

DECEPTION

Written by

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2005

I .

EXTREME CLOSE ON A CELL PHONE

resting face up on a black surface. A beat of silence
-- is broken by its abrupt RING... RING... RING... Move in tighter
555-3827 on the phone's LCD DISPLAY. A number comes up:
RING... RING... RING... A hand enters frame. We follow it to
a pad and pen we now discover to the left of the phone. The
find hand picks up the pen, brings it to the pad, on which we
series a list of handwritten numbers. At least fifty. To this
is now added 555-3827. RING... RING... RING...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. MANHATTAN - LATE NIGHT

We pan across the city skyline, a beautiful sight -- over
which we hear the CLACKING of computer keys.

INT. A CONFERENCE ROOM (RUTHERFORD STERN)

- LATE NIGHT

A wall of glass offers a letter-boxed view of a sleek
conference room. Amber sconces illuminate an enormous table,
empty save for & YOUNG MAN at the far end - a lonely figure
hunched over a laptop.
Steadily tighten on JONATHAN MESSER (late 20s), trim build

not entirely at ease in a suit. Likeable features suggest a gentle, intelligent demeanor. Grids of numbers from the laptop screen reflect off his glasses. Tired, he rubs his eyes, continues typing.

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN LAW OFFICES - LATE NIGHT

Briefcase in hand, Jonathan walks a vacant corridor of empty cubicles. In a few offices lights are still on; the figures of YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN at work are blurred like photos out

of

focus behind the frosted-glass of closed doors.

INT. TIMES SQUARE SUBWAY STATION - LATE NIGHT

Waiting for his train, Jonathan pauses at a news kiosk.

JONATHAN

Do-you have tomorrow's Times yet?
The grizzled OLD MAN behind the counter doesn't look up.

OLD MAN

It is tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

2.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Right. I forgot.
The Old man grudgingly bends to cut the plastic on a fresh stack of newspapers. As he does, Jonathan glances at

numerous

porn magazines on display. Naked women smile back at him --

OLD MAN

Anything else?

JONATHAN

Uh - no. No that's it, thanks.

EXT. BROOKLYN - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan descends an above-ground subway stop. Neighborhood streets are vacant, the clopping of his shoes the only sound.

Jonathan turns a corner, heads for a humble duplex, the first floor marked by unlit neon: "FLEURS DE SOLANGE." He ascends the steps, his keys out --

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Jonathan!

The voice from nowhere startles him - he spins to find SOLANGE

(50), a vibrant Haitian woman with a thick accent, standing in the doorway below, bundled in a ski jacket.

JONATHAN

Solange, you're up so late?

SOLANGE

So early, Jonathan. We open in one hour.

(GRINS)

So tell me, you have been out with a lady friend, oui?

JONATHAN

(SMILES)

Je suis desole, madame, mais no.

SOLANGE

But why else does a young man come home at such an hour?

JONATHAN

Just working late, that's all.

SOLANGE

Every night working late, working late.

(teasing him)

Ah, you can't fool me. You are Mister Mischief maker - I know this! You come by

(CONTINUED)

3.

CONTINUED:

SOLANGE

(CONT'D)

later and pick out something for your lady friend, oui?

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

hangs Very modest. Furnishings are nice, but sparse. Jonathan his suit jacket in a closet of empty hangers.

INT. JONATHAN'S BEDROOM

Not much decoration other than a dated Jimmy Connors poster and an old tennis trophy. Jonathan lies in bed, flipping channels on a small TV. Typical late night stuff: infomercials; CNN; a Brazilian soccer match; "Channel J" (public access) on which X-rated clips advertise phone sex. Jonathan lingers a moment on these explicit ads
- then clicks
back to, the roaring soccer crowd. He closes his eyes and drifts off to the frenetic Portuguese of an unseen announcer..

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN LAW OFFICES - COFFEE LOUNGE - MORNING

TWO CORPORATE LAWYERS are talking shop while pouring coffee.

JONATHAN

(O.S.)

Excuse me.
Fixing his coffee, Jonathan reaches past them. They barely give him a glance as they continue their conversation.

LAWYER 1

So, the Knicks win last night?

LAWYER 2

I'm pretty sure, yeah.

JONATHAN

Actually, they lost by 4.
Both pause, turn to Jonathan. Jonathan smiles awkwardly.

JONATHAN

It was supposed to be a good game though.

LAWYER 1

Oh.

(back to Lawyer 2)

Hey, so. did you get a chance to look over that memo from Watkins?

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN CORRIDORS - MORNING

his Bustling - yet here too Jonathan is ignored as he carries coffee past ASSISTANTS and LAWYERS talking shop. He smiles

(CONTINUED)

4.

CONTINUED:

politely at those he passes; few bother to smile in return.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING .

Again Jonathan works alone at one end of the long table, rapidly typing, eyes ping-ponging from files to laptop, beside him a meticulous arrangement of pastel-colored post-its on which are scribbled various calculations. He strikes us as extremely good at his job, tackling the overwhelming array of numbers and data with methodical assurance. Taking a break, he pauses to peer out the glass wall before him. Behind the glass, employees pass like fish in a tank.

INT. MEN'S WASHROOM -- DAY

to In a stall, Jonathan is staring sleepily at patterns in the stall's marble door -- when a sudden KNOCK-KNOCK on the divider to his right startles him. He peers down and over, expensive black wingtip shoes, a Wall St. Journal spread on the floor. Another KNOCK-KNOCK. Confused, Jonathan turns to address the divider:

JONATHAN

Yes?

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

Take a look at this.
The voice sounds youthful, energetic. Its owner slides his
Journal along the floor halfway between the marble division.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

The Japanese are developing a toilet that
can analyze your urine for glucose levels,
kidney disease, even cancer. They're
referring to it as the "super bowl."

JONATHAN

That certainly is
- something.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Of course if you've ever been to Japan,
you know they're nuts about their toilets.
I'm talking web sites, symposiums...
Jonathan chuckles.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

You think I'm kidding. They have bowls
over there that cost more than a piano.
What I want to know is how you're supposed
to retrieve this analysis - you know, from
your super bowl.

(CONTINUED)

5.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Maybe they're developing a fly with a
nursing degree. A superfly.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

(LAUGHS)

Who's in there anyway?

JONATHAN

Uh, Jonathan Messer.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

Messer... What department?

JONATHAN

None. I'm from Worth and Berman. I've been over here a few wee--

A FLUSH from the next stall cuts him off. The sound of zipping up, of a belt buckled, then of a stall door opening.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

So you're an accountant?

Jonathan follows the FOOTSTEPS, now addresses his stall door.

JONATHAN

Audit manager, yeah.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

So how's it work, Rutherford Stern hires Worth and Berman to give their blessing to our books, and they send you?

JONATHAN

Have laptop, will travel. What about you?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

What about me?

JONATHAN

Well, I didn't get your name for one.th--

The SOUND OF A FAUCET RUNNING drowns him out.

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

.ose.

JONATHAN

Sorry - I didn't catch that?

(gets no response)

Hello...?

(CONTINUED)

6.

CONTINUED:

MALE VOICE

(O.S.)

I said it's Wyatt. Wyatt Bose.
Jonathan FLUSHES, buckles his belt, opens his stall door -
- only the men's room is now empty.

COMPUVOICE

(SOUND ADVANCE)

Message-four. Three-oh-eight-pee-em.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Alone again, Jonathan listens to voice-mail on his cell
phone. We..find two more batteries sitting ready in a
charger.

PETERSON

(O.S.)

Jonathan? Chet Peterson. Just wanted to-
confirm you're wrapping up over there at
Rutherford Stern because the controller at
Clancey has been on me to get someone in
there by Thursday. I told him how
brilliant you are, said you're the best
auditor we've got. Anyway, I forwarded you
some documentation...

Jonathan clicks his mouse - to find 27
a-mails ending in
worth&berman.com. He reaches for his palm pilot, clicks on a
day planner, stylus writes "Clancey" into next week. Other
than places he'll be working, days-are-all entirely blank.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Jonathan still working. Only a few of the post-its now
remain
on the tabletop. Yawning, he glances at his watch -

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

a.m.

12:53

Startled, Jonathan turns to a well-dressed young man in the doorway - penetrating eyes, playful smile, familiar voice:

WYATT

Sorry if I scared you. I was heading home and saw the lights. We met before, in the can...

JONATHAN

Sure. It's Wyatt, right?

WYATT BOSE nods as he steps into the room. There's something very likeably "on" about him.

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

WYATT

So do you normally work this late?

JONATHAN

Pretty much. I'm supposed to be out of here by tomorrow so I'm just trying to finish up. What about you?

WYATT

You kidding? This is an early night. Hard to believe that once upon a time a man's success was measured by how little he had to work. You know in Sweden the average worker gets 7 weeks a year vacation? (regards his stacked files)
Do-you like accounting?

JONATHAN

It's all right, if you enjoy working with numbers. Do you like being a lawyer?

WYATT

It's all right. If you enjoy working with

assholes.
Jonathan laughs, glances at his monitor screen.

WYATT

Well, I'm probably disturbing you -

JONATHAN

No - it's okay. Really.

WYATT

So Worth and Berman, huh? Don't you have to like be in Mensa to work there?
Jonathan smiles, shrugs modestly.

WYATT

Been with them long?

JONATHAN

Since my senior year of college. They subsidized my graduate degree.

WYATT

Really. So you were poor?
Jonathan is given pause by the bluntness of the question.

(CONTINUED)

S.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Well - I guess you could say that. I was raised by a single mother, and she died when I was nineteen, so... yeah. It wasn't so bad though. I'm sure a lot of people have had it worse.

WYATT

Not around here. Practically every suit I know is Harvard by way of Andover.

JONATHAN

Are you?

WYATT

Me? Hell no... I'm Princeton. By way of Exeter.

Jonathan laughs. Wyatt smiles, takes a few idle paces.

WYATT

So. Jonathan.

(GRINS)

What do you say to a break?

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A SCREENSAVER OF SWIMMING FISH. Tilt up from Jonathan's laptop screen to Wyatt and Jonathan, sitting on top of the expensive conference-table, passing a joint, staring out at the rain hammering the far windows.

JONATHAN

(STONED)

.It's just sometimes I feel so - I don't know - removed. I mean, I work for one of the biggest accounting firms in the world, and there's not so much as a desk there to prove it? They've decided all we need are cell phones and laptops. Messages are voice-mailed, documents e-mailed, salary's deposited online. Chet Peterson, my senior manager? I swear he wouldn't recognize me if I was sitting in his chair.

Jonathan pauses, takes another drag, train of thought

drifts:

JONATHAN

I don't know... I used to have friends. But it's like I've spent so much time trying to prove myself, working these hours

- you can only do it so long before you look up and realize you've lost

(CONTINUED)

9.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

(CONT'D)

everyone. Just - fell out of touch. With everyone... And I try to meet people at work. I do. But it's always the same. To the accounting staff I'm a pain because for two weeks they have to hold their breath and hope I don't pick up on any of their screw ups. And to everyone else, I'm just a temporary fixture, so why bother? The truth is, this is the first meaningful conversation I've had in I don't know how long. It's like if I disappeared tomorrow, I'm not .sure anyone other than Solange would even notice - she's my neighbor. I live on what must be the only block in Brooklyn that still isn't hip.

(EXHALES)

I guess I just never counted-on the isolation. It's like sometimes I look through that glass, and I see life literally passing me by. Jonathan stares out the glass wall in stoned silence.

WYATT

Jonathan?

JONATHAN

Yeah?

WYATT

By the clock on the wall there? You've
just talked for

37

minutes straight.

Wyatt looks at Jonathan -- and cracks up. Jonathan
hesitates,

then he too starts to laugh so now they can't stop, their
laughter filling the expansive room -- until it's drowned by
the SOUND ADVANCE OF POURING RAIN...

EXT. MIDTOWN - STREET - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan hurries in the cold. rain for the Times Square

subway. He's just about to descend - when across
7th Avenue

he spots a beautiful YOUNG WOMAN in a camel hair coat,
clutching a slim briefcase, waiting to cross the street.
Jonathan gazes at her, almost gasping. She's surrounded by
pedestrians with umbrellas., she's the only one without one
and she's DRENCHED. But she seems content to entertain
herself drawing a pattern in the drops collecting on the
umbrella in front of her.
Jonathan watches, intrigued - and then the rumble of the
subway below reminds him he'd better move.

10.

INT. TIMES SQUARE SUBWAY STATION - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan stands in a long line to buy a Metrocard, his
glasses steamed up. He takes them off to wipe the lenses.
JONATHAN'S POV: the entire station is a blur, all unfocused,
muted colors, no object discernible from another -
- until his glasses return his POV to immediate focus, and

he

sees the same Young Woman in'the camel.hair coat, a pair of
dollar bills in her hand, entering the station.
Jonathan can't help but stare again. Despite her business
attire, there's an almost childlike lightness. to her step.
Jonathan notices her slim briefcase. Beneath her hand, he

can

make out the first letter of a monogram: "S."
She checks out the long line for Metrocards, considers
waiting, then decides life's too short. She continues past,
headed for the turnstiles.

narrow

Jonathan continues to observe as she raises her briefcase,
then proceeds to wriggle her slender frame through the

gap in the turnstile.

A PANHANDLER on the other side watches her with amusement.
Glancing up, she catches his eye, and blushes a mischievous
smile. Once she's through, she drops her money into his
collection - and slips out of view.

ANGLE ON JONATHAN, still stuck on line, staring at the space
she vacated.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM -- SHORT TIME LATER

Jonathan arrives as an N train pulls away, the platform now practically empty. Weary and still a bit stoned, Jonathan peers sleepily into the dark expanse of tunnel, yawns - And then he sees "S" is waiting on the same platform. Ten yards away. He gazes at her. She's unwrapping some GUM. He watches as she puts a piece in her mouth. The sound of an ARRIVING N TRAIN. "S" heads for it, Jonathan follows... The train halts. The door before him is the last of its car, the door before her the first of the next. The doors open.

(CONTINUED)

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II S æç II

(turns to Jonathan)

Excuse me, is this the train for canal Street?

It takes Jonathan a second just to find his voice. She's even more arresting up close.

JONATHAN

Uh, .either one is -- I mean the N and the R both stop there so, you know, either way, I mean, this is the right train. Yes. SOS Of Thanks.

"S" enters her car. Jonathan wavers, wants to follow into her car but doesn't have the nerve. He enters a different car.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - LATER

Jonathan's slumped against a window, annoyed. at himself for not getting in her car.

He He can see 'S'. She sits in the other car chewing her gum.
studies her, he's absolutely knocked out by her.

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Next stop Canal Street. Canal is next.
He sees "S" rising to join the small crowd gathering by a door.
Jonathan stands up - his last chance. Determined, he braces himself and rises, grasping his briefcase.
The screeching of brakes as the train grinds into "CANAL ST.

STATION. "

stumble A sudden JOLT of the braking train.causes Jonathan to
slightly and his briefcase BANGS against a seat and SNAPS
OPEN - contents tumbling out. His cell phone hits the floor.
lurches Jonathan quickly bends for his phone - when the train
to a halt, nearly knocking him over, and sliding his cell
phone a few feet along the grimy floor.
O.S. we hear the hiss of the doors opening as Jonathan grabs
for his phone a second before it's stepped on. He hurriedly
stuffs it in his pocket, shoves his files and papers and
paraphernalia back into his briefcase and rises to his feet
-
- to find the doors closing, and "S" gone.

(CONTINUED)

12.

CONTINUED:

as Devastated, he hurries to a window, searching the platform
of the train begins to depart... He can just glimpse the back
her camel hair coat as his car is sucked back into a tunnel.
He stands helpless, just shuts his eyes and lowers his head.

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN - COFFEE LOUNGE - MORNING

Wyatt Jonathan is pouring coffee when he brightens on hearing

enter, talking animatedly with Lawyers
1 and 2. Caught up in
telling his joke, Wyatt doesn't seem to notice Jonathan.
Only when the lawyers burst out laughing does Wyatt glance
up. His eyes meet Jonathan's. Jonathan smiles in greeting -
but Wyatt just nods coolly, returns to his fellow lawyers.
Jonathan's smile falters. He exits wordlessly.

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN - DAY

Jonathan hands over files and CD-Roms to a less than
sociable

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER.

JONATHAN

I guess that's it. then. Nice meeting you.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER

Uh huh.

Jonathan turns to go, takes two paces - then turns back.

JONATHAN

Listen - could you point me toward Wyatt
Bose's office?

The Assistant Controller looks up in mild annoyance.

JONATHAN

Wyatt Bose. He's an attorney here.

She sighs, put upon, then slides out a desk drawer in which

a

laminated page of names and extensions is taped. Jonathan's
eyes follow her lazy finger down the list --

A GRUFF VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, quit looking down her shirt!

Jonathan instinctively leaps back from her desk, turns to
find Wyatt grinning at him from down the corridor.

WYATT

Leaving, huh? So where to next?

(CONTINUED)

13.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Clancey Funds on Thursday. Clute Nichols
after that.

Wyatt's about to reply - when ANOTHER LAWYER passes him in
the hall. Wyatt taps the lawyer's shoulder.

WYATT

Hey, wait up a sec.

(smiles back)

Well, good meeting you, Jonathan.

,Wyatt turns and starts to walk off with the other lawyer.
Jonathan bends for his briefcase -

WYATT

(O.S.)

Wait, so you have off tomorrow?

Jonathan looks up to Wyatt smiling at him from down the
hall.

WYATT

You don't happen to have .a. decent
backhand, do you?

INT. MANHATTAN RACKET CLUB - DAY

Beneath an enormous bubble dome, Jonathan and Wyatt play
mixed doubles with two attractive YOUNG WOMEN (early 20's).
Between points, we observe from Jonathan's side of the net
Wyatt chatting up his partner. The rapport between Jonathan
and his partner is markedly less comfortable; he wipes his
brow, smiles at her, she forces a polite smile in return.

SAME SCENE - LATER

A good rally underway. Jonathan fires a backhand. Wyatt
returns it with an audible grunt. Jonathan snaps the ball
back to Wyatt's partner - only Wyatt intercepts, nailing it
back. Jonathan returns it with equal force.

A grin on Wyatt's face as he savors the battle, blasting
back

each ball. The women step aside. Jonathan lunges, barely
managing to lob a return. Sensing victory, Wyatt raises his
racket and with a guttural bark mercilessly smashes the
ball.

Jonathan dives, racket over-extended - and returns a
near perfect shot just over Wyatt's head... but it lands two
inches outside the opposite baseline.

WYATT

Out!

(CONTINUED)

14.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan curls forward, gasping for air. Silence - then Wyatt's SOLITARY APPLAUSE echoes in the humid space.

WYATT

Commiserations, Messer. Good game.
They shake hands at the net. Jonathan is exhausted.

WYATT

(WARMLY)

Develop a killer instinct and you'll beat
the crap out of me.

Jonathan turns to commiserate with his partner - but she's
already gone to join her friend. Jonathan crashes out on the
court. From his low angle he watches as Wyatt goes over to
the girls and says something that causes a burst of

laughter.

The girls finally wave goodbye. Wyatt hops over the net.

WYATT

They asked if we'd fancy a post-game
cocktail. Don't worry, I got us out of it.
Jonathan is barely able to speak.

JONATHAN

Oh? I would've been happy to.

WYATT

Are you kidding? They're a couple of first
years at Merrill. Screw that, we can do
better. Hey, you OK?
Jonathan nods as an amused Wyatt helps him to his feet.

INT. RACKET CLUB LOUNGE

Soft jazz plays as Wyatt leads Jonathan past the bar area.
Wyatt is admiring Jonathan's weathered tennis racket.

WYATT

Man, I remember when these first came out.
I think I was a frosh at boarding school.
(chuckles; fingers a string)
Jeez, are these strings natural gut?

JONATHAN

Actually, it's a hybrid weave: natural gut
and Kevlar. They're pretty obscure now. I
should replace them, they're all frayed...

