

ISAAC THE THIEF

by

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BLACK SCREEN

We hear a jail cell door slam shut.

ISAAC (V.O.)
My addiction got me into this.

1 INT. JAIL CELL - AFTERNOON 1

ISAAC YOUNG, 29, sits behind bars. He's well dressed and doesn't seem to belong here, especially in comparison to the 2 older men he sits across from. The worn looking men wonder the same thing as they stare him down.

Isaac gives one of them a glance.

The man looks away. He whispers in his buddy's ear and they laugh. They both turn back to look at Isaac, smiles on their faces.

Isaac breathes out. He leans back and tries to get comfortable.

We hear sounds of an airplane landing.

EXT. SKY - DAY

From above, we move towards a MAJOR US CITY.

2 INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS 2

Isaac occupies a seat on the plane. It's just landed and people are getting off. As he lets a few people by, they nod at his professional appearance. He sneaks into the aisle and makes his way off the plane.

3 INT. CAB - DAY 3

Isaac rides in the back of the cab, looking out the window; something weighs on his mind. He turns to the cab driver.

ISAAC
Can I smoke in here?

CAB DRIVER
No.

Isaac returns to looking back out the window.

His hand slightly shakes. He grabs it with his other hand to steady it.

4 INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

4

Isaac's hand is jittery again. He tries to shake it away.

Isaac is dressed differently, a different day. He stands in front of a counter in a coffee shop.

A smiling, happy barista looks directly at us.

BARISTA

The usual?

Isaac half smiles back, nods.

The barista gets to work on his drink.

Isaac's eyes dart around.

A few workers behind the counter, their backs turned to him.

A bead of sweat on Isaac's forehead forms.

He looks around unassuming, his hand steady by his side now.

A set of CD's sit on the counter in front him.

ISAAC (V.O.)

So...

His steady hand goes to the CD's as he takes one and puts it in his side jacket pocket.

The barista turns with his drink just as...

He takes his hand out of the pocket; his wallet has replaced the CD.

ISAAC (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I don't know what I've done
sometimes, until after I've done
it.

He pays her and takes his drink.

BARISTA

(ecstatic)

Have a good day!

Isaac strains a smile and nods.

ISAAC (V.O.)
The consequences don't come to mind
until afterwards.

As Isaac turns to leave, he notices a kid standing by the deli cooler, looking at him funny. The kids mom takes his hand and leads him away.

Isaac swallows.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER 5

Isaac is walking across the busy street with coffee in hand.

6 EXT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER 6

We see a sign at the entrance to the high rise that reads:
AINSLEY ADVERTISING

7 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER 7

Isaac is with other well dressed men and women-
Professionals. His attitude seems a bit out of place in this
mix, a slight look of remorse on his face. He takes a slow
sip of his coffee.

ISAAC (V.O.)
I feel like it's not me, you know.
Sometimes it feels like...someone
else has taken over.

The elevator doors open...

8 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR - CONTINUOUS 8

Cubicles. Sounds of typing. People running around.

Isaac steps from the elevator and makes his way through all
of this and towards an office against the wall.

Isaac's young intern CHARLIE, fresh out of college, holds up
a folder as he makes his way towards him.

CHARLIE
Morning sir!

ISAAC
(flat) Morning.

Isaac ducks into his office and shuts the door. Charlie looks confused. He shakes his head.

CHARLIE

Wierdy.

9 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 9

Isaac has the set-up; a nice office. A nice view.

He takes the CD out of his pocket and heads to his desk. He opens a drawer and dumps the CD in it.

We see other stolen items tucked down in the drawer.

ISAAC (V.O.)

But it IS me that does these things. No one else.

The desk drawer shuts hard.

10 INT. ADDICT CIRCLE THERAPY - PRESENT 10

We see Isaac is speaking to a circle of people, his head down.

ISAAC

But not who I want to be. Not anymore.

A gangly bunch make up the circle. About 15 people, all different from the other, most listening intently to Isaac speak.

Isaac is the best dressed. He lifts his head up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I just need to stay focused I guess. It helps when I try to remember that, when I give in... I start over.

People wait to see if he's done speaking. When they realize he is, they clap.

Isaac looks around bashfully as his and the group's counselor RICK, stands from his seat. He gives Isaac a pat on the shoulder.

RICK

Isaac, (points to him) good job.

Rick turns his attention to the rest of the room.

RICK (CONT'D)
He sets a great example people.

Isaac doesn't feel the same. Rick clears his throat.

RICK (CONT'D)
OK. (claps his hands together)
Let's take a break.

11 EXT. ADDICT CIRCLE THERAPY - MOMENTS LATER 11

Isaac leans against the building. He pulls a cigarette from his front jacket pocket and sticks it in his mouth.

He searches his pockets for a light, until his attention turns to...

Commotion coming from a corner store across the street; a few people hang around outside.

A small, disheveled looking middle eastern man darts out the front door with a cordless phone in his hand.

Isaac watches the man look around outside.

The middle eastern man dials a number and puts the phone to his ear and walks back inside.

We see Rick watching too as he exits the building.

RICK
I wonder what that's about.

Isaac notices his presence.

ISAAC
(cigarette in mouth)
You got a light?

RICK
(smiling)
I quit.

Isaac takes the cigarette out of his mouth and looks at it.

Rick moves closer, his hands in his pockets.

RICK (CONT'D)
Did you steal today?

Isaac sticks the cigarette behind his ear. He looks down.

ISAAC

A CD.

Rick takes a moment.

RICK

I don't think coming to the group
is helping you anymore.

Isaac surprised at this.

RICK (CONT'D)

You're a special case- you've got
a great job and you're well
respected. Which means you get
caught (snaps his fingers)...it's
over for you.

ISAAC

(not making sense of it)
No shit. That's why I come here.

RICK

All I'm saying is it's time to be
rid of it and I don't think you can
do that here.

Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC

You're saying give up therapy?

Rick rubs his eyes.

RICK

I can't help you.

Isaac's full attention.

RICK (CONT'D)

There's someone who I think can.

Rick pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket, hands it to
Isaac.

ISAAC

Who is it?

RICK

She's a hypnotherapist.

Isaac looks from the paper to Rick.

ISAAC
(surprised) You think I should get
hypnotized?

RICK
Just try it. Will you try it?

ISAAC
I don't know. I guess.

He pats Isaac on the shoulder.

RICK
Just try it.

Rick looks at him for a moment, then holds his hand out.
Isaac reluctantly shakes it.

RICK (CONT'D)
A habit cannot be tossed out the
window-

Rick pauses, looking at Isaac.

ISAAC
(routinely)
-it must be coaxed down the stairs,
one step at a time.

Rick approvingly nods and walks back inside.

Isaac looks at the paper again.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(To himself) OK then.

Isaac puts the piece of paper in his pocket. He pulls the
cigarette from his ear and looks back to the store. He
starts to walk towards it.

O.S.
Hey!

Isaac turns to the voice.

It belongs to AVA(26) simply STUNNING and making her way
towards Isaac.

He steps back onto the sidewalk.

Ava digs in a purse on her shoulder and pulls out a lighter.

AVA
Need this?

SCREEN GOES TO BLACK. WHITE TEXT APPEARS:

ADDICTION.

WE COME BACK TO:

Isaac smiles, takes the lighter from Ava. He lights up and hands it back.

ISAAC

Thanks.

She smiles at him, an adorable one. She lights up a smoke of her own.

A moment of silence between the two. Ava holds her hand out.

AVA

Ava.

A nervous Isaac blows smoke out. He takes her hand.

ISAAC

Oh, Isaac.

AVA

Nice to meet ya.

Another moment of silence, awkward for Isaac, who wants to say something good.

ISAAC

You live around here?

Ava smiles, gives him an interesting look.

AVA

Are you hungry?

Isaac looks curiously surprised.

12 INT. BURGER JOINT - NIGHT

12

Ava is tearing up her burger, Isaac watching. He looks impatient.

AVA

(mouthful) You gotta be somewhere?

Isaac looks at her.

ISAAC
Oh. No. Why?

AVA
You seem like you gotta be
somewhere.

She goes back to her burger.

Isaac keeps his eyes on her.

ISAAC
I have a question.

Ava wipes her mouth. He's entertaining her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Do you ask strangers to eat with
you on a regular basis?

Ava finishes chewing.

AVA
I've done it a few times, yeah.

Ava wipes her mouth as Isaac waits.

AVA (CONT'D)
And you seem pretty harmless.

She picks at her burger. She sees how Isaac is looking at
her.

AVA (CONT'D)
What?

ISAAC
What about you?

AVA
What about me?

ISAAC
Are you harmless?

She looks at him and gives him a cute smile.

AVA
Hardly.

They both eat for a minute.

ISAAC
I do like the idea of it.

AVA
Eating with strangers?

ISAAC
Yeah.

He picks up his burger and bites.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(chewing)
It's spontaneous. I could use a
little more of that.

She smiles.

AVA
What are you a homebody?

He swallows.

ISAAC
No I'm usually working.

Ava wipes her mouth with a napkin.

AVA
Do you have a girlfriend?

Isaac takes a moment. He smiles.

ISAAC
You move quick.

AVA
So keep up.

She wipes her hands on the napkin.

AVA (CONT'D)
And I'm taking that as a no.

Isaac is hooked. She starts going through her purse.

ISAAC
What's the catch?

Ava looks at him and thinks about it.

AVA
What do you mean "what's the
catch"?

She goes back through her purse, searching.

ISAAC

I don't know, are you flirting with me right now?

Ava gives him a suspicious look. She goes back to her purse.

AVA

There's not ALWAYS a catch. (thinks about it)
But now that you bring it up,
(looks up from purse) the catch would be that you have to lighten up just a bit.

She looks back down in her purse.

AVA (CONT'D)

I think I left my wallet at home.

She looks back at him, puppy dog eyed.

AVA (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry. I can get you back.

Isaac waves it off.

ISAAC

I got it.

Ava watches as he pulls out his wallet from his jacket pocket..

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But you gotta give me that lighter.

AVA

Oh. Yeah.

She goes back into her purse and we see, as she pulls it open, a nice wad of cash tucked to the side.

She pulls out the lighter from before, closes her purse up again.

ISAAC

Thanks.

AVA

Thank YOU.

We see them through the window as they both light up cigs.

13

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - LATER

13

Isaac and Ava are walking close to one another. They're the only ones on the street.

AVA

Do you like it here?

Isaac takes a long moment.

ISAAC

Yeah.

AVA

No you don't. That took forever.

He laughs.

ISAAC

I could go for something new I guess. My job's here though, you know.

AVA

You could relocate if you really wanted to. What do you do?

ISAAC

Very boring stuff. Advertising.

Ava hops in front of Isaac and starts to walk backwards, facing him as he walks.

AVA

That does sound boring.

Isaac shrugs.

AVA (CONT'D)

So you're a pro at drawing people in, getting them to buy what your selling.

ISAAC

Billboards.

AVA

(smirking, nods)
Ah, billboards.

ISAAC

(boringly)
And it's more like being a pro at kissing the asses above me.

She laughs and goes back to walking beside him.

AVA
I'm sure you're good at it. This
is me.

Ava stops in her tracks.

AVA (CONT'D)
Thanks for the burger.

ISAAC
Thanks for asking me to go.
Randomly.

A moment of silence. She leans in and gives him a hug.

Isaac looks unsure of himself. They pull apart.

Ava looks at him for a moment, then laughs.

AVA
Let's do it again.

She turns and walks towards her building door.

ISAAC
(enthusiastically)
I don't have your number.

She looks back to him.

AVA
I know where to find you.

Ava walks through the door; Isaac watches until it closes, a look of interest on his face.

14 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - LOBBY - MORNING 14

A smiling Isaac walks through the office lobby door. He's top notch.

15 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER 15

He goes up the elevator with the others, this time looking chipper.

16 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER 16

Isaac makes his way through the room and towards his office.

His young intern sits at the desk outside his office.

ISAAC
Good morning, Charlie.

Charlie looks up at him and braves a smile.

CHARLIE
Morning, sir. No coffee today?

Isaac opens his office door. He stops, turns to Charlie.

ISAAC
I left my wallet at home.

