

SEASIDE

Written by

Sam Zalutsky

"Life can only be understood backwards;  
but it must be lived forwards."  
Soren Kierkegaard

Sam@sazamproductions.com  
917-653-6756

WGA# I271175

March 15 2016 Draft

FADE IN:

EXT. WEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD - PORTLAND - NIGHT - TITLE SEQUENCE

A wealthy Portland neighborhood in the hills. All quiet and peaceful, large secluded homes nestled in abundant nature.

A large modern house hidden below the street, a golden glow emanating from it's many windows.

A SILHOUETTE passes in front of the lights and returns to the shadows.

EXT. MODERN HOME - BACKYARD

The SILHOUETTE walks quietly up a grassy hill and along the back windows of the house, sticking to the shadows.

She walks into a small secluded courtyard. This is

Daphne, 24, African-American, innocent doe eyes masking a steely resolve. She stops and stares into a lit bedroom at

ROGER, 29, white, a lanky brooding hipster, in tighty-whities, who chills on his bed.

Roger lights a joint and smokes. He moves to the window, blowing the smoke out. He stares out into the night until...

ROGER

You going to just stand there?

DAPHNE

Well that depends on you.

ROGER

Really? I don't think so.

Daphne steps forward. Roger leans in and puts his lips against the screen.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Kiss me.

DAPHNE

If you let me in.

ROGER

You're always welcome.

Roger pops off the screen and moves a chair to help Daphne through the window.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM

Daphne sits on the bed and relaxes. Roger wraps himself around her and offers her a hit.

DAPHNE  
Not on your life.

ROGER  
C'mon. You might like it if you try it.

DAPHNE  
How's he doing?

ROGER  
I don't want to talk about it.

Roger covers her mouth with his. He kisses her deeply.

A strange MOANING NOISE seeps into the room. Ignored.

ROGER'S FATHER  
(O.S.)  
Roger.

Roger puts his finger to his lips.

ROGER'S FATHER (CONT'D)  
(O.S.)  
Where's Roger?

Roger and Daphne listen quietly. Then a KNOCK at the door. They freeze.

ROGER  
Yes?

NURSE  
(O.S.)  
He'll only be awake a little longer. I need to give him his meds.

ROGER  
Give me a sec.

Daphne ducks behind the closet door.

DAPHNE  
Go. It's OK.

He throws on some sweats and exits.

Daphne examines the dirty clothes and other remnants of this man-child's extended youth. Then she undresses, stacking her neatly folded clothes on a chair.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

DAPHNE, now in Roger's T-shirt and undies, sits up in bed, Roger still beside her.

LATER -

Daphne, now dressed, sits on the edge of the bed, fixing her makeup in a compact.

Roger steps inside with a cup of coffee and a slice of toast with cheese and avocado.

DAPHNE

I have to go.

ROGER

I made your favorite. You have to eat.

DAPHNE

Fine. But Cassandra will be pissed if I'm late.

ROGER

Then meet me later. I'm on late tonight.

DAPHNE

My mom needs my-

ROGER

I need you. I miss you already.

He rests his forehead on hers. She takes him in.

DAPHNE

Rog. I have shit to do. Clean. Deal with bills.

ROGER

Then sneak out and meet me at Doug Fir. Super Freudian is there at 11.

DAPHNE

Maybe.

ROGER

There we go.

She kisses him and slips out the window.

EXT. MANSION BACKYARD

Daphne hustles out and down the street.

INT. MAX (LIGHTRAIL) - DAY

Daphne watches Portland glide by, traveling from downtown across the bridge as the afternoon slips into evening.

Her phone rings. An unknown number. She let's it go to voicemail.

LATER -

Daphne listens to her phone.

RECORDED VOICE

This is Wells Fargo Bank calling for Daphne Mason to let you know that your mortgage payment is now 60 days overdue. Please remit payment immediately. To speak with an agent, please press 2.

She steps off, now with some grocery bags, into a

WORKING CLASS PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOOD

Daphne hurries along the street and up to a

EXT. MODEST HOME - EVENING

A simple stucco house. Daphne checks the mailbox: Empty. And hurries inside.

INT. ANGELA AND DAPHNE'S LIVING ROOM

Daphne's hands softly massage an older woman's hands with cream. She's thorough and tender. She peers at

ANGELA, 60s, her mother, eyes a weary battlefield, who sits dwarfed by a large chair, watching tabloid news. A knotted cane leans against her chair echoing her gnarled body.

Cut out flowers, nature posters, and stuffed animals make the room more homey.

DAPHNE  
Does that feel good?

ANGELA  
Wonderful. Thank you baby.

DAPHNE  
Let's do your legs and feet now.

ANGELA  
I can't say no to that.

Daphne pulls off her mother's practical support shoes and socks and starts massaging, much to Angela's delight.

ANGELA (CONT'D)  
Tell me about your day, baby.

DAPHNE  
Nothing special. Just dealing with those too fancy mothers and their too fancy babies.

ANGELA  
Hmm. Sounds familiar.

DAPHNE  
Did another bill come from Wells Fargo?

ANGELA  
I didn't see it.

Angela pushes herself up to stand. Daphne helps her up.

DAPHNE  
Are you sure?

ANGELA  
What are you going to do about it if it did? How are you going to pay it?

DAPHNE  
I get paid next week.

ANGELA  
Your \$12 an hour won't cut it.

DAPHNE

It will help, Ma. Did it come? You can't ignore it. We're not losing this house.

Angela just walks to her bedroom.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Ma.

ANGELA

If I didn't see it, it didn't come. I'm going to bed now.

DAPHNE

Fine. I'm meeting Twyla for a drink later. I might just crash with her.

Angela stops in her tracks.

ANGELA

Again? That girl from work? She must have a really nice place.

DAPHNE

It's just easier. And closer. She's on the West side.

ANGELA

Are you sure you don't have someone you're not telling me about?

Angela has a gleam in her eye, thinking about romance.

DAPHNE

No. Now stop being so nosy.

ANGELA

OK. I'll let you alone. But when you're ready to come clean with whoever your hot new piece is-

DAPHNE

Ma! Stop.

Angela knows she's touched a nerve.

ANGELA

OK. OK. You have fun.

She kisses Daphne's forehead and Daphne's out.

EXT. ROGER'S HOME - NIGHT

Daphne sneaks through the shrubbery to Roger's window. She peeks in: He's frozen on the bed, staring at the wall.

She KNOCKS. He doesn't move.

                  DAPHNE  
          Rog. Let me in.

Roger looks at her as if he doesn't recognize her.

                  DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
          Rog. Come on.

INTERCUT - INT. ROGER'S ROOM

Roger can't look at Daphne, his face crumbling.

                  DAPHNE  
          Roger? What is it?

                  ROGER  
          My dad. He died. He's dead.

                  DAPHNE  
          Let me in.

He bangs his head against the wall.

                  DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
          Stop it.

She wedges out the screen and climbs in.

                  ROGER  
          Fuck. Fuck. Fuck him.

She pulls him into a hug. He's angry and devastated, his body rocks back and forth.

                  DAPHNE  
          I'm so sorry, baby. Shh.

Roger tries to cry but he can't.

INT. ROGER'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Roger lies with Daphne entangled on the bed, still in yesterday's clothes. Her cell RINGS. She reaches over for it.



DAPHNE  
Oh shit. I'll be right there.

She jumps out of bed. Roger doesn't move.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
Rog? I got to go. Will you be OK?

He pulls her close but she kisses him and pulls away. She opens the window.

ROGER  
You can go out the front door now.

DAPHNE  
You sure?

ROGER  
Yeah. We're free.

DAPHNE  
I'll be back soon.

He nods. She opens the door and leaves. He falls back onto the bed.

EXT. MANSION - MORNING

Daphne sprints through the yard and is off.

INT. DAPHNE AND ANGELA'S HOUSE - DAYS LATER

Angela watches television while Daphne gets ready to leave.

ANGELA  
You sure are spending a lot of time  
with your coworkers.

DAPHNE  
Ma, what's the problem? I left you  
some food for lunch. We're just  
going shopping and having coffee. I  
won't be back too late.

ANGELA  
That's fine. You go on.

DAPHNE  
Don't stay cooped up all day. You  
need some fresh air.

Daphne kisses her and heads out.

EXT. PORTLAND - TWO WEEKS LATER

Roger, tired, waits in front of an old office building, when Daphne runs up. They kiss.

DAPHNE

Are you sure you want me here? No one even looked at me at the funeral.

ROGER

Yes. I need you. Please.

DAPHNE

OK.

He pulls her inside.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

Daphne and Roger walk into a large, imposing

INT. LAW OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

ALEXANDRA ZORN, 40s, commanding in a power suit and heels, stands behind a large partners' desk. Roger barely acknowledges her, staring out the window while Daphne stands awkwardly. Zorn gives Daphne a knowing once-over.

ZORN

These are sensitive family matters, Roger. I think we should talk privately.

ROGER

Daphne is my family now.

DAPHNE

Good morning.

ZORN

Fine. Daphne, welcome. Have a seat, Roger.

Daphne sits.

ROGER

I'm good right here.

ZORN

Your father was concerned... How shall I put it? That you weren't living up to your potential.

ROGER

Cut the bullshit, Zorn.

Daphne is surprised by Roger's behavior but Zorn isn't fazed.

ZORN

If that's how you see it. Fine. Your father left you the beach house.

ROGER

And?

ZORN

It's a property of significant value. He created a fund to pay for upkeep, taxes. Everything is taken care of.

ROGER

Big fucking deal. Tell me about the money.

Daphne tries to keep up, shocked by their venom.

ZORN

He believed that you'd benefit from learning to support yourself.

ROGER

What the fuck does that mean?

DAPHNE

Roger. Please.

They ignore Daphne.