(CONTINUED)

15.

CONTINUED:

Looking up, Jonathan abruptly slows his pace, his eyes
suddenly fixed on a woman sitting at the far end of the bar.
From behind, it looks remarkably like "S"...
Only, as she turns, her profile proves otherwise.

INT. LOCKER ROOM!

Wyatt and Jonathan in towels, heading for the showers.
Jonathan still deep in the 'S' moment -

WYATT

Have you ever considered contacts?
Jonathan halts, confused to find Wyatt studying his face

his eyeglasses in particular.

JONATHAN

Huh? Oh - yeah, I tried once, but I was
allergic to something in the solution.

WYATT

Too bad. You have an attractive face. Your
eyes especially.
Jonathan looks self-conscious in his towel.

WYATT

It's not a come on, just an observation.

(considers him a beat)
You don't get much, do you.

JONATHAN

What - you mean sex?

WYATT

No, flood insurance. How many women have you slept with?

JONATHAN

Oh, I don't know, not a whole-

WYATT

Of course you know. Everyone knows.

JONATHAN

Maybe - four.

WYATT

Maybe four?

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Okay fine, just four. What about you?

WYATT

Me? I have no idea.

JONATHAN

What? You just said everyone -

WYATT

I meant everyone like you.
Confused, Jonathan looks up -- as Wyatt disappears into a shower stall.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Jonathan emerges freshly showered, a towel around his waist

as he walks toward the rows of lockers.

WYATT

(O.S.)

Tonight?... Fine. I'm on the list?
Jonathan finds Wyatt half-dressed, seated on a bench by a locker and talking on his cell phone.

WYATT

There better be.
Wyatt hangs up, looks up to find Jonathan staring, puzzled.

WYATT

Something wrong?
Jonathan reaches into his locker for his hanging jacket, and pulls out his own cell phone. It's identical to Wyatt's.

JONATHAN

We have the same phone.

WYATT

Oh - and you thought I was using yours?
I can afford my own phone calls, you know.

JONATHAN

No, I wasn't
-- of course you can-

WYATT

I'm pulling your dick, Jonathan.
(grins, slams his locker)
Actually, I was just firming up some plans for tonight. Are you free?

(CONTINUED)

17.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

(SURPRISED)

Me? Sure, I guess
- but I don't want to

INTRUDE-

WYATT

You're not. What do you say, are you in?

JONATHAN

I guess I could go home and change.

WYATT

To Brooklyn? Forget it, you can borrow something of mine.

INT. WYATT'S BUILDING - EARLY EVENING

A three-story brownstone in an expensive West Village neighborhood. As Wyatt leads Jonathan to the staircase, they pass a papery-faced GENTLEMAN (50s) in a fine suit.

WYATT

t

a
uten Abend, Herr Kleiner.
(glances back)
This way, Jonathan.

INT. WYATT'S APARTMENT

furniture,
Urban chic to a serious degree. Big terrace, funky framed snapshots of Wyatt with similarly hip and attractive young friends - and great art, including an entrancing image of a burning candle just slightly out of focus.

WYATT

wanders,
Like it? It's a Gerhard Richter. Kleiner downstairs is a hot shot art dealer - he hooked me up with the gallery in Munich. Wyatt disappears into the next room. Alone, Jonathan pauses by the framed snapshots. The young people in them are like Wyatt -- beautiful, strong, wealthy. Jonathan pauses by one photo in which Wyatt looks a bit younger, his hair bleached blonde and loosely spiked.

WYATT (O.S.)

right
Talk about a bad look.
Startled, Jonathan quickly turns to find Wyatt standing behind him,. a slick, expensive SUIT draped over his arm.

(CONTINUED)

18.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

Here, try this one.
(off Jonathan's hesitation)
What?

JONATHAN

Nothing, I just hope I can pull it off.

WYATT

You hope you can pull it off. You know who
you remind me of? James Getz.

JONATHAN

Who?

WYATT

A guy I roomed with freshman year at
Princeton.. Real smart
witty too, when
you loosened him up. Only from day one, he
just didn't fit in. For starters, he was
dirt poor. But it wasn't that. See, there
was always this boundary - this wall -
between Getz and everyone else. You could
argue we laid the foundation, but he built
it. Built it by believing the lie.

JONATHAN

What lie?

WYATT

That he was any different. The clothes,
the money, the wry anecdotes - it's all
one big masquerade. Anyone can get in,
you've just got to wear a costume. But
Getz never got that. He assumed he could
never scale the wall, when the truth is he

was the only one guarding it. It never occurred to him his anonymity could be an asset. No one gets over like the guy who's just a face, an impression. We are - all of us
only who we're perceived to be.

JONATHAN

So what happened to him?

WYATT

Who, James Getz? Oh - he killed himself.

JONATHAN

(hesitates a beat)

You're pulling my dick, aren't you.

Wyatt turns to him with a grave look... then smirks.

(CONTINUED)

19.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

With both hands.

Jonathan can't help but laugh as Wyatt hands him the suit.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A BUFF YOUNG MAN

(EMCEE) in a vintage bowler hat.

He struts up to us, thumbs in his suspenders:

EMCEE

And now, straight from the Cafe Germaine, the Velvet Rope is proud to introduce you to the lovely Miss Lu Lu Lamour!

INT. THE VELVET ROPE - NIGHT

1920s
An ultra-elite "new burlesque" nightclub in Manhattan,
Parisian decor. Strictly UPSCALE PATRONS, male and female,
sip from crystal barware, while on stage a BETTY PAGE TYPE

fitted
performs an elegantly choreographed strip tease.
Wyatt and Jonathan sit at a small table; each table is
with. an old-fashioned black rotary telephone, as well as a
small monitor recessed into the tabletop on which old stag
films play silently. All part of the wink-wink ambience.

WYATT

It's a little self-conscious, but I
thought you'd get a kick out of it. How's
that suit working out?

JONATHAN

Oh - great, actually.

WYATT

Keep it then. I've got two just like it.
Jonathan's about to protest, when a WAITRESS arrives.

WAITRESS

Two Macallan 25 year. Enjoy, gentlemen.

JONATHAN

Isn't this like fifty bucks a glass?

WYATT

We'll try not to spill any.
(regards the floor show)
So what's the wildest thing you've ever
done? Sexually, I mean.

(CONTINUED)

20.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

The wildest thing? Oh I don't know, I've
never been too adventuresome.

WYATT

All right, what's the lamest thing then?

JONATHAN

The lamest...

Wyatt's focused on him, amused, eager to hear it.

JONATHAN

Actually, that was probably a few months ago. I was flipping through money magazine and saw this small ad in the back. It read something like "Are. you feeling all alone? Looking to meet women but have forgotten how?" And-there was this number.

WYATT

And you called it? So what happened?

JONATHAN

Nothing actually. The phone just kept ringing. And that's it.

Wyatt stares at Jonathan a beat, then starts to crack up.

JONATHAN

Lame enough for you?

WYATT

You called a sex ad - from Money Magazine.

That is beyond lame.

Jonathan too starts laughing - when the phone at their table lights'up. Wyatt looks to Jonathan, raises a brow - then picks up. He listens a moment, smiles, hands it to Jonathan.

JONATHAN

.Hello?

Wyatt taps his shoulder, directs his gaze to a SEXY BRUNETTE at a distant table, receiver to her ear, eyeing Jonathan.

JONATHAN

.All right... Goodbye.

Jonathan hangs up, turns to Wyatt.

JONATHAN

She wants to dance.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Jonathan is slow dancing with the sexy Brunette to an old Edith Piaf ballad. He looks over her shoulder to his table, where Wyatt is sitting, talking on his cell phone.

proud

Glancing up, Wyatt's eyes meet Jonathan's; he flashes a

smile. Jonathan continues dancing, truly enjoying himself. The Brunette leans in, whispers something in his ear...

BACK TO WYATT AND JONATHAN'S TABLE

Wyatt clicks off his cell phone, looks up to find Jonathan returning alone, looking deflated.

JONATHAN

She's a hooker.

Wyatt shrugs, grinning.

JONATHAN

Hold on - you knew? What - are all the women here prostitutes?

WYATT

That depends on what you mean by that word. Stretch the definition and you could incorporate most of the men as well.

(sips his drink)

You know in Amsterdam prostitutes not only belong to a union, they have to pay taxes.

JONATHAN

You seem to possess quite a store of international trivia.

WYATT

Not really. I just get around... Jonathan, relax. It's not like she just shot your dog. I was only trying to help. Besides, what are you looking for - a relationship? As if you have time for one? This was your first day off in how long?

JONATHAN

Three weeks.

WYATT

Four for me. Face it, we've mortgaged our youth. Pimped out our twenties. But we still have needs. And there's nothing shameful about wanting them met.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

So you sleep with hookers?

WYATT

(LAUGHING)

Me? Never.

JONATHAN

So how do you - meet your needs?

Wyatt studies him a beat, another French love song drifting in the background as the Emcee introduces a new girl.

WYATT

What if I told you...

(breaks off, laughs)

Christ, I sound like an infommercial.

JONATHAN

What were you going to say?

WYATT

Listen. You don't think that women have these same urges? Young women, just like ourselves, successful and working their asses off to stay that way? You better believe they do.

JONATHAN

And?

WYATT

And - well - let's just say, there's a way...a way it can be taken care of.

JONATHAN

You make it sound like a mob hit.

Wyatt smiles, and turns his attention back to the floor

show.

INT. TAXI CAB - LATE NIGHT

Wyatt and Jonathan are in the back seat. A quiet beat.

JONATHAN

What you were talking about, before.
Peoples' needs...
Wyatt turns to Jonathan with a grin:

WYATT

Some other time.
(to Cabbie)

(CONTINUED)

23.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

(CONT'D)

At the corner, please. The Rhiga Royal.
(to Jonathan)
Listen, I have to meet someone..

JONATHAN

(SURPRISED)

Oh... okay.
The cab pulls up before the RHIGA ROYAL HOTEL.

WYATT

Hey. You had a good time tonight?

JONATHAN

Yeah. Yeah I did. Thanks.

WYATT

I'm glad. Listen, that thing with the
hooker, I'm really sorry if I

JONATHAN

Forget it. It was funny.

Wyatt smiles warmly, pats Jonathan's shoulder.

WYATT

I'll give you a call tomorrow.

Wyatt

climbs out. Jonathan watches through the cab window as

Wyatt disappears into the golden glow of the lobby.

LATER: Driving in the cab, Jonathan catches his reflection
in

the glass. He smiles, liking how he looks in Wyatt's suit.
Outside, rainy Manhattan passes by in a hypnotic blur.

JONATHAN

(To driver)

Hey. Could you let me out at the next
corner over there, on 7th Avenue?

EXT. TIMES SQUARE SUBWAY - LATER

Jonathan stands in the exact spot where he first saw "S".

He buys a New York Times and a hot-dog.

Pedestrians and theatre crowds pass by as he remains rooted
to the spot, hoping he'll see that face in the crowd.

After a while he shakes his head at the ridiculousness of it
and heads down into the-subway.

INT. CLANCEY INVESTMENTS - A CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Clancey's stiff CONTROLLER

(50s) hovers nervously over

Jonathan as he unloads files onto the huge conference table.

(CONTINUED)

24.

CONTINUED:

Beside him we see he's set up his laptop, phone charger,
pencils and a fresh, unopened pack of pastel post-its.

CLANCEY CONTROLLER

Any problems, you'll want to see Julie
Levinson, she's our assistant controller

or if she's busy, Scott Werner, our senior accountant. If Werner's unavailable, we have two staff accountants

- but like I

said, I don't anticipate any problems. I mean we've never had any before, so...

JONATHAN

Right. I just need the access codes for the accounts and sub-accounts?

The Controller suddenly looks uneasy.

JONATHAN

You've got account numbers, but no access codes. Without those I can't get the banks to authorize statement verification.

(beat; smiles)

Besides, how else can I steal the money?

CLANCEY CONTROLLER

What?

JONATHAN

Nothing, I was just pulling your-- leg. I do need those codes though, when you get a chance.

INT. CLANCEY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Other than Jonathan's suit and tie, the reduced number of post-its and the lighter stack of files

- little has changed.

Jonathan is hunched over his laptop. Like Rutherford Stern's conference room, this one too is designed with a glass wall. Jonathan peers out at workers passing in utter indifference to him. Slightly different tank, slightly different fish.

CLOSE ON A BUSINESS CARD: a Rutherford Stern masthead, beneath it Wyatt's name and office number. Jonathan picks up his cell phone and dials it. RING... RING -

WYATT (O.S.)

Hey, Jonathan.

JONATHAN

How'd you know it was-

(CONTINUED)

25.

CONTINUED:

WYATT (O.S.)

You really ought to block your caller ID.
So - same place as yesterday?

EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - DAY

here
Along the entire square of ledge, throngs of SUITED BUSINESS
TYPES bundled in scarves eating street vendor fare. It's
we find Wyatt and Jonathan, having a quick bite.

WYATT

I wonder what the Founding Fathers would
make of this scene.
Wyatt regards face after face of young men and women wearing
expensive suits, wolfing down lunch so they can get back to
eat.
work - a good 2/3 of them talking on cell phones as they

JONATHAN

I'm just glad to be outside.
(awkwardly heartfelt)
I've got to tell you, this has been great,
meeting up for lunch. I used to just-
A cell phone RINGS. They both instinctively reach in their
jackets, take out their identical phones. It's Wyatt's
that's
ringing. Jonathan rests his down on the ledge.

WYATT

Yes?... Shit. Okay, see if you can get me
on the 6:15
out of JFK tonight... Fine.
Wyatt rests his phone on the ledge next to Jonathan's.

WYATT

Rutherford needs me to join him asap in
London to paper some financing with
Lloyds. I tell you about this?

JONATHAN

No - no you didn't.

WYATT

Yeah, I should be gone a few weeks.
Jonathan tries to mask the wave of loneliness setting in.

JONATHAN

Sounds exciting.

WYATT

Nah, it'll be boring as sin.

(CONTINUED)

26.

CONTINUED:

Wyatt studies him a moment, grabs his cell phone and rises from the ledge.

WYATT

Shit, I'd better get back. You ready?

INT. CLANCEY INVESTMENTS - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Sitting before his laptop, Jonathan takes out his cell phone and punches in some numbers.

COMPUVOICE

(O.S.)

I 'RN-SORRY-THE-VOICE-MAIL-PASSWORD-YOU-

ENTERED-IS-NOT-VALID-PLEASE-TRY-YOUR-

He enters the numbers again, receives the same prerecorded message. He hangs up -- when it abruptly RINGS, surprising him. He stares at the phone a curious beat, then answers it.

JONATHAN

Jonathan Mess-

CLICK. Dead air. More puzzled, Jonathan frowns a beat

- then

replaces the battery with one fresh off the charger.

INT. CLANCEY BUILDING - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

As ignored as ever, Jonathan is squeezed among EMPLOYEES on

their way home. TWO SECRETARIES speak in hushed tones:

SECRETARY 1

.That's just it. You caught him in a lie, so now everything he says you have to-RING of a cell phone. RING... RING... It's Jonathan's. Surprised, he takes out the phone, presses talk.

JONATHAN

Hello?

A soft, electronic rustle from the other end... then:

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Are you free tonight?

JONATHAN

Excuse me?

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

I asked if you're free tonight.

JONATHAN

I'm sorry, I think you have the wrong--

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

CLICK. The line goes dead.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

Jonathan trudging home. He descends into the subway.

INT. SUBWAY STATION

Jonathan is heading for the DOWNTOWN N/R when:. RING... RING... His cell phone again. He steps aside and answers:

JONATHAN

Hello?

The CRACKLE OF STATIC on the other end. Then:

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Are you free tonight?

JONATHAN

Actually I am, but I don't think I'm who
The static on the other end worsens.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

I'm sorry, I didn't get that?

JONATHAN

I said I am free, but I

-

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Could you be at the Plaza in one hour?

JONATHAN

The hotel? I - I guess, but -

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S'.)

Beneath the Eloise portrait.

THE ROAR OF A TRAIN pulling in. Only when the train passes
can he hear the other end. But now there's no one there.

Jonathan stares at his cell phone - and frowns.

Close on the phone's display as Jonathan scrolls down its
list of stored numbers. His expression says none are
familiar. And NOW he gets it.

INT. TAXI CAB - NIGHT

back,
A heavy-set CABBIE glances in his mirror at Jonathan in
cell phone to his ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

(into phone)

Hi, it's Jonathan, I've got your cell! I guess you must have mine. I imagine you're in the air now, but call when you get this. if you do. Oh, and you got a call from someone who I'm...forget it, just call me.

Jonathan hangs up.

CABBIE

So where ya visiting from?

JONATHAN

Excuse me?

CABBIE

You're from out of town, right?

JONATHAN

(PUZZLED)

Me? No.

CABBIE

Huh. I can usually tell. You seem like a tourist.

JONATHAN

I've lived here all my life!

CABBIE

No offence, pal.

The cabbie pulls over on Central Park South. Jonathan leans forward, peers up at the gorgeous French Renaissance facade.

CABBIE

Well, here ya are. The Plaza.

INT. PLAZA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Sheer elegance. Wealthy GUESTS stroll, chat, lounge. Hotel STAFF in immaculate uniforms greet, assist, etc.. Jonathan anxiously wanders the perimeter, then slows as he spies a PORTRAIT OF A PRECOCIOUS LITTLE GIRL grinning at

him.

SAME SCENE - SHORT TIME LATER

Jonathan is standing awkwardly beneath the Eloise portrait,

glancing at his watch, growing restless, unsure --

(CONTINUED)

29.

CONTINUED:

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Pardon me, but may I ask you something -
personal?

Jonathan quickly looks up, to find standing before him an
attractive BLONDE WOMAN. She's. around his age, slender to
the point of stark, dressed in a chic grey business suit.

THE BLONDE

Are you waiting for me?

JONATHAN

I
- think so, yes. You're here for Wyatt,
right?

THE BLONDE

Excuse me?
(hesitates, appraising him)
I'm sorry, did we speak earlier?

JONATHAN

Yes. Yes we did -

THE BLONDE

Good. Let's go then.

INT. PLAZA - ELEVATOR

Jonathan and the Blonde stand in an elevator alongside an
ELDERLY COUPLE. The couple smile at the handsome pair.
Jonathan fidgets uncomfortably. The Woman is staring at the
lit numbers. He notices a ROOM KEY in her hand.

JONATHAN

(whispers aside)
Look, I don't think I'm -- I mean; you and I., we don't know each other...?
She turns to him, the slightest smile on her thin lips.

THE BLONDE

No fooling.
DING. The doors open. She steps out. A beat. He follows.

THE HALLWAY

Walls, carpeting - details all classically gorgeous. The Blonde keeps a quick pace, headed toward a room.

JONATHAN

What I mean to say is, I'm fairly certain there's been some kind of mistake.

(CONTINUED)

30.

CONTINUED:

She stops dead in her tracks, her back to him.

THE BLONDE

You're not who I spoke with on the phone?

JONATHAN

No - I mean, yes, but -

THE BLONDE

You're not attracted to me?

JONATHAN

Oh no, it's not that at all, it's just

THE BLONDE

It's just what... exactly?
She turns, steps toward him. Jonathan opens his mouth to explain -- when she covers it with hers. It takes him a moment to succumb to her kiss... but not too long.

INT. PLAZA -- A ROOM - LATER

A smooth plane of pressed sheets creases as two bare bodies lower to them. The Blonde hovering over him, Jonathan's tentativeness is all but gone.

Jonathan cradles her to him, her features softening under waves of pleasure as she gasps, and whispers in soft, slow annunciation as if it were the sweetest word in our

language:

THE BLONDE

Fuck.

LATER: Jonathan lies post-coital. A smile. And then a look of

mild anxiety, 'what's going on'? He turns to the Blonde but she's fast asleep.

