks like she beat you to it.

DEREK

(absorbing this)

Yeah.

HANK

Anything else?

DEREK

No. I guess not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HANK
How's the new house?

DEREK
New house is great.
(a smile)
Couldn't be better.

HANK
Tell Beth I said hi.

DEREK
I will. Listen. We'll have you and
Kathy over some night when we're more
settled.

HANK
Sounds like a plan.

Derek opens the door and exits.

Outside, down the hall, Ben is waiting.

BEN
Well?

DEREK
She quit.

BEN
Really?

DEREK
Yeah.

Ben grins. He raises his hand for a high five.

BEN
Come on, bro. That's good news. Problem
solved.

DEREK
(as his good luck sinks in)
Looks that way, doesn't it?

BEN
Not a bad little Christmas present.

Derek, happier now, returns the high five.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - DAY

Christmas morning.

Through the window we see Derek, Beth and Kyle under the tree unwrapping presents, having a great time. For Derek, all troubles are forgotten.

CUT TO:

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE - DAY

Derek, at his desk, in a good mood, on the phone.

DEREK

Hans? Derek. How was your Christmas? Well, you people invented it. You got the prospectus? Great. Look it over. I think it's gonna be a happy new year for all of us.

Derek looks at the doorway where Ben is standing. Derek gives Ben the thumbs up. Ben beams and does a little victory dance.

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - A WEEK LATER - NIGHT

Derek and Beth come in, dressed in tux and gown, exhausted from a New Years party.

BETH

God, it's after three. That's the last time I'm going out on New Years Eve. Next year we'll celebrate here at home. Just you, me and Kyle.

A "You Have Mail" DING comes from Derek's home computer on the other side of the room.

DEREK

I'm just gonna check my e-mail and come to bed.

BETH

Can't it wait?

DEREK

It's already tomorrow in Berlin. Ganz was supposed to send me his approval. That's probably him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beth goes into the adjoining bathroom.

With a YAWN, Derek sits down at his computer and goes to e-mail. He scans it and is instantly confused.

Dozens of e-mails, all from the same sender: TEMPGIRL.

A little fearful, Derek pulls up the first e-mail. It opens up to reveal a self-taken photo of Lisa looking sexy and inviting on a bed, smiling seductively and wearing skimpy lingerie that shows off her sexy body.

Under her photo: SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR.

Derek feels a jolt of panic. He deletes it, brings up the others.

It's the same photo, Lisa on the bed, over and over.

Derek stares at Lisa on screen, feeling sick and invaded. He isn't aware of Beth coming out of the bathroom behind him. She approaches as he continues to delete.

BETH

Ganz?

She's about to peer over his shoulder. Derek hits the delete key and the last photo of Lisa disappears.

BETH (cont'd)

What was that?

DEREK

(acting perturbed)

Nothing. I gotta get a new spam blocker.

Beth gives him a kiss on the cheek.

BETH

Forget it. He'll call you in the morning. Come to bed.

Beth goes away.

Derek stares at the computer screen saver: A picture of Beth with Kyle sitting on Santa's knee at the Grove.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Derek is at his desk, tensely typing on the computer, sending an e-mail to TEMPGIRL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derek types: LEAVE ME ALONE.

He sends it and sits back.

Almost instantly there's a reply.

Derek stiffens. Then, tentatively, he opens the new e-mail.

TEMPGIRL has replied with one of those annoying YELLOW SMILEY FACES. It winks at him.

Derek is chilled.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - DAY

Mid-January. The withered Christmas tree waits at the curb for pick-up.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Beth helps Derek pack a bag.

BETH

Remember the last time Joe had one of his weekend work retreats?

DEREK

How could I forget? I had a hangover for a week after.

BETH

Any women coming this year?

DEREK

No, just the usual suspects. Joe says it's going to be a male bonding experience.

BETH

I can just picture you guys in the hotel jacuzzi, getting in touch with your innermost feelings.

DEREK

(zips up his bag)
Hopefully, they'll all get drunk and crash early. Or if I'm really lucky... drown in the jacuzzi.

BETH

Call me tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

I will.

Derek gives her a kiss. Their image is reflected in the overhead mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

A COCKTAIL WAITRESS delivers drinks to Derek, Joe Gage, Ben Talbot and THREE OTHER MEN smoking cigars and relaxing after dinner. The mood is rowdy. They're all a little toasted.

A drink is put in front of Derek.

DEREK

I didn't order this.

The Cocktail Waitress leans down and WHISPERS in his ear:

WAITRESS

It's from the lady at the bar.

Derek turns and peers at the crowded bar area. He catches a flash of a young woman in a tight dress seated on a stool. But a crowd of people move into his line of vision and when they clear, the woman is gone.

Derek tenses.

JOE

Derek, you okay?

DEREK

I'm fine. Just thought I saw somebody.

JOE

Somebody you know? Or somebody you'd like to know?

The other guys chortle.

BEN

No way. You can't tempt this guy.

JOE

Who could blame him with a wife like Beth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Speaking of Beth, I said I'd give her a call before she puts Kyle to bed. I'll be right back.

Derek picks up his drink and leaves.

JOE

Hurry back. This party's just getting started.

EXT. PATIO OUTSIDE THE BAR

Low-lit. Empty. Derek comes out, flips open his cell to call home. He puts his drink down on a table.

DEREK

Hey, honey. It's me.

INTERCUTTING WITH BETH in Kyle's bedroom, putting him to sleep.

BETH

How's the male bonding?

DEREK

They're all getting wasted. Any minute now, Joe's going to suggest the Jacuzzi.

BETH

Well, if your future depends on putting on a bathing suit and hot tubbing it with a bunch of drunks... Derek? You there?

Derek freezes. Across the patio, he sees A FIGURE slowly approaching. It's a woman back-lit, a silhouette. But as she passes into the light from the bar, she's revealed as Lisa, transformed into an alluring femme fatale.

DEREK

I have to go.

BETH

Wait. Kyle wants to say good night.

DEREK

(tense)

They're yelling for me to come back.

BETH

It'll just take a second...

Beth picks up Kyle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH (cont'd)
Say good night to Daddy.

As Lisa comes closer...

DEREK
(desperate)
Beth, I'll call you later.

BETH
I'll be in bed -- Derek?

Derek clicks off and pockets his cell.

On the other end, Beth looks perturbed.

Now Lisa comes face to face with Derek, smiling. She boldly picks up his drink and takes a sip.

LISA
I can always tell from the pained look on your face when you're talking to Beth.

DEREK
(demanding)
How did you know I'd be here?

LISA
I've got my sources.
(slight frown)
What's wrong? You don't look happy to see me.

DEREK
Why did you come here?

LISA
You said you could never be with someone you work with.
(when he doesn't seem to "get it")
That's why I quit. So we could be together.

Derek looks at her, astounded.

DEREK
(holding down panic)
Lisa, you need to leave.

LISA
(teasing smile)
Or what? You'll make a scene?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) LISA(cont'd)

Call security? What would Joe and Ben and the others think? I'll tell you what they'd think. They'd think we arranged it. And in a way, we did.

Lisa turns aside. Out of Derek's sight, she slips a capsule into his drink, then puts it back on the table.

LISA (cont'd)
This hook-up was on the books from the day we met.