CHARLIE
(light bulb goes off) Mr. Gideon's
secretary called down. She said
he'd like to speak with you today.

Isaac takes the information in. He smiles, which makes
Charlie smile.

ISAAC
Very good, Charlie. Thank you.

Charlie still stands.

CHARLIE
(enthusiastically)
Good luck.

Isaac gives him an appreciative nod and heads into his
office.

17 INT. MR. GIDEONS OFFICE LOBBY - MORNING 17

Isaac walks into Gideon's lobby and stops at the secretary's
desk.

GIDEONS SECRETARY
(all business)
Go on in.

Isaac nods, swallows and heads in.

18 INT. MR. GIDEON'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS 18

A well statured, well dressed man, MR. DOMINIC GIDEON(59),
sits behind his desk. In front of his desk sits a younger
man, an also well dressed THOMAS HAYES(33).

They all look up from their conversations and at Isaac coming through the door.

Isaac maintains his composure.

MR. GIDEON
(warmly)
Ah, Isaac. Come in.

ISAAC
Thank you sir.

Isaac shuts the door behind him. He takes the chair beside a serious looking Thomas, who gives him a slightly smug look. Isaac holds his hand out.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Thomas.

Thomas shakes his hand. He gets out of his chair and straightens his suit jacket.

THOMAS
How was your flight?

Isaac seems to readjust at this question.

ISAAC
Oh, it was fine.

THOMAS
Good to hear. (turns to Dominic)
Mr. Gideon.

MR. GIDEON
Thank you Thomas.

Thomas exits. Isaac situates in his seat. Dominic, behind his desk, clears his throat.

MR. GIDEON (CONT'D)
Some big changes are going on
around here as a result of Mr.
Ainsley's passing.

Isaac clears his throat.

ISAAC
(nodding) Yes sir.

Dominic looks at some info on a piece of paper.

MR. GIDEON

You've been doing good work. (lays the paper on his desk) I'll get to the point. You're on the list to head the board when we start the new talks next week.

Isaac is filled with nervous excitement.

ISAAC

(smiling) Thank you sir. I don't know what to say-

MR. GIDEON

So you'll keep up the good work. We'll let you know when we reach a decision.

19

INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - LATER

19

Isaac picks up his desk phone and dials a number. We see the piece of paper Rick gave him laying on the desk. It rings.

A soothing voice comes on..

ANNA

This is Anna Goforth, life coach and hypnotherapy professional. Leave a message after the beep, and have a great day.

Beep. Isaac clears his throat.

ISAAC

This is Isaac Young. Rick Santos suggested I give you a call. Give me a call back when you get this. Thanks. Bye.

Isaac hangs up and takes a breath. He seems anxious.

He fiddles with something on his desk. His phone rings.

He looks at it for a moment and picks up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Isaac.

RICK

Hey buddy.

ISAAC

Hey Rick. I just called her-

RICK
You need to come see me.

Before Isaac can respond...

RICK (CONT'D)
Yeah, it's not about therapy.
(sighs) Can you come soon?

20 INT. ADDICT CIRCLE THERAPY - NIGHT

20

Rick holds Isaac's wallet in his hand. He hands it to Isaac, who is confused.

RICK
So you met Ava.

ISAAC
How'd you get this? What, you know her?

Rick puts his hand on his shoulder.

RICK
Come here.

Rick leads him to the doorway that looks out on the group assembled in the main room.

Rick points out Ava, who is sitting a little ways away from the rest of the group, looking grumpy and bored.

Isaac's eyes widen.

ISAAC
(confused)
What's she doing here?

Rick's eyebrows raise. He takes a moment, as if preparing to go on stage.

RICK
She was caught picking pockets a few months ago. She's been court assigned to be here- 100 hours.

Isaac sees a nearly bald man sitting behind Ava, reading a magazine, drinking coffee from a white foam cup. He has handcuffs on his side.

ISAAC
I don't understand? She's-

RICK

This is her first night, which was
suppose to be last night. She
didn't show, obviously.

ISAAC

Well I met her last night, on the
street... (epiphany) outside.

Isaac realizes fully now she isn't who he thought she was.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

(surely)
I knew there was a catch.

Rick pats Isaac on the shoulder. Isaac eyes Ava from across
the room. Rick's eyes stay on Isaac.

RICK

She asked me if I'd return it to
you.
(looks from Isaac to Ava)
I asked her to explain, but she
wouldn't. I had an idea.

Isaac darts across the room towards Ava. Rick turns to
Isaac.

RICK (CONT'D)

Isaac!

ISAAC

Ava!

Everyone, including the man giving a testimonial for the
group, stops and looks at Isaac. The probation officer looks
up curiously.

Ava looks up innocently.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I need to talk to you.

She turns to her probation officer.

AVA

Give me five minutes.

The bored older man looks at Isaac and then back to Ava. He
looks back into his magazine and motions his head towards
outside.

21 EXT. ADDICT CIRCLE THERAPY - MOMENTS LATER

21

Ava looks at Isaac's feet..

Isaac is looking dead at her.

ISAAC
(unbelieving)
You stole my wallet?

AVA
(defensively)
And returned it.

ISAAC
(angrily)
I bet you've pulled that same "lets
go eat" trick a dozen times.

Isaac paces around.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(To himself) How could I have been
so stupid? (To Ava) You're a
fuckin' pickpocket.

Ava looks insulted.

AVA
(sarcastic laughing)
Hypocrite!

ISAAC
(defensively)
I thought you liked me.

Ava's smile fades.

AVA
I do.

She gives him puppy dog eyes.

ISAAC
(sarcastic laugh) You're fucked!

He goes to walk away.

AVA
It's just something I do. It's not
a...personal thing.

Isaac stops.

AVA (CONT'D)

I was too embarrassed to give it back to you myself, so I gave it to Rick. But I'm glad you're here because I can tell you that I'm sorry.

Isaac turns back to her.

AVA (CONT'D)

(convincingly) I'm sorry.

Isaac swallows.

She is seductive, looks good.

Isaac's cell phone rings. He answers.

ISAAC

(to phone)
Hello?

ANNA (O.S.)

Yes, Isaac?

Isaac looks at Ava, then turns away from her again.

Ava shows an instant hint of impatience.

ISAAC

(to phone)
This is him.

ANNA (O.S.)

It's Anna. You called earlier about setting up an appointment.

ISAAC

(to phone)
Oh. Yeah. Yes.

ANNA (O.S.)

When would be a good time for you to come in?

Isaac turns and looks at Ava.

She gives him a smile. She's beautiful.

ANNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hello?

Isaac takes his eyes off of Ava, focusing back on the phone.

ISAAC

(to phone)
Tomorrow?

ANNA (O.S.)

OK, let me see here. (we hear her
thumb through a book, checking to
make sure)

Ava walks up to Isaac, arms crossed.

AVA

I'm gonna go back inside.

Isaac motions for Ava to hold on.

ANNA (O.S.)

Six. Do you know where I am?

Isaac still has his hand up. Ava stops.

ISAAC

(to phone)
I'll get directions from Rick. See
you tomorrow.

Ava waits impatiently.

ANNA (O.S.)

I look forward to meeting.

Isaac hangs up the phone and turns to Ava.

ISAAC

(demandingly)
What do you want?

AVA

(surprised) Well.

ISAAC

(correcting himself) I mean, with
me.

Ava rolls her eyes, shrugs.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Do you even know?

Ava narrows her eyes.

AVA

(thinking out loud)
I don't...really know, actually.
(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

Hmm. We both got our thing, I guess. Our (imaginary quotes with fingers) fix. (smiles) Maybe it's because you're cute when your mad. (straight face) I'm just not sure yet.

Isaac shakes his head.

AVA (CONT'D)

So no more secrets. (she holds her arms out) You know everything about me now.

ISAAC

(wearily)

I don't believe that.

Ava smiles and nods.

AVA

Lighten up. I said I'm sorry and I meant it. (flirty) And it was hard for me.

Isaac breathes out, unsure.

The Parole Officer sticks his head out. Ava sees.

AVA (CONT'D)

Guess I gotta go.

Isaac looks less mad.

Ava goes to hug him.

AVA (CONT'D)

Bye.

She kisses him on the cheek and walks back inside.

Isaac's eyes all on her- he can't help himself. He turns and heads down the street.

A few steps later, he stops, reaches inside his jacket pocket. After a moment, he pulls out his wallet.

A look of relief. He puts it back in and a look of interest comes across his face again. He takes his hand back out and there's a piece of paper in it.

He opens it up. It reads: I'll make it up to you. 555-2453.

Isaac grins, puts the paper back in his pocket and walks on.

22 EXT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON 22

Isaac is looking at the piece of paper Rick gave to him.

We see the address on it. He brings it down and we see a matching address on the building in front of him.

24 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER 24

Isaac walks through the door and into a small, charming seating area.

A sign hangs on the wall, which reads:

BELIEF INTELLIGENCE IMAGINATION MOTIVATION

Isaac's gaze goes from this to a plaque on the wall that reads:

Anna Goeforth CCHT Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist

Isaac takes a seat, as he looks around some more. Moments later...

We hear female voices from the back room.

A YOUNG WOMAN comes through the doorway and into the seating area. She smiles big at Isaac. He smiles back.

Isaac watches as she takes a pack of cigarettes out of her purse. She dumps the pack of cigarettes in the trash can at the door and walks out.

Isaac looks curious at this.

ANNA (O.S.)

Hopefully I won't see *her* anymore.

Isaac turns to see Anna in the doorway. She holds her hand out.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Isaac?

Isaac nods bashfully.

ISAAC

Yeah.

ANNA
(smiling) Anna.

He shakes it; she has a beautiful, warm smile. She turns and heads back through the doorway.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Come on.

Isaac follows.

25

INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

25

The chair Isaac sits in is extremely comfortable looking. Anna sits across from him.

ANNA
(stating more than asking)
So you have an addiction.

ISAAC
(comfortably)
Yes. I, uh...I find ways to be comfortable in tight spots...is how I see myself at this particular...place in my life.

Anna smiles at him. She nods for him to go on.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(casually)
I take things- nothing I really want. I just get into these uhm... these moments, where I give in.

Isaac pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

ANNA
Kleptomania.

ISAAC
Can I smoke in here?

Anna smiles.

ANNA
I'd rather you not.

Disappointed, Isaac puts his cigarettes back in his pocket.

ANNA (CONT'D)
How long have you been doing this?

Isaac takes a moment.

ISAAC

Since I was 17. Not the first time I stole. Just when I started to do it... regularly, I guess.

ANNA

Tell me about the first time you took something that didn't belong to you.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC

I was 7. (he looks to the floor)
Me and my mother were at the store,
and...you know. I took some candy.

ANNA

Did you get caught?

Isaac shakes his head slightly.

ISAAC

Not until a few times later.
(smiles) One of the workers told
my mom they saw me take a Milky
Way.

ANNA

Did your mother punish you?

Isaac looks down.

ISAAC

She told me how embarrassed she
was. She spanked me.

ANNA

What about your father? How did he
approach the situation?

Isaac seems to clam up at this. He still looks down.

This gets Anna's attention.

Anna watches Isaac as he puts his hands together nervously.

ISAAC

I never really knew him.

Anna jots something down on a note pad.

Isaac notices.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What do you write?

Anna still writes on the pad.

ANNA
Just the things that seem most
important.

Isaac seems anxious. He breathes out and pats his knees cheerfully.

ISAAC
Do I get hypnotized, because this
seems more like therapy.

She looks up from the pad.

ANNA
(straight face)
The more of your past that we
uncover, the better chance we have
of understanding where the problem-
your addiction, comes from.

ISAAC
(impatiently)
How long does it take?

Anna smiles.

ANNA
Your willingness to share with me
will decide that. But not too
long.

Isaac nods. He goes to work...

ISAAC
My mother... (He raises his
eyebrows)

ANNA
Yes?

ISAAC
She use to always tell me I was a
fuckup, that I always would be.
But SHE was the fuckup- not to
mention an alcoholic.

ANNA

Was?

ISAAC

She's dead now.

Anna frowns.

ANNA

I'm sorry for your loss.

