

Zemblanity

Written by
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Based on, "Las Babas del Diablo",
Blow-Up and *The Shape of Water*

FADE IN:

1 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DUSK (FLASH-FORWARD)**1**

It is pouring rain.

An EDITOR ,39, a white sleazy-looking man with a receding hairline shakes his wet umbrella and sits down at a table in a coffee shop. The editor is holding a yellow envelope. He lifts his finger, signaling to a WAITRESS, who is 18 and conventionally beautiful. The waitress walks over to the editor to take his order.

EDITOR
(flirting)
Black coffee. Extra hot.

As the waitress walks away, the editor, very obviously, looks her up and down. The editor snuffles loudly and wipes his nose with his hand before opening the envelope. He begins to look through numerous photos while sucking his teeth. A car screeches into the shot through the window behind the editor and parks terribly. THOMAS, 26, a distressed but modish guy, steps out of the car, throws his cigarette at the pavement, and speed walks through the rain and into the coffee shop. He goes up to the editor. Thomas looks frantic, desperate. But, all Thomas does is stand next to the editor.

EDITOR
These are great, Thomas. The mutant fans are gonna love this.

THOMAS
Give them to me.

The editor looks up at Thomas with a smile. Thomas is staring back at the editor with a very serious expression. Thomas sticks his hand out, motioning to the editor to hand over the pictures. EDITOR's smile fades.

EDITOR
(ignoring him)
Didn't get lucky last night, huh?

THOMAS
(sternly)
I done working with you. Just give them to me.

EDITOR

(scoffing)
 You can't afford to lose this job.

Thomas stares down the editor as he continues to go through the photos. The waitress returns to the table with the coffee. Thomas takes it from her hands and pours it onto the editor's pants. Thomas grabs the photos and runs to his car.

2 EXT. THOMAS DRIVING HIS CAR - DUSK

2

The editor does not make it around the table in time to catch Thomas. He looks down at his pants, his hands in fists.

Thomas starts his car speeds away from the coffee shop. In the background, the editor is seen cursing at Thomas from the coffee shop's entrance.

Thomas stops at a red light. As he waits, a GROUP OF PROTESTERS cross in front of him.

THOMAS (V.O.)
 (tapping the wheel
 impatiently)
 Not even a rainstorm can stop
 ignorance.

The protesters hold anti police and pro mutant signs. One of them puts a smaller sign on Thomas's windshield. Thomas is clearly disturbed by this. He watches the protesters as they walk away. The light changes and Thomas speeds away, causing the sign to fly off his car.

As he's driving, Thomas speeds past HOMELESS PEOPLE warming themselves up with a garbage can fire under a bridge. Thomas reverses the car swiftly and throws the photos in the garbage can fire along with the sign. Then, Thomas speeds away. The homeless people watch him leave.

The car becomes more and more distant, revealing the thunderstorm above him.

CUT TO:

3 INT. THOMAS'S HOME - DAY (PRESENT)

3

It is not raining, but cloudy.

The sound of house keys moving frantically is heard from behind the main door of the house. The house is shadowy. Thomas walks into his house swiftly and wastes no time on locking his door. Leaning against the door, Thomas lights a cigarette, his lighter illuminating his face for a brief moment. His clothes are dry. The smoke of his cigarette flows towards a window, almost as if it were blending with the now cloudy sky.

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Thomas walks into his living room and turns on an orange lamp. Thomas walks towards a liqueur cabinet and pours himself a drink. He drinks it in a second. Thomas pours himself another drink and sits down on his sofa. This time, he sips his drink. Thomas looks over to the side and sees his blow-ups next to the fireplace. He looks down, rubbing his forehead, anxious.

Thomas puts the glass down, walks over to his fireplace and turns it on. He grabs his blow-ups and hovers them over the fire, but Thomas doesn't drop them. He pulls them back towards him. He observes the first one on the pile.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK)

4

Thomas smokes a cigarette while he reads a newspaper next to a magazine stand. He has a camera strapped around his neck. All of the magazine covers feature the face of a mutant creature and read "The Heroes of Our Times". Thomas pays for the newspaper and remains standing.

A mother and a small child holding a mutant-themed balloon approach the stand. The balloon goes on Thomas's face. He swipes it away, revealing that the small child looking back at him. Unfazed, Thomas looks back at the newspaper, but the small child kicks him. The balloon comes back to his face and Thomas swipes it away, this time, the small child blows raspberries at him. Thomas looks at his mother, who is clearly flirting with the clerk. The small child kicks Thomas again. Thomas smiles at the small child and pops his balloon with his cigarette.