DEREK
What are you talking about?

LISA
One of us has to take control and I guess it's me. So you go back, say your good nights to the boys and I'll be waiting in my room. 610.

DEREK
I'm not coming to your room.

LISA
Would you rather I came to yours?

DEREK
You're crazy... sick. You need help.

LISA
I know. I need help.
(moves closer; seductive)
Help me, Derek.

She presses against him.

DEREK
Stay away from me!

Lisa emits a musical little laugh and smooths her dress. She registers Derek's angry face and clenched fists. She smiles.

LISA
All right, Derek. You play your games...
(turning away)
... and I'll play mine.

Lisa disappears into the darkness, high heels echoing.

Derek feel his cell phone vibrate. He pulls it out.

DEREK
Beth, I'm sorry --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BEN'S VOICE

Beth? It's Ben. Where the hell are you, bro?

DEREK

I'm right here. Coming back in.

Agitated, Derek picks up his drink, downs it and re-enters the bar.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

After midnight.

Derek and Ben get off the elevator. Ben is slightly drunk but Derek is farther gone -- wobbly on his feet, bleary.

BEN

Come on, it's early. We'll go to my room and plunder the mini-bar, charge it all to Joe.

DEREK

Can't, man. That last drink totally kicked my ass. I need to lie down.

BEN

All right, be that way. But don't forget. Nine o'clock in the California Room. Joe's big rah-rah to the troops.

Ben goes one way, Derek the other.

Derek, feeling more and more disoriented, makes his way to his room. He fishes around in his pockets and finds his key card. He slides it and pushes open the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Derek lets himself in, doesn't even click on the lights. There's enough moonlight coming through the window to lead him to the bed where he flops down on his back. He doesn't even bother to undress.

Derek closes his eyes, then opens them. He feels sick. Sound and perception are playing games with his head. The room begins to spin and he can hear a sound, a rushing noise. Is it the shower in the bathroom? The bathroom door is shut but there's a crack of light around the edges. Is someone in there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derek is too out of it to care. He just wants to sleep, make it go away. He closes his eyes, begins to drift off.

The bathroom door opens, letting in a cloud of steam and a shaft of light. A woman's silhouette appears, naked. She moves to the bed.

Derek feels the bed move... feels a tug on his trousers... then, an amplified ZZZZIIIPPP.

Derek's eyes open in shock. He can't believe what he sees -- Lisa, naked, straddling him. Her hand caressing his face. It's like a dream. A nightmare. Lisa smiles seductively and puts a finger to her lips.

LISA

Shhhhh.

DEREK

(groggy; can barely get the word out)

No..

LISA

Hush, baby.

Her voice seems distorted like it's coming from another world.

LISA (cont'd)

I'm going to take real good care of you.

Derek tries to resist but finds he has no control over his body or mind. All he can see is a shifting, distorted image of Lisa's face... her smile... her teeth.. her lips... the blazing look of sexual desire in her eyes. And somewhere in those eyes he can see HIMSELF.

And that's the last thing Derek sees before he passes out and the entire world goes black and silent.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Dazzling sunlight. Derek wakes up, startled by a pounding on the door.

WOMAN'S VOICE

Housekeeping!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derek blinks, blinded by the sun. His brain is fogged and he's disoriented. It takes him a moment to realize where he is. A hotel room. Naked under the covers. How did he...

WOMAN'S VOICE (cont'd)
Housekeeping!

The door begins to open.

DEREK
(shouting)
Later! Come back later!

WOMAN'S VOICE
Okay. I come back.

The door closes.

Derek glances over at the clock. 10:15. Shit. He's overslept and now he's late for the seminar.

Derek starts to get up, looks over and -- his heart stops.

There's Lisa sprawled beside him on her stomach, naked under the covers. She opens her eyes and gives him a sexy, sleepy smile, stretching her body like a cat.

LISA
Morning.

Derek goes into panic mode, jumping out of the bed like it's on fire.

DEREK
You've got to get out of here!

LISA
What are you talking about?

DEREK
Leave! You've got to go!

Derek grabs Lisa by the arm, drags her out of the bed at the same time gathering her clothes from the floor and thrusting them into her arms.

LISA
Derek, come on...

DEREK
I want you out of here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LISA
 Why? You worried somebody's gonna catch
 us?

DEREK
 Just get the hell out.

LISA
 (half-amused)
 We woke up a little grumpy this morning,
 didn't we?

Lisa barely manages to slip into her dress before Derek opens the door and pushes her out into the hall.

LISA (cont'd)
 Derek, what is wrong with you?

Derek slams the door. On the other side, we hear Lisa's musical laugh.

LISA (cont'd)
 All right. Have it your way.

Derek locks the door. Shaking, he goes to the bed, sits on the edge and buries his throbbing head in his hands.

DEREK
 (in hell)
 Fuck... fuck... fuck.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - SEMINAR ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Derek slips in and takes a seat next to Ben at the end of a big table. The other guys are there, also a little under the weather. They take notice of his late arrival.

JOE
 (interrupting his talk)
 Thank god. We were about to send out a
 search party.

DEREK
 Sorry. Overslept.

Derek glances over at Ben who frowns at him. Derek looks over at the wall clock as Joe resumes talking. 10:35.

TIME CUT

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

It's now 12:50. While Joe continues his talk, A HOTEL CLERK quietly slips into the room, goes over to Derek and whispers to him. Derek perks up with concern. He leans over to Ben, whispers:

DEREK (cont'd)
It's Beth.

BEN
What about her?

DEREK
She's here.
(mystified)
I'll be right back.

Derek gets up and leaves.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE

Derek follows the Clerk. As they turn a corner...

CLERK
Here's your wife, sir.

Derek stops dead. It's not Beth waiting for him. It's Lisa, dressed sexy/casual, bright smile. The Clerk goes away.

LISA
I thought you might need an excuse to get out of there. How about some lunch?

DEREK
Lunch?

LISA
It's gorgeous outside and I made a reservation at --

Derek grabs her by the elbow and hustles her out of sight, trying to keep his voice down.

DEREK
What do you think this is?

LISA
The morning after?

DEREK
(flaring)
We didn't do anything last night.

Lisa gives him a sly smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA

But you can't remember, can you?

DEREK

It didn't happen!

LISA

Derek, not so loud. You'll cause a scene.

DEREK

Right. A scene. That's exactly what we need.

Derek hauls her roughly back down the hall.

LISA

What are you doing?

DEREK

What I should have done last night.
Taking you inside to tell Joe and the others whatever you want. They'll know you're out of your mind.

He yanks her toward the door.

LISA

(trying to pull away)
Why are you trying to ruin this?

DEREK

THERE IS NO THIS!!!

LISA

Don't say that.

DEREK

Godammit!

Derek throws her roughly against the wall. She hits her head, a little stunned.

Derek steps back, surprised by his own violence.

DEREK (cont'd)

I'm sorry...

LISA

What's wrong with you? You're acting like a stranger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEREK

Yeah! That's exactly what I am. A stranger, a person you don't know. Now either go inside and tell them your bullshit lies or get the hell out of here.

LISA

(flaring; ugly tone)

You think you can use me, then throw me away? I'm not some piece of garbage, Derek. I'm a human being...

Lisa reaches out to him.