ZORN

It means bartending while you wait for your inheritance isn't a career.

ROGER

What about the Portland house? The 15 mil or so that should be mine?

ZORN

He left you the beach house.

Zorn holds out the keys. Like a loose tiger, Roger bounds across the room and swats them away.

ZORN (CONT'D)

The remainder of his assets go into a trust for any heirs you might have. Your children.

ROGER

Yeah. I know what heirs are.

ZORN

If and when you have any, they will inherit 100% of the trust's assets.

Daphne sits stunned, barely hearing the rest.

ROGER

And what if there are no kids?

ZORN

Then the money will be divided amongst his favorite charities.

ROGER

Charities? My ass. He never gave anything away for free.

ZORN

No?

Roger charges the desk.

ROGER

And you're the asshole who determines what those charities are? How fucking convenient.

DAPHNE

Roger. Stop it.

Daphne has to pull him back as he lunges at Zorn.

ZORN

Roger, I've always followed my clients's instructions on these matters whether I agree with their assessment or not.

ROGER

Did you follow his instructions when you were fucking him?

DAPHNE

Roger!

ZORN

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

He storms out. Daphne and Zorn face each other down.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Like father like son.

DAPHNE

I've never seen him like this.

ZORN

Honestly, I'm more than surprised to find you here. I would strongly urge you to reconsider your involvement.

DAPHNE

You might find it hard to believe but we love each other. Very much.

They examine each other carefully.

ZORN

It's a hard lesson for women to learn sometimes. But love can only take you so far. It's no game.

DAPHNE

I appreciate the life lesson but I don't play games.

ZORN

Then I wish you the best of luck. And remember, what you heard in this room is confidential.

DAPHNE

Of course. I know far too well how you operate.

She takes the keys and walks out.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING

Daphne steps out, looking for Roger. He's across the street, pacing, lost in his head. She hurries to him.

DAPHNE  
Baby, you OK?

ROGER  
That bastard. He's just doing this  
because we're together.

DAPHNE  
He's gone. It's over.

She watches him, amped up.

ROGER  
No, listen. Maybe his passive  
aggressive shit is the best thing  
that happened to us.

She's not following.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Ever since you came back into my  
life I knew we were meant for each  
other. So let's do it. Get married?  
Have kids?

Daphne's mind races. He holds her tight.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Daph? You love me, right?

She nods her head.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
We get the fuck out of town. Go to  
the beach. Live our lives how we  
want to. And tell everyone who  
thinks they know what's best for us  
to fuck off.

DAPHNE  
When?

ROGER  
Now. Tomorrow. Next week. Whenever  
you're ready.

DAPHNE  
What about my mom?

ROGER  
Bring her. Sell the house. I want  
you. I want this. Let's make it  
official.

Daphne runs through the scenario in her mind.

                  DAPHNE

                  And my job? I can't just walk out.

                  ROGER

                  Two years and you're still  
                  assistant floor manager. You're  
                  better than that. You'll get a job  
                  in two seconds at one of those  
                  galleries at the beach.

Daphne slowly nods her head.

                  ROGER (CONT'D)

                  Is that yes?

She nods and he wraps her up tight in a hug.

INT. DAPHNE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER

Daphne sits to pee, opening her birth control container. She examines the pills closely and pulls one out.

She drops it between her legs. PLOP. She watches it dissolve.

She finishes and stands, pulling another pill out. PLOP. Into the toilet. And another. PLOP. Little pills fall one by one. She watches the blue spread in the bowl.

Daphne pours the rest into the toilet and watches them dissolve. She tosses the container.

She flushes the pills, catching her face in the mirror. She stares at herself silently. A KNOCK at the door.

                  ANGELA

                  (O.S.)

                  Do you want anymore dinner?

                  DAPHNE

                  No Ma, I'm fine. Thanks.

INT. ANGELA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Daphne packs a suitcase while Angela stares at the TV NEWS.

                  ANGELA

                  What for?

Daphne won't look at her.

DAPHNE

I told you. It's for work. A retreat.

ANGELA

My daughter. Look at me. I wasn't born yesterday, you know?

She avoids her gaze.

DAPHNE

I left some dinners in the fridge. Louise will check in with you tomorrow to see if you're OK. And if you need anything, just call me.

ANGELA

Look at me. Don't you trust me?

Finally Daphne looks. Angela caresses her face.

DAPHNE

Ma. Of course. Don't be crazy.

She hugs Angela tightly.

ANGELA

I don't want you getting hurt.

Daphne returns to packing.

DAPHNE

Don't worry about me, Ma. Please.

ANGELA

Or doing anything stupid.

DAPHNE

I'm 24. I'm not a child anymore.

ANGELA

But you'll always be my baby. And I will always worry about you.

Daphne pulls away and holds up a stamped envelope.

DAPHNE

Ma. Stop. This should get us through the month. If Wells Fargo calls, just tell them the check is in the mail.

Angela kisses her forehead and walks to the bathroom.



INT./EXT. CAR - LATER

Daphne watches the scenery go by, a determined look on her face, as Roger drives.

They drive past strip malls and suburban sprawl, past Farms and fruit stands, and finally dense

PINE FORESTS -

So high they block the dark brooding sky.

MOUNTAINS -

Covered in dense green forest checkerboarded with clear cut patches.

EXT. REST STOP

Daphne and Roger sit on the front of the car, eating sandwiches and staring down the mountain and out to the

OCEAN - extending out into the mist.

ROGER

You OK?

She nods.

ROGER (CONT'D)

It's going to be good. It's going to be great. I swear.

DAPHNE

I forgot how beautiful it is here.

ROGER

More beautiful with you here.

He kisses her.

DAPHNE

Did Zorn really sleep with your dad?

ROGER

Why?

DAPHNE

That's seriously unethical.

ROGER

I don't really remember much from then. After my mom died, I was wasted most of the time.

DAPHNE

Maybe you should contest the will.

ROGER

Yeah. Maybe. I'd see Zorn sometimes in the mornings. Me coming home when she's leaving.

DAPHNE

So she was.

ROGER

He never admitted it. Like I said, I was pretty on fleek with the drugs at that point.

She can't help but laugh.

DAPHNE

No. Stop. Wrong.

ROGER

What?

DAPHNE

Do not use that word.

ROGER

On fleek? Why not?

DAPHNE

You don't use it to talk about how fucked up you are. Or were.

ROGER

Then tell me how to use it.

DAPHNE

Nope. Not going to happen. Just stick to your stoner white boy talk.

ROGER

I don't talk like a stoner white boy.

DAPHNE

Yeah you do. Like a rich stoner white boy.

ROGER  
Is that a problem?

DAPHNE  
No. Not a problem. At all.

INT./EXT. CAR

They pass a sign that reads: OREGON BEACHES, 14 miles.

LATER -

Daphne and Roger swerve along the coast road, around corners jutting into the ocean, sky high rock formations, and trees fighting against the harsh winds.

They drive up and around and up, climbing into the dark clouds, Daphne dizzied by the view.

LATER -

Roger and Daphne head down a long hill.

LATER -

They drive along a twisty, ragged dirt road until they pull up to a giant modern house, made of all windows, surrounded by giant trees.

Daphne steps out to take in a panoramic view of the  
PACIFIC OCEAN, a dark tumult of swirling gray.

She turns to him but

Roger's still in the car, staring straight ahead. She KNOCKS on his window.

DAPHNE  
You OK?

He nods imperceptibly.

ROGER  
Here. You go in. I'll be in in a  
sec.

He hands her the house keys.

## INT. BEACH HOUSE

The door swings open on a wide open living room, furniture in sheets, and the sea beckoning beyond.

Daphne stops at the threshold, and stares out at the postcard images of rugged cliffs falling into the ocean below.

                    DAPHNE  
            Wow. This house.

The car door SLAMS behind her.

                    DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
            Roger?

She spots Roger running down to the beach. She runs out to

## EXT. BEACH HOUSE DECK

Daphne watches Roger run onto the beach, away from the house.

                    DAPHNE  
            Roger!

## EXT. BEACH PATH

Daphne steps out onto a vast empty

## EXT. BEACH

Dense white fog spreads along the shoreline as the angry gray ocean crashes toward Daphne as Roger runs down the beach, slipping away into the enveloping mist.

                    DAPHNE  
            Roger! Wait for me.

She follows him, as the fog consumes her and she disappears.

## LATER -

Daphne picks through the shells in the sand, digging them with her toes, turning them in her hand, until she finds a perfect sand dollar.

LATER -

Daphne walks along the water, entranced by the rhythmic SMASHING of the dark waves. A giant cliff juts out into the ocean. Where it meets the water, she finds a

DARK CAVE.

Daphne peers into the cave, curious. She steps inside when

ROGER  
Looking for something?

She WHIPS around: Roger.

DAPHNE  
Where were you?

He nods to the cave.

ROGER  
Used to be my thinking spot. Want to check it out?

She looks in. Shakes her head.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
You scared?

DAPHNE  
No.

ROGER  
No sea monsters. I swear.

He leads her into the darkness.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
(O.S.)  
Oh. Daphne. Kiss me.

EXT. CANNON BEACH STREET - ESTABLISHING SHOT

EXT. GROCERY STORE

Roger and Daphne exit with groceries and load them into the car.

DAPHNE  
OK. You're right. There's no brown in this town.

ROGER  
Told you.

DAPHNE  
It's cute though. I could learn to like it.

ROGER  
Really?

DAPHNE  
Try me.

They jump in and take off.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Daphne, cocktail in hand, stares out as Roger preps a fire. Total darkness outside as if they're alone on an abandoned planet. The sheets are off the table and couch, revealing high end modern furniture.

DAPHNE  
Did your Dad come here much alone?

ROGER  
I don't know. Why?

DAPHNE  
Just wondering. Seems like no one's been here for a long time.

