

THE BED

by

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THE BED

FADE IN:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The wide ocean stretches out against the empty horizon. Long shafts of sunlight pierce the clouds, sweeping over the face of the deep.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Waves beat against a rugged beach. A young WOMAN rises Venus-like out of the ocean, wearing a white bathing suit. She approaches the beach, wringing out her long hair. She picks up a towel, and walks quickly past.

EXT. BALBEC - DAY

The small coastal town of Balbec with its medieval architecture and narrow cobblestone streets. The town is deserted. The shop windows are darkened and the streets are vacant, like props on an empty stage.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A white Fiat moves slowly through the town.

MAN (V.O.)

It's exactly like I remember it.
Has it been ten years?

The car approaches an old, regal hotel with a large French flag in front.

MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"L'Hôtel Albertine." I know it well.
She told me she always wanted to
honeymoon in France. We barely left
the room. That was our happiest
time. This is where it all began.

The car stops in front of the hotel.

MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She's been gone a year. These
memories are all that's left to me...
That's why I came back to relive our
days together. To resurrect the
dead. The past never leaves us.
Sometimes it returns in unexpected
ways.

A MAN gets out of the car, and walks toward the hotel. He looks up at an open window on the second floor.

MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Our room. Number 22.

A MAID suddenly appears in the window, and closes the curtains.

MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 My God, what am I doing here?
 (uncertain, his voice
 growing desperate)
 Why go back to a place inhabited by
 ghosts? They tell me it's time to
 move on. But what do they know about
 love?

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

The labyrinthine rows of shelves contain porcelain figurines, books, and other items.

An antique clock sits on a shelf, TICKING loudly. Its second hand is stationary.

The front door swings open. THOMAS (the MAN) enters, and casually looks around. He is a handsome man in his 40s. Thomas appears pensive as he scans the items on the shelves. There is sadness in his large, expressive eyes, marked by dark circles. His left leg has a noticeable limp as he walks about.

Thomas pauses before an open glass cabinet containing a silver pistol and a box of cartridges. His hand hovers over the pistol before gently grazing it.

He walks over to inspect an intricately carved wooden headboard lying against the wall, displaying a triptych of Adam and Eve in Eden: 1) Adam and Eve wandering naked about the Garden; 2) Eve taking the forbidden fruit with the serpent coiled about the Tree of Knowledge; 3) Adam and Eve exiled from Eden, as they shamefully cover their nakedness. The depiction resembles Massachio's Expulsion From the Garden.

SHOP OWNER
 You're a tourist?

Thomas looks up.

THOMAS
 Not exactly. I plan to stay here
 awhile. I'm looking for an apartment
 to rent.

He runs his hand over the ornate headboard.

SHOP OWNER

You're an American, yes? It's always so easy to tell. We don't often have visitors here. A few tourists arrive each summer, but they never stay for long. Why have you come to Balbec?

THOMAS

My wife. Years ago, we came here on our honeymoon on our way to Rennes.

SHOP OWNER

Your wife isn't with you?

THOMAS

(matter of fact)
She passed away last year.

SHOP OWNER

I'm sorry. It's always sad to hear such news.

Thomas wanders through the shop.

The doorbell RINGS as the Woman enters through the front. She is the same woman encountered earlier at the beach.

The Woman's face is concealed by the cluttered shelves as she casually browses.

She stops before a full-length mirror to check her appearance. She is an attractive brunette in her 20s. She has magnetic blue eyes with fine features and pale skin. Her conservative outfit conceals a voluptuous figure. She appears poised and confident, well aware of the effect she has on men.

Thomas observes the Woman at the end of the aisle. She looks up at him as he briefly catches and holds her eye. He continues browsing the shelves, making his way down to the end of the aisle. Looking up, he finds that she is no longer there, and he is faced with his own reflection looking back at him in the mirror.

Thomas wanders down an adjacent aisle until he finds his way back to the headboard. He pulls it away from the wall, and inspects the back of the headboard.

SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)

A very rare piece, indeed. You won't find it's like anywhere.

THOMAS

How old is the bed?

SHOP OWNER

Its origins are unknown. It's rare to find someone who appreciates an object of such beauty. I'm afraid it will cost you a very large sum.

Just then, the Woman emerges from behind some shelves, and, without looking at Thomas, inspects the headboard.

WOMAN

(to the Shop Owner)

[Excuse me. I reserved this same bed the other day. I put a deposit on it.]

(Note: All instances of the French language shall be indicated by being enclosed in brackets. On screen these lines will be subtitled.)

SHOP OWNER

[My apologies. My memory is rather poor these days, I'm afraid.]

THOMAS

(to the Woman)

Take it, please. It's yours.

The Woman looks appreciatively at Thomas.

WOMAN

Are you certain? That's most kind of you, monsieur.

The Woman points to the antique clock on the shelf.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

[I'll take that, too.]

SHOP OWNER

[An excellent choice.]

The Woman walks to the counter. She writes a check, and hands it to the Shop Owner.

WOMAN

[I'll need someone to bring it up to my apartment.]

SHOP OWNER

[I have the frame in the back.]

(calls)

[Henri! A customer needs your help!]

The Shop Owner's young SON comes out.

THOMAS

Allow me to help, mademoiselle.
You'll need another hand.

WOMAN

Are you certain?

THOMAS

I have nothing better to do. I
insist.

WOMAN

Very well. Do you have a car?

THOMAS

Yes.

WOMAN

You can follow me then.
(stretches out her
hand)
I'm Desiree.

Thomas takes her hand.

THOMAS

I'm Thomas.
(an awkward silence)
Well, maybe we should be going?

EXT. OUTSIDE DESIREE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Desiree, Thomas and Henri park their cars on the street and
get out.

Thomas helps Henri pull the headboard out of his car.

Desiree opens the door of the apartment building as they
carry the headboard inside.

DISSOLVE TO:

A painting depicting Aphrodite rising out of the waves in
the hallway of Desiree's apartment, alongside several other
erotic paintings. The SOUND of the bed SCRAPING against the
floor as it is being assembled and moved.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree directs Thomas to position the bed against the wall
near an open window with a view to a Romanesque church across
the street and the ocean behind it. Beside the bed, a dresser
and a spacious closet.

A large, oval mirror stands beside the bed with a small but noticeable crack in its top right corner.

A door opens into the hallway and leads to the kitchen. A second door leads to the bathroom. The red front door, opening to a small entryway, is visible from the bedroom.

DESIREE

A bit to the right, beside the mirror.
Yes. That's it.

A white daffodil stands in a vase on a nightstand beside the bed. A small mirror reflects the flower's image, like Narcissus looking into the pool of water. Beside it, the clock from the antique shop TICKS loudly.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Thank you for being so understanding
... and helpful.

THOMAS

[It was my pleasure.]

DESIREE

[Do you speak French?]

THOMAS

[My French is a disaster, I'm afraid.]

Desiree extends her hand.

DESIREE

It was good to meet you. Perhaps
we'll see each other some other time.

THOMAS

That's all, then?

DESIREE

You were expecting more?

Thomas, slightly nervous, glances about.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

(amused)

You should know, monsieur. I don't
often speak to strangers. Much less
invite them back to my apartment.

THOMAS

I should be going.

The Woman leads Thomas to the door.

DESIREE
 Sorry about our little disagreement
 over the bed.

THOMAS
 It was yours to begin with.

DESIREE
 It's not fair to you. Perhaps the
 only solution is to share it?

THOMAS
 (laughs)
 Be careful. I might get the wrong
 idea.

Desiree's attention is suddenly arrested by a dimming of the
 sunlight.

DESIREE
 (excited)
 [What's that?]

THOMAS
 What?

DESIREE
 Look! Outside.

Desiree walks rapidly to the window as she looks up at the
 ECLIPSE.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 [It's an eclipse!] I heard about it
 on the news. Come and see!

Thomas joins Desiree at the window.

THE SUN

is slowly being covered by the passing moon.

BACK TO SCENE

A crowd gathers on the street. They look up with curiosity.

A LITTLE GIRL clings to the hem of her MOTHER's dress as she
 points excitedly.

LITTLE GIRL
 [Mama, look!]

MOTHER
 [Don't look at the sun, child!]

The woman shields her daughter's eyes.

Desiree draws close to Thomas as she grasps his arm.

DESIREE
It frightens me. Hold me.

THOMAS
Why?

DESIREE
I don't know... I don't want to be
alone now.
(beat)
Perhaps it's a sign?

THOMAS
Maybe the end of the world?

Desiree draws her face close to Thomas'. The SOUND of the ocean grows louder.

DESIREE
It's odd. Isn't it, Thomas?

THOMAS
What?

DESIREE
We only met this morning. And now,
here we are.

Desiree kisses him.

THOMAS
Maybe this isn't such a good idea?

Desiree slips into his arms, and leans her head back against Thomas' shoulder.

DESIREE
[Kiss me again.] I told you that I
didn't want to be alone.

Thomas kisses her.

THOMAS
I should be going now.

DESIREE
Are you sure?

THOMAS
(hesitates)
No.

Desiree smiles and reaches down to open Thomas' pants. She takes hold of his penis, and brings him to arousal.

Desiree pulls up her skirt about her waist as she guides Thomas inside her.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (MORNING)

Thomas is asleep in the bed with Desiree beside him. His eyelids twitch as he begins dreaming.

BEGIN DREAM:

EXT. THOMAS' CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The red Alpha Romeo Spider speeds along a wet road with frequent, dangerous curves. It is raining heavily.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Thomas smiles as he looks over at ANNA in the passenger seat. She is an attractive brunette in her 30s with a strong resemblance to Desiree.

Anna returns the smile as she takes hold of Thomas' hand, which rests on the stick shift. She looks down, and lightly touches her pregnant belly with her other hand. They appear content.

EXT. THOMAS' CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Suddenly, the car loses control, swerving wildly as it takes a dangerous curve.

ANNA

(screams)

What's happening? Thomas, be careful!

The brakes SCREECH loudly. The car CRASHES into a tree. The car horn BLARES.

END DREAM.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas wakes up to find Desiree next to him in bed.

The white curtain at the window flaps in the breeze. The SOUND of the ocean comes faintly through the window.

THOMAS

Are you awake?

DESIREE

You're still here?

THOMAS
You thought I'd be gone?

DESIREE
What time is it?

THOMAS
It's nearly noon. Maybe I should be going?

DESIREE
[You don't have to.]

THOMAS
What happened last night?

DESIREE
(amused)
[You can't remember?]

THOMAS
Of course I do. I just don't make a habit of sleeping with strangers.

DESIREE
And you think I do, monsieur?

Desiree stretches, making an effort to wake up.

THOMAS
You're not like any woman I've ever met.

DESIREE
Is that a compliment?

THOMAS
It's the truth.

The clock on the nightstand STRIKES the hour.

DESIREE
So why Balbec? No one ever comes here.

THOMAS
I needed to get away.

DESIREE
To escape?

THOMAS
(nods)
You could say that.

DESIREE

Long way to come for that.

THOMAS

Yes. I suppose it is.

DESIREE

What is it you do?

THOMAS

I was a literature professor back in Chicago.

DESIREE

Was?

THOMAS

Things don't always work out. It's complicated... What about you? You haven't told me anything about yourself.

DESIREE

There's nothing much to say.

THOMAS

I don't believe that. What do you do?

DESIREE

I work small jobs. Enough to pay the bills.

THOMAS

How long have you lived here?

DESIREE

My whole life. I only left Balbec once. When I was a girl. Mama and I went to Paris on holiday.

THOMAS

You speak English well for someone who has left Balbec only once.

DESIREE

Mama was English. She was a nurse during the war. She met my father here on her way back to London. She insisted I learn English so I could escape someday. She always told me, "You'll never amount to anything here."

THOMAS

And your father?

DESIREE

He wanted to be a novelist. Mama always said he wrote good books. It's just that no one wanted to read them. We couldn't afford a house. He bought the apartment, and we lived here... One day, he didn't come home, and I never saw him again.

THOMAS

She didn't think about going back to England?

DESIREE

No. We had the apartment, and it would have meant a big change. Mama said her memories were here. She never stopped loving him, despite everything. I think part of her kept hoping he would come back. Mama died of a broken heart. That's what they said.

THOMAS

Who?

DESIREE

The neighbors. They took care of me after Mama was gone.

Desiree stares forward, lost in her thoughts.

THOMAS

Would you like me to leave?

DESIREE

Stay. It's nice having the company. I'm usually alone here in the apartment. What about you? You didn't come here with anyone?

THOMAS

My wife passed away last year in a car accident.

DESIREE

[I'm so sorry.]

THOMAS

Now that I'm here, I don't feel her with me. Not like before.

DESIREE
 [It's easy to forget. That's natural.] Mama used to say, "Le coeur juge ce qui se sent il: the heart feels what it feels."

THOMAS
 And you? Have you ever been in love?

DESIREE
 Definitely not! I don't want to make the same mistake as Mama. "L'amour. C'est un catastrophe!"

THOMAS
 (laughing)
 In that case, we should be careful.

DESIREE
 What was her name?

THOMAS
 Who?

DESIREE
 Your wife.

THOMAS
 I don't want to say.

DESIREE
 Why not?

THOMAS
 It's more difficult to forget her that way.

DESIREE
 [Perhaps I can help you to forget?]

She leans over and kisses him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Desiree is sleeping as Thomas studies her. Moonlight from the window pours over them.

THOMAS (V.O.)
 Where is she now?

Desiree's body appears blanchéd white like a marble statue in the pale light.

Her carotid artery beats in her neck.

Gradually, a smile crosses Desiree's lips as she stirs.

DESIREE
(mutters softly)
Thomas....

THOMAS (V.O.)
She's dreaming about me now. This
man she wants me to be. Her fantasy.

Desiree's eyes begin to twitch beneath her eyelids, as if she is dreaming. She murmurs gently in her sleep.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It's him she wants, not me. The
"man of her dreams." The man I can
never be.

Desiree's hand slips under her underwear as she begins to stroke herself.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
What's he doing to her now? What
does he give her that I can't?

Desiree's mouth opens as her moans of pleasure grow louder.
He settles down beside her, and drifts off to sleep.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Aren't we always alone? Even lovers
can't dream each others' dreams.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (MORNING)

Thomas wakes up to find himself alone.