Derek, in frustration, raises his hand as if to strike her. Her eyes flash with excitement. Derek stops himself, revolted by his own behavior.

LISA (cont'd)

Do it. Hit me. You can do anything you want to me. Don't you know that? Anything.

Derek stares at her like she's a thing, an object. He shakes his head.

LISA (cont'd)

Don't look at me that way.

DEREK

How else do you look at somebody who sickens and repulses you?

LISA

Derek, please...

DEREK

I don't care what you do or what you say. What goes on in that twisted mind of yours. It doesn't matter because the truth is, there's never going to be anything between us. So go ahead, Lisa... do your worst.

They stare at each other.

Then, Derek turns and goes into the seminar room, closing the door behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

With a heartbreaking expression of hurt, Lisa stares at the door for a long moment, wipes a tear from her face and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - THAT NIGHT

Derek, Ben, Joe and the others eat dinner. A lively atmosphere. Derek seems apart from the others, lost in thought.

BEN

Derek, you drinking?

DEREK

Not tonight, man. I'm sticking to ice tea.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR/HOTEL CORRIDOR - LATER THAT DAY

Derek gets off on his floor and heads to his room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Derek steps inside and freezes, confronted with his worst nightmare.

High heels and a path of discarded clothing leads to the bed where Lisa lies in bed, naked under the covers, her eyes shut, seemingly asleep.

DEREK

(anger rising)

No. No fucking way...

Derek moves toward the bed and the sleeping girl.

DEREK (cont'd)

Goddamn it, Lisa.

No response. Her head is cocked to one side and her skin is ghostly pale.

Derek leans over and shakes Lisa's naked shoulder.

DEREK (cont'd)

Lisa, get up.

It's like shaking a doll.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK (cont'd)
Get up or I'll drag you out and throw you
in the hall.

That's when Derek sees it. On the night stand: an empty
bottle of prescription pills. Derek picks up the bottle and
looks at the label: Ambien.

Derek grabs the bedside phone and punches Desk.

DEREK (cont'd)
(fighting panic)
This is 622. There's a woman in my room,
she's taken an overdose of prescription
pills -- Ambien. You need to get the
paramedics and security up here right
away. Please hurry.

Derek hangs up. Now he puts one knee on the bed and takes
Lisa's face in his hands, turning her head. He might as well
be handling a marionette.

DEREK (cont'd)
(shouts)
Lisa!

No response. He puts his ear to her naked chest, trying to
detect a heartbeat. If there is one, he can't hear it.
Derek gently slaps her cheeks. Rolls back her eye lids.
Nothing.

DEREK (cont'd)
Oh god...

Now Derek begins to perform CPR. He tilts Lisa's jaw back,
clears her mouth and begins to breathe into her, alternating
chest compressions.

DEREK (cont'd)
Lisa! Wake up, goddamn it...

CUT TO:

INT. ER WAITING AREA - NIGHT

In a corner, Derek looks haggard, being interviewed by a
veteran police detective, MONICA REYES. Reyes looks more
like a middle-aged suburban mom than a cop but she's very
good at her job.

REYES
All right, Mister Charles, let me get
this straight.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: REYES(cont'd)

This girl you barely know, works in your office, fantasizes you're having an affair and when you reject her, she tries to commit suicide in your bed.

DEREK

I know how it sounds but, yeah, that's pretty much it.

REYES

This affair...

DEREK

There WAS NO affair.

REYES

So she just... made it up in her head? With no help from you?

DEREK

Maybe I was too nice to her, said something she took the wrong way, I don't know. All I know is I did not lead her on.

REYES

And you had no idea she'd be at the hotel?

DEREK

None. I don't even know how she got in my room.

REYES

Apparently she told one of the housekeepers she was your wife and lost her key.

DEREK

Doesn't that prove she did this on her own?

REYES

All it proves is she lost her key.

DEREK

She never had a key.

REYES

Look, Mister Charles, I don't care if you were or weren't banging this girl. I just need to get your version for my report. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) REYES(cont'd)

Besides, if it's a question of innocence,
I'm not the one you have to convince.

DEREK
What do you mean?

REYES
Let's just say I wouldn't like to explain
a situation like this to my husband.

Before Derek can respond, Reyes sees AN ER DOCTOR signalling.

REYES (cont'd)
I'll be right back.

Reyes goes to talk to the Doctor. Derek watches them talk.
The Doctor hands Reyes a piece of paper. Derek can't stand
the suspense. He walks over and interrupts.

DEREK
How is she?

Reyes nods to the Doctor and takes Derek aside.

REYES
They pumped her out in time. Doctor says
she's groggy and disoriented. Probably
tomorrow they'll move her out of ICU and
up to the fifth floor for a psychiatric
evaluation. All suicides are put on 72
hour hold, it's standard.

DEREK
Did she say anything?

REYES
As a matter of fact, she was lucid long
enough to give the doctor a name to call
in case of emergency. He wrote it down.
Here.

Reyes hands Derek a piece of paper. Written on it is DEREK
CHARLES and his phone number.

REYES (cont'd)
Still want to stick to your story?

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Dawn is breaking as Derek guides the Yukon into the drive.
He steps out, hesitates. The front door of the house opens
to reveal a very tense looking Beth in a robe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They look at each other across the distance. Derek walks to her.

BETH
(a little cold)
Tell me everything. From the beginning.

Derek nods. This is not going to be easy.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Derek has told it all. Beth, looking stunned, stares at him, uncomprehending. A long beat, then...

BETH
How could you let this happen?

DEREK
You think I encouraged it?

BETH
Maybe you liked it.

DEREK
Beth...

BETH
What man wouldn't? The attentions of a pretty young girl? I can just see those adoring blue eyes batting at you every time you told her how pretty she looked or what a nice dress --

DEREK
Stop it, Beth. You know I never said those things.

BETH
You must have said something. Done something to give her the idea.

DEREK
If I did, it wasn't intentional.

BETH
She was in your bed, Derek! You spent the night together and you want me to believe nothing happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

I was passed out... drunk. Nothing happened.

BETH

Damn you, Derek. Damn you.

Beth turns away, her face burning.

DEREK

I love you, Beth. I love Kyle and the life we have together. I would never do anything to screw that up. This girl is disturbed. She's seriously disturbed and for some reason, she fixated on me.

BETH

Why?

DEREK

I don't know. She's crazy.

BETH

You should have told me. From the very beginning, you should have told me.

DEREK

I know.

BETH

Why didn't you?

DEREK

At first I thought it was no big deal. And then... I was just embarrassed. I didn't know how to explain it to you without looking...

BETH

Guilty?

DEREK

I said I was wrong.

A beat.

BETH

Did she know about us, Derek?

DEREK

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BETH
How we met?

DEREK
Don't do this, Beth. You'll make
yourself sick.

BETH
I'm already sick.

DEREK
Honey, I know I screwed up...

Derek reaches out.

DEREK (cont'd)
But I've told you the truth. I have to
know you believe me.

BETH
(weary sigh)
I don't know what to believe. All I know
is, I need to be alone for awhile.

DEREK
Beth, don't --

BETH
I need to be alone --

Beth moves quickly upstairs. Leaving Derek there. He sits
back on the couch, head in his hands. At a loss. After a beat--

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Derek makes a determined rush up after her. Only to find the
bedroom door locked.