INT. PLAZA - THE', ROOM - EARLY MORNING

On the sound of a DOOR SHUTTING, Jonathan's eyes squint open.

Still naked, he props himself up, leans over to find he's all

alone. A clock radio reveals itself as the source of the FAINT CLASSICAL MUSIC we hear. The time reads:

6:18 am.

He rises, glances around the room. No sign of her.

INT. PLAZA - RECEPTION DESK - MORNING

Showered and dressed, Jonathan is talking with a DESK CLERK.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

DESK CLERK

Sir, I'm showing that room as having checked out at

6:20

this morning.

JONATHAN

Well could you tell me the name of the guest who was staying there?

DESK CLERK

I'm afraid we're not allowed to disclose information regarding our guests. If you give me her name, I can confirm if she was registered here.

JONATHAN

Actually, the thing is... it's okay. Forget it.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK SOUTH - MORNING

Jonathan exits to good tidings from the BELL STAFF. Lost in his thoughts, it takes him a moment to respond. He starts to walk. His cell RINGS. He answers.

JONATHAN

Hello?

WYATT'S VOICE

Hey, you're up early!

JONATHAN

Hi! How's London?

WYATT'S VOICE

Raining. So you've got mine-and I've got yours?

JONATHAN

Yeah. Listen, last night...um...I met this-

WYATT'S VOICE

Damn! Sorry, I'm gonna have to call you back, they want me in a meeting. Hey, no long distance calls, okay!

Wyatt hangs up. Jonathan shakes his head, amused. He hails a cab, glances back at the hotel. His lips curl into a vaguely proud, if still dazed, smile.

INT. CLANCEY INVESTMENTS - DAY

Jonathan sits alone at the long conference table, working
but
distracted. He pauses, eyes Wyatt's cell phone sitting
there.

INSERT - EXTREME CLOSE ON THE CELL PHONE'S DISPLAY WINDOW

The numbers stored have no names associated with them. It's
just a series of undesignated seven-digit sequences, a list
of phone numbers that seems to go on and on.
Jonathan clicks on a number at random. It highlights itself.
Jonathan hesitates, then clicks again. The number is
dialled.

RING...RING - a woman with an elegant BRITISH ACCENT
answers:

BRITISH ACCENT

(V.O.)

Yes?

JONATHAN

Hello, um - I'm sorry to bother you

-

BRITISH ACCENT (V.O.)

How did you get this number?

JONATHAN

Through a friend.

BRITISH ACCENT

(V.O.)

I think you've got the wrong number. Now
if you'll excuse me

-

JONATHAN

wait -

Jonathan fumbles for what else to say before she hangs up.

BRITISH ACCENT

(V.O.)

Yes?

CLOSE ON JONATHAN. What to say? And then:

JONATHAN

(braces himself, swallows)

Are you free tonight?

He shuts his eyes, ready for a hang up. A long silence.

BRITISH ACCENT (V.0.)

I can be.

Jonathan opens his eyes half in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

33.

CONTINUED:

BRITISH ACCENT

(V.0.)

Where?

JONATHAN

Where. Right... The Plaza?

BRITISH ACCENT (V.0.)

I'm afraid that's a bit uptown for me.
Perhaps the Mercer? Say by the
Shakespeare, half past eleven?

JONATHAN

The Shakespeare?

BRITISH ACCENT

(V.0.)

It should be fairly evident.

INT. THE MERCER HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

The SoHo industrial motif is the antithesis of the Plaza. By a vintage book library we find a sleekly dressed YOUNG BLACK WOMAN perusing spines of Salinger, Scott, Sheherazade -

JONATHAN

(O.S.)

Excuse me, um - I'm sorry to disturb you -
She turns, regards him a moment, curiously - a copy of
Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in her hand.

JONATHAN

I'm - supposed to meet someone here and-

BRITISH ACCENT

You're rather new to this, aren't you?
Jonathan falters. She smiles.

BRITISH ACCENT

That's okay. I like that.

LOBBY ELEVATOR

She enters first, then Jonathan. He waits for her to push a button - only it seems she's waiting for him to do the same.

JONATHAN

I'm sorry, what floor?
She rolls her eyes.

BACK TO THE HOTEL LOBBY

Jonathan and British Accent cross the lobby once more.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

BRITISH ACCENT

Frankly I'm surprised that whoever gave you access didn't explain more.

(SIGHS)

Right then, the rules: One, no names, no jobs
- no nothing. Two, latex is mandatory
and non-negotiable.. Three, no rough stuff -
the only rule that's even remotely malleable provided there's mutual consent, although I say if that's your thing, take it elsewhere. And finally...
She halts a few feet from the registration desk.

BRITISH ACCENT

The initiator is responsible for the room.

JONATHAN

(takes him a second)
Oh - so I should...?

BRITISH ACCENT

Precisely.

BACK IN THE ELEVATOR

Jonathan is holding a key card. British Accent is leaning against the opposite wall, eyeing him with a slight grin. A moment. DING. The elevator doors open.

INT. MERCER HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

They are headed for a room as he ventures another question:

JONATHAN

So are there a lot of - people - who do this?

She turns to him with a look of growing impatience -- when the CREAK OF A CART causes them to glance up: a ROOM SERVICE WAITER is crossing past the far end of the hall. Jonathan turns back to find her staring at him uneasily.

BRITISH ACCENT

How did you get into this?

JONATHAN

Well, a friend of mine -

BRITISH ACCENT

He uploaded your numbers but failed to explain the basics?

(CONTINUED)

35.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

He's

- well, he was going out of town.
(off her frown)

I'm doing something wrong, aren't I?

BRITISH ACCENT

It's not that, it's just... well, you strike me as something of a stowaway. In fact if I were more suspicious, I'd say you didn't belong here at all.

Flustered, Jonathan's about to offer some explanation ---

BRITISH ACCENT

But obviously somebody felt you did.

The notion suddenly registers with Jonathan -- Wyatt!

BRITISH ACCENT

And I'm a sucker for bashful boys...

She takes his wrist, traces a finger over his palm... and removes the key card from his hand.

INT. MERCER HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jonathan and British Accent having sex. She has his arms pinned back, writhing on top of him, clearly enjoying the control - Jonathan remains awed, just enjoying the ride.

INT. MERCER HOTEL - BEDROOM- LATE NIGHT

Jonathan lies in bed-beside British Accent.

JONATHAN

Can I ask you something? Why do you do this?

BRITISH ACCENT

Why are any of us doing this? For the economics of the arrangement.

(rolls over, away from him)

It's intimacy without intricacy.

Jonathan's about to reply --

BRITISH ACCENT

Look, I've got a 7
a.m. breakfast, so...

She says no more. Jonathan stares up at the ceiling a beat.

JONATHAN

Well - good night.

(CONTINUED)

36.

CONTINUED:

She doesn't reply.

INT. CLANCEY INVESTMENTS

- CONFERENCE ROOM - LATE DAY

Jonathan.alone at his laptop, the stack of files down to a bare few. He dials a number on 'his' cell:

JONATHAN

(into phone)

Hey, I never heard back from you. I guess you're busy.with stuff over there.

(smiles to himself)

I've been kinda busy too! I've been wondering - did you mean for me to take your phone?

EXT. RHIGA ROYAL HOTEL - NIGHT

Jonathan walks the carpet-draped sidewalk toward the entrance

- then pauses, looks around in recognition of this same spot where Wyatt had gotten out of the cab that night.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

I've got a feeling you did. You dog! I can see you grinning right now.

Jonathan returns the BELL STAFF's chipper greetings and steps

inside --

JONATHAN

(V.O.)

Anyway, I just wanted to say... thank you.

SOUNDTRACK MUSIC SWELLING: to herald a MONTAGE:

INT. THE BENJAMIN - LOBBY - NIGHT

Jonathan seems somewhat more relaxed as he lingers in the lobby. A woman with a BOYISH HAIRCUT taps his shoulder.

INT. THE REGENCY - A ROOM - NIGHT

Jonathan and an ASIAN WOMAN having sex on a plush celadon

carpet, two briefcases resting side by side a few feet away.

INT. CLANCEY INVESTMENT SERVICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Alone as usual, Jonathan now seems strangely contented in this isolated state. WORKERS pass in the wall of glass, but now he doesn't bother looking up.
In his briefcase, we note the inclusion of a toiletries bag.

37.

INT. THE DRAKE

- LOBBY - NIGHT

At a registration desk, Jonathan hands his credit card to a DESK CLERK. A BELLHOP gestures to a luggage cart. Jonathan shakes his head, looking confidently past him to a TALL WOMAN seated inconspicuously among the various out-of-towners.

INT. THE DRAKE - ROOM - MORNING

Jonathan wakes up alone, his necktie knotted around a bedpost. He reaches for the phone, presses "Room Service."

INT. WEISS MURPHY INSURANCE - COPY ROOM - DAY

Jonathan is waiting to make some copies when the SECRETARY at the copier hands him a stack of paper...

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Can you hold these?

INT. THE MARK - ROOM -- LATE NIGHT

.only the voice belongs to the woman Jonathan is having sex with - referring to her legs that she wraps around him.

INT. THE FITZPATRICK - SUNDRY SHOP

- MORNING

Jonathan buys a bottle of O.J. and a 36-count box of condoms.

INT. WEISS MURPHY INSURANCE - CORRIDOR DAY

Carrying his coffee mug, Jonathan suddenly slows, his eyes locked on The Blonde with whom he'd first been at the Plaza. Her eyes fix on his as he nears

- a flash of mutual recognition... then nothing as they pass without a word. Jonathan can't help but allow himself the slightest grin.

INT. HOTEL ELYSEE - THE "CLUB ROOM"

- NIGHT

Jonathan wades confidently through a sea of YOUNG EXECUTIVES.

He approaches a REDHEADED BUSINESSWOMAN. He asks her something. She looks up, confused ---
-- when ANOTHER REDHEAD taps his shoulder. Her free hand slips into his,. their fingers interlocking...

INT. THE PARAMOUNT - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

. PULL BACK from interlocked fingers to find Jonathan's hand entwined with ANOTHER WOMAN'S. We realize we're watching their image in a MIRROR when we PAN away from the mirror...

(CONTINUED)

38.

CONTINUED:

to Jonathan and YET ANOTHER WOMAN having sex. The bed keeps banging against the night stand - a glass of water, moving closer to the edge with every bang. There's something almost rote about it, a numbness in the repetition... the glass FALLS, HITS the ground and BREAKS.
MATCH CUT TO: Jonathan PLUNGES into water.

INT. THE PENINSULA - HEALTH CLUB - MORNING

Jonathan doing laps. He emerges from the pool, strides with confidence past the tourists flanking him on either side: OLDER COUPLES snoozing, PARENTS adjusting floaties on kids,

BUSINESS TRAVELLERS with airport novels.
He continues toward us, hair slicked back, like Wyatt's.

MONTAGE ENDS/ CUT TO :

EXT. BROOKLYN - JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jonathan arrives at his building's steps to find Solange hurrying out of her flower shop. She embraces him warmly.

SOLANGE

Jonathan, for so long I don't see you!

JONATHAN

J'ai ete tres occupe. with work.
He's exhausted. And no longer so exhilarated by his nightly activities.

SOLANGE

Work? No, no. You believe you can trick me, Mr. Mischief Maker! I want to meet this lady friend of yours.
Jonathan is about to protest -

SOLANGE

Ah., ah
- ecoutez, I have beautiful winter-roses, just. arrived. She will swoon...
Jonathan smiles, but there's a reticence to it.

JONATHAN

Maybe later, okay?

SOLANGE

There is no later when it comes to love!
If you find it, you must not let it go.

(CONTINUED)

39.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan nods absently, continues up the steps
- when she

tugs his sleeve. He turns to her; she searches his eyes.

SOLANGE

There really is no one?
Jonathan evasively shakes his head.

SOLANGE

There should be, Jonathan. It is not good
for a young man to be too much alone.
He gives her an uncomfortable smile. She smiles back, but as
she heads inside, she looks both-sad and worried for him.
Jonathan continues up the steps, opens the front door and
disappears inside. We remain on the vacant street, hear his
FOOTSTEPS climbing the steps - and then the muted RING of

his

cell phone. A beat, then another...
.and the front door opens again as Jonathan steps back out
into the night.

INT. THE HUDSON HOTEL - LOBBY -- LATE NIGHT

Checking his reflection in a mirror while he waits, Jonathan
faintly hears what sounds like WYATT'S LAUGH. He quickly
turns to the sound: a bar off the lobby. Through slotted
glass he scans the backs of heads: a group of business men.
Reflected in the mirror, a WOMAN appears behind him.

Jonathan

freezes, his eyes grow wide -

WOMAN

Excuse me...

He doesn't breathe. Utterly stunned, he turns to confirm...

It's her.

-It's "S".

INT. THE HUDSON - ELEVATOR

Jonathan stares at her in sheer disbelief but she's
oblivious, smiling casually back at him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

"S" enters first, flips on the light, proceeds inside.
Jonathan enters tentatively behind her, eyes still glued.
"S" takes off her coat, drapes it over a chair. Jonathan
remains still and silent, just watching. She undoes the
wrists of her blouse, then the collar button.

(CONTINUED)

40.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan is about to say something but can't. She undoes the next button. We can glimpse a bra. She undoes the next --

JONATHAN

Before we...um, the thing is

- I know you.

She glances up, curious

- her hand lingering by the front clasp of her bra.

JONATHAN

Not 'know' exactly, but we sort of met before. In the Times Square subway station. It was raining...

— S —

(GRINS)

In the subway?

JONATHAN

You had no umbrella. You were soaked.

— C, .

It's true, I don't have an umbrella.

JONATHAN

Then you asked me if the N train stops at Canal.

She squints back at him, vaguely recalling him. She smiles warmly and continues to unbutton her blouse.

JONATHAN

Wait.

— S —»

Is something the matter?

JONATHAN

This just seems strange, that's all.

— S —

Because you've seen me before?

JONATHAN

Maybe. I don't know, it's just

(EXHALES)

Ever since that night on the train, I've thought about how nice it would be to see you again. And now suddenly, here you are, taking off your clothes.

â€ž S of

Bingo! So what's the problem?

(CONTINUED)

41.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

It's just that-

"S,1

(a generous smile)

Hmm, it is kind of a gear-shift.

She starts to button her blouse back up.

â€žâ€ž

Well, maybe some other time.

Jonathan is thrown as she reaches for her coat -

JONATHAN

Wait - don't go.

She glances back curiously.

JONATHAN

What I mean is, by any chance... are you hungry?

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - PRE-DAWN

A BELLMAN rolls a cart noiselessly down the carpet, placing early editions of the New York Times before each room.

He pauses by a door, quietly leaves a newspaper. We can hear the sound of JONATHAN AND "S" TALKING AND LAUGHING...

INT. HOTEL ROOM

They sit across from each other Indian-style on the bed. The radio is tuned to a pop music station. They're finishing a meal of burgers and fries, getting along famously. You have some ketchup on your chin.

JONATHAN

sorry, I'm a messy eater.

“

Me too.

Jonathan rubs at his chin with a napkin, misses. she takes the napkin, dabs it in water and cleans him up.

JONATHAN

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

42.

CONTINUED:

They continue to eat for a while, eyeing each other between bites.

JONATHAN

(POINTS)

Um, I think there's a little piece of...

“Sr.

.onion in my hair?

She laughs and flicks it.off.

Hmm...they get everywhere.

JONATHAN

By the way, my name's-

“S,

Don't!

She puts her finger to his lips. A first touch. An

electricity between them.

â€”C/,

(a playful smile)

You know the rules. No names.

JONATHAN

The 'rules' seem to specify no conversation either.

as.,

They are a little rigid, aren't they? But

I think we should obey the 'no names'.

It'll be fun!

JONATHAN

Ah, but I know.yours begins with an 'S'.

â€”Sir

Is that right?

JONATHAN

I saw part of the monogram on your briefcase.

./ S If

I see-Excellent work, Holmes.

(leans in, smiles)

Maybe I'll tell you if.you guess...

Her face is an inch from his, the moment mysterious and

sexy.

(CONTINUED)

43.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

(Holmes voice)

Hmnrn...what do we know of her? She sports a camel coat, a briefcase and possesses no

umbrella. I deduce...her name is 'Sybil'.

'S' laughs.

JONATHAN

Sarah? Sara? Samantha? Sandra? Susan?
She makes a little sound of encouragement.
Hun...

JONATHAN

Aha! Sue?
(shakes her head)
Suzie with a 'z'?
You're saying my name is 'Suzie'?

JONATHAN

is it?

â€žsâ€œâ€ž

Nape.
Jonathan laughs.

JONATHAN

I've got to tell you, I'm much better with
numbers... How about Sonia? Sheena? Wait -
Sophie! You're definitely a Sophie.

â€žs.

With an 'ie' or a 'y'?

JONATHAN

Either.

w7

Neither.

JONATHAN

How about Syd? As in Syd Charisse?
She was Cyd with a 'C'!

(CONTINUED)

44.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

But maybe you spell it with an 'S'?
,, S . If

I do not.

JONATHAN

Steffi? Sexy Steffi soaking in the:rain?.

She

mock-frowns.

â€šs.,,

Nein.

JONATHAN

Sally? Sally with three 'l's?

She

shakes her head, amused. Jonathan rubs his chin.

JONATHAN

Hmmm. Hmmm. The mysterious 'S' alighted from the train at Canal Street. She may well be from 'downtown'...hmm...ah! Of course! How foolish I've been; Sinead.

'S'

giggles, charmed by him.

JONATHAN

Stella? Sky? Sunbeam?

Â»S.,,

Do I look like a 'Sunbeam'?

JONATHAN

Absolutely. To me you are 'Sunbeam'.

â€šs.,,

Then so be it.

Jonathan considers this a moment, and concedes.

JONATHAN

Can I ask what you do for a living?

You first.

JONATHAN

I sit behind glass and watch people pass like fish.

She smiles - a more interesting answer than she expected.

(CONTINUED)

45.

CONTINUED:

ALSIP

You work in a bank?

JONATHAN

Nahh, I'm... I'm kind of an accountant.

us,,

Now I bet that's just what you wanted to do when you were a kid!

JONATHAN

Oh yeah. I'm living the dream. Feel free to leave now.

u S â€ž

Still here.

JONATHAN

So what about you?

â€žSâ€ž»

No, we're still on you, Frank.

Off Jonathan's look, 'Frank'?

â€žS.11

You look like a Frank. So, Frank, when you were a little boy, what did you wanna be when you grew up?

.Jonathan thinks. Confesses:

JONATHAN

A pro tennis player.

â€žS, .

Huh! I wanted to be an umpire.

JONATHAN

You're kidding?

â€žsâ€ž

Really! I loved the idea of sitting in that big, high chair.

(umpire voice)

'The ball was good, 'Mr McEnroe.'

JONATHAN

I can see it.

An 80's new wave love song comes on the radio. She beams,

reaching across Jonathan to turn it up.

(CONTINUED)

46.

CONTINUED:

a, S 11

I used to love this song.

"S" stands up on the bed, starts to dance. She reaches her hand out to Jonathan. He smiles, shakes his head.

JONATHAN

Trust me, it's not a pretty sight.

"S:",

I'll be the judge of that.

He hesitates, then takes her hand, rises to his feet, and starts to dance with her. He's self-conscious at first, but she's agile enough to guide him, and soon he's into it.

is S 11

See? You just need the right partner.

She closes her eyes, swaying with the music. They dance together. He's falling even harder for her.

As the song ends she holds his gaze -- when a small yawn escapes her. She covers her mouth.

of S+â€ž

I'm so sorry. Suddenly I'm crashing.

She drops down on the bed, tugging him down with her. They lie back, side by side.

JONATHAN

I'd like to see you again. Not in a hotel.

it S+ "

Hmm. I'd have to think about that.

JONATHAN

How about tomorrow?

/. S to

It is tomorrow.