ISAAC

(calmly)
Don't be. I've always thought
she's the reason I'm like this.

Anna looks at him for a moment.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

What?

ANNA

(softly)
Only by taking responsibility for
your own actions can you gain
control of them. Blaming your
mother for the way you behave won't
help.

ISAAC

I'm just saying maybe it's how I
got this way.

ANNA

Tell me about your father.

Isaac takes a second.

ISAAC

My mother had always told me he was
in jail for robbing a convenient
store. That fascinated me as a
kid. I remember picturing him doing
it in my head.

ANNA

And that prompted you to steal? To
see what it was like?

ISAAC

(shrugs)
I guess.

ANNA

Have you ever met him?

Isaac pulls out his pack of smokes again.

ISAAC

Could I smoke please?

Anna gets up and walks to her desk. She grabs an ash tray and sets it on the table beside Isaac. She takes her seat.

ANNA

(stating)

You don't like talking about your father.

Isaac lights his cigarette. Anna sits back down. She waits for him to exhale.

ISAAC

So when do I get hypnotized?

Anna takes a frustrated breath.

ANNA

Tomorrow.

26

INT. DECENT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

26

Isaac and Ava sit at a table in a nice restaurant, both well dressed. Ava's laughing.

AVA

(laughing) Does it work?

ISAAC

It's more like going to a shrink so far, but I think it could help.

Ava drinks her drink.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

How's Rick's class?

She swallows, puts the glass down, ready to answer.

AVA

That place is hilarious.

Isaac looks insulted. Ava doesn't notice.

AVA (CONT'D)

The only thing those people are
addicted to are these...these
exaggerated problems, these
'addictions' they think they have.

She takes a drink as Isaac looks on amazingly.

AVA (CONT'D)

(in between sips)
Excuses.

She stops and looks at Isaac, realizing he doesn't approve.

Ava puts her drink down.

Isaac looks concerned.

ISAAC

Do you ever feel guilty?

Ava sighs, uninterested. She looks at her watch.

AVA

We have to get going soon.

She goes through her purse and finds her cigarettes. She
lights up.

Isaac looks at her, waiting for her to answer the question.

She notices, blows smoke out.

AVA (CONT'D)

OK. I do it and it's over and I
don't feel guilty about it because
I'm already thinking about the next
thing.

She points to his almost empty beer.

AVA (CONT'D)

Here, finish that.

Isaac hesitates. He looks curious at the change in subject.

ISAAC

Damn, rush me will you...Your
friends aren't going anywhere.

He turns the bottle up, finishes it.

AVA

No I wanna show you something.

Ava pulls a twenty dollar bill out of her purse. She lays it on the center of the table.

Isaac puts the empty bottle down. Ava grabs it, turns it upside down and sets it on top of the twenty. The bottle top rests in the middle of the bill.

AVA (CONT'D)

I bet you a drink..

Ava looks from the bottle to Isaac, and smiles.

AVA (CONT'D)

..that you can't get the bill from under the bottle, without touching the bottle.

Isaac scratches his head, playing the part. He nods to her.

ISAAC

Deal. I'll be having another one of these.

Isaac points to his empty upside down beer bottle.

Ava smiles.

AVA

We'll see.

Isaac puts his hand on the table, grabs the bill by the corner and acts as if he's going to yank it. He looks to Ava and then back to the bill.

He brings his other hand up and starts rolling his end of the bill. The roll continues and then pushes up against the bottle, without Isaac touching it.

Ava smirks.

The bottle pushes off the bill completely. Isaac picks up the twenty with confidence.

ISAAC

That one I knew.

Ava looks at him like she's in love.

AVA

Impressive.

27 INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - NIGHT

27

Isaac and Ava walk into a bar. Loud music plays. Isaac seems out of his element. Ava spots somebody she knows.

AVA
(yelling happily) Hey!

She runs over and gives the guy a hug. This is DEAN (37), balding and bulky. He whispers something in her ear and she giggles.

Isaac looks uncomfortable at this.

Ava points to Isaac, and her and Dean head over to him.

AVA (CONT'D)
Dean, this is Isaac.

Isaac shakes his hands.

ISAAC
(over the crowd) Nice to meet you!

DEAN
(nods to Isaac)
You too bro. (to Ava) Come on,
were in the back.

Dean turns and Ava grabs Isaac's hand, giving him a smile.

They make their way through the packed crowd and toward the back.

INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - CONTINUOUS

A few heads are seated in a circular booth against the wall. They're all laughing, relaxed and buzzed.

A European looking American man, ELI (32), looks up and nods at Dean as he approaches. Beside him sits the 2 french brothers- JACQUE (33) and his little brother MICHEL (23). JACQUE examines Isaac up and down, while his brother MICHEL does the same to Ava.

Eli jumps out of his seat at the sight of Ava.

ELI
You gorgeous piece of ass, come
here!

Ava laughs. They hug and he picks her off the ground.

Isaac doesn't like this.

Eli puts her down and holds his hand out to Isaac.

ELI (CONT'D)
Eli, friend.

Isaac shakes it.

ISAAC
Isaac.

Eli puts his arm over Isaac's shoulder and leads him to the table.

ELI
Isaac, I want you to meet my
friends. This here is Jacque.

Jacque shakes his hand and smiles.

ELI (CONT'D)
And, Michel.

Michel looks from Ava's ass to Isaac, giving him a nods up. He turns back to Ava, who notices him looking.

She turns to Jacque.

AVA
So THIS is your little brother?

Jacque puts MICHEL in a headlock and messes up his hair.

JACQUE
(french accent)
Michel, this is Ava. Have some
manners.

Michel fixes his hair and focuses back on Ava. He holds his hand out, and she takes it. He pulls hers to his mouth and kisses it.

AVA
(laughing) Easy tiger.

JACQUE
He is... in love with the ladies...

AVA
I'm sure he's quite the
heartbreaker.

Michel turns to his brother and says something in french to him. He laughs and turns back to Ava, while Jacque still looks at Michel for a moment, an unbelieving look. Jacque then turns his attention back to Ava and Isaac.

JACQUE

Sit?

Isaac and Ava slide into the booth and situate, Isaac sitting beside Jacque now.

Eli sits beside Ava. Dean is left standing.

DEAN

I'm going to get drinks.

He disappears.

ELI

So, Isaac. I hear you work in advertising.

Before Isaac can open his mouth..

AVA

(to Isaac)
I've told them about you.

Isaac looks flattered.

Eli smiles.

ELI

She has.

Isaac looks past Ava, to Eli.

ISAAC

(modestly)
Yeah. Pretty boring stuff really.

ELI

(shakes it off)
No no. It's respectable. Selling people.

Isaac smiles.

ISAAC

That's a bit of it, yeah.

Isaac takes a cigarette out. Jacque lights it for him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(nodding thanks to Jacque, turns
back to Eli)
What do you do?

Eli looks around the table, smiles and looks back to Isaac.

ELI
What we do is pretty similar to
what you do. Well not the
advertising part. (smiles) We try
not to advertise.

Isaac looks confused. Eli gives him a playful look.

ELI (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get down to it. Ava told
me about meeting you in therapy and
about your little (holds two
fingers up, and goutates)
"addiction", to taking what is not
yours.

Isaac turns to Ava, surprised.

ISAAC
(to Ava, shocked/embarrassed) You
told him that?

Eli interrupts.

ELI
This is an opportunity, but not
without one requirement from you.
You must first think of your habit
as more of a talent.

Isaac's surprise grows. He turns to Ava, who looks at him
expectantly.

ISAAC
(angrily)
Can I talk to you real quick.

AVA
Yeah.

ISAAC
Alone.

Dean is back with the drinks. He hands them out to
everyone's satisfaction.

AVA

(calmly)
You can say it here.

Isaac takes his drink. He downs half of it immediately.

Eli seems entertained.

Isaac sits the drink down and notices the crowd waiting for him to speak.

Isaac swallows, clears his throat.

ISAAC

Are you asking me something. I'm a little confused.

ELI

Yeah I can tell. A guy like you and all that routine. I'm sure you're just JUMPING out of those expensive shoes- all that... (hand motions) extra energy. (takes breath) Here's a question. You wanna waste all that extra energy on therapy? (shakes his head no) You wanna put it to good use.

Isaac seems unraveled.

Eli takes a cigarette out and lights it.

ISAAC

You got the wrong guy.

ELI

Let Ava show you a thing or two. (blows smoke out) Then, tag along with us. (nods) See what you can do. See what you think. (tilts head) What do you think?

Isaac looks at Ava for a long beat. She waits for his response, as does the rest of the table. He turns to Jacque.

ISAAC

Let me out.

Isaac gets out of the booth and heads into the crowd of people. Ava chases behind him. She grabs him by the arm, and they head for the door.

28

EXT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - MOMENTS LATER

28

AVA

What is your problem leaving like that?

ISAAC

What is my problem!? What is YOUR problem? You should know how I'd react to that. I can't believe you just let that happen.

Ava shakes her head.

AVA

You are such a lame ass.

She walks away from him. He grabs her arm and turns her around.

ISAAC

I don't do it for fun, or for, money. I do it because I can't help it! I'm not like you, or (points to building) your friends in there.

AVA

(coldly)
No, you're like everyone in that pathetic little fucking class of yours. (softer) This is the therapy you need. You just cant let go, that's your real problem.

She pulls her arm away.

Isaac looks insulted. Ava turns to the door.

AVA (CONT'D)

Don't call me.

She walks back into the club, leaving Isaac outside watching.

People on the street look at him like he's crazy.

His hand starts to shake. He grabs it to stop it. He turns and walks down the street, disgruntled.

ANNA (O.S.)

You need to re-focus on the things that matter the most. Slow down and take a look.

ISAAC (O.S.)
Show me how.

A pause, as we stay on Isaac walking down the sidewalk still...

ANNA (O.S.)
Lay down.

29 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON 29

Isaac lays stretched out on Anna's couch.

SUPERIMPOSED WHITE TEXT ON THE SCREEN: 3 DAYS AHEAD

ANNA
Take a deep breath.

He does so, taking a deep breath. We stay on Anna.

TEXT FADES

ANNA (CONT'D)
Now empty your mind. (Pause) Let
it wonder. Let your problems go
for now. Enjoy the sweet peace of
doing nothing.

Anna brings her finger at eye level to Isaac. We stay on him.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Feel your eyelids grow heavy, but
don't close them yet. (Pause)
Now, I want you to count backwards
from ten to zero.

ISAAC
(slowly)
Ten, nine, eight, seven, six,
five...

Isaac grows more relaxed. His eyes grow heavier.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
...four...three....two.....one.

His eyelids completely shut.

ANNA
(reassuringly) There is nothing to
see on the outside and SO MUCH to
experience on the inside.

Isaac grows more relaxed.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Slowly breathe in, to the count of five and breathe out to the count of five.

ISAAC

(breathing in)
one..two..three...four...five.
(Breathing out)
one...two...three....four.....five
.

ANNA

Let go ALL over. There is a loose, limp feeling in each area of your body.

Isaac seems to be doing so. We see Anna now.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(soothingly) A pleasurable feeling flows down through your legs and into your toes. You feel no tension...free of all pressure. Just a loose, limp, heavy sense...of well being.

Back on Isaac now. He is in the trance state.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You are the author of your own world and only you can change it.

Isaac is motionless, his eyes closed still. The camera slowly moves in closer on him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It is not always the situation in which you find yourself...
...but rather the perspective that you choose to take that's most important...
...and that perspective will ALWAYS be a positive one.

We are now close on Isaac's face.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You will go on with your life, letting go of any hard feelings you have towards your parents.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

When you wake up, you will feel refreshed, and ready to take on the world. You will not give into your addiction. When you get the urge to steal, you won't give in to it.

Now we are extremely close on Isaac's face.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Count to five backwards. When you reach zero, you will wake up.

As if on command-

ISAAC

(slowly)

Five...four...three...two.....

We now see Isaac's eyes only.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

One.

Isaac opens his eyes.

SCREEN GOES TO BLACK. WHITE TEXT APPEARS:

THE THIEF

WE OPEN UP TO:

30 EXT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - NIGHT - PREVIOUS 30

TEXT: 3 DAYS PREVIOUS

Isaac is walking down the street, pissed. He wears the same clothes he did previously. He takes out a cigarette and lights it. He walks a bit more.

