

KILLING KOLT

by:

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Full-length Feature

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INT. BEDROOM - OVERCAST - MORNING TWILIGHT

MAX KOLT(33), disheveled, gaunt, would be handsome, lies awake with blood-shot eyes that STARE into the CEILING/CAMERA-- he strums 'MONOLITH' BY T.REX on a SPANISH GUITAR; wears an open TERRYCLOTH ROBE and BOXER BRIEFS.

Empty VODKA and BOURBON BOTTLES are strewn around the opulent room.

TICK--TICK--TICK--

A METRONOME keeps time on a bedside table.

MAX

(sings)

*Shallow all the actions,
Of the children of men,
Fogged was their vision,
Since the ages began...*

SPLAT

A suicidal BIRD hits/breaks Max's bedroom window.

Max startles, erupts up on an ornate, elevated bed. He steps on a BOTTLE that CRACKS under his foot.

MAX

Shit.

Max pulls a small piece of glass out-- slides both feet, one bleeds, into plush WHITE slippers. He stands; moves to and unlatches a FROSTY window.

He looks down; a twitching, deceased crow.

Max grabs a remote from the pocket of his ROBE; TV ON-- news covers BIG PHARMA.

NEWS ANCHOR

At the center of this story is the Kolt conglomeration...

Lethargic, Max's eyes follow a CROW as it drifts in the winter wonderland.

NEWS ANCHOR

The billion dollar empire has been accused of pandering to politicians and medical professionals alike.

Max shakes his head; yep!

Investigators say that important data regarding addiction rates of millions on the infamous opioid, Conoxy, was concealed for years.

Max sifts through an ocean of bottles.

NEWS ANCHOR

The hedge fund belonging to the heir and namesake of tycoon, Spencer Kolt, was targeted by an unknown source, who sent baked goods laced with Conoxy to the firm, bringing a spotlight to an endemic crisis.

Max finds a bottle with booze in it; chugs it.

NEWS ANCHOR

The FBI searching for the vigilante responsible for this scheme. Spencer Kolt has been accused of moving billions offshore as the company collapses under lawsuits.

SUPER: KILLING KOLT

NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)

Families of the deceased and addicted are calling for justice... Back to you Cindy.

He points the remote to the ceiling; TV OFF.

TICK--TICK--TICK--

The metronome swings in the background; Max, zombie-lie, gaze out the window.

MAX

(Robert Frost poem)

*The way a crow,
Shook down on me,
The dust of snow,
From a hemlock tree,
Has given my heart a change of mood--
And saved some part of a day I had
rued...*

(a beat)

So fucking beautiful.

INT. HALLWAY

Max meanders through extravagance in his BOXER BRIEFS and open robe-- the halls are filled with extraordinary art; finally he reaches the,

INT. KITCHEN

It's FILTHY, but grand. He makes tea; pours SCOTCH and HONEY into his cup.

INT. KOLT ESTATE - MONTAGE - MAX CLEANING

- Max wanders around an untidy manor picking up clothes.
- Cleans the kitchen.
- Empties plates/bowls of caked on carbs into the trash.
- Puts dishes in dishwasher.
- Wears FLOWERY DISH GLOVES; BLEACHES a sink/toilet.
- Scrubs the BATHTUB and separate SHOWER.
- Cleans a window meticulously.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Max's silhouette washes in a large, beautiful frosted SHOWER/STEAM ROOM.

He stands motionless under a stream of water as we TRACK around an ajar shower door.

The water BEATS off Max's face.

He lathers shampoo on his head-- with white, soapy hair, he lapses into staring at the wall.

LATER:

Max stands at the bathroom sink with the medicine cabinet OPEN; he fumbles for a STRAIGHT RAZOR and SHAVING CREAM. He places them on the counter.

Pill bottles catch his attention. He grabs a few **PATIENT: MAXIMILIAN ALEXIS SPENCER KOLT III XANAX/ATIVAN/AMBIEN.**

Max gazes at the bottles; shakes his head NO; puts the bottles back; CLOSES the medicine cabinet.

He lathers shaving cream with a SHAVING BRUSH onto his face; begins to shave-- slow and deliberate.

Max creeps the BLADE down, down, down to his jugular. His stare goes from his beard to meeting his own gaze in the mirror.

MAX

NOW! Just DO IT you worthless piece of SHIT!

A beat.

DING DONG DING DONG

MAX

FUUUUCK!

Max throws the straight blade into the sink and rips a hand towel off the towel rack; it spins.

STAIRCASE/FOYER

Max's obstinate; he walks down the stairs.

MAX

(murmurs)

Goddamnit...
--the hell is this?

Opens the door where the wholesome neighborhood postman DONNIE SPEER(50s), cheery, round and tall like Santa Clause without the beard, delivers a PRIORITY LETTER.

DONNIE

Well hey there little Maxi!-- Guess you're not so little anymore! Got a letter here for ya. You feeling okay? You're looking pale.

MAX

(upbeat)

Hiya Donnie, yeah, not too bad--
Guess I could use some sun though huh?

DONNIE

Oh yes, I agree with that! It's that SAD time of year-- You know SAD as in S.A.D. Seasonal Affective Disorder. My wife-- you know... Marie!

Max signs for the package, nods; feigns interest.

DONNIE

...Gets it and has to go to the tanning booth for her vitamin D! This has been a long stretch-- Either this weather or she or both are starting to *affect* ME!

Donnie laughs.

MAX

Well thanks Donnie--

DONNIE

No problemo Mr. Maxi! You have a good day, give your parents my best! Come on over to the pub sometime!

Max's stands impatient.

DONNIE

Haven't hardly seen ya! You know Estella's selling some of her photos there, so if you see anything you like!

MAX

Great-- well I'm workin' on something so you have my permission to leave any further deliveries just here-- I think it's safe!

AERIAL SHOT: Of the vacant estate.

CAW CAW a RAVEN'S SONG ECHOES the barren wood.

BACK TO NORMAL.

DONNIE

You got it.

MAX

(sincerely)
Goodbye Donnie.

Max shakes his hand.

MAX

...Thanks for being you.

DONNIE

Everything okay Mr. Maxi?

MAX

Never better. Never better...
You have a good one okay?

DONNIE

Okee dokee then... See ya--
You sure you're alright?

MAX

(big smile)

*We all reveal our manifestations.
This manifestation is over.
That's all.*

(a nod)

You take care now!

Max closes the door on a pensive Donnie and throws the letter on a console in the foyer. It's from **KOLT INDUSTRIES**-- the family biz.

He sits on the stairs; glares at the letter.

He stands, retrieves it and heads to a,

INT. LARGE STUDY

Max grabs a bottle of SCOTCH off the CRYSTAL BAR.

He opens the letter with a fancy knife; reads on in silence; tears up-- pain, the words hurt.

RIIIIIIP

Down the CENTER of the LETTER into two.

He bunches it; throws it into a waste basket; chugs the SCOTCH; returns to the,

INT. BATHROOM

Max stands in front of the mirror; grabs the BLADE and looks at his WRISTS. He starts to cut into one of them.

MAX

Down the road... Not across the tracks--

DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG-- CONTINUES...

MAX

GODDAMMIT DONNIE!

Max grabs a bunch of TOILET PAPER-- wraps it around his wrist as he rushes out the door to the,

INT. FOYER

Max hurls the front door open--

SUZY KOLT-CAMBELL(28), Max's socialite little sister 'Clueless' Cher version; KATIE DEVEREUX-MCINTYRE ESQ(32), London expat, overtly dramatic, Katherine Hepburn meets Elle Woods. Accompanied by their husbands, BRENDAN MCINTYRE(33) and TRÈS CAMPBELL(33), both resemble Max somewhat, friends of his since prep school, confident, handsome, pranksters.

SUZY
YOU'RE ALIVE!

KATIE
YOU'RE ALIVE!

BRENDAN
KOLLLLLLLTTT

TRÈS
KOLLLLLLLTTT

MAX
What the fuuu...

SUZY
Well hello stranger!
(behind to the men)
We had a bet--
(back to Max)
But you're not dead so we win!--
Phew, it's freeeeeezing! Lemme in I
couldn't find the key box--

They push their way through Max, into the foyer.

SUZY
(strokes Max's face)
You look pale-- I might have some tanning
spray in my bathroom.

Max swats her hand away.

Katie passes him; an air kiss to each cheek.

KATIE
You need some citrus dahling. You look
scabby.

MAX
Wait-- why're you--

SUZY
Mummy wanted her cerulean Dolce for the
Maldives trip-- since the guys were en
route anyway...

Max leans against an elaborate hall table as everyone takes off their snowy boots.

MAX

Just as I was about to end it--

No one's listening to him. Max notices his blood through the toilet paper; he covers his wrist with his hand.

MAX

(to Brendan/Très)

Wait... You guys were on your way?

TRÈS

Yeah buddy! Don't you remember? It's finally our turn on the roster!...

Max stares at Très.

TRÈS

...Ballambangjang Society-- we're conducting the rites this year?!

MAX

Oh shit!

TRÈS

--And, to make sure you weren't stuck in a Stephen King novel! Damn, they sure picked a place to put the new Pledges through the wringer.

Brendan bear hugs an indifferent Max; head lock; noogie.

BRENDAN

Good to see ya buddy. What'd ya get kidnapped by the vineyard or something?

Max holds his wrist; acquiescent.

BRENDAN

What's up with ya?! Ya got no fire!

Brendan releases Max; no fun!

BRENDAN

How long ya been up here now?

MAX

SUZY

Sss--

Six months!

Max leads the way, everyone follows to the

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

It sparkles-- can the scent of bleach waft through the screen?

SUZY

Well! At least you've been keeping it clean! I'm. In. Shock. Actually-- This is Wendy level clean!

Max stops; turns to Suzy.

MAX

She did more than clean...

SUZY

I know, I know... but she was the best at that too! Mummy always said--

KATIE

(cuts in)

Your mother's taste is impeccable--

(looks at Brendan)

I've been meaning to get her over to the house... We need help with the parlor.

BRENDAN

Whatever you want babe-- all you. Wendy, Wendy? Why's that familiar?

SUZY

She was our nanny-- Well, Max's more than mine... Made the best peanut butter--

MAX

(cuts in)

Fuckin' eh, you guys are early... Coffee isn't even on yet.

TRÈS

Us married guys start the day early now!

SUZY

Don't start about married life *again*.

TRÈS

Aw honey, you know how much I love YOU!

Très pulls Suzy off course; starts to kiss her.

BRENDAN

Early guys!

TRÈS

Well, we aren't an old married couple
like you two-- yet!

SUZY

C'mon--

(sotto to Très)

I don't want *him* to feel like a third
wheel.

BRENDAN

That maneuvering you did with Kolt
Industries was fucking brilliant man!
Congrats.

KATIE

Truly-- don't be surprised if you receive
an offer from daddy's firm. I dropped
your name and well let's just say you're
a fucking rockstar at the Greene,
Coxburn...

Max has an inconspicuous tremor; he fills a mug with
water, downs it-- washes the mug.

KATIE

...And Devereaux fund-- but *most*
importantly by proxy it makes me a star.
Which is really all that matters eh!
Who needs Yale Law with comrades like
you!

CLOSE on Max; washes his wrist, a small WOUND coagulates.

DA DUM DA DUM DA DUM

SLOWMO: Max's HEART RATE and BREATH RACE--

OUT OF FOCUS: the friends laugh in the background, take
off their coats and hats while Max grabs paper towel;
wraps his wrist.

BACK TO NORMAL: Max composes himself without notice.

MAX

Coffee? Tea?

KATIE

I can't remember the last time I was in
this kitchen! Illumination night? 2012?

TRÈS

Also known as the last time 'Cash' Kolt here was willing to leave the money-soaked shores of Manhattan for this shabby lil' colony-- Fuck remember THAT party...

BRENDAN

Epic. We had that rented slide from the balcony to the pool...

TRÈS

(points out the patio doors)
Fuck that! My legendary flip from that balcony, into the pool!

SUZY

Let's retire that shall we?

MAX

No coffee left-- Just Perrier, vodka, cognac...

KATIE

Uch, Perrier... You are depleted.

Très and Brendan look at each other and back at Max.

BRENDAN

We brought your fav...

Brendan retrieves a bottle of SCOTCH from his inner COAT pocket.

MAX

(redeemed)
Dalwhinnie?