ROGER  
He was sick.

DAPHNE  
No. I know. I mean just around. On the beach. Deserted.

Daphne studies Roger staring dead into the fire.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
Rog.

ROGER  
My mom's father built this house. She loved it here. He couldn't stand it. So he made sure I couldn't either. And then he gave it to me.

DAPHNE

You think he thought it all out  
like that?

ROGER

Yep. He wanted me to be just like  
him, run the company, all that BS.  
He was sick fuck.

His voice trails off.

DAPHNE

And you're nothing like him.

She kisses him and leads him to the bedroom.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Daphne pulls his clothes off and climbs on top of him,  
rocking back and forth. A look of determination on her face  
as she loses herself in the moment.

He pushes her over. And goes down on her, until she is about  
to climax. She pulls him up and pushes him into her, her back  
arching and then falling until release.

LATER -

Daphne lies in bed while Roger sleeps, his head by her side.  
She stares at the ceiling.

ROGER

Ready to go get married.

DAPHNE

Today? I don't have anything to  
wear.

ROGER

I know how we can fix that.

INT. THRIFT STORE DRESSING ROOM

Daphne stares at her face in the mirror, wondering what she's  
getting herself into.

ROGER

(O.S.)  
Ready?

DAPHNE

Yes.

ROGER

Come on. Open up.

Daphne walks out in a big ruffled wedding dress to find Roger in a powder blue tux.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You look perfect.

EXT. BEACH CHURCH

Daphne and Roger pull into the parking lot and run in.

INT. BEACH CHURCH

Daphne and Roger look around at the empty pews of this modest New England style church.

ROGER

God? Are you there? It's me, Roger.

Daphne punches him in the shoulder.

DAPHNE

Ha ha.

A WASPY MINISTER, 50s, salt and pepper butch haircut, kind eyes, approaches.

MINISTER

I think I know why you're here.

ROGER

We're ready for business.

MINISTER

You certainly get points for enthusiasm.

DAPHNE

When you know you know.

MINISTER

Ah love. It's just wonderful. Can I please see your license?

DAPHNE

License?



ROGER  
We love each other. That's not  
enough?

MINISTER  
Sorry. It's the law. No escaping.

DAPHNE  
Fuck!

Roger LAUGHS.

MINISTER  
Excuse you.

DAPHNE  
I'm so sorry. It's just.

She's losing control.

MINISTER  
Three days, my dear. Then I'll be  
more than happy to marry you.

She smiles patronizingly at them.

EXT. BEACH CHURCH

Daphne and Roger approach the car. She slams her hand on the  
roof and then rests her head there.

ROGER  
Hey hey. What's wrong? It's no  
biggie.

DAPHNE  
They have no right to stop us.

ROGER  
Shh. It'll happen. Three days is  
nothing.

But she's not calming down. He comforts her.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Three weeks ago we were sneaking  
around like naughty teenagers. Now  
we're in this beautiful town,  
together, with our own casa. We're  
golden.

She has a hard time accepting his response.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Come on. Let's do something fun.  
Take our minds off.

DAPHNE  
Like what?

ROGER  
Something stupid. Bowling or Go  
Carts. The arcade?

She slowly warms up.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
You know you want to.

DAPHNE  
I did always like Skee-ball.

ROGER  
Who doesn't love Skee-ball?

DAPHNE  
I'll kick your ass.

ROGER  
Oh no. I'm going to crush you. But  
just know that when I do, I still  
love you.

DAPHNE  
Your cockiness will be the end of  
you.

ROGER  
That's it.

He grabs her hand and pulls her along.

EXT. ARCADE

Roger pulls Daphne across the parking lot and inside.

INT. ARCADE - LATER

Daphne and Roger play Skee-Ball, flinging wooden balls up a ramp to a target.

A few LOCALS play various games nearby as Daphne and Roger stroll in. Daphne feels someone watching them and turns to find

SUSANNA, 26, a bottle blonde with a wide-eyed stare that takes in everything, holding a GIANT STUFFED PANDA.

SUSANNA

Hi.

Roger and Daphne stop abruptly.

ROGER

Hey.

DAPHNE

Hi.

SUSANNA

Nice dress. Hi Roger.

ROGER

Hey. Daph. This is Susanna.

DAPHNE

Hi. Thanks. We're getting married.

SUSANNA

Wow.

Susanna looks as if she's been stabbed in the heart.

DAPHNE

Yeah. In three days.

ROGER

You hungry? Let's go grab some grub.

DAPHNE

What?

ROGER

Come on. Let's go.

He hurries to the door. Susanna hands her the panda.

SUSANNA

Here. It's a wedding gift.

DAPHNE

Really?

SUSANNA

Yeah.

Roger POUNDS on the arcade door.

DAPHNE  
          Thanks. I should go.

She takes it and hurries out.

EXT. ARCADE

From the window Susanna watches Daphne walk away, the rain looking like it's dripping down her face.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT

Daphne walks to the car with the panda and shoves it in back. Roger is already in the driver's seat.

                  ROGER  
          What're you doing?

                  DAPHNE  
          She gave it to us as a wedding  
          gift. Give me a second.

                  ROGER  
          That's stupid.

                  DAPHNE  
          I like it.

She jumps in the car and they take off.

INT. CAR

Roger pulls out of the lot. Daphne studies him.

                  ROGER  
          What?

                  DAPHNE  
          Nothing.

                  ROGER  
          You're staring at me.

                  DAPHNE  
          I'm not. You're the one acting  
          strange.

He turns away.

EXT. CANNON BEACH

Roger and Daphne drive into town.

INT./EXT. CAR - LATER

Roger pulls up in front of a bar. He and Daphne sit silently.

ROGER  
I want a drink.

DAPHNE  
Great idea.

ROGER  
Whatever. It's nothing.

He avoids her gaze.

DAPHNE  
What's nothing?

ROGER  
That girl. Susanna. We hung out  
sometimes. Like a big group of  
people during the summer. Ten years  
ago.

DAPHNE  
OK.

ROGER  
That's it. We hung out. It was a  
long time ago.

DAPHNE  
Fine.

An awkward silence.

ROGER  
You know maybe us not getting the  
license is a sign. Maybe we're  
rushing into this.

DAPHNE  
Wait. What? Now you don't want to  
do this? What is wrong?

ROGER  
Nothing. I do. I just... It's not  
as easy as it looks.

DAPHNE

So why don't you explain it to me.

He checks she's paying attention. He musters up the courage.

ROGER

No, I do. That beautiful house was where he let loose, where he'd "relax." Which meant his first drink by lunch and before three he was knocking down whatever was in his path. Usually me. Once he got rid of my mother.

Awkward silence. She doesn't know what to say.

DAPHNE

Why didn't you-

ROGER

Because I don't need your pity.

DAPHNE

I don't pity you. I want to help you. Find closure-

ROGER

Fuck Daph. I don't need any bullshit "closure," OK? That fucking psycho talk really pisses me off.

DAPHNE

Fine. Forget I said it. Forget I said anything.

ROGER

Fine. You coming?

DAPHNE

No.

ROGER

Suit yourself.

He jumps out of the car. When she doesn't follow he POUNDS on her window. She ignores him.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Daph-

She stares straight ahead. He gives up and marches inside. Daphne puts her head back and shuts her eyes.

LATER -

Daphne's phone RINGS. Daphne's eyes POP OPEN. She checks her phone: MOM. Finally she answers.

DAPHNE

Hi Ma.

INTERCUT WITH ANGELA'S APARTMENT

Angela sits in her chair, with Judge Judy on behind her. She stares out the window.

ANGELA

How are you doing, baby?

DAPHNE

It's beautiful here, Mama.

ANGELA

I know what it looks like. When are you coming back?

DAPHNE

I'm not sure. I might stay a while longer.

ANGELA

What about your job?

Daphne musters up her courage.

DAPHNE

I need a change of scenery. A chance to try something new.

ANGELA

What do you mean a change of scenery?

DAPHNE

That job is a dead end.

ANGELA

Excuse me? That is a good job. You need that job. We need it.

Daphne doesn't know how to answer. Roger steps out of the bar and BANGS on the window.

She holds up the phone and SHUSHES him. He paces back and forth.

ANGELA (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

DAPHNE  
No one.

Angela stares out the window.

ANGELA  
Daphne. You need to level with me.

DAPHNE  
Please. Don't you want me to be  
happy?

ANGELA  
It's not always about happy.

DAPHNE  
I know, Ma. Believe me. I know.

Now Angela isn't sure how to answer.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
I have to go.

Roger gets in the car as Daphne hangs up. Angela looks at the  
phone, uncertain.

END INTERCUT

ROGER  
Let's go.

DAPHNE  
Give me the keys.

ROGER  
Why?

DAPHNE  
How much did you drink?

ROGER  
Not enough.

She holds out her hand but he takes off.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Roger drives as Daphne stares out the window. They ignore  
each other. The headlights a small beacon in the endless pool  
of dark sky.



INT./EXT. CAR

The car pulls up to the house and Daphne jumps out.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Daphne walks in with the panda and beelines for the bathroom. Roger follows. He KNOCKS on the door.

ROGER

Daph.

INTERCUT INT. BATHROOM

Daphne just leans against the door, fighting to stay in control.

ROGER

Let me in.

DAPHNE

No. You're being a dick.

ROGER

Come on.

DAPHNE

I just want to go to bed.

ROGER

No. Don't. Not yet. I'm sorry. I have a surprise for you.

DAPHNE

I'm tired. Let me get out of this stupid dress.

ROGER

No. Don't. You're going to love it. I swear. Just count to 100. No 500. Count to 500. And then look out the window.

DAPHNE

Roger. I'm not counting to 500.

ROGER

OK. OK. I'll text you when to come out. OK? Daph?

DAPHNE

Fine.