She curls up next to him, rests her head on his arm, closes her eyes and drifts off. Jonathan gazes over at her. The perfect line of her jaw. The petite divot above her lip. The tiny pierced comma in a presently unadorned earlobe.

And then he notices, in the far corner: her purse. He stares at it; her name and personal details less than 20 feet away.

He hesitates, then tries to silently slide his arm out from under her -- when she stirs and nuzzles closer. He looks over

(CONTINUED)

47.

CONTINUED:

to the purse, then back at "S," sleeping peacefully on his arm... and chooses this perfect moment over knowing any more.

INT. THE HUDSON - HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

CLOSE ON JONATHAN'S SLEEPING FACE. His eyes slowly open. JONATHAN'S POV: her purse is no longer on the chair. He raises his head, sees that she's gone. He stares at her pillow. The indentation where she slept. Smiles to himself. He gets out of bed and heads for the bathroom. There's a

NOTE

on the desk on hotel note paper:
Frank - you snore like a tractor. Will call u later. Sunbeam xxx
He stares at the note, beaming - when his cell phone rings. Jonathan picks it up.

MAN'S VOICE

(V.O..)

Are you free tonight?
A bea- - and then Wyatt's familiar laughter.

JONATHAN

Hey! Are you back in town?

WYATT (V.O.)

I wish. It's friggin' anarchy in the U.K..
I'm stuck here at least another week.

JONATHAN

Oh. Because I thought I saw you last night

- at the Hudson.

WYATT (V.0.)

The Hudson, huh? Sounds like you've been enjoying my little gift.

JONATHAN

Yeah. I mean, I was. Only now - well, I met a girl. Not just any girl. The girl.

WYATT (V.0.)

That's fantastic! Who is the lucky gal?

JONATHAN

She's a member of your naughty little sex club. I have broken all the rules and had an honest-to-God conversation.

(CONTINUED)

48.

CONTINUED:

WYATT (V.0.)

That's extremely naughty of you! So what happened, Romeo?

JONATHAN

I'd like to say it's a long story but it's not. When you are coming back, you gotta meet her.

WYATT (V.0.)

So she's, what, a lawyer or something?

JONATHAN

I-have no idea, I don't know all that much about her. All I know is I can't wait to see her again.

WYATT (V.0.)

Listen, I don't want to dampen your spirits, but - be careful, okay?

JONATHAN

What do you mean by that?

WYATT (V.O.)

- who

Nothing. I'm just saying, this club
knows who anybody is, right?

JONATHAN

Yeah, yeah, yeah but - sometimes you just
have to go with what you feel, don't you?

WYATT (V.O.)

True enough. Hold on a sec.
Muffled sounds of Wyatt talking to someone else.

WYATT (V.O.)

It's non stop back-to-back bullshit here.
Listen, I'll call you later. And hey -
congratulations!
Wyatt hangs up. Jonathan smiles. And then reads the note
again - grinning.

INT. WEISS MURPHY INSURANCE - BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

The morning crush of executives filing toward elevators.
Among them we spot Jonathan, just slightly out of step, a
sleepy smile lingering on his face.

49.

INT. WEISS MURPHY INSURANCE - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATE DAY

Jonathan is working on his laptop, clearly distracted. He
looks at his cell phone, hoping it will ring, but it
doesn't.

He calls up the list of "Recent Calls: Incoming," scrolls up
to the top number. It reads: "Number Unavailable."
Jonathan looks worried, wondering how he can get a hold of
her - when his cell phone rings. He immediately picks up.

JONATHAN

Hello?

WOMAN (O.S.)

(unfamiliar voice)
Are you free tonight?

JONATHAN

(DEFLATED)

I think you have the wrong number.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Jonathan arrives at the subway station. He's a little
anxious
now, still hasn't heard from her. He lingers at the top of
the stairs, not wanting to descend. Below him he can hear
the
lonely roar of a train pulling in below.
only when the train quiets down does Jonathan realize his
cell phone is ringing. He picks up.

JONATHAN

Hello?
Intermittent static on the other end. And then what sounds
like a WOMAN GASPING; it's unclear if it's a sound of
pleasure or pain.

JONATHAN

.Hello?
The Gasping comes faster; Jonathan debates hanging up - when
the gasps halt,--replaced by the faintest whisp__of_ a
female
now
voice: "No... No please..." There's no mistaking the tone
it's fear - then. suddenly a shrill, terrified SCREAM...
- and the line goes dead. Jonathan stares breathlessly at
the
phone in his hand, like he's just witnessed something awful.
He quickly checks the display: "Number Unavailable."
Jonathan looks panicked with the possibility that it was
"S"-
- when the phone rings again. He hesitates, then picks up.

(CONTINUED)

50.

CONTINUED:

"S"

(V.O. FROM PHONE)

(COYLY)

Are you free tonight?

Jonathan exhales in relief on hearing her voice.

EXT. CHINATOWN - CANAL STREET - NIGHT

Jonathan stands on a corner, looking out of place amidst the glistening neon and bustle of Asian faces. He peers anxiously

down the street, checks his watch, all anticipation

-

- when something is wrapped around his eyes. He's startled, tugs it off and spins to find "S" smiling back at him.

if S I'll

I bought you a present.

She drapes the scarf around his neck. It's all striped, bright colors

- all the more funky against his dark suit.

I knew it. You look smashing.

JONATHAN

Sure you don't mean "clashing?"

She laughs

- then notices how tense he seems.

,/sâ€ž

Are you all right?

JONATHAN.

I guess. I got a call-before yours

- I'm

not sure if it was real, or if it was even meant for me - but there was a woman who sounded like she was being - I don't know, hurt. Maybe worse.

"S" seems instantly on edge. Something about this scares her.

If SIP

You don't know who she was?

JONATHAN

(shakes his head)
It could've been a prank.
(notices).
Now you're the one who looks scared.

..Sâ€ž

No, it's just
- it sounds creepy, that's
all.

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

She shakes it off, mustering a smile as she takes his arm.

â€žSâ€ž

Come on.

EXT. CHINATOWN -- AN ALLEY -- NIGHT

A makeshift street market, everything from fish and meat to cheap electronics for sale in cramped stands. Jonathan and "S" walk arm in arm through the packed crowd, like a couple. Jonathan looks like we've never seen him before: a fascination with everything around him, especially her. They pause at a stall selling cheap trinkets, including a small metallic wind-up toy of a duck riding a bicycle.

â€œS"

He's so cute! What's his name?

VENDOR

(DEADPAN)

Duck On Bike.
"S" beams like it's the greatest name ever.

INT. A RESTAURANT - CHINATOWN - LATE NIGHT

An intimate place, Jonathan and "S" are the only patrons at this late hour. They sit across from each other, grinning at

"Duck On Bike" as it totters across the table, trips over a chopstick and flails on its side.

/t S â€ž

Oh, poor Duck On Bike!

She uprights the toy and it keeps on moving across the table.

JONATHAN

You gotta respect him; he just keeps at it.

A WAITER arrives and sets down a laminated menu - entirely in

Chinese. "S" points to the characters like an expert.

J! \$ Ft

We'll have this... and this... oh, and let's try one of these. Thank you.

The Waiter nods, walks off.

JONATHAN

What did you order?

(CONTINUED)

52.

CONTINUED:

â€ž S of

I have absolutely no idea.

JONATHAN

How do you know we'll like it?

â€ž

S"

How do you know we won't?

Jonathan gazes at her a beat.

JONATHAN

This is so...not my life.

â€ž\$â€ž

Is that a good thing?

JONATHAN

More than you know.

O

" smiles. Jonathan looks at her.

JONATHAN

Ever since that night on the subway - I haven't stopped thinking about you. She lowers her eyes.

JONATHAN

Sorry, I didn't mean to freak you out. She slowly looks up again, touched.

â€šâ€ž

Are you always so honest?

JONATHAN

No.

it S.,

Even so, I'm not sure I believe you. Jonathan's look, 'why not?'

"S. â€ž

You're in the sex club! Another anonymous guy looking for anonymous action. I'm not judging you, I'm in there too, but don't say you've been solemnly holding a torch for me for - how long is it -- wow, one whole month! Jonathan smiles.

(CONTINUED)

53.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Point taken. But I've thought about you a lot.

,.S.,,

In between the mindless shtupping?

JONATHAN

And sometimes during.

She laughs. The waiter brings them their drinks.

JONATHAN

So how come you got involved in the club?

She frowns slightly, thinks.

“s . If

Wouldn't it be great if you could just meet someone and not have to do the 'work/family/previous relationships' thing?

Isn't who we are right now so much more interesting than where we've come from?

JONATHAN

Sure... but that didn't really answer my question.

She reaches over and takes his hand, holds it tenderly.

“s of

I know it seems like I'm holding out on you, but I'm not. It's just

- I turned

thirty this year, and I made this vow to live only in the present. And it's good, you know? And yes, maybe it's because there are things in my past I don't care to think about - but that's the same for everyone, isn't it?

He nods, still holding hands, loving every moment of this. is s . “s

I like you. I hope you like me. Can't that be enough?

Jonathan smiles, completely disarmed by her. The waiter brings their food and goes.

JONATHAN

I wasn't asking for an autobiography, you know. I was just curious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

If S. IS

(a beat)

A woman I know used to do it. So I decided to give it a try. For various reasons, it suits my present situation.

JONATHAN

You mean the intimacy without intricacy.

SCENE 110

It has its merits. At least I thought it did... until you came along.

He beams, gazing at her. Blushing, she starts in on the food.

Outside we can hear rain starting to fall...

EXT. CHINATOWN RESTAURANT - LATER

Jonathan and "S" step out into pouring rain, pause under the shabby awning. Waiters inside are putting chairs on tables. She fishes in her coat and pulls out a PACK OF GUM. The wrapper is entirely in Chinese. She offers him a piece.

JONATHAN

Oh - no thanks.

JIS. 11

Don't let the wrapper intimidate you. I buy it at a store nearby. It has ginseng in it, you know, for energy. It's not bad, though it sort of tastes like hairspray. She chews her gum. He watches her; the jaw line, her lips. She looks at him and smiles, but there's something behind

it:

a sadness. Almost an uneasiness.

JONATHAN

Hey, are you all right?

"S"

I don't want to complicate your life.

JONATHAN

Too late.

-- I want all the complication you've got.

She gazes at him, blinks back her emotions. it Sc,

Your glasses. They're fogging up.

She reaches out and gently removes his glasses.

(CONTINUED)

55.

CONTINUED:

She wipes the lenses, then peering into his eyes, slowly leans in to return them to his face... only she presses her lips to his instead, the glasses still in her hand, the kiss itself at once tender and passionate.

She absently lowers her hand, lost in the unexpected intensity of the kiss. Embraced, they accidentally step

under

the sheet of water falling off the awning. Jonathan guides her back beneath the awning's shelter.

At S is

(breathless whisper)

Maybe you should go...

JONATHAN

Maybe you should stay.

She smiles as he kisses her even more passionately. Again they feel the awning's drops, and Jonathan moves to shelter them -

- only "S" leans into him instead, leading him out from

under

the awning, the falling rain suddenly drenching their faces as they continue to kiss, the moment purely exhilarating. Wiping the rain from her face, Jonathan gazes at her, soaked and utterly beautiful, with something akin to awe - like

he's

just breathed for the very first time.

Rack focus on a hotel down the street, its neon sign reads: "Hotel Lotus."

INT. HOTEL LOTUS

- ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan and "S" lying on the bed in their white hotel bath robes

(underwear on), his arm around her as they watch TV. He strokes her hair. She nuzzles up to him. She changes channels. Finds some tennis.

JONATHAN

Perfect.
They watch together.
â€š..
So were you any good?

JONATHAN

Yeah. But I didn't want it enough. The guys who make it really need it. I played recently, first time in years. I've got this friend - a new friend, he's great.

(CONTINUED)

56.

CONTINUED:

(CONT'D)

JONATHAN

Maybe you'll meet him one day. Anyway, we played and he creamed me. But I knew I was better than him. He said I had no killer instinct.
I's. it
.I don't know, I think you're a pretty determined character.

JONATHAN

On a level with this feller?
He points to 'Duck on bike' watching over them like a charm.

"S

Given the chance I believe you could be.
She idly flips channels, finds a romantic melodrama, an old black and white film. They settle back to watch.

JONATHAN

I know we said we wouldn't rush. But for the record, I'm doing everything I can to apply the brakes here.
â€šS

. of

Me too.

(PAUSE)

And for the record, I'd like nothing more than to make love right now. But I'm kind of glad we decided to wait.

JONATHAN

It's a wise and mature choice we've made.

//s . ,/

Our parents would be proud.
Pause. Jonathan is wild with lust for her.

JONATHAN

But say we did, just say...
Mmhmm...?

JONATHAN

Say we were to suddenly tear off these robes... Would that be such a terrible thing? For two people in Manhattan -

â€šs.

In the small hours on a wet Winter's night...

(CONTINUED)

57.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

To consummate their deep human needs in a frenzy of...of...
Fucking and sucking?

JONATHAN

Beautifully put.
Its. I.
You were saying?

JONATHAN

Who - who would blame these two people?

â€ž

OIS

Who could possibly judge them?
They face each other, breathing deeply, almost panting...

JONATHAN

And who would know?
His face is inches from hers
- when she rolls over and
reaches for a glass of water on the night stand.
She sips her water, as she turns back to Jonathan. Still,
Jonathan picks up on her subtle shift.

JONATHAN

is everything okay?
She starts to say something, then stops herself and nods
instead. She sets down her glass, starts to get out of bed.

JONATHAN

Where are you going?

,I \$â€ž

(a mischievous smile)
For ice...

JONATHAN

(a lusty grin)
Ice, huh?

I,S,I

I saw a machine down the hall. I'll be
right back.
She starts to tie her robe closed -

(CONTINUED)

58.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

That's all right, I'll go.
He hops off the bed, grabs an ice bucket from the mini bar

and a key card from the table, he surreptitiously adjusts
his penis
(as one does): and goes to the door. He's about to turn
the handle when -

., Sâ€ž
Wait -

JONATHAN

(glancing back)

Yes?

She hesitates a cryptic beat - then shakes her head, and
smiles at him with immense tenderness. Jonathan beams back.
its . P1

Hurry, okay?

He blows her a kiss, she blows one back. Almost in SLOW
MOTION. She looks stunning.

INT. HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

As Jonathan exits the room, hold on the room number:

517.

Jonathan runs down the long corridor to the ice machine.

He's

giddy with excitement. Passionately alive.

At the ice machine: an eccentric OLD WOMAN in her night
attire is slowly filling a bucket. Piece by piece.

Her weak, gnarly hands plucking at the blocks not wanting to
break her long nails.

Jonathan hops around in an agony of frustration.

She turns, looks him up and down - he feels a bit self-
conscious in his robe and bare feet.

JONATHAN

Would you like some help, ma'am?

OLD WOMAN

I can manage, thank you.

Finally, her bucket is full and she goes on her way.

.Jonathan quickly fills his bucket with ice.

(CONTINUED)

59.

CONTINUED:

Returning down the empty hall, ice bucket in one hand, key card in the other, Jonathan hurriedly checks door numbers. We see Room 518

has the DO NOT DISTURB sign on.

Jonathan arrives back at room 517. He pauses and slips his robe from his shoulder, mock 'sexy'. He puts the card key in the lock, starts to open the door-- a small rectangular

light

blips RED. He tries the card again. Again red. He knocks on the door, calls out:

JONATHAN

I can't get the card to work.

He tries the card again. Leaning in, he thinks he hears something behind the door. He peers down at the key panel: red.

He knocks harder, waits for a response. None. Dead silence.

JONATHAN

Hello?... Hello?

He jostles the door handle: it won't budge. He's getting anxious now, his breath quickening. He tries the key card again: red. He pounds harder, then slams his shoulder into the door. Nothing.

Desperate, he tries the key card again -- and the light

turns

green.

- A millisecond's surprised hesitation - then he jerks the handle, throws open the door and Jonathan tumbles into

THE ROOM

He peers up into the small entryway: empty. Ahead of him we glimpse the foot of the bed, its mused blanket and sheets. Jonathan gets to his feet, starts for the bed, his breath quickening as he now notices a few red specks on the

blanket.

Panicked, he rushes forward to find BLOOD soaking the bed, splattered all over the crumpled sheets...

Jonathan gapes, horrified, the world crashing in on him just as he senses something behind him and BANG!

- something hits

him to the back of the head -- he goes down like a sack of potatoes.

BLACKOUT.

TWO HOURS LATER

THE ICE BUCKET on the floor. The ice has melted, a pool of water seeps out... follow the flow to arrive at Jonathan's

(CONTINUED)

60.

CONTINUED:

fingers... slowly responding to the cold water... The TV playing a different film now.

OVERHEAD OF JONATHAN lies on the floor. He groans a little. Rubs the back of his head. Checks his hand for blood.

Pain etched in his face, he manages to get to his feet, shaky. He looks around the room. It's EMPTY. No sign of "S." He runs into the bathroom. Also empty.

Back in the room, he tries the closets: empty. The

CONNECTING

DOOR between this room and the next: LOCKED.

He looks to where she'd draped her clothes and bag - every trace of her is gone. He whips back to the bed - the sheets are still crumpled, only there's no blood an here on them.

He runs to the window looks down at the street. It's four in the morning, no one around.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Tripping over his own legs, Jonathan runs barefoot down the corridor. He rounds a corner, another stretch of narrow corridor. O.S. we hear the muted DING of an elevator.

Jonathan tears off in its direction...

He stumbles into the open square in which the elevators are located. He crushes the down button, peers up to the floor indicator overhead: "4" slowly creeps to "3".

INT. STAIRWELL

His bare feet pounding the cement steps, Jonathan takes each floor faster, sweat on his brow and his palms which slip their grasp on the railing -- he tumbles head first,

crashing

to the 2nd floor landing. He clutches his head, gets up and continues to dash down...

BANG! of the stairwell's exit as Jonathan stumbles out; he lurches forward, finally looking up to find he's in

THE LOBBY

His undershirt tugged and misshapen, boxers twisted around his bare thighs, robe open, Jonathan scans the lobby, wild-eyed and shaking. It's utterly vacant at this hour, the only sound a piped-in muzak rendition of the Beatles'

"Yesterday."

SLAM! OF JONATHAN'S HAND ON THE FRONT DESK

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

The Asian Clerk working there snaps his head up with a startled gasp. Jonathan barely manages to breathe the word:

JONATHAN

help...

INT. HOTEL LOTUS -

5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - SHORT TIME LATER

Two hotel SECURITY GUARDS take the lead as they near room 517, Jonathan trailing, breathless and shaken...

JONATHAN

.I saw blood on the bed and then someone hit me. When I came to, she was gone.

SECURITY 1

This woman you were with. What's her name? Jonathan looks blank, his mind racing.

SECURITY 2

Sir?

JONATHAN

I don't know.
(off their looks)
It starts with an 'S'. I think.

SECURITY 2

Was shea prostitute?

JONATHAN

No! No, she's just a person. A friend.

SECURITY 2

A friend with no name.

JONATHAN

Of course she has a name! I just don't - we have to find her - something must have happened to her!

INT. ROOM 517

The two Security Guards are eyeing the bed.

SECURITY 1

I thought you said there was blood?

JONATHAN

I told you, whoever did this must have cleaned it up while I was out.

(CONTINUED)

62.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan freezes, eyes darting to the night stand.

JONATHAN

My wallet and keys
- they're gone! They
were right here...
He looks over to the chair where his crumpled suit lies.

His

SCARF is gone too.

SECURITY 2

Maybe she took them.

JONATHAN

What?!

SECURITY 2

It happens.

JONATHAN

She didn't do this, okay?! Something happened to her! You don't understand, we were... Wait!

He sees something on the floor between the bed and night stand. He runs to to pick it up: a Chinese Gum Wrapper.

JONATHAN

This

-- this was hers...

Jonathan clutches it desperately, the lone trace of her existence. The Guards exchange a look like he's INSANE.