BRENDAN

You know it.

KATIE

Um-- hello! It's 9:45 AM!
(to Max)

Don't worry-- We figured from your parents that your supplies were limited...

MAX

Yeah? You spoke to them?

KATIE

Oh just briefly upon departure... They're off to the Palm Springs Estate this weekend.

(to Brendan/Très)

Hey *men*! Be gentle and go get the groceries.

The guys are en route to the cabinet; grab SHOT GLASSES.

BRENDAN

I'm off the clock babe! C'mon no judgment.

Brendan breaks the seal of the DALWHINNIE BOTTLE.

MAX

(grabs the bottle)

Well fuck... don't shoot the good stuff.

Exchanges the Dalwhinnie for a VODKA BOTTLE.

MAX

Here.

Max pours six shots of vodka.

TRÈS

(shot in each hand)

Brothers of Ballambangjang--

TRÈS

Dum vivimus vivamus!

BRENDAN

Dum vivimus vivamus!

MAX

(sotto)

Dum--

CLINK CLINK

One shot, then the other, down the hatch.

Brendan walks over to Katie, kneels before her; kisses her hand.

BRENDAN

I am rejuvenated, my queen. Now, how may I satisfy any whim you may desire?

His kisses move up her arm-- Gomez style.

KATIE

Charming... groceries!

BRENDAN

Sure you don't need *anything* else?

KATIE

Down boy! Get to it. Chop chop!

EXT. KOLT ESTATE - CIRCULAR DRIVE - SNOW FLURRIES - DAY

Max, still in an open robe and underwear, wears gloves and winter boots.

Alongside Brendan and Très, who dons a RUSSIAN HAT, they all grab PAPER BAGGED GROCERIES, out of a TESLA MODEL X.

BRENDAN

Put something on you crazy fuck, it's twenty degrees!

MAX

That's what the alcohol was for, keep the blood circulating--

The guys walk to and fro as they stack groceries by the front door.

Très takes off his clothes; throws them inside.

BRENDAN

What the shit are ya doing now?

TRÈS

Well, he's right! Gotta get into the spirit of the weekend bruh!

PLOP

A grocery bag hits the ground; Brendan strips.

The men walk back and forth in their underwear, boots; Très in his Russian Hat.

BRENDAN

So how's the book comin'?

MAX

Book?

BRENDAN

Suzy said you were writing a book or something? Never figured you for Hemingway... Though you quote that shit ALL the time!

Très averts his eyes down to the grocery bag.

MAX

(nervous chuckle)

Oh that... you're right-- no Hemingway here. 'Twas a failed experiment.

Max grabs a CARDBOARD BOX full of BOOZE; encounters Brendan who stares into him.

BRENDAN

So when'd you give up?

MAX

This morning.

Brendan continues to the trunk; grabs SUITCASES.

BRENDAN

Now that's divine timing mon frère.

Brendan HOWLS; it ECHOES back-- again.

Très stops shuffling bags inside; HOWLS as he walks toward Brendan.

MAX

(sotto)

You have no idea.

Max looks up to the sky.

MAX

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

His SCREAM overpowers the HOWLS. It ECHOES.

The guys look at one another and shrug.

BRENDAN

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

TRÈS

AHHHHHHH--

Très chokes on the frigid air; coughs.

BRENDAN

Alright, Kolt you got that round.

Max stares ahead, into the CAMERA, into nothing; robotic.

MAX

Cool bro.

EXT. KOLT ESTATE - FLURRIES CONTINUE - TWILIGHT AFTERNOON

The mansion is quiet amongst the stillness of frozen tundra; SMOKE plumes from the main chimney.

BRENDAN (O.S.)

So, Davenport's kickin' it off at his place... We gotta be there by like nine.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The men sit around a large roaring FIREPLACE; still in underwear. All are toasty with large glasses of scotch.

MAX

Uch, Davenpiss.

BRENDAN

C'mon.

MAX

What?! He pissed the bed every time he passed out-- fuckin' disgusting.

BRENDAN

Well, his fund is kickin' ass right now. All I'm sayin'.

MAX

So the coke problem is worse...

BRENDAN

(laughs)

Isn't that fuel in the financial district?

MAX

That's how I know. Fuckin' blow. Goddammit now I want some.

Très starts to SNORE.

Brendan grabs a FORBES MAGAZINE from the coffee table and throws it at Très who startles.

TRÈS

Yep... I'm up.

BRENDAN

(yells)

Ohhhh honey!

Katie pokes her head from the kitchen; a distance from the living room.

KATIE

Yes beloved.

BRENDAN

(Terminator voice)

We need coffee from the future.

KATIE

What?!

BRENDAN

Can you make us coffee precious?

KATIE

Only if you put on clothes. Dinner's almost ready.

Suzy, already on her way, marches through the DINING ROOM; towards them.

BRENDAN

Uch... no monkey suit. Not yet!

Suzy's in the Living Room; shakes a spatula at them.

SUZY

No shoes, no shirt, no service.

She whips back-- a humorous, long trek, to the wing of the kitchen.

The men retreat to their lodgings.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Lit with candles, a LONG DINING TABLE has Suzy and Katie at either end as the men sit in FULL TUXEDO; piping hot food in front them.

KATIE

You blokes look dashing! I wish this was a co-ed party... I wanna dress up!

SUZY

Me too!

Everyone eyes the other.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

The exact same scene; but Suzy and Katie in BALLGOWNS.

SUZY

That Dior is *stunning* on you. I knew it would fit. It's too long for me. You want?

KATIE

(doesn't matter where)
You don't think it slouches here.

SUZY

It's supposed too. And I won't be wearing it anytime soon.

MAX

Alright, alright, I need food. Can we eat already?

TRÈS

A toast!
(stands)
To my beautiful wife... Happy nine month anniversary to us!

CLINK, CLINK, CLINK, CLINK

Max licks his lips; so hungry.

TRÈS

And in another nine months... Well,
(looks to Suzy)
Six now right?

Max starts to dig into his plate. Suzy stands and moves closer to Très. Brendan and Katie wide-eyed.

KATIE

No! Really?!

MAX

Huh?

SUZY

Yep, in six months we'll have a roommate for the next eighteen years!

Brendan and Katie erupt out of their chairs. Max eats.

KATIE

How exciting! When are you due?

The women powwow.

BRENDAN
 (to Très/handshake)
 Congrats buddy! Well at least we know now
 you didn't fry them sperms of yours--
 that one time...

Brendan and Très stare at each other; grins to smiles.

TRÈS	BRENDAN
At band camp!	At band camp!

MAX
 (sotto/between bites)
 We don't know that, yet...

SUZY
 My child's father everyone!

TRÈS
 What babe? We gotta do it. It's a
 tradition!
 (serious)
 If anyone... I mean ANYONE! Ever... EVER!
 Declares, at any point! During a
 sentence, 'that one time' or 'one time
 at'-- it must immediately be accompanied
 by 'band camp.' American Pie was our
 anthem.

Brendan fake cries.

BRENDAN
 That was beautiful man. You're gunna be a
 great dad.

The guys high five and bring it in. The women laugh.

SUZY
 (to Max)
 So mister uncle man! You excited?

MAX
 Sure... *Why not*-- You think it'll get
 your original nose?

SUZY
 (scoffs)
 Wha-- why would you even say that?

TRÈS
 Original what?

MAX

(mid-bite)

Well sorry... didn't think you guys had secrets from each other.

Suzy takes the LARGE GLASS of RED WINE in Katie's hand and pours it on Max's head-- he continues to eat.

SUZY

Jackass.

SWISH SWISH

Suzy's dress RUSTLES as she storms off-- Katie grabs the BOTTLE OF WINE off the table with Max's WINEGLASS; she pours, mid-air, as she RUSTLES after Suzy.

KATIE

Darling... everyone has rhinoplasty!-- I couldn't even tell!

MAX

It's biology you know! You can't hide behind that mask your whole life!

SLAM - a door from somewhere distant.

The men sit down to the table.

TRÈS

Are you high? What the fuck?...

Très shoots his SCOTCH. Max continues to eat; unapologetic.

MAX

A bit.

TRÈS

Was it bad?

Max's eyes widen as he chews; he raises his hand to his face, rests the back of his palm on his nose and cocks his fingers down-- BEAK-LIKE.

Brendan chuckles; contorts his face PHEW; takes a swig.

TRÈS

...Oh Lord-- sweet child'a'mine.

EXT. DAVENPORT'S MANSION - NIGHT

The guys pull up to a daunting GOTHIC MANSION-- Eyes Wide Shut style. The driveway is lined with elaborate TORCHES.

A PLUMP ENGLISH BUTLER, Hitchcock-like, greets the Tesla with six BOURBON filled CRYSTAL GLASSES on a SILVER TRAY.

TWIN TEENAGE BOYS valet as they open the car doors; smoke pours out; 90's RAP BLARES.

Très retains his breath as he holds an impressive small BONG. Max's collar and shirt still stained with RED WINE.

TRÈS

(coughs/exhales)

You gotta hand it to him... Davenport knows how to throw a shindig.

Max and Brendan grab a bourbon. Très takes another hit.

TRÈS

(to the bong)

Fuck I forgot how good Sheeba is.

MAX

Can't beat the original. You know what man, I want you to have her.

TRÈS

Dude! For real? I'm touched.

MAX

Welcome to fatherhood!

BRENDAN

(slaps himself)

Fuck I told you I'd get a contact high. I need to wake up-- weed slows me down!

MAX

That so bad?

BRENDAN

You slow down you die man... You gotta always be pushing forward. Sharks don't stop swimming when they sleep, they only stop swimming when they die!

CLINK/SMASH

Brendan cheers' the bourbon too hard-- it breaks Max's glass. Max clenches the jagged crystal; it cuts into his LEFT hand's flesh.

BRENDAN

Oh fuck! Dude! I'm sorry. Shit.

The unemotional Butler reaches out a handkerchief.

PLUMP BUTLER

The maid in the kitchen can service you.

Max downs another bourbon off the tray; throws the bloody crystal into the hedges; grabs the handkerchief; wraps the wound.

MAX

Mmmm... tempting, haven't been serviced in a while.

(winks/english accent)

No need good sir. The bourbon's properly sanitized the wound-- Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch...

Max watches the blood seep through; he looks up at the mansion.

MAX

(sotto)

*...Marry, 'tis enough-- I am hurt.
A plague o' both our houses--*

He grabs a bourbon for the road; Très gets the last glass as all go inside to,

INT. DAVENPORT'S GRAND FOYER

A golden PALATIAL INTERIOR; opulence drenches this residence-- Louis the XIV style.

Upon entry a SERVANT, WALLY(28), tall, wholesome, cute, holds a SILVER TRAY with ROWS of COCAINE and a small CRYSTAL GLASS with SHORT METAL STRAWS.

BRENDAN

Fuck, I'm so sorry man.

MAX

(grabs a straw)

Fuckin' Davenport,

(snorts a line; another)

Move fast and break things right?

Brendan grabs a straw; snorts his line.

BRENDAN

Fuck I love that guy-- Dammit we're late.
C'mon!

Très passes the bong and his drink to another VALET as he dis-coats. Max and Brendan hand off their coats; a short MALE SERVANT leads them further into the,

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

Another feat in architecture. A second floor wraps around the room; COLUMNS reach up to an ITALIAN BAROQUE MURAL on the CEILING; a FOUR-MAN QUARTET performs GERSHWIN.

The room looks BARE with only about fifty men in TUXEDOS; everyone wears an altered 1800's style PLAGUE DOCTOR MASK; it covers the upper head but exposes the MOUTH.

A MALE SERVANT mans a table of plague masks as the lights DIM; the MUSIC morphs into a HUSHED, DAUNTING TONE.

SERVANT

(sotto)

Name?

BRENDAN

Brendan Alexander Macaulay McIntyre.

The Servant checks the roll; retrieves his mask.

TRÈS

Anders Leopold Augustus Campbell the third.

Très places Sheeba (the bong) and his drink on the table as he pulls on his mask; retrieves his property; strolls toward Brendan who's already part of the crowd.

Max points to his name as the room becomes silent of chatter. He receives his mask, puts it on. He moves into the shadows; under the balcony of the second floor.

CLANK

A SPOTLIGHT pierces the darkness; MUSIC builds.