ANNA (O.S.)
Thomas.

He sits up, and looks around the room.

ANNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Thomas. Answer me.

THOMAS
(startled, catching
his breath)
Anna? Is it really you? Where are
you?

ANNA (O.S.)
What are you doing, Thomas?

THOMAS

(under his breath)

This can't be happening...

(to Anna)

I don't know what you mean.

ANNA (O.S.)

The woman. Who is she?

THOMAS

How did you know? Are you spying on me?

ANNA (O.S.)

How can you sleep with another woman? What do you even know about her?

THOMAS

It's been a year. I need to move on.

ANNA (O.S.)

When we got married, you said we'd always be together.

The wind blows the curtain. It knocks over the mirror. As Thomas sets it back, he is confronted with his own reflection.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree enters from the bathroom.

DESIREE

Did I hear you talking to somebody?

THOMAS

It was no one. Sometimes I talk to myself. It helps me think.

(beat)

Come here.

Desiree slides into his lap. She throws her arms around his neck and kisses him. Thomas hesitates.

DESIREE

What's wrong?

THOMAS

My wife. I keep thinking about her.

DESIREE

Of course. It's hard losing someone you love.

Thomas gestures to a crucifix on the wall.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

It makes me feel better. I don't know why.

(beat)

You said there was an accident?

THOMAS

I don't want to talk about it.

Thomas looks down, instinctively gripping his hands.

DESIREE

I don't know what to say.

THOMAS

Don't say anything.

DESIREE

(kisses him)

Does this help?

Thomas hesitates.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

You can trust me, Thomas. You're not alone anymore.

(touches his face)

Let's not talk about the past. It's too sad. We have each other now.

Thomas and Desiree kiss deeply as they fall back together on the bed.

FADE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas lowers his head between Desiree's legs. She moans with pleasure.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree hums to herself as Thomas slowly caresses her body.

DESIREE

We'll never get tired of it, will we?

THOMAS

What?

DESIREE

This. Being together.

THOMAS

Why should we? Can you think of anything better?

Desiree leans over, and nonchalantly takes his penis into her mouth.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DESIREE AND THOMAS AT PLAY

- A) Desiree holds a bed sheet over her body as she and Thomas chase each other through the apartment.
- B) Thomas and Desiree sit naked, eating dinner at the kitchen table, as Thomas feeds her by hand.
- C) Desiree straddles Thomas as they have sex while watching themselves in the mirror.
- D) Thomas and Desiree take a bath, playfully splashing each other. Desiree screams as Thomas dunks her head in the water. She comes up laughing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

The carvings of Adam and Eve on the headboard as Desiree and Thomas make love.

THOMAS (V.O.)

We were Adam and Eve in the Garden. The first man and woman at the dawn of creation. We gladly left the world behind, walking naked about our private Eden, and taking freely of any fruit we saw hanging before us. In our innocence, we weren't tempted by the Tree of Knowledge. What we didn't know couldn't hurt us. Or so we thought.

FADE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

A trail of torn clothes on the floor leads to the bed where Desiree and Thomas make love, as the muted sound of the ocean comes in through the window.

Desiree rests her head against Thomas' shoulder as they lie in bed. She holds his hand before her face, carefully studying it.

DESIREE

It's never been like this for me with anyone before. You're a part of me now. I'm not sure where you stop, and I begin.

Desiree draws up close to Thomas.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

When you look at me, what do you see?

THOMAS

[The most beautiful woman in the world.]

DESIREE

You don't mean that.

Desiree's voice grows distant, almost trance-like.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

I'm tired of myself. Seeing the same face every day in the mirror. Do you ever wonder what it's like being someone else?

THOMAS

I don't know. Who else could I be?

DESIREE

I'm serious, Thomas!
(beat)

What's it like for you? I want to see the world through your eyes. To feel everything you do. I want to lose myself in you.

THOMAS

That isn't love.

DESIREE

Then I don't want love. I want you.

Thomas and Desiree kiss deeply as she moves his hand between her legs.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

[Touch me. Like this.]

Thomas caresses Desiree as her body writhes in pleasure. She quickly reaches orgasm.

THOMAS

That happened quickly.

DESIREE
I'm not done.

THOMAS
More?

Desiree draws up close to Thomas.

DESIREE
[Don't ever stop.]

Desiree takes his hand, and guides it over her body.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / HALLWAY - DAY

A painting depicting two nude lovers as they stand facing one another. Their stoical faces are turned slightly away as they look past each other.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

A fly buzzes around, trapped in a corked wine bottle on the nightstand as Thomas and Desiree make love.

The SLAPPING of the window shutters mimics the SOUND of the bed frame beating against the wall.

THOMAS (V.O.)
At times, Desiree seemed to disappear into a world of her own. Like a glittering mirage, just out of reach.

Thomas caresses Desiree's body, his hands gliding over her stomach, her round breasts, her curved thigh. Her eyes are shut.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Where are you? Look at me!

Desiree moans softly.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It felt like she had left me behind.
The imprints left by my fingertips disappeared the moment I lifted them.
As if I was never there.

Thomas' fingertips leave white imprints on Desiree's skin, which immediately disappear.

Thomas continues to caress Desiree's body. She appear lost in a wave of pleasure.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She was lost in the moment. Unaware I was even there... It's different for a woman. It must be. They let go. They feel it everywhere through their bodies. They scream and moan with pleasure. They surrender. While we...we attack.

Thomas enters Desiree more forcefully, as if trying to take possession of her. She looks up at him and smiles.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But in her surrender, what does she gain? Was I envious?

(beat)

She wanted this. For us to lose ourselves. To pour ourselves like water into each other's arms.

As they reach orgasm, Desiree closes her eyes.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Alone again. Why when we finally reached orgasm did we shut our eyes? When we should be closest of all, why do we retreat to our own thoughts and fantasies? Why do the French call it "the little death"?

DESIREE

Thomas!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree appears restless as they lie awake, huddled together in bed. She clings to Thomas as his attention is arrested by the fly caught in the bottle.

Thomas leans over the bed, and uncorks the bottle. The fly attempts to escape, buzzing furiously, but remains trapped.

Desiree reaches beneath her pillow, and grabs a cigarette and a lighter. She lights the cigarette, and puts it to her lips as she breathes in deeply and exhales.

THOMAS

What is it? I can tell when something is bothering you.

DESIREE

You seem distracted. Is it happening already?

THOMAS

What?

DESIREE

Are you getting tired of me?

THOMAS

Where is this coming from?

DESIREE

(matter-of-fact)

I won't blame you when it happens.
You'll leave me, won't you?

THOMAS

Never.

Desiree inhales from the cigarette again. She reaches over to the side table, and puts out the cigarette in an ashtray.

Thomas tries to kiss Desiree, but she backs away.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There's something else?

Desiree hesitates, as if uncertain whether to continue.

DESIREE

I had a dream. [It was very strange.]

THOMAS

Tell me.

DESIREE

They were in our bed.

THOMAS

Who?

DESIREE

A man and a woman. I'd never seen them before. They were having sex. At first, I thought it was us. They were wearing masks.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Two FIGURES wearing white masks, a male and a female, are making love. They suddenly stop, and sit up in the bed.

DESIREE (V.O.)

I tried to speak, but I was too scared.

THOMAS (V.O.)

Why? What about them scared you?

DESIREE (V.O.)

When they took off their masks....

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The shadowy Figures lay their masks on the bed.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

THOMAS

What did they look like?

DESIREE

They were only shadows. They just sat there, saying nothing. Then they disappeared.

THOMAS

That was all?

DESIREE

No. The bed suddenly caught fire.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The window blows open, and a strong breeze fans the flames.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree clutches Thomas.

DESIREE

I was so scared, Thomas! The whole room was burning. [It was terrible!]

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The bedroom is engulfed in flames. The two masks on the bed melt in the fire.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Terrified, Desiree buries her face in Thomas' chest.

DESIREE

I tried to scream, but I couldn't.
(beat)
Then I woke up.

Thomas tries to comfort her.

THOMAS

What do you think it means?

DESIREE

How well do we know each other?

THOMAS

I thought I knew you, Desiree. Do I?

Desiree draws her eyes level to his. She kisses him softly, lightly tracing his lips with her own.

DESIREE

Let's not talk anymore.

(beat)

Fuck me.

They embrace.

EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Thomas walks out the door. He passes by TWO TEENAGE GIRLS standing in the small garden outside the building. They look at him and giggle as they whisper to themselves. Teenage Girl #1 waves to Thomas shyly.

TEENAGE GIRL #1

Hello, monsieur.

THOMAS

Hello.

TEENAGE GIRL #1

You are the American? You stay here now, yes?

THOMAS

Yes. I'm with Desiree. Do you know her?

TEENAGE GIRL #1

The woman on the second floor? You are her boyfriend?

THOMAS

Yes.

The girls erupt in laughter.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What is it?

TEENAGE GIRL #1

She has many boyfriends, monsieur!

Puzzled, Thomas smiles awkwardly as he opens the garden gate and walks down the street.

EXT. TOWN OF BALBEC - DAY

Thomas wanders along a busy street. He gazes curiously through shop windows before arriving at the antique shop.

INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

Thomas opens the door, and enters. The Shop Owner is at the counter, reading a newspaper. He looks up, and notices Thomas browsing the shelves.

SHOP OWNER

It's good to see you again, monsieur.
Are you enjoying your stay?

THOMAS

Yes. Very much.

SHOP OWNER

If you don't mind my asking...

THOMAS

No. What is it?

SHOP OWNER

The woman you were in here with
before...

THOMAS

Yes?

SHOP OWNER

Do you know her well?

THOMAS

We're seeing each other. Why do you
ask?

SHOP OWNER

Are you aware of her reputation?

THOMAS

What reputation?

SHOP OWNER

It's not for me to judge.

THOMAS

I don't understand --

SHOP OWNER

It's nothing. Just an old man's curiosity. Do you see anything else you'd like today?

Thomas stops before the pistol in the open glass cabinet. He reaches for it, but appears to hesitate.

SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)

A fine piece, monsieur. Perhaps you'd like to buy it?

Thomas removes the pistol and the box of cartridges. He walks to the counter, and lays them down.

THOMAS

I'll take it.

SHOP OWNER

Very good, monsieur. Will there be anything else?

THOMAS

No. Thank you.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

Thomas enters, and looks around.

THOMAS

Desiree?

He peers into the empty hallway and the kitchen.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Thomas strips off his pants to his underwear, and lays down on the bed. He stares at the ceiling, deep in thought. He gradually grows tired, and shuts his eyes.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Thomas awakens naked to find his arms bound by a single rope attached to the headboard of the bed. His feet are bound to the bedposts. Desiree stands at the door to the hallway in a black, leather dominatrix outfit, brandishing a riding crop.

THOMAS

What's happening? Let me go, Desiree.

DESIREE

Don't you trust me, Thomas?

Desiree slowly approaches him.

THOMAS

Why are you doing this?

Desiree runs the riding crop along Thomas' thigh, as he struggles to get loose of the ropes.

DESIREE

(laughs)

Let's have some fun, shall we? It won't hurt too much.

THOMAS

You don't want to do this. This isn't like you.

Desiree whips his feet lightly with the riding crop.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What? Do you want to hurt me?

DESIREE

How about this?

Desiree strikes his feet harder. Thomas cries out in pain.

THOMAS

Let me loose. I'm starting to get angry.

DESIREE

(cups a hand to her ear)

What? That's not enough? You want more?

THOMAS

Why are you doing this?

DESIREE

Why should you always be in control? You can leave me anytime you want. It's my turn, now. You're going to do something for me.

Desiree looks at him sternly. For the first time there is fear in Thomas' eyes.

THOMAS

Alright. What do you want? Untie me, and we'll talk about it.

DESIREE

You're not exactly in a position to make demands, are you?

She removes her panties, climbs onto the bed, and straddles his face.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 (looking down at him)
 You know what to do.

Hesitantly, Thomas complies.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 That's it. Gently. There, you have
 it now.

Desiree slowly becomes excited, touching her breasts as she moans with pleasure. Looking back, she sees that he has grown aroused.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 [You're enjoying this, aren't you?]

She pulls away from his face, and mounts him. They begin having sex.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 Harder. That's it. Do as I say.
 It's time you learned to let go.
 Trust me... Are you enjoying this,
 Thomas? I am. Tell me you like it
 this way. Tell me you want me.

Thomas doesn't answer as the intensity of their lovemaking increases.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 Tell me!

THOMAS
 Yes...yes.

Once they reach orgasm, Desiree falls back satisfied on the pillow.

Thomas stares up at the ceiling as she runs her hands through his hair.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BATHROOM - DAY

Thomas is shaving in front of the mirror over the sink. Desiree crosses behind him toward the bedroom.

Thomas finishes washing his face. He looks up, and stares blankly at the mirror. He blinks and shakes his head. Overcome with dizziness, he steadies himself against the sink. He opens the medicine cabinet, and reaches for a bottle of pills. The label is turned away, not visible.

He swallows a pill, and closes the cabinet.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas enters. Desiree is lying in bed, waiting impatiently.

DESIREE
What took you so long?

THOMAS
(confused)
Weren't you just there with me in
the bathroom?

DESIREE
What are you talking about?

Thomas approaches the bed.

THOMAS
Nothing. Maybe I'm going crazy.

Desiree gets up, and puts on her clothes.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

DESIREE
I'm hungry. I'm going to make dinner.

She disappears into the hallway in the direction of the kitchen.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas stares out the window, looking up at the steeple. Church bells are RINGING. A breeze ruffles the hairs at the nape of his neck. The TICKING of the clock grows louder.

Anna, dressed in a white gown, appears behind him. Her face is pale. She lays her head lightly against his back.

THOMAS
(sensing her presence)
You're here, aren't you?

Anna is suddenly standing to Thomas' side. He glimpses her out of the corner of his eye. He catches his breath, and slowly turns his head. She disappears.

ANNA (V.O.)
Have you forgotten me?

Thomas turns to face Anna's image in the mirror.

THOMAS

You know I could never do that.

ANNA

But you want to, don't you? Isn't that why you're with her?