SECURITY

1

Sir - are these your clothes?
Jonathan nods absently.

SECURITY 1

How about putting them on.

INT. LOBBY - LATER

Jonathan arrives to find DETECTIVE RUSSO
(female, mid-30s)
waiting by reception with a UNIFORMED OFFICER. Seeing Jonathan, she sizes him up a moment, then approaches him.

RUSSO

Mr. Messer, I'm Detective Russo.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - RUSSO'S DESK - LATER

Still shaken, Jonathan sits in a wooden chair across from Russo, amidst the din and traffic of the precinct.

(CONTINUED)

63

CONTINUED:

RUSSO

(SCEPTICAL)

And you don't know anything about her.
Where she works? Where she lives?

JONATHAN

I told you how we met.

RUSSO

Through a sex group.
Her flat words hang in the air. He guiltily avoids her eyes.

RUSSO

Does this group have a name?

JONATHAN

I don't
-- it's not like that.

RUSSO

Mr. Messer, I spoke to the desk clerk. She
only recalled seeing you check in.

JONATHAN

That's... that's the way it works.

RUSSO

All right. But now you're telling me that
in addition to this mystery woman, there
was another individual in the room?

JONATHAN

Not at first -- look, I know how it
sounds, but I'm telling you, whoever hit
me must have - I don't know -- taken her.
Maybe even...
He stops himself, shuddering to think of the implications.

RUSSO

Mr. Messer, have you had - experiences
like this before? Taking any sort of
medication?

JONATHAN

I'm not crazy, okay?! A woman vanished
back there! There was blood all over the
goddamn bed!
He becomes very conscious that this sounds crazy - when A
CELL PHONE RINGS: it's Russo's. She pauses, struck by the
genuine desperation in Jonathan's face. She finally picks

up.

(CONTINUED)

64.

CONTINUED:

RUSSO

Yeah.

(glances at Jonathan)

No, I don't think it's necessary... Right.

She hangs up and turns to Jonathan. He looks away, barely able to contain his devastation.

JONATHAN

What am I supposed to do?

An awkward silence, then:

RUSSO

If you want to file a report regarding the items she -

(corrects herself)

- the items you claim were stolen...

Jonathan shakes his head, crushed and exasperated.

JONATHAN

I'd like to go now. Is that all right? Can

I just

- can I go?

EXT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - FIRE ESCAPE - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

Jonathan climbs up to the landing, fishes in the dark for a boot. He tips it, a SPARE KEY falls out. As he starts back down, he feels something in his coat pocket. He reaches in, finds "Duck On Bike" where he'd pocketed it.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MIDDLE OF NIGHT

Jonathan stands motionless beneath the shower, face buried in his elbow, completely overwhelmed by his loss and longing.

INT. JONATHAN'S BEDROOM

Jonathan enters, wanders for his bed -- when he pauses, staring at his dresser. He approaches, peering down at something that's caught his eye...

HIS HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TROPHY. Nothing unusual - except for

a

small square outlined in dust three inches from the trophy base, the wood around its perimeter far more faded than the exposed area

- as if the trophy had recently been moved.

Jonathan swallows tensely, staring at the cryptic dust mark

-

(SOUND ADVANCE) BANG! of a file cabinet drawer yanked open

in

65.

A SPARE BEDROOM

Used for storage, including an old, gun-metal grey filing cabinet. Phone to his ear, Jonathan rapidly sifts through faded file folders crammed with papers and documents.

JONATHAN

(INTO PHONE)

.Your ad says

24-Hour Locksmith... Well

how soon could you-... Fine.

He opens a file: it's where he keeps his passport. He stuffs it in his back pocket, keeps searching, pulls a folder

marked

"CREDIT CARDS." Sorting through old statements, he finds the line: "To report a card lost or stolen..."

INT. JONATHAN'S BATHROOM - PRE-DAWN

CLOSE ON JONATHAN'S HAGGARD FACE in the mirror of a medicine cabinet as he pulls it open. He fishes around, finds what he's looking for: a SMALL BLACK CANNISTER for film. He pops the cap to reveal a fat roll of emergency money.

Jonathan exits the bathroom, crosses the living room to the foyer, where we find a LOCKSMITH finishing changing the

lock.

INT. JONATHAN'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Jonathan lies awake, staring at his muted TV, his face tear-stained, his eyes clouded.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

This is Jonathan Messer. I won't be able to come in today. I'm - pretty ill... 'Duck on Bike' sits on his nightstand next to his glasses.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - DAY

Jonathan seated, resting against the window, drifting off into restless sleep. We MOVE IN TIGHTER ON HIS FACE, tighter

--

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Next stop Canal Street. Canal is next.

:

Jonathan jerks awake. A few stares from nearby passengers.

EXT. CANAL STREET - DAY

Jonathan emerges from underground to hectic Chinatown. What once felt romantic now feels cold and exclusionary, a bustling mix of ASIANS and map-clutching TOURISTS. He surveys the area, -overwhelmed, eyes searching for anything resembling a clue. Foreign faces return only cold, blank stares.

(CONTINUED)

66.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan pauses by a STREET VENDOR, takes from his pocket the GUM WRAPPER he found in the hotel, shows it to the vendor...

INT. CHINESE MARKET - DAY

Cramped and dingy. Jonathan makes his way to the counter,

where an OLD WOMAN sits smoking. He holds up the wrapper.

JONATHAN

I was told you sell this gum here?
The Old Woman studies him a wary beat, then gestures to a candy display. In one box is the same gum.

JONATHAN

A woman - a white woman - buys this brand of gum. I need to find-
The Old Woman interrupts him in raspy Chinese.

JONATHAN

I'm sorry, I don't
-- Do you know the
woman I'm talking about? A white woman...?
Please, it's very important that I
--

GIRL'S VOICE

(O.S.)

My grandmother doesn't speak English.
Jonathan spins around to find a CHINESE GIRL.(13) in a smock.

JONATHAN

Can you ask if she knows the name of the white woman who buys this gum?
The Girl questions the old woman in rapid Chinese. She takes.
a dragon her smoke, then gives a lengthy answer. The girl nods, finally turns to an anxiously waiting Jonathan.

GIRL

She says they sell that gum in practically every store in Chinatown.

EXT/INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jonathan is struggling with his stiff new key, hearing his PHONE RINGING inside.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT

Jonathan rushes for the phone, picks up.

JONATHAN

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

DETECTIVE RUSSO

Mr. Messer?

INT. NY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - LOBBY

- AN HOUR LATER.

Creepy and drab. Jonathan enters, approaches a RECEPTIONIST. The Receptionist nods, points across the lobby to Detective Russo. Jonathan looks very worried.

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE

- A RICKETY ELEVATOR

The elevator descends with an unnerving rattle as Jonathan rides down with Russo.

RUSSO

The body came in late last night, although time of death's still unclear. She was found in a taxi: driver was in a .coffee shop on his break, came back to his cab and there she was in the back seat. The elevator shudders to a metallic stop.

RUSSO

Her purse was recovered from a dumpster about a block away, so we've got a name. Jonathan tenses as the elevator doors BANG OPEN.

RUSSO

Simone Forester.
Jonathan looks sick with fear.

INT. MORGUE

Russo leads Jonathan into the harsh fluorescent lights of the morgue. A MEDICAL EXAMINER (50s) looks up from a deli sandwich, takes one last bite and waves them over.

As they approach, Jonathan notices the TWO UNIFORMED OFFICERS stationed down here. They recognize Russo, nod in recognition - and eye Jonathan with hard, careful stares.

SAME - "MOMENTS LATER

The M.E. stands over agurney, casually lifts the sheet that's been draped over the body. We glimpse a slender foot. CLOSE ON JONATHAN beside Russo. He turns instantly pale, lip quivering as he stares in disbelief, our CAMERA SLOWLY COMING OVER HIS SHOULDER to get a look at

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

THE VICTIM'S FACE: it's not "S". But we do recognize her. It's the Blonde: the first woman he'd been with, the one he'd passed without a word in an office some days later. She looks the same, only death-pale and naked - and her neck marred by a thin, discolored line where she's been strangled.

RUSSO

Mr Messer...?
He tries to speak, but can hardly breathe, let alone answer.

RUSSO

Was this the woman you were with last night?
She frowns, suspicious of Jonathan's hesitation. His tense eyes whip across the morgue: the two cops still idling there. They're out of earshot, but their mere presence amps tension. Angle on the guns in their holsters. The handcuffs dangling

--

RUSSO

Mr. Messer?

JONATHAN

No - she's not. Not last night... no.
Russo studies his strained expression a suspicious beat.

EXT. MEDICAL EXAMINER BUILDING - SHORT TIME LATER

Jonathan exits behind Russo as they step onto the sidewalk.

RUSSO

I figured it was a long shot. The only
reason I called you down is she was last
seen with a man in the bar of the Hudson
hotel.

JONATHAN

(suddenly tenses)
The Hudson?

RUSSO

You mentioned this group of yours meets up
at various hotels. I thought it was worth
a shot.

about
Russo glances up at him, trying to read him - something
his reaction not sitting right with her.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

RUSSO

Mr. Messer, is there anything else you
want to tell me?
Nervous and torn, Jonathan manages to shake his head.

EXT. MORGUE/ STREET - NIGHT

phone.
Jonathan exiting the morgue, talking low into his cell

JONATHAN

Wyatt, it's me. I need to talk to you.
Call me, OK? Please.

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN LLP - LOBBY - MORNING

A pleasant RECEPTIONIST smiles up from her expansive desk.

RECEPTIONIST

May I help you?
Jonathan is standing across from her.

JONATHAN

Yes, I need to get in contact with one of
your attorneys, Wyatt Bose - it's
extremely important. He's working out of
the London office right now. If I could
speak to his assistant or someone who'd
know how-to reach him immediately...

RECEPTIONIST

Of course. Just a minute.
The Receptionist types into her PHONE SYSTEM. She shakes her
head, confused.

JONATHAN

B-o-s-e. First name Wyatt.

RECEPTIONIST

Wyatt with a 'Y'?

JONATHAN

Yes...
The. receptionist frowns.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh -- Ms. Pomerantz?
Angle on a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN walking past.

(CONTINUED)

70.

CONTINUED:

RECEPTIONIST

Ms. Pomerantz works in H.R..

MS. POMERANTZ

What can I do for you, Mr,

JONATHAN

Messer. Jonathan Messer. I'm an auditor
from worth and Berman.

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN - CORRIDOR

Jonathan walks alongside Ms. Pomerantz.

POMERANTZ

Are you sure you have the right firm?

JONATHAN

Yes

-- yes, I'm

--- He works here. I've seen

him working here. I net him here.

POMERANTZ

When was this?

JONATHAN

A few weeks ago. Wyatt Bose. Wait... here.
He hands her Wyatt's business card with the Rutherford Stern
masthead on it. She studies it with a look of confusion.

POMERANTZ

I don't know what's going on, but I can
assure you, there is nobody here named-

JONATHAN

I've seen him in the halls

- for Chrissake

we smoked pot in the conference room!

Ms. Pomerantz abruptly frowns, when Jonathan spots a LAWYER

-

FLASH INSERT == COFFEE LOUNGE

This Lawyer and another laughing at Wyatt's punch line.
Jonathan runs over to the Lawyer, grabs the man's arm.

JONATHAN

Thank God. Look, I'm trying to find Wyatt.

LAWYER

Who?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Wyatt Bose. I saw you talking with him,
cracking jokes in the coffee lounge.

FLASH ON SAME SCENE: Wyatt looks up, eyes meet Jonathan's.
Jonathan smiles in greeting... but Wyatt just nods coolly.

LAWYER

I crack jokes with a lot of people.

JONATHAN

Hold on, you're telling me you don't--

LAWYER

Hey - easy with the hands, okay?

Jonathan realizes he's got the man's sleeve in his fist. He
lets go, spins back to Ms. Pomerantz.

JONATHAN

He said he was in London with Mr.
Rutherford, paperinga -

MS. POMERANTZ

(O.S.)

Mister Messer.

Jonathan spins to find Ms. Pomerantz scowling at him. A
beat.

MS. POMERANTZ

Mr. Rutherford is presently recovering
from hip surgery. In New Jersey.

Jonathan glances around, to find everyone - lawyers,
assistants, mail clerks

- all staring at him.

INT. WYATT'S BROWNSTONE - DAY

Breathless, Jonathan bolts up a set of stairs, knocks on a
door. No answer. He knocks harder. From within we hear a set

of FOOTSTEPS. Sound of a lock turning, the door is opened...

JONATHAN

Wyatt -

.by a MAN in his early 60's, his WIFE behind him; both strike us as wealthy, downtown patron-of-the-arts types.

JONATHAN

Sorry, I

-- I need to speak to Wyatt.

MAN

Excuse me - Wyatt?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

Wyatt Bose. He lives here.

WOMAN

In this building? He must be new. See, we've been out of town the past 2 months -

JONATHAN

Not in this building - in this apartment.

MAN

(FROWNS)

Young man, we've owned this apartment going on thirty years now.

JONATHAN

But... I was right-here-with him...

The Man takes a step back, catching his wife's equally wary expression, his hand making for the chain lock.

JONATHAN

(DESPERATE)

Wait!! That painting there, it's
a Gerhard
Richter, right?

WOMAN

(even more uneasy)

Yes?

JONATHAN

From a gallery! In Munich - the one that
Herr Kleiner handles? The art dealer
downstairs?

MAN

Downstairs? You must mean Mr. Moretti, but
he's in the carpet business

-

JONATHAN

But Wyatt smoke to him.

MAN

Unless it was in Italian I doubt he got
very far.

Jonathan steps back, looking like he's losing his mind.

WOMAN

Young man... are you all right?

73.

EXT. WYATT'S BUILDING -- DAY

Jonathan stumbles out, breathing hard as he tries to grapple
with this

- when he slams up against a man's shirtfront. Two
hands grasp his arms, we glimpse a pair of black wingtips

-

- and whip tilt up to the papery face of "Herr Kleiner"

(aka

Mr. Moretti).

"HERR KLEINER"

Sono spiacente.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - EVENING

Jonathan sits slumped against a window, the world around him is ceasing to make sense. Across the aisle, a YOUNG BOHEMIAN COUPLE sit side by side, her head on his shoulder. On Jonathan's face there's a sense of loss that is almost overwhelming.

Jonathan takes the crinkled Chinese gum wrapper from his pocket, smoothes it in his hands, stares down at it with a look of longing...

. when his eyes suddenly widen. He sees something inside, something he hadn't noticed. He unfolds it to reveal two words written in a feminine hand on the white underside: I'm sorry

Jonathan quickly looks up, as if expecting someone else to share in this haunting discovery. of course, no one does. He stares back. down at it, bewildered, stunned - chilled.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION - CANAL ST., CHINATOWN - LATER

Jonathan runs out from the subway station. Determined, he walks down Canal street, his eyes suddenly land on a COPY SHOP across.

TIGHT ON JONATHAN as we see something click in his head -

INT. RUTHERFORD STERN - LOBBY - LATE DAY

Jonathan steps off the elevator, heads straight for the Receptionist. She immediately looks nervous.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir, we asked around, nobody knows the guy

YOU'RE-

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

When I was working over here, you made a

photocopy of my I.D..'

RECEPTIONIST

We do all freelancers, it's policy.

(REALIZES)

Oh - I'm not sure I'm allowed to-

JONATHAN

You have to.

She looks at him', sees his desperation.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Jonathan is flipping through the stack of photocopies, then halts on one. He stares at it. The Receptionist peers over.

RECEPTIONIST

That's him? He was real cute. Only he wasn't a lawyer. He was a systems analyst, I think. He was here for a few days to work on the computers.

RECEPTIONIST'S POV: of the photocopy in Jonathan's hand.

It's

of a Massachusetts Driver's License. Staring back up at us

is

Wyatt's smiling face.

RECEPTIONIST

I thought you said his name was Wyatt?

PAN TO THE NAME beside the photo: Sansky. WilliamR.

Jonathan is already running for the EXIT.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT -- HIS BEDROOM - EVENING

CLOSE ON JONATHAN'S LAPTOP SCREEN as an internet search engine runs the name: "Bansky, William." A page of some 200+ matches is returned. Jonathan readies himself, then dives

in.

Beside the keyboard rests the receptionist's photocopy of William Bansky's Massachusetts driver's license. We see Detective Russo's business card resting a few inches away.

ON JONATHAN - MOMENTS LATER

Checking URLs site by site. He finally pauses on one. It's

an

article from the Boston Herald. The headline: "POLICE HAVE FEW CLUES TO YOUNG EXECUTIVE'S DISAPPEARANCE." As Jonathan scans the article, we glimpse some lines of text:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

"...looking for William Roger Bansky, age
31...was employed
on a freelance basis by an on-site software consulting firm
in Boston..."

-- .Bansky
recently relocated from the

Chicago area..."

-- " 'lavish lifestyle'..."
-- .a

number of bad checks" . debts"
.a young man on the run..."

Tilt up to Jonathan, scribbling on a Post-it pad:

WYATT BOSE = WILLIAM BANSKY, SOFTWARE CONSULTANT, BOSTON

ORIG. FROM CHICAGO -- \$\$ TROUBLE

He sticks the post-it to the photocopy of Bansky's ID. He
steps back, stares at it a beat - when he notices something
on his desk,,resting under the phone: a manila file folder.

He frowns at it - clearly out of place here. He picks the
file up, opens it... to a series of

8X10

photographs?

Heart racing nervously, he takes one out: it's of Jonathan
standing in the Plaza lobby by the Eloise portrait.

Confused,

he quickly flips to the next one: in it, a Blonde now stands
there with him -- the Blonde found murdered. Simone

Forester.

Jonathan's rapidly breathing as he shuffles through more
photos. They're in sequence, taken by telephoto lens.
Jonathan and Simone Forester getting in the elevator.

Opening

the room door. Undressing. Screwing. In one, Jonathan has

his

hands on her neck...

He's sweating with anxiety- when suddenly the phone rings,
startling him. He eyes it warily, then slowly picks up.

JONATHAN

Hello?

RUSSO

(O.S.)

Mr. Messer, it's Detective Russo returning
your call.

fixed

Jonathan freezes, tries not to sound panicked, his eyes
on the damning photos of himself and Simone Forester.

JONATHAN

Oh - right, I was just - checking in, to
see if you had any leads...

RUSSO

On that missing girl of yours? No, not
yet.

(CONTINUED)

76.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

(anxious to hang up)
Oh - okay, thanks-

RUSSO

(O.S.)

Are you sure you didn't know Simone
Forester?

The PHOTOS of Simone in his hands, Jonathan tenses...

JONATHAN

I told you before -

RUSSO

(O.S.)

I remember what you said.
(an unsettling silence)
And you weren't at the Hudson two nights
ago?

JONATHAN

I don't
- why are you-

RUSSO

(O.S.)

Turns out among credit card charges made that night, there was one with your name. The card was declined.

JONATHAN

I cancelled them all, the day they got stolen.

RUSSO (O.S.)

I see. I figured it didn't mean much - cards move quickly. It just struck me, you know.. The coincidence. Jonathan can hear the suspicion in her pause.

RUSSO

(O.S.)

By the way, the morgue confirmed strangulation as cause of death. He found trace fibres of Kevlar in her neck wound.

JONATHAN

Kevlar?

RUSSO (O.S.)

It's used in certain kinds of rope and string.
Jonathan's eyes suddenly go wide; whip pan with his gaze
to
the hall closet door.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

RUSSO (O.S.)

Mr. Messer?

JONATHAN

Yes
- yes, I'm --

RUSSO (O.S.)

Thought I lost you for a second.

(PAUSE)

Well, I won't keep you. You have a good night.

Jonathan slowly hangs up, his panicked gaze returning to the hall closet as he paces toward it, throws open the door.