He runs out.

Daphne stares at her own reflection in the mirror, breathing deeply to calm herself. She sits on the toilet, grabs a towel and wipes away the tears.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Daphne stares out the window. She sees a spark of orange light on the beach.

Finally a text:

LOOK AT THE BEACH. DO U C ME?

She grabs a jacket and heads out.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A roaring bonfire on the beach. Roger stokes it while a pile of marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate rest on the log next to him. Daphne approaches.

ROGER

Welcome to the rehearsal dinner for the wedding of Ms. Daphne Miller and Mr. Roger Kessler. Would the future Mrs. Kessler like a S'more?

She cracks a smile at this romantic gesture.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You know the S'more is a staple of the Northwest summer camp beach diet.

DAPHNE

How healthy.

ROGER

How would you like it prepared? Golden brown or thoroughly scorched?

DAPHNE

Thoroughly scorched. Definitely.

He sticks a marshmallow on a stick into the fire. It bursts into a flaming ball.

LATER -

Daphne and Roger stuff each other's faces with messy S'mores. They kiss.

LATER -

A splash of water sends smoke flickering into the sky.

A pile of sand smothers the ashes.

Daphne and Roger stroll hand in hand back to the house as a HAND tosses more water onto the fire. Embers HISS.

POV of BEACH HOUSE: Daphne and Roger walk into the bedroom. Daphne pulls off her dress and flops on the bed.

The POV moves in closer to see Roger perform a strip tease for Daphne. They fall into bed, LAUGHING as

SUSANNA watches them at the window as the lights go out.

LATER -

Daphne lays in Roger's arms as they both sleep soundly. Daphne opens her eyes and stares at the panda. She looks out the window, thinking she hears something.

She gets up and stares out into the darkness. Nothing.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Daphne sips her coffee and looks out at the ocean. She checks that Roger is sleeping still.

SUSANNA stands on the beach, staring back at her.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE DECK

Daphne steps outside to look for Susanna but

Susanna is GONE.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Roger rolls over in bed, awakened by Daphne, now dressed, at the door with a plate of food.

DAPHNE  
Hungry?

                  ROGER  
Definitely.

She brings him coffee and a plate of eggs and toast.

                  DAPHNE  
I'm going into town to look for a  
job.

                  ROGER  
Why?

                  DAPHNE  
Because we need to make money. You  
want to come?

He thinks about it and then shakes his head.

                  DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
OK, see you later.

EXT. ARCADE

Daphne pulls up and parks across the street. She watches,  
waiting for Susanna. But all she sees are cars driving by.

LATER -

Daphne still watches the Arcade when her PHONE RINGS.

                  ROGER  
Hey. When are you coming back to  
me?

                  DAPHNE  
Soon.

                  ROGER  
Any leads?

                  DAPHNE  
Nothing yet.

                  ROGER  
Grab some lunch for when you come  
back.

                  DAPHNE  
Sure.

EXT. TOWN STREET - LATER

Daphne strolls along, windowshopping at the tchotchke shops, bookstores, and cafes. Everyone else is in a couple or family. Everyone keeps a polite distance.

EXT. GROCERY STORE

Daphne emerges carrying two grocery bags. She gets in the car and drives off.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Roger lies on the couch, flipping through a Gamer magazine as Daphne walks in. She drops the groceries on the counter.

ROGER

What took you so long?

DAPHNE

Just exploring. Seeing what I could find.

ROGER

Find anything?

She stares down at the beach: Susanna is looking up at the house.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Hey.

DAPHNE

No. Nothing.

Daphne walks out to the

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DECK

Daphne stares out at Susanna. Roger steps out. She turns to him.

ROGER

You got food, right? I'm hungry.

DAPHNE

Give me a minute.

ROGER

Cool. I'll make sandwiches.

He steps back inside. Daphne looks back but Susanna is GONE.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne walks down, determined. But Susanna is nowhere to be found.

Walking along the water, Daphne sees footsteps. She follows them till she comes to the cave. Water laps at her feet.

The footsteps go in but don't come out. Daphne peers into the darkness.

                    DAPHNE

            Hello?

Daphne walks in and disappears in the darkness.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne walks back to the house, a tiny speck along the wide beach. Roger waves at her from near the house, carrying a picnic basket.

                    ROGER

            Daph! Come on!

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne walks in to find Roger, a picnic basket packed.

                    ROGER

            Where'd you go?

                    DAPHNE

            Sorry I just need a breath of fresh air.

                    ROGER

            I've been waiting for you. Let's go.

                    DAPHNE

            Where?

                    ROGER

            You'll see. Come on.

He grabs the lunch and heads out. She rushes to keep up.

## EXT. HIKING TRAIL

Roger and Daphne pull up in the car and jump out. He grabs the food from the back.

ROGER

Follow me.

They hike up a winding dirt trail, back and forth up the switchbacks into a tall pine forest which hides the sunlight.

Roger breaks into a run. Daphne chases after him.

DAPHNE

Wait for me.

They keep running until they reach the

## EXT. TOP OF TRAIL

Roger and Daphne arrive at a small clearing, hang on to each other, panting.

ROGER

Look.

He shows her a lookout point down to a beautiful ocean bay with a small town arcing around it.

DAPHNE

Wow.

ROGER

Not bad for a picnic, huh?

DAPHNE

Not at all.

He sets up the picnic. A blanket on the ground, deli sandwiches, chips, beer.

ROGER

My dad and I would hike up here when I was little. We'd look down at the town and think about all the people down there as if they were little ants, and imagine what to do with them.

DAPHNE

And what was that?

ROGER

We were God and they were our little people that we created and controlled. We could just pick them up like this.

He mimes picking them up and squeezing them.

ROGER (CONT'D)

And squeeze them till they popped.

DAPHNE

That's rough.

ROGER

My dad always said that individuals don't really matter in the grand scheme of things.

DAPHNE

Except for him.

ROGER

Yeah. That. And he was still a raging alcoholic who drove my mom to drink herself to death.

DAPHNE

What about love?

He looks pointedly at her.

ROGER

What about it?

DAPHNE

Do you think it changes people?  
Makes them better?

He kisses her.

ROGER

True love.

He and moves on top of her. She holds him off.

ROGER (CONT'D)

What? You don't want to make a baby with me?

DAPHNE

Here?



ROGER  
Why not? It's au natural.

CRACK. A twig SNAPS. She looks around.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
What?

DAPHNE  
Did you hear that? What if  
someone's watching?

ROGER  
Hello?

He waits. Nothing.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
See. Just us.

He kisses her.

DAPHNE  
Rog-. No. It's too exposed.

ROGER  
You're being paranoid. It's  
deserted.

DAPHNE  
No. I don't want to.

Daphne stands and heads down the trail. He picks up their  
food and follows.

ROGER  
Fuck. OK. Fine. I was just trying  
to be romantic.

INT. CAR

Roger and Daphne drive back to the house in silence.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM

Daphne, in a T-shirt and undies, walks in and washes her face  
and brushes her teeth. She dabs herself with a little perfume  
and stares hard at herself in the mirror.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BEDROOM

Daphne leaves the bathroom and comes into the bedroom. She turns off all the lights and crawls into bed. Roger is waiting. The Panda just stares at them.

She pulls him on top of her, pulling down his undies and pulling him inside of her as their kisses intensify.

Daphne stares into space, her mind drawn inward. He goes down, down her neck, her breasts, her stomach, between her legs.

She's MOANING, fully in the moment, when Roger pulls away.

ROGER

What the?

Roger scampers off the bed.

DAPHNE

What? What are you doing?

ROGER

Wait.

He pushes her off and goes to the window.

DAPHNE

What? Roger! Where are you going?

Roger runs outside and sprints off. Daphne follows him out to

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Roger runs after a figure a long way off.

ROGER

You crazy bitch, get the fuck away from me.

DAPHNE

Roger!

ROGER

Stay the fuck away.

He slowly comes back.

DAPHNE

What happened?

ROGER  
It's that bitch from the arcade.

DAPHNE  
What?

He's about to explode, marching toward the house.

Daphne follows Roger into

INT. BEACH HOUSE LIVING ROOM - LATER

Daphne and Roger sit at opposite ends of the room, the air thick with anger.

ROGER  
It wasn't even the whole summer. We broke up before it was over. Ten years ago. That's it. I swear. Nothing else happened.

Daphne works to absorb it all. She's full of rage and can't look at him. Roger pours himself a shot and downs it.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
She's trash. She was obsessed with me. She claimed I got her pregnant but she was after our money. Please say something. Daph.

Daphne won't speak, which provokes Roger more.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
I swear. She's a crazy. And... And I was high half the time. It didn't mean anything.

Agitated, he approaches her but she can't be near him.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Look at me. Please. Daphne. It's not my fault. Say something. Anything. Just talk to me.

She finally glares at him.

DAPHNE  
It's not your fault. Bullshit.

ROGER  
I didn't know she worked there.

DAPHNE

But you said nothing. You thought we could live here and it would never come up. Damn you.

ROGER

I didn't say anything because it doesn't matter. It was nothing.

DAPHNE

Does it?

ROGER

No. It doesn't. Not to me. If you hadn't started talking to her-

DAPHNE

Don't blame me. I didn't fuck her.

He's shocked by her rage. He's on his knees at her feet, begging.

ROGER

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Daphne avoids his gaze.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I'll get her to leave us alone.  
I'll talk to her. Please. You've got to forgive me.

He jumps up and goes to the door.

DAPHNE

Now? We're supposed to get married in the morning.

ROGER

OK. OK. I'll do it after.

DAPHNE

Dammit Roger.

She jumps up and storms out to the back deck. He watches her pace outside.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne paces outside, not sure what to do.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Roger, on the couch, wakes to sounds of Daphne VOMITING.

ROGER

Daph?