THOMAS

Let me go, Anna. She's good for me. I can't always be alone --

ANNA

You're not alone. I'm here for you, Thomas. Always have been. Even through the hard times. We loved each other. Don't you remember?

THOMAS

It wasn't like that. We fought. We weren't good for each other. Don't you remember how difficult things were?

ANNA

You need me. She knows it, too. That's why she'll leave you. It's only a matter of time.

THOMAS

You cheated on me, Anna!

ANNA

You're wrong! How can you say that?
(beat)

It's not like I wasn't tempted. Do you think it was easy? Living with someone in your condition? You weren't yourself anymore. You weren't the man I married. But I stayed by you through it all.

INT. HOUSE IN CHICAGO - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Thomas stands with his back turned to Anna as they argue.

ANNA

You're not listening to me! Look at me!

Thomas turns to face her.

THOMAS

What do you want from me?

ANNA

I want things to be like they were before. All we do is argue.

THOMAS

What happened to us, Anna? It's him, isn't it? You're always staying late at the "office." I never see you. You're sleeping with him, aren't you?

ANNA

Don't be ridiculous. I would never cheat on you.

THOMAS

Don't lie to me!

Enraged, Thomas raises his hand to strike Anna.

ANNA

Don't, Thomas!

Thomas pulls his hand back. He appears horrified.

ANNA (CONT'D)

What? Were you going to hit me?

THOMAS

I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me.

He reaches out to Anna, but she pulls away.

ANNA

Get away from me!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

ANNA

I tried to leave. But you always begged me to come back. And like a fool, I fell for it. Even after your breakdown, I stood by you.

THOMAS

I was fine before the affair. But you...you pushed me over the edge. That's what you wanted, wasn't it? You knew I was unstable. You hoped I'd go crazy so you could be with him!

ANNA

That's not true, Thomas. You were sick for years. You couldn't help what you did. But it's not like that anymore. You're better now. Even though you tried to push me away, you know, deep inside, that I'm good for you. That we belong together.

(beat)

Why do you think I came back? I wanted to make things right between us.

Anna reaches out to Thomas from the mirror.

THOMAS

You don't love me. You're just trying to destroy me and any chance I might have at happiness. Well, it's not going to work!

ANNA

Happiness? Thomas, my dear, you can never be happy until...

THOMAS

Until what?

ANNA

Until you admit what really happened. You can't lie to yourself forever.

Anna's image disappears. Thomas is left to face his own reflection in the mirror. Shaken, he sits down heavily on the bed, staring blankly ahead.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree enters from the hallway.

DESIREE

(concerned)

I heard you from the kitchen. Were you talking with someone?

Thomas stares numbly at the mirror.

THOMAS

She's watching us.

DESIREE

Who?

THOMAS
Anna. She was here.

DESIREE
You're talking about a dead woman,
Thomas!

THOMAS
She's real.

DESIREE
What? You're seeing ghosts now?

THOMAS
I don't know. Maybe.
(beat)
She won't let me go.

Desiree slaps Thomas across the face.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
What was that for?

DESIREE
Come to your senses, Thomas. It was
hard for me, too, when Mama died.
But I didn't have to pretend she was
still around.

THOMAS
I had a life before this. I need
time to adjust.
(beat)
It's all too much. I don't know if
I'm ready for this.

DESIREE
What?

THOMAS
You and me. Maybe it's too soon?

DESIREE
Then tell me. Don't lead me on. I
can't do this halfway... I don't
want to get hurt either. But I'm
not running away.

Desiree approaches Thomas, and warmly grasps his arm.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
Mama always believed things happened
for a reason. I want to believe
that. We didn't expect to find each
other, but here we are.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Maybe it's worth taking a chance? A chance that we can be happy together.

THOMAS

I don't know.

DESIREE

You're scared, Thomas. I know... You think I'll always be here for you. But that's not true. Trust me to give you back what you lost. I need you to appreciate me. Let me into your life.

THOMAS

What if I can't?

DESIREE

Look at me! Anna is gone. And she's not coming back. Ever. I'm here. I'm alive. You're afraid, I know. So am I. But I'm not going away.

Desiree takes his hand, and guides it over her face.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Touch me. I'm real.

Thomas looks nervously over at the mirror, as if half-expecting Anna to appear.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

I never want to hear her name again.

THOMAS

You're right. You're right about everything.

Thomas stands up, and takes her hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Enough talking. I'll go crazy if I stay cooped up in this apartment any longer. Let's get out of here.

DESIREE

Why don't we go to the beach? Let me get ready.

EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Thomas and Desiree walk out the door. Desiree carries a picnic basket covered with a white blanket. An OLD LADY watches from a window as Thomas and Desiree leave.

TWO WOMEN stand in the front garden and whisper as they stare.

THOMAS

I feel like we're being watched.

DESIREE

Don't mind them. They're just curious.

Desiree takes Thomas' arm as they walk out the gate and into the street.

EXT. MARCEL AVENUE - DAY

Thomas and Desiree walk arm-in-arm, passing apartments with colorful flower boxes in the windows. A sign reads "Marcel Avenue." Several children run past them, laughing.

DESIREE

[It's a perfect day, isn't it?]

Desiree leans down to pick a white daffodil from a small garden in front of a house. She twirls it in her hand as they walk.

The MAYOR, a distinguished older gentleman dressed in a jacket and vest, walks by with his overweight WIFE. He tips his hat to Desiree.

MAYOR

[Hello. You're doing well these days, mademoiselle?]

DESIREE

[Yes. Thank you.]

The mayor's Wife appears visibly upset. She whispers furiously in his ear as they walk past.

THOMAS

Do you know him?

DESIREE

Of course. He's the mayor.

As they continue walking, SEVERAL OTHER MEN greet her.

THOMAS

You must know everyone.

DESIREE

Well, it is a small town.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Desiree leans her head on Thomas' shoulder as they watch the waves beat against the shore.

DESIREE
[It's beautiful, isn't it?]

Thomas nods. Desiree reaches into the picnic basket, and offers Thomas an apple. He takes a bite as they look out at the ocean together.

A large RED BALL tossed around by the waves.

Far down the beach, a young GIRL tries to get her mother's attention, pointing to her lost ball as the tide takes it away.

YOUNG GIRL
(frantic)
[Mama! I lost my ball! Go get it,
Mama. It's floating away!]

Desiree reaches over, and takes a bite of Thomas' apple.

DESIREE
Mama took me to the beach almost
every day.

THOMAS
You miss her, don't you?

Desiree quickly stands up, and strips off her dress to reveal a white bathing suit beneath. She runs to the ocean.

DESIREE
[Come in with me!]

Desiree motions for Thomas to follow her as she dives into the water. She comes up again, laughing as she flings back her hair.

Desiree looks up at Thomas expectantly. He appears to look past her at the far horizon. Puzzled, she lays back and floats on the water.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas and Desiree are eating dinner at the table. She appears distracted as she cuts her meat forcefully with her knife.

THOMAS
Today was nice. We need to get out
more often.

Desiree refuses to look up as she takes a bite of her food.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

DESIREE

Nothing. Why should there be something wrong?

THOMAS

I know when something's upsetting you.

Desiree puts down her fork.

DESIREE

I worry. I can't help myself. What's going to happen to us, Thomas?

THOMAS

Why does anything have to happen?

DESIREE

What if you decide to go back home?

THOMAS

I told you I'm not doing that.

DESIREE

I don't know what I'd do without you.

Tears well up in Desiree's eyes.

THOMAS

You were doing fine on your own before we met.

DESIREE

But everything has changed. My life's with you now. I've never needed anyone before. It frightens me.

THOMAS

I'm not leaving you, Anna.

DESIREE

You just called me Anna.

THOMAS

No. I didn't.

DESIREE

You did.

Desiree slams her fork down on her plate angrily.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

You can't stop thinking about her,
can you?

THOMAS

She won't let me.

DESIREE

You want her to come back. You still
love her, don't deny it. It's like
she's here with us in the room.

(beat)

It's not fair. How can I compete
with a memory? How can we be together
if she's always there?

THOMAS

Calm down. You're not yourself now.

DESIREE

How do you know? You think you know
me because you fuck me?

Desiree gets up, and paces the floor.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

That's all we do! Maybe that's all
there is. I don't know. Do you
love me or not?

(off his silence)

So that's your answer?

THOMAS

You want a commitment? Do you want
to get married? Is that it? You
want me to get on my knees right now
and propose?

DESIREE

I want to know where I stand. Give
me what you gave her, Thomas. Show
me I mean everything to you. I don't
want to play games anymore.

THOMAS

I need more time.

DESIREE

We don't have time.

Frustrated, Desiree rushes out of the kitchen. Thomas follows
her.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree takes out an outfit from the closet, and quickly puts it on. She reaches for her purse lying on the bed. She turns and walks toward the door. Thomas stops her.

DESIREE

I'm leaving now. I can't stay here.

Thomas takes hold of her.

THOMAS

Desiree, listen to me. I was wrong before. It's not fair to you. I don't mean to push you away.

DESIREE

Maybe you already have. I'm not sure if I can trust you, Thomas.

THOMAS

You don't mean that.

Thomas tries to kiss her, but she pulls away.

DESIREE

Don't, Thomas. Not now.

THOMAS

I'm sorry. I'm so confused....

Desiree draws up her face to Thomas, her eyes searching his.

DESIREE

You said you came here to be alone?
Did you mean it?

THOMAS

What do you want from me, Desiree?

DESIREE

You still don't understand, do you?

Desiree walks past him.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY (LATER)

Desiree stands at the front door.

THOMAS

Talk to me. You don't need to do this.

DESIREE

I'm leaving. I have to go out.

THOMAS

For what? Where are you going?

Desiree opens the door.

DESIREE

Some place where I'm needed.

Desiree shuts the door behind her and leaves.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT BUILDING / STAIRWELL - DAY

Thomas swings open the door and looks out.

THOMAS

Come back!

He watches Desiree walk down the stairs and disappear.

He slams the door in frustration.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

Desiree enters. Thomas comes in from the bedroom.

THOMAS

Where were you? You were gone for hours.

Desiree brushes past him as she heads toward the bathroom.

DESIREE

You have no right to ask.

Thomas grasps her arm firmly.

THOMAS

No right? I'm with you. I want to know.

DESIREE

Are you?
(beat)
Let me go.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BATHROOM - DAY

Desiree turns on the faucet in the bathtub. She undresses as Thomas enters.

THOMAS

Talk to me. Say something.
Anything.

Desiree gets into the bathtub.

DESIREE

I want to be alone.

She lays her head back and shuts her eyes.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

Desiree stands at the door. She is nicely dressed, as if going out to an appointment. Thomas watches her from the bedroom.

THOMAS (V.O.)

Desiree began to leave the apartment for long stretches at a time. There was nothing to do but wait for her to return. I was beginning to feel like a "kept man."

Desiree opens the door, and prepares to leave. Thomas approaches.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Why are you always leaving? You never tell me where you're going.

DESIREE

Why do you need to know?

THOMAS

You really have to ask?

DESIREE

I always come back, don't I?

THOMAS

Why doesn't that reassure me?

Desiree kisses him.

DESIREE

[Does this reassure you?]

Thomas reaches for her.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Let me go. I have to leave now.

Desiree walks out the door.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas appears bored and restless. He opens the drawers of Desiree's dresser, and looks through her personal belongings.

THOMAS (V.O.)

What was she not telling me?

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM CLOSET - DAY (LATER)

Behind some clothes he finds an old black-and-white photo album with several pictures of Desiree as a young girl standing beside her mother at the beach. At the end of the album, Thomas finds a picture showing Desiree in a flowered dress, sitting in the arms of a MAN who appears to be her father. The picture is grainy, and the Man's face is blurred.

THOMAS (V.O.)

Did she have another lover? Was she with him now?

Thomas discovers a journal on the top shelf under a stack of magazines.

Thomas takes the journal down, and browses through it. Each page includes a handwritten list of appointments showing columns with the headings: [Name, Address, Date, Amount Paid]. Several men's names are listed multiple times. There are handwritten notes beside each entry, as well as a payment amount in francs.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What was this? Men, all of them.
Where was she meeting them? How many?

Thomas hears the front door SLAM.

DESIREE (O.S.)

Thomas, are you here?

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree enters, and sees Thomas emerge from the closet with the journal.

DESIREE

What are you doing in there? What, are you spying on me?

Thomas holds up the journal.

THOMAS

You tell me.

DESIREE

Don't ask. You don't want to know.

THOMAS

What is this list of names?
 (reads from the list)
 "Henri M...March 27...250 Francs."
 What? Are you a prostitute? Is
 this how you earn your living?

DESIREE

Stop. Please, Thomas. If you care
 about me, you'll stop asking
 questions.

A KNOCK at the front door.

THOMAS

Are you expecting someone?

DESIREE

No.

The KNOCKING grows louder. Thomas goes to the door. The
 STRANGER on the other side of the door begins pounding harder.

GUILLAUME (Stranger)

(loudly)
 [Let me in! I need to speak to you!]

THOMAS

Who is it?

Thomas opens the door slightly, and the Stranger (GUILLAUME)
 forces his way in. He pushes Thomas aside as he angrily
 confronts Desiree.

GUILLAUME

[I heard you had an American now.
 You thought you could keep such things
 from me, Marie?]

DESIREE

[Stop, Guillaume! Not here!]

GUILLAUME

[You're coming with me now!]

Guillaume grabs Desiree by the arm.

DESIREE

[I won't!]

THOMAS

Did he call you Marie? Who is this
 man?

DESIREE
Stay out of it, Thomas!

GUILLAUME
(to Thomas)
Your bitch owes me money.

Thomas stands in stunned silence.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)
(bursts out laughing)
You don't know, do you? You haven't
told him, Marie?

DESIREE
Guillaume, stop! We'll settle this
later.

THOMAS
Damn it, Desiree, what's this about?
Talk to me!

DESIREE
This isn't your concern, Thomas.

GUILLAUME
(laughs)
[Ah, this is too much!] You didn't
know your girlfriend is a whore!
How do you think she gets the money
for this nice apartment?

THOMAS
(shocked)
It's true. All those names in your
journal. You've been seeing them
all along, haven't you?

Desiree appears too distraught to answer. Thomas settles
heavily onto the bed, and buries his head in his hands.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(to Desiree)
Why didn't you tell me?