In the far corner rests his racket bag. He grabs it, yanks open the zipper... his face draining of all remaining color as he peers into his empty racket ba

. His racket is gone.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Jonathan pacing the floor, paranoid. He holds Detective Russo's card. Knows he should call back. He abruptly reaches for the phone, and dials... another number.

JONATHAN

I know, okay? I know your name isn't Wyatt Bose. I know you killed that woman. And I know you're trying to frame me for it, so - so - WHY? What the hell is going on? And where is she?! If you hurt her I swear to God I'll...

Jonathan falters, unsure where he's going with this and realizing he's now talking to himself.

COMPUVOICE

TO-SEND-THIS-MESSAGE--PRESS-POUND-OR-

simply-hang-up. To-erase-and-record-a-new-messa ge---press-Star.

Jonathan hesitates, hits the Star key. A new BEEP. Harder:

JONATHAN

It's me. I need to talk to you.

He hits pound. Breathes. At least he's done something.

Suddenly from O.S. a faint creak. Jonathan spins, scans the room, grabs the nearest blunt object: his tennis trophy.

QUICKLY CUT SHOTS of Jonathan searching his apartment, his

trophy raised as a makeshift weapon.

(CONTINUED)

78

CONTINUED:

He finally halts, uneasy but satisfied there's no one else here - when his home phone rings, startling him. RING... RING... RING... Jonathan hesitates. His machine picks up:

JONATHAN'S ANSWERING MACHINE

This is Jonathan. Please leave a message.
BEEEEP. A moment of hiss

- then:

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Jonathan?

Jonathan whips to the phone - it sounds like Wyatt ---

PETERSON

(O.S.)

Chet Peterson calling -
-- only it's not.

PETERSON

(O.S.)

I understand you were out today. I left messages on your cell but never heard back, so I thought I'd try you at home. He slowly lowers his trophy as he listens, staring out the window at the dark night and empty street below.

PETERSON

(O.S.)

Just want to make sure you're up to speed with Weiss Murphy, because the folks at Clute Nichols are expecting you...

INT. SUBWAY CAR - MORNING

Jonathan sits in a crowded car, dressed for work.

PETERSON

(V.O.)

They're our biggest client, so needless to say, make them your top priority... Jonathan takes out the crinkled Chinese gum wrapper. He stares at it with a look of longing: this is his Priority-

EXT. CHINATOWN -- DAY

A series of shots: Jonathan asking around about "S." The street vendors. The receptionist at the hotel. The waiter at the restaurant where they ate... They all shake their heads. Heading back for the subway, dejected, he steps on a discarded page from the newspaper's Metro section, sees a headline: "STILL NO SUSPECT IN MURDER OF YOUNG EXEC." The photo is of Simone Forester.

79.

INT. CLUTE NICHOLS BROKERAGE - CORRIDORS

- LATE DAY

Intensely preoccupied, Jonathan walks alone past assistants and execs. In his eyes a sense of paranoia, a mistrust of every strange face.

INT. A CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Isolated behind yet another wall of glass, Jonathan just stares bleary-eyed at his laptop, unable to work.

EXT. CLUTE NICHOLS BUILDING - NIGHT

Jonathan exits, starts toward the sidewalk -- but hears something: sandpaper SHUFFLE of shoes on pavement. Be spins

--

No one there. Just one of many large stone pillars adorning the building. Jonathan peers anxiously at the pillar, wavering. He steps closer, trying to glimpse behind it - RING! of his cell-phone breaks the stillness. RING...

RING...

He catches his breath, quickly picks up. A silent beat.

A WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Are you free tonight?... Hello?
He hangs up, chilled. Turns again to the pillar, steps
closer
- no sound. He hesitates... then turns and walks off.

INT. TIMES SQUARE SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

People heading home from work. Jonathan among them, utterly desolate. Sliding his MetroCard, he suddenly feels watched again. He spins, peers anxiously behind him. Only strange faces passing through turnstiles.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CORRIDOR

A narrow, curved stretch of grimy walls of ads and graffiti. Jonathan keeps a quick pace, feeling vulnerable. We lag back, following him from an ANONYMOUS POV; glance up at a sign for stairs to the N & R trains.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM

Jonathan is waiting for his train, eyes nervously glancing around, still feeling watched -
When he sees a young woman standing all the way across on
the
opposite platform, waiting for a train. She casually turns her head, and Jonathan's eyes go wide...

(CONTINUED)

80.

CONTINUED:

It's "S."
Jonathan just gapes across the divide of two subway tracks; he can't believe he's seeing her again...
. when she starts to back away, almost as if she might run. Confused, Jonathan rushes to the edge of his platform.

JONATHAN

wait! Wait, right there!

Jonathan stands on the edge reeling, desperate to get, to
her.
He looks around, hears the distant: .nimble of afar. off
train,
and suddenly he does something we'd have never thought him
capable of: he jumps onto the tracks!
He lands hard, nearly breaking his ankle, but quickly
scrambles to his feet, splashing in the sludge between
rails,
eyes darting along the track, anxious to avoid the third
rail, ears attuned to the sound of that distant train as he
races for

THE CENTER DIVIDER

He reaches the grimy rungs and quickly climbs up.
He gets to his feet on the center divider - now only one
lane
of track separating him from the platform she was standing
on
- only she's no longer there?
He scans the people waiting, no sign of "S" among them - and
then suddenly he spots her, heading for the exits.

JONATHAN

STOP!

She glances back, utterly stunned to find Jonathan standing
on the center divider, feet soaked in muck.
Neither speaks for a moment, just staring at each other
across the solitary track. Then:

JONATHAN

I thought you were dead!
She looks like she wants to say something, but doesn't. And
all at once he's hit with a crushing realization:

JONATHAN

You are in on this, aren't you?!

She holds his eyes a moment longer, fighting back emotion -
then she abruptly turns and starts back for the exit again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

How do you know him?

(off her silence)

Damn it answer me!

She halts, slowly looks back at him.

of camãŽ

Through the club. He caught me trying to steal his wallet.

Jonathan looks confused; she's struggling to stay composed but looks like she could break down at any moment.

ãŽsãŽ

He asked if I wanted to make some real money. All I had to do was get involved with you, and not ask any questions.

Jonathan just stares, devastated.

JONATHAN

So everything between us - was nothing?

She fights back tears.

., S

No - no... After that first night I tried to call it off, he said he'd kill me if I didn't go through with it.

JONATHAN

Go through with what?

ãŽC, .

The plan. Get you out of the hotel room, slip out and meet up later for my money. Only I ran instead. He's been looking for me ever since. I have to leave the city -

JONATHAN

Then why didn't you?

sãŽ

Because I needed to see you again. I needed to be sure you were all right.

Despite his conflicting emotions, Jonathan is moved
by this.

S,f

I didn't know how to find you - you were just a number in a cell phone, and

(CONTINUED)

82.

CONTINUED:

'is"

(CONT-D)

Jonathan had taken that. I remembered you took this train -

JONATHAN

Wait, Jonathan? I'm Jonathan. Jonathan Messer. You're

-?

O.S. we hear the approaching roar of an INCOMING TRAIN...
ii S

7f

Did you go to the police?

JONATHAN

I can't. He's framing me for murder. What?

JONATHAN

He killed a woman from the club, someone I'd been with.

"S" is shocked., instantly terrified. Clearly she had no idea.

I/ S\$ f

Jonathan, you have to leave! Do you understand? You need to get the hell out of here, he's going to kill you!

The roar of the incoming train is growing LOUDER...

Don't you understand? He's going to kill -

- when the INCOMING TRAIN completely drowns him out... and swipes "S" out of Jonathan's view.

Jonathan struggles to peer through the train windows but its passengers prevent him from getting a look at her. Just then the TRAIN DOORS OPEN WITH THE NOISE of passengers getting on and off. Panicked, Jonathan cranes his neck, trying to see her through the windows.

JONATHAN

STOP!

He boards the train; using it as a bridge, he pushes through passengers, desperate for an open door to the other side.

(CONTINUED)

83.

CONTINUED:

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Shuttle to New York's Grand Central Station. Grand Central is next.

He jumps off the train, in the direction she'd been walking -- only she's nowhere in sight. Jonathan spins frantically

as

the doors close and he hears the TRAIN START TO PULL AWAY.

He runs alongside the train - desperately searching for a glimpse of her

- no sign of her in any of the windows...

.until the last car passes

- and there she is, standing at

the rear observation window, her hand pressed to the pane, her tearful expression bidding him a heartbreaking goodbye.

He stumbles to a devastated halt, eyes pleading vainly as he watches her recede, framed by the rectangle of window, directly beneath it the train's steel. exterior labelled the shuttle line's circled black and white S.

INT. GRAND CENTRAL STATION - MAIN CONCOURSE - LATE NIGHT

TILT DOWN FROM THE CONSTELLATIONS of the vaulted ceiling to the tiny figure of "S," standing at the ticket counter, staring uneasily through bars at a TICKET AGENT.

TICKET AGENT

Let's see - there's one to New Haven, leaving in... six minutes. If you need to go farther, you can transfer from there.

"S" peers anxiously around her, like someone hunted.

#; SIT

And that's the very next train leaving?

**INT. METRO-NORTH TRAIN
(IDLING IN THE TERMINAL)**

Only a few scattered travellers this late. "S" slumps into a seat, takes a breath - and starts to quietly break down. She shuts her eyes, tries to stifle her sobbing. A man's hand extends a handkerchief from the seat behind her.

â€žSâ€ž

No thank you.

RACK FOCUS on the man withdrawing his handkerchief behind her, grinning coolly to himself: it's-Wyatt.

WYATT

Suit yourself.

(CONTINUED)

84.

CONTINUED:

RACK BACK TO "S" as her eyes blink open in terror --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. JONATHAN'S BUILDING - MAILBOXES - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan yanks open his mailbox. Empty. As he heads upstairs, there's a change in his face: a newly forged determination. He takes out his cell phone, dials. The other end immediately picks up:

COMPUVOICE

(O.S.)

WORTH-AND-BERMAN-VOICE-MAIL-BOX-FOR-

JONATHAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Jonathan Messerâ€œ
Jonathan hangs up. Takes an angry breath. Presses redial.

COMPUVOICE

(O.S.)

WORTH-AND-BERMAN-VOICE-MAIL-BOX-

He hangs up again. But his face bears a blank, eerily driven expression. He hits redial again as he opens the door to

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT

Jonathan enters, phone still to his ear.

COMPUVOICE

(O.S.)

WORTH-AND-BERMAN-VOICE-

Jonathan hangs up and just stares at the phone in his hand, on the verge of something like a scream. He takes a breath. Presses redial once more. Only now it RINGS. Jonathan freezes. RING... RING... RING... RING... RING -- a CLICK of someone picking up, then SILENCE and faint wisps of static.

JONATHAN

Hello...?

Not a word from the other end. We barely make out BREATHING.

JONATHAN

Wyatt? Is that you?

Jonathan takes a tentative step forward, as if fearful that the least movement will cost him this connection.

JONATHAN

Say something damn it!

From the receiver we hear a well-exhaled breath. And then:

(CONTINUED)

85

CONTINUED:

WYATT'S VOICE

(O.S.)

(sung in a low whisper)

Yesterday...
Reeling, Jonathan grips the phone tighter to his ear.

WYATT'S VOICE

(O.S.)

All my troubles seemed so far away...

JONATHAN

What do you want from me?

WYATT'S VOICE

(O.S.)

Now it seems as though -

JONATHAN

Answer me!

WYATT'S VOICE

(O.S.)

- they're here to stay, Oh I believe

JONATHAN

Why are you doing this to me?!

WYATT'S VOICE

(O.S.)

- in yester--

JONATHAN

I'm going to find you, you hear me? I'm-
CLICK. Dead air.

JONATHAN

Hello?... Hello?!

Jonathan SLAMS the phone down, tension in his face joined by
a new emotion, something closer to. fury.

JONATHAN

I'm going to find you.

EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - STREET - DAY

Jonathan is heading for the Clute Nichols building, that
same
focused tension on his face -

WOMAN'S VOICE

Mr. Messer?

Jonathan is too lost in thought to hear it.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(CONT'D)

Jonathan.

(CONTINUED)

86

CONTINUED:

He glances up... to find Russo standing near the entryway - what's she doing here? He has no choice but to meet her.

RUSSO

I was gonna call, but I was in the area.
Just doing some follow-up.
Jonathan tries to mask his uneasiness.

JONATHAN

Follow-up?

RUSSO

On that missing girl of yours. The one
whose name began with. an "S." Have any
luck finding her?
Jonathan absently tightens his grasp on his briefcase.

JONATHAN

No. No luck.

RUSSO

I see. That's too bad.
she studies him a cryptic beat, then smiles flatly.

RUSSO

Well, who knows, maybe she'll turn up yet.
You have a good day, Mr. Messer.
Jonathan nods tensely, then walks off, feeling her watching
him from the curb as he goes.

INT. CLUTE NICHOLS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Employees pass by the glass behind which we see Jonathan - a lone figure at his laptop, surrounded by files and post-its. Close on Jonathan as he scribbles on a post-it: "Yesterday - Beatles?" Widen to find the post-its organized with his

usual

fastidiousness
- only scribbled with words, not numbers:
"Wyatt Bose = William Binsky" and other random scribblings.
He's trying to apply his mathematical mind to his crisis,
hoping to conjure some kind of pattern or logic to it all.
Reverse angle through the glass: to anyone passing, he looks
like your typical overly meticulous, isolated auditor.
Closer on Jonathan as he clutches the table, looks seconds
away from utterly losing it -- when something suddenly
occurs
to him. He whips around, gaze fixing on

(CONTINUED)

87

CONTINUED:

His cell phone. He grabs it. Presses a key repeatedly -
scanning
- then hits SEND. Jonathan brings the phone to his
ear, listens for the other end; then:

JONATHAN

Are you free tonight?

CUT TO:

INT. THE KITANO HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Jonathan waits anxiously by a Botero sculpture of a rotund
dog. A young woman in a BLUE PASHMINA approaches.

INT. THE KITANO - ELEVATOR

Blue Pashmina enters first, Jonathan follows her into an
empty elevator. The doors close.

JONATHAN

Do you know Wyatt Bose?

BLUE PASHMINA

(immediately guarded)
Excuse me?

JONATHAN

What about William Banský? Does that name--
She darts for the "Door Open" button, but he blocks her
path.

BLUE PASHMINA

I swear to God I'll scream.

JONATHAN

Please, I'm not trying to scare you, I
just
-- I'm looking for someone and it's
very important that I find him.
she tries to push past him, again Jonathan blocks her.

JONATHAN

He does this too - or he did. someone had
to give him the numbers. Someone let him
in. If I can't find who it was that knew
him, they might know where he's
--
she suddenly kicks him in the shin with a spiked heel.
Jonathan grasps his leg - she presses the button and is out
the opening doors before he's even looked up.
SOUND ADVANCE: TENSE CLACKING of computer keys...

88.

INT. CLUTE NICHOLS

- CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME NIGHT

CLOSE ON JONATHAN alone at the end of the conference table,
eyes scanning files absently, fingers typing on auto-pilot.
His gaze holds a new determination, as the CLACKING OF KEYS

SET THE RHYTHM FOR A BRIEF MONTAGE-

INT. HOTEL CASABLANCA - LOBBY - LATER

quasi- Jonathan anxiously escorts ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN past the
of Moroccan motif. Asking her something, he takes out a folded
paper from his pocket, shows it to her: it's the photocopy

Bansky's license with the image of Wyatt's face. She quickly shakes her head, her eyes searching for the exit.

INT. THE LOMBARDY - BAR - NIGHT

Jonathan trails a TALL WOMAN as she bee-lines for the exit. He grabs her arm, thrusts the photocopy into her hands. She halts, looks up at him... and tears it in two before handing it back and hurrying off, her glare full of paranoia.

TNT. THE SHERRY-NETHERLAND - LOBBY - NIGHT

Jonathan rises from a couch to greet YET ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN.
He gets no more than a few seconds into his question when she about-faces without a word. Jonathan has a relentless look in his eye. Takes out his cell, calls another number...

INT. VARIOUS HOTELS - LOBBY COUCHES - NIGHT

Rapid jump cuts of A DOZEN DIFFERENT WOMEN'S FACES, all indicating twenty different kinds of "no"; with each cut the women occupy the exact same position in frame, only their faces and the hotel backgrounds behind them change.

INT. THE MICHELANGELO - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Room key in hand, Jonathan rides up with a woman in a BLACK BUSINESS SUIT - a tall, attractive business-type. Jonathan stares at his shoes, trying to mask his utter exhaustion.

INT. THE MICHELANGELO - A ROOM - NIGHT

Jonathan and Black Business Suit come in. She starts to

UNDRESS:

JONATHAN

I need to ask you something, it's incredibly important...

(CONTINUED)

89.

CONTINUED:

He pauses to unfold his now scotch-taped photocopy, shows it to her. She freezes, eyes fixed on the license photo. Jonathan braces himself for her departure

- when she stares
back up at him in scared but clear recognition.

SAME SCENE - MOMENTS LATER

Seated on the edge of the made bed, Black Business Suit shifts uncomfortably as she lights a cigarette.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

I was in Chicago on business, a little over a year ago. I was out to dinner with one of our Chicago partners, a man named Holloway. That's how I met him.

TIGHT ON JONATHAN as we SMASH TO:

INT. EXPENSIVE CHICAGO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A slightly older man
(HOLLOWAY) sits with his back to us.
Across from him sits Black Business Suit. A YOUNGER MAN
steps
into frame, rests his hand on Holloway's shoulder.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

(V.O.)
At first I assumed he was a junior executive at their firm. But he wasn't. That's not to say he didn't work for Holloway, but clearly in a more intimate capacity...

TNT. THE MICHELANGELO - ROOM - NIGHT

Black Business Suit takes a cool drag on her cigarette.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

I wasn't shocked. Besides, obviously I'm no prude. Even back then, I'd been doing - you know, this thing -- for a while.

INT. EXPENSIVE CHICAGO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Wyatt is talking, entertaining his two companions - but clearly more focused on Black Business Suit, flirting it up.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

(V.O.)
I was simply curious. More so when he

apologized, explaining that he'd forgotten about another engagement. Wyatt's knuckles just barely stroke Black Business Suit's thigh as he rises to leave. They exchange a knowing glance...

(CONTINUED)

90.

CONTINUED:

BACK TO MICHELANGELO ROOM

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

I was intrigued. He was intelligent, informed about everything from law to art to politics. I'd never met anyone so in command of his own charm. He said that he'd come from nothing, that everything he learned, he learned from his tricks. He claimed that Holloway was even grooming him for a position at his company. She lights another cigarette with her old one.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

In a way, I felt for him. But I also admired him. It sounds silly, but he had a way of making me feel - close to him, you know? This clearly hits home with Jonathan. He barely nods.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

So I found myself telling him things.. Personal things. And, next thing I knew -

JONATHAN

You told him. About this. A beat, and she nods, crushing out her other cigarette.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

He seemed fascinated by it. Wanted to know all the details.

(EXHALES)

I suppose I'd had too much to drink. And I was distracted... I was thinking about what a great lay he was going to be.

INT. FOUR SEASONS CHICAGO - SUITE BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Wyatt and Black Business Suit go at it with animal aggression. She's on all fours, arching lustily, pleasure nearly unbearable, eyes clenched shut as she climaxes. Exhausted, her body goes limp.

TILT UP to his face: an eerily blank, driven stare, devoid of

real pleasure. She struggles, tries to protest - when his hands grip her shoulder blades, thrusting harder, violently pinning her down, her sudden fear stifled by the mattress --

INT. THE MICHELANGELO - ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Black Business Suit staring off, chilled by memory.

(CONTINUED)

91.

CONTINUED:

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

Only afterwards I discovered two of my credit cards were missing. As was my cell phone. Of course I couldn't say anything to Holloway. And Jamie must have known I'd never report it to the police.