He stops in his tracks. He turns around.

31 INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - MOMENTS LATER 31

Isaac walks through the door and back to the table where Ava, Eli, Dean and the french brothers are sitting. They all look surprised to see him back.

ISAAC

Fuck it- I'll do it.

Eli claps his hands together.

ELI

I like him! (nudges Ava) He's more dramatic than you are.

Ava smiles at Isaac. She's glowing.

ELI (CONT'D)

Shoptalk's later. Sit down my man.

32

INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - BOOTH - LATER

32

Everyone is drunk. Isaac, Ava and the French brothers are chilling around the booth.

Ava leans on Isaac. She leans closer, her mouth near his ear.

AVA

(soft)

I'm glad you came back.

Isaac looks down at her. She leans her neck in and gives him a kiss.

Jacque looks on at them both adoringly. Michel looks irritated at the sight of them kissing. He leans to Jacque, and in french, tells him he's going to the bathroom. When he gets up, we see behind him at the bar, Eli and Dean having a conversation. We zone in on this.

ELI

(smiling) You ask a lot of questions. The track. I don't know when yet.

Dean nods to the bartender, then looks back at Eli..

DEAN

Well I'd like to know more about it before I commit, that's all.

ELI

Look, that's all I can tell you right now. Just have your tools ready.

DEAN

You got plenty of guys. And Ava.

Eli shakes his head.

ELI

Ava getting pinched like she did
puts her on thin ice. She can't
risk getting caught again.

Dean shakes his head. He looks over at her.

DEAN

Shame. She's good too.

ELI

The French brothers are leaving
town for their thing, so the talent
is non existent at this point.

DEAN

What about what's-his-face?

Eli and Dean look over at Isaac and Ava in the booth, close
to one another.

33

INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

33

ISAAC

I want to stay at your place
tonight.

AVA

Can I come?

Isaac leans in for kisses.

ELI

(from the bar)
Yo. Isaac.

Isaac looks up to see Eli calling his name from the bar. He
kisses Ava on the forehead and gets up. He walks over to Eli
and Dean.

ELI (CONT'D)

My man. Time to talk.

Before Isaac can answer-

ELI (CONT'D)

We got a little something coming
up. I'll tell you more when I know
more. The point is- you need some
practice.

ISAAC

What do you mean? What kind of practice?

Eli pats him on the shoulder. He points to Ava.

ELI

That's where she comes in.

We see Ava at the booth, drunk and laughing with Jacque.

INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dark. The door comes open and we see Isaac and Ava, all over each other. They make out in the doorway; it gets heavy quick. It progresses appropriately...

34

INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

34

Isaac lays in bed with Ava, under the covers. They lay on their backs, happy and tired looking. The window's open and we see were in the city. It's comfortable in here, and cool.

AVA

Eli's got a guy that expects a certain amount every month. You can't get but so big until you run into someone bigger than you that notices what you're up to. So...Eli's a thief, not a gang leader or something, so it's not like he's gonna fight him. Anyway, he's had a bad month and he's a little short, so he's putting together a few things.

Isaac is interested.

ISAAC

What kind of things?

AVA

You'll see. (looks at him for a moment) We're short on guys so don't bail, k?

Isaac hesitates for a second.

ISAAC

Okay.

Ava kisses him and smiles.

AVA

There's the man I like.

She reaches under the cover and Isaac likes this, a lot. She looks down, then playfully back up at him.

35

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - AWNING - DAY

35

Isaac and Ava are standing underneath an awning, out of the rain.

ISAAC

What are we doing?

Ava watches as different people walk by with umbrella's.

She smiles at something she sees.

AVA

Just watch me.

A middle aged man in a cheap suit with an umbrella walks underneath the awning.

AVA (CONT'D)

Sir. Excuse me.

The man stops.

MAN WITH UMBRELLA

Yes?

AVA

(cordially)
I was wondering if I could walk with you to the next block. I'd hate to get this hair wet.

MAN WITH UMBRELLA

(ecstatically) Of course.

AVA

(politely) Thank you so much.

They walk from underneath the awning and out into the rain.

The man smiles at her, flattered to share his umbrella with such a beautiful young woman.

Isaac watches on as Ava leans into the man, pretending to dodge the rain. Isaac spots her hand going inside the man's jacket pocket. She lifts his wallet. She apologizes for bumping into him and the man smiles, says its OK.

Isaac smiles. He watches her as she gets to the end of the block, wishing the man farewell.

36 EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - AWNING - MOMENTS LATER 36

Ava walks up to Isaac with a smirk. She gives him a hug and puts the man's wallet in his back pocket. Isaac quickly takes it out and hands it back to her.

ISAAC
I don't want that.

Ava takes the wallet, looks inside and takes the credit cards and money. She walks over to the trash can and dumps the wallet. She walks back to Isaac.

AVA
Your turn.

37 EXT. DOWNTOWN COFFEE SHOP - LATER 37

Isaac and Ava are sitting at a table, drinking coffee. A newspaper is on the table.

Isaac watches people walking by. Ava watches Isaac.

ISAAC
Which one should I get.

Ava smiles at him.

AVA
Know what you're looking for, and
know what you see when you see it.

Isaac spots a guy ...

ISAAC
What about him?

Ava sees the man he's talking about- a balding guy with a brief case and a trench coat.

AVA
Someone who thinks they're safe
from people like us.

Isaac looks like he feels guilty.

ISAAC
I can't do this-

AVA
Stop it. Yes you can.

Isaac composes himself.

AVA (CONT'D)
Someone who thinks they're wallet
is safe in their back pocket. (she
turns to Isaac) But if it's in
their back pocket, it ain't safe.
(she turns back to the street)
There's your target right there.

Dressed nicely, the man across the street buys a hot dog from
a vendor. He pulls his wallet out of his back pocket and
pays the hot dog man. He tells the man thanks and heads down
the sidewalk, eating his hot dog.

Isaac nervously stands up.

ISAAC
Should I follow him?

Ava hands him a piece of newspaper.

AVA
(calmly) Do what I told you.

38 EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

38

Isaac is trailing behind the man- we will call him THE
TARGET.

The piece of newspaper is in Isaac's hand. Isaac folds over
the newspaper.

The Target crosses the street. Isaac follows.

Isaac folds the newspaper again, now taking the shape of a
wallet.

The Target gets to the other side of the street, where he
meets oncoming pedestrians. He slows his walk as Isaac gets
closer. The Target let's people by him. Isaac is right up
behind him now.

Isaac's hand pushes the Target's wallet up from his back
pocket and pops it out, immediately replacing it with the
folded up piece of newspaper.

The Target looks over his shoulder to see Isaac up on him.

THE TARGET
Can I help you?

Isaac walks away fast. The Target checks his back pocket. He pulls out the newspaper. He looks back to Isaac, who is headed steadily away from him.

THE TARGET (CONT'D)
(surprised)
Hey!

Isaac darts off running, and the Target takes off after him, throwing the newspaper, and his hot dog, to the street.

Isaac glances back to see the quicker-than-he-looks-man coming for him.

ISAAC
(to himself) Shit!

He picks up his pace to a full sprint, knocking someone aside.

The Target chases him across the street and down the sidewalk.

39 EXT. CITY SIDEWALK 2- MOMENTS LATER 39

People watch curiously at Isaac running down the street top speed, followed by the determined man.

40 EXT. LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT- MOMENTS LATER 40

Isaac passes by people who are staring at him. He notices.

From off the street, Isaac darts into a restaurant.

The Target, who is still impressing us, closes in on him.

41 INT. LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT- CONTINUOUS 41

Isaac busts up a couple's dinner table. Food flies.

42 EXT. LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS 42

The Target ducks into the restaurant after Isaac. We follow him inside the place, where the table is busted.

THE TARGET

(panting)
Stop him! He stole my wallet!

43 INT. LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT- CONTINUOUS 43

A young stoned looking college kid in kitchen attire, with a mop in his hands, watches Isaac run towards him.

KITCHEN KID

(calmly)
Whoa. Slow down, sir.

Isaac skids past him and through the...

44 INT. LIVERPOOL KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS 44

Isaac knocks over pots and pans as he sprints through. Terrified kitchen staff jump out of his way.

45 INT. LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT- CONTINUOUS 45

The Target reaches the kitchen kid with the mop.

KITCHEN KID

(calmly)
Sir, slow down please. I just mopped the-

The Target loses his footing. He comes up off the ground and lands on his back, to the kitchen kid's amazement.

46 INT. LIVERPOOL BACK ROOM- CONTINUOUS 46

Isaac darts through the last of the place at top speed. He reaches a back door and shoves it open. Daylight pours through.

47 EXT. BACK OF LIVERPOOL RESTAURANT- CONTINUOUS 47

Isaac darts out the back and jumps to a ledge a few feet up. He pulls himself up the rails, reaching the next level. He gains his footing and takes off down the walkway, breathing heavily.

48 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING 48

The man's wallet is laid on a table.

ISAAC

That was the stupidest fucking
thing I've ever done!

Ava leans against her bed looking pleased and relaxed.

AVA

Relax. That happens to everyone
their first time. You got your
cherry popped.

ISAAC

What I got is almost caught! You
know what the fuck could've
happened?

AVA

(smiling at him)
You have a dirty mouth when you're
mad.

Isaac breathes heavily. Ava walks over to him and picks up
the wallet, opens it. She reads the drivers license.

AVA (CONT'D)

James Deacon...

She takes the cards and the money out and tosses the wallet
in the trash can. She hands the money and cards to Isaac.

AVA (CONT'D)

...just learned to keep his wallet
somewhere else. You did good.

Isaac looks down at the money in Ava's hand. He reluctantly
grabs it. She leans in his ear.

AVA (CONT'D)

It was sexy. Watching you do it.

She kisses Isaac's ear. She walks away from him and Isaac's
eyes follow her.

He tosses the credit cards in the trash.

Ava undoes her skirt and it drops to the ground as she walks.
She steps over the skirt, left in just her shirt and
underwear. She walks into the next room.

Isaac slowly puts the money in his pocket. He looks unsure
of himself.

AVA (CONT'D)

(from kitchen) Come here.

Isaac turns. We follow him through the bedroom and around the corner into..

49 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 49

Isaac rounds the corner to see Ava sitting on top of the kitchen counter, her bare legs moving back and forth. She's giving him a hot look.

Isaac goes to her.

50 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - MORNING 50

We see two images, both designs for a billboard.

Isaac sits at his desk, trying to make a decision about the images. He lays them down on the desk. He seems to have something else on his mind.

He opens his desk drawer- we see his stolen items.

He moves his trash can beside the drawer and starts emptying it out until the trash can is full.

He ties the bag and pulls it up.

Isaac jumps at a knock on his door. He pushes the trash can aside.

ISAAC

Come in.

Charlie steps in.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

(bothered)
Yes Charlie?

Charlie smiles and clears his throat.

CHARLIE

Mr. Gideon would like to see you upstairs. Good luck, sir.

ISAAC

You don't have to tell me good luck every time, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Sorry sir. Oh. Did you need your trash taken out?

Charlie has spotted the stuffed trash can by Isaac's feet.

ISAAC
 (looks down at trash can) No.
 (looks back up to Charlie) Let him
 know I'm coming up.

51 INT. MR. GIDEON'S OFFICE- MOMENTS LATER

51

Isaac sits in front of Gideon's desk.

MR. GIDEON
 Isaac. (smiles)

Isaac smiles back. His hands are interlocked in his lap. He seems a bit nervous.

ISAAC
 Yes sir?

Mr. Gideon leans back in his chair casually.

MR. GIDEON
 I gave the position to Thomas.

Isaac's head goes down. He looks disappointed.

MR. GIDEON (CONT'D)
 Easy now, it's not the end of the
 world. (nods) You'll be helping
 Thomas gather information and
 seeing it through.

Isaac nods.

Gideon looks at him for a long moment, through him.

MR. GIDEON (CONT'D)
 I know, you know.

ISAAC
 (quickly)
 You know I know what sir?