DESIREE
What? Tell you that I sleep with
men for a living? You would have
left me, Thomas.

THOMAS
My God, I don't even know your name!
What should I call you now, Desiree?
Or is it Marie?

DESIREE

(pleads)

Don't, Thomas. Don't --

GUILLAUME

I want my money, Marie.

DESIREE

There is no money. I've stopped.
I'm with Thomas now.

GUILLAUME

(laughs)

Let's see if he stays with you now!

THOMAS

I think it's time you left.

GUILLAUME

(threatening)

Mind your own business, monsieur.

DESIREE

Don't talk to him that way! Get
out.

GUILLAUME

(angrily)

You think it's that easy getting rid
of me?

Guillaume slaps Desiree hard across the cheek. She cries out, and falls down on the bed.

Thomas jumps in between them, trying desperately to stop Guillaume.

Guillaume seizes Thomas by the shoulders, and forces him against the wall.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)

You don't want to be a part of this,
monsieur, I assure you.

THOMAS

(resisting)

She's with me now. Don't ever touch
her again.

Guillaume pushes him harder, and raises a fist threateningly.

GUILLAUME

You think she loves you?

(laughs)

You don't know Marie!

DESIREE

(bursts out crying)
That's enough! I'll do whatever you
want. Just leave.

GUILLAUME

(to Desiree)
Of course, you will. You can't quit
this life. It's who you are. Tell
him how it all started. Tell him
how you came to me.

DESIREE

You're right. He needs to know the
truth... We met when I was young.
Too young to know better.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CAFE - DAY

A teen-age Desiree appears to be enamored with Guillaume as
they hold hands and sit closely at a table.

GUILLAUME

[You don't think you're beautiful,
do you?]

DESIREE

(surprised)
[I don't see myself that way.]

GUILLAUME

[But you are. You'll realize that
soon enough. Now that you're mother
is gone, what are you going to do?]

DESIREE

[I don't know.]

GUILLAUME

[You need money. I know a way.]

EXT. GUILLAUME'S MOTORCYCLE - DAY - TRAVELING

Desiree sits behind Guillaume as they speed along a road in
the picturesque, wooded countryside.

They approach a once elegant chateau in a state of disrepair;
its crumbling walls held together with ivy. Guillaume drives
through the front gate, and parks.

INT. CRUMBLING CHATEAU - DAY

The MADAME, an old lady who wears too much makeup and an ill-fitting dress, greets them at the top of the stairs. Desiree looks nervous and timid.

MADAME

(pleased)

[She'll do. She's exactly as you told me.]

She takes Desiree's hand, and leads her down a hallway.

MADAME (CONT'D)

[Don't be nervous, my dear. It will be over soon. You'll get used to it. You may even learn to like it.]

The Madame opens a door. A half-dressed OLDER MAN is waiting on the bed. He smiles at Desiree, and gets up to greet her. He takes her by the hand. Desiree looks back helplessly as the Madame shuts the door.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree flinches from the painful memory.

DESIREE

That's how it began. I've been doing this for as long as I can remember.

Thomas looks at Desiree with questioning eyes. Guillaume looks on, smirking.

THOMAS

I can't believe what I'm hearing.

GUILLAUME

Does this change things for you, monsieur? It's time you saw her for who she is.

THOMAS

Fuck you!

Thomas tries to push Guillaume away. Guillaume grabs Thomas by the throat. He pulls out a knife, and holds it up threateningly.

DESIREE

(screams)

Don't, Guillaume!

DESIREE (CONT'D)

(to Thomas)

Thomas, he's right. [This is who I am.]

Guillaume loosens his grip on Thomas' throat.

GUILLAUME

(to Thomas)

Do anything you'd like with her, monsieur...if you still want her. Just don't get in my way. [Here's a souvenir so you won't forget me.]

Smiling sadistically, Guillaume presses the knife to Thomas' cheek. He makes a quick, shallow cut before pushing him away. Thomas clutches his bleeding cheek.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)

(to Desiree)

Back to work, Marie! I don't give a damn what you do with him as long as I get paid.

Desiree sits down on the bed. She breaks down in tears.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)

(to Thomas)

A word of advice, monsieur. It would be better for you if you left now and forgot all about her.

(laughs)

I'll let you in on a secret. Marie enjoys her work. She can't help herself.

Guillaume leaves the apartment.

Stunned, Thomas sits down beside Desiree. They stare blankly ahead.

DESIREE

I didn't want you to find out this way. I wanted to tell you, but I was too afraid. Can you ever forgive me?

THOMAS

(angrily)

I need to think.

Thomas gets up to leave. Desiree grabs him by the arm. He brushes her away.

DESIREE

Don't leave!

Thomas stops, reconsidering.

THOMAS

So what do I call you?

DESIREE

[I'm whoever you want me to be,
Thomas.] Call me Desiree.

THOMAS

I thought I knew you.

DESIREE

You must know how I feel about you.
I never lied about that.

Desiree bursts out crying. Thomas hesitates before taking her into his arms.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

You'll leave me now, won't you?

(beat)

You're bleeding.

Desiree looks up, and wipes the blood from Thomas' cheek with her fingers.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Don't worry about Guillaume. I'll
talk to him. He'll be fine as long
as he gets his money.

THOMAS

You don't have to keep living this
way. Let's get away from here.
Away from him.

DESIREE

Give me some time.

THOMAS

We don't have time.

DESIREE

I can't leave. This is all that I
know.

THOMAS

So you've made your decision.

DESIREE

You can always go back home.

THOMAS

You know I can't do that. I don't
have anyone. I don't want to be
alone.

Desiree kisses him.

DESIREE

You have me.
(beat)
Wait a minute.

Desiree walks to the radio on the dresser, and turns it on.
Chopin's "Nocturnes" are playing.

Desiree approaches.

Thomas hesitates as she takes his arms and draws them about
her waist. She looks up at him. They kiss deep and long.
Desiree kicks off her shoes. Thomas begins to hum to the
music. Her bare feet are on his feet as they slowly waltz
about the room.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

Desiree stands at the door.

DESIREE

I'm going out now.

She walks out, shutting the door behind her.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Looking down from the window, Thomas sees Desiree walking to
her car which is parked across the street.

She looks up at him briefly before getting in the car. Thomas
rushes toward the door, and leaves the apartment.

EXT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT - DAY - TRACKING

Thomas as he walks rapidly across the street to his car,
just as Desiree drives away.

He catches a glimpse of Guillaume hidden in the shadows of a
nearby alley, watching him. Thomas gets into his car, and
speeds away.

EXT. THOMAS' CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Thomas follows Desiree's car through the countryside.

EXT. DESIREE'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Desiree approaches the crumbling chateau. She drives through the front gate, and parks.

EXT. CRUMBLING CHATEAU - DAY

Thomas cautiously approaches, parking outside the front gate.

He watches Desiree get out of her car and walk through the door. Thomas waits before following her inside.

INT. CRUMBLING CHATEAU - DAY

Desiree walks up a winding staircase, past TWO PROSTITUTES.

Thomas watches her until she disappears into the hallway. He slowly walks up the staircase, past Prostitute #1 and Prostitute #2 who eye him curiously. He passes an open door. Inside, he briefly glimpses PROSTITUTE #3 and PROSTITUTE #4 kissing each other as they lie in bed with a male CLIENT.

Thomas approaches slowly through the deserted hallway, lit with a red glow from a sputtering tinted light bulb on the ceiling. Thomas hears Desiree and a man LAUGHING behind the door of the next room.

Trembling with anticipation, he kneels before the keyhole, and looks inside.

THOMAS' P.O.V. - THE MAYOR - KEYHOLE MATTE

as he gropes Desiree's body. He lifts her skirt, and enters her from behind.

REACTION - THOMAS

watches through the keyhole. The floor CREAKS as he shifts his weight to get a better view. He begins to touch himself.

THOMAS' P.O.V. - DESIREE - KEYHOLE MATTE

as she looks up in the direction of the door. She smiles, as if aware he is there.

BACK TO SCENE

Excited, Thomas opens his pants, and masturbates furiously to climax. He collapses in exhaustion as he leans his head back against the door. Desiree CRIES OUT ecstatically from behind the door.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree enters. She looks around.

DESIREE

Thomas? Where are you?

Thomas suddenly enters from the hallway.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

You're still here?

THOMAS

You seem surprised.

DESIREE

I wasn't sure if you'd be here when
I got back.

Thomas says nothing, looking at her coldly.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

What is it? Speak to me.

THOMAS

I was there. I saw it all.

DESIREE

You shouldn't have done that.

Thomas eyes Desiree with a cruel, predatory stare. Suddenly, he is overtaken with fury as he takes hold of her roughly.

Desiree tries to speak as Thomas silences her with an aggressive kiss. He appears like a man possessed. She struggles as Thomas forces her to the bed.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Thomas, stop it! What's gotten into
you?

Thomas grabs Desiree, and forces her to turn around. He pulls up her skirt, and rips off her underwear. She begins to cry as he takes her from behind.

It is over quickly as he collapses on top of her.

Desiree looks shaken as she wipes away her tears. She adjusts her skirt. She turns her head away, refusing to look at him.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

You were there behind the door,
weren't you?

THOMAS

I had to know.

DESIREE

[That wasn't a good idea.]

THOMAS

It looked like you were enjoying yourself.

DESIREE

It's supposed to look that way. Why didn't you leave? You liked what you saw, seeing me with another man?

Thomas looks away. Desiree lets her head fall into his lap.

THOMAS (O.S.)

We can't do this.

DESIREE

You can always walk away.

SERIES OF SHOTS - SEX IN ROOM #2

A) Desiree lies on her back as a STRANGER #1 has sex with her. He is overweight and breathes heavily as he presses down on her. Appearing bored, Desiree looks toward the closet door.

B) Thomas peers through the closet door.

THOMAS (V.O.)

From that day on, I found myself following Desiree whenever she went out. Observing from behind the closet door, I felt like a silent conspirator. As if we were both guilty of some unspoken betrayal, a broken trust from which we could never hope to recover.

C) STRANGER #2 falls to his knees naked before Desiree, who is dressed in a black leather dominatrix outfit. He clings to her leg as she whips him with a cat o' nine tails. He cries pitifully as he masturbates to orgasm. He calmly stands up, pulling up his pants as they leave.

D) Thomas peers through the closet door, waiting for Desiree to enter the room. The SOUND of FOOTSTEPS outside the closet. The closet door opens slightly as someone slips in.

E) Thomas watches as Desiree enters the room. Stranger #3 follows her, and seizes her roughly at the edge of the bed.

Watching these strangers fucking my
Desiree made me desire her all the
more. But when we were together,
just us, something was missing.

- F) STRANGER #4 takes Desiree from behind. Desiree stares ahead without emotion in the direction of the closet door. The man comes quickly and calmly puts on his clothes. He walks to the door and opens it. He pauses before leaving.

STRANGER #4
[Thank you, mademoiselle.]

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas and Desiree lie in bed together. They appear uncertain and distant.

DESIREE
We never talk about it. Maybe we
should.

THOMAS
What?

DESIREE
It doesn't bother you? Me sleeping
with other men.

THOMAS
Do you want it to?

DESIREE
[Perhaps.] You're jealous?

THOMAS
Of course, I am. It's not that.

DESIREE
What is it then? Tell me.

THOMAS
Maybe you're enjoying yourself too
much?

DESIREE
What are you afraid of? That I'll
like it so much I'll leave you for
one of them? Is that it? Do you
think sex is all we have? Maybe you
want to join us next time?

THOMAS
I don't want to share you with anyone.

DESIREE

You want me to quit? What are you willing to give up in return?

THOMAS

What do you mean?

DESIREE

You're asking me to make a sacrifice. What are you willing to give up for me?

THOMAS

I don't understand--

DESIREE

You haven't forgotten about her, have you?

THOMAS

Anna?

DESIREE

We'll never really be together until you've left her behind for good.

THOMAS

It's not so easy. I can't just pretend she never existed.

DESIREE

If you want me, you will.

THOMAS

You'll quit seeing them?

(hopeful)

You can live a normal life. Get a job. You can work in a shop, a restaurant. I will too. We'll find a way to make ends meet.

DESIREE

Only if things change. I need all of you, Thomas. Not just the part that wants to go to bed with me.

THOMAS

It was never just that.

DESIREE

Prove it.

THOMAS

How?

Thomas and Desiree hear a KNOCK at the door.

DESIREE
[Who is it?]

GUILLAUME (O.S.)
[You know who it is, Marie.]

DESIREE
[It's open.]

The door opens to reveal Guillaume, leaning against the jamb.

GUILLAUME
[You owe me something, Marie.]

DESIREE
[What are you talking about?]

GUILLAUME
[You're late. I've come to get my
money.]

DESIREE
(nervous)
[I'm sorry. I was going to. Let me
go get it now.]

Desiree and Thomas get up from the bed. She goes into the hallway to collect her money.

GUILLAUME
(to Thomas)
You're still here. You must be a
desperate man, living with a whore!

THOMAS
You don't know her.

Desiree returns to the bedroom, and hands Guillaume the money.

DESIREE
[Don't do anything crazy, Guillaume.]

GUILLAUME
[Why would I do that?]

DESIREE
[It's time you left.]

GUILLAUME
(leaving)
[Don't make me come back.]

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Desiree browses through her closet for clothes to wear. She picks out a dress, and begins putting it on.

DESIREE

I have to go out now.

THOMAS

I know.

EXT. MARCEL AVENUE - DAY

Thomas wanders through the bustling crowd. His limp is pronounced. Stranger #4, the man from the brothel, holds his young DAUGHTER's hand as they walk past him. Thomas looks back at him briefly, as if trying to place his face, before going on.

EXT. MARCEL AVENUE - DAY (LATER)

Thomas glances down an alley at a couple passionately kissing. A YOUNG WOMAN with a strong resemblance to Desiree has her back against the wall and her face partially concealed, as the YOUNG MAN gropes her.

THOMAS

(calls out)

Desiree!

The startled couple runs away.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas appears reflective as he gazes out the window.

THOMAS (V.O.)

From that point on, an unspoken truce was declared between us. Neither of us dared to mention Desiree's secret rendezvous outside of town. We tried to act as if nothing had changed, but of course everything had.