Derek's upset. Resigned, he makes his way over to--

INT. GUEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He grabs a pillow. Punches it twice. Knows he's in the dog
house--

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Lisa is propped up in a hospital bed, a dark brooding
expression on her face, tangled hair hanging down. Just
staring, eyes wide, a little dopey looking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Monica Reyes appears in the doorway.

REYES

Miss Reynolds? I'm Monica Reyes.

Lisa looks up. Her face transforms into a bright smile.

LISA

Come in. I'm sorry I'm such a mess but they won't let me take a shower or wash my hair.

(dismissive laugh)

Apparently I'm still on suicide watch.

REYES

I'm a police officer assigned to your case. How are you feeling?

LISA

Well, still a bit groggy from the medication. But it isn't stopping me from feeling ashamed for all the trouble I've caused.

REYES

Do you feel like talking about the other night?

LISA

Have you spoken to Derek?

REYES

Yes.

LISA

And he's all right?

REYES

Relatively speaking.

LISA

When can I see him?

REYES

See him?

LISA

Derek.

REYES

I'm afraid that's not possible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LISA

Why?

REYES

Miss Sheridan, I don't think Mister Charles wants to speak to you or continue any kind of contact.

Lisa looks at her oddly.

LISA

Really? Then why did he send these?

Lisa indicates a bouquet of flowers in a vase nearby.

REYES

(keeping the surprise out of
her voice)

He sent you flowers?

LISA

Peonies. My favorite.

Reyes inspects the attached card. "Lisa Darling, the other night was just a misunderstanding. Don't ever leave me. Love always, Derek."

REYES

When did these show up?

LISA

A few hours ago. They're lovely, aren't they?

Reyes decides not to push it, goes into her Q & A:

REYES

Can you tell me what happened at the hotel, why you were there.

LISA

Didn't Derek tell you?

REYES

I'd like to hear your version.

LISA

There's not a lot to tell. We got together at the hotel and you can guess what we did.

REYES

Slept together. Had sex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LISA
Of course.

REYES
Derek denies it.

LISA
He's just being a gentleman, trying to protect me.

REYES
I see. Go on.

LISA
The next day when Derek told me his wife wouldn't give him a divorce and that we could never see each other again, I guess I over reacted.
(beat)
I didn't realize he was just being noble.

REYES
Noble?

LISA
He was thinking about his little boy, Kyle... what the breakup might do to him. He's not even two, you know. My parents broke up when I was pretty young. It leaves a scar that never really heals.

REYES
So you believe Mister Charles is in love with you?

LISA
Read the card. Derek and I belong together and nothing can change that. But I do feel bad about his wife.

REYES
You do?

LISA
I'm not a home-wrecker. I'm not stealing him away. Their marriage is dead and Beth is in denial. It can't be easy to find out that the man she loves is in love with another woman. I just hope she doesn't do something foolish.
(strange smile)
You know the old saying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

REYES

What's that?

LISA

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

Lisa could almost be talking about herself. Reyes nods but she's chilled.

REYES

You take it easy now. We'll talk again.

She excuses herself. Lisa goes back to happily smiling at her flowers.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Derek and Joe Gage.

JOE

I don't have to tell you how an incident like this could impact the company. Even the slightest whiff of impropriety...

DEREK

There was no impropriety, Joe. This is just the sick fantasy of a very disturbed girl.

JOE

Who might retaliate by hitting us with a sexual harassment lawsuit.

DEREK

There was no sexual harassment. If anything, I'm the one who was sexually harassed.

(sighs)

I can't believe this is happening to me. It's like a nightmare.

JOE

By now, you're probably wishing you had fucked her.

Derek gives him a shocked look.

JOE (cont'd)

For all the trouble it's costing you.

(then)

Sorry. Bad joke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

Goddamit, Joe, if there's an injured party here, it's me.

JOE

Derek, calm down. I believe you and you know I'll back you up all the way. But if I find out there was something going on, I won't have a choice.

DEREK

That's not going to happen because there's nothing to find out.

JOE

Good. Then you have nothing to worry about. Meantime I'm going to put Ben on the Ganz account.

DEREK

But Ganz is my client --

JOE

Look, maybe you should take some time off. Just til this blows over.

Marge sticks her head in.

MARGE

Sorry to interrupt. Derek, there's a Detective Reyes here to see you.

Joe and Derek exchange looks.

CUT TO:

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE - LATER

Derek and Monica Reyes face each other across Derek's desk.

DEREK

She obviously ordered the flowers for herself.

REYES

With your credit card.

DEREK

My secretary keeps all my personal information on her computer. Lisa must have accessed it when she was working my desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reyes gives him a blank look.

DEREK (cont'd)
You think I sent the flowers? I'd have
to be as crazy as she is.

REYES
There's more.

DEREK
More?

Reyes opens a bag.

REYES
This is a print out of Lisa's blog. It's
sort of a diary she was keeping.

Reyes puts a large pile of papers on Derek's desk.

REYES (cont'd)
It's a rather graphic and detailed
account of your various sexual liaisons
together.

DEREK
What?

REYES
You can read them for yourself but I
should warn you they're a little... X-
rated.

Derek pages through, growing more alarmed. We see thing like
"THREE TIMES... FROM BEHIND... ON THE FLOOR... I WAS
SCREAMING... WE WERE LIKE TWO ANIMALS... COMING TOGETHER OVER
AND OVER... WHEN HE SLAPPED ME THE PAIN WAS EXQUISITE..."

DEREK
(reacting)
This is... none of this ever happened. I
was never at her apartment. I never even
touched her, let alone did any of this...

REYES
According to those entries, you're quite
the accomplished lover, Mister Charles.
And you made promises to her, promises to
divorce your wife and marry her...

DEREK
You can't possibly believe this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REYES

Whether I believe it or not is irrelevant. The only thing that matters is that she believes it.

DEREK

There's got to be something I can do to protect myself... my family.

REYES

You could file a restraining order. But that may not be necessary.

DEREK

Why not?

LISA

Lisa's left town. She was released in the custody of an older sister yesterday. Her sister flew down from San Francisco and took her back. Lisa's agreed to check herself into a neuropsychiatric hospital up there.

DEREK

(some relief)

Well, I can't say I'm unhappy to hear she's gone. Maybe now she can get the help she needs.

REYES

With any luck, Mister Charles, you'll never hear from her again.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beth moves through the room, stopping to pick up one of Kyle's toys. She looks through the sliding glass window and sees Derek on the deck, holding Kyle in his arms. They're playing a game. Derek points to objects in the distance and Kyle identifies them. "Truck... doggie... bird..." and so on.

A tear in Beth's eye. She comes closer. They don't see her.

DEREK

(singing to Kyle)

"Four little ducks went out one day...
over the hill and far away..."

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - NIGHT

A few days later.

INT. CHARLES LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A 14 year old baby sitter SAMANTHA walks Beth and Derek to the front door. They're dressed for a night out.

BETH

You've got our cell numbers so if there's any problem, don't hesitate to call us, okay?

DEREK

Come on, honey. Samantha knows what to do, don't you?

SAMANTHA

I've got four little brothers. Trust me. I'm really good at this.

But Beth remains concerned.

BETH

(to Derek)

I don't know. Maybe we should...