Gideon gives him a long look.

MR. GIDEON
 I know how you got this job. Not
 the details- but I know enough.

Isaac looks at him quickly, alerted by this information. A deer in headlights.

ISAAC
How do you mean?

Gideon gives him a smirk.

MR. GIDEON
It's OK Isaac, I'm not against
you.

Isaac looks on denyingly.

Mr. Gideon stands up.

ISAAC
Thank you sir, but-

MR. GIDEON
I understand.

He puts his hands in his pockets.

Isaac stands up, making eye contact. He extends his hand and Gideon shakes it.

ISAAC
Thank you sir.

52 EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - LUNCH

52

Isaac walks down the street. He stops at an intersection as he and a crowd full of people wait for the lights to change.

Isaac seems to be pushed from behind and into the man in front of him. The man turns around.

MAN ON STREET
(To Isaac)
Easy!

ISAAC
(To man)
Sorry, buddy.

The lights change and the people go. Isaac stays where he stands.

He puts a new wallet in his jacket pocket.

53 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - DAY

53

Isaac sits behind his desk, upset. We stay on this for a long moment. He snaps out of it when his phone rings. He answers it.

ISAAC

Yeah.

ANNA

It's Anna.

A beat.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You there?

ISAAC

Yeah.

ANNA

I was checking to see if you'd like to set up another appointment.

ISAAC

Oh... don't I have one today?

ANNA

No that was yesterday. You missed it.

Isaac rubs his eyes.

ISAAC

Oh. Set me up then for- what's a good time?

ANNA

I'm clear today.

Isaac takes a second.

54 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

54

ISAAC

It was important to me. I needed it to move up. I prepared for it.

ANNA

(reassuringly)
Of course you did. But you have to move on from it now. Focus on positive things.

ISAAC

Sorry I missed the other day. My mind's been all over the place.

Anna gives him a warm smile.

ANNA

It's easy to get distracted. The average person attempts to juggle many things every day. (Anna has a thought) I didn't ask you this yet, but- do you have a girlfriend?

Isaac takes a moment.

ISAAC

I'm sort of seeing someone, yeah.

Anna is happy at this news.

ANNA

Is it serious?

ISAAC

I don't know. I like her if that's what you're asking.

ANNA

Good. (she smiles) What does she do?

Isaac takes a moment.

ISAAC

Why does that matter?

ANNA

Just making small talk. (smiles again) Now I really want to know. Is she a stripper?

Isaac laughs at this.

ISAAC

No. (Pause) She works for herself. I'm not sure what she does, exactly.

Isaac the liar.

ANNA

How long have you been seeing her?

ISAAC

I met her a few days ago.

ANNA

Oh I see. (pause) How'd you meet?

ISAAC

I needed a light for my cigarette.
She had one.

ANNA

(interested)
So you guys share a habit. Very
healthy.

Isaac looks to the ground. He scratches his head.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I'm sure you know that being in a
relationship like this can greatly
affect how you see yourself.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC

I agree with that.

ANNA

(warmly)
How do you see yourself when you're
with her?

Isaac takes a moment, a lump in his throat.

ISAAC

Happy.

Anna nods with a smile.

ANNA

Well I hope it continues that way.
Good for you.

ISAAC

Thank you.

She gives him a confident look.

ANNA

Okay. I think you're ready.

This gets Isaac's attention.

ISAAC
What do I do?

ANNA
First- relax.

Isaac takes a breath.

ANNA (CONT'D)
You need to re-focus on the things
that matter the most. Slow down
and take a look.

ISAAC
Show me how.

ANNA
(motioning to the couch)
Lay down.

Isaac gets up. He walks over to the couch, stretches out on
it.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Take a deep breath.

Isaac does so, taking a deep breath. We stay on him.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Now empty your mind.

55 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 55

Heavy breathing, as we see Isaac and Ava having sex. Ava is
loud, wanting the world to hear.

56 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 56

A nearly naked Ava sits by the open window smoking a
cigarette. It's raining now outside.

Isaac is examining her from the chair across the room

AVA
Wanna go out...or would you like to
fuck me sideways again?

Isaac looks at her and smiles. He stands up, grabs his
pants.

ISAAC
You're addicted.

She narrows her eyes at him.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What do you wanna do?

Ava throws her cigarette out the window and walks over to Isaac. She straddles him in the chair and puts her arms around his neck.

AVA
Let's go out. See if you've gotten any better.

She gives him a kiss. He halfheartedly kisses her back. She looks at him curiously.

ISAAC
I can't. (gives her another kiss)
I can't do that anymore.

She leans back, gives him a cold stare. She sighs.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(rationalizing) It doesn't make sense for me to do that- I don't need the money. Why even risk it?

She gets up out of his lap.

AVA
Whatever.

She puts a shirt on.

Isaac watches her.

She storms out of the room.

57 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR - DAY 57

Isaac walks through the crowd of workers and towards in office against the wall. He nods at a secretary.

She motions for him to go on in. He opens the door.

58 INT. THOMAS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 58

Thomas looks up from this desk at the sight of Isaac. He smiles.

THOMAS
Isaac. Come in.

Thomas stands up, extending his hand to Isaac. They shake, and take seats.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I want to welcome you on board. I know it's not exactly what you wanted, and we haven't seen eye to eye in the past- but if we were going to work together, let's do it right.

Isaac nods, half smiles.

ISAAC

What do you want me to do?

Thomas hands him some papers off his desk. Isaac takes them.

THOMAS

Start by looking over these. It's an overview.

Isaac briefly looks at the information, stands up and heads to the door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Isaac.

Isaac turns to him just as he opens the door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I know you'll do your best work.

ISAAC

(nods)
I will.

Isaac leaves.

59 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

59

We see dinner's been made.

The kitchen table is set. Past the table, we see Isaac in Ava's bedroom, sitting on the window sill. He's smoking a cigarette and looking out the window.

60 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

60

Isaac grabs his phone from the bedside table and scrolls down to Ava's name, hit's send.

It rings but no answer. It goes to voicemail. He hangs up.

61 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPIST OFFICE - AFTERNOON 61

Isaac sits complacent in a chair across from Anna. He looks at his watch.

ANNA

I'm trying to reach you. What's wrong?

ISAAC

I don't feel like this is doing any good.

ANNA

What?

ISAAC

This. Therapy. Hypnotherapy. I don't know.

Anna looks concerned.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

No offense to you, I appreciate how much you put into it, I really do. It just seems like things have gotten harder since I started coming here.

ANNA

We're stirring up the pot a little bit- that happens. But it get's better. You've got to focus and stay with it.

ISAAC

I've got other things I have to focus on right now. My job.

ANNA

-Your addiction. (Pause, she gets his attention) Stay with me here.

Isaac looks right at her.

He stands up and walks to the couch and lays down. She watches him.

ISAAC

Hypnotize me.

Anna shakes her head, smiles slightly.

ANNA

I can't just "hypnotize" you and make your problems go away. We have to understand where they come from before-

ISAAC

(impatiently)

I know. You told me. They're from a crappy childhood with a lack of love and attention. Something like that.

ANNA

(slightly frustrated)

Something like that. Look, I know you don't want to, but you have to trust me. Completely. You have to share with me MORE.

Isaac looks uncomfortable now. He sighs.

ISAAC

More, more. What else do you want to know?

ANNA

Well how do you feel today for starters?

ISAAC

I feel like a cancer patient that needs a cigarette is how I feel.

ANNA

Ok, relax. How are things with the new girl?

ISAAC

(flatly)

I don't know.

Anna notices his lack of enthusiasm with the new topic.

ANNA

Do you feel she's still interested?

Isaac shrugs.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Are you still interested in her?

ISAAC

Yeah. But- I feel like- I don't know.

ANNA

Come on.

ISAAC

I feel like, sometimes- she's using me.

Anna doesn't like the sound of this.

ANNA

How so?

ISAAC

I don't know. I feel like, she shows me attention so she can get what she wants from me.

Anna's eyes narrow a bit.

ANNA

What DOES she want?

Isaac cuts his eyes sharp to Anna. He just looks at her.

ANNA (CONT'D)

What does she want?

He still looks at her for another long moment. She waits for him.

ISAAC

She wants me to steal with her.

Anna's eyes go big. She looks horrified.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

(talking fast) I met her on the street outside of therapy. She was there because she'd been arrested for shoplifting or something.

Anna takes this info in.

Isaac gazes at nothing in particular as he thinks out loud-

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Probably the last thing I need, but she's the first thing I want.
(looks to Anna) Does that make sense?

Anna nods her head.

ANNA
(still processing) Sure. Like
your addiction.

ISAAC
I didn't tell you this sooner
because- I just, I don't know. It
was hard to bring up.

Anna gives him a hard look.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What? What do you think?

ANNA
(direct)
I can't do anything else for you
until you get rid of her.

Isaac comes out of his shell completely, for the first time
really, that we've seen. He leans forward.

ISAAC
As soon as I meet someone- a, a
girl... (Isaac pauses to think,
clears his throat)...it's only a
matter of time until she finds out
who I am. What I'm about. Then she
throws me away like a piece of
trash.

Anna looks on expressionless.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Ava KNOWS who I am. I think that's
the reason she wants to be with me.
I know it can't be good for my
addiction but giving up Ava is
giving up feeling like, you know...
someone gives a shit about me.
(Isaac takes a moment, justifies in
his head...)
I need that, just as much as I need
to beat my addiction.

Anna gives him a long look.

ANNA
(sternly)
Trust me when I say this- You've
found the wrong girl.
(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

Don't try to justify it because
you'll only fool yourself.
(readjusts) I only have one more
question for you.

ISAAC

(given up)
Ask away.

ANNA

How bad DO you want to beat your
addiction?

Isaac swallows.

ISAAC

I don't know. Pretty bad I guess.

ANNA

Well you better know and you better
know soon. And know that you won't
until you cut this girl loose.

Isaac looks at her blankly.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Cut this girl loose.

62

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

62

Isaac is in line at the coffee shop.

The barista sees him and smiles. It's obvious she has a
thing for him.

He reluctantly smiles back. He moves up to the counter, the
person in front of him done with their business.

BARISTA

(glowing) Hi!

Isaac gives her a bigger smile.

ISAAC

(friendly)
Hey. How are you?

BARISTA

(still glowing)
I'm great! How are you?.

ISAAC
Pretty good.

BARISTA
Good. The usual?

ISAAC
Yep.

She nods and turns to make his usual drink.

Isaac looks around in both directions.

He taps the counter with his fingers.

His eyes go straight to where we expect them to go- the CD's on the counter. He looks to the barista, her back turned.

His hand at his waist starts to shake. He steadies it with his other hand as we've seen before. His hand moves from his side, towards the CD's on the counter. It touches a CD, but stops. It starts to shake again. He pulls his hand back from the CD's a little, NOT GIVING IN, just as-

The barista is quicker than usual today-

BARISTA
Here you go.

His hand goes to the coffee she has for him.

Isaac looks thrown off, a deer in headlights look again.

BARISTA (CONT'D)
(concerned)
Are you OK? You don't look too good. I mean-

An anxious Isaac gives the sweet girl a smile.

ISAAC
I'm fine. See you.

He leaves. She watches him with a curious look on her face.

BARISTA
(to herself, disappointed)
See you.

People throughout the place smoke and laugh and have a good time.

As we move through the crowd, we see Isaac sitting at a table by himself. He plays with his silverware. He perks up.

Eyes fall on a stunning Ava as she makes her way past the crowd of people and toward Isaac. Isaac raises his hand and smiles. She reaches the table and gives him a half hearted kiss.

Isaac walks around and pulls her chair out for her. She situates her dress and sits.

AVA
You're a gentleman today.

Isaac returns to his seat. She notices his demeanor now.

AVA (CONT'D)
(curiously) And quiet.

She puts her purse on the ground, in front of her feet instead of beside them.

ISAAC
(smiling) How's your day?

Ava takes out a cigarette. She doesn't bother answering his question.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
This is the non-smoking section.

She gives him a give me a break look. It's obvious now that she is still ill from the night before.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(explaining)
It was the last table.

AVA
(bitchy)
I bet I can finish it before they
tell me to put it out.