He walks over and pulls open the door to the

INT. BATHROOM

Roger sees Daphne crouched over the toilet.

ROGER

Are you-?

DAPHNE

Too fast.

His face falls with disappointment. She won't look at him.

ROGER

You want some water? Or tea?

She dry heaves. He strokes her back.

DAPHNE

I'm fine. Just go away.

He skulks out as Daphne braces herself against the toilet.

MOMENTS LATER -

Daphne washes her face and stares at herself in the mirror.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Daphne and Roger stand next to each other, putting on their thrift store wedding finest, looking into the mirror and avoiding each other's gaze. The Panda sits behind them.

INT. BEACH CHURCH

Roger, next to Daphne, hands the Minister their license.

MINISTER

See, that wasn't so bad.

LATER -

Daphne and Roger face each other. The Minister stands above them.

MINISTER

Go for it.

It's awkward. They're in no rush to look at each other.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

Come on.

A tentative kiss.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

Maybe you should try that again.

Daphne kisses Roger again, this time deeply.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

That's it. Beautiful.  
Congratulations.

Roger and Daphne walk down the aisle. Roger reaches for her hand as the Minister watches them go.

INT./EXT. CAR

Roger and Daphne drive back in silence to the

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Roger pulls up and Daphne gets out.

DAPHNE

You coming?

ROGER

I'm going to fix it.

DAPHNE

Don't be stupid.

ROGER

I swear.

Daphne watches him drive off.

EXT./INT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT BUILDING

Roger pulls into the parking lot.

Roger hustles inside and up to a door and KNOCKS.

Susanna opens the door.

ROGER

Hey.

He steps into the clean and tidy studio. It's covered with Paris and New York posters, dreams of a future life.

SUSANNA

Your pretty new wife not doing it for you?

ROGER

Why? You want in on the act?

Susanna turns away, concerned. Does Roger know something?

SUSANNA

What does that mean?

ROGER

It means you were the one spying on us. Did you get your rocks off?

SUSANNA

You're not supposed to be here you know.

ROGER

I miss you, you know.

SUSANNA

Really? Well you have a funny way of showing it.

ROGER

I do. What happened between us-

SUSANNA

Dropping me off at Planned Parenthood and then driving into the sunset isn't really "between us."

ROGER

That was a long time ago. I had to-

SUSANNA

Had to what? Follow your daddy's orders instead of doing right by your girlfriend?

He takes her face in his hands and makes her look into his eyes. She doesn't resist very well.

ROGER

I'm sorry. I was a different person then.

He kisses her and pulls away, smiling.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne, now dressed casually, stares out the window into a pouring rain. She can't even see the ocean it's so dark and gloomy.

She calls Roger. He doesn't answer. Just voicemail.

DAPHNE

Roger? Where are you?

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Daphne walks along the beach. She looks around. No one. She's all alone.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne makes a fire and stares into the flames.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - EVENING

Daphne, pacing on the deck, talks on the phone with Angela.

INTERCUT WITH ANGELA'S APARTMENT

Angela, sits on her chair, cane next to her, and blows cigarette smoke out her window. The NEWS on again.

ANGELA

Good to hear your voice, baby.  
How're you doing?

Angela turns down the TV, her mind racing.



DAPHNE

I'm OK.

Daphne can't control her tears.

ANGELA

What is it, baby? What are you  
hiding from me?

Daphne stares out at the ocean, struggling to find the words.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

What?

DAPHNE

I think I made a mistake.

ANGELA

Everyone does. You know I always  
told you that if you're not making  
mistakes you're not trying hard  
enough.

DAPHNE

I know. But I'm scared.

ANGELA

Why baby? What is it?

Angela sits up, alarmed.

DAPHNE

It's... Roger.

A guttural SCREAM of agony. Daphne is stunned.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Mama?

ANGELA

No no no no. Tell me you're just  
making this shit up. Please.

Daphne struggles to gather her strength.

DAPHNE

I... I love him, Ma.

ANGELA

No. That's not right, baby. That  
can't be.

DAPHNE

I'm sorry.

She fights off the tears. Angela is shell-shocked.

ANGELA

If you're in trouble... If you need help. Just stay away from him. Just get away. Please.

Daphne nods to herself. She can't speak the answer.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Daphne? You hear what I'm saying? Get away from that man.

DAPHNE

I'm sorry Mama. I hope you can understand one day.

She hangs up. Daphne's phone rings again: Angela. But she doesn't pick up. Then she calls Roger again. Voicemail.

She hangs up, staring at her phone, unsure of her next move.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Daphne sits on the bed in the quiet dark, staring at the panda, now facing the wall.

She looks over but still no Roger. She's all alone in an empty bed.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Daphne drapes her body over the toilet, waiting for the next round of vomiting. She's in agony.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Daphne, in an old sweater and trench, pushes into the wind. Determined.

She climbs up over rock ledges and stomps over puddles.

She continues across new beaches as the sun peeks through, rises higher and higher in the sky.

She keeps walking. And walking. And walking until

Finally, Daphne approaches

EXT. SEASIDE

Daphne, drenched, walks into town and approaches

EXT. ARCADE

Daphne peers into the window to see if she can see Susanna.

INT. ARCADE

Daphne, still wet, approaches the front desk where CHAD, 21  
Susanna's bored and surly coworker, is absorbed in his phone.  
The place is dead.

DAPHNE

Hi. Was my husband here?

He barely looks up.

CHAD

Who's your husband?

DAPHNE

Roger Kessler.

CHAD

Beats me.

DAPHNE

What about Susanna? Is she here?

CHAD

Sorry. She's off today.

DAPHNE

Do you know where she lives? I need  
to find her.

Finally Chad looks up.

CHAD

I'm sorry. I can't give you that  
information.

EXT. ARCADE

Daphne continues talking to Chad.

EXT. SEASIDE - LATER

Daphne calls Roger as she walks down the street. No answer.  
She hangs up.

INT./EXT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER

Daphne steps out of a taxi and walks inside.

DAPHNE

Rog?

She wanders through the empty house.

She goes into the

INT. BATHROOM

Daphne peels off her clothes and steps into the shower.

She lets the water cascade down her body.

She wraps herself in a towel and steps out into the

Foggy room. She wipes the condensation off the mirror to see  
SUSANNA behind her. Daphne GASPS and whips around.

DAPHNE

How'd you get in here? Where's  
Roger?

SUSANNA

I took care of him.

Susanna grabs Daphne and kisses her desperately.

DAPHNE

Oh god. Oh god. I've missed you.

They can't keep their hands off each other.

SUSANNA

Me too. Me too. What's happening?  
I'm so scared.

DAPHNE

He's not coming?

SUSANNA

No. We're safe for now.

Susanna nods as Daphne leads her into the

BEDROOM -

Daphne sits Susanna on the bed and undresses her.

Susanna pulls her in and kisses her. Her face, her mouth, her body. She pulls off Daphne's towel.

Daphne revels in every caress, every kiss. She's in this moment, fully, way more than with Roger.

Susanna flips her over and enters Daphne with her finger. Daphne falls back, GASPING with pleasure.

LATER -

Daphne and Susanna lie in each others' arms on the bed.

DAPHNE

Everything was fine. Except that you kept watching us.

SUSANNA

What was I supposed to do? I haven't heard from you in weeks. You stop texting.

DAPHNE

Roger kept asking who I was texting. I had to get rid of it.

SUSANNA

Then I see his father's obituary but nothing from you. Then three weeks later I see you in the arcade in a wedding dress.

She has a point. Daphne LAUGHS.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

What?

DAPHNE

I guess that's a little different than waiting till the old man dies and stealing his money.

SUSANNA

Yeah. Kinda. I thought he stole you away from me.

She sits up. Daphne caresses her arm.

DAPHNE

What? No. Of course not. But we can't steal the money if he doesn't have it. When the lawyer said we had to get married and have a baby... I couldn't think straight. I didn't want to lose him. We need this.

Susanna just takes it all in.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

He denied everything. He said you slept together. But just once.

SUSANNA

Fuck! That asshole. Now I really want to fuck him up.

Daphne can't look at her.

DAPHNE

It's not so simple anymore. Who knows how long it'll take till I get pregnant.

SUSANNA

When did you stop the pill?

DAPHNE

Three, almost four weeks ago.

SUSANNA

That money is ours. We deserve it.

Daphne looks away. Susanna snuggles with Daphne.

DAPHNE

Yeah. But that means I'm with him for nine more months.

SUSANNA

I'm here. I'll be here.

DAPHNE

So then what? I come by the arcade and play those fucking games for ten months just to see you? No way.

Susanna caresses Daphne's cheek.

SUSANNA

We'll make it work. I swear.

DAPHNE

But what am I supposed to do? I can't see you? Or touch you? Walking around with his baby? I can't do it.

SUSANNA

But you are. You will. After all these years of him and his family fucking over everyone. Then we get the money and run. We go somewhere amazing and never look back. I'll finally get out of this shithole. No more stares of people calling me a slut for something that's not my fault. We'll live in Paris. Or Italy.

Daphne sits up.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)

What is it?

DAPHNE

As long as I'm pregnant then what happens to Roger really doesn't matter.

SUSANNA

Yeah. So?

DAPHNE

So it doesn't matter what happens to him. We don't have to wait that long.

They stare at each other, trying to read each other's mind. Susanna breaks first.

SUSANNA

No. Daph.

DAPHNE

I'm not waiting nine more months.

SUSANNA

We can't.

DAPHNE

You said it. That money should be ours.

SUSANNA

But Daph-

Daphne grabs her.

DAPHNE

Don't forget what he did to you. To me.

Rage begins to consume Susanna. Daphne stokes her anger.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

He can't even admit what he did to you. What he made you do.

They stare at each other considering until Daphne's PHONE interrupts the moment. Daphne checks the phone.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

It's the lawyer.