REVEAL: DAVENPORT(33), a blonde Ken-doll, American Psycho-like, appears in the spotlight; he holds an OLD FASHIONED COCKTAIL-- his LARGE, WHITE, PERFECT TEETH stand out as he holds his drink up to CHEERS the crowd.

DAVENPORT
 (Boston Brahmin accent)
 Dum Vivimus Vivamus!

CROWD
 Dum Vivimus Vivamus!

DAVENPORT
 Good evening brothers!

CROWD
 Oi, oi, oi!

DAVENPORT
 We are blessed to come together on this beautiful eve of renewal. We gather every year at this time of Imbolc to plant new seeds for the future!

CROWD
 Oi, oi, oi!

MAX'S MASK POV: Max stares at the spectacle of Davenport. His BREATH quickens; HEART POUNDS as the room spins. CLOSE on Davenport's mouth.

DAVENPORT
 And thus we live on forever through the goats we deem worthy enough to be molded!

BACK TO NORMAL: Max tries to recoup his breath.

DAVENPORT
 ...Due to exclusivity, and of course the perks and privilege afforded to those who elevate their status to our little order, only a few of our brothers are eligible-- and as you know, even fewer accepted!

CROWD
 Dum Vivimus Vivamus!

DAVENPORT
 (raises his glass)
 Brothers! Our new pledges!

Davenport waves his other arm to a MASSIVE GLASS WINDOW.

CLANK

The SPOTLIGHT goes dark; outdoor FLOOD LIGHTS ILLUMINATE twenty NAKED YOUNG ADULT MEN in GOAT MASKS. They stand in a row holding their junk; they shiver as breath escapes the mask-- the air frigid.

Max's breath labors, his HEART BEATS FAST as time warps;
he's on the move-- bolts down a,

INT. CORRIDOR

Flies by priceless works of art. He rips his MASK OFF--
Encounters a,

INT. SERVANT STAIRCASE

Up he goes to the top floor; he spots a,

INT. BATHROOM

The closest to a 'normal' bathroom in the house. Max
shuts himself away; throws his mask in the bathtub; falls
to the floor, fetal position; he can't catch his breath--
full on PANIC ATTACK.

Max writhes; he medicinally recites,

MAX

*We shall not cease from exploration...
And the end of all our exploring...
Will be to arrive where we started...*

MAX

*And know the place for the
first time...*

WENDY (V.O.)

*And know the place for the
first time...*

Max slaps himself; wrestles himself on the floor;
squirms.

WENDY(V.O.)

*And know the place for the first time...
And know the place for the first time...
And know the place for the first time...*

INT. SINK VIEW - SHORTLY LATER

Max's good hand erupts from below; he struggles as he
drags himself up to stand.

MAX

(protects bad hand)

Ooh! Ah!

- Max uncovers the bloody handkerchief.

- REVEAL: BAD CUTS.

- Turns the tap; finds a temperature; washes his wound.
- Looks up into the mirror.

MAX

I despise you.

CLINK

A large window gently pops open; the SHEER CURTAIN sways; Max moves toward it; rewraps his hand with his own POCKET SQUARE.

He looks up at the beautiful moonless sky-- the window leads out to a sculpted roof; one of peaks and valleys.

Max climbs out the window onto the,

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT

Below, the SNOW is a foot deep. Above is a swath of exquisite STARS; crystal clear through the frosty air.

HOWLS - MASKED MEMBERS from below.

Max walks over to see the PLEDGES divide into FOUR ROWS OF FIVE.

Servants march out of the house; stop in front of the FIRST pledge in each row. They carry SILVER TRAYS with WHITE FOLDED APRONS. Each pledge takes an apron; hands it back to the last pledge in the row, who then puts it on.

MAX

(murmurs)

So fucking stupid. Dip shit idiots...

Max hocks a loogie off the roof aimed at, but landing nowhere near the pledges; he treks over to the other wing of the house; head hung.

MAX

(Emily Dickinson poem)

*...Much madness is divinest sense
To a discerning eye;
Much sense the starkest madness.*

He looks up and ahead. Stops in his tracks.

REVEAL: the OCEAN GLIMMERS with STARS in a MOONLESS SKY.

MAX
 (louder)
*'Tis the majority
 In this, as all, prevails.*

Max starts to run, as fast as he can.

MAX
 (louder)
...Assent, and you are sane;

He hurls himself off the roof in a ball of might and glory; he twists on his dive into forever-- faces up to the stars.

SLOWMO: CLOSE on Max's face as serenity passes over him.

MAX (V.O.)
*Demur-- you're straightway dangerous,
 And handled with a chain...*
 (matter of fact)
 Fuck it.

He closes his eyes as he hits the SNOW.

EXT. DAVENPORT BACK PROPERTY - BACK TO NORMAL

RRRCHEE

LONG SHOT as Max BOUNCES; EYES OPEN; SCREAMS as he FLIES through the air; somersaults, body twists and contorts.

BALL CRUNCH - lands HARD straddling a GTX SNOW RACER.

MAX
 (crosseyed)
 Ooooh, OWWWWW!

The GTX, propelled by momentum, slides down a LARGE DUNE; it gains speed as Max is one with his pain. TREE BRANCHES and LONG GRASS whip him on the way down.

He reaches the,

EXT. BEACH

Max cups his nuts as he rolls off the GTX.

MAX
 (painful)
 There isn't a word for this...

Max lays there a while; attempts to stand.

The BAY is calm and tranquil.

SPLISH SPLASH

The gentle row of an OAR.

A ZODIAK drifts, aimless. It has a dim GREEN LANTERN that sways on the BOW. The WOMAN on board, wearing a CHRISTMAS THEMED LIGHT-UP TUQUE, stares up at the sky. There's equipment in the boat that can't be deciphered.

Max winces to make out what she's doing.

WALLY (O.S.)

Hey!-- Hellllllooo?! Are you okay down there?

The presence distracts Max from the boat.

MAX

Who's there?

Wally approaches; stumbles down a dune.

WALLY

Hey man-- Wally here.

MAX

Who?

WALLY

Wally-- the blow butler... I was out having a smoke and saw that *whole* thing! Are you okay? What the hell happened?

Max limps toward Wally.

MAX

Uh-- I--I musta had a reaction to...

WALLY

Lines?

MAX

Perhaps... Ran upstairs, thought I'd splash some water on my face--

WALLY

But how'd--

MAX

(looks up)

I was staring up at that big beauty-- I crawled out the window and... I dunno man I must've slipped on some ice or stepped in the wrong place.

WALLY

Crazy! You musta landed on the trampoline!

MAX

Trampoline?

WALLY

Yeah, they had an in ground one put in a couple summers back... You're one lucky motherfucker you know that?

MAX

(grunts)

If only you knew...

Max looks back to the boat.

VROOM VROOM

The woman starts the MOTOR at the stern; zooms off.

Wally helps Max up the icy stairs back inside to,

INT. DAVENPORT'S CORRIDOR

An unkempt Max, encounters a fixated Très standing solo with his mask, like a hairband on his head, in front of a LARGE PICASSO. Très puffs Sheeba.

Max stands next to him in silence.

TRÈS

(stares at the painting)

Oi.

MAX

(stares at the painting)

Oi.

Très passes Sheeba to him.

FLICK - Max lights 'er up.

TRÈS

I get this stuff so much more when I'm high.

MAX

(holds a toke)
Get high more then.

Exhales.

TRÈS

Eh... Suzy doesn't like it.

MAX

Well, she doesn't have to--

TRÈS

She'll know. She *always* knows when I've been smoking.

A beat.

MAX

I miss high Très.

TRÈS

Me too buddy... Me too.
(looks at Max)
What the hell happened to you?

MAX

Fell off the roof...

TRÈS

The hazards of B.S.--

Max takes another toke - passes to Très - blows it out in the direction of the painting; the Plump Butler goes by.

PLUMP BUTLER

No smoking around the Picasso!...
Sir Davenport requests all attendees in the study.

Très mocks the Butler, Max laughs; the Butler turns around; an eyebrow raised; they follow him to,

INT. DAVENPORT'S CIGAR STUDY

Another opulent room with BILLIARDS, a GARNET CHESSBOARD, DARTS, CRIBBAGE, BACKGAMMON. Members play boardgames and smoke CIGARS as the GOAT MASKED pledges wait on them.

REVEAL: Pledges have **NUMBERS 1 to 20 PAINTED** in **RED** on their **BACKS**.

Davenport stands across the room with his old fashioned.

DAVENPORT
(raises glass to Max)
There he is!

Max grabs a COHEBA NO. 9 from PLEDGE #12 who carries a HUMIDOR; PLEDGE #18 lights his CIGAR. PLEDGE #7 appears.

PLEDGE #7
(squeaky/nervous)
Mm-might I get anything for you Mr. Kolt?

GONNNNNNG

A PLAGUE MASK BROTHER STRIKES an ANTIQUE GONG.

MASKED BROTHER
(yells)
Number seven! Violation... on the word GET. All Goats will refrain from using ANY word containing an E-- garçon!

PLEDGE #7
(sotto)
Shit.

MAX
Sorry.

A MALE SERVANT appears with a SILVER SERVING TRAY; he uncovers a CHINA SERVING PLATE with RAW GOAT TESTICLES.

CROWD
Manducare! Manducare! Manducare!

Pledge #7 winces; shoves the goat's nut in his mouth; quick chew; swallow; sticks his tongue out.

CHEERS

#7 turns back to Max.

PLEDGE #7
(gulps/coughs)
Anything?

MAX
Dalwhinnie. Neat.

#7 nods; departs.

Davenport rings a bell; the room quiets.

DAVENPORT

(loud)

With all this excitement I forgot to praise our brother *Kolt* who, will be forgiven for his appearance this evening on account of so masterfully maneuvering the system... Well done good sir, well done! Your skilled response is one that will be of use to our mates henceforth!

Max's eyes are in distress but he masks the panic with a large fake smile-- #7 returns with Max's drink.

DAVENPORT

...To you *brother*!

Max holds up his glass-- ALL STOMP their RIGHT FOOT.

MAX

(whispers)

Fuck off Davenpiss.

Max downs his drink.

Davenport makes his way to Max; the Plump Butler whispers to him along the way; Davenport nods-- reaches Max.

DAVENPORT

Couldn't have changed your shirt?

MAX

(puff)

Was this or nothin'.

DAVENPORT

(takes Max's cigar/puff)

You seem distressed.

Davenport passes the cigar back to Max; he refuses.

MAX

So you've prohibited E's for them this round... Couldn't get more creative could we? Maybe they don't use I's next time? Then they couldn't say idiot, shit for brains... witless ignorant pissing--

DAVENPORT

(chuckles)

I hope it's not to do with the engagement.

MAX

Engagement?

Max catches Très and Brendan's gaze of concern.

DAVENPORT

Oh you hadn't heard?

Max looks to Davenport.

DAVENPORT

Bianca and I...

Max's eyes widen; audible BREATH.

DAVENPORT

...Oh! So you didn't know? She joined us in Monaco last spring-- I was sure someone would've told you.

(finishes drink/puff)

She spoke of your little meltdown last summer. Had a little laugh about it. We'll keep that between us though...

MAX

Last spring?

Davenport holds his hand out, palm up with a LIVE LONG AND PROSPER FINGER configuration-- a beat.

Max takes a SMALL BLACK STONE from his pocket; flicks it at Davenport's FOREHEAD; it bounces OFF.

CLINK CLINK

Into Davenport's GLASS-- Davenport SCOFFS.

Max walks toward Brendan and Très; grabbing Sheeba from Très as he floats right on by.

MAX

Leaving-- Now.

The friends follow.

INT. KOLT ESTATE - FOYER - MIDNIGHT

Max leads the pack as they arrive back; he's directly up the stairs with his coat and shoes on.

BRENDAN

(from below)

Dude, I didn't know they were engaged!

TRÈS

We thought it was a rebound-- honestly.

BRENDAN

Say something.

MAX

(up to the ceiling)

BYE!

KATIE (O.S.)

You chaps are back early!

PAN to REVEAL Katie and Suzy in the,

INT. LIVING ROOM

Brendan and Très join the ladies.

TRÈS

Davenport and Bianca engaged.

SUZY

Shit.

KATIE

(drunken)

Good riddance!

SUZY

(rolls her eyes to Très)

Is he okay?

KATIE

What? She's been on more laps than a napkin--

SUZY

(to Katie)

Drink some water love.

KATIE

You can't make me!