She lights it up.

Isaac looks around and then back to her. He seems to not care, really, at this point.

ISAAC
I wanted to ask you something.

Ava blows smoke out, enjoying it.

An old couple beside them gives her an evil eye. The old man coughs.

AVA

Shoot.

ISAAC

When you were arrested, what you had to go to Group for. What did you do?

AVA

Oh. Well...

She readjusts in her seat, livened by the question.

AVA (CONT'D)

Every ATM has a pass code you can enter, to change the settings. Theoretically, can change it to where you ask for ten, and it'll deposit a twenty. Your bank account'll only show ten taken out.

Isaac doesn't look impressed.

AVA (CONT'D)

But you make the numbers what you want them to be. The *trick*, obviously, is- how do you get the code.

ISAAC

How do you get the code?

AVA

(as if he should know)
We knew a few that usually worked.

Ava blows smoke.

AVA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I reset the machine, put the code in. Eli was at the counter distracting the owner-
(look of disgust)

She ashes her cigarette into the glass of water on the table.

AVA (CONT'D)

Changed the settings, do the thing and pull the money and we jet.

She takes a drag of her cigarette.

A waitress comes over to their table.

WAITRESS

Ma'am, this is the non-smoking section.

She dips the cigarette in her glass of water and hands the glass to the waitress.

AVA

Could I get a refill?

The waitress gives her eyes as she takes the glass and leaves.

AVA (CONT'D)

Where was I. (takes a moment to think) I go back in a few days later to do it again.

She rolls her eyes, shrugs.

AVA (CONT'D)

They caught me.

Isaac takes this information in. He looks bothered.

Ava notices.

AVA (CONT'D)

(curiously)
What's wrong with you?

Isaac swallows.

ISAAC

I know you've been...distant because I won't steal with you. That's the same reason why, I can't...see you anymore. And I guess you know that means I can't help you with Eli either.

Ava looks at him for a long moment. She is nearly expressionless, almost in some sort of a trance. Then...she EXPLODES.

AVA

You can't 'see me anymore'? What are you talking about.

ISAAC

Look, YOU are an amazing girl-

AVA
 (raised voice)
 You are a FUCKING COWARD!

People stare at them from around the room. Isaac takes notice.

ISAAC
 (lowered voice)
 Would you lower your voice.

She stands up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 Sit down.

AVA
 (calmly)
 I knew you'd bail.

She drops her napkin to the table, turns and leaves.

Isaac watches her go.

People that were watching turn away disapprovingly.

Isaac throws his napkin on the table and stands up.

64

EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

64

Isaac walks outside onto the sidewalk. He's chasing after Ava, who is hailing a cab. Rain pours.

ISAAC
 Ava!

She doesn't acknowledge his presence.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
 That didn't go like it should've. I should have told you differently.

A cab pulls up. She turns to him coldly.

AVA
 Pathetic.

She gets in the cab and it pulls off. A conflicted Isaac watches as it goes down the road.

65

INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - DAY

65

ANNA

You've done well so far. I'm proud of you.

Isaac looks to the ground then back to her.

ISAAC

My mom killed herself.

Anna readjusts to this. She is obviously surprised at this bit of info Isaac has just sprung on her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

There was a man I'd never seen before at the funeral. He stared at me the whole time.

Isaac scratches his head, remembering.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

He comes up to me after the service.

Isaac clears his throat again.

ANNA

Your father?

ISAAC

He had these really nice shoes on. I remember looking at his shoes. (Looking back to Anna) I didn't believe him. (Pause) He asked me to have a cup of coffee with him.

ANNA

Then what?

ISAAC

We talked. He told me loved my mom and at one time wanted to spend the rest of his life with her.

Anna nods, listening closely.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But he left her for another woman. He said he left her before he knew I was on the way. Said she was unstable.

Anna wants to know the rest...

ISAAC (CONT'D)

My mother called him 2 years later,
asking for money- that's when he
found out about me.

ANNA

What happened next?

ISAAC

She moved us after she got the
money she asked him for. He said
he hadn't seen or heard from us
since, until he got the news of her
dying.

ANNA

(unbelieving) You met your father
at your mother's funeral.

A small smile forms on his face as he recalls...

ISAAC

There he was- not in prison. Not
dead. Alive and very well. (smile
fades slowly, as Isaac recalls) And
there was me... a mess. A criminal
record five pages thick.

Anna holds her head down, her eyes staying on Isaac.

Isaac looks emotional.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Yeah.

ANNA

You've had a tough life. To know
how you've handled it, it's
inspiring. (Pause, as she smiles
big at him- she means every word)
You know that don't you- look at
the job you have.

ISAAC

Yeah.

Isaac looks up to her.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I miss her.

Anna frowns.

ANNA
I'm sorry.

ISAAC
-Not my mother.

Anna confused. Concern slowly washes across her face.

ANNA
(sincerely)
Don't.

Isaac puts his head back down.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Isaac.

She gets his attention again; he looks up.

ANNA (CONT'D)
(smiles) Stay focused. Forget
about that girl.

He understands.

66 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - DAY 66

A large circular table takes up the middle of the empty room. Empty chairs are scattered around it.

We hear commotion coming from outside the room. It gets closer and the door to the room opens. In walks THOMAS, then MR. GIDEON, followed by a handful of new faces- their possible future business partners. They all have a seat around the table, about 10 faces in all.

Once situated, Mr. Gideon leans in to Thomas.

MR. GIDEON
Where is Isaac?

Thomas looks at his watch.

THOMAS
I don't know. He should be here.

67 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 67

Isaac sits behind his desk. He looks very bothered.

ISAAC

Why are you here? This is where I
work for fuck sake!

We see Eli, smiling with his legs crossed casually, sitting
in front of Isaac's desk.

Isaac is trying to gather papers together on his desk.
Charlie comes through on the telephone intercom.

CHARLIE

Sir, the meeting has started.

ISAAC

Jesus. (pushes button in, speaks
to Charlie) OK, I'm coming.
(releases the button, speaks to
Eli)
Look, I don't know what I was
thinking when I told you I'd help
you. I said yes for Ava. But me
and Ava aren't together anymore, so-

ELI

Yeah she told me. (friendly)
That's why I'm here.

ISAAC

Well it's really none of your
business.

Eli sighs.

ELI

I'm worried about her.

This gets Isaac's attention for a moment. He goes back to
his papers.

ELI (CONT'D)

I've looked out for that girl for a
long time but sometimes there's
nothing you can do, you know.
Sometimes people won't let you help
em.

Isaac looks up from his papers.

ISAAC

Is she okay?

ELI

The girl's out of control is what
she is.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

Everywhere she goes she takes something. She get's caught again and she goes to prison- that's a guarantee.

ISAAC

Has she been going to therapy?

Eli laughs.

ELI

Did she ever?

Isaac looks disheveled.

ISAAC

Look, I really need to get going-

ELI

She trusted you. She's all fucked up now. You need to call her.

Eli stands up.

Isaac looks annoyed now.

ELI (CONT'D)

I know she thinks a lot of you. She's got a history of being let down Isaac. She doesn't take rejection very well.

Isaac shakes his head. He walks from around his desk.

ISAAC

There are other things I have to worry about right now-

Eli puts his hand on Isaac's chest. Isaac stops and looks at him like he's crazy.

Isaac pushes Eli's hand off.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Get your hands off me.

ELI

Me and you, (nods his head) we're good. Just...call her.

ISAAC

(sternly nods) Good. You can see yourself out.

Isaac turns to his door and exits.

68 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 68

We see Charlie peeking his head to see what the commotion was about, as Isaac walks past him.

CHARLIE

Is everything Okay, sir?

Isaac gives him no response, quickly walking towards the elevator, folders in hand.

69 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 69

Isaac opens the door to the board room.

The many faces go from listening to Thomas speak, to Isaac.

THOMAS

Ah, gentlemen. Fashionably, as well as unusually late- my assistant on this venture, Mr. Isaac Young.

Isaac nods to the crowd; some nod back. Isaac walks to Thomas, hands him the folder, and takes a seat at the table.

ISAAC (V.O.)

The meeting was a disaster from the beginning.

ANNA (V.O.)

Oh no. What happened?

Isaac adjusts in his seat at the table. He takes a sip of water as he and everyone else focus back to Thomas. He puts the glass down and looks across the table. What he see's seems to make him jump out of his pants. He almost spits water out of his mouth.

70 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON 70

Anna looks on at an extremely concerned Isaac.

ANNA

What was it?

Isaac gets it together.

ISAAC (V.O.)
It was...him.

71 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - DAY 71

Isaac staring dead ahead, terrified.

Across the table from Isaac sits JAMES DEACON aka The Target. His attention is on Thomas speaking at the front of the table.

Isaac realizes he's staring, so he stops. He opens a folder in front of him and pretends to read. He looks up at Deacon again...

Deacon is looking at Isaac now. He gives Isaac a friendly nod.

Isaac gives him an odd one back.

Deacon turns his attention back to Thomas.

Isaac does the same, turning to Thomas as he pretends to listen, but secretly dying to get far away from this room as soon as possible.

72 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON 72

ANNA
(shaking her head, not
understanding)
Who is "him"?

Isaac rubs his shoulder, anxious.

ISAAC
A man I pick pocketed a few weeks
ago.

ANNA
(surprised) Pick pocketed! What?

Isaac hates this response. He rubs his eyes as if he has a headache.

ISAAC
Ava. When I was seeing her. I
don't know why I did it- I did it
more to please her, I guess. I
don't know.

Anna looks worried.

ANNA
Did he recognize you?

73 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - DAY 73

The meeting is over and everyone is shaking hands goodbye. Deacon approaches Isaac, smiling with his hand out.

Isaac's shaky hand comes up to take Deacon's.

DEACON
Isaac, right?

ISAAC
Yes sir. Deacon, right?

DEACON
James Deacon. (Deacon stops and seems to take a closer look at Isaac) Have we met?

ISAAC
No, I'd remember. (Isaac smiles)
I'm good with faces.

Deacon smiles back, looks dead at him.

DEACON
(perplexed) Yeah, so am I.

An awkward moment. Isaac shrugs.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Well. (cordially) See you back here tomorrow.

ISAAC
Sure.

Deacon turns and tells someone else goodbye.

Isaac looks like he's about to have a panic attack.

74 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON 74

ISAAC
Yeah. He didn't know where from. (Isaac is now in fact, having a panic attack) What am I going to do?

ANNA

First of all, you're going to calm down.

ISAAC

I'm not going tomorrow. I can't go. He's probably remembering who I am right now.

Isaac breathes hard. His hand shakes.

A light bulb seems to go off in his head. He looks to Anna, and speaks fast.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I need to finish telling you about my dad. (he nods to her) So you'll understand.

Anna nods OK.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

(talking faster than usual)
We spent a lot of time together, after the day we met.

Anna nods, letting him know she remembers.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

He told me he was partly responsible for... my "criminal behavior", for not being there. He said he'd do anything he could to help me.

Isaac takes a long moment here. He looks right at Anna, about to share more than she's use to.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

He owned his own company. Very successful.

75	EXT. SHOT OF ISAAC'S NICE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY	75
76	INT. SHOT OF ISAAC'S MAIN OFFICE FLOOR - DAY	76
77	SHOT OF ISAAC'S OFFICE - DAY	77
	SHOT OF THE SIGN THAT READS: AINSLEY ADVERTISING - DAY	

78 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

78

ISAAC

He gave me the job I have now.
That's why it's so important.

He gives Anna a serious look.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

If anyone found out- (he shakes his head) I'd be crucified. Especially now that he's not here to protect me.

Anna is surprised at this information.

Isaac takes a second.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

He died of heart failure a few days before I started coming here. I went to his funeral- it was huge. I'm sure you heard about it.

79 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

79

A massive funeral service. We see his casket in the center of it all. We see familiar faces from Isaac's work as well as ones we haven't seen before.

We see his father's name, DOUGLAS AINSLEY, on the headstone.

Beside the casket sits his closest family members. His wife and daughter's cry their eyes out.

His oldest, forgotten son stands at a distance in the back, hand shaking by his side.