SUSANNA

Don't get it. Not yet.

DAPHNE

I have to.

INTERCUT ZORN'S OFFICE

Zorn sits at her desk.

ZORN

Daphne. Alex Zorn.

Daphne nods for Susanna to listen next to her.

DAPHNE

Yes.

ZORN

Your boyfriend attacked some local trash piece of trash. But she had a restraining order. He's been arrested.

DAPHNE

What? When?

Daphne and Susanna exchange a glance.

ZORN

He can explain it. You just need to go pick him up.



DAPHNE

Is he OK?

ZORN

Just calm down. And don't forget I warned you to get out.

DAPHNE

Sorry. But we're married.

ZORN

So I guess you didn't take my advice.

DAPHNE

I told you. I love him.

ZORN

I'm sure your mother wouldn't be too happy to hear about this.

DAPHNE

So now you care about my mother?

ZORN

Whatever you say, Daphne. I posted bail from the family discretionary fund. You need to go sign him out.

DAPHNE

Thank you.

ZORN

And as I said, don't say I didn't warn you.

END INTERCUT

Daphne hangs up. She's shaking. Susanna holds her close.

SUSANNA

What is it?

DAPHNE

We need to do this. Now.

Susanna feels the pressure.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Are you with me?

Susanna nods. A tender kiss.

EXT./INT. TOWN JAIL

Daphne steps out of the taxi and steels herself before stepping inside.

She approaches the DESK OFFICER, OFFICER GRAY, 60s, bored flipping through a car magazine. He eyes her suspiciously.

DAPHNE

Hello. I'm here to pick up my husband, Roger Kessler.

GRAY

Sign this.

DAPHNE

Of course, Officer.

Daphne signs the release form. She waits as Gray wanders down the hall to fetch Roger. When he emerges, she folds him in a hug.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Oh my god. Baby, are you OK?

ROGER

Let's get out of here.

The Officer hands over Roger's keys and wallet.

DAPHNE

Thank you so much, Officer.

GRAY

No problem.

DAPHNE

I've been so worried about you. Are you OK?

Roger storms as Officer Gray returns to his magazine. Daphne's PHONE RINGS: ANGELA. Daphne doesn't pick up but races outside.

EXT. TOWN JAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Roger stops to breathe in the brisk air as Daphne catches up.

ROGER

That bitch called 911.

DAPHNE

Why?

ROGER

She's fucking insane that's why. I never touched her. Just because we had sex once she thinks she loves me.

He's looking for the car, avoiding her gaze.

DAPHNE

She lied to the police?

ROGER

People lie all the time. Can't you understand that? Dammit. Where's the fucking car?

He takes off for the car. She follows.

ROGER (CONT'D)

And it was over and done with until you made me come back here looking for some perfect little life.

DAPHNE

Not fair. You wanted to do this as much as I did.

He opens the car door. Daphne's PHONE RINGS again. She ignores it.

ROGER

Get in.

But Daphne doesn't move.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Daphne. Now. Let's go.

DAPHNE

You're sounding a lot like your father. You know that?

ROGER

Fuck you. Let's go.

She turns on her heels and walks away.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Daphne! Fuck! Fuck you, Daph.

Roger jumps in and starts the car.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Roger drives the car alongside Daphne as she walks away.

ROGER  
Daph. Get in.

She ignores him.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
You think this has been easy for  
me?

She keeps walking.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Come on. Get in the car.

DAPHNE  
Then stop being such a prick.

She reaches for the door but Roger drives off.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
Roger!

INT. BEACH HOUSE - SUNSET

Roger pours a shot and tosses it back. He looks out the window to at the darkening sky, layers of clouds, peach sunlight, and gray as the sun sets against the water.

He sees Daphne walking along the water. He steps outside.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Roger watches Daphne walking along the beach.

ROGER  
Daphne!

EXT. BEACH

Daphne turns to see Roger behind her. She keeps walking.

EXT. CAVE

Daphne stops as Roger catches up.

ROGER  
What are you doing?

DAPHNE  
I... I needed some time alone.

ROGER  
You've had the last 24 hours.

DAPHNE  
Fine. Then I'm all better. I want  
to go for a walk.

She walks off. He follows, taunting her.

ROGER  
We have a baby to make. That's the  
plan, right? Make a baby. Get the  
money. Live out our fantasy life.

He grabs for her but she pulls away.

DAPHNE  
Stop.

ROGER  
We could fuck here again. That  
would be freaky. You want freaky?

DAPHNE  
Can you stop? I don't really feel  
like it right now.

ROGER  
Then how are we going to fucking do  
this? We can't live here if we  
don't have a kid. We can't have a  
baby unless we have sex.

DAPHNE  
Thanks for the biology lesson.

ROGER  
Screw you. You were so eager  
before. What changed?

DAPHNE  
Nothing changed. I just don't want  
to right now.

ROGER  
You agreed. We agreed to this. You  
don't want to do this we can stop  
right here.

She faces him. Standoff.

DAPHNE

I was going to wait to tell you.  
But I think I'm already pregnant.

Daphne walks away again. She's having trouble keeping calm.  
Roger runs after her.

ROGER

But I thought... You said it was  
too soon.

DAPHNE

I was sick again yesterday.

ROGER

Yeah? Fucking brilliant! I love it.

He hugs her. She hides her disgust.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Come on.

DAPHNE

What?

ROGER

We'll take a test.

DAPHNE

Can't we wait till morning?

ROGER

No. We need to know now.

She tries to pull away but he pulls her tighter.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Stop being such a pain in the ass.  
Let's go.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Roger pulls Daphne outside to the car.

ROGER

That asshole won't know what hit  
him.

DAPHNE

Your father's dead, Roger.

ROGER

And he can't fuck us over anymore.  
We're going to have a beautiful  
kid. A beautiful life. Get in.

He opens the car door, waiting for her to get in. With nowhere to go she really does feel nauseous now.

INT./EXT. CAR

Roger drives, curving around the mountains. Daphne stares out the window, coolly contemplating.

Roger drives through town.

Roger pulls the car up to the grocery store.

DAPHNE

I'll go. It'll take me one second.

ROGER

You sure?

She nods and jumps out. Daphne hurries into

INTERCUT INT. GROCERY STORE

Daphne wanders through the aisles, keeping one eye on Roger outside. She can barely focus.

Finally a CLERK, 30s, her face open and eager, approaches.

CLERK

You finding everything alright?

DAPHNE

Wha? Oh. Yes. Thanks.

Roger peers in, watching Daphne talking with the Clerk, who eyes Daphne strangely. Daphne walks off.

CLERK

Well let me know if you need  
anything.

DAPHNE

I will...

She turns back.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
Actually I need a pregnancy test.  
Which one do you recommend?

                  CLERK  
I like this one. I used this one  
when I had my daughter.

She hands it to Daphne, who stares at it blankly.

                  CLERK (CONT'D)  
But whatever. That's just me.

Daphne can't meet her gaze.

                  CLERK (CONT'D)  
Is everything OK?

                  DAPHNE  
My husband is there waiting for me.

Roger watches Daphne and the Clerk chat.

Daphne sees him and waves. She and the Clerk walk out of  
Roger's view toward the back of the store.

He leans against the car, looking for her.

But she's already gone, sprinting out the back.

                                  END INTERCUT

EXT. ALLEY

Daphne runs out the back of the drugstore and sprints away as

EXT. GROCERY STORE

Roger approaches the store, checking his watch.

EXT. STREET

Daphne hustles down the street. Not sure where to go.

EXT. GROCERY STORE

Roger looks in and heads inside.



EXT. CANNON BEACH STREET

Daphne runs down another street.

INT. GROCERY STORE

Roger walks aisle by aisle, searching for Daphne.

ROGER

Daph? Where are you?

EXT. CANNON BEACH STREET

Daphne hurries along, looking for help as cars speed by.

INT. GROCERY STORE

Roger rushes up to the Clerk.

ROGER

Where's my wife?

CLERK

Excuse me?

ROGER

You were just talking to her.  
Probably the first black person in  
here in about a decade.

CLERK

Yeah. She was in aisle 10.

Roger takes off to check the aisle.

CLERK (CONT'D)

You're welcome. Asshole.

Roger runs across the aisles, checking for Daphne: Nothing.

He runs to the back of the store and peers outside.

ROGER

Daphne.

Nothing.

EXT. GROCERY STORE

Roger hustles to his car, calling Daphne on his cell.  
Voicemail.

ROGER

Daph. Where the hell did you go?

EXT. ALLEY

Daphne scurries down the alley, checking Roger isn't following her.

EXT. SUSANNA'S APARTMENT

Daphne runs up, out of breath, checking for Roger. Then she KNOCKS.

INT./EXT. CAR

Roger drives out of the parking lot and through town, searching for Daphne.

EXT. SUSANNA'S APARTMENT

Daphne KNOCKS again.

DAPHNE

Open up. Come on.

Finally the door opens to reveal Susanna, chain on.

SUSANNA

What are you doing here?

DAPHNE

I think he knows.

Susanna undoes the chain and Daphne pushes in past her.

INT. SUSANNA'S APARTMENT

Daphne and Susanna kiss desperately. Daphne looks around. She's never seen her place before.

SUSANNA

How could he know?

DAPHNE  
He's acting strange. Really  
aggressive. You didn't say  
anything, did you?

SUSANNA  
No.

Daphne's phone RINGS. She ignores it.

INT. CAR

Roger drives through town, looking.

ROGER  
God dammit, Daph. Where are you?  
Answer me.

INT. SUSANNA'S APARTMENT

Daphne and Susanna stare at each other.

DAPHNE  
You got rid of your phone, right?

SUSANNA  
Yes.

DAPHNE  
No one can ever find it?