Katie giggles and runs to the kitchen.

KATIE

Shots?!

BRENDAN

Fuck I love you...

Brendan joins Katie; they make out wildly.

TRÈS

Get a room!

INT. TOP OF THE STAIRS

Max sits and listens; bitter, he wipes a tear.

SUZY (O.S.)

Are you high?!

TRÈS (O.S.)

Uch. C'mon babe! It was, it *is* Pledge weekend!

Max is on the move to his,

INT. BATHROOM

Max turns the faucet for the bathtub ON; he finds a temperature; let's it fill.

- Finds EPSOM SALTS; dumps the bag in the bathtub.
- Finds a HAIR BLOW DRYER; PLUGS it in.
- Places it by the bathtub.
- Leaves the bathroom.
- Back with a SCOTCH.
- Stands at the, and then CHEERS' the mirror.

MAX

You're proof that God has a sense of humor...

Max steps in the bathtub, clothes/shoes ON; relaxes.

MAX

...Fuck, yeah-- now this here...
Mmph, this here is the way to go...

He gets comfortable; finishes his drink.

He turns off the water; turns the hair blow dryer ON.

MAX

Comin' for ya Wendy lady...

SLOWMO: Max tosses the blow dryer up in the air; it descends down, down, down; Max leans back and winces--

BACK TO NORMAL.

BUZZ BUZZ ZAP BUZZ

LIGHTS FLASH before the blow dryer hits the water.

Max sits in darkness; he pats himself down.

CLICK HUMMMMM - a BACKUP GENERATOR.

KKKCHCHKKK - on the INTERCOM.

KATIE INTERCOM

Sorry love! My bad! I directed Bren to
plug the Tess into the wrong socket!

KKKCHCHKKK

KATIE INTERCOM

You alive?

KKKCHCHKKK

Max starts to thrash in the water.

MAX

Ahhhhhhh!!! Goddammit! Mutherfucker,
fuck shit motherfucking shitty pissport
fucking whore!

He exhausts himself; lifts himself from the tub; he
stumbles; shoes slip.

BLAM

Max bashes his RIGHT CHEEKBONE on the side of the tub.

He rips off his shoes; whips them across the room.

KKKCHCHKKK

KATIE INTERCOM

Hallooooo?!

KKKCHCHKKK

Finally-- Max conquers the tub; drenched, he pushes the
button for the intercom.

MAX

(big smile)

It's just impossible to underestimate you
Princess...

KKKCHCHKKK

KATIE INTERCOM

Awww. Kiss kiss.

KKKCHCHKKK

MAX

Surrounded by idiots.

(push button)

We got any frozen peas?

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

TICK-- TICK-- TICK--

The metronome sways back and forth.

Max sleeps on his side; a PLASTIC PRODUCE BAG, once containing ice, peeks out of a HAND TOWEL.

Max awakens with bloodshot eyes; one that's hella swollen; feels the dampness around his face.

SNIFF SNIFF

Max pats around; PANIC - did he piss the bed?!

He sees the dewy plastic bag with the hand towel loosely wrapping it; a puddle of WATER leaks from the top of the bag - he taps his MASSIVE BLACK EYE, remembers; flinches.

MAX

Ooh ahh. Shit.

Max lays back; turns his head to look out the window; the metronome keeps time.

MAX

(Walt Whitman poem)

*But O heart, heart, heart,
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead...*

He looks back to the plastic bag; dumps the residual water onto the bed and pulls it over his head; ties it at the neck.

DEEP BREATHS as the bag continues to inflate/deflate.

His eyes close.

CLICK-- SLAM

Brendan and Très rush in the room; hop on the bed; jump up and down around Max; his eyes open through the bag.

BRENDAN TRÈS
Breakfast of champions! Champ, champ, champions!!!

BRENDAN
What the shit are ya doing?

Max pulls the bag off his head.

MAX
Apparently it's good for the skin.
Moisture lock and all.

BRENDAN
That doesn--

TRÈS
(cuts in)
Wouldn't you suffo--

MAX
I'm not gunna lie, it's a risk... but so
is a facelift!

TRÈS
Huh.

BRENDAN
Never hearda-- Guess ya could use some
expedited healing with that shiner
though!
(leans down)
Lookie here!

Très bends down to examine Max's eye too.

TRÈS
(matter-o-fact)
She's a beaut, you should get an award.

Brendan holds his pointer finger, like a sword in range of Max's eye.

BRENDAN
I dub thee-- Black Beauty.

Max swats Brendan's hand away.

MAX
Ehh! My face, my name...

BRENDAN

Well...

A beat. Max gets out of bed; searches his mind for a name; dons his robe. The guys frozen on the bed-- wait.

MAX

Uch-- goddammit. Black Beauty is better.

CHEERS - Très and Brendan follow him. They arrive at the,

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Max walks to the refrigerator; Brendan has Très in a headlock.

BRENDAN

C'mon-- say it!

TRÈS

Never!

BRENDAN

I can do this all day.

Très grabs Sheeba off the kitchen island; pulls a lighter from his pocket.

FLICK - TOKE

TRÈS

(breath retained)

Me too.

Max closes the fridge. Très exhales; blows the smoke upward to Brendan who releases him.

BRENDAN

(waves the smoke)

Fucker.

Max grabs Brendan's car keys off the island.

MAX

Going for half and half.

Brendan halts Max's hand; Très places Sheeba on the island.

BRENDAN

Where's your ride?

MAX

Don't be a douche... a '67 Jag Roadster
doesn't *do* snow.

BRENDAN

How the hell've you been getting around?

MAX

I don't. Amazo--

Très PANTSES Brendan; underwear and all.

TRÈS

You're it!

BRENDAN

(immediate bend down)

Oh no you fucking didn'!

Très is out of the kitchen as Brendan stumbles after him.

BRENDAN

(yells to Max)

Grab cornichon and pâté!

(chases Très)

C'mere you bastard!

Max walks out to the,

INT. FOYER

Max bypasses the living room where Brendan chases Très
around the CHESTERFIELD-- pranksters lost in play. Max
stuffs his feet into SNOWBOOTS; grabs Très' RUSSIAN HAT.

BRENDAN

(laughs)

You're so dead.

TRÈS

(holds up pinky finger)

Aw Brenda so sad!

BRENDAN

(lunges one way; another)

Imma getcha! So dead bro--

SLAM

Max, HAT ON, in a robe and boots-- out the,

EXT. FRONT DOOR - OVERCAST - DAY

Max's down the stairs; walks the circular drive to the Tesla. He crosses a FROZEN ROSE BUSH; the SUN PEEKS out.

He stops; leans down to the ROSE BUDS.

MAX

(J.M. Barrie quote)

*You have had many rectoros here... who
will continue in bloom long after the
lowly ones such as I am,*

(cups a green BUD)

Are dead and rotten and forgotten...

CUT TO:

INT. TESLA - DRIVING - OVERCAST - DAY

Max's left elbow at the window, cups his head; turmoil.

MAX (V.O.)

They are the roses in December,

A tear; a sob; wipe away tears; big smile-- Jekyll and Hyde.

MAX (V.O.)

*...You remember someone said that God
gave us memory,*

SLAM SLAM SLAM HANDS against the STEERING WHEEL.

REVEAL: a little RED SELF-DRIVING ICON ACTIVATES on the DASHBOARD-- unbeknownst to Max.

MAX (V.O.)

*...So that we might have roses in
December.*

Max sees a BRIDGE ahead-- opportunity to end it all.

He swerves the wheel to veer off the road from the bridge into the BAY.

Surprise! The car maintains its course ON THE ROAD. Max tries to swerve again; OFF THE BRIDGE-- nothing.

MAX

(beats the roof with fists)

AHHHHHH! Motherfucker, cocksucker
motherfucking shitting piece of shit
fucking Elon motherfucker.

Over the bridge; Max BREAKS to the side of the road.

TESLA A.I.
Do you need assistance?

MAX
No I don't need any--

PING

MAX
Goddamn help...

PING

TESLA A.I.
Goddamn Help...

PING

MAX
No, I said NO--

PING

MAX
Fucking help!

Ping

TESLA A.I.
Fucking Help...

PING

TESLA A.I.
Help is on the way.

MAX
Ahhhhhhh!!!

TESLA A.I.
Calling 911...

MAX
NO! NO--

PING

MAX
HELP!

PING

TESLA A.I.
Help is on the way.

RING RING

911 DISPATCH (O.S.)
9-1-1... What is your emergency?

MAX
(big smile)
Sorry. My car's having issues.

Max PUNCHES the GLOVE COMPARTMENT with his good hand-- it pops ajar. A SILENT SCREAM of pain; bites his fist.

911 DISPATCH
Is anyone hurt?

MAX
No, no. I just haven't learned the commands of this vehicle yet.

He laughs-- his fake laugh; con mask on.

911 DISPATCH
No worries Mr. McIntyre. Thanks for staying on the line... Can you confirm your security word for this vehicle?

MAX
(rolls his eyes)
Band camp?

911 DISPATCH
Have a good one.

HANG UP.

Max looks over to the OPEN GLOVE BOX.

REVEAL: a CUSTOM GLOCK.

MAX
Well, well, well...

He grabs the gun; leaves the car; STANDS at the top of a,

EXT. STEEP HILL

Max releases the SAFETY; holds the GLOCK up to his TEMPLE; CLOSES his EYES--

CLICK

The GLOCK isn't a GUN, it's a custom TORCH LIGHTER; the RUSSIAN HAT IGNITES-- ABLAZE.

BA-DUMP

Max SLIPS FEET FIRST down an ICY CHUTE.

BALL CRUNCH - on a SNOWY old TREE STUMP that acts like a blunt SLIDE; it PROJECTS him into the air.

Max SCREAMS as he FLIES; HAT still ABLAZE.

KER-PLUNK into the,

EXT. OCEAN BAY

TSSSSSSS

The HAT EXTINGUISHES.

The ICY COLD WATER has Max like a wet dog; same paddle.

VROOM VROOM

ESTELLA(31), an unconventional beauty, piercing eyes, rebel without a cause, CHRISTMAS TUQUE UNLIT, pulls up to a bobbing Max in her ZODIAC BOAT-- SNOW begins to FLURRY.

ESTELLA

Now is the winter of our discontent...

She doesn't expect an answer; stares at him, reluctant.

MAX

(shivers/paddles)

Made glorious summer by this sun of York...

Estella throws him an oar to the boat.

MAX

...And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house...

Arduous, Max pulls himself into the boat; collapses.

MAX

(breath heavy/painful)

...In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.

ESTELLA

Alright alright-- fucking show off.

Max passes out.

ESTELLA
 ...Goddamn tourist.

Estella kicks his boot.

VROOM ZOOM

Off they go; kidnapped by Estella.

EXT. THE WHARF PUB - DOCK - FLURRIES - DAY

Estella docks the Zodiac; grabs a SLED; shimmies Max onto it and pulls him into the,

INT. BAR

A quaint little joint-- Ozark style, with CRAFTSMAN WOODWORK; FRAMED PICTURES on the WALL of STAR SCAPES/WINTER STILLs/FOG ROLLING OFF THE OCEAN/SNOWY BEACHES.

Donnie rounds the bar from the kitchen.

DONNIE
 Wow, big catch today!
 (sees Max)
 Oh my word! Maxi!

ESTELLA
 You know him?

DONNIE
 You do too... That's little Max Kolt. Go get your brother's spare duffel in the back.

Estella breaks at the bar for water; Donnie starts to take off Max's wet ROBE and SINGED RUSSIAN HAT.

ESTELLA
 (a break from thirst)
 That's Max Kolt?...

DONNIE
 What the hell did you do to yourself Maxi?!

ESTELLA
 Let's throw'm back in...

DONNIE
 (eyes his daughter)
 Please go get Wally's bag.

ESTELLA
 Fine--
 (sotto)
 Not like I already saved his life or
 nuthin'...

DONNIE
 What was that?

ESTELLA
 I'm going, I'm going...

INT. THE WHARF PUB - OFFICE - AFTERNOON

CLOSE on Max; he wakes on a COT-- pats himself down;
 groggy.

MAX
 Did it-- Am I?!

THUMP

Max rolls over and off the cot.

MAX
 (in pain)
 ...What fresh hell is this?

He walks over to a LARGE BAY WINDOW that reveals the
 frosty DOCK-- blank stare.

