

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

TOBIAS (21) is standing in his living room. A picture of him and a woman adorns the side wall. This is REBECCA (21). He grabs the picture and throws it on the floor. He grabs another smaller picture and smashes it against a wall. He grabs a bottle of unidentifiable alcohol, quickly downs it, and throws it on the floor. The phone rings and he answers it.

TOBIAS
Hi, yeah, I'm fine.

He stamps on one of the photos.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Just engaging in destructive
therapy. I'm working through my
pain by breaking the shit out of
everything.

Tobias grabs a sledgehammer.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I've had a few drinks, yeah.

He goes next to a wall next to a rickety table. He lifts the hammer above his head and falls backwards slightly, hitting the wall behind him.

INT. HOSPITAL. EVENING.

Tobias wakes up in a hospital. A DOCTOR (36) looking over him.

DOCTOR
Good, you're awake.

TOBIAS
What happened?

DOCTOR
You've been in a coma for three
weeks.

TOBIAS
How?

DOCTOR

From what we can tell you were doing building work on your house and hit something you shouldn't have done, which caused ceiling tiles to fall on you.

TOBIAS

Is the house okay?

DOCTOR

Is the...is the *house* okay? I'll have to admit I didn't really see that as being the main concern so I'll have to check.

He flips through a folder.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay it seems like three of your walls are stable and safe. But the fourth wall has been knocked down.

TOBIAS

I broke the fourth wall?

DOCTOR

Destroyed it completely.

TOBIAS

(sighs)

Well what's the worst that can happen, right?

DOCTOR

Well it's coming up to 9pm now. So go out, get drunk and celebrate, just, you know, try not to knock down any walls.

EXT. STREET. EVENING.

Tobias walks down the streets, a SHAPELY BLONDE (29) walks past him, he turns his head to creepily stare at her, not seeing the bollard in front of him. He walks into it, getting hit square in the, well, in the bollards.

QUIET LAUGHTER

He angrily approaches a meek-looking OFFICE WORKER (21) and grabs him by the shirt.

TOBIAS
You think that was funny?

OFFICE WORKER
Kinda, yeah.

Tobias is rattled by this unexpected response.

TOBIAS
Cocky prick.

He throws him backwards onto the floor.

QUIET OOOOOOO!

Tobias looks around to find the source of the noise, not being able to discern which person said it out of the crowd of onlookers, he gives up and walks on.

INT. BAR. NIGHT.

Tobias is in a bar, talking to LORI (45).

TOBIAS
So yeah, I'm pretty much a big deal.

SLIGHT LAUGHTER

He looks around, trying to find the source of the laughter. She places her hand on his.

LORI
Why don't we go back to my place and we can see how big your deal is?

HOLLERING AND WHISTLING

He looks around confused.

LORI (CONT'D)
Look, I'm giving you sex. You can keep looking around for whoever is supposed to meet you here, or we can fuck. Your choice.

She walks out the door, he follows.

INT. LORI BEDROOM. NIGHT.

The two of them are getting amorous (fully clothed) on her bed.

LORI
So what do you say we...?

TOBIAS
Way ahead of you.

He gets a condom out of his pocket, turns away from her and starts putting it on.

SLIGHT LAUGHTER.

He turns around angrily.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
What the fuck is your problem?

LORI
Well I've got a slight headache but
other than that it's horniness.

LAUGHTER.

TOBIAS
Who the fuck is laughing?

Lori looks concerned.

LORI
What laughter?

TOBIAS
You couldn't hear that? Have you
left a TV on?

LORI
I don't own a television, I don't
like life being distilled into a
small screen, I prefer living it.

She gets a cigarette out and starts smoking it.

TOBIAS
Quick, tell a joke.

LORI
Fine. Look, all I'm saying is that
Lincoln was wearing a massive hat
in a theatre, so maybe he deserved
it.

Tobias stays silent.

LORI (CONT'D)
What, too soon?

TOBIAS
No I was just waiting for...you
know what? Nevermind. So, where
were we?

He slides into her bed.

LORI
I think the moment's gone.

TOBIAS
What, why?

LORI
The whole "screaming at me"
randomly kind of put a damper on my
libido to be honest.

TOBIAS
Look, I'm sorry. I don't know what
happened.

LORI
I think it's best if you go and we
pick this up another time.

TOBIAS
Yeah, sure.

Tobias gets dressed and leaves.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Tobias is walking down the street, phone to his ear.

TOBIAS
Hey, Bees? It's me, Toby. No, don't
hang up. I just, I kind of need
you.