(BEAT)

So I just put the incident out of my mind. I all but forgot about it, until one night, maybe two months ago -

INT. THE WARWICK (NYC)

- LOBBY - NIGHT

Black Business Suit is crossing the lobby for a portrait of Hearst and A SUITED MAN lingering beneath it... when the man

looks up. It's Wyatt.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

(V.0.)

I almost didn't recognize him. But when I did, I suddenly felt very, very scared. She freezes -- obscured by one of the trees as Wyatt checks his watch, scans-the lobby with a cool, piercing look.

BACK TO BLACK BUSINESS SUIT AND JONATHAN IN THE MICHELANGELO

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

I left before he saw me.
She drags on her cigarette, looks off into space.

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

He must have used my cell phone to get into the group.
(crushes out her cigarette)
Anyway, that's it. That's all I know.
She looks around. At the room, the bed. She shudders, rises.

JONATHAN

Wait - thank you.
(off her look)
Have you ever run into him again?

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

Getz? No. And I don't ever want to.

JONATHAN

Getz?

BLACK BUSINESS SUIT

That was his name. Jamie Getz.

92.

EXT. FLEUR DE SOLANGE - NIGHT

for Bundled in her ski jacket, Solange is closing up her shop the night, stacks of flowers in her arms, when she notices Jonathan coming down the front steps.

SOLANGE

Jonathan, you're home early -
Only when he looks up, she finds the young man in the
overcoat isn't Jonathan. It's Wyatt.

SOLANGE

Oh - je suis desole. My mistake.
Wyatt flashes her an icy smile, continues down the steps.
Solange watches him walk away, a puzzled look on her face.

INT. MICHELANGELO - HOTEL BUSINESS CENTER - NIGHT

Huddled over a computer, Jonathan typing, eyes red from
exhaustion and stress as we hear his recall:

JONATHAN (V.O.)

who's James Getz?

WYATT (V.O.)

A guy I roomed with freshman year at
Princeton.
on Jonathan's monitor we see he's on a web site for
Princeton
University alumni. He types in: Getz, James.
A beat - then: "No match." A long list of G names follows.
Jonathan scrolls down the list, but there's no Getz.

JONATHAN

Shit.
Jonathan exhales, about to log off - when a name among the
H's jumps out at him: Holloway. Reed.
Jonathan stares at it tensely - then clicks on the name.
"Sort no contact information available."
Jonathan thinks a moment - then tries a search engine,
types:
"Holloway Reed" then decides to add the word "missing."
An article appears. From the Chicago Tribune: "BODY OF
MISSING BUSINESSMAN FINALLY DISCOVERED." A head-shot style
photograph shows a man in his early 40s whom we recognize
from Black Business Suit's story. Beneath his photo, his
name: "Reed Holloway."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jonathan glances up at the Hotel employee manning the desk.

JONATHAN

Can I print this out?

**EXT. EIGHTH AVENUE
(HELL'S KITCHEN) - LATE NIGHT**

Porn shops and prostitutes, the streets pulsing with a sinister energy. Jonathan is pacing toward the subway, reading over the printed article.

EXT. BROOKLYN - ELEVATED SUBWAY PLATFORM - LATE NIGHT

Jonathan descends the steps to his presently deserted neighborhood. O.S. the departure of the subway train is joined by the distant wail of SIRENS. Jonathan continues down the block, then pauses. He wrinkles his nose, smelling something. He looks up: two blocks away,

a

thick plume of smoke is billowing up into the sky --

EXT. JONATHAN'S DUPLEX

Jonathan bolts around the corner to find an ambulance and fire engine curbside -- a fire raging in the lower story of his building!

Running toward the blaze, he speeds past a BLACK BMW parked across the street, engine running. It suddenly shifts into gear and peels out in a fast turn. Jonathan spins

- something

about it troubling him - but the BMW is already gone. He continues racing toward his building...

The neon "FLEURS DE SOLANGE" sign crackles and sparks in the flame. Through blown out windows, piles of burning flowers emit what must be an awful stench.

Two EMS WORKERS are loading a gurney on which Solange lays, burned and half-aware, but alive, when Jonathan rushes over. She manages to open her eyes, her voice barely audible:

SOLANGE

Jonathan...

He squeezes her hand as she's lifted into the ambulance.

JONATHAN'

(to EMS worker)

Is she going to be okay?

EMS WORKER

Yeah, she'll make it.

(CONTINUED)

94.

CONTINUED:

The ambulance doors SLAM shut. A hand grabs Jonathan's arm.

He spins

- it's a FIRE WORKER.

JONATHAN

I live here.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Thick smoke clouds the stairs and corridor. Suit jacket over his head, Jonathan is hurriedly escorted by the Fire Worker. His own door has already been kicked open, splintered at its hinges. The place looks like it's been turned upside down, furniture soaking wet, charred areas on walls.

FIRE WORKER

Lucky we were able to contain it somewhat.

Better get your valuables together.

INT. JONATHAN'S BEDROOM

still in shock, he tosses random clothes in a gym bag -

"Duck

on Bike" too.

JONATHAN

(calls out)

How did it start?

FIRE WORKER (O.S.)

We're not sure. Maybe a bad fuse.

INT. JONATHAN'S BATHROOM

Jonathan opens his medicine cabinet, takes out his small

film

cannister, uncaps it to see how much money he has left. Not very much. He stuffs the cannister into his pants pocket.

INT. SPARE BEDROOM

Jonathan opens his old gunmetal-gray filing cabinet, then pops open his briefcase, trying to decide what to take. He finds a file marked "Bank Statements," pulls it, about to toss it in his briefcase - when he stops, something about

its

contents ---

CLOSE ON THE FILE. Stuffed with paper. But not bank statements... Copies and copies of photographs of Jonathan with Simone Forester. Some we've seen, some new. Jonathan hunts through more files, his breathless nausea telling us the contents of each and every file have been swapped out with photos.

(CONTINUED)

95.

CONTINUED:

He opens another at random - and freezes: it's a photo of Jonathan and "S" walking in Chinatown. He scans through others, shots of them in the restaurant, entering the Hotel Lotus...

TIGHT ON JONATHAN, terrified by the horrific implication -

FIRE WORKER

(O.S.)

Mr. Messer?

Jonathan gasps as he looks up to find the Fire Worker in the doorway. He quickly shuts the file.

JONATHAN

Just

- give me a minute.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A paranoid-looking Jonathan returns with a briefcase stuffed near to bursting. The tired Fire Worker looks up impatiently.

FIRE WORKER

That everything?
Jonathan regards his minimal possessions, realizes how
evidence there is of a life. A wrenching sense of isolation.

little

JONATHAN

I guess it is.

FIRE WORKER

You got someone you can stay with?

INT. A SEEDY HOTEL LOBBY - DOWNTOWN - PRE-DAWN

The sort of decrepit no-tell motel frequented by hookers and
junkies. Jonathan clutches his briefcase as he stares
steel mesh at. the NIGHT CLERK.

through

NIGHT CLERK

It's fifty for the night.
Jonathan fishes out his film cannister, and parts with what
he discovers are his last three

\$20s.

INT. SEEDY HOTEL - ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Even more depressing than the lobby: bars on the windows,
stains on the thin walls through which the faint sounds of
paid sex bleed in. Somewhere a bottle smashes.

(CONTINUED)

96.

CONTINUED:

Unable to sleep, Jonathan has emptied his briefcase contents
onto the bed. He stares at one of Wyatt's photos of him and
"S." She's smiling up at him.
EXTREME CLOSE ON THE IMAGE OF HER FACE. The smile, frozen in
time, at once haunting and heartbreaking.
He gently sets the photo down beside the Chicago Tribune
article he'd printed on the unsolved murder of Reed Holloway

("BODY OF MISSING BUSINESSMAN FINALLY DISCOVERED"). His eyes drift to the article, and something suddenly occurs to him - FLASH ON: THE PHOTOGRAPH IN "WYATT'S.BROWNSTONE" of Wyatt with bleached hair styled in a loose spike -- IN THE ARTICLE'S PHOTO, Holloway sports an almost identical look.-His eyes move to the date of the article: "May 17."

CUT TO:

Jonathan on the phone, a business card in hand.

OFFICE ON PHONE

Boston Police, how can I direct your call?

Jonathan reads off the card Detective Russo had given him:

JONATHAN

This is Detective Russo, NYPD, badge
number 274655.

I just need some

information from you guys.

Jonathan sits in suspense, awaiting a response. Finally -

OFFICER ON PHONE

Well?

JONATHAN

You've got a case, a missing person named William Banský. I'm wondering if you can tell me the date he was last seen?

OFFICER ON PHONE

Hold a sec.

(PAUSE)

Banský, William, last seen... May

17.

Jonathan's eyes return to the Holloway article

("BODY OF

MISSING BUSINESSMAN FINALLY DISCOVERED:), dated "May 17."

OFFICER ON PHONE

Anything else you-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

That's it, thanks.

Jonathan quickly hangs up, equally encouraged and chilled by the connection he's made.

TILT DOWN to a post-it, on which he's scribbled: "BOSE = BANSKY = HOLLOWAY." To this he adds: "= JAMES GETZ"

INT. CHASE MANHATTAN BANK - MORNING

A line of customers stare mutely up at plasma tv screens above - except for Jonathan, unshaven, suit wrinkled, face all anxious tension.

SAME - TELLER'S WINDOW - MOMENTS LATER

Jonathan slides his passport through the window's metal tray,
to the TELLER
(40s) working behind three inches of glass. The
Teller examines the passport, then slides it back.

TELLER

M'kay, if you'll just swipe your ATM card.
She gestures to a small punch pad to Jonathan's right.

JONATHAN

Actually, my card was stolen.

TELLER

Mmm'kay... do you see those two taupe colored telephones over there? Just pick up either one and you'll be connected with our automated system.

JONATHAN

The thing is, I already used your automated system and...look, this passport's all I have left, it's the only thing proves who I am and now I'm down to like my last ten dollars here, so...
Jonathan's cool is cracking. The Teller wrinkles her brow.

TELLER

Mm'kay, if you press "0" on either phone?
A customer service representative will -

JONATHAN

Give me a goddamn break.

(CONTINUED)

98.

CONTINUED:

TELLER

Sir, there's no need for profanity.

JONATHAN

(loses it)

Oh no? In the last few days I've seen a woman I thought might be dead turn up alive and a woman I assumed was alive turn up dead, both at the hands of a guy about whom everything I know is apparently a lie. I've had my building set on fire, my neighbor nearly killed, and my apartment ransacked. So please forgive my language, but it's been one fuck of a week.

The stunned Teller stares back at him slack-jawed.

JONATHAN

Look, I know I'm just another face on this side of the glass, I get that. But I'm begging you, as one human being to another, please let me into your life just long enough to help me out here. Please.

The Teller stares back at him a beat - and nods.

She starts quickly typing into her monitor, finally looks

up.

TELLER

I'm showing that card as having been sent out four days ago. It definitely went out. We even heeded the change of address request.

JONATHAN

Well, like I

-- wait, what request?

TELLER

Apparently you informed the bank of an address change?
She swivels her monitor so he can see.

TELLER

140 Mr. Jonathan Messer,
E. 91st Street -

EXT. BANK - DAY

AS SEEN FROM THE CONVEX MIRROR OF AN ATM MACHINE: we watch from an ANONYMOUS POV Jonathan racing out of the bank.

99.

EXT.

91ST STREET

Jonathan rounds the corner at a jog, checking awning numbers, finally halts on one: "140 E. 91st."

INT.

140 E. 91ST - LOBBY

We recognize the DOORMAN in the midst of fielding a complaint by an ELDERLY TENANT with a yappy dog. Jonathan hurries to the elevators, unnoticed.

INT.

140 E. 91ST -- HALLWAY

Jonathan emerges from an elevator. The last door on the left.

Jonathan tries the doorknob. It's locked. Jonathan checks under the mat. Sure enough, there's a key.

INT. THE APARTMENT

Utterly bare. Empty walls, expensive views, polished wood floors. Jonathan takes a wary step inside, leaning to peer

around the corners.
He paces cautiously through the living room. The dining
area.
The glistening chrome and granite kitchen.

THE BEDROOM

A room as empty as the others - with the exception of a
small
pile of envelopes beneath a window in a far corner. Jonathan
slowly nears...to find it's a stack of mail. He picks up an
envelope -- O.S. the CREAK of a door hinge.
Jonathan whips around -- no one behind him. He steps out of
the room to investigate.
We remain alone in the empty room an excruciating beat...
.until Jonathan finally steps back in, only slightly at
ease. He returns to the stack of mail, picks up an envelope.
He reads: "Mr. Jonathan Messer 140 E.

91 St..."

Eyes wide, he hurriedly flips through the rest of the mail -
all addressed to him at this address.
Jonathan still staring at this mail in disbelief, when he
finds at the bottom of the stack: another PHOTOGRAPH. It's

of

"S" standing fearfully on the subwa latform across the
track from Jonathan. And suddenly Jonathan is gripped with
fear, unaware of a blurred, nearing intruder...

WYATT

Long time no see.

(CONTINUED)

100.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan spins round, Wyatt's standing there with a gun.
It's
pointing directly at Jonathan.

WYATT

I have some instructions. Follow them and
I might let her live.

JONATHAN

Where is she?

WYATT

This should've been simpler. I frame you,
you panic...

JONATHAN

Where is she?!

A terrifying silence - Jonathan erupts:

JONATHAN

Goddamn it tell me what you did to--

WYATT

Press pause on the questions and listen.
The brokerage firm you're auditing is
Clute Nichols. As a standard part of that
audit you're temporarily privy to all
client accounts as well as access codes
required for transactions. At

11

p.m.

tonight you're going to skim from those
accounts a total of

\$200 million and

transfer that money to an account I've
established overseas.

JONATHAN

I can't

- I have no idea how to even-

WYATT

I know you don't. But I do. Your passport.
(brandishes the gun)

Now, please.

Jonathan takes it out and tosses it to him. Wyatt catches
it.

And hands Jonathan an ENVELOPE.

WYATT

It's all in there.

11

pm tonight. Their

banks will just be opening.

JONATHAN

It won't work - they screen for stuff like
this. It'll be discovered eventually.

(CONTINUED)

101.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

I can live with eventually. I always have.

JONATHAN

This account overseas
it's in my name,
isn't it?
A moment of tense silence.
Jonathan just stares back hard a quiet beat; then:

JONATHAN

Why'd you pick me?
Wyatt raises a brow, vaguely amused the question.

WYATT

You answered the ad, Jonathan.
(off Jonathan's confusion)
"Feeling all alone out there? Have a great
job, fine personality and good looks to
match, but no time to meet that special
someone? Help is just a phone call away -"

JONATHAN

The ad - in Money magazine...

WYATT

(GRINS)

Told you to block that Caller ID. Of
course I had to scope out a whole lot of
losers before I hit the jackpot. After
all, there only so many Jonathan Messers
out there.

(BEAT)

If you screw with me, well - you saw what
I did to that Blonde? That's kindness
compared to what I'll do to your little
.girlfriend. You won't even recognize her
when I'm through.

JONATHAN

Why should I believe you? Everything you told me was lies.

WYATT

Not lies, Jonathan. Foreplay. And now... now you're fucked.

He grins his 'charming' grin and starts for the door.

(CONTINUED)

102.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

Remember: be smart. I'll be watching you. And... feel free to take a shower, looks like you could do with one.

The front door slams. Jonathan just stands there, staring shell-shocked at the envelope.

EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

Jonathan comes out the building putting the envelope in his suit pocket.

As he crosses the street a CAR HORN BLARES - WHIP AROUND to find a car barreling at us. Jonathan dives out of the way

an

instant before the car would have hit him.

Face first in the gutter, scraped and gasping, Jonathan

peers

up to see Wyatt's BLACK BMW speeding away.

CUT TO:

INT. WORTH & BERMAN - AN OFFICE - LATE DAY

A stiff guy in his late-30s is working in his office when an ASSISTANT enters.

ASSISTANT

Mr. Peterson, one of the audit managers is here to see you. Jonathan Messer?

PETERSON

(PUZZLED)

Really? Well - okay, bring him back.
We follow the assistant out the door, read the name
stencilled on the glass "CHET PETERSON, SENIOR MANAGER."

INT. WORTH & BERMAN - LOBBY

Through a set of frosted glass doors we see Peterson's
Assistant approach a RECEPTIONIST, who gestures across the
lobby. The Assistant approaches the sofas, where Jonathan is
seated. She addresses him. He rises.

INT. WORTH & BERMAN - PETERSON'S OFFICE

Chet Peterson looks up as his door is opened -

PETERSON

Jonathan, good to see you again!

(CONTINUED)

103.

CONTINUED:

- reverse angle to find a YOUNG MAN we've never seen before.

YOUNG MAN

Actually, I was just looking for Fred
Whipple's office?

PETERSON

(AWKWARDLY)

Next door down.

The Young Man ducks out, and now Peterson sees his Assistant
approaching, Jonathan a few paces behind her, adjusting his
glasses. Peterson reloads his greeting:

PETERSON

Jonathan, good to see you again!

INT. PETERSON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Close on Chet Peterson, gravely peering across his desk.

PETERSON

Well, I have to say, your resignation comes as something of a surprise. Most of our auditors seem to like the freedom the position affords.

(CONCERNED)

You'll stay on to finish up at Clute Nichols, of course?

Track around Peterson to see Jonathan seated across from
him,
lifting his head to reply - and doing so revealing it's

"

Wyatt," wearing one of Jonathan's suits, hair colored and styled like Jonathan's, even sporting identical eyeglasses. He offers an awkward half-smile, just as Jonathan would.

WYATT

Absolutely.

PETERSON

So do you have any plans?

WYATT

Yes. I'm going to travel. I want to see the world.

Peterson nods benignly.

CUT TO:

104.

A SERIES OF QUICK DISSOLVES/ STOP-MOTION PHOTOGRAPHY:

Jonathan sitting in the conference room of Clute Nichols, lettered-boxed by the glass wall through which he watches employees pass in fewer and fewer numbers. Throughout this, Jonathan's blank stare of harrowed tension never changes.

LAST DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MANHATTAN SKYLINE - NIGHT

A beautiful shot of the cityscape - accompanied by the sound of fingers clacking on keys...

INT. CLUTE NICHOLS - CONFERENCE ROOM

Jonathan seated at the far end of the empty table, typing on his laptop. Beside him is the envelope Wyatt gave him, and its sheet of paper on which instructions are typed.

Jonathan peers at the laptop clock. It reads

10:58 PM.

His eyes travel in a tense triangle from instructions, to laptop screen, to glass wall - fingers typing all the while. He finally reaches a prompt: BIENVENUE. POUR ANGLAIS,

CBOISEZ P2.

We glimpse a small. logo with a SWISS FLAG.

Jonathan presses F2. Reads some more, types some more.

Finally we read: ENTER SUB-ACCOUNT NUMBER.

Jonathan enters more per Wyatt's typed instructions. Reads.

ENTER DESIGNATED ACCOUNT NUMBER:

Jonathan copies the numbers in from the instructions. Waits.

ENTER SENDER'S 8 DIGIT ACCESS CODE. REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TRANSACTION.

His eyes travel to a page atop a Clute Nichols file. We can glimpse an 8 digit code circled in pencil. Jonathan stares

at

the cursor on the laptop screen, the icon blinking petulantly. He's about to type...

And then he halts. His eyes drifting to HIS CELL PHONE, resting in its charger.

TIGHTER ON JONATHAN. His eyes fixed on the cell phone, an idea forming in his mind --

RING!! of the cell phone suddenly jars us. RING... Jonathan hesitates, then picks up.

WYATT (O.S.)

What's taking you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jonathan says nothing. We can hear Wyatt getting tenser:

WYATT (O.S.)

I said what's taking you?

JONATHAN

I wondered if you were monitoring this.

WYATT (O.S.)

Don't worry about what I'm doing. Just finish the transaction. Now.

JONATHAN

Not until I see her.

(off Wyatt's silence)

The transfer's impossible without an access code. And there's no way I'm entering it until I'm sure that she's safe. So you tell me. How do we do that?