Thomas looks up at the church steeple.

DESIREE (O.S.)

What are you doing there? Why don't you come and join me?

Thomas turns around. Desiree lies nude in bed with her head propped up on her hand, eying him steadily.

THOMAS

I don't know if I can do this anymore.

Desiree tries to coax Thomas to join her.

DESIREE
 (smiles coquettishly)
 [What? You don't want me?]

THOMAS
 You know that's not what I meant.

Thomas looks back out the window. Frustrated, Desiree falls back on the bed.

INT. BROTHEL - DAY

Thomas walks down the hallway, and glances through a door at a PROSTITUTE sitting at the edge of the bed. She smokes a cigarette and eyes him with a cold, predatory look.

He cautiously approaches Room #2. Thomas kneels before the keyhole, and looks inside.

THOMAS' P.O.V. - OBESE MAN - KEYHOLE MATTE

Desiree is bound by ropes in a spread-eagle position on the bed. She looks away as an obese MAN fumbles with her breasts, breathing heavily as he pleasures himself.

REACTION - THOMAS

as he watches through the keyhole. He appears disgusted, and turns away. His back against the door, he slides to the floor as he stares blankly ahead.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Desiree lie far apart in bed. They stare up in frustration at the ceiling.

DESIREE
 What do you want from me?

THOMAS
 I don't want you seeing them anymore.

DESIREE
 You don't seem to mind watching us.

THOMAS
 I have money. I'll take care of you.

DESIREE
 You know I don't need that.

THOMAS

(frustrated)

How can you do this to me? To us?

Desiree draws near to Thomas, and slides into his arms. She lays her head on his chest, looking away.

DESIREE

I don't know. I'm not sure I understand myself.

(beat)

Maybe it's just easier being with strangers.

Thomas strokes Desiree's hair.

THOMAS

Don't you remember what it was like when we first met? It was so easy. But this...I don't know how to do this.

Desiree pulls up to Thomas, and kisses him. He hesitates before returning her kiss.

DESIREE

(reassuring)

Let me show you.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Thomas and Desiree make love with a renewed intimacy. They stare at each other as they reach orgasm, before collapsing together on the bed. The bedroom is dim, lit only by a flickering candle on the nightstand throwing their shadows on the wall.

DESIREE

(satisfied)

Why can't it always be like this?

THOMAS

Maybe it can be.

DESIREE

I don't want you following me anymore. It's not good for us.

THOMAS

(nods)

I know.

Thomas turns on his side. He reaches over, and lightly traces Desiree's shoulders with his hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What's it like for you? I'm curious.

DESIREE

(laughs)

What? In bed?

THOMAS

What's so funny?

DESIREE

What do you want me to say?

THOMAS

Anything that comes to mind.

DESIREE

(whispers)

Touch me. I'll tell you.

Desiree closes her eyes as Thomas' hand moves over her breasts.

THOMAS

What do you think about?

DESIREE

I don't think about anything. I forget who I am. I leave the world behind. There's only you.

(beat)

It feels like I'm being picked up by a wave. Like I'm drowning. My lips get numb when you kiss me. I feel my breasts under your hands. You touching me everywhere. Then I feel you inside me. My body's filled with you. I want to keep you there. I never want you to leave.

THOMAS

But that feeling doesn't last, does it?

DESIREE

(shakes her head)

You disappear. I can't find you.

THOMAS

Does it scare you?

DESIREE

Only for a moment.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

(beat)

But then I hear you breathing in the dark. It's like you're far away, but I don't feel alone... I'm happy. I feel myself floating away.

Thomas takes her hand, and kisses the inside of her palm.

THOMAS

I'm right here.

DESIREE

Tell me I don't have to be afraid. Tell me you love me.

THOMAS

I can't do that.

(beat)

Let's not say the word.

DESIREE

Why not?

THOMAS

It will ruin everything.

DESIREE

I know.

Desiree sits up.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

What if love's not what we need?

(beat)

What if there's no word for what we have? Maybe it's something that's never satisfied. That always keeps us wanting more. I don't want this to end.

THOMAS

It doesn't have to.

DESIREE

Do you really believe that?

Desiree settles back against Thomas' chest as they stare forward anxiously in the darkness.

INT. BROTHEL / CLOSET - DAY

Thomas slips in, and anxiously peers out.

Desiree enters Room #2 with a CLIENT. He immediately pushes her head down, demanding oral sex. Desiree kneels down, and begins to loosen his belt.

THOMAS (V.O.)

Despite my promise to stop following Desiree, I couldn't stay away. The more I wanted her, the more obsessed I became. I had to see. To witness each betrayal. I couldn't help myself.

INT. BROTHEL / CLOSET - DAY (LATER)

Thomas watches Desiree arguing with the Client. She holds out her hand, demanding money. The Client refuses, and clumsily attempts to remove her clothes.

Desiree resists, pushing back. The Client strikes her on the face. She cries out as he rips off her blouse. He attempts to rape her.

INT. BROTHEL / ROOM #2 - DAY (LATER)

Thomas flings open the closet door and assaults the surprised Client.

THOMAS

Stop it!

Thomas begins beating him savagely. The Client falls to his knees.

CLIENT

[Have mercy, monsieur! I didn't know what I was doing!]

THOMAS

(enraged)
Didn't know!

Thomas strikes the man with his fist repeatedly. Desiree looks on in horror, and tries desperately to pull Thomas away.

DESIREE

What are you doing, Thomas? You'll kill him! Let him go!

Thomas grabs the man, and pushes him roughly out the door.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

The front door SLAMS shut as Thomas and Desiree enter the apartment, quarreling loudly as they walk into the bedroom.

THOMAS

I can't take it anymore! This has got to stop, Desiree! It's either them or me!

DESIREE

You promised you wouldn't follow me... You scared me, Thomas.

(panicked)

Do you know what you've done? Do you think Guillaume is going to let you get away with beating up a client? He'll come back for us.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas opens the drawer of the nightstand.

He takes out the pistol, and places it on the nightstand.

THOMAS

If he does, I'll be ready.

DESIREE

(alarmed)

Where did you get that?

THOMAS

The antique shop. I thought we might need it.

DESIREE

Get rid of it.

Thomas puts the pistol back into the drawer.

THOMAS

Just tell him.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas hears Desiree having a heated conversation on the telephone in the hallway.

DESIREE (O.S.)

(into phone)

[I understand. Stop shouting...

(beat)

I'll tell him. It won't happen again!]

Desiree hangs up, and enters the bedroom.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

He's upset. I have to go talk to him.

THOMAS

I'll come with you.

DESIREE

No. That would only make it worse.

Desiree walks to the door and leaves.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

Thomas looks out the window, and sees Desiree crossing the street into the church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The dim sanctuary appears to be deserted as Desiree and Guillaume argue in hushed voices in front of the altar.

GUILLAUME

[He has to leave. Today!]

DESIREE

[It won't happen again, Guillaume!
I'll talk to him.]

GUILLAUME

[It's too late. If I see him again,
I'll kill him. You know I mean it,
Marie!]

DESIREE

[I love him. This is the way it has
to be.]

GUILLAUME

(raises a hand to
strike her)

[Bitch! You're not listening to
me!]

An OLD WOMAN emerges from behind a nearby pillar. She looks up, frightened, and quickly shuffles past.

OLD WOMAN

(crosses herself)
[My God!]

The door of the church bursts open. Thomas stands there.

THOMAS

Stop! I warned you not to touch
her!

GUILLAUME

Stay away --

DESIREE

Thomas!

Desiree breaks free from Guillaume, and runs to Thomas.
They quickly leave the church together.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

Thomas and Desiree rush back in, and close the door behind
them. She hurriedly locks it.

DESIREE

(panicked)

He's coming for us. He wants to
kill you. We have to leave!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree makes preparations to leave, throwing clothes from
the dresser onto the bed. Thomas approaches her, and calmly
takes hold of her hand.

THOMAS

We have to hurry. Don't panic.
We'll go to a hotel. We won't come
back until we're sure it's safe.

Desiree wraps her arms around him for reassurance.

DESIREE

I'm scared.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas and Desiree hear the lock being MANIPULATED in the
door. Thomas rushes to the drawer of the nightstand, and
removes the pistol.

The door opens, and Guillaume drops the screwdriver used to
jimmy the lock.

Furious, he heads straight for Desiree as she cries out in
fear.

GUILLAUME

[You bitch! I told you to stay away
from him. Look at the trouble he's
caused!]

Thomas steps between them.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)
Stay away. I'm not playing this
time.

Thomas pulls the pistol from behind his back, and points it
at Guillaume.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)
(surprised)
That's not a good idea, monsieur.
Someone could get hurt.

Guillaume moves quickly to seize Desiree from behind, wrapping
his arm tightly around her throat. She looks terrified,
gasping for air.

Guillaume cautiously walks toward Thomas, dragging Desiree
along with him as he beckons for Thomas to hand the pistol
over.

GUILLAUME (CONT'D)
Give it to me. Let's not let things
get out of control... You're going
to leave here, and never come back.
You've had your fun with Marie.
It's over.

Suddenly Guillaume pushes Desiree away, and lunges for the
pistol. The two men desperately struggle as it falls to the
floor.

Guillaume grabs Thomas by the throat, and begins strangling
him. Choking, Thomas motions for Desiree to flee.

Desiree leaps on Guillaume's back, and attempts to pull him
away from Thomas.

THOMAS
Hold on to him!

DESIREE
I'm trying!

Enraged, Guillaume reaches behind him to grab Desiree, and
he throws her aside. Thomas frees himself as he steps back,
gasping for breath.

Thomas quickly recovers, and charges Guillaume. Thomas gets
the upper hand, and begins beating Guillaume mercilessly
across the face.

THOMAS
There's a souvenir for you!

The two men struggle at the foot of the bed. Guillaume regains control, and throws Thomas to the ground. Guillaume begins kicking him viciously.

GUILLAUME
I've had enough of you!

DESIREE (O.S.)
[Guillaume! Look at me!]

Guillaume turns his head to find Desiree pointing the pistol at him.

GUILLAUME
(reaching for the
pistol)
[You won't do it, Marie. Give it to
me.]

DESIREE
[Don't make me, Guillaume.]

Desiree's hands tremble as she fumbles with the pistol, almost dropping it. Looking away, she fires.

The bullet strikes Guillaume directly in the forehead. He falls spread-eagled on the bed. Blood slowly spreads over the white bed sheet. Desiree lets the pistol fall to the floor.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
(disbelieving)
Is he dead?

Thomas checks Guillaume's neck for a pulse.

THOMAS
We won't have to worry about him
anymore.

Thomas and Desiree gaze down at Guillaume's corpse, staring up with open eyes.

DESIREE
I can't look at him!

There is a loud COMMOTION from the floor below. The SOUND of FOOTSTEPS rapidly climbing the stairs.

A WOMAN appears in the open doorway. She SCREAMS.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

Thomas and Desiree watch as several POLICE OFFICERS inspect the bedroom.

POLICE OFFICER #1 looks down at Guillaume's body lying on the bed.

INSPECTOR ALAIN GABRIEL, the Chief of Police, and his assistant, INSPECTOR LOUIS LAURENT, appear at the door. Inspector Gabriel is a well-dressed man in his 50s. He appears distinguished with manicured nails and a carefully groomed, grey-speckled beard. Inspector Laurent is a by-the-book police officer in his 30s.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
[What is your name, mademoiselle?]

DESIREE
[Marie Simonet.]

Inspector Gabriel shows them his badge.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
[I'm Inspector Alain Gabriel and this is Inspector Louis Laurent. I understand the victim's name was Guillaume Morel. Did you know him?]

DESIREE
[He was an acquaintance. He's been making threats against me.]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
(to Thomas)
And who are you?

THOMAS
Thomas Ketzler.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
You live here also? I'd like to see your passport, monsieur.

THOMAS
Just one moment.

Thomas quickly retrieves his passport from the bedroom. He returns and presents it to Inspector Gabriel who briefly examines it.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
The neighbors report hearing a loud struggle taking place. You said he made threats against you?

DESIREE
He attacked us!
(beat)
He followed us here.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

He said he wanted to kill us both.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

I'm going to need you both to come into the station and answer questions.

Desiree looks questioningly at Thomas.

THOMAS

Let's go.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

(to Inspector Laurent)

[Bring the body to the station. We're going to need forensics to examine it.]

Thomas and Desiree appear anxious as they are escorted away.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Desiree and Thomas sit at the desk, waiting impatiently. Inspectors Gabriel and Laurent enter, and sit down across from them.

INSPECTOR LAURENT

I'm sorry to make you wait.

DESIREE

You've kept us here for hours. Can we leave now?

INSPECTOR LAURENT

I'm afraid that's not possible.

(beat)

I've asked around. Your reputation precedes itself, Mademoiselle Simonet. You don't deny you've been working in the brothel for years?

DESIREE

Why should I? Some of the men in your department are frequent visitors. Maybe you'd like to stop by and meet the girls, monsieur?

Desiree sees a box of cigarettes in Inspector Laurent's shirt pocket.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

[May I?]

Inspector Laurent nods, and offers Desiree a cigarette. Her hand trembles as she puts it to her lips. He lights it.

INSPECTOR LAURENT
You're nervous, mademoiselle?

DESIREE
Should I be?

INSPECTOR LAURENT
You and Monsieur Morel were more than just acquaintances, weren't you?

(beat)
He didn't like you having a relationship with Monsieur Ketzner, did he? It was bad for business. You both wanted him dead. Come now, it's time to level with us. What are you trying to hide?

THOMAS
Perhaps you should ask Inspector Gabriel?

Inspector Gabriel looks at Thomas warily.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
Is there something you'd like to say?

THOMAS
Perhaps we should speak in private, Inspector.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
I want to hear Mademoiselle Simonet's answer.

THOMAS
(angrily)
Leave her out of it! It was me. I shot the bastard. He would have killed us both.

DESIREE
Thomas!

Thomas holds up his hand to silence her.

THOMAS
What the hell is this? Why are we even here, Inspector? It was a simple case of self-defense. Can't you see that? When you have proof of a crime, then you can arrest us. Until then, we don't have anything to say.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
(to Inspector Laurent)
[Why don't you take Mademoiselle
Simonet out? I want to talk to
Monsieur Ketzler alone.]