He looks into a shop window mournfully.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
It's fine, I get it. Sorry for
bothering you.

INT. RESTAURANT. EVENING.

Tobias and Lori are seated opposite each other. The building is mid-fancy, the kind of place that you go to celebrate, but won't break the bank. Lori looks tense, her body on the defensive, arms drawn into herself.

TOBIAS

Look, I'm sorry about last week, I don't know what happened.

LORI

You went mad is what happened. Started screaming at me.

TOBIAS

Yeah, something happened to me.

LORI

Oh? Oh! Look that happens to a lot of guys, but there's no need to get like that, I didn't even notice. We could have just fooled around until you recharged.

TOBIAS

What? No, not that. I started to..

He pauses.

INT. RESTAURANT. EVENING. (DREAM SEQUENCE)

TOBIAS

I started to hear things.

She laughs.

LORI

You're crazy.

She points at him.

LORI (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Hey everyone, come look at the crazy guy. He hears voices in his head.

The whole restaurant laughs at him. It suddenly stops. In walks Rebecca, dressed in a long black dress and walking in a confident state.

REBECCA
This is why I left you.

TOBIAS
But I wasn't even hearing anything
then. I was normal.

REBECCA
You were insane even then, to think
that I would stay with you, you
were a pity relationship. Why would
anybody ever love you? You're my
biggest mistake.

TOBIAS
You were hooked on meth for three
years.

REBECCA
Still preferable to dating you.
You'd struggle to find somebody to
date you as it is.

Lori nods.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
So what makes you think anybody
would do it now you're crazy? You
should hide that shit.

INT. RESTAURANT. EVENING.

Lori is looking at Tobias, waiting for him to finish his
sentence.

TOBIAS
I started to...I started to worry,
I've recently been in hospital.

She holds his hand across the table

LORI
Oh my poor baby. What with?

TOBIAS
A roof collapsed on me.

She withdraws her hand from his.

LORI
Well if you're not going to be
honest with me.
(MORE)

LORI (CONT'D)
We'll just eat and go, this place
closes at ten so we have an hour.

APPLAUSE

Tobias looks around nervously.

TOBIAS
Oh fuck. Not again.

LORI
What's happened?

A WAITER (50) walks past, Tobias trips him up.

LAUGHTER.

LORI (CONT'D)
What the hell did you do that for?

UH OH!

TOBIAS
I've gotta go.

He puts on his coat and hurries out of the building.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Tobias is hurrying down the street anxiously.

LAUGHTER

He swats at his head, as if trying to drive the voices out.

LOUDER LAUGHTER

Tobias spins round on the spot. Rebecca is standing nearby,
silently watching him.

TOBIAS
(shouting)
Fuck. Off. Fuck off. Fuck off fuck
off fuck off fuck off FUCK OFF.

He swings his arms around frantically, hitting the air.
There's a loud thump.

INTAKE OF BREATH IN SHOCK.

He looks at what he just hit, it's Lori. She's on the floor
with a split lip, looking up at him in shock. He goes towards
her.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Lori. I'm so sorry. I didn't mean
that.

She starts to back away in fear. He walks off quickly.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

He angrily paces around the room.

TOBIAS
What the fuck is going wrong with
me? Am I going mad?

LAUGHTER

This time Tobias is able to locate the source of the sound, he turns around and notices his TV is on. An American sitcom is on the screen, canned laughter reigning supreme. Tobias eyes it suspiciously.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
That can't be..

He shakes his head furiously, trying to push the idea out of his head.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I'm not going crazy, I'm not going
crazy.

He pauses.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I'm just talking to myself in a
house that I damaged during a
drunken sledgehammer session.
Perfectly normal.

The door opens and in walks Rebecca. She nervously approaches him.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Hi.

REBECCA
I'm not stopping, just returning my
key.

TOBIAS
You can stay for a little bit,
can't you?

REBECCA
I really think it's for the best if
I don't.

TOBIAS
(disappointed)
Oh, okay. Yeah sure. Makes sense.

She drops her key off and leaves. He picks up his phone and
dials.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Hi, Lori.

Listens.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Nah, I think I'll be fine for
tonight if you're interested.

INT. RESTAURANT. EVENING.

Tobias and Lori are seated opposite each other, she looks
tense, he looks nervous.

LORI
Are you sure you're okay?

TOBIAS
Yeah I think I'm good.

LORI
Yeah I think you'll be fine, it's
the wrong time, anyway.

TOBIAS
I'm sorry, what?

LORI
Well I noticed that you only start
to have one of your "episodes" when
we get to nine. And they usually
end at nine-thirty.

TOBIAS
Are you sure?

LORI
Yeah, I double checked with my
phone calls to the police. Your
mental health episodes are at prime
time.

She laughs.

LORI (CONT'D)
Sorry, I shouldn't laugh.

TOBIAS
Why not? Everyone else is.

LORI
I'm sorry, I don't get it.

TOBIAS
You don't need to.

Silence.

LORI
You seem rattled. Everything okay?

TOBIAS
Yeah, I just need to.

He gets up to leave.

LORI
Are you serious, right now? Can we
have one normal day?

He puts his coat on.

TOBIAS
Two days, maybe three. That's all I
need. Then I promise I'll be fine.

LORI
I'll give you two. You know you're
asking a lot for me to keep
forgiving you for this, right?

TOBIAS
I know, and I'll try to make it up
to you.

She looks down.

LORI
There are some things you can't
make up for.

She looks back up, he's not there.

LORI (CONT'D)
And he's gone. Asshole.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

Tobias is sitting on the floor in a middle of a dark room, the only light coming from an answerphone in the corner.

LORI
(on phone)
Hi, it's Lori. I don't know why you
left yesterday. But I'd appreciate
an explanation soon. Okay, goodbye.

Tobias eyes a clock as it moves towards nine. It reaches 9pm.

SILENCE

Tobias breathes a sigh of relief. He stands up.

TOBIAS
(nervously)
Did you hear the joke about how
having a massive penis can lead to
memory loss? I can't remember how
it goes.

LAUGHTER

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Fuck!

APPLAUSE AND SHOUTING.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
That's it. Laugh, laugh at your
fucking clown.

We see a montage of him maniacally laughing whilst angrily pacing around the room.

SILENCE

He stops, being surprised at the lack of "audience" sound. He looks at the clock: 9:30.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I can't go on like this. I can't.

INT. CHEMISTS. DAY.

Tobias walks up to the desk, a bored looking PHARMACIST (50) behind the desk.

TOBIAS
Hi I'd like to pick up a
prescription.

PHARMACIST
Name?

TOBIAS
Tobias Heath.

PHARMACIST
Ah, sleeping pills. It says here
you were supposed to pick these up
a few weeks ago.

TOBIAS
I didn't need them then.

The pharmacist stares at him quizzically.

PHARMACIST
And you think you need them now?

TOBIAS
Oh yeah, I need them.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Tobias looks at a clock, it's 8pm. He takes the sleeping
pills and lies there falling asleep. We cut to 9pm. He's fast
asleep with a contented smile on his face.

APPLAUSE AND HOLLERING.

He wakes up and puts the pillow the over his head. The volume
increases. He digs some ear plugs out of his drawer and puts
them in. The volume increases until it's nearly deafening. He
screams and paces around the room. He leans his head against
the wall and screams in anguish before collapsing on all
fours in tears, pounding the floor in frustration and
despair. He pauses, then starts laughing uproariously.

TOBIAS
I know how to beat you. You can't
react if I do nothing. You want a
show? I'll give the worst show
since Heil Honey I'm Home.

He sits down again.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I am giving you nothing.

SILENCE.

Tobias smiles confidently. His phone rings.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Hi, mum?

He stands up.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

What kind of accident?

He looks worried.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Well is he going to be okay?

He's.....okay I get it. Yeah okay

I'll let you ring everyone else,

I'll just, I'll just be here. I

love you.

He hangs up and throws his phone against the wall, shattering it.

AWWWWW

His eyes dart open.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

You fucks. You destroyed me.

He stands up and starts shouting into the air.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

That's what you do to get a reaction? You kill someone? You couldn't just make me fall over and stick a fucking laugh track on that? No, you had to go for the fucking jugular didn't you? I don't know what you are, who you are, or even if you exist and aren't just a figment of my imagination. But I will beat you even if it ends me.

He walks away.

APPLAUSE

He turns back.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Do NOT applaud that. That was not acting you dumb fucks.

(MORE)

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

You want action? I will give you
the season fucking finale.

He grabs a gun and points at his head. He's just about to pull the trigger when his phone rings, it's Lori. He watches it until it stops ringing. He puts the gun on the table, all thoughts of death extinguished.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Tobias drunkenly picks up his ringing phone.

TOBIAS

Mum? How are you holding up?

He drinks.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

I know, I miss him too. Oh we've
got a date? Okay wait a minute.

He walks over to a desk and gets a pen and paper out.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Okay, so it's next Thursday at
eight pm. Wait, why is it that
late? Yeah but we can have the
funeral early then you guys can put
his ashes in the firework and set
them off later in your back garden.
I think he'd prefer that.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Okay, but does it have to be that
late?

His face is racked with pain.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Mum, I can't. I can't make it. I've
got.

He spies his sleeping tablets on the corner.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

I've got a hospital appointment.
Yeah, that's it. I'm sorry.

He hangs up.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

How bad would it have been?

EXT. FUNERAL SITE. EVENING. (DREAM SEQUENCE)

It's late at night, there's a large group of mourners surrounding a gravesite.

LOUD LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

Tobias is stumbling around with his hands covering his ears as he screams, he falls into the open grave as everybody cries.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Tobias looks confused.

TOBIAS

Why is there a burial plot for a cremation? Whatever, I need weed, I'll call Dave.

He gets his phone out and goes through the contacts, he spots "dad", and pauses. His eyes well up as he deletes the number. He goes to the drawer and picks up his gun, pointing it at his own head.

INT. HOSPITAL. DAY.

Tobias wakes up in a hospital bed. The same doctor from earlier standing over him.

DOCTOR

You know if you come in three more times you get a free coffee?

TOBIAS

Does that come with a shitload of painkillers?

DOCTOR

You only ever talk to me when you want something, it makes me feel kind of hurt you know.

TOBIAS

Seriously though, how bad is it?

DOCTOR

It could have been worse. The gun you used had a weak casing so the bullet broke the side of it and went into your shoulder.

TOBIAS

Lucky!

DOCTOR

No, you don't understand. I've NEVER seen that happen. If it went slightly to either side it could have killed you, if it went up or down it could have killed you. It got slowed down enough so that the bullet stayed in you and cauterised the wound itself. Those are a million to one odds. Someone up there still wants you alive for some reason.

TOBIAS

I guess so.

The doctor leaves. Tobias gets his phone out.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Hi, Becs? Yeah we need to meet. No, I get that, but we NEED to meet. Okay?

The doctor looks through the door and tells him (wordlessly) to hang up. Tobias holds up his finger in a "one sec" motion. The doctor shakes his head and walks away.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

Tobias is walking down the street frantically dialling on his phone. He spots Lori.

TOBIAS

Oh, I guess no need for that then.

He calls out to her.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Lori!

He catches up to her. She turns around.

LORI

No.

TOBIAS

No?

LORI

I don't want your excuses, I don't want your apologies. I've spent too long chasing you and I've received nothing in return.

TOBIAS

But I'm fixed now.

LORI

That doesn't make up for the things you did. You can't just say "I'm better now" and wipe the slate clean. You need to make up for what you did.

TOBIAS

Well tell me how I do that.

LORI

You can't. When you get to my age you start to learn when to cut your losses. I'm not wasting my time waiting for someone like you anymore.

Tobias looks like he's about to speak.

TOBIAS

There's nothing I can say to make this better is there?

LORI

I'm afraid not. I wish you well, just, just not with me.

TOBIAS

Shit, I'm supposed to go meet someone.

LORI

Go.

Tobias turns and runs away.

LORI (CONT'D)

Hey! One last thing.

He turns back.

TOBIAS

Yeah?

LORI
Are you sure you're fine?

TOBIAS
I will be, once I reach the finale.

He turns away from here.

LORI
What does that even mean?

TOBIAS
(over his shoulder)
It means closure.

EXT. PARK. DAY.

Tobias is sitting on a bench, anxiously looking around.
Rebecca enters and sits down next to him.

REBECCA
Look, you can't be that guy who
keeps calling his ex girlfriend
round to chat.

TOBIAS
THAT'S what you think this is? We
dated for a week, two months ago.
We've been friends since we were
ten years old. I don't want to talk
to you as your ex-boyfriend and
analyse where we fucked up, I want
to talk to you as the guy who was
there when you first got your heart
broken, the guy who you helped
survived college, the guy who, the
guy who just misses his friend and
would really appreciate having her
back.

Rebecca sits there, unsure of what to say.

REBECCA
I'm sorry. I've been a terrible
friend.

TOBIAS
I've been a terrible ex. I just, I
never saw you as my ex-girlfriend,
I guess that's why you ignoring me
hit me so hard.

REBECCA

I'm sorry about your dad, how was the funeral?

TOBIAS

I didn't go.

REBECCA

What? Why not?

TOBIAS

In time, in time. For now I've got more apologies to make.

REBECCA

Drinks tonight at nine?

TOBIAS

Can we make it nine thirty? Just in case.