The small child throws a tantrum and the mom carries him away quickly. Thomas walks, nonchalantly, the opposite way.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. LAKE - DAY**5**

Thomas walks into a fairly empty area in the park with a lake in it. He sits down on the bench and stares at a small cloud above.

A wide-eyed GIRL, 13, wearing school clothes is walking to a tree across the lake from Thomas. He sees her. He takes a photo of her.

THOMAS (V.O.)
(thinking to himself)
It's Monday. She's skipping class.

The girl stands in the shade of the tree and looks around, as if she were waiting for someone. Suddenly, bubbles begin to surface on the side of the lake that she is closest to. A MUTANT with smooth scaly head pokes out of the water. It's a mutant. The girl smiles. Thomas stares at them.

A doorbell buzzes.

CUT TO:

6 INT/EXT/INT. THOMAS'S HOME - DAY (PRESENT)**6**

It is raining outside. Thomas is still holding the photos, but the doorbell buzzes again. He snaps back to reality, rushes to his window to see who is there. It's a MAILMAN, 30, he has a patchy beard and eye bags. The mailman carries a large package, its weight causing him to lean over.

Thomas opens the door. The mailman is wet.

MAILMAN
Delivery for Thomas-

THOMAS
(peaking only his head
out of the door)
Shhh!
(beat)
This the painting?

The mailman nods. Thomas signs a paper for the mailman, grabs the package, and locks the door. The mailman looks around, wondering what Thomas was looking for.

Thomas puts the package aside and goes back to the blow-ups, as if he were in a trance. He holds them again.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. LAKE - DAY (FLASHBACK)**7**

The mutant exhibits masculine features. It walks out of the water and towards the girl, circles around her, and suddenly climbs up the tree, causing leaves to fall on her. The girl looks for him for a moment but then breaks out into laughter when he hangs upside down from the tree, like an acrobat. The mutant hands her a present. She opens it.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Must be the manipulator.

Thomas takes another photo. He gets up from the bench and walks into the foliage, hiding. Thomas makes his way around the lake through the greenery in attempts to get a closer picture of the subjects.

The girl opens the present, revealing two red bows. The girl smiles and mutant drops down from the tree. She embraces him and the mutant hugs her back, awkwardly. She puts on the bows and kisses him.

Thomas takes another photo, still tracing the lake.

The mutant picks up the girl and carries her to the lake.

A shadow conceals Thomas even more. He looks up, sees a cloud above him, and it begins to drizzle.

They are both shoulder deep in the water now. Thomas is the closest he has been to the subjects. Suddenly, the mutant grabs the girl tightly and begins to bite her aggressively. The girl shrieks from pain and shock. Thomas takes a photo, but the camera's flash blinds the mutant. The mutant lets out a loud cry and the girl swims/runs away weakly; her white and bloody blouse revealing her small body. Thomas takes another photo.

Thomas's eyes widen, realizing what had just occurred and flees the scene.

CUT TO:

8 INT/EXT. THOMAS'S HOME - DUSK (PRESENT)**8**

It is pouring rain.

Thomas flips to the last blow-up. His finger traces a small feminine body in the corner of the shot. Her body was captured floating at the edge of the lake. It was another girl.

A car is heard skidding and crashing outside. Thomas perks up and runs to his window. A woman steps out of the car and screams. It's the girl. Her limp body lies on the street, she had left a trail of blood behind her. The car hadn't hit her.

Thomas drops the blow-ups and runs to his front door to catch a better look of her. He opens it, but he stops when he sees a note and blood on his porch. Thomas picks it up, the note is damp.

The note says, "Please call this number (insert local number). I will do anything to have those photos" with messy, childish handwriting. Thomas looks around to see if anyone saw him, goes back inside swiftly, and locks the door behind him. He walks back to the window and picks up the blow-ups. Thomas flips through the photos desperately. The bows on the girls match confirming that it's the girl from the park earlier that day. He rubs his neck nervously.

THOMAS

(muttering to himself,
realizing)

Another victim. They're all
monsters.

Thomas throws the note and the blow-ups into the fire place.

Thomas leaves his house quickly, walks through the rain, jumps in his car, and speeds away.

FADE OUT