80 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

80

ISAAC

After he died the remaining owners of the company pushed forward with a merger deal they'd been dying to seal. The promotion I didn't get- that was to head the merger between my father's company and another, since he passed.

Anna is perplexed.

ANNA

I see.

ISAAC

He made a deal with me- he'd help me out, give me the job- but I had to promise him I wouldn't steal anymore. (Isaac shakes his head) I promised.

ANNA

But you didn't.

ISAAC

I did for a while. Then he got sick. It was hard to deal with.

ANNA

You gave in to the addiction.

ISAAC

It grew worse than it had ever been... It didn't take him long to notice- it's like he could see it on my face. I remember him laying in that bed, just so disappointed.

His eyes are wet. He breathes out.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

What should I do?

Anna takes a second to think. Isaac waits impatiently.

ANNA

Your biggest worry is hiding yourself from everyone. It's this natural instinct that you've taken up to survive. I think...I think it's time to quit hiding.

Isaac seems confused.

ISAAC

What do you mean? Confess?

ANNA

Maybe that's what you *need* to do. To go to the next phase.

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC

Are you crazy- I'll lose my job! I can't go back to living like the rest of those sorry sons of bitches out in the street!

Isaac takes his head in his hands.

ANNA

It's not *just* about your job, Isaac. Its about your life. If you have to lose the job to find your spiritual freedom then that's what has to happen.

Isaac gets up. He is an emotional mess.

ISAAC

(raising his voice) Are you listening to anything I'm saying!?
(has a thought)
Shit has just gotten worse since I started coming here.

ANNA

(calmly, but trying to hold on)
Isaac, you need help. (pleading)
Please sit down.

ISAAC

(coldly)
No. I'll figure it out myself.

Isaac heads to the door. Anna breathes out in frustration.

ANNA

Just go home and get some rest.
Please.

ISAAC

(yelling back, almost laughing)
What's home?

Isaac shuts the door hard.

81

INT. CORNER STORE - DAY

81

We hear the electronic bells as the door opens. Ava steps in. She looks nearly strung out.

The middle eastern man behind the cash register looks her up and down, liking what he sees.

She notices and smiles. He smiles back.

She walks down an aisle, the man's eye's following her backside.

Ava rounds the corner of the aisle and catches the man staring at her still. She shoots him a look and he looks away.

She stuffs something in her purse.

82

INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - DAY

82

The board meeting has started.

Thomas is talking to the crowd.

Isaac sits in his chair uncomfortably.

Across from him again sits Deacon, who is eyeing Isaac suspiciously.

Isaac looks away from him. He's very nervous.

His leg shakes under the table. His breathing is heavy.

He looks back at Deacon, who is looking at him still.

Isaac stands up, pushing his chair out from under him.

Thomas stops in mid-sentence.

THOMAS

Isaac? Can we help you?

Isaac nervously stops and addresses the crowd like a pro, his arm coming over his stomach.

ISAAC

Bathroom.

Thomas looks insulted, but goes back to talking to the board.

Deacon's eyes follow Isaac as he leaves.

83

INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BATHROOM - MOMENT LATER

83

Isaac stands in front of the sink. He splashes water on his face; he leans up and looks at himself in the mirror.

DEACON (O.S.)

Like what you see?

Isaac turns around quick, seeing Deacon standing there.

DEACON (CONT'D)
I remember you now. You're the man
I chased.

Isaac's mouth is slightly open. He leans against the sink, water dripping down his face. His shirt is getting wet.

Deacon looks at him curiously.

DEACON (CONT'D)
How does someone like you, go out
and do something like you did?
(epiphany) Do you have issues?

Isaac breathes heavy. His hand starts to shake. He grips the sink.

Deacon means business.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Well?

Isaac looks at him for a long moment, his ability to speak temporarily gone. He swallows.

ISAAC
(clearly)
I have a condition. I take things.
I was persuaded...by someone that
day... to pick pocket you. My
addiction was out of control at the
time.

Deacon smiles.

Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
It's not an excuse. It's, it's no
different than an alcoholic, or
someone who eats too much junk food
or watches too much TV. (pleading)
It's no different.

Deacon sarcastically laughs.

DEACON
Of course it is. You're talking
about the difference between what's
right...and what's not. I'm sure
there was a time when you knew the
difference between the two.

A moment of silence between them.

ISAAC
What do you want?

DEACON
(sternly)
I want you to go back in there and
confess to all of those people what
you just told to me.

Isaac gives him an unbelieving look.

ISAAC
You know I can't do that.

Deacon nods to this response.

DEACON
Fine.

He turns to leave.

ISAAC
Stop.

Deacon turns back to Isaac.

Isaac's eyes dart around, trying to figure a way out of this.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(frantic) I have fifty thousand
dollars in my bank account that we
can go get *right* now.

Deacon shakes his head.

DEACON
You should be ashamed of yourself
Mr. Young.

Deacon heads out of the bathroom, a horrified Isaac left
standing there.

84 INT. CORNER STORE - DAY

84

Ava walks up to the cash register and sits a cheap item on
the counter. She opens her purse.

The middle eastern man behind the counter looks at her
curiously. She notices, giving him a smile. He smiles back.

She pulls a few bills from her purse and hands it to the man. His smile fades. So does hers at this. She gives him a confused look.

CASHIER

Will you not be paying for the items in your purse?

Ava laughs almost too soon.

AVA

Excuse me?

The man looks at her sternly.

Her smiling face fades into a troubled one.

She backs towards the door, turns and pushes into it- but it's locked tight. She gives it another hard push, but no use.

Ava turns back to the man behind the counter.

A smaller middle eastern man comes from the back room, a look of excitement on his face. We've seen him before.

CASHIER

You've stolen from the wrong store, bab-y. You have a lot of nerve coming back in here.

Ava is horrified.

THE SCREEN GOES TO BLACK. TEXT APPEARS:

CONSEQUENCES

WE CUT BACK TO:

85 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 85

A disheveled Isaac opens the door and steps in slowly.

All eyes are on him. Deacon is standing, clearly just done talking to the crowd.

Isaac shuts the door behind him.

THOMAS

Isaac. Mr. Deacon has just alerted us with some alarming news.

Isaac swallows a rock.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Mr. Deacon here says you are...a thief and a liar. (asking) That you snatched his wallet from his back pocket on the street a few days ago?

Isaac looks like he's in hell.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(concerned) Is there truth to this Isaac?

We see Mr. Gideon looking on at Isaac, clearly disappointed. He waits for Isaac to answer, as does the rest of the board.

Isaac opens his mouth to speak. Nothing comes out. A bead of sweat falls from his forehead and down his face.

The crowd waits.

Isaac breathes out slowly. With great effort, he opens his mouth to speak...

ISAAC

(softly) Yes.

He puts his head down.

Mr. Gideon's eyes go wide. We hear the crowd talking amongst themselves now. Gideon shakes his head unbelievably.

MR. GIDEON

Mr. Deacon.

Mr. Gideon turns to Deacon.

MR. GIDEON (CONT'D)

How would you like to handle this?

Deacon looks at Gideon, then to Isaac, making a decision in his head.

86 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER 86

Isaac's hands are behind his back. His hand is shaking, as usual in tense situations.

Handcuffs go around his wrists.

Two cops are by his side. The one that handcuffed him takes him by the arm.

OFFICER

Walk.

People all around the floor watch on, a few asking one another what's happening. They are all surprised.

Charlie walks fast along side an embarrassed Isaac.

CHARLIE

Sir. What's going on?

Isaac's embarrassment increases. He can't look at Charlie. The cops lead him on as Charlie stops in his tracks, looking confused.

87 INT. ISAAC'S OFFICE BUILDING - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER 87

Isaac, and the police officers, step into the elevator. A few people in the elevator give the same looks the people on the main floor did. The elevator doors close, Isaac's head still down.

88 INT. CORNER STORE - DAY 88

Ava is stuck in her spot, not knowing what to do.

The middle eastern cashier comes from behind the counter and cuts the open sign off in the window.

The smaller middle eastern man stares Ava up and down as he smiles creepily.

Ava gathers her senses. She pulls the item out of her purse.

AVA

Look, I'll just pay you for it. No big deal.

The small middle eastern man let's out a laugh.

AVA (CONT'D)

(pleading)
Please don't call the police. Just let me pay you for it. I'll give you extra.

She starts pulling out money from her purse.

The small middle eastern man turns and heads back into the backroom. Ava looks desperate. She turns towards the cashier, who is close to her now.

AVA (CONT'D)
Please just let me pay you for it.
I'm sorry.

CASHIER
You pay for it right now.

He grabs her arm and pulls her towards the back. She fights against it, but it's no use.

AVA
What do you think you're doing!
Let go of me!

89 INT. CORNER STORE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

89

The cashier drags Ava into the room and shuts the door. Ava is still fighting the mans grip. The man throws her down on the concrete floor.

CASHIER
We'll give you choice.

Ava catches her breath. She looks up helplessly.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
We call police.

AVA
No! Don't! I've got money!

The cashier smiles. The smaller man stands beside him.

CASHIER
Or you pay us for what you took,
for this time and the last times.

Ava is already nodding her head.

AVA
(relieved)
Okay, yes, I'll pay you!

She points to the front of the store.

AVA (CONT'D)
My purse is on the counter-

The cashier shakes his head.

CASHIER
You pay us in another way.

Ava thinks about this...her face losing all hope.

The smaller middle eastern man smiles now, his hands on his belt buckle.

CASHIER (CONT'D)

We give you choice. We are fair?

Ava is in hell, on the verge of breaking down.

The cashier smiles. He undoes his belt and his pants drop to the floor.

Tears come down Ava's face.

The man puts her hand on her head and moves her closer.

CUT TO BLACK.

We hear someone dialing a number.

INT. JAIL CELL - AFTERNOON

Isaac is on the phone, dialing a number. He puts the phone to his ear and waits.

No answer.

He hangs it up. He begins dialing again.

90

INT. JAIL CELL - AFTERNOON

90

ISAAC (V.O.)

My addiction got me into this.

Isaac sits behind bars.

Isaac gives one of the men that's staring at him a glance.

The man looks away. He whispers in his buddy's ear and they laugh. They both turn back to look at Isaac, smiles on their faces.

Isaac breathes out. He leans back and tries to get comfortable. We stay on him for a long moment.

A police officer comes up to the bars.

JAIL OFFICER

Get up. Your bail's been paid.

91 EXT. POLICE STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

91

ISAAC

How'd you hear about it.

Rick stands beside him, his hands in his pockets, looking clearly disappointed.

RICK

Anna called me and told me she was worried about you. I called your office to speak to you. A Charlie told me what happened.

Isaac can't look at him. He lights up a cigarette.

RICK (CONT'D)

I want YOU to tell me what happened.

ISAAC

Thank's for getting me out.

Isaac walks away from him.

RICK

Anna's worried about you. She'd be happy to hear from you.

Rick reaches in his pockets and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. He takes one out and lights it.

Isaac pulls his cell out. He finds a number and hits send as he walks away from Rick.

92 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

92

Ava's phone rings on the bedside table. The camera moves from this to the bathroom, where we can now hear the shower running. The bathroom door is open and we see the shower curtain drawn. We move into the bathroom and in the mirror, we see inside the shower slightly.

Ava is in a ball on the floor of the tub. She holds herself, crying uncontrollably.

We begin to hear Isaac-

ISAAC

(flatly)

Ava would you answer the phone.
(pause) I need to talk to you.

93 INT. AVA'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

93

Ava has her phone to her ear. She is expressionless.

ISAAC (O.S.)

I need to see you. (Isaac breaks
down) I'm worried about you.
(pause) I have to see you. I think
we can...I think I know a way to
help us both.

Ava seems to grow angry at this.

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Call me back. Please. I just got
out of jail, Ava.

Ava puts the phone down. She stays where she's at, intensely
fixed on a thought...

94 INT. ANNA'S HYPNOTHERAPY OFFICE - EVENING

94

Anna is gazing directly at us, perplexed looking.

ANNA

It is...(nods) good to have you
both.

We stay on Anna for a moment, until we see...

Isaac and Ava sit across from her.

Isaac isn't sure where to look. Ava is staring coldly at
Anna. Anna clears her throat.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Ava?