DEREK

No way. Do you know how hard it was to get these reservations? Come on, we agreed. This is an important night. And I am not gonna waste you in that outfit.

(to Samantha)

She looks fantastic, doesn't she?

SAMANTHA

Like a movie star.

Derek takes Beth by the arm.

DEREK

Everything's gonna be fine.

BETH

(giving in; to Samantha)

Okay, but you call us.

Derek grins and leads her out the door, calls back to Samantha.

DEREK

Lock this. We'll be back by ten.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA

Have fun.

Samantha closes the door behind them and locks it.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Derek and Beth sit together in a romantic candle-lit booth, working on a bottle of wine.

DEREK

I haven't seen you looking this relaxed and beautiful in weeks.

BETH

I'd forgotten what this was like... the two of us out together.

DEREK

Yeah. It's been awhile.

He looks at her. It's been awhile since they've touched or had sex, too. Beth smiles a little shyly, drops her eyes.

DEREK (cont'd)

(encouraged)

So... there's hope?

BETH

It's not that easy.

DEREK

I need you to believe me.

Derek pours the last of the bottle into Beth's glass and signals the Waiter.

DEREK (cont'd)

Could we get another bottle, please?

Derek smiles at Beth. She looks at her wine glass.

BETH

Derek, not everybody gets drunk and does things they regret.

Derek looks like he's been punched in the face.

DEREK

I keep telling you I didn't do any thing to regret.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beth looks up and gives him a hard, cold look.

BETH
(slowly)
I am telling you... you did.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Samantha is sprawled on the couch. The TV is going, she's listening to music on her I-pod while texting a friend on her phone and paging through a teen magazine all at the same time, multi-tasking.

She doesn't hear the door bell RING the first time. Or the second. Then there's a LOUD KNOCKING. Samantha becomes aware, looks around, then sees a shadowy figure through the frosted window next to the door.

With a SIGH of annoyance, Samantha gets up and goes to the door. She unlocks and opens it. Lisa is standing on the threshold, looking fresh and pretty and smiling.

LISA
(super friendly)
Hi, I'm Beth's friend Allie. She's expecting me.

Lisa breezes right in.

SAMANTHA
Mister and Mrs. Charles are out.

LISA
Out?

SAMANTHA
They went to dinner.

LISA
What? Beth told me to drop by. That's strange. Oh well, I have something for Kyle. I'll just run up and give it to him.

SAMANTHA
You can't. He's sleeping.

LISA
Oh, I won't wake him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAMANTHA

Maybe you should come back.

LISA

But I'm here right now. Why should I...
oh, I see. Just doing your duty. Good
girl. You know what, let me call Beth.

Lisa takes out a cell phone, punches in a number. Samantha looks relieved.

LISA (cont'd)

(into her cell)

Beth? Hey, girlfriend. It's Allie.
Where am I? Where are you! I'm at your
place. You told me to come by.

(to Samantha)

No it's okay. She forgot.

(back into cell)

No, Samantha was a little concerned so I
said I'd call you.

(winks at Samantha)

Yeah. Okay, honey. You two have a great
night.

(to Samantha; holding out the
cell)

Oh, wait. Did you want to talk to her?

Samantha shakes her head "no."

LISA (cont'd)

(into cell)

Beth, I'll call you tomorrow.

Lisa clicks off.

LISA (cont'd)

(to Samantha)

Great. This will only take me a minute.

Lisa crosses to the stairs and goes up. Samantha returns to the couch and resumes texting.

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM

Kyle is asleep in his crib. The door cracks open, emitting light from the hall, turning Lisa into a silhouette. She enters the room, silent as a ghost, and approaches Kyle's crib. She stands over him, smiling down at the vulnerable sleeping child.

Then, Lisa turns away and looks at herself in a mirror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She takes out a tube of red lipstick and applies it to her lips.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Samantha is listening to i-pod music/texting/watching TV. In the background, out of focus, Lisa comes down the stairs.

LISA

Thanks, Samantha. Nice meeting you.

SAMANTHA

(preoccupied; doesn't even
look)

You, too.

Lisa vanishes. Samantha sends a last message, then thinks she ought to check on the baby. She gets up, starts for the stairs when she gets another text message on her phone. She checks it, laughs and returns to the couch to text her friend back.

CUT TO:

INT. SUV - NIGHT

Derek and Beth drive home in tense silence. Finally, Beth speaks.

BETH

It's his birthday tomorrow.

DEREK

I know.

BETH

I told him we'd take him to Legoland.

DEREK

I'll go on-line tonight and order the tickets. Unless you think you should take him alone.

BETH

No. Whatever we're going through, he needs us to be together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derek turns the corner to their street. The house comes into sight. The garage door goes up. Derek pulls into the drive and guides the car into the garage.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

A key in the lock. The door opens. Derek and Beth enter.

On the couch, Samantha ends her texting and greets them with a bright smile.

SAMANTHA

Hey! You guys got back so fast--

BETH

Any trouble with Kyle?

SAMANTHA

No. He was a doll.

(then)

But you just missed your friend.

Beth and Derek freeze, turn and look at each other.

BETH

What friend?

SAMANTHA

You know. Allie? She was just here...
called you on the cell?

BETH

(tensing)

Nobody called me...

DEREK

Someone was here? Inside the house?

SAMANTHA

(to Beth)

You said it was okay. She said she had
something for Kyle...

BETH

(instant panic)

Oh my god! Where's Kyle?

SAMANTHA

In his crib.

Beth streaks for the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

How long since she was here?

SAMANTHA

A couple minutes. What's wrong?

Derek runs for the stairs.

SAMANTHA (cont'd)

(calling after them; now
afraid)

You said it was okay!

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM

Beth runs to the crib. To her horror, it's empty. Lisa lets out a cry of anguish. Derek appears in the door. Lisa turns to him in desperate panic.

LISA

She took him! She took my baby!

INT. LIVING ROOM

Derek tears back down the stairs, shouting to Samantha.

DEREK

Call 911!

He bursts out the front door.

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - GARAGE

Derek races into the garage, yanks open the driver's door and gets in. He starts the engine, turns to back out and -- Surprise! There's Kyle is in the backseat, strapped into his car seat, smiling at his Daddy.

DEREK

Kyle...

Derek gets out, pulls open the back door and unstraps his son, then hesitates. What Derek sees makes his blood run cold. On the child's forehead... a perfect red lipstick kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ER - NIGHT

Kyle is being examined by A DOCTOR while Derek and Beth comfort him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOCTOR

We pumped his stomach. X-ray and cat scan came back normal. We'll wait for the blood work but it appears he's completely fine. I don't see any reason why you can't take him home in a couple hours.

BETH

(tearful relief)
Thank you, Doctor.

Monica Reyes appears in the doorway.

CUT TO:

INT. ER WAITING AREA - A MINUTE LATER

Derek and Beth confer with Reyes. Beth is very agitated.

REYES

Apparently Lisa stole her sister's ID to buy a ticket and board a plane to LA earlier today, then used her sister's credit card to rent a car. The sister didn't even know she was gone until a few hours ago. She said Lisa had been doing well in therapy. She didn't know she checked herself out this morning...

BETH

(emphatic)
She was in our house -- alone with our son.