Inspector Laurent and Desiree leave the room. Inspector
Gabriel and Thomas eye each other.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You're a long way from home, Monsieur
Ketzler.

THOMAS
Yes. I suppose so.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
You're running away from something?

THOMAS
Are you always so suspicious of
people?

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
That's my job. You don't seem to
want to answer the question.

THOMAS
It's a long story.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
Let's hope it ends well.
(beat)
You appear to have found what you're
looking for.

THOMAS
What do you mean?

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
Marie Simonet. She's a beautiful
woman. You don't want to share her
with anyone, do you? Any man would
feel the same way. Of course,
Monsieur Morel had different ideas.

THOMAS
I fail to see your point, Inspector.

Inspector Gabriel pauses to reflect, drumming his fingers on
the table.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
I sympathize with your situation,
monsieur.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL (CONT'D)

It must be difficult falling for a prostitute. I've seen it before. Always the same story. You beg her to stop, but she refuses. She's caught up in the life. She promises you the others mean nothing. Fucking for her is like a business transaction. She insists it's different with you. But you know better.

THOMAS

It's not like that.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

(leans forward)

She's good in bed, isn't she? Like no other woman you've known before. So why does she have to be with other men? A man has to wonder.

THOMAS

You seem to be taking a personal interest in this case, Inspector.

(beat)

I trust her.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

(laughs)

A whore? She's not worth your time... You're covering up for her, aren't you? Tell me the truth.

THOMAS

What do you want from me?

Inspector Gabriel pushes a pen and note pad across the table.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

Tell me what really happened. Put everything down.

Thomas stares intently at Inspector Gabriel.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL (CONT'D)

What is it? Why aren't you writing?

THOMAS

This isn't the first time you've seen her, Inspector? Is it?

Inspector Gabriel taps the note pad.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
I'm losing patience, monsieur.

THOMAS
I saw you there.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
Where?

THOMAS
In the brothel. With her.

Inspector Gabriel leans forward menacingly.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
You're lying!

THOMAS
I was behind the closet door. I saw everything.

Inspector Gabriel glares at Thomas.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL
Come with me. This isn't over.

Inspector Gabriel gets up angrily, and opens the door. He signals to Inspector Laurent and Desiree waiting outside in the lobby.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL (CONT'D)
(to Inspector Laurent)
[Escort them out.]
(to Thomas and Desiree)
You're free to go. For now. We may have more questions. Don't leave town.

EXT. OUTSIDE POLICE STATION - DAY

Thomas and Desiree exit. They walk rapidly down the street. Desiree suddenly stops.

DESIREE
[That was terrible.] I've never been so scared. I didn't think they'd ever let us leave.

THOMAS
They don't have a case.

DESIREE
You said you did it. You shot Guillaume. Why?

THOMAS
You should know by now.

Desiree draws close to Thomas as he wraps his arms around her.

DESIREE
It's going to be alright, isn't it?

THOMAS
I don't know.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Desiree stare forward as they lie in bed. Thomas reaches out to her, and begins to caress her body. She gently pushes him away.

DESIREE
I can't do this.

THOMAS
What's wrong?

DESIREE
Inspector Gabriel. He's not going to give up, is he?

THOMAS
Don't worry. I told you. He knows I was there. He wouldn't risk it.

DESIREE
Do you think anyone would believe us, Thomas?

Desiree lays her head on his chest. Thomas caresses her hair.

THOMAS
Go to sleep. We'll talk about it tomorrow.

Desiree drifts off to sleep in his arms.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Desiree lies asleep beside Thomas as he looks up at the ceiling. He appears lost in thought.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Thomas and Anna face one another. A PRIEST stands behind them.

THOMAS

I take you, Anna, to be my wife. To have and to hold from this day forward. For better or worse. For richer or poorer. In sickness and in health. Until death do us part. This is my solemn vow.

PRIEST

You may kiss the bride.

They kiss.

INT. HOTEL ROOM (BALBEC) - DAY

Anna laughs as Thomas carries her across the threshold.

Thomas lowers her gently onto the bed. He takes off his tuxedo jacket, and lies down beside Anna. Taking her hand, he notices that she is wearing a gold bracelet with a crucifix charm.

THOMAS

(off-hand)

What's this? I haven't seen it before.

ANNA

Do you like it? I saw it in a shop today.

Thomas kisses the open palm of Anna's hand. He begins touching her, but she pulls away.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Not yet, dear. There will be enough time for that.

Anna takes Thomas by the hand, and leads him to the window.

A white curtain flaps in the breeze as they take in the ocean view. It's the familiar beach of Balbec.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I always wanted it to be like this.

Thomas smiles as he brushes back Anna's hair from her face.

THOMAS

Come here.

Thomas pulls Anna to him as he wraps his arms around her. With their backs to the window, they find their image reflected in a large, oval mirror beside the bed, similar to the mirror in Desiree's bedroom.

ANNA

Sometimes I worry, Thomas.

THOMAS

About what?

ANNA

What if we become like all the other married couples we know? Treating each other like strangers.

THOMAS

We won't.

ANNA

Will you always love me? Just like you do now?

THOMAS

Of course. Where is this coming from, Anna?

ANNA

Promise me it will always be this way.

THOMAS

Love is forever. Do you believe that?

ANNA

(nods)
I want to.

They kiss.

Thomas leads Anna to the bed. He takes her in his arms as they lie down together. She smiles up at him.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas continues staring up at the ceiling.

THOMAS
(under his breath)
I miss you, Anna.

Desiree stirs awake, and looks at him.

DESIREE
(drowsy)
What was that, Thomas? What did you
say?

THOMAS
It's nothing.
(kisses her)
I missed you. Let's go back to sleep.

Desiree wraps herself in Thomas' arms as she falls back
asleep.

BEGIN DREAM:

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anna, dressed in a white, translucent nightgown, walks out
of the mirror, and stands over Thomas as he sleeps. She
looks down at him tenderly.

She leans down and whispers in his ear. A breeze ruffles
his hair.

ANNA
You can't escape me, Thomas.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Under the full moon, the waves appear like dark, rolling
sheets of glass. Far down the beach, Thomas and Anna walk
together, hand in hand. Anna is dressed in a long white
dress, and appears like a ghost. They pause to look up at
the moon.

END DREAM.

Thomas awakens and sits up with a start. He looks down at
Desiree sleeping. He leans over her, and brushes his hand
against her cheek.

He gets up, and walks to the window. He stares up at the
full moon.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Desiree lies in bed with Thomas, casually tracing her
forefinger on his chest.

DESIREE
 (matter-of-fact)
 Last night. When you woke me up.
 It was Anna, wasn't it? I thought I
 heard you say her name.

THOMAS
 You're just imagining things.

Desiree sits up, and looks at Thomas with a concerned expression.

DESIREE
 Tell me the truth. Have you been
 thinking about her?

THOMAS
 (defensively)
 Of course not.

Thomas gently takes hold of her hand. Glancing down, he sees that she is wearing a gold bracelet with a crucifix charm similar to the one that Anna wore on their honeymoon.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 Where did you get this?

DESIREE
 I bought it the other day. You didn't
 notice? I thought you'd like it.

Thomas hesitates.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
 What is it?

THOMAS
 Anna had one just like it.

DESIREE
 [That's ridiculous!]

Desiree's face is flushed in anger as she reaches for her clothes from the floor.

THOMAS
 You don't believe me?

Desiree gets up, and hurriedly puts her clothes on.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 Where are you going?

DESIREE
 You have no right to ask.

THOMAS

I thought things were going to change?

DESIREE

I thought so too.
(exasperated)
Don't wait up for me.

Desiree opens the door, and walks out without looking back.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas rummages through the closet. He picks up a notebook from the top shelf under some folded clothes, and flips through it before putting it down.

Bored, he begins walking in the direction of the hallway. Reflected in the mirror, Anna eyes Thomas coldly as he walks past without noticing her. (The crack at the top of the mirror has grown noticeably larger.)

ANNA

Your whore. Do you know who she's with now?

Surprised, Thomas stops. A chill runs through him. He looks afraid. He slowly faces Anna.

ANNA (CONT'D)

She has an artist friend. She's in his studio now. They're talking about you.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. ARTIST'S STUDIO - DAY

The small, cramped studio is filled with paint supplies and displays numerous paintings on the walls. The studio is dimly lit with blacked out windows. Desiree and the ARTIST are talking on the couch. He is the same man Thomas witnessed earlier kissing the woman in the alley. He is a handsome Bohemian type in his 20s, with long unkempt hair. A shaft of light through a half-opened window falls on a painting placed on an easel behind them. The painting depicts a nude woman with a strong resemblance to Desiree.

DESIREE

[He's still hearing voices. I don't know if he's crazy or not. Sometimes I feel like I don't know him at all. Things seem to get better. But it never lasts. I don't know if I can stay with him anymore.]

ARTIST
[You deserve better.]

DESIREE
[I deserve you. Is that what you mean?]

ARTIST
[You have to leave him. You know that.]

DESIREE
[I can't. Not yet.]

ARTIST
[Do you love him?]

DESIREE
(uncertain)
[I'm not sure anymore.]

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Anna looks on stoically, waiting for Thomas' reaction.

ANNA
You can't trust her, Thomas. What are you going to do?

Thomas paces nervously. He appears to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He grips his head in frustration as a low moan escapes his lips.

THOMAS
(shouts)
I don't know!

ANNA
You're afraid to talk to her, aren't you? You think she'll leave you. Maybe that's what you need. You're not happy, Thomas.
(beat)
You can't keep ignoring what happens whenever she goes away. She's not being faithful to you. Not like I am.

THOMAS
Why can't you let me go?

ANNA

You wouldn't know what to do without me, Thomas.

Anna vanishes.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - MORNING

Desiree comes in. Her clothes and hair are disheveled. She has reddened eyes as if she's been crying.

Thomas sits up in bed. He appears exhausted and rubs his eyes. He is unshaven and wears his clothes from the night before.

Thomas stands up and confronts her.

THOMAS

Where were you last night? Don't leave me again like that!

DESIREE

I stayed at a friend's place.

THOMAS

What friend?

(no answer)

Answer me! Don't treat me this way, Desiree!

Desiree appears nonplussed as she walks in the direction of the kitchen.

DESIREE

I'm hungry. We'll talk later.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BATHROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas stares at his reflection in the mirror. He looks exhausted with dark circles under his eyes.

He swings open the mirror. He reaches for the bottle of pills. The label for Thorazine is now visible, with directions for treatment of schizophrenia.

His hand trembles as he quickly opens the bottle, and swallows several pills. Thomas SLAMS the mirror shut.

DESIREE (O.S.)

(from bedroom)

Thomas, what are you doing in there?

He continues to stare at his reflection, his eyes empty of emotion.

THOMAS

(shouts)

Give me a minute!

Thomas plugs the drain, and turns on the faucet. He begins washing his face. Anna's image appears in the mirror as she watches him with a cold, stoical expression. He looks up just as she disappears.

Thomas starts to wash his face again. He suddenly sees Anna's reflection in the water staring up at him. Startled, he steps back.

Steam rises from the hot water, obscuring the mirror. The blurred image of a woman appears behind the fogged glass. Hesitantly, Thomas reaches out, and sweeps his hand across a narrow section of the mirror. Anna's EYES look back at him with a menacing glare. Thomas shudders, and smashes the mirror with his fist.

Desiree rushes in.

DESIREE

What are you doing to yourself,
Thomas? What's wrong with you?

There is cold fear in Thomas' eyes. He slowly turns to Desiree.

THOMAS

I don't know.

INT. DESIREE'S BEDROOM / APARTMENT - DAY

Thomas stares out the window, his eyes filled with pain. Desiree approaches him from behind, putting her hand lightly on his shoulder. He flinches, and pulls her hand away.

DESIREE

What's happening to you? Answer me.
Thomas!

Ignoring Desiree, Thomas fixes his eyes on the SCREECHING sea gulls. He slams the window shut.

THOMAS

(under his breath)

They're driving me crazy.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / HALLWAY - DAY

Desiree appears bored, smoking a cigarette as she leans against the door. She observes Thomas in the kitchen with disinterest as he mumbles to himself and slams several cabinet doors in frustration.

DESIREE

What's the matter, Thomas? You look like you'd rather be somewhere else.

THOMAS

I feel trapped here.

DESIREE

No one is forcing you to be here. Why don't you go for a walk?

Thomas enters the hallway. He pauses to inspect a painting on the wall depicting a woman resembling Desiree. She is lying nude on the couch in the Artist's studio.

THOMAS

This one's new. I can smell the paint. You never told me about the artist you know.

DESIREE

(surprised)

He's a friend. I've known him for years. How did you know? Have you been following me again?

THOMAS

I'm just curious why you never mentioned him before.

DESIREE

You never asked. There's nothing to say.

Desiree taps out the cigarette butt on the floor.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

Are you jealous?

Thomas walks past Desiree without looking at her.

THOMAS

(coldly)

That's a bad habit.

DESIREE

It's never bothered you before.

THOMAS

I'm leaving.

Thomas reaches the front door. He opens it and leaves.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Thomas walks down a street, and stops to observe a crowd of small CHILDREN playing. A CLOWN entertains a group of GIRLS at a birthday party. He BEEPS his horn, scaring a YOUNG GIRL who runs crying to a WOMAN who embraces her.

Thomas enters the playground through a gate. He climbs onto an empty swing set, and starts to swing. For a moment, he appears happy as he kicks his feet in the air. He quickly jumps off.

A YOUNG BOY runs up to him, and hugs his leg.

YOUNG BOY
[Papa! Where have you been? I've missed you.]

Thomas pats him on the head.

THOMAS
[I'm not your father.]

Thomas looks about for assistance as the Young Boy's embarrassed MOTHER comes to his aid.

MOTHER
[Thomas, come here! Don't talk to strangers.]

The Young Boy looks at his mother, surprised. He continues to cling to Thomas' leg.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
(to Thomas)
[Pardon my son, monsieur. He hasn't seen his father in years.]

THOMAS
[It's not a problem.]

Thomas bends down to the Young Boy.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
[Thomas? That's my name too.]

The Mother takes the Young Boy by the hand, and leads him away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Thomas continues walking. He stops before L'Hôtel Albertine.