MAX
 (Keri Hulme quote)
*...I'm in limbo and in limbo there are no
 races, no prizes, no changes, no chances.
 There are merely degrees of endurance,
 and endurance never was my strong point.*

MUSIC CUE: ESTELLA(O.C.) SINGS an eloquent acoustic
 rendition of 'COSMIC DANCER' BY T.REX from the bar.

Max listens; smiles... sings along, a wispy falsetto.

He's in over-worn 80's SWEATS. He snoops around a
 maritime themed office-- a STUFFED SWORDFISH on the wall.

Max sits at a LARGE CRAFTSMAN DESK; many PICTURES of a nerdy YOUNG ESTELLA and a cooler YOUNGER WALLY and a FAMILY VACATION to Disneyland/a TRIDENT LETTER OPENER/BILLS STACKED HIGH.

A LETTER addressed to **DONALD SPEER/The Wharf Pub/3 Main St, Edgartown, MA 02539/OVERDUE**. Max stops singing.

Max looks over to a GORGEOUS large STAR SCAPE PRINT of a METEOR SHOWER; he's up to analyze it-- it's impressive. He walks out into the,

INT. BAR

Estella is on stage; she strums a guitar; eyes closed to an empty house-- Max finds a center table; he's captured.

ESTELLA

*Is it wrong to understand,
The fear that dwells inside a man?
What's it like to be alone,
I liken it to a balloon...*

Estella opens her eyes-- stops.

MAX

(claps)

Brava. Very nice... Very. Nice.

ESTELLA

You're awake... How was the coma?

MAX

Can't say I recall-- this weekend's been...

(he stands/moves to her)

I'm Max... Max Kolt.

Estella turns away from him; places her guitar in its cradle.

ESTELLA

It's customary to announce one's self upon entering a lightly populated room...

(a beat)

I know who you are.

MAX

How unfortunate for you! Might you refresh my memory as who you are?

Estella turns; stares into Max, cockeyed; she extends her hand.

ESTELLA
Estella... Speer.

MAX
Estella? Donnie's Estella?

Max's still shaking her hand as she walks; breaks free.

ESTELLA
One and the same. He'll be back soo--

MAX
Your hair's so long! Holy shit I haven't
seen you in... did you get contacts?

Estella is behind the bar; pours a pint.

ESTELLA
Eight years... Yup.

MAX
Wow! That's crazy. Well you look--

Estella chugs the beer as her middle finger rolls up to
flip Max off; she slams the beer on the bar.

ESTELLA
Fuck you I look... how? How do I look?!

Whoa nerve touch much! She stares him down-- his head
hangs.

MAX
Stunning.

Estella softens; maintains a guard-- chugs the rest of
her beer; refills at the tap.

ESTELLA
You look like shit--
(pint fills)
You want?

Max grins; rolls his head up.

MAX
Sure...

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - TESLA

The driver side door is OPEN with a COP CAR'S LIGHTS FLASHING next to it-- a COP ropes off the area with CAUTION TAPE.

INT. THE WHARF PUB - EVENING TWILIGHT

Max and Estella throw DARTS. She lands a BULLSEYE; walks to the chalkboard and marks a line through four ones.

MAX

(laughs)

So you've done this before.

ESTELLA

Nuthin' else to do out here these days...
What about you?

MAX

About me--

ESTELLA

What're you *doin'* here?

MAX

We have a house here.

ESTELLA

I've never seen you here outside of
tourist season--

Max chugs a pint.

MAX

Why am I here-- Why am I here... I was
trying to get outta here actually. But
then you had to go and rescue me.

She chugs her beer.

CHING CHING

The bells on the front door chime.

Donnie and MARIE SPEER(50s) Ina Garten-like, a cheery
Mrs. Claus, and Wally enter the establishment.

Max tries to place Wally.

ESTELLA

You're up.

DONNIE

Well hallo you two! How ya feelin' Maxi?

ESTELLA

Openin' time...

Marie's all up in Max.

MARIE

My goodness are you sure you're alright dear?

(to Donnie)

Do you think he has a concussion? Your eye!

MAX

Hi Mrs. Speer-- oh no this shiner's not from...

MARIE

(hugs Max)

Oh come now-- Marie! It's been so long since I've seen you. I've got some frozen peas for that eye!

Wally comes at Max with a DAP HANDSHAKE.

WALLY

You can't win for losin' Kolt!

MAX

Guess you heard from--

WALLY

Yeah dad said he used my spare fishing sweats to dress ya.

MAX

(arm around Wally; pivot)

Oh hey thanks man! I'll get 'em back to you--

WALLY

Good deal, no rush--

MAX

Can we just keep last night on the D.L.?

WALLY

Fer sure man-- fo' sho'.

MAX

Cool-- great.

Estella helps her mother with supplies at the bar.

MARIE

And then I went for my three P.M. tanning appointment. Skipper had to go to the vet...

ESTELLA

I just don't think you should be subjecting your skin to that.

MARIE

It's good for my melatonin levels!

Max walks up.

MAX

Can I work for some dinner?

MARIE

Well that'd be splendid!-- Donnie!

Donnie pops his head from the office.

DONNIE

Yes love!

MARIE

We've some extra hands on deck tonight!

DONNIE

Wonderful--

(to Max)

How's your bartending?

MAX

Top notch.

Donnie wears a dorky dad grin; thumbs up to Max.

DONNIE

People like their drinks strong on karaoke night!

Max looks over to Estella; she helps Wally set up DJ EQUIPMENT-- they exchange a glance.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WHARF PUB - EVENING

MUSIC CUE: Wally finishes a karaoke RAP of 'WHAT MEANS THE WORLD TO YOU' BY CAM'RON.

A very light crowd bustles.

WALLY

(into mic)

Thanks all for comin' out to the Wharf on this chilly Vineyard eve... get yerself a hot toddy at the bar from our visiting bartender-- our chemist, Killa Kollllt!

Max fist bumps the air from the bar.

Estella arrives with drink orders.

ESTELLA

Two ginger toddies and a pint of Offshore.

Max flips a COPPER MUG in the air; places it on the bar-- minces ginger.

ESTELLA

...Wow, you have a skill. No other, *better* plans tonight?

MAX

My mother was good for one thing growing up-- This is far superior to what was planned.

He pours WHISKEY in the mug; a spoon of honey-- squeezes a lemon, hot water.

ESTELLA

If you say so.

He finalizes his concoctions; fills a pint.

MAX

I do say so... very much so.

WALLY

(over speaker)

Well... let's get Kolt up here then to show you guys it ain't so scary! What d'ya say?!

Max gestures no.

ESTELLA

YAAAS! *That!* Whooooohoo! C'mon! Do it!

Max's head drops-- the whole bar cheers him on.

CROWD

Kolt! Kolt! Kolt!

MAX

Uch-- fine.

ESTELLA

Your turn... See, that's what ya get for
creepin' on me!

A begrudging Max makes his way to Wally-- they talk;
search out a song.

Max is on stage; crowd lights dim-- Estella laughs;
doesn't expect much.

MUSIC CUE: Max delivers a powerful performance of
'MIDNIGHT CRUISER' BY WE ARE MONROE.

MAX

(sings)

*Oh I've seized control of the road,
That I cleared along the way,
And paved it in heartache.
As I watch myself fall short,
Of every story that you've told,
Taking on the weather can take it's toll.*

The crowd is captured; so is Estella.

MAX

*And I lose myself to the ride,
As I drive out through the night,
Avoiding every sign,
As I watch myself lose hope,
In every fortune you foretold,
Taking on the peril to lose it all.
Cause When your world comes crashing down
around me,*

Davenport, BIANCA(28), a blonde Danish supermodel
heiress, extreme fashion victim; and TWO other SUITS
stumble into the pub.

MAX

*...You know I'm gonna save you,
You know I'm gonna save you,
You know I'm gonna lift you off your back
and when it all comes crashing down
around me,*

Bianca eyes Max-- this rockstar version is hot.

MAX

*...You know I'm gonna save you,
You know I'm gonna save you,
You know I'm gonna lift you off your
back...*

Max's eyes open to see his nemesis at the bar.

SLOWMO: ROOM NOISE FADES as HEART and BREATH RATE INCREASE; Max hyperventilates.

BACK TO NORMAL: Estella looks to Davenport's pompous ass; looks back to Max who bolts out the back dock door.

She rushes to Wally, who fades the music and dims the stage light; house lights up.

WALLY

(into mic)

Alright. Alright. Alright... Who wants to top it? Free shot to our next victim!

EXT. DOCK - THE WHARF PUB - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Max sits at the edge of a rusty, old, ELEVATED WHARF DOCK in Wally's reserve, worn, old sweats. He gazes at the water; sways back and forth.

Estella approaches with a spare jacket and glass of water. She sits next to him.

ESTELLA

And I thought I was trigger happy.

She sweeps the glass in Max's direction-- bait.

He takes it.

ESTELLA

...Friends of yours?

Silence.

ESTELLA

...I'll leave you then.

Estella moves to leave-- Max sways even farther forward, almost off the dock. She pulls him back.

ESTELLA

...What the fuck is wrong with you?!

MAX

Would that it t'were so simple...

ESTELLA

Look... I've got my own shit okay! And I deal with it-- boo fucking hoo, the rich boy is de-fucking-pressed. Real world fucking check-in, the world doesn't fucking revolve around you!

Estella gets up; throws the coat down next to him

ESTELLA

Sack up like the rest of us.

She pivots to walk away.

MAX

He drugged me...

She stops; turns.

MAX

He's a goddamn fucking psychopath. He was already in our fraternity when I pledged at Harvard--

She makes her way back toward Max.

MAX

Afterwards, when we joined Ballambangjang Society, that's why *they're* all up here this weekend-- I thought, he can't do this twisted, maniacal shit to me anymore, because he's done it all already-

Estella sits back down.

MAX

I had this nanny... Wendy.

(tears)

She seemed to be the only one who cared.

She rubs her hand on his knee-- warmth.

MAX

...She taught me literature and poetry... and music-- vocals. She exposed me to different things ya know?

Estella nods.

MAX

..Anyway, she passed. Cancer--
 (more tears)
 You see, I was raised not to feel
 things... No one around me feels things.

She's got an arm around him.

MAX

They don't function on that level--
 Davenpiss in there, got her peanut butter
 cookie recipe from my sister. He laced it
 with Conoxy-- sent batches everyday to my
 office in Manhattan under Wendy's son's
 name... poisoned my firm. My partner
 slash best friend, Olivier, died
 subsequently... overdose.

Max looks out into the distance-- light tears frozen down
 his face.

...Sent me to rehab. Then the lawsuits
 came with Kolt Industries--
 Peanut butter fucking cookies.

Estella rests her head on his shoulder.

ESTELLA

I hate men.

MAX

Ya don't say?

ESTELLA

It's true. All. Of. You.

MAX

Okay.

Max leans forward, swift rotation as he suspends himself
 from the dock-- hangs by fingertips; one hand bandaged.

ESTELLA

Ah! Fuck you, don't!

MAX

Say something nice!

ESTELLA

You really don't fucking remember do you?

MAX

Nope. Tell me.

He dangles.

ESTELLA
Esmella?

MAX
Uch, fuck.

ESTELLA
Yeah, you and your goons were all over that!

MAX
(looks up)
In our defense-- we were nineteen and you shouldn't wear a white bikini in range of your... Ah-hem, womanly time.

ESTELLA
Did it ever cross your mind that I was miscarrying fucknut?

MAX
(hangs head)
Fuck-- I'm an asshole.

Max releases his bad hand; dangles by one arm.

ESTELLA
No! No you're not... well, yes you are but maybe not. You were, but you might not be anymore?

MAX
Say something nice!...

ESTELLA
Ahhhh! I dunno-- I'M INT'RESTED!

Max rolls his head up with that grin; reaches his bad hand up to the dock and with SURPRISING ATHLETICISM, press-up handstand style, finds himself standing back on the dock in a forward fold; he grabs the coat; rolls up.

Face to face with Estella.

MAX
Affection cannot be created; it can only be liberated.

ESTELLA
Think you're so smart eh? So... platinum princess poof?

MAX

Bianca--

ESTELLA

Ah, poof has a name.

Max puts on the coat-- they stroll back towards the pub.

MAX

Wendy said if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

ESTELLA

So did Thumper.

MAX

Thumper?