DEREK

The doctor says he's fine.

BETH

Well, I'm not fine.
(to Reyes; demanding)
I want you to find her.

REYES

We will. She violated the restraining order so we can arrest her. Look, Mrs. Charles, I know you're upset. I'm a mother, too...

BETH

How would you feel if it was your child?

REYES

Exactly the same as you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

Find her.

Beth goes back into the examining room to join Kyle.

DEREK

Now what? Am I supposed to go out and buy a gun or something?

REYES

She didn't physically harm him.

DEREK

No, but she could have. Is that the message she's trying to send?

REYES

Either that or...maybe she was trying to show you she could love him.

(off Derek's sickened reaction)

People like Lisa... their emotions can turn on a dime. What you don't want is her feelings for you to change to rage. I don't know. But there's a good chance she'll try to get in touch. If she does, you need to call me right away. Meanwhile, you might want to beef up your home security.

Derek nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

The SUV pulls up and parks. Derek and Beth get out. Derek removes the sleeping Kyle from his car seat and carries him to the front door where Beth waits.

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Kyle is asleep as Derek tucks him in. Beth CRIES OUT from another part of the house.

BETH

Derek!

Derek races out of the room.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

The bedroom has been trashed. The bed has been stripped. The ceiling mirror is now a spider-webs of cracks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The closet is open and clothes are strewn about. Derek discovers Beth on her knees, holding up a family photograph in which Beth's head has been torn off.

BETH

She never left. She was here the whole time.

Beth scrambles over and finds a wedding photo of herself and Derek. Again, her head has been removed.

BETH (cont'd)

What kind of sick person...

Derek crouches down and holds Beth who begins to cry, her body shaking.

DEREK

It's all right, it's all right...

BETH

No Derek! It's not all right!!! We have to do something. We can't live like this.

As he holds his wife, Derek looks up and sees their reflection in the mirror -- twisted and distorted, like Lisa's mind.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Derek and Kyle watch Baby Einstein on TV.

In the b.g., A SECURITY MAN installs a new alarm system.

Beth is on the phone, talking to someone. Derek keeps an eye on her.

BETH

(into phone)

Right. Thank you.

Beth clicks off, starts dialing a new number.

DEREK

Who are you calling?

BETH

Guess.

DEREK

You're not...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH
(determined)
I got her home number from Patrick.

DEREK
She won't be there.

BETH
She can still pick up her messages.

DEREK
Beth, why are you doing this?

BETH
I want her to know who she's dealing with now.

On the other end, Lisa's cheerful voice:

LISA'S VOICE
Hi, this is Lisa. I'm not here right now so please leave a message after the beep and I'll get back to you. Have a good one.

BETH
(into the phone)
Listen to me, you little bitch. This is Beth Charles and I just want you to know that if you ever... ever... come near my child or my house again... I'll kill you.

Beth clicks off, gives Derek a defiant look. Derek doesn't know what to say.

The Security Man appears.

SECURITY MAN
You're all set, folks. You want me to show you how the system works?

BETH
Definitely.

CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Derek lies in bed, wide awake, on guard. He hears a car engine outside, gets up and goes to the window.

Derek looks out and sees a police patrol car in front of the house. A moment later, it drives off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derek goes to Kyle's room. He's sleeping safely. He goes to the master bedroom and observes Beth from the door way. She's asleep.

Derek returns to the guest room.

A sudden SOUND. Derek tenses. He hops up and goes to the window.

It's just the sprinklers going on in the front yard.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLES LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Derek is leaving for work. He points to the security pad.

DEREK

Make sure you set this.

BETH

You don't have to tell me.

DEREK

It can't go on much longer. They're bound to pick her up soon.

(then)

Look, if you want me to stay, I'll call in...

BETH

No. Go to work. If anything happens, the security patrol can be here in two minutes.

(off his look)

Go. I can take care of myself.

Derek opens the door and exits. Beth closes it behind him, then touches the keypad.

SECURITY VOICE

SET.

Beth watches from the window as Derek drives off to work. Kyle is nearby playing. The phone rings. Beth goes over and picks it up, a little wary.

BETH

Hello? Oh hi, Dad.

(then)

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As she listens with mounting concern, we...

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Patrick is at his desk. The phone buzzes and he picks up.

PATRICK
Derek Charles' office. Oh, hi, Beth.

Patrick perks up at the tone in Beth's voice.

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE

Derek is concentrating at his desk when his phone BUZZES. He answers quickly.

DEREK
Yeah?

PATRICK
Beth's on 2.

DEREK
Thanks. Hi, honey. Everything okay?

INTERCUTTING WITH:

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM

Kyle is playing on the floor. Beth is on the phone.

BETH
We're fine but I had some not so great news from my Dad.

DEREK
What's wrong?

BETH
Mom went back in for more tests. They wanted to do another biopsy and she's pretty scared.

DEREK
I can imagine.

BETH
I'm sure it'll be fine but I thought I'd drive down to San Diego to hold her hand, take Kyle with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEREK

I'm gonna be stuck here pretty late but I could drive down after...

BETH

I don't think that's a good idea. Friday night traffic's gonna be a nightmare and they won't know the results til tomorrow. Why don't you do what you need to do and drive down in the morning?

DEREK

Are you sure?

BETH

Yes.

There's still that frostiness between them.

DEREK

All right. Say hi to your dad and tell your mom everything's going to be fine, I love her. And call me when you're leaving the house.

BETH

I will.

Beth clicks off and turns to Kyle.

BETH (cont'd)

Come on, sweetie. We're gonna take a little trip.

KYLE

(excited)
Legoland?

Beth almost laughs. She holds him close.

BETH

Much more fun than Legoland. We're going down to Nana and Poppa's.

KYLE

Daddy, too?

BETH

No. We'll see Daddy tomorrow. Now... what toys do you want to take?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kyle toddles over to his toy box.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE

At his desk, Patrick answers the phone.

PATRICK
Derek Charles' office.

LISA'S VOICE
(bright and chipper)
Hey there, girlfriend.

PATRICK
(happy to hear from her; keeps
his voice down)
Lisa?

LISA'S VOICE
How are you?

PATRICK
I've missed you.

LISA'S VOICE
I've missed you, too. Everything okay
around the office?

PATRICK
(hushed/secretive)
Well, actually...

LISA'S VOICE
What?

PATRICK
I'm a little concerned. I heard the
Charles' took out a restraining order
against you.

LISA'S VOICE
(laughs)
Oh, that. That was Beth's doing. She's
not handling this very well. Derek's
just waiting for the right time to tell
her he's leaving.

PATRICK
I don't think that's gonna happen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA'S VOICE

Of course it is...

PATRICK

I'm not sure I should be telling you this...

LISA

Patrick, don't be such a drama queen. I thought we were friends.

PATRICK

We are, we are.

LISA

Well?

PATRICK

Well... Beth's headed down to San Diego tonight. Her mother is having some tests done. Derek is driving down first thing in the morning to be by her side.

(when she doesn't respond)

Lisa? Did you hear me?

LISA'S VOICE

Patrick, I have to go.

PATRICK

But you just...

LISA'S VOICE

I'll talk to you later.

PATRICK

Wait. I wanted to tell you about my date I last night. The one my friend set me up with? The graphic artist? Lisa, you'd be so proud of me. I met him for drinks at --

LISA'S VOICE

Patrick.