INT. HOTEL / RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Thomas approaches the reception desk. The Receptionist, an attractive woman in her 20s, greets him.

RECEPTIONIST

[Hello. Would you like a room for this evening?]

THOMAS

Yes. Would Room 22 be available? My wife and I stayed there on our honeymoon.

RECEPTIONIST

[That's wonderful.] Where is your wife? Will she be arriving soon?

THOMAS

I'm afraid we're not together.

RECEPTIONIST

(puzzled)

I'm sorry, sir. Let me check for you.

The Receptionist she checks the computer.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Yes. Room 22 is available. Do you have any bags? I can have them brought up for you?

THOMAS

No. That won't be necessary.

She reaches beneath the counter, and hands Thomas a key.

RECEPTIONIST

I hope you enjoy your stay.

She watches curiously as Thomas walks away.

INT. HOTEL / ROOM 22 - DAY

Thomas opens the door and enters. The dim room appears seedy and unkempt. The flowered wallpaper has yellowed with the years.

He walks to the window and looks out. The sky is grey and overcast. The curtains are faded and torn. He turns and looks at the mirror.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HOTEL / ROOM 22 - DAY

At the window, Thomas holds Anna as they look at their reflection in the mirror.

ANNA

Promise me it will always be this way.

END FLASHBACK.

Thomas sighs heavily, and shakes his head. He walks toward the bed, and stops at the nightstand.

INSERT - MATCHBOX, which reads:

[Welcome to L'Hôtel Albertine]

BACK TO SCENE

Thomas picks up the matchbox, and puts it in the pocket of his pants. He walks out of the room.

INT. HOTEL / RECEPTION AREA - DAY (LATER) - DAY

Thomas walks past the reception desk toward the door.

RECEPTIONIST

Will you be coming back, monsieur?

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas and Desiree lie in bed with their backs to each other.

DESIREE

What's happening to us? Things are getting worse, Thomas. One moment, you're fine. The next, it feels like I don't know you at all.

THOMAS

(uncertain)
I'm not sure myself.

DESIREE

I miss you, Thomas. The way it was. Sometimes I look in your eyes, and it scares me. It's like I'm living with another man.

THOMAS

Sometimes, I don't even recognize myself.

DESIREE

What do you mean?

They sit up.

THOMAS

I'm ill, Desiree. I thought things were getting better. That I could control it...

DESIREE

That explains the voices. Seeing Anna again. The way you stare out the window with that empty look in your eyes.

(beat)

Maybe you don't need to be here.

THOMAS

What are you saying?

DESIREE

You should go back home. That's where you belong. You can get help there. You know it's true?

Anna appears standing before the bed.

ANNA

It's time to go home, Thomas.

Thomas stares forward in stunned silence.

DESIREE

Thomas, why don't you answer me?

THOMAS

You don't see her?

DESIREE

Who? There's no one there, Thomas.

ANNA

She won't hear you. She doesn't believe in me. Not like you do. Let her go. It will be just you and me now.

Anna vanishes.

Suddenly the crucifix falls from the wall with a big CRASH.

DESIREE

(startled)

What was that?

THOMAS
The cross. It fell.
(scared)
Do you think it was her?

DESIREE
[Don't be absurd! That's enough,
Thomas!]

Frustrated, Desiree reaches for her clothes on the floor.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
It's over.

THOMAS
You're leaving?

DESIREE
I can't help you. Not in the way
that matters.
(begins dressing)
Perhaps being with me...it's an escape
for you. But this...this isn't what
you need, Thomas. Maybe you can
come back...once you're better.

THOMAS
You don't believe that.

Desiree appears to hesitate.

DESIREE
You didn't come here for me.

Thomas stands up, and takes hold of Desiree.

THOMAS
(desperate)
But I need you. I won't let you go!

Desiree pushes back.

DESIREE
Stop, Thomas. You're scaring me!

Thomas releases her arm.

THOMAS
This is it then?

DESIREE
I'm going. Don't follow me. And I
don't want you here when I get back.
If you love me, you'll stay away.

Desiree walks to the front door. She opens it and briefly looks back at Thomas before leaving.

INT. INSPECTOR GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY

Inspector Gabriel observes Desiree leave the apartment building from across the street.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas looks out the window, and sees Desiree walking away.

He walks to the bed. He slumps down, and buries his face in his hands.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Thomas and Anna approach the entrance. Anna is in the ninth month of her pregnancy. Thomas makes no effort to hide his displeasure over being forced to join her.

THOMAS

You know how I hate these events.
We shouldn't have come. Not tonight.
You could have the baby at any time,
for God's sake.

Thomas RINGS the doorbell.

ANNA

Relax. We'll only stay through
dinner. It will be fine. This is
important to me, Thomas.

The front door swings open. PROFESSOR MARTIN JACOB and his wife SARAH greet them. He is a handsome, middle-aged man with a startling resemblance to Guillaume. He speaks with a thick, French accent, and has a confidence that borders on arrogance. Sarah is a shy, younger woman and very far along in her pregnancy.

PROF. JACOB

Anna, it's always good to see you.

ANNA

You remember my husband, Thomas?

PROF. JACOB

Of course. Come in, please, both of
you.

ANNA

Thank you, Professor.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna enters. Professor Jacob embraces her warmly. Thomas follows, appearing sullen and irritable.

PROF. JACOB

Thomas, I'm glad to see you're doing well. Has it been nearly a year now?

Professor Jacob extends his hand to Thomas, who returns the handshake hesitantly. There appears to be tension between the two men.

THOMAS

I believe so, yes. Thank you for the invitation, Professor. I'm afraid we won't be able to stay long.

PROF. JACOB

What are you up to these days, Thomas?

THOMAS

Keeping busy doing research.

ANNA

Thomas is going back to his position at the university in the fall.

PROF. JACOB

That's wonderful news.

Anna looks for Thomas to respond, but he says nothing.

ANNA

You were so good to invite us, Professor. You must be very excited about your book being published.

PROF. JACOB

You had a great deal to do with it, Anna.

ANNA

Not at all.

SARAH

I'm afraid it's gone to Martin's head. He can't stop talking about it.

PROF. JACOB

Come, let's join the others.

Professor Jacob leads Thomas and Anna into...

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE / DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Anna sit at the table with Professor Jacob, Sarah, and several other GUESTS.

PROF. JACOB

I'd like to propose a toast. To good friends.

The guests raise their glasses.

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)

I'm afraid I haven't been available lately. As you know, I've kept myself extremely busy completing my book.

PROFESSOR ANDREW REINHARDT rises. He is an elderly man. His WIFE sits beside him.

PROF. REINHARDT

Congratulations, Martin. You must be relieved it's over. What's its name, this magnum opus of yours?

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)

The Myth of Love. I couldn't have done it without Anna's help. Much of the research was hers. I'm afraid I have little patience for that sort of thing.

ANNA

(admiringly)

I was grateful for the opportunity.

(to everyone)

I must admit, working under Professor Jacob is quite a challenge.

PROF. JACOB

I'm afraid I have a well deserved reputation for being demanding, if not an outright dictator at times.

PROF. REINHARDT'S WIFE

That's an interesting title, Professor, The Myth of Love. Are you suggesting that love is a lie?

PROF. JACOB

Not a lie. An illusion.

PROF. REINHARDT'S WIFE

It seems real enough to me. Andrew and I have been together for forty years now.

PROF. REINHARDT'S WIFE (CONT'D)
 We're quite happy together. Aren't
 we, dear?

Professor Reinhardt nods, taking his wife's hand.

PROF. REINHARDT
 I wouldn't dare say otherwise, my
 dear.

PROF. JACOB
 You're talking about marriage. I'm
 talking about love. They are two
 different things.

There is nervous laughter about the table.

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)
 Unfortunately, there's not much left
 to believe in these days. I'm sure
 everyone here will agree. Love is
 the last myth left to us. The only
 one we refuse to do without, despite
 our better judgment.

Professor Jacob pauses to take a sip from his wine glass.

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)
 As for the book, it's a meditation
 on the ancient Greek myth of
 Narcissus.

CLAIRE, a young graduate student, speaks up.

CLAIRE
 You mean the man who fell in love
 with his own reflection? But wasn't
 he just in love with himself?

PROF. JACOB
 Romantic love is no different, my
 dear. A matter of sheer egotism.

PROF. REINHARDT
 That's debatable, Martin.

PROF. JACOB
 Not at all. In love, we seem
 incapable of admitting the truth,
 least of all to ourselves. We look
 in each others' eyes, and see only
 our own reflection looking back.
 Rarely do we recognize the person
 for who they really are.

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)

Of course, any healthy view of love takes the welfare of the other person into account.

CLAIRE

Can you cite an example?

PROF. JACOB

My dear, the only real love is the kind we're willing to die for. (Of course, one always hopes it won't come to that!) It means forgetting ourselves. Giving our lives entirely over to someone else. That sort of thinking is rarely talked about today. Unfortunately, we prefer our romantic illusions.

The guests laugh politely.

PROF. JACOB (CONT'D)

No, the story of Narcissus is a warning to us all. These romantic obsessions of ours are only the most extreme form of self-infatuation. We must be careful not to stare so long into the pool that we end up drowning!

THOMAS

(to Anna)

Don't tell me you believe this nonsense.

ANNA

(embarrassed)

It's only a book, darling.

Sarah moves quickly to change the subject.

SARAH

How far along are you, Anna?

ANNA (CONT'D)

We're getting close now, but I suppose that's obvious.

SARAH

We should compare notes. It's always good to have someone to share with.

THOMAS

I told Anna that going out tonight wasn't a good idea.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

The doctor tells us it could happen at any time.

PROF. JACOB

Well, at least wait until after dessert before you deliver, Anna.

The guests LAUGH.

THOMAS

We learned the good news just after the psychology conference last fall. I understand most of the department attended, including Professor Jacob. Isn't that so, Anna?

Anna looks down nervously.

PROF. REINHARDT

Martin, I don't recall being invited to any conference. What was the topic, may I ask?

SARAH

(suspicious)

Yes. I'd like to know that, as well.

Professor Jacob appears nervous, looking briefly over to Anna.

PROF. JACOB

I'm afraid you've been misinformed, Thomas. There was no conference. Anna and I went to New York to do research for my book. We spent our time buried in the archive at Columbia.

PROF. REINHARDT

Research, was it? On love or whatever you wish to call it?

An uncomfortable silence.

PROF. JACOB

Thomas, I'm glad to see you've made a full recovery. We were all worried for you.

SARAH

I'm not sure Thomas feels comfortable talking about such things, Martin.

PROF. JACOB
 Nonsense. You're among friends,
 Thomas.
 (looks about the room)
 Isn't that right?

Thomas glares at him.

ANNA
 It's been difficult, Professor. For
 both of us.

PROF. JACOB
 (to Anna)
 My sincere apologies. I only meant
 to encourage your husband, but I see
 I've overstepped my bounds.

THOMAS
 (visibly upset)
 It's time we left, now, Anna. You're
 in no condition to stay out late.

To the dismay of the guests, Thomas and Anna get up to leave.

ANNA
 I'm very sorry, everyone.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

As in his earlier dream, Thomas is driving with Anna in the
 passenger seat. This time the tension between the couple is
 palpable. It is raining heavily.

The car speeds along the road with frequent, sharp curves.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Anna looks over at Thomas with a worried expression. She
 grasps his hand which rests on the stick shift. Looking
 down, she lightly touches her pregnant stomach.

Thomas appears visibly upset, clenching his jaw as he stares
 straight ahead. Thunder RUMBLES ominously as rain pummels
 the windshield.

ANNA
 Speak to me. What's bothering you,
 Thomas? You haven't said a word
 since we left the party.

Thomas reaches down to put the stick shift into gear as the
 car accelerates.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The car picks up speed, swerving as it takes a dangerous curve. This is the location that the accident occurred in Thomas' earlier dream. However, the car continues on, hurtling forward along the dark road.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Anna appears alarmed. Her voice grows desperate.

ANNA

I know what you're thinking. You have it all wrong. I didn't tell you because I was afraid how you'd react. Believe me! Nothing happened. It's the truth, Thomas.

(beat)

You're going too fast. Slow down!

Thomas just stares at the road.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(growing desperate)

Say something. Anything.

THOMAS

You really want to know what I think?

ANNA

You're my husband.

THOMAS

I always knew something was going on between you two. Don't try denying it, Anna. The way you were looking at each other tonight. You think I didn't see it?

ANNA

You're wrong. You're just being paranoid like before. Have you been taking your medications?

THOMAS

(snaps)

Why do you care?

ANNA

Don't talk that way to me. I was tempted, yes. But that's as far as it went. You don't think it was difficult for me after your breakdown? Not knowing if you'd ever recover. I thought I'd lost you, Thomas.

THOMAS

You said then I was being paranoid.
But it was all true, wasn't it! You
can't even look me in the eye and
tell me the baby's mine, can you?

ANNA

Of course it is. That's a terrible
thing to say.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The car picks up speed, and takes another dangerous curve.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Anna looks terrified as the car begins to swerve out of control.

ANNA

You're frightening me. Slow down!

END FLASHBACK.

Thomas lets out a low groan as he lifts his head out of his hands. The wild CRIES of the sea gulls come in through the window. (By this time, large cracks have formed across the entire length of the mirror.)

A loud KNOCK on the door.

THOMAS

Who is it?
(off the silence)
Answer me!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT BUILDING / STAIRWELL - DAY (LATER)

Thomas opens the front door and looks out. No one is there. A white cat MEOWS as it walks past.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas gazes out the window.

ANNA (O.S.)

(behind him)
Turn around, Thomas.

Thomas turns around to face Anna's image in the mirror.

THOMAS

Is it really you?

ANNA

What do you think?

THOMAS

I'm not sure anymore. Am I dreaming?

ANNA

It was always a dream. Didn't you know? A way for us to be together. Isn't that what you wanted?

THOMAS

It's too late.

ANNA

We belong to each other, Thomas.

(beat)

"What we have is forever." You spoke those words here, on our honeymoon.

THOMAS

What I wanted? What I wanted was her. But you drove her away. You, in your jealousy. You couldn't stand the thought of me being with anyone else.