ESTELLA

Bambi?

MAX

Bambi? I had an aunt named Bambi.

ESTELLA

Wow... you are deprived.

BAR PATIO

Max halts a few feet from the door; Estella peeks in the window-- REVEAL: Davenport shoots VODKA at the bar.

MAX

Uch-- I don't wanna go back in there.

ESTELLA

Gimme a sec.

CHING CHING - door chimes as Estella goes inside.

Max plants himself on a bench; waits, fidgets.

MUSIC CUE: 'HEAD OVER HEELS' BY TEARS FOR FEARS plays inside for another karaoke casualty.

MAX

(sotto/sings)

*I wanted to be with you alone,
And talk about the weather,
But traditions I can trace against the
child in your face,
Won't escape my attention.*

*You keep your distance with a system of
touch,
And gentle persuasion.
I'm lost in admiration, could I need you
this much?
Oh, you're wasting my time
You're just, just, just wasting time...*

CHING CHING - Bianca comes out.

*...Something happens and I'm head over
hee--*

Max double takes. Attempts to stand.

BIANCA
(Danish accent)
Sit, sit...

Bianca sits next to him; he scoots away.

...What'd you do to yourself?

MAX
Not really your concern.

BIANCA
True.

MAX
Why're you here?

BIANCA
*Because I was told I couldn't come--
So I came.*

MAX
Sounds about right.

BIANCA
You know me well.

MAX
No I don't.

Bianca moves closer to Max, places her LEFT HAND, with a MASSIVE DIAMOND RING, on his knee.

He follows her hand up to her gaze.

BIANCA
Yes you do. I made a mistake...

CHING CHING - the door chimes.

Estella returns bundled up with her CHRISTMAS TUQUE LIT; she looks through her bag for keys as she exits-- then, up to see Bianca's hand on Max's knee.

Max scoots his knee out from under Bianca's hand.

MAX

(to Bianca)

Take care now-- bye bye then.

It's awkward-- Bianca looks to Max; gets up; takes a tour around Estella to the door, sizes her up.

CHING CHING - Bianca opens the door.

ESTELLA

What the fuck are you looking at?

Max smiles.

BIANCA

(sarcastic)

I like your hat.

ESTELLA

Oh yeah? We should go shopping sometime-- I can see you need help in that department.

Bianca scoffs-- who's this wench?

CHING CHING - the door closes behind Bianca.

Max stands; walks to Estella.

MAX

I like your hat too.

ESTELLA

(pissed)

What the hell?! I was gone for thirty seconds and come out here to--

Max kisses Estella; she softens in his arms.

MAX

She's no one... Can we *please* go?
I don't care where.

ESTELLA

Ugh, fuckin' eh-- you still know how to kiss.

Estella makes her way to the

LOWER DOCKS

Max is confused; he follows.

MAX

Still? When did we--

ESTELLA

Eight years ago. Illumination night.

MAX

I don't--

ESTELLA

Pretty sure it was a truth or dare
scenario... You were wasted.

They arrive at the ZODIAC; get in, unhook the rope from
the dock.

MAX

I'm sorry.

ESTELLA

For...?

MAX

Every stupid thing I've ever done.

ESTELLA

Don't be sorry, just don't do it again.

VROOM VROOM - the engine ignites.

They motor out into the

BAY - NIGHT

It's frigid but the STAR SCAPE breathtaking. Estella cuts
the engine; pulls out a DSLR CAMERA from her bag.

ESTELLA

It's just that I think everything's
terrible in the end. I've been everywhere
and seen everything and done everything,
I've had a very bad time... I'm pretty
cynical about everything.

MAX

Your daughter, I supposed she talks and eats and everything...

Estella is struck by the response-- a moment.

ESTELLA

When she was born, Tom was-- God knows where. With God knows who...

Estella flips a switch; power to her equipment.

...And I asked the nurse if it was a boy or girl. And she said it was a girl, and I wept. I'm glad it's a girl.

The DSLR CAMERA on a tripod points up to the BRIGHT MILKY SKY-- She pushes the SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON tethered to it.

...And I hope she'll be a fool--
(Estella leans in)
that's the best thing in this world a girl can be, a beautiful little fool...

The dim GREEN LIGHT at the BOW of the boat sways back and forth.

MAX

I think I love you.

ESTELLA

There's no think in front of love.

She flicks another switch; speakers ignite.

MUSIC CUE: 'SPACE SONG' BY BEACH HOUSE.

VROOM VROOM - She starts the engine.

CLOSE on Max as he watches Estella-- the man is falling.

They arrive at a

DILAPIDATED DOCK - MIDNIGHT

The place looks like something out of a horror film with obsolete FISHING EQUIPMENT strewn around the property.

Estella ties her boat to a part of the dock that isn't falling apart; joining a few other small ZODIACS.

MAX

Well, I know I said anywhere but...

ESTELLA

You'll like it.

MAX

I wonder how many masked murderers have said that to their prey.

She flips OFF switches and packs her CAMERA in her bag.
Max steps off the boat first; extends a hand to help her.

ESTELLA

If I wanted to kill you... Well, you seem to be doing a mighty fine job of that yourself.

MAX

If that were true, I'd already be dead.

ESTELLA

This way.

Max follows her; he steps around HOLES in the DOCK.

They make it onto

LAND

It's not much better; Max slips and slides but doesn't fall; Estella helps.

MAX

I saw you the other night-- in your boat.

ESTELLA

Oh yeah?

MAX

I recognize the hat.

ESTELLA

It's why I wear it... Recognition.

MAX

Really?

ESTELLA

No...

Max stumbles as she holds him up.

...Wow, you're really bad at this.

MAX

Excuse my inner ear problem why don'tcha!

ESTELLA

For real?

MAX

I wish. I'll blame these ill fitting shoes from...

ESTELLA

I dunno? I didn't dress ya.

MAX

Well that's something I guess.

They arrive at

QUAY CZAR TACKLE SHOP

This place is super dated; appears abandoned.

MAX

On that note, I'll be sure to order some anti-fungal foot cream tomorrow-- alright what is this?

ESTELLA

You'll see!

Estella jiggles the handle of the door-- they enter.

It's "I Know What You Did Last Summer" spooky but Max HEARS, MUSIC CUE: 'STELLA BY STARLIGHT' BY CHET BAKER in the distance.

MAX

Is that--

ESTELLA

(listens)

Chet.

Estella leads the way through the shop; opens a door, down to the

BASEMENT

STRING LIGHTS line the long, uneven staircase; the MUSIC gets LOUDER.

MAX

No way! Are you kidding?

ESTELLA

Told ya!

They reach another door.

KNOCK KNOCK

A small PEEP WINDOW on the DOOR opens.

BOUNCER

Password.

ESTELLA

Balthazar.

The BOUNCER eyes Max through the door.

BOUNCER

No tourists.

ESTELLA

Does he *look* like a tourist to you?!

The Bouncer strains to look at Max up and down.

BOUNCER

Shoes.

MAX

What?

BOUNCER

Show me your shoes.

Max holds up one of his WORN, OFF-BRAND SNEAKERS.

BUZZZZZ - the door opens to a

SECRET BAR

A local hangout dedicated to LIVE JAZZ MUSIC. FRAMED PAINTINGS blanket the WALLS and CEILING. BLACK LIGHTS/a DISCO BALL/A LARGE AQUARIUM behind the BAR.

A JAZZ QUARTET PLAYS on stage.

MAX

Whaaaaaat--

ESTELLA

See!--

(at the bar)

Homer! Pitcher of Bad Martha.

MAX

This one's on me... I'll owe ya.

ESTELLA

It's your lucky night because he owes me too.

She grabs the beer; a snide glance from Homer to Max; she moves to a booth-- Max follows with PINT GLASSES.

MAX

What's he owe ya?

ESTELLA

Well his brother does, child support.

MAX

What's her name?

Estella pours the beer.

ESTELLA

Eliot.

MAX

As in...

ESTELLA

T.S.-- And yes, he's my favorite author.

MAX

He's my go to! How old is she?

ESTELLA

Three. She's a Christmas baby... That's why I wear this hat. When she's not with me, she's with me.

MAX

Where's she tonight?

ESTELLA

Wally's girlfriend's babysitting-- Eliot's father's doing time for drug trafficking... Heroin and Conoxy actually.

MAX

(chugs/a beat)

I guess I should apologize to you too then huh?

ESTELLA

Nope.

MAX

No?

ESTELLA

No one forced him! He's a lazy, lying, sack of shit... I thought about terminating it.

(a sip)

When I found out, later that day, I went to inform him of his impending fatherhood. And he was otherwise, nudely, engaged with Ursula, the village...

(a chug)

But I was going to. I had the appointment and everything...

She looks to the band as the song comes to an end.

CLAP CLAP CLAP

BAND MEMBER

We'll be taking five, dontcha go nowhere!

ESTELLA

(back to Max)

Truth is, when I had that miscarriage,

Max hides his face into his arm on the table.

...Which, I mean, I was seventeen and there's no way I woulda had a baby at that point in my life, and I didn't know that I was miscarrying at the time, to be fair to you guys. If you deserve that!

He pops his head back up.

MAX

Uch, doesn't make me feel better.

He chugs his beer.

ESTELLA

I learned that it would be very difficult for me to have kids.

And I was twenty-eight when I found out about Eliot and I just hope she got more of me than Iliad.

MAX

Me too-- For what it's worth... Wait Homer and Iliad?

Two COPS enter the secret bar.

ESTELLA

It's an interesting family. What about you? No kids? Shouldn't you be married by now?

MAX

Not that I know of.

The cops, BILLY(52) and RUDY(47) stroll by the table-- a GAY COUPLE who fight crime together.

BILLY

Ahoy there Miss Estella.

ESTELLA

Hey Billy, Rudy.

Rudy reaches a hand out for Max to kiss the back of.

RUDY

Pleasure to make your acquaintance.

MAX

(awkward handshake)

Max.

Billy and Max exchange a normal shake.

ESTELLA

Ya off duty?

BILLY

Just called it.

RUDY

Crazy night.

ESTELLA

Do tell!

RUDY

We found an abandoned car pulled to the side of the road-- totally bizarre.

Traced it to Greenwich Connecticut. Not sure if it's a kidnapping or what...

BILLY

Registered to a Brendan McIntyre. Haven't been able to get in touch with him yet though.

MAX

Shit.

EVERYONE

What?

Max leans towards Estella across the table.

MAX

I forgot about the car.

ESTELLA

What car?

MAX

The one I left before I...

Estella looks to the cops.

ESTELLA

Will you excuse us?

BILLY

We'll be right over there.

Billy and Rudy find a table while keeping an eye on Max.

MAX

The one I left before I...

(sip)

Fell into the bay.

ESTELLA

So? They have it.

MAX

Yeah but it's my friends car... I just didn't wanna go back there yet.

ESTELLA

So... Don't.

MAX

They're probably more concerned about the car, it's not like there's a missing persons...

(sotto)
Or even car report... it's weird they
haven't reported the car.

ESTELLA
You wanna call 'em?

Estella hands Max her phone; he stares at the lit screen.

MAX
D'you know their numbers by chance?

OCEAN BAY - ZODIAC - NIGHT

Estella and Max zoom along the silent bay.

They slow down; Estella sees a METEOR SHOWER.

ESTELLA
Oh wow!

MAX
(looks to the sky)
Goddamn beautiful.

Estella cuts the engine; readies her equipment.

ESTELLA
This'll be a top seller fer sure! I gave
the last one to my dad for his birthday.

MAX
That was you?! I saw that in his office!

Max reclines back, extends his legs up so they relax on
one of the seats.

ESTELLA
That was me.

MAX
(taps beside him)
You're really good! C'mon.

ESTELLA
Hold on I gotta get my camera set up.

Estella struggles to move quick.

MAX
Just, slow down... Be here, now, with me.

ESTELLA

I can't, this is my job... Please be careful with that tripod.

She sets the CAMERA on the TRIPOD; it gazes at the STARS.

She reclines next to Max.

MAX

You don't have to capture everything you know.

ESTELLA

Hah! Easy for you to say, what's your job?

MAX

Funneling money off-shore for Kolt Industries.

ESTELLA

You take pride in what do you?

MAX

No. It's terrible, I hate it. But Spencer, my father, forced me into it after rehab...

(a beat)

Apparently, I owed it to the family since the incident had brought shame on the "good Kolt name."