PATRICK

Yes?

LISA'S VOICE

(cold)

I really don't care whose dick you sucked last night. I have to go.

The line goes dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Poor Patrick looks like he's been hit in the face with a bag of shit.

CUT TO LISA

She puts her cell phone in her pocket.

WIDEN TO REVEAL that she's standing in a grove of trees, looking down at the Charles house.

INT. CHARLES HOUSE - DAY

Beth goes out the front door, arms full with Kyle and overnight bags. She sets the alarm and shuts the door behind her... only to realize she forgot her purse. Beth punches back in, grabs the purse from inside and closes the front door again behind her. Forgets to re-set the alarm.

EXT. DRIVE WAY

Beth secures Kyle in his kiddie seat, then walks around to the driver's side, gets in and drives away.

PAN UP TO Lisa watching.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Lisa approaches the back of the house, carrying a paper bag. She steps up on the deck and goes to the kitchen door. She doesn't even check to see if it's locked. She takes the bag which contains a bottle of champagne and uses the bottle to break a pane in the kitchen door window. Then she reaches inside and unlocks the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Lisa steps inside and looks around at the cheerful room, Kyle's high chair, the places set for three at the table.

Lisa puts the champagne bottle on the counter, then humming happily, she begins to open shelves until she finds two crystal champagne flutes. She takes them down. Now she looks for an ice bucket and finds it.

INT. BETH'S CAR

Beth drives down the hill, calling Derek on her cell.

INTERCUTTING DEREK IN THE OFFICE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERE
(answering his cell)
Hey.

BETH
We just left the house.

DEREK
Good. Did you set the alarm?

BETH
The... I think I did. I had to run back
in and I can't remember if I re-set it.

DEREK
Look, don't worry about it.

BETH
No, I'm barely down the hill. I'll do it
and call you back.

Beth clicks off. She slows down and pulls into a driveway.
She backs out and returns up the hill.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Lisa enters, carrying the ice bucket with the champagne
bottle in it and the two flutes. She smiles excitedly, like
a woman preparing for her lover's return.

Lisa places the champagne on the night table.

She removes her coat to reveal a sexy white nightgown, then
reaches into the coat pocket and takes out a paper bag.

She upends the bag and with a giggle, begins to sprinkle red
rose petals on the floor, making a trail to the bed.

INT. BETH'S CAR

Beth drives up the winding road to the house.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

The ice bucket and champagne sit on the night table.

Lisa stretches out on the bed, amid the rose petals, leaving
a space for her lover beside her. She gazes up at the
cracked ceiling mirror. She smiles at herself and, thanks to
the cracked mirror, her smile is distorted, scary and insane-
looking.

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE

Beth pulls into the drive.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

On the bed, Lisa hears the car.

She rolls off the bed and crosses to the window, parting the curtains to look out.

HER POV

Beth stepping out of the car.

BETH'S VOICE
(barely audible; to Kyle)
Mommy will just be a minute.

Lisa tenses, suddenly fearful.

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE

He can't work, glancing at his cell for Beth's call.

INT. FOYER

Beth lets herself in. She's about to set the alarm when she hears the floor creak above her.

Beth freezes. She waits, listens.

No further sound. But Beth knows.

Beth goes to the front door as if to leave. She opens the door and closes it as if she left the house.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Lisa, standing very still near the window, hears the sound of the door opening downstairs, then closing.

Relieved, she moves to the window and peers out, expecting to see Beth getting into the car. But there's no sight of her.

INT. FOYER

Beth pulls off her shoes and lays them by the door. She begins to quietly tip toe up the stairs, certain to be as quiet as she can.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Beth enters to see Lisa peering out the window.

BETH

Girl, you're even dumber than my husband
said you were.

(beat)

Or did you just forget to take your meds?

Lisa whirls around. Beth is standing in the doorway, giving Lisa a deadly look, like a cat who's just trapped a mouse.

Beth takes notice of the rose petals on the bed and floor.

Lisa is wide-eyed, terrified, caught. Lisa begins to edge her way around the room.

BETH (cont'd)

You really fucked up this time... coming
back to my house. Didn't you get my
message?

Lisa's eyes dart around for escape. Beth seems remarkably calm.

BETH (cont'd)

You can look all you want but you're not
getting out of here.
Not until I've given you the beating of
your life... bitch.

And she means it, too.

Lisa tries to dart around her. But Beth cuts her off, grabbing Lisa by the throat and forcing her back, slamming her hard against the bed post.

Lisa bounces off the post, stunned. Beth is on her, slapping her hard, grabbing a handful of Lisa's hair, ripping it out by the roots as Lisa tries to get free. Lisa lets out a subhuman shriek of pain.

Beth tosses the hank of hair aside, keeps on coming. She's beyond pissed.

BETH (cont'd)

Think you can walk into my house... my
bedroom...

Beth slaps and punches Lisa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH (cont'd)
My child... my husband!

Lisa tries to fight back but Beth is a tiger, beating the hell out of her, knocking her around the room.

LISA
 (in pain; terrified,
 whimpering)
 Please...

BETH
 Please? Please what? Please don't hurt
 you?

As Beth pummels her, Lisa stumbles/retreats into the adjoining bathroom. She slams the door shut and throws the lock, face bleeding, looking around for a weapon, something to protect herself with.

CRASH! The bathroom door comes off its hinges as Beth barges in.

LISA
 No!

Beth grabs Lisa by the head and slams her face into the bathroom mirror. It cracks.

Lisa is wobbly, unable to stand. Her face is a bloody mess. But before she can collapse, Beth props her up.

BETH
 ("concerned")
 You're bleeding. We need to wash that
 off.

Beth forces Lisa down, shoves her head into the toilet and flushes it, holding her there as Lisa flops and chokes.

BETH (cont'd)
 Don't worry. I'm not going to drown you.
 (jerking Lisa's head up)
 No, no. I'm just getting started...

LISA
 (blubbering)
 Please... I'm sorry...

BETH
 Too late, bitch. Sorry won't cut it.

Beth kicks Lisa out of the bathroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lisa lands on the floor and gets up, rose petals sticking to her gown.

As Beth comes out of the bathroom, Lisa lunges for the night table and grabs the bottle of champagne. She swings it and hits Beth in the side of the head. Whack! The cork pops and champagne goes spewing everywhere.

Stunned, Beth goes down on her knees. Lisa wipes blood from her face, circling Beth, lips drawn back and teeth showing like an animal.

LISA

He doesn't love you! I'm the one he wants!

(crazed; screaming)

Why can't you get that through your head?

Lisa raises the bottle to hit her again.

Beth lunges forward and tackles her. The bottle goes flying as the two women thrash around on the floor.

INT. OFFICE

Derek dials Beth's cell.

INT. CAR

Kyle snoozes in his car seat. Inside Beth's hand bag on the front seat, her cell phone TRILLS.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Beth and Lisa fight on the floor like two she-demons. Lisa breaks free from Beth.

She crawls to the head of the stairs and grabs the post, pulling herself to her feet, eager to escape.

BETH

(suddenly behind her)

Careful. You don't want to fall down the stairs.

Beth gives Lisa a shove. Lisa goes crashing down the stairs and lands at the bottom in a heap.