SUSANNA  
I smashed it in a million pieces  
and tossed it in the surf.

DAPHNE  
Good. We need to do this now.

SUSANNA  
Are you pregnant?

Daphne nods. She hugs Daphne, who doesn't know how to respond.

SUSANNA (CONT'D)  
You'll be an amazing mother. And  
we'll get out of this pit and raise  
her together. The three of us. That  
asshole stopped me from having my  
baby he's not going to stop you.  
Without his daddy to protect him,  
he's fucked.

DAPHNE

I'm scared.

Daphne stares at a sand dollar necklace buy Susanna's bed.

SUSANNA

Daph, we're doing this. Right now I'm barely surviving in this shithole. I hand out stuffed animals and cotton candy every day to fat tourists. We need to do this.

Daphne fingers the necklace.

DAPHNE

This is so pretty.

SUSANNA

My mother gave it to me. Do you want it?

DAPHNE

Really?

Daphne picks it up and pockets it. Suddenly POUNDING on the door. They grab each other.

INTERCUT EXT. APARTMENT

Roger leans against the door.

ROGER

Open the door. Have you seen Daphne?

Susanna and Daphne just stare at each other.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Susanna. I know you're in there. Have you seen her?

SUSANNA

I'm calling the cops if you don't leave.

ROGER

If you see her, tell her to get back to the house. And to stay the fuck away from you.

Roger takes off. Susanna checks the peephole. He's gone.

DAPHNE

How does he know I was here? You didn't say anything, did you?

SUSANNA

No. Nothing. I swear.

DAPHNE

Well we have to do it. Now. I can't stand it anymore.

Susanna nods along.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

When I'm ready, I'll move the panda.

SUSANNA

What?

DAPHNE

I'll take the panda out of the window to let you know it's time. Just be ready.

SUSANNA

I'm ready.

DAPHNE

I should go back. I love you.

SUSANNA

I love you too.

They kiss. Susanna opens the door for her. Daphne runs out.

EXT. SUSANNA'S APARTMENT

Daphne peeks out to check for Roger. Then she runs off. Susanna watches her go and then closes the door.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne walks along the water's edge back to the house.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER

Daphne opens the door. Roger sits in front of a roaring fire, drinking.

ROGER  
Where the fuck were you? Why didn't  
you answer your phone?

DAPHNE  
I was thinking.

ROGER  
You're acting crazy.

She doesn't answer.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Well?

She avoids him. He follows.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Did you get it?

DAPHNE  
Yes.

ROGER  
And?

DAPHNE  
Roger. I just got back. Give me a  
second.

ROGER  
No we need to know. Now. Come on.

He escorts her to the bathroom.

INT./EXT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM

Daphne tries to shut the door on Roger but he blocks it.

DAPHNE  
Rog.

ROGER  
You weren't shy before.

DAPHNE  
Please.

ROGER  
Were you with her?

DAPHNE  
Who?

ROGER

Susanna. She said I got her pregnant, didn't she? That's a goddamn lie and you know it.

DAPHNE

I wasn't with her. Stop.

She pushes him away and locks the door. Roger waits outside.

Daphne sits on the toilet, staring at the test.

ROGER

I'm right here to hear the good news.

He POUNDS on the door. Finally she rips open the test and pees on the stick.

DAPHNE

I'll let you know as soon as I know.

Daphne waits, afraid. She looks everywhere but at the test.

ROGER

Come on. Fuck Daph.

Finally she looks:

TWO BARS. PREGNANT. Roger POUNDS again on the door.

ROGER (CONT'D)

What's happening?

Daphne washes her hands. She checks again. Same result. She stares at herself in the mirror, her face a swirl of emotion, and breathes deeply to calm her nerves. What has she done?

Finally Daphne steps out.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Well?

She barely nods her head.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Yeah? Fuck yeah, babe. That's awesome.

He hugs her so hard he lifts her stiff frame off the ground. She doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE DECK - NIGHT

Daphne walks out and peers out at the beach. A steady gray rain falls. She sees Susanna already staring up at the house. They stare at each other. The door OPENS behind her: Roger.

Daphne's PHONE RINGS: Angela. She walks away from the house and picks up. Daphne looks out at the beach. Susanna is gone.

DAPHNE

Hi Ma.

ANGELA

Why haven't you answered my calls?

DAPHNE

I'm sorry.

She looks at Roger, approaching. She motions for him to stop.

INTERCUT INT. ANGELA'S APARTMENT

ANGELA

Tell me you're not with him.

DAPHNE

Ma, I didn't tell you because--.

ANGELA

No. You don't know what you're doing.

DAPHNE

Ma. Trust me. I'm an adult.

Angela grows more desperate.

ANGELA

You don't know what that family did to me, to us.

DAPHNE

I know, Ma. I know. But...

Roger offers her a drink. She waves him away.

ANGELA

Daphne. Get away from him and stay away. Now.

DAPHNE

Ma. Stop. I got to go.



ANGELA

Daphne. No. He's your brother.

Daphne freezes. Roger walks up with a drink for Daphne. She waves him away.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Do you hear me? He's your brother.

ROGER

Oh right. One more for me then.

He doublefists the drinks while she stumbles inside.

INT. BEACH HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Daphne walks in and sits on the bed and stares at the Panda, fingering Susanna's necklace. Her phone RINGS again: Angela. Daphne shuts it off.

Roger walks in. She quickly drops the necklace and pushes it under the bed with her foot. He's too drunk to notice.

ROGER

It's all going to work out. You'll see.

For a second, she thinks she sees Susanna peeking through a crack in the blinds.

She looks out again but Susanna's gone. Roger stands beside her.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You tell your mom about the baby?

She shakes her head, still staring at the panda.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Why not? She'll be pumped.

She can't answer. Roger hugs her but she squirms away.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Fine.

Roger walks off.

The sun sets on Daphne's face as she stares out the window.

LATER -

Daphne grabs the panda and walks off. Roger lies behind her.

ROGER  
What are you doing?

DAPHNE  
Getting rid of this.

ROGER  
Finally. That thing is so fucking  
ugly.

He watches her carry it out to the garbage.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne stuffs the panda into the garbage can and slams the lid.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne wanders back in and stares out at the water.

Roger appears behind her. She pulls away.

ROGER  
You're acting really fucking weird.

DAPHNE  
I'm nervous about the baby.

ROGER  
It's fine. Just relax.

She holds back her rage. He tries to hug her again.

DAPHNE  
I'm going for a walk.

ROGER  
Now? You can't.

DAPHNE  
Yeah I can. You coming?

ROGER  
You want me to?

She nods her head.

INT. BEACH HOUSE KITCHEN

Daphne searches the drawers for flashlights and finds two.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Daphne and Roger walk along the water, flashlights illuminating their path.

EXT. CAVE

Daphne hovers by the entrance.

                          ROGER  
                  What's up?

She doesn't answer. She just moves in.

INT. CAVE

Daphne wanders to the back.

                          ROGER  
                  Daph. Let's go.

She shines the light in his face.

                          ROGER (CONT'D)  
                  What are you doing?

                          DAPHNE  
                  Come in.

                          ROGER  
                  Fine.

As he moves closer to her, Susanna sneaks up behind him.

                          DAPHNE  
                  What your family did to my mother.  
                  What you did to Susanna. You have  
                  to pay for that.

                          ROGER  
                  What the fuck?

He whips around.

                          ROGER (CONT'D)  
                  What are you doing here? Daph.

DAPHNE

Do it. Now.

Susanna, in gloves, brings a LARGE ROCK down on Roger but he charges her. The rock hits him on the side of the head as he KNOCKS Susanna to the ground, smashing her against the rocks.

She SCREAMS in pain.

Daphne shines the light on Roger. He's knocked out.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Give me the rock.

Susanna hands the rock to her. Daphne shuts off her light.

SMASH.

SOUNDS OF SCUFFLING. A SCREAM. Then SILENCE. Finally.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Here. We have to bury him.

EXT. CAVE

Daphne walks out and then Susanna, covered in wet sand. They lean onto each other, keeping each other up.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne and Susanna walk along the beach in the dark, in silence, flashlights off.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne and Susanna pull off their clothes and drop them on the floor by the fireplace.

DAPHNE

Do you have anything else to wear?

SUSANNA

Yeah. I hid a bag outside.

DAPHNE

Good.

Daphne drops the clothes in the fire place.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Daphne collapses on the bed with Susanna. They stare face to face and caress each other.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Daphne's eyes POP OPEN. Only quiet. She looks around, unsure.

                  DAPHNE  
Hello? Rog?

Susanna walks in, dressed in her work clothes.

                  SUSANNA  
Morning.

                  DAPHNE  
For a second I wasn't sure it  
happened.

She kisses Daphne.

                  DAPHNE (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

                  SUSANNA  
I'm not inheriting a vast fortune.  
Not yet anyway. I have to get to  
work. You doing OK?

                  DAPHNE  
Yeah.

Susanna leaves. Daphne gets up and puts the panda back up in the window. She lies back and stares at the panda.

LATER -

Daphne floats through the house. Empty. Alone.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne steps out and scans the beach for signs of life.

                  DAPHNE  
Roger!

The wind swallows up her cries.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne in her trench coat and dress walks aimlessly along the sand. She comes close to the cave and hovers. She can't go any closer.

MONTAGE -

Daphne collapses over the toilet, vomiting. Nothing comes out.

Daphne sits on the shower floor, the water washing over her.

Daphne stares out at the Ocean from the deck.

Daphne stares at a raging fire.

END MONTAGE

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

PHONE RINGS: ZORN. Daphne picks up.

                  DAPHNE

          Hello.

                  ZORN

          Daphne, Alexandra Zorn. I've been trying to contact Roger but he's not answering. Do you have any idea where he is?

INT. CAR

Daphne drives through town.