ESTELLA

Well, we all gotta do what we gotta do for the moolah. My dad is barely hanging onto our family business as it is...

MAX

The Wharf?

ESTELLA

Yeah. He took out some bad loans during the recession. All the money I make goes to that debt...

What would you wanna do?

MAX

I wanna go to my Zihuatenejo...

ESTELLA

Oh yeah? You consider yourself Andy Dufresne do ya? And where's your Zihuatenejo?

MAX

Taveuni.

ESTELLA

Where's that?

MAX

Fiji.

ESTELLA

Fuck I want your life. I wouldn't even know where to start to conjure *that* dream.

Max moves his foot; knocks the tripod.

Estella grabs for it but didn't secure the camera.

SPLASH - The CAMERA slides OFF the TRIPOD, OVERBOARD.

MAX

Fuck!

ESTELLA

I told you to be careful! Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, FUCK!

MAX

I'll get you a new one!

Estella gazes overboard; eyes fill with water.

ESTELLA

My dad gave me that camera, for high school graduation when we couldn't afford anything!

MAX

I'll get you a new one, a better one!

ESTELLA

Not the point.

VROOM VROOM - she starts the engine; wipes a tear.

Max sits solemn as they continue.

...Where am I going?

KOLT ESTATE - BOATHOUSE/DOCK - NIGHT

Max and Estella arrive at the luxurious dock. The silence between them is awkward.

He steps out of the zodiac.

ESTELLA

Nice prison Mr. Dufresne.

MAX

I'm really sorry. I'll repla--

ESTELLA

Too soon... I gotta go. It's been... enlightening. But I got a lotta shit to sort, and seems like you do to...

She backs the zodiac out of the dock.

MAX

Please, don't say that. I--

ESTELLA

It's just... not a good time.
(boat turns)
Have a good one.

Estella zooms away.

Max stands alone on the dock; head hung. He's shrunken in stature. The waves are gentle. He stares into the water-- A light FLURRY starts.

MAX

Yea, all which it inherit-- shall dissolve, and like this insubstantial pageant faded, leave not a rack behind--

SLAM - a door closes from the BOATHOUSE.

SUZY

Freeze! Who's there? I have a gun!

MAX

It's me! It's me!

SUZY

Max?

MAX

Yes! What the hell? Where'd you get a gun?

SUZY

Phew... I don't actually! Blech, what're you wearing?

MAX

I fell in th--

Max walks toward his sister.

SUZY

C'mon it's freezing.

MAX

What're you doing down here?

SUZY

We came down when the guys turned their high jinks on us this morning.

Max meets his sister as they walk up into the

BOATHOUSE - LIVING ROOM

A cozy, but decadent retreat from the main house. Katie is asleep on a couch.

SUZY

(sotto)

Where the hell have you been? Oh is this part of it?

MAX

I went out for groceries. Part of...?

SUZY

I dunno, whatever event you guys had on the docket for this evening?

Max collapses onto another couch.

MAX

I dunno. Didn't make it.

Suzy gets Max some water.

SUZY

Drink.

MAX

Thanks.

Max chugs the water; closes his eyes.

Suzy goes into a bedroom; turns around.

SUZY
I'm sorry.

MAX
(falling asleep)
For what?

SUZY
Never mind. Get some rest.

FLICK - lights out.

CLOSE on Max; eyes closed.

MAX
(whispers)
We are such stuff as dreams are made on,
and our little life is rounded with a
sleep...

TIME LAPSE: remain on Max's face.

BOATHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING - SNOWING

Max opens his eyes and startles. Katie sits in front of him-- watches him sleep.

KATIE
Blimey! Has anyone ever told you, you
have the most divine eyelashes?

MAX
No.

KATIE
Oh darling. I would kill for them!

MAX
I'd leave them to you if that was a
thing.

KATIE
I wonder!

Suzy pops out from the bedroom.

SUZY
Do you think it's safe?

KATIE

(to Max)

Would you be a prince and go survey the damage?

Max gets up; woozy.

MAX

Yeah, yeah. If I'm not back in twenty just c'mon.

KATIE

(hollers)

Strip before you enter the house and I'll burn those clothes for you!

SLAM - Max exits to the

DOCK/PATHWAY TO THE MANOR - HARD SNOW

A winter wonderland, looks like something out of Narnia; heaven.

MAX

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown...

TRACK Max from POSTERIOR, as he walks through the sprawling

BACKYARD

SNOW BURIES LARGE ART SCULPTURES, meticulous in placement; both blanket the grounds.

MAX (V.O.)

But longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill...

Max trudges up a walkway to the

OUTDOOR POOL/PATIO/BACKDOOR

STEAM evaporates OFF the POOL. Max shakes his head with disapproval.

All the POOL TOYS are in the pool; SNOW accumulates on their surfaces.

MAX

C'mon guys! At least put the cover back on...

He presses the POOL INTERCOM BUTTON.

KKKCHCHKKK

MAX

I'm not doing this solo! Get your asses out here!

KKKCHCHKKK

Max rounds the pool to grab for a SNOW COVERED BLOWUP PINK FLAMINGO-- mission accomplished.

Grabs a LONG POLE with a LEAF SKIMMER on the end.

He goes to the BACKDOOR; opens it.

MAX

I'm not fucking kidding, get the fuck down here now!

He's back at the pool; uses the pole to grab an INNER TUBE FLOATY.

He makes slow progress.

MAX

Fucking assholes.

As he reaches for another FLOATY; a DIFFERENT FLOATY bumps his hand. He gets the first one out, back for the second.

He reaches for it, it's HEAVY; it's HAIRY; it's Très!

Max startles; drops him back in the pool; a DEAD BLUE Très spirals to a face up position from the motion.

MAX (V.O.)

For the caged bird sings of freedom.

Katie and Suzy walk towards Max.

MAX

No, no, NO! Stay there!

Max looks around to see another outline; it's Brendan.

Katie and Suzy continue anyway; they pick up the pace.

KATIE
Sweetheart, it's snowing and below--
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Katie faints.

Suzy sees her dead husband-- she JUMPS in after him.

SUZY
No, no, no, no, no!!!

Max jumps in after her. She's hysterical, she drags the body to the shallow end and attempts CPR.

Max swims up behind her; hugs her arms down as she sobs-- straightjacket-like.

SUZY
No, no, no, no! Stop! No! No, no, no!

MAX
(cries/press her head into chest)
Shhhh... shhhh. He's gone, he's gone.
I'm here. I'm here-- I'm so sorry!
FUUUUUUCK!

The fuck ECHOES the woods that surround.

Max kisses her head.

CUT TO:

KOLT ESTATE - LARGE STUDY - AFTERNOON

Max reviews security footage with Rudy and Billy.

REVEAL: Brendan and Très blowing up all the POOL TOYS with a PUMP-- FAST FORWARD; STOP; as they throw the toys in the pool, they run around it-- FAST FORWARD; STOP; both jump from the BALCONY; Très falls HEAD FIRST, as if he's stumbled on something, Brendan is microseconds behind him, falls feet first but BOUNCES OFF one of the FLOATY'S and CRACKS his head on the side of the pool.

BILLY
Terrible, just terrible!

RUDY
And so handsome. Such a shame.

Suzy's apoplectic on a FAINTING CHAIR, the WASTE BASKET with the trashed LETTER next to her. She's in a PALE PINK NIGHTGOWN, that resembles something from childhood.

Max takes out a USB STICK from the computer.

MAX

This is all you need?

They all walk over to the study entrance.

BILLY

This is good for now. We'll be in touch.

(leans in)

You just focus on helping these ladies cope okay? We've got a bereavement specialist if you need.

Max walks the cops to the

TOP OF THE STAIRS

Max is about to follow them down the stairs, they turn.

Rudy

We'll get someone to bring Mrs. McIntyre's Tesla over in a bit.

MAX

Thanks guys. Appreciate it.

BILLY

We'll let ourselves out. Go-- go be with your sister.

Max sends a hand out for a shake. Billy obliges. Rudy extends both his arms around his partner and Max; hugs them in.

RUDY

It's just so sad!

Rudy releases everyone; he and Billy continue downstairs.

Max turns back to the

LARGE STUDY

Where Suzy is upright reading the LETTER from their father to Max. She has unwrinkled and pieced it back together from the RIP down the CENTER.

Max sits beside her.

SUZY
I have to tell you something.

MAX
We don't have to talk about it.

SUZY
We do.
(takes a breath)
It wasn't Davenport.

Max's eye grow.

MAX
What're you talking about?

SUZY
It was father. The cookies.

Max gets up.

MAX
But you said.

SUZY
I know what I said! I lied! And this is
my atonement!

Max paces the room.

MAX
Talk!

SUZY
It wasn't s'posed to... He just wanted
you to come back to Kolt Industries.
You were to lead it into the fu--

MAX
What THE FUCK SUZE! You sound like HIM!
Instead, that triggered the fall of it!

SUZY
It wasn't s'posed to hurt anyone!

MAX
Except me right?!...
(a beat)
Who made the cookies Suze?
(she looks away)
Susannah Margaret Anne Kolt! Who made the
GODDAMN cookies?!

She can't look at him in the eye.

SUZY
 (she cries)
 Campbell-Kolt!
 (she sobs)
 I DID!

MAX
 So all that stuff about not having
 sufficient evidence to prosecute
 Davenport was to protect your own fucking
 ass?

Suzy is a mess. Katie comes in, falls to her knees.

KATIE
 I know sweet one, I know! It's
 excruciating.

They both sob.

Max storms off-- he can't look at her; he reaches the

STAIRS

DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG

MAX
 Now fucking what?

He's at the

FRONT DOOR

He whips it open-- a LARGE VASE with an obscene
 arrangement of WHITE ROSES, LILIES and SNAPDRAGONS
 occupies much of the doorway.

MAX
 Ummm, hi?

REVEAL: Bianca behind the ostentatious gesture as she
 hands them over.

BIANCA
Our condolences.

Max recognizes the voice.

MAX
 Uch, whatta you want?

Bianca walks into the foyer as Max places the flowers on the ELABORATE KEY TABLE.

BIANCA

To give our condolences. Katie called. Davy didn't think you'd appreciate his presence...

MAX

Well, and he has his flock to tend.

BIANCA

Well, it was already planned and everything. There's a couple more members to consider now...

MAX

Wow.

BIANCA

Can we just...

MAX

Just...

BIANCA

Talk?

MAX

Is that not what we're doing?

BIANCA

Can we just... Sit and talk?

Max gestures to the

LIVING ROOM

Bianca's already in motion towards the CHESTERFIELD. She's SCANTILY CLAD in another GAUDY ensemble; it reeks of wealth.

Max sits across from her.

MAX

I don't have much time...

BIANCA

It's just. I acted badly.

MAX

No shit.

BIANCA

*You were so sad, and loopy and sleeping
all the time. Davy was so exciting.*

MAX

Well, I can't blame you for that.

BIANCA

*But then, all that stuff in the news how
you were drugged and I just... I miss
you. The old you.*

MAX

Good Lord, fuck I don't...

Bianca's taken aback.

...That Kolt's dead. I killed him.

(a beat)

You should move on. Go-- marry Davenport.
He'll make you happy.

Max is up, antsy-- he moves to the

FRONT DOOR

He holds it open for her. She stands; catwalks to him--
shameless.

MAX

Haven't you heard? Unfulfilled love is
more romantic-- or some shit.

She reaches him.

BIANCA

*One last kiss? I didn't know the last
time I kissed you, would be the last time
I kissed you.*

MAX

(he leans in)

Fine.

Bianca's right index finger arrests the peck he's going
for-- she's in a soap opera.

BIANCA

*Not from this Max-- from my love Max...
The old Kolt.*

Max gazes to the ceiling; he wants her outta there.

MAX

And then we're done?

BIANCA

(nods)

Davy's so envious of you.

MAX

Really?

BIANCA

It's like he has a crush...

Max goes for it. A passionate kiss.

SLAM

The spell breaks; Max looks up/down the hall to the BACK PATIO GLASS DOOR where Estella, in her Christmas TUQUE runs away from the house.

MAX

Fuck, fuck, FUCK! You gotta go... Have a nice life.

He rushes Bianca out of the house-- door in the face.

BIANCA

You t--

Max runs down the hall to the

EXT. BACK PATIO

Estella has a lead on him; she's at the edge of the BACKYARD and disappears into the Narnian TREES.