Beth descends.

BETH (cont'd)

Did that hurt? Because it looked real painful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LISA
(managing to sit up; defensive)
Please... Beth...

BETH
Oh, it's Beth now? What happened to
Betty?

Lisa rises to her feet, wobbly. She raises bloody hands in surrender.

LISA
Please. I'll go... I'll leave... I swear
I'll never bother you again...

BETH
You got that right.

Lisa turns and desperately hobbles for the front door. But Beth easily beats her to it, knocking Lisa aside and throwing the chain.

Beth turns and faces Lisa with a murderous look. Hugging the wall for support Lisa back away, leaving a bloody smear. Beth advances.

In the kitchen, the phone RINGS. Both women freeze.

Phone RINGS again. Then...

DEREK'S VOICE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE
Hi, you've reached the Charles residence.
We're not here right now but if you
have a message for Derek...

BETH'S VOICE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE
... or Beth... or Kyle.... Kyle, say
hello.

KYLE'S VOICE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE
(cute)
Hello.

BETH'S VOICE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE
Please wait for the beep.

BEEEEEEP.

DEREK'S VOICE
(with concern)
Beth? Are you there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LISA

Derek!

Lisa tries to make it to the kitchen to get the phone. Beth grabs her by the sleeve and pulls her back. The sleeve tears loose in Beth's hand.

DEREK'S VOICE

Beth?

Lisa stumbles back toward the stairs. She scrambles upward, thinking maybe she can get to the phone in the bedroom.

Lisa reaches the top step just as Beth snags her ankle, stopping her. Lisa rolls around and viciously kicks Beth in the shoulder with her other leg. Beth falls back, tumbles halfway down the stairs.

DEREK'S VOICE (cont'd)

Beth, pick up!

Lisa makes it to the bedroom. She sees the phone on the night stand.

DEREK'S VOICE (cont'd)

Beth? Are you there?

Lisa desperately grabs the phone.

LISA

Derek! Oh, Derek, thank god!

INTERCUTTING DEREK IN THE OFFICE

Reacting in surprise and panic.

DEREK

Lisa?

Before she can answer, Beth is suddenly there. She rips the phone from Lisa's hand and strikes her with it. As Lisa stumbles back into the hall landing, Beth speaks calmly, even sweetly, into the receiver.

BETH

Derek, I'm right in the middle of something... let me call you back.

DEREK

Beth --

Beth hangs up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Alarmed, Derek hurries out of the office, punching a number into his cell as he runs to the elevator. A nervous Patrick watches Derek exit...

DEREK (cont'd)

I need to speak to Lt. Reyes. It's an emergency!

Beth goes out into the hall and Lisa springs on her.

The two women fight, going up against the bannister. They claw and punch at each other. With renewed strength, Lisa forces Beth up against the bannister. Beth looks over the side and down...

Fifteen feet below is that large glass dining table.

Lisa bangs Beth against the bannister. A few feet away is a heavy crystal chandelier suspended from the ceiling by a metal chain.

The bannister rail begins to crack. Lisa tries to force Beth over, then Beth suddenly swings them around, reversing positions --

The bannister cracks, breaks apart and Lisa topples over the side.

As she's about to fall, Lisa reaches out and grabs the chandelier with both hands.

By a miracle, it supports her and she swings back and forth like a human pendulum but now the chandelier is beginning to pull loose from its ceiling mount. Plaster cracks and rips away.

Lisa swings back and forth, dangling.

Beth stands on the landing. She looks at terrified Lisa, then up at the ceiling mount. It won't take Lisa's weight much longer.

And both women know it.

Lisa hangs by one hand, reaching out with her other hand to Beth who could pull her to safety.

LISA

Please....

Beth considers. Then, as if coming out of dream, she slowly reaches out to Lisa. Their hands lock together. Beth slowly pulls Lisa toward her, toward safety.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BETH
(quiet voice)
Let go of the chandelier.

LISA
(afraid)
No...

BETH
Let go, Lisa.

The chandelier is about to break loose.

BETH (cont'd)
(motherly concern)
Listen to me. You have to let go right
now.

And, trusting, Lisa lets go.

But so does Beth!!!

With a look of horror on her face, Lisa falls through space. The soundtrack goes dead silent as we go into slow motion.

Down, down, down Lisa falls. Her arms and legs flop around like a marionette with its strings cut, clawing the air.

The fall seems endless.

Then... Lisa hits the glass dining table with her back. Her whole body buckles. The surface of the table ripples.

In slow mo, the glass shatters and explodes around Lisa, framing her entire body, forming a halo around her head. Sound returns -- the sound of breaking glass -- and it's deafening.

The table gives way and Lisa lands hard on the marble floor, her skull cracking. Her back is probably broken but she's still conscious.

Lying there, Lisa stares up at Beth on the landing as glass bounces and TINKLES around her.

The two enemies lock eyes. Beth's face is impassive.

Lisa opens her mouth, trying to speak.

And that's when the chandelier breaks loose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Beth watches without emotion as the chandelier plunges downward and hits Lisa in the chest with a radiantly beautiful shower of crystals. It kills her on impact.

We come out of slow motion. Real time resumes.

On the landing, Beth stares down at Lisa's body, splayed under the chandelier like a broken doll. Lisa's eyes are open but they're dead.

Beth, stoic, just stands there, looking down.

INT. DEREK'S SUV

As Derek speeds through traffic, desperate to get home.

INT. CHARLES HOUSE

Beth comes down the stairs, taking no notice of Lisa's lifeless body. She goes to the foyer, unhooks the chain and opens the front door.

EXT. CHARLES HOUSE

Outside, a car pulls up and Monica Reyes jumps out. Reyes hurries up the walk and meets Beth standing in the open door.

REYES

Beth? Is everything alright here?

BETH

(very calm)

I'm fine. Lisa had an accident.

(moving past Reyes)

I have to go. My mother needs me.

Reyes looks into the house and sees Lisa's body, then turns back as Beth goes to her car and opens the driver's door.

REYES

Beth, I need to speak with you.

Beth turns back to Reyes.

BETH

Call me on my cell.

REYES

What happened here?

BETH

I think you know what happened...

(a beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: BETH(cont'd)

Now my child has been waiting too long.
I am sure my husband will be home soon...

Beth and Reyes lock eyes. Reyes nods her understanding. Beth nods back, gets in the car, starts the engine and backs out of the drive. Reyes watches her exit.

INT. DEREK'S SUV

In traffic. He dials his cell.

INTERCUTTING BETH IN HER CAR

She picks up her ringing cell phone, looks at the caller ID and glances at Kyle in the rearview mirror.

BETH
(tears start to well)
It's Daddy...

DEREK
(frantic)
Beth, I spoke to Reyes. Are you okay?

BETH
It's over, Derek--

DEREK
Beth...
(a pause)
Tell me baby-- are you hurt?

BETH
I should have believed you...

DEREK
It's gonna be okay, honey. We're gonna be okay--

BETH
(long beat)
I love you, Derek.

DEREK
And I love you--

Derek continues on against the traffic. The dashboard picture of Beth and Kyle still smiling back at him.

HIGH ANGLE SHOT, PULLING BACK

As Beth's car drives away, passing police cars on their way to the house.

CONTINUED: