

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

It's a dark room, all the lights are off. In a bed sleeps PATRICK (40), a content look on his face as he holds onto the woman next to him: EMILY (25). Her eyes are wide open as she slowly manoeuvres out of bed. She pauses when it looks like he's about to wake, his face creating a scowl in his sleep as his arms search for her. She slides a cushion into his way, which he grasps and tightly holds.

Emily slowly walks out of the room, a creaky floorboard causing her a brief moment of concern on the way out.

INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT.

Emily grabs a make-up bag and slowly unzips it. She takes out a make-up sponge case and opens it, emptying the sponge onto her hand. She reaches into the case and pulls on a small piece of sellotape, bringing out a key that was hidden in the case.

INT. LOUNGE. NIGHT.

Emily picks up a cushion from the sofa, she slowly unzips it and reaches in, pulling out some money in notes. She zips it back up and places it carefully back in the exact place it came from.

She goes over to a desk and writes something on a piece of paper then leaves the house.

EXT. BACK GARDEN. NIGHT.

Emily takes a deep breath and walks five deliberate steps out onto the lawn, counting each step. She then turns to the left and takes two more steps. She takes a nervous look to the skies and crouches down.

She claws at the dirt until she reaches a metal box. She keeps going until the box is fully exposed. She puts her key in a lock in the box and opens it up, finding a bag full to bursting.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Emily sits nervously in front of her house when a taxi pulls up, she takes one last look at the house, spitting on the front door before getting in the vehicle.

INT. LOUNGE. NIGHT.

We finally get to see what she wrote on the note:

YOU LEAVE ME ALONE, AND I WON'T TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU DID.
DON'T CONTACT ME AGAIN. FUCK YOU.

INT. HOUSE. DAY.

It's a bright sunny day in a clean but damaged house. Emily turns on an old computer and goes onto facebook. She starts typing and we see the words:

For those of you who I haven't spoken to lately, I've got some-

INT. TOWN HALL. DAY.

Emily is stood at a podium giving a speech to friends and family. At first the audience is minimal but as she speaks it seems to magically grow.

EMILY

-news. I left Patrick. I don't regret doing it, I only regret I didn't do it sooner. He was an abusive asshole who beat me multiple times.

FRIEND 1

Dislike react.

FRIEND 2

Care react.

FRIEND 3

Anger react.

Another woman steps up and opens a door to all her friends, who are now witnessing the speech.

EMILY

I'll give more details when I'm ready, but I will answer any questions you wish to ask.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)
Thank you for those who I've
trusted with this news beforehand.

She steps off the stage and gets approached by her friends LINDA (25), AMELIA (24), MIKAELA (25), and DEBBIE (25). A spotlight shines on each person as Emily talks to them, showing that they're the ones who have her focus. Linda takes a step forward.

MIKAELA
I'm sorry.

She steps back.

LINDA
I am so glad you did that. It's
about time.

She steps back and Debbie moves forward.

DEBBIE
I never liked him.

Amelia pokes Emily in the arm.

EMILY
You told me to hang out with him.

DEBBIE
He had a car. I'd have considered
asking you to date Stalin if he had
a car. Well maybe not Stalin, his
cars are really unreliable because-

BOTH
They're always Stalin.

EMILY
Yes, very funny.

Debbie steps back and Amelia steps forward.

AMELIA
So where are you staying now?

EMILY
Remember Jeff?

AMELIA
The weird kid from school with the
wonky leg?

Linda pokes Emily three times.

EMILY

Yeah, he knew a guy who knew a guy who runs a halfway house for people like me. I'm staying there a few weeks until I can find somewhere else.

Amelia steps back.

LINDA

Are you fucking Jeff?

LINDA (CONT'D)

You can do better.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I know you don't want to be alone.
But don't sleep with that loser.

Emily looks with disgust at Linda. She's about to say something but decides against it, Linda suddenly disappears. Amelia pokes Emily.

AMELIA

Why the hell did you do that to Linda?

EMILY

Did you see what she said to me?

AMELIA

She said she just asked what you were doing.

EMILY

She did more than that. I'll screenshot it and show you.

Linda reappears, alongside another Emily. Linda approaches the new Emily.

LINDA

Are you fucking Jeff?

LINDA (CONT'D)

You can do better.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I know you don't want to be alone.
But don't sleep with that loser.

They both disappear, as if they never existed in the first place.

AMELIA

Well that's definitely not what she told me. Hang on, need to show you something.

Linda and a new Amelia appear in the room. Linda talks to the new Amelia.

LINDA

I think she's lying about it. If he was that bad then why did she stay with him for so long?

AMELIA

Don't you remember what he did when she wanted to go on the school trip to Belgium?

LINDA

She didn't go.

AMELIA

She couldn't go. He phoned up the school pretending to be her dad and withdrew permission.

LINDA

Maybe he was just worried about her.

AMELIA

Or, he was an asshole.

LINDA

I just spoke to [inaudible] about it and they said she was definitely lying about it. Apparently she used to be addicted to crack back in the day, accused Patrick of all sorts, she accused him of cheating on her back in the day for no reason. Bitch is crazy.

Linda and the other Amelia disappear. Emily turns to Amelia.

EMILY

I can't believe that bitch. It was going to be a temporary block, but I'm not really sure I can deal with her ever again.

AMELIA

I'm sure she didn't mean it, you know what she's like.

Emily walks up Mikaela.

EMILY

Hey, can you do me a quick favour?

Mikaela stands still and silent. Debbie pokes Emily.

DEBBIE

Hey, I just saw. You doing okay?

EMILY

I think so, yeah. Thanks for checking on me. And I'm so sorry.

DEBBIE

For what?

EMILY

For abandoning you guys. I missed your wedding for Christ's sake. I should have been there.

DEBBIE

It's probably for the best considering the divorce. You didn't abandon us.

EMILY

I did. I stopped speaking to you guys. It was.....he stopped me.

DEBBIE

I know. You feel he was stopping you. But you're not together now so we can all get back to normal.

EMILY

I don't think you'd fancy coming all the way down to Bournemouth. I can come to yours for a weekend if that's okay?

DEBBIE

Don't think my partner would appreciate that.

EMILY

Oh, is there someone you need to speak to? I know people.

DEBBIE

It's fine. Really, it's fine.

EMILY

Again, I apologise for what I did.

DEBBIE

Noooooooo, it's me who should be apologising for not realising what was really going on.

EMILY

You could always come visit me sometime.

Debbie steps out of the light as Emily notices lots of people holding pictures of her and pointing in her direction. She pays attention to a BLACK-HAIRED WOMAN

BLACK-HAIRED WOMAN

Have you seen this woman? She disappeared and I'm worried about her.

PERSON 2

Have you seen this woman?

Emily follows the trail of people holding photos. All of them repeating the same words. The trail leads out the door.

INT. CORRIDOR. DAY.

The trail of people looking for Emily continues down the corridor, people discussing her like she's not even there.

RANDOM MAN

Fat bitch.

RANDOM MAN 2

I'd rape the shit out of that mouth.

Emily follows it until she reaches the end, it's Patrick, handing out pictures of her.

PATRICK

Have you seen this woman? She disappeared and I'm worried about her. Please help me, she's my wife and I'm very scared. I know she's in the general vicinity of Bournemouth but I don't know exactly where.

Emily freezes as an OLD WOMAN (66) walks up to Patrick.

EMILY
No, no, no, no, no.

OLD WOMAN
I know her! She goes into the same
corner shop as me.

Patrick stops what he's doing and approaches her.

PATRICK
What shop? Where is it?

OLD WOMAN
Wallisdown.

PATRICK
Thank you so much.

Patrick walks away as everybody praises him. Debbie walks up and pokes Emily, when she speaks, Linda's voice comes out.

DEBBIE
(as Linda)
Hey, it's Linda. Sorry, I know you
don't want to hear this, I'm sorry.
All I can say is you don-

Silence. Debbie stands there as if she wasn't just talking.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
Hey, sorry about that. Had no idea
Linda would say that. I deleted it
pretty quickly so I hope you didn't
read it all.

Emily is confused.

EMILY
No, it's fine, really it is.

Emily looks like she's figuring something out, she turns round and Amelia appears.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Who's name did you hide?

AMELIA
What?

EMILY
You sent me a picture of the
message Linda sent you, but you
crossed out one of the names, who
was it?

AMELIA
When did I do that?

EMILY
Right here.

Emily pulls Linda over and stands her in front of Amelia.

LINDA
I just spoke to [inaudible] about
it and they said she was definitely
lying about it. Apparently she used
to be addicted to crack back in the
day, accused Patrick of all sorts,
she accused him of cheating on her
back in the day for no reason.
Bitch is crazy.

She pushes Linda away.

EMILY
Who's name were you hiding?

Amelia disappears. A SUITED MAN (22) walks up to Emily.

SUITED MAN
What would you like to find?

EMILY
How do I remove edits from a photo?

SUITED MAN
I've found twenty eight million,
seven hundred thousand results.

EMILY
Give 'em to me.

Linda stands by the side of the suited man as he hands Emily
pieces of paper.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Nope. Advert. Requires photoshop.
Youtube videos. Suspiciously new
app. Perfect.

She walks up to Linda.

LINDA
I just spoke to Debbie about it and
they said she was definitely lying
about it.

Debbie appears.

EMILY
What the fuck?

DEBBIE
What are you talking about?

EMILY
What did you tell Linda? And if you dare block me I'm assuming the worst.

DEBBIE
Look, please don't be mad at me.

EMILY
What have you done?

DEBBIE
I've been sleeping with Patrick for the last ten years.

EMILY
What?

DEBBIE
All the guys at school were really immature. He had a job, a car, and he wanted ME! It made me feel special. The truth is, he never loved you.

Emily looks shocked.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I know this comes as a shock.

EMILY
Not really. I always knew he didn't love me. Well, I hoped. If he loved me, and still did what he did? It doesn't bare thinking about. It doesn't quite answer why he didn't just leave me though.

DEBBIE
He said he was only with you because you threatened to kill yourself if he left.

EMILY
That's a damn lie.

DEBBIE
Come on, Milly. I know the truth.

Emily looks confused. She turns to find Mikaela standing there. Debbie pokes Emily.

EMILY
Hey, I kind of need you. Please?

Getting no response, she turns back towards Debbie.

DEBBIE
You know, your twenty-first birthday?

EMILY
What about it?

DEBBIE
You tried to slit your wrists when he said he was going to leave, and ended up in hospital for a month.

EMILY
That's not why I was there!

EMILY (CONT'D)
I woke up the night before my birthday to that fuckers hands around my throat. I tried to push him off and he fractured my eye socket.

DEBBIE
Why do you keep lying?

EMILY
I'm not. I'll prove it.

A second version of Emily walks up. A slightly younger Emily, but one that's battered and bruised.

EMILY (CONT'D)
You see that picture? That's what he did to me. If that's what you want. You are more than welcome to it. But you cannot say I didn't warn you. You are walking into a pact with the devil, and I pity you, but I will not help you. I am just now learning to help myself, and I'll be damned if I'm letting you ruin it.

DEBBIE

I knew you'd be jealous.

EMILY

I'm not jealous, I'm frightened for you, I know what he's capable of, and I don't want to see it happen to you.

DEBBIE

Anything he would have done he would have done by now.

EMILY

I'm guessing he's already done it. You just haven't realised.

DEBBIE

I'm not an idiot, I would notice if he was beating me.

EMILY

He won't do that until you're his main choice. He may not beat you, but does he borrow your money? Does he shout at you a lot? How many holes has he created in your walls in anger? Do you have that feeling in your stomach when you see him walk through the door? I knew he was with someone else the whole time.

DEBBIE

How?

EMILY

He made me babysit his five year old daughter last year.

Silence.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I just wish it wasn't you. If it's any consolation, it's not just you.

DEBBIE

But it will be now. Now I'm his main focus he won't need anybody else.

Emily gets a look of sorrow on her face.

EMILY
You actually believe that don't
you?

DEBBIE
Of course I do, he loves me.

EMILY
I wish that were true, I really do.
I wish that he loved you enough to
treat you well. But I know this
man, and I know it's beyond him.

Emily takes a deep breath.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Look, I will be there for you when
it's over. But I can't watch it
unfold in real time. I'm sorry.

Debbie disappears. Emily feels everybody staring at her,
their eyes judging her. She goes up to Mikaela.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Please, I know I haven't spoken to
you much. But I need you.

Silence.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Maybe this is the best thing to do.

Everybody disappears, leaving Emily alone in the room in
darkness.

INT. HOUSE. DAY.

Emily is sat at her computer. The screen in front of her
saying:

"You have successfully deleted your account. Come back soon,
we miss you"

She turns the computer off and sits in silence until the
doorbell rings. She eyes it suspiciously, slowly approaches
it, grabbing a pair of scissors on her way. She quickly opens
the door and steps back, finding herself face to face with
Mikaela.

MIKAELA
Thought you might need someone.

Emily hugs her tightly then drags her inside and shuts the door.

EMILY

Sorry. Wait, how did you find me?

MIKAELA

Well I knew you were here somewhere, so I just drove down and asked around.

EMILY

So once you knew my town you found me easily?

MIKAELA

Pretty simply. Don't worry though.

She reaches into her pocket and takes out some car keys.

EMILY

Are those his?

MIKAELA

Yup.

EMILY

You stole his car?

MIKAELA

Of course not. Just the keys. Should give you some time.

EMILY

Thank you so much.

They embrace as we fade to black.