Ava acknowledges her by lifting her head slightly. Anna
smiles.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming. Isaac, thank
you for bringing her.

No response from either. Ava pulls out a cigarette and
lights it. Anna reluctantly grabs the ash tray off her desk
and hands it to her. Anna settles back in her seat.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Rick told me about what happened.
I was very sorry to hear it.

Isaac looks down. Ashamed.

AVA
(to Isaac, flatly) What happened?

Isaac turns to her.

ISAAC
I was fired.

Ava nods her head.

ANNA
But your life is NOT over. It is
only about to begin.

ISAAC
From the bottom. Again.

Anna shakes her head.

ANNA
You must look at this as progress
made, not lost. Yes you lost your
job but now you don't have to hide.
Less pressure on your shoulders so
you can focus on getting better.

AVA
Getting better?

Anna turns to Ava, meeting her cold gaze instantly.

ANNA
Yes. His addiction.

Ava is staring right through Anna.

ANNA (CONT'D)
I hear you have a similar-

AVA
And here we go. (turns to Isaac)
Why did you ask me to come here?
You really thought I'd buy into
this bullshit?

Anna's eyebrows raises. Ava turns back to Anna before she can speak.

AVA (CONT'D)

There IS...NO...PROBLEM. No addiction, habit, condition, whatever fucking word you want to use. It's part of who he is, it's not something he can change.

Anna returns fiercely-

ANNA

That's not true. He CAN change. He just has to believe he can.

AVA

(to Isaac) You KNOW it's true. What do you have left now? The more you've tried to fight it, the worse things have gotten. You have NOTHING now.

ANNA

YOU are the reason he lost his job.

Ava shoots quick eyes at Anna. Isaac's eyes go big.

ANNA (CONT'D)

If you feel like what I'm saying is pointless, maybe it's best you leave. Isaac may not feel the same way.

AVA

Isaac doesn't KNOW how he feels. He's been on the fence his whole life. And you know what? (shakes her head) You can't help him.

ANNA

I think Isaac can decide how he feels. (to Isaac) How do you feel?

He takes a moment.

ISAAC

I don't know. I feel like shit. I'm tired of fighting it. It seems... pointless.

ANNA

Remember Isaac! Remember how bad you wanted to beat your addiction. To prove to yourself...and to your father.

Isaac's head goes back down.

ISAAC
God I fucked up so bad.

ANNA
(fighting)
Isaac. You are a GOOD man.

ISAAC
(pitying himself)
How do you know that?

ANNA
Because, you're HERE. You want to change. I believe that's what you want the most. You don't want to steal, but you go back to it. You've told yourself that's who you are, and that's the problem. Just tell yourself your not. Believe that you're not.

Isaac looks up at her, nearly inspired by Anna's words.

Ava let's out a laugh.

AVA
So THIS is hypnotherapy?

Isaac turns his attention towards Ava. She looks dead at him.

AVA (CONT'D)
Oh please- How many times have you decided to 'quit' before? How many times did you stay away? It's who you are man. There's no GOOD or... BAD. It's life. It's YOU.

Isaac sighs. Anna shakes her head.

ANNA
Okay, this isn't going to work.
(to Ava) I think you need to leave.

AVA
I'll leave when Isaac leaves.

Isaac looks at Ava on this.

Anna re-focuses.

ANNA

Isaac.

Isaac looks at her, unsure. He looks weak.

ISAAC

I'm tired of fighting.

Ava stands up.

AVA

Come on.

Ava puts her hand out to Isaac.

ANNA

You have come SO far.

Isaac stands up. He looks at Anna for a long moment.

ISAAC

I've got to hang on to what I still have.

ANNA

(pleading)
This is a bad decision Isaac.

He takes Ava's hand.

ISAAC

It's my decision.

Isaac turns towards the door with Ava.

Anna stands up.

ANNA

Isaac. Hold on.

Isaac turns slowly, giving Anna one more chance.

Anna looks at him intensely.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's easier to hate the world and wait for it to change than it is to have everything you've ever wanted now. We hate the world and we wait for it to change and it gives us an excuse to quit. But this IS your *life*, Isaac. Whatever you're being- you'll see it.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

If you're depressed, everything
you'll see is depressed. The day
you quit smoking, everyone's
smoking.

Ava gives her a confused look, wanting to roll her eyes.

AVA

What are you even saying right now?

Anna keeps her eyes fixed on Isaac.

ANNA

Be careful where you put yourself
Isaac. Remember- just remember
where you WANT to be, and you're
one step closer to being there.

Isaac thinks about this. Ava looks from Anna to Isaac; she
pulls on his arm.

AVA

Whatever. Come on baby.

Isaac loses eye contact with Anna. He turns towards Ava.

Anna shakes her head.

Isaac and Ava shut the door behind them.

Anna looks defeated. She sits back down.

95

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - NIGHT

95

Isaac and Ava walk down the street. Ava has her arm through
his.

She gives him a look; he doesn't return it.

AVA

I want you to steal for me.

Isaac shakes his head.

ISAAC

I can't do that right now.

AVA

One more time. I won't ask you
again. I won't ever ask you again.

Isaac stops.

ISAAC
I don't believe that.

AVA
This is the last time. We can move
on after this.

Isaac looks at her suspiciously.

AVA (CONT'D)
I mean it.

Isaac looks conflicted.

ISAAC
Promise me.

AVA
I promise.

Ava starts walking again. Isaac follows her.

96 EXT. CORNER STORE - NIGHT

96

Ava leads Isaac down the sidewalk. Ava stops just before
they reach the front of the store.

ISAAC
What is it?

AVA
Here.

Isaac looks at the place. He looks across the street and
sees Rick's therapy building.

ISAAC
I can't do this here.

AVA
One more time.

Isaac looks at her for a long moment, breathes out.

AVA (CONT'D)
You go in first. I'll come in
after.

Isaac lets go of her hand.

Isaac gives Ava a kiss and steps towards the store.

Ava eyes him coldly.

97 INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 97

We hear the electronic door bell as Isaac steps in.

The cashier we've seen before looks up at Isaac. Isaac gives him a nod but the cashier just looks back down at his foreign newspaper.

Isaac walks down the aisle.

The store phone rings. The cashier picks it up.

CASHIER
(into phone) Yes?

98 EXT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 98

Ava has her phone to her ear.

AVA
The man that just walked in is a shoplifter.

CASHIER
Who is this?

AVA
You punished me. Punish him.

She hangs up the phone.

AVA (CONT'D)
(to herself, lowly) Now I leave you.

99 INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 99

Isaac makes his way down the aisle.

The cashier puts the phone down and eyes Isaac suspiciously. He walks to the back room.

100 INT. CORNER STORE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS 100

The cashier walks into the back. We see the smaller middle eastern man, legs propped up on a desk, watching a cheesy violent action movie on a shitty 23-inch. The cashier goes over to the TV and changes the channel.

SMALLER M.E. MAN
 (in foreign language) What the
 fuck?

We see now on the TV, a surveillance camera view. We see Isaac standing in the aisle, looking in the direction of the back room, checking for the cashier's return. He takes something off of a shelf and stuffs the item in his pocket.

CASHIER
 (in foreign language) A thief.

The cashier heads out of the back room.

101 INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 101

Isaac heads for the door, but before he reaches it the cashier is there.

CASHIER
 Can I help you with something today
 sir?

Isaac looks suspicious.

ISAAC
 No. You didn't have what I was
 looking for.

He motions for the door, but the cashier turns and locks it.

Isaac is confused.

The cashier goes to the open sign.

102 EXT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 102

Ava is across the street. She sees the open sign go off. A look of remorse. She turns and begins walking down the street by herself.

103 INT. CORNER STORE - CONTINUOUS 103

ISAAC
 What is this?

The cashier brings his heavy hand up and across Isaac's face. Blood immediately appears on Isaac's nose. He loses his balance.

The cashier gives him a sinister smile.

A dazed Isaac looks around frantically, his eyes landing on a steaming coffee pot. He grabs the pot and splashes the cashier in the face with it. The cashier lets out a painful SCREAM.

The cashier wipes his red, scalded face and charges towards Isaac. He brings his heavy hand up and catches Isaac squarely in the face again. Everything goes black for Isaac.

104

INT. CORNER STORE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

104

The smaller middle eastern man excitedly hops up from his seat as the cashier brings an unconscious Isaac in, shutting the door behind them.

The angry, red faced cashier throws Isaac to the ground. He stands over him.

CASHIER

I am tired of you filthy trash
taking and not paying. You do not
learn. You do not respect.
(pause) You learn now.

The smaller man comes over to Isaac and begins tying his hands to a protruding pipe on the wall.

Isaac begins to come to slowly. The cashier slaps him in the face.

Isaac's eyes open now, realizing where he is.

His legs squirm; he tries to break free from his restraints but it's no good.

ISAAC

What are you doing? (freaking out)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

We are looking now from Isaac's blurred view.

We see the smaller man coming from the other side of the room with something shiny in his hand. He hands it off to the cashier. The cashier leans down in Isaac's face.

CASHIER

(breathing heavily)
You learn a lesson now.

The cashier brings the shiny metal hand saw into view.

Isaac begins to squirm uncontrollably again, kicking at the cashier.

CASHIER (CONT'D)
(to smaller man, in foreign) Hold
his legs!

The smaller man rushes over and does so, with great effort.

The cashier brings the saw closer to Isaac's shaking hand as Isaac struggles to break free.

The saw is placed on his wrist.

ISAAC
(desperate) Stop! What do you
want? Just tell me- please!

The cashier licks his lips, almost getting off at what he's about to do.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
What do you want!

He removes the saw from Isaac's wrist. He walks to the other side of the room.

Isaac blinks and breathes a tense sigh of relief.

The cashier is searching for something.

The cashier comes back now with the saw, a roll of duck tape and a dirty hand towel. He stuffs the hand towel in Isaac's mouth and duck tapes it in place, taping around Isaac's entire head.

Isaac is making noises, screaming through the hand towel.

The cashier places the saw back on Isaac's trembling wrist, his whole hand shaking UNCONTROLLABLY now.

Isaac's noises get louder.

The smaller man holds Isaac's legs tight, his excitement growing.

The cashier licks his lips more now. He looks fierce.

The saw on Isaac's wrist. CU: It begins to cut into his skin.

Isaac feels the pain instantly, his noises growing louder.

The saw cuts its way deeper into Isaac's wrist, hitting the bone now.

Isaac is squirming more than ever. Blood is everywhere.

The smaller man and the cashier look sadistic as Isaac screams through the hand towel.

The cashier is going to town. His arm is going back and forth at a steady rate, blood steadily flowing.

The saw is halfway through Isaac's wrist now. It's nearly severed...

We stay on Isaac's hand for a long moment, until it stops shaking.

Isaac's eyes roll in the back of his head.

All sound from the scene goes away, replaced by-

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Five.

Overhead, we stay on a limp Isaac, his hand getting worked on.

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Four.

The saw has made its way completely through.

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Three.

Isaac's disconnected hand falls, his bloody nub visible to us now.

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Two.

BLACK SCREEN

ISAAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)

ONE.

We wait a long time in silence...

We hear Isaac take a huge breath of air, as if waking up from a bad dream.

105 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

105

A bright sun splashes through the windows.

Isaac looks dead ahead, expressionless. We pull back to see he's standing in line at the coffee shop.

He eyes the barista, who smiles at him past her current customer. The customer leaves and Isaac steps up to the counter.

BARISTA
(smiling, of course)
Long time no see.

Isaac has his hand in his pocket.

ISAAC
(calmly)
There's something you need to know.

The barista smiles bigger, showing her teeth.

BARISTA
Yeah? What's that?

Isaac takes a CD out of his pocket.

ISAAC
This belongs to you. Well, to the
coffee shop.

He puts the CD on the counter. The barista confused, and disappointed- thinking for a moment that he'd finally ask her out.

Isaac looks her right in the eye.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I took it a few months ago. Now
I'm giving it back.

The barista just stands there, unbelieving.

Isaac politely nods to her and walks out. We stay on everyday coffee shop happenings as the CREDITS BEGIN TO ROLL.

FADE OUT