INT./EXT. CAR

Daphne drives on the highway.

INT. ZORN'S OFFICE

Daphne faces Zorn in her office.

                  ZORN

          Why didn't you call the police?

DAPHNE

I thought it was just his drinking. That he would come home again. But now that I'm pregnant-

ZORN

Do you have any reason to believe he could be in trouble?

Daphne shakes her head.

ZORN (CONT'D)

You know your mother called me very concerned. She said she didn't know about your relationship with Roger until very recently. How do you think she feels about you being with her former employer's son?

DAPHNE

I don't know. I'm not her.

ZORN

Daphne, is there something you're not telling me?

DAPHNE

I'm pregnant.

ZORN

After his father raped and beat her? Shit Daphne. How would you feel if you were in her position?

DAPHNE

I don't know what you're talking about. I never heard about anything like that before.

ZORN

Cut the crap. I was the one who wrote the confidentiality agreement. We both know what happened.

DAPHNE

I know that I love Roger. I know I'm having his child. And I know I need to find him.

Zorn can't believe Daphne's audacity.

ZORN

A young man disappears just after his new wife gets pregnant, making her eligible to inherit his father's fortune. Millions of dollars. That same wife has a strong motive for revenge based on the father's long history of violent behavior. That doesn't look suspicious to you?

DAPHNE

About as suspicious as you fucking his father and then becoming executor of his will.

ZORN

You're a lot smarter than I thought.

DAPHNE

I guess I should say the same about you.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LATER

Daphne stares out at the ocean. Her phone rings: Angela.

Daphne answers.

INTERCUT INT. ANGELA'S APARTMENT

ANGELA

Daphne? You there?

Daphne doesn't speak.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Baby what's going on?

Daphne walks out onto

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DECK

Daphne tries to compose herself.

DAPHNE

He's gone, Mama.

ANGELA

What? When?



DAPHNE  
Two days ago.

ANGELA  
Oh baby. Thank you. Thank you. That makes me so happy.

Daphne fingers Susanna's necklace.

ANGELA (CONT'D)  
Now you get away from there. You come home and get back to normal.

DAPHNE  
I can't.

ANGELA  
Of course you can. You can always come home.

DAPHNE  
Ma. Stop.

She hangs up.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Daphne walks along the beach. She sees Susanna at the cave. She checks no one is nearby before approaching.

DAPHNE  
What are you doing? Someone might see us.

SUSANNA  
I had to see you. I can't stand it.

DAPHNE  
I know.

Susanna tries to pull her into the cave but Daphne stops.

SUSANNA  
We need to get out of here. I can't do this much longer.

DAPHNE  
We can't go anywhere until I get the money.

SUSANNA  
Can't you talk to the lawyer? Get the money now.

DAPHNE

No. It's too obvious.

SUSANNA

I need to get out of here. I can't be here anymore. We have to go.

DAPHNE

You need to wait. We don't have any money yet.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Daphne walks along the water, head down.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne warms herself in front of the fire, staring into the flames.

INT. ARCADE - DAY

Susanna walks back to her station at the cashier as TWO POLICE OFFICERS, Gray, tired to the world, who checked Roger out of jail, and the other, green and fresh faced, still with baby fat, approach her.

OFFICER GRAY

Are you Susanna Anderson?

Susanna nods.

OFFICER GREEN

You're under arrest for the murder or Roger Kessler.

She stops in her tracks.

SUSANNA

What? You're joking, right?

OFFICER GRAY

I'm sorry. Please turn around so we can handcuff you.

Susanna doesn't move. Green turns her around and cuffs her.

SUSANNA

He attacked me. I didn't do anything.

They lead Susanna out as Chad and a few CUSTOMERS watch.

EXT./INT. BEACH HOUSE

Officers Gray and Green approach the house and KNOCK.

Daphne answers.

OFFICER GRAY

Are you Mrs. Daphne Kessler? The  
wife of Roger Kessler?

DAPHNE

Yes. Is there a problem?

OFFICER GREEN

May we come in?

EXT. BEACH HOUSE

Through the rear windows, the two Officers stand in front of Daphne to deliver the news about Roger. Her knees go weak and she falls back into a chair, stunned.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne stares out at the water as the Officers search the house for clues.

EXT. BEACH

Daphne walks along the beach. She sees police tape blocking off the cave and walks in the other direction.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - INTERCUT

The Grocery Clerk faces Gray and Green, picking at her nails.

CLERK

She was afraid she might be  
pregnant and was worried her  
husband had cheated on her with an  
ex.

GRAY

You never saw Mrs. Kessler until  
last week?

Officers Green and Gray face Chad, Susanna's coworker.

CHAD

Never.

GREEN

Did she seem worried to you?

CLERK

She said the ex-girlfriend seemed really angry, dangerous. I think she said she didn't feel safe anymore in her own home.

Gray and Green face Zorn.

GRAY

Do you have any reason to suspect that Mrs. Kessler was involved?

ZORN

In the murder? Absolutely not. Daphne would never do anything like that. As long as I've known her she's been done everything right. Besides, she was in Portland when Roger disappeared, meeting with me.

GREEN

So that doesn't sound like her?

Chad faces them again.

CHAD

I don't know. Susanna could be real intense. Get real mad like over stupid stuff. Sometimes if you just looked at her wrong she would freak out.

Gray and Green exchange concerned looks, and look back at Susanna, who sits, handcuffed and haggard.

GRAY

Did you threaten the Kesslers?

SUSANNA

No. I would never hurt her. I love her.

GRAY

She denies it. Completely.

Susanna struggles to stay calm.

GREEN

And when did you learn about their relationship?

Green and Gray face Angela, in a modest dress, her cane at her side. Her face a mask of control.

ANGELA

She was embarrassed to tell me. She said they reconnected on Facebook.

GRAY

She claims that Roger's father paid her to terminate a pregnancy when she was dating the victim. Approximately 9 years ago.

ZORN

I'm not at liberty to discuss that. Neither is she.

Gray gives Green an "I told you so" look.

GRAY

You ever see this before?

He holds up a Ziploc with Susanna's

SAND DOLLAR NECKLACE. Susanna quickly looks away.

GRAY (CONT'D)

It was found with the body.

It finally hits her. Daphne planned this. Susanna's face crumbles. Gray and Green watch her closely.

GRAY (CONT'D)

She claims they conspired together to kill Mr. Kessler and steal his inheritance.

ZORN

We all know that your suspect has been causing problems for my clients and, for that matter, the people of this town for a long time. This time she went too far.

Gray nods. Touché.

GREEN

And when did you learn about their relationship?

DAPHNE

I helped my mother a few times at their beach house for big parties. I think I was about 14. I probably met her then. But he didn't tell me... About her at all until... It was our wedding night. When she was at our window.

GRAY

Why didn't you call the police?

DAPHNE

Roger said he'd handle it. He said she was harmless.

GREEN

And how did you feel about their relationship?

ANGELA

My daughter is a very independent young woman. I learned long ago, Officer, that I don't have much control over other people, especially the ones closest to me.

LATER -

Gray remains seated, Green paces the room.

GRAY

It seems pretty clear to me.

GREEN

You're joking, right? What percentage of murders are committed by the victim's spouse?

GRAY

Susanna was his girlfriend before. She was pregnant with his kid. That's basically the same thing nowadays.

GREEN

Exactly. What does she get out of it?

GRAY

Revenge. Besides why would Daphne kill him? She gets everything she wants.

GREEN

Maybe she didn't want him?

GRAY

No way. I saw her when she bailed him out. Completely distraught. No way she did it.

GREEN

You're giving up too easily.

GRAY

Just because she's black doesn't mean she's guilty.

GREEN

Fuck you man. I never said that.

GRAY

No. You're right. Maybe you just thought it.

Green glares at him.

GRAY (CONT'D)

But you got to go where the evidence is.

LATER -

GREEN

And you didn't think anything unusual was going on?

DAPHNE

He promised it was over. I had driven back to Portland to see our lawyer. I stayed over with my mother. Roger called that morning and said he was confused and was going to hang out in his favorite thinking spot. That was... That was...

Daphne can't hold back the tears any longer.

GRAY

Take your time.

Gray hands her tissues. They wait patiently.

GRAY (CONT'D)

There've been accusations that she was seeking revenge for something that happened to you.

Angela looks at Green blankly.

ANGELA

I'm sorry. I don't know what you're referring to.

GREEN

You worked for the older Mr. Kessler?

ANGELA

For almost twenty years. I took care of Roger as a child and helped raise him after his mother passed. Then when he got older I ran the household.

GREEN

And was there ever anytime that he behaved inappropriately toward you?

DAPHNE

No. He was always very loving. He loved me.

GREEN

Did anyone see her when she was with you?

ZORN

We met in my office. My assistant was gone for the day. So no.

GRAY

Your daughter says that on the night her husband was killed that she was in Portland staying with you.

ANGELA

Yes. That is correct. She came back to see me. She had a meeting with her lawyer during the day. Then she made dinner and we watched the news. Then we went to bed. Just like normal.

Gray stands up.



GRAY

Thank you, Ma'am. I think we have what we need.

GREEN

We appreciate your help, Ma'am.

Angela stands, with effort, and walks out. Gray and Green look at each other cautiously.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE DECK - LATER

Daphne stands on the deck, staring out at the ocean. Soon this will all be hers. Suddenly, the DOORBELL.

Daphne pauses.

INT. BEACH HOUSE

Daphne walks to the door and opens it:

ANGELA slowly walks in. Zorn stands behind her at her car. Daphne closes the door and falls onto her in a big hug.

DAPHNE

Mama?

Angela stares out, stiffly supporting Daphne.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I did it Mama. For you. For us.

Angela pulls back her and SLAPS Daphne across the face. Daphne's face freezes in shock.

CUT TO BLACK