(beat)

You don't really want to be with me. You only want to torture me!

Anna disappears.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(shouts to the
emptiness)

Don't come back! I don't need you!

In a rage, Thomas strips off a shoe. He hurls it at the mirror, shattering it with a loud CRASH.

Shards of glass fall to the floor.

Thomas is horrified as he sees his FACE reflected in the broken shards of glass.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

Desiree. Where are you? I need you.

He collapses, breaking down in long, shuddering sobs.

SERIES OF SHOTS - THOMAS GOES INSANE

- A) Thomas reaches for the bottle of pills in the bathroom cabinet. He swallows a handful, choking on them.
- B) Thomas pauses before the bedroom mirror as its surface becomes a liquid pool of water reflecting his image like Narcissus. Hesitantly, he touches the mirror; disturbing its placid surface as his reflection is broken. Surprised, Thomas draws back as its glass surface is restored.
- C) Thomas looks down at the empty bed. He breaks down, crying uncontrollably as he lets out a long, agonized WAIL like an animal in pain.
- D) Thomas talks incessantly to himself as he wanders through the apartment. He slaps the palm of his hand, and shakes his head violently.
- E) The TICKING of the clock grows louder, merging with the wild CRIES of sea gulls and the dull THUDDING of the ocean coming in through the window. A sweep of Thomas' hand knocks the clock off the nightstand. The clock shatters on the floor, but keeps TICKING. The small mirror tips over. The reflection of the daffodil standing in the vase is turned upside down in a broken SHARD of glass.
- F) Exhausted, Thomas collapses on the bed and falls asleep.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (DREAM)

Anna stands above the bed, watching Thomas sleep. She breaks off a remaining sliver of glass from the mirror. She raises it to her neck, and slashes her throat. The SOUND of a car crash.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas is huddled on the bed, staring blankly.

He shuts his eyes, and then opens them again.

Desiree stands at the foot of the bed.

THOMAS

(hopeful)

You came back for me. I didn't expect to see you again.

DESIREE

I'm worried about you.

Desiree's image begins to fade, to be replaced by Anna's before returning. Their resemblance is uncanny. Thomas shakes his head as he attempts to regain his senses.

He blinks and Desiree is gone.

THOMAS
Don't leave me!

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas paces restlessly. In exasperation, he falls back on the bed.

He stares up at the ceiling, beating the bed in frustration with his hands. He opens his pants, and begins pleasuring himself. Desiree appears over him, naked and straddling his body as they have sex.

THOMAS
(under his breath)
Desiree...

Desiree disappears.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Thomas paces in frustration.

THOMAS
Come back! Where are you?

DESIREE (O.S.)
I'm here.

Thomas turns around to face Desiree in front of the mirror, dressed in a white nightgown.

Desiree lets her nightgown fall to the floor. She stands before him naked, and holds out her arms to him.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
Touch me, Thomas.

Hesitantly, Thomas reaches out to Desiree, but pulls back.

DESIREE (CONT'D)
Why did you do that?

THOMAS
I don't know.

DESIREE
I think you do. You don't need me,
Thomas. Not anymore.

THOMAS
(frustrated)
What are you talking about?

DESIREE
You came here for her, not me.

THOMAS
Who?

DESIREE
Your wife. This place.

THOMAS
Anna? But she'd dead. I can't bring
her back.

DESIREE
You wanted to join her, didn't you?

THOMAS
You think I want to die?
(beat)
It's been hard letting go --

Thomas sits down heavily on the bed as he tries to collect himself.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I wish I could talk to her. Say how
sorry I am. How much I wanted her
back. I'd tell her I loved her more
than anything.
(beat)
That night in the car. I was only
trying to scare her into admitting
the truth. I didn't want to kill
her. I'd do anything to go back,
and change what happened.

DESIREE
Did you?

THOMAS
What?

DESIREE
Love her.

Thomas looks down, staring blankly at his hands.

THOMAS
Of course I did.

He looks up, and Desiree is gone.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BATHROOM - DAY

Thomas stares at his reflection in the cracked mirror. He appears to grow dizzy, his body swaying back and forth. The image of his face becomes blurred as he tries to steady himself.

He swings open the mirror, and reaches for the bottle of pills.

He opens the bottle, and shakes out the last pill. It slips from his trembling hand, and falls into the open drain. Thomas curses, and slams the mirror closed.

LAUGHTER and the SOUND of a couple making love come from the bedroom.

Thomas approaches the bedroom cautiously, his eyes transfixed on the open door.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (DAYDREAM)

Thomas slowly enters. Briefly, he sees himself and Desiree in the bed together before vanishing.

He suddenly notices Anna standing directly in front of the empty frame of the shattered mirror, as if she has just emerged from it. Her face is concealed with a veil as she looks down. She appears like a ghost with pale skin, and is dressed in a white wedding dress.

She begins to shuffle through the broken glass toward Thomas. Her feet are cut and bleeding. Her voice is slow and measured. A voice from the grave.

ANNA

You were always so jealous of Martin.

(beat)

Once you went away, he was all I had.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Anna watches stoically as Thomas is escorted by two HOSPITAL ATTENDEES into a building with the sign: "Fairhaven Mental Health Institute." He looks back at her before being taken inside.

END FLASHBACK.

THOMAS

You knew I was coming back! You could have stood by me. "In sickness and in health." That's the pledge we made.

Anna continues to approach Thomas. She stops before him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Is it really you? Let me see your face.

She lifts her veil, and smiles radiantly. She appears beautiful as she did on their wedding day.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I've missed you so much.

Suddenly, her expression changes to a hard, accusatory glare.

ANNA

You never loved me, Thomas. The last thing you wanted was for me to be happy. Not if it meant me being with Martin. You only wanted to possess me. You still do. That is your sickness, Thomas. And you can't escape it.

Thomas' face hardens.

THOMAS

But you're here now. You're mine again.

ANNA

I was never yours.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Thomas' eyes widen as he accelerates the car toward a tree. He appears like a man possessed. Anna covers her mouth and SCREAMS.

THOMAS

(whispers)

It's over.

Just as the car is about to collide with the tree, Thomas swerves. The passenger side of the car smashes into the tree.

The full impact forces Anna's head violently into the dashboard.

Anna's face is bloodied as she tries unsuccessfully to lift her head off the dashboard. She looks directly at Thomas with a bewildered expression. Her lips open as she mouths the word, "Why?"

Anna dies with her eyes wide open. Thomas suddenly comes to himself. He appears horrified by what he's done.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Anna! My God. I love you! Forgive me!

Thomas looks down at Anna's pregnant stomach.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Help! For God's sake, someone help!

Thomas clutches his wounded left leg. He tries desperately to get out of the car, but the door is jammed. He slams his fist against it in frustration.

END FLASHBACK.

ANNA

Do you remember now, Thomas?

Desperate, Thomas tries to grab Anna as she pulls away.

THOMAS

Don't go. Don't leave me again! I was wrong, Anna. I was so angry at you. I lost control. It was only a second. I'd do anything to take back what happened that night.

ANNA

Aren't you forgetting someone?

THOMAS

Who?

ANNA

Our child. Why is it we never talk about him? He never had a choice.

Thomas sits down on the bed.

THOMAS

(despondent)

I try not to think about him. It's too painful.

The SOUND of a baby crying.

ANNA

Good-bye, Thomas.

Anna disappears.

THOMAS

Come back!

The sound of the baby's CRYING grows louder. Thomas becomes increasingly agitated, clutching his head and SCREAMING in pain.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

It's too loud. I can't take it anymore!

Thomas flees the apartment.

INT. INSPECTOR GABRIEL'S CAR - DAY

Inspector Gabriel is parked on the street across from the apartment building. He observes Thomas leave as he walks to his car. His limp has become more pronounced. Thomas gets in his car, and speeds away.

Inspector Gabriel picks up his walkie-talkie.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

(into the walkie-talkie)

[He just left. Follow him. I want to see what he's up to. Wait for my instructions.]

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / ENTRYWAY - DAY

The door is open. Desiree enters the abandoned apartment. She sees the broken mirror with shattered glass on the floor.

DESIREE

(alarmed)

Thomas, are you here? I was worried.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

Inspector Gabriel sits on the edge of the bed with the journal in his hands.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[Hello, Marie.]

DESIREE

(surprised)

[What are you doing here?]

Inspector Gabriel begins flipping through the journal.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[Is there anything you'd like to tell me?]

DESIREE

[That's nothing.
(panicked, approaches
him but stops)
You shouldn't be reading that.]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[It's evidence. It appears here
you've performed certain services
for these gentlemen on Monsieur
Morel's behalf. But that's hardly
news to either of us.
(holds up pages ripped
out of journal)
Of course, I've removed all references
to my name.]

DESIREE

[Did you come here to arrest me,
Inspector?]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[No. I found what I came here for.
(beat)
Tell me the truth. It was you.
Wasn't it, Marie? You shot him.
That was a noble gesture by your
boyfriend, taking the blame. He
must love you very much.]

DESIREE

[How did you know?]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[The argument in the church. There
was a witness. You didn't have to
return to the apartment. You knew
he'd come back for you. You wanted
him dead. To start a new life.
(gets up from the bed)
Perhaps it's time you did.]

DESIREE

[What are you saying, Inspector?
You're letting me go?]

A garbled voice comes through the walkie-talkie. Inspector Gabriel takes it from his belt, and puts it to his ear.

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[Louie. Do you have an update?
Where is he now? Yes. I see.
(beat)
No. Let him go.]

DESIREE

[What's happening? Is it Thomas?
Where is he?]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[You can still catch up to him.
He's on the road out of town...
Goodbye, Marie. We had some good
times, didn't we? We can't be seen
with each other again.]

DESIREE

[Why are you doing this?]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[I'm curious.]

DESIREE

[Curious? About what?]

INSPECTOR GABRIEL

[How it will end, of course.]

Desiree walks quickly to the nightstand, and opens the drawer.

The pistol is missing.

Panicked, she rushes out the door.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

Desiree gets into her car and drives away.

EXT. DESIREE'S AND THOMAS' CARS - DAY - TRAVELING

Desiree catches up to Thomas as they speed along the narrow,
two lane road. Desiree HONKS the horn as she tries to get
Thomas' attention.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Thomas sees Desiree's car approaching through the rear view
mirror. His expression hardens. He turns his attention
back to the road as the car picks up speed.

EXT. DESIREE'S AND THOMAS' CARS - DAY - TRAVELING

Desiree pulls up beside Thomas' car into the oncoming lane.
She motions for him to pull over.

DESIREE

(shouts through window)
Pull over!

Ignoring Desiree, Thomas continues staring ahead. She opens her car window. She frantically HONKS the horn.

DESIREE (CONT'D)

(shouting)

She came back, didn't she? I know what you're planning to do. Don't do it!

(beat)

I don't care if you're crazy! We'll get help for you. I love you!

Thomas looks over at Desiree as the cars careen dangerously close together.

THOMAS

(shouting)

Go back. Forget about me! I'm not good for you.

DESIREE

We can make it work! Pull over!

Thomas glances ahead as a TRUCK approaches from the opposite direction in Desiree's lane.

THOMAS

Desiree. Look out!

Desiree glances back and screams. She swerves off the road, and crashes into a tree.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Thomas appears shocked as he witnesses the accident through his rear-view mirror.

THOMAS

My God!

He slams on the brakes, stopping the car.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - DAY

Panicked, Thomas jumps out of the car, and runs to Desiree.

He reaches in and pulls her lifeless body from the car window. He breaks down crying as he covers her with his body.

INT. DESIREE'S APARTMENT / BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas sits on the bed, his back propped up on the headboard. He stares forward blankly. The pistol is beside him.

The mirror beside the bed has no cracks in it.

THOMAS
 (under his breath)
 She came back for me.

Thomas picks up a journal beside him, and begins writing.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 It began here. In this bed. And so
 it ends. Even memories die.
 (pauses to reflect)
 Time is a wound that never heals...

MONTAGE - THOMAS' FINAL MEMORIES (JOURNAL ENTRIES)

A) Anna and Thomas recite their wedding vows.

THOMAS (V.O.)
 A vow that can never be broken...

B) Thomas makes love with Anna in the hotel on their
 honeymoon.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Time is a woman in your arms...

C) Desiree and Thomas catch a glimpse of each other for
 the first time in the antique shop.

D) Desiree and Thomas make love in bed.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Time is flesh, takes us over, makes
 us forgetful, captures us in its
 net. One body in love with another
 body... Time is the hand that
 caresses, passes over us like an
 echo that always comes back, but
 more faintly each time. The touch
 that lingers and disappears...

E) Desiree throws her head back, crying out as she reaches
 orgasm.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 A cry flung into the air....

F) Desiree and Thomas lie in bed, staring silently at each
 other.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Time is a destination that is both
 behind and ahead of us. An ever
 flowing river in which we drown.
 (beat)
 Time blinks, and it is no more...

Desiree smiles, then blinks.

- G) Desiree and Thomas laughing together as they picnic at the beach. She lays her head on his chest as they gaze out at the ocean.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (waves crash and hiss
 as they beat against
 the beach)
 Our most beautiful moments are all
 lost to the past...

BACK TO SCENE

Thomas looks down at the pistol. His blood-covered hand lightly grazes it. He continues writing in his journal.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The past is a funeral. Our final
 destination. The past is a gunshot
 and an end to everything.

Thomas looks up from his journal. He sees his reflection in the unbroken mirror.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - DAY

Thomas staggers out of his car that has collided against a tree. Desiree and her car are not there. He looks down at the blood on his hand.

END FLASHBACK.

Thomas shakes his head confusedly as he looks away from the mirror.

THOMAS (V.O.)
 Why couldn't we make it work? [Love
 without hope!...] I tried to forget
 about Anna. But she kept coming
 back! Forgive me, Desiree! I'm
 tired. I can't go through this again,
 losing someone else.
 (looks down at pistol)
 It's over.

MONTAGE - DESERTED BALBEC

- A) The empty streets.
- B) The boarded up window of the antique shop, which appears to be abandoned. A brick crashes through the window.

- C) The bells in the church steeple RING loudly.
- D) The white curtain (like a death shroud) at the bedroom window flaps in the breeze.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Waves beat against the shore. The SOUND of a gunshot.

FADE OUT.

THE END