MAX

(Westside Story-like)

Estella! ESTELLA!!!

(sotto)

Come back.

Max runs after her; but a PALE PINK NIGHTGOWN catches his attention out of the corner of his eye-- he double takes; stops.

...Now where the fuck is she going?

Max watches as Suzy moves towards a barn.

...No, no--

He starts to run to Suzy.

...Fuck, fuck, SUZY!

Suzy continues walking; catatonic-- zombie-like.

...SUZY!!!

She's there one second; gone the next-- an ICY POND devours her.

Max musters everything he has-- runs harder through the PACKED SNOW.

He arrives at the edge of the

EXT. ICY POND

SPLISH SPLASH SPLISH SPLASH

Max is about ten feet away-- he gets on his belly and starts to crawl to Suzy.

MAX

Goddamnit Suze, what have you done!

She loses consciousness-- descends down.

He stabs his arm into the icy water; grabs the back of her nightgown; pulls her up. She's unconscious.

He slides her off the pond; administers CPR.

(between CPR puffs)

...No, no Suze.

(puff)

Not today.

(puff)

Not you.

She coughs up water; still unconscious.

...Good girl. We gotta get you--

Max cradles her; notices BLOOD around her nether regions.

He hangs his head; whispers to her belly.

(tears)
...We shall not cease exploration--

Max lifts Suzy off the ground and walks back toward the

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING TWILIGHT

Katie notices Max through the WINDOW carrying Suzy. She runs outside onto the

EXT. PATIO

Her MOUTH YELLS MUTE while Max's VOICEOVER plays.

MAX (V.O.)
*And the end of all our exploring... Will
be to arrive where we started... and know
the place for the first time.*

KATIE
(mute)
What happened?!

MAX
(mute)
CALL 911!

Katie rushes back inside.

Max continues his trek back to the house-- beaten and bruised, the SNOW FLURRIES around him; our unlikely hero has risen.

The SNOW FALLS HARDER; it WHITES out the SCREEN to a

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A clean shaven, dressed! Max, dons jeans, a VINTAGE T-SHIRT and a SPORTS JACKET-- he's hot even with a LIGHT SHINER; he sits by Suzy's bed; he holds her hand. She wakes; her cry immediate.

MAX
Thank God. You're awake.

SUZY
No!

She rolls over and sobs in fetal position.

MAX

It's going to be okay. You'll move past this.

SUZY

You shoulda let me go.

MAX

Oh Suze. I know exactly where you are... But I had that glimmer. That glimmer of a feeling that--

(he looks out the window)

Joy. For the first time... Maybe ever.

Suzy turns back to him.

SUZY

You're unhappy?

MAX

If you only knew... all this shit with father. It's torn at my soul. I hate the company. I can't imagine working there, let alone take it over. But...

(looks to Suzy)

Hope itself is like a star – not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity.

Max kisses his sister on the forehead.

SUZY

Go.

MAX

What?

SUZY

Just go... Get the fuck outta here!

MAX

I'm not leaving you like this.

SUZY

Are they on their way?

MAX

Who?

SUZY

Mummy and father?

MAX

Yeah.

SUZY

Go.

MAX

Why?

SUZY

He won't ever let you leave, you know him. He'll have you committed before he let's you walk away. You have to go!

MAX

What about y--

SUZY

Wrap up your affairs... Wait, where am I? How far are they?

MAX

The jet lands tomorrow nine A.M.--
Mass. Gen.

SUZY

Do what you need to do to disappear--
No phone, no credit cards, take what you
can... Whatever, get off the fucking
grid.

Max turns back to look out the window.

MAX

There's no way... How the hell do I leave
the country without notice? He'll trace
my passport, you know his connections...

Suzy looks around the room.

...Anyway, isn't it cowardly, not to face
the music?

He looks back to her eyebrow raised.

SUZY

Fuck the music. Be happy... This is
fucking awful! If you've been living with
this for a year-- and I caused that!

(tears)

Well, fuck Maxi...

He sits, pulls the chair closer, next to her.

MAX

It was always him.
(kisses her hand)
I never thought you could do such a thing!

SUZY

(head up/lightbulb)
Did you bring my purse?!

MAX

Actually... Yeah, Katie threw it at me as
we were about to take off in the chopper.

SUZY

Get it.

Max hands her a HOT PINK HERMES BIRKEN BAG with a BROKEN STRAP-- disapproval as she flings the strap; a light SCOFF, even now!

She rummages through-- comes out with a PASSPORT.

...Take Très' passport, pay for the
ticket with cash-- The government won't
be notified yet. Drop me a line when
you're settled.

Max takes the passport, skims it; looks at Suzy.

MAX

You surprise me sis.

SUZY

I owe you is all-- Fucking go.

Max gives Suzy a big hug.

MAX

Yeah, you're not so bad.

SUZY

I love you too.

They release.

The DOOR to her room is CLOSED-- BRIGHT SUNLIGHT STREAMS
from the CORNERS and small WINDOW of the DOOR.

Max OPENS it and walks through.

MUSIC CUE: "MAMBO SUN" - INSTRUMENTAL - BY T.REX.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - SUNNY DAY

Max does a JIG; walks faster and faster, dances-- the halls are wide open; no one's around.

MAX (V.O.)
Dearest Estella,

- He runs down empty stairwells.

...Surprisingly, it was easy enough to get out. No Rita poster required...

- Lands an IMPRESSIVE FLIP from the STAIRS.

...It punches me in the nuts every time I think of the last time I saw you.

- SLIDES DOWN STAIRWAY RAILS; lands hard on his NUTS-- OUCH! Last one!

...I can't believe I'm not there explaining this to you right now. What you saw was an ending, not a beginning--

Max clutches his crotch as he falls against a wall, cross eyed; breathe into it!

PHEW!

Everything's happened so fast, I had to leave, the opportunity was there and anyway, I'm incognito.

EXITS the BRIGHT EMPTY HOSPITAL at

EXT. 55 FRUIT ST, BOSTON, MA - STREET

Max, SLIGHT LIMP, walks, down the EMPTY street; a CAB pulls up; another, limp incorporated, JIG; he gets in.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAX'S TREEHOUSE - TAVEUNI, FIJI - SUNNY DAY

There's SCAFFOLD around a LARGE TREE with MEN WORKING. He grabs a SAFETY HELMET and joins in the CONSTRUCTION.

He sits at a MAKESHIFT DESK of a BOARD and TWO LARGE UPSIDE DOWN BUCKETS. He pens this handwritten note to Estella. Drops it in a BOX; SEALS the BOX.

MAX (V.O.)

...I'm gunna try to convince the world I don't exist. But I promise I'm not the devil.

INT. THE WHARF PUB - DAY

Estella works the bar at The Wharf Pub. She BOXES her FRAMED PHOTO for post. Writes **SUZY CAMPBELL** as the recipient. Wally and ELIOT(4), his adorable niece, refill SALT SHAKERS.

Donnie, as the postman, delivers Estella a SMALL PACKAGE-- an ENVELOP to himself from **Andy Dufresne**; NO RETURN ADDRESS.

MAX (V.O.)

...Bit of an ass though. Yeah, I feel that finger rolling up as you read me.

Estella has the box OPEN, READS the NOTE he's WRITING-- She ROLLS her MIDDLE FINGER up to the PAGE; chuckles. INTERCUT.

Max learns how to SAND and MOLD WINDOW FRAMES from TEAK WOOD; local CARPENTERS show and help him.

...In about six months from now, my Zihuatanejo should be ready.

Estella opens **ENVELOP #1**. It has information for an EDUCATIONAL TRUST for Eliot Speer to the amount of **\$250,000**. Estella in shock, sheds a tear.

MAX (V.O.)

I wanted to ensure enough funds so that Eliot has options for whatever she wants to do in life-- a few times over. You have access as the trustee, if you need any financial support contact Edgar Lopez in town.

Donnie faints at the end of the bar from Estella. Marie rushes over, gets on her knees; sees what's in his hand-- she faints too.

Estella rushes over. A **\$1,000,000 CHECK** made out to **Donald Speer** for **POSTAL SERVICES RENDERED**.

Max roams around a finished TREE HAVEN. This isn't the extravagance we've seen before, but it's a pretty cool HOUSE in a TREE. With balconies that surround; bamboo throughout. A HAMMOCK built into the FLOOR of the BALCONY. OPEN WALLS; Estella's FRAMED PHOTOS on the walls that do exist.

MAX (V.O.)

...My deepest regret was knocking over your camera. More apologies. Hopefully the replacement is close enough. But just in case, there's a back-up...

Wally tends to their parents. Estella opens two boxes, one with the CAMERA that was knocked overboard; another that is the BEST CAMERA on the MARKET. Estella cries.

Underneath the CAMERA BOXES is **ENVELOP #2**. She reaches for it.

...And there's yet another back-up. If you ever decide to get off your island and join my dream...

She opens it. REVEAL: TWO PLANE TICKETS to **NADI, FIJI**.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANE - DAY

Eliot sits on Estella's lap in FIRST CLASS; they both look down and WAVE to the world.

...Now, I am in hiding so, if you ever get to the airport, look for a small native Fijian woman, she's four foot nothing. Has two missing front teeth, her name is Adi. Tell her you're here for Dufresne.

FIJI AIRPORT - SUNNY - DAY

Estella finds ADI(45), who stands on a chair to place LEI FLOWERS around her and Eliot's necks.

MAX (V.O.)

Scratch that... I don't regret knocking your camera over the most.

I regret not telling you that I love you
and you and your family truly saved my
life.
Forever yours - Max.

MAX'S TREEHOUSE - BALCONY - SUNSET

Max gazes out onto the beach from his perch. He WAVES,
laughs and walks down. A WOMAN and BABY PLAY on the

WHITE SAND BEACH

Nature is pristine. The woman turns around to WAVE with
SUNGLASSES and a LARGE HAT on-- very Jackie O.

Max approaches her, leans down to kiss her, picks up the
baby.

Estella rolls up in a TUK TUK; gets out of the vehicle;
sees Max playing with the baby, the woman close by.

Estella turns around.

ESTELLA

Oh. My. God.

The DRIVER already has all the bags out. Estella, takes
one and puts it back in the tuk tuk. The driver takes it
out; this continues, it's humorous.

Max looks up to the commotion. He hands the baby back to
the woman; runs toward Estella. His smile so wide.

MAX

Estella?! ESTELLA?! Is that you?!

She holds up and shields herself with Eliot as he gets
closer; the tuk tuk SCREECHES OFF.

ESTELLA

No, no, it's not me!

He reaches her.

MAX

Well, I'm certainly happy to see you
again...

(to Eliot)

And to meet you!

(to Estella)

May I?

He holds out his hands.

Estella gives Eliot to him.

ESTELLA
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to disturb your family.

MAX
Are you kidding?! I'm so happy to see you.

Estella watches Max play with Eliot.

ESTELLA
I just-- Sorry-- I guess I waited too long.

MAX
(giggles to Eliot)
What're you talking about?!

ESTELLA
Well your wife over there?

MAX
Oh no, that's my sister, Suzy and my niece, Lucy.

Estella cries a sigh of relief.

ESTELLA
Really? Wait, Suzy? Suzy Campbell?!

MAX
Yep, you've found me out. Wanna meet 'em?

ESTELLA
I'd-- I'd love to.

Max reaches for her hand.

(leans in)
...I'm certainly happy to see you again too.

She kisses him; he places Eliot on the ground. Max draws both hands to cradle her face.

MAX
I love you.

Estella smiles.

ESTELLA

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

MAX

Fuck I missed you.

Max turns to the sunset; arm around Estella, Eliot meanders toward Suzy and Lucy.

He looks to Estella.

...Still so fucking beautiful.

He spins her around; they dance.

MAX

(sings)

*Beneath the bebop moon,
I want to croon - with you,
Beneath the Mambo Sun,
I got to be the one - with you.*

MUSIC CUE: FADE UP on "MAMBO SUN" BY T.REX as they JOIN and then OVERTAKE Max's SONG.

Max and Estella dance toward Suzy and the kids; a hug from Suzy as she and Estella meet; Eliot runs around.

Max cradles Estella under her legs and back; lifts her-- runs into the ocean.

They're soaked. They kiss and play in paradise.

FADE OUT

SUPER: "Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain." - Joseph Campbell

-FIN