Wyatt still remains unnervingly silent. We tighten on Jonathan, holding his breath, any plan he's concocting clearly hinging on this...

WYATT (O..S.)

(low, frustrated)

You have a wireless connection?

Jonathan lets out a brief exhalation.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Jonathan snaps his laptop lid shut, packs it in his gym bag, in which we glimpse the photo he's kept with him of "S" smiling up at him.

He then turns to his cell phone once more. He picks it up, scrolls the menu, punches a number.

RING... RING... RING... RING-

AWOMAN'S VOICE

(FROM PHONE)

Hello?

JONATHAN

(BEAT)

Are you free tonight?

A sudden, jarring SOUND ADVANCE OF MUSIC as we

CUT TO:

106.

EXT. THE PLAZA HOTEL - ROOFTOP - LATE NIGHT

held An elaborate and intensely packed WEDDING PARTY is being
up here beneath the glow of heat lamps, the music and crowd
noise unspeakably loud. We travel through the din, past
hundreds of well-heeled partiers, mainly young and wealthy.

EXT. PLAZA HOTEL - LATE NIGHT

30 The party noise is even slightly audible
stories below,
where we find Jonathan carrying his bag as he enters...

INT. THE PLAZA HOTEL - LOBBY

Jonathan surveys the busy lobby. GUESTS mulling. STAFF
bustling. And, of course, the "ELOISE" PORTRAIT.

WYATT (O.S.)'

May I ask you a personal question?
Jonathan spins around, stares frostily into Wyatt's magnetic
smile. With Wyatt's new look, they could be brothers.
Except Wyatt looks clean and crisp, Jonathan dishevelled and
tense. Wyatt eyes the bag in Jonathan's hand.

JONATHAN

Where is she?

WYATT

In one of the rooms. Safe.
(a thin smile)
I got us a table.

INT. LOBBY BAR - MOMENTS LATER

A WAITRESS delivers a pair of drinks to where Jonathan and
Wyatt are seated.

WAITRESS

Two Macallan 25 year. Enjoy.
The Waitress leaves. Wyatt raises his glass.

WYATT

To friendship.
Jonathan just stares back at Wyatt.

JONATHAN

Bansky's dead, isn't he?

(CONTINUED)

107.

CONTINUED:

WYATT

He was dead when I met him. Just like you.
The rest was a mere formality.
(re: the laptop)
Of course he didn't have your bargaining
chip. Speaking of which...

JONATHAN

Not until I see her. She's the only reason
I'm here and not at the police.

WYATT

I told you, she's in a room. Alive.

JONATHAN

Give me the key then.
Wyatt considers this, then takes out an electronic key card
and slides it across the table. Of course there's nothing on
the key card to indicate a room number.

WYATT

As soon as you're done, I'll tell you the
room number.

JONATHAN

Not good enough.
Wyatt reaches for the key card; as he does we glimpse a
handgun concealed by his suit.

JONATHAN

You won't let her live. You killed all the others, you'll have to kill us too.

WYATT

Hey, I like you, okay? You'll be fine.

JONATHAN

(scoffs, repulsed)
You like me.

WYATT

I do, Jonathan. In my way. After all, you're my creation. I'm the one who gave you life.

JONATHAN

Don't you get it? It was her, not you! She's the one. She gave me life! You can steal my identity, but not what's here.

(CONTINUED)

108.

CONTINUED:

He puts his hand on his heart. Wyatt is startled by Jonathan's passionate outburst.

WYATT

Yeah, well, I'm weeping big wet ones for you both. Now, let's get on with it.

(BEAT)

I don't have all night, Jonathan.
Jonathan reluctantly nods his assent. Wyatt lets go of the key card. Jonathan opens his bag...

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON JONATHAN'S LAPTOP SCREEN as it defuzzes from sleep. The screen as it was, cursor blinking by the request for an access code.

Wyatt watches intently as Jonathan starts to type -- then pauses, looking confused.
Jonathan quickly reaches around. to the back of his laptop,

feels an empty jack - and suddenly turns pale.

WYATT

What is it?

JONATHAN

My wireless modem - I must have left it in the conference room. I can't get back online.

Wyatt glares at Jonathan, seething.

WYATT

You stupid fuck.

JONATHAN

I can go back there and-

WYATT

No.

(thinks, then abruptly)

Get up.

INT. PLAZA HOTEL - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Wyatt and Jonathan crossing the lobby; they arrive at HOTEL GUEST BUSINESS CENTER, partitioned by a wall of glass. Jonathan and Wyatt stand on the other side, peering in.

(CONTINUED)

109.

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

They don't let you use your own computer.

Wyatt takes out a hundred dollar bill, gives it to Jonathan.

WYATT

They will now.

Jonathan takes the hundred, and heads into

INT. HOTEL.BUSINESS CENTER

Empty at this hour, with the exception of a sleepy-looking EMPLOYEE. As Jonathan steps toward the desk, he takes out the hotel key card, his eyes travelling up to a clock overhead:

11:29.

**INT. LOBBY
(OUTSIDE THE BUSINESS CENTER)**

Wyatt eyes Jonathan on the other side of the glass.
INSERT WYATT'S POV: Jonathan explaining himself to the clerk.

Satisfied, Wyatt finds a comfortable chair with a direct view of the business center's glass. Across the lobby, an attractive AUBURN-HAIRED WOMAN in business attire glances over at him.

INT. BUSINESS CENTER

Jonathan is subtly slipping the \$100 bill to the Employee.

EMPLOYEE

You forgot your. own room number?

JONATHAN

I just checked in and it's been a hectic day. Look at me!
The Employee looks uneasy - something about the ill-concealed tension in Jonathan's eyes.

EMPLOYEE

You could just ask at the front desk. I'm sure they can-

JONATHAN

I really don't have time, okay?
Jonathan presses the bill into the Employee's palm, peers up at the clock again: the big hand clicks over to 11:30.

(CONTINUED)

110.

CONTINUED:

BACK TO WYATT IN THE LOBBY

Still eyeing Jonathan. He sees the Employee hesitate, then accept the money.

Wyatt looks relieved -- when his view is abruptly blocked by the Auburn-Haired Woman.

AUBURN HAIR

Pardon me, but may I ask you something - personal?

Wyatt quickly looks up at her, momentarily confused.

AUBURN HAIR

Are you waiting for me?

BACK TO JONATHAN IN BUSINESS CENTER

The Employee finishes swiping his card through a scanner.

EMPLOYEE

Room 907.

JONATHAN

907

- thanks.

BACK TO WYATT IN THE LOBBY

His view of Jonathan still obscured by Auburn Hair.

WYATT

What the hell are you --

And then he sees Auburn Hair glance unsurely at the Eloise portrait, then at her cell phone's clock -- and now

realizes:

WYATT

Motherfucker!

He jumps up, shoves Auburn Hair aside - eyes darting to the Business Center to find Jonathan no longer behind the glass, just his laptop resting on the counter where he'd been standing.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR

Jonathan rushes into an elevator car just as it's about to close. He turns to find a YOUNG FAMILY riding up with him. They've pressed floor 6. He presses floor

9.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

Wyatt arrives at the elevators - none are ready to open. He furiously presses the call button, his hand hovering by his concealed gun.

INT.

6TH FLOOR HALLWAY - ELEVATORS

Ding as the elevator doors open and the family step out. Jonathan is left alone, impatiently waiting for the doors to close -
- when his eyes land on something in the hallway: the fire alarm. He suddenly reaches out to stop the elevator door

just

as it's about to close.

INT.

6TH FLOOR HALLWAY

Wide shot of an empty hotel hallway -- as suddenly the fire alarm blares to life. Pan
180 to find Jonathan dipping into an emergency exit stairwell.

INT. PLAZA HOTEL - LOBBY

Wyatt is just about to step onto an elevator, when a crowd
of wedding guests also start to pile in. Furious, he abandons the elevators for the nearest stairs.

INT.

7TH FLOOR HALLWAY

GUESTS spilling out of rooms met by the blaring alarm...

INT.

8TH FLOOR HALLWAY

. as Jonathan smashes the glass of yet another fire alarm.

INT. LOBBY - SECURITY DESK

and Surveillance monitors show guests in the various hallways
stairwells rushing in confusion at all angles...

SECURITY

(O.S.)

We've got alarms on two - wait, three
floors

-

EXT. HOTEL ROOFTOP

Only the party 30 stories above remains oblivious: music
still blasting, the upscale throngs still partying.

112.

INT. STAIRWELL

Wyatt is bounding up the stairs, rounding the Fifth Floor -
- when he hears the door overhead bang open, and like a
tidal wave a flood of guests fill the stairwell.
Wyatt presses against the crush of bodies, pushing his way
up the stairwell.

INT.

9TH FLOOR - HALLWAY

Close on a door marked by a placard: 9th floor -- as it's
banged open by Jonathan's shoulder.
The sound of the fire alarm is fainter up here as Jonathan
races down the carpeted corridor, room numbers blurring past
in sporadic fits

- 913... 910... 925...921... 918...

Jonathan finally lurches to a halt before room 907.
He takes out his key card, about to slide it in the slot --
when a hand grabs his forearm! He spins in panic to --
- a CLEANING WOMAN. She says something in Vietnamese,
indicating the ringing alarms.

JONATHAN

Fire, I know - I'll be out in a minute.

The scared Cleaning Woman nods and hurries off as Jonathan quickly slides the key in the slot. The light blinks green. He jerks the door handle and throws open the door to find -

INT. ROOM 907

other - nothing. The room is freshly made up, no sign of life

than A PORNO FILM BLARING from the TV set on Pay-Per-View. Jonathan's heart is pounding - where is she? He searches every corner, the bathroom, the closets. Everywhere. The sterile room taunts him - the uncreased bedspread, the neat arrangement of the complimentary stationary, the incessant moaning coming from the porn on the TV set -- Jonathan suddenly erupts, grips the TV and shoves it off its ledge. It hits the floor with a crash, and sudden silence. Jonathan rubs his brow, heaving in desperation -- when his eyes land on the sleek, dark piece on which the TV was

(CONTINUED)

113.

CONTINUED:

Jonathan resting; it's a dense, rectangular block - only when

taps it, he realizes: it's hollow.

He immediately seizes it, yanks it from the wall...

And there she is, lying face down in a lifeless heap: "S". Panicked, Jonathan rushes to her, turns her over. She looks semi-conscious, hands and mouth duct-taped. Jonathan hurriedly removes the tape, gently shakes her, terrified by how lifeless she appears -

- when her eyes widen, focus on his face. Before he can say anything, she throws her arms around his neck, presses her face to his chest.

â€šs.,

(whispers gratefully)

You're alive.

his He's struck by these words, and nods, holding her face in

hands as he kisses her urgently and gratefully.

JONATHAN

What do you say we stick together from now on?

JA S"

I'd like that.

INT. EMERGENCY STAIRWELL

A rush of guests hurriedly descending the staircase, a seemingly endless stream of densely packed faces. Close on Wyatt jostled within the flow of the wealthy guests

- as he's the only one heading up. He passes the 6th floor...

INT.

9TH FLOOR

Jonathan and "S" hurrying down the hall - Jonathan torn between a choice of two stairwells. His eyes dart from one to another - he finally gambles on the one to the right.

INT. EMERGENCY STAIRWELL

Wyatt forcing his way upstream with menacing determination; his gaze is wilder, more and more irritated by the descending mob of successful, well-dressed guests he's pushing against

-- - when he halts, peering up through the railings' lozenge-shaped opening, past a collection of hands and profiles... .to Jonathan and "S" some three stories above.

(CONTINUED)

114

CONTINUED:

TIGHT ON WYATT. As yet unnoticed by Jonathan, he remains halted on a stair, bodies squeezing past him.

TIGHTER ON HIS EYES. That predatory gleam.
EVEN TIGHTER ON HIS GUN, tucked carefully at his side.
CLOSE ON JONATHAN AND "S" three stories above, starting to descend -- when Jonathan notices the hint of disruption in

the

flow of bodies below.

Immediately wary, he leans over the railing, but can't get a good look. He grips the railing, leans further over... and his eyes find Wyatt's staring right back up at him --

JONATHAN

He's down there! I saw him -

11 SIP

Oh God -

JONATHAN

Up - we've got to go up!

Clutching her arm, Jonathan and "S" turn back up, against

the

flow of traffic. Stories above, less and less people are evacuating.

ANGLE ON WYATT as he presses upward, his steely gaze even more rapacious.

The crowd is thinning as Jonathan and "S" race upward as well.

INSERT JONATHAN'S POV: a shaky, dizzying blur as they race higher and higher...

INSERT WYATT'S POV: from below but gaining on them, Jonathan and "S". appearing and disappearing with each twist and turn of the staircase...

CLOSE ON JONATHAN AND "S", desperately racing upwards...

CLOSE ON WYATT bounding the stairs, footsteps echoing, the staircase now empty and quiet, save for the footfall of Jonathan and "S"

- no more than three floors above Wyatt now...

Wyatt slows his pace, leans into the railing, takes aim...

CLOSE ON JONATHAN AND "S" still hurrying up - when a shot rings out, a jolting echo clanging through the stairwell,

the

(CONTINUED)

115.

CONTINUED:

bullet missing them by inches. "S" screams, Jonathan tugs
her
with him

-

- when a second shot rings out, the bullet punching a dent
into the underside of the stairs just overhead.
ON WYATT, realizing he needs a cleaner shot, taking the
stairs even harder in pursuit, all merciless intensity.

EXT. HOTEL ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

The party is still at full throttle. Apparently no one has
yet told them of the alarms.
CLOSE ON A STAIRWELL DOOR MARKED "EMERGENCY EXIT" as it
suddenly bangs open and Jonathan and "S" spill out.
They pause a moment - thrown by the sight of all the
wealthy,
beautiful faces, laughing, dancing.

JONATHAN

Come on!

She grabs his hand, and they waste no time disappearing into
the mass of bodies.

They keep moving. Shoulder to shoulder within the swell of
partiers, they fit right in - instantly anonymous

- though

not as smartly attired.

BACK TO THE STAIRWELL DOOR as Wyatt enters the party,
scanning the dense crowd, all senses alert.

INSERT WYATT'S POV: just a mass of successful, attractive,
partying young men and women. There's no way to pick

Jonathan

and "S" out.

Wyatt's smirk fades to an icy glare as he stalks the
periphery.

WITHIN THE CROWD "S" clutches Jonathan's hand, their heads
ducked low as they press forward...

CLOSE ON WYATT, frustration gnashing at him as he quickens
his pace, the idiotic enthusiasm of the crowd enraging him,
sweat beading on his face

--

-- when suddenly the music stops. Wyatt frowns., eyes
darting.

CLOSE ON JONATHAN AND "S" glancing around in confusion -

SECURITY

(DISTANT U.S.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we need everyone to
evacuate the hotel. This way please.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The crowd noise resumes, as the throngs begrudgingly start for the exits.

ON JONATHAN AND "S," doing their best to stay concealed within the exiting crowd.

Angle on Wyatt pushing his way through the crush, shoving people aside, trying to find them -

- when he suddenly stops. He has an idea. He takes out his cell phone.

BACK TO JONATHAN AND "S" within the crowd -

- when Jonathan's cell phone RINGS.

CLOSE ON JONATHAN as his eyes widen in panic.

RING... He quickly fumbles for it, tries to turn it off

- but it's too late... WHIP ACROSS THE CROWD to Wyatt, grinning wider. He's spotted them. In an instant he is beelining through the packed suits.

WIDE SHOT OF THE ROOFTOP as the throngs are clearing out. Jonathan grabs "S" as they duck, racing across the dark, rooftop, looking for a place to hide.

They take cover behind a large venting duct near the ledge - gasping to catch their breath... Stepping back, "S's" foot clinks against something: a stray iron railing post.

She reaches down for it, starts to lift it -

- when Wyatt's hand darts in and grasps the other end.

She looks up in terror - when Wyatt punches her violently, knocking her to the ground.

Jonathan rushes to her - only to be blocked by Wyatt, gripping the iron rod tight.

WYATT

Nice try back there, Jonathan. Looks like you picked up a thing or two from me.

Jonathan tries to strike him - when with a lightning quick movement Wyatt whips the iron rod through the air, cracking Jonathan across the face.

WYATT

Killer instinct, pall

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Jonathan crumples, his glasses knocked to the ground.
CLOSE ON WYATT as he grips the iron rod like a tennis
racquet, steps into position

-
- and brings the rod down on Jonathan with ruthless tennis
strokes: Backhand! Bam! Forehand! Bam! Slice! Bam!
Jonathan can barely peer up, bloody and beaten. He hears
Wyatt drop the iron rod...

JONATHAN'S POV: Wyatt's blurry figure hovering above
suddenly swoops in on us

-
- as Wyatt grabs Jonathan by the throat, hefts him up and
yanks him back to the roof's concrete ledge. Jonathan fights
to struggle free - when Wyatt jams the gun under his chin.
Jonathan freezes.

JONATHAN

(GASPING)

They'll... catch... you...

WYATT

Me? No - no, I'm just a face in the crowd.
I'm a tourist, just passing through.
JONATHAN'S POV: Wyatt's face presses closer, now almost in
focus as he presses Jonathan's torso back over the ledge -

WYATT

As for you, you had your fun...
Wyatt presses closer, crushing Jonathan's back to the edge.

WYATT

Now we're going to go back down...
INSERT JONATHAN'S HAND reaching into Wyatt's pocket, his
fingers fumbling for the cell phone
(Jonathan's old phone).

WYATT

We're going to get that laptop...
CLOSE ON JONATHAN'S FINGERS blindly prodding - he has the
phone now - his fingers feel for the antenna...

WYATT

And we're going to finish this, once and
for -
- when with all his strength Jonathan jams the cell phone up
into Wyatt's eye, the antenna punching into the retina.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

Wyatt's grasp slips from Jonathan's collar as he stumbles
back, cupping a hand to his wound as he swings his gun
toward
Jonathan -
Wyatt's - when with every ounce of strength Jonathan charges,
shot missing him as Jonathan slams him into the ledge wall,
seizing the momentum to turn himself -
- as Wyatt falls right over the edge of the hotel rooftop...

EXT. THE PLAZA HOTEL

(WIDE SHOT)

.Wyatt's body plummeting down the magnificent facade,
vanishing into the vastness of the city below.

EXT. ROOFTOP

CLOSE ON JONATHAN as he crawls to the ledge, peers down into
the darkness. He exhales, then turns back to "S"

-
- to find she's right beside him, grateful tears in her eye.
She leans into him, and he holds her tight, the two of them
embraced on the precipice as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLAZA HOTEL - STREET LEVEL - SHORT TIME LATER

Strobed reds and blues of police and fire.trucks amassed,
trying to control the throngs of guests and pedestrians
blocking our view of the body they're all gawking at.
We travel through the confusion until we find JONATHAN AND
"S" sitting side by side on the sidewalk curb, each propped
against the other.

his

The 'shock of it all is beginning to fade. He reaches into
pocket and hands her 'Duck on Bike'.

JONATHAN

Yours, I believe.

01S.11

Thanks, Frank.

She winds the toy up. They watch it make it's funny way down
the sidewalk.

JONATHAN

Can I ask you something personal?

She nods.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

What's your name?

close

"S" considers the request, then smiles gently, leans in

and whispers the answer in his ear. Jonathan gazes at her a
moment - whatever her name is, it must be perfect.

JONATHAN

So what now?

She smiles up at him.

S

Well... are you free tonight?

On Jonathan: treasuring these moments. He is truly free --
perhaps for the first time in his life.

JONATHAN

Yes. I'm free.

They gaze at each other.

We leave Jonathan and "S" to their privacy, pulling back as they continue talking, continuing away until we're

THROUGH A WINDOW AND INSIDE THE HOTEL ITSELF

the window itself now a frame, letter-boxing the scene, people passing like fish in their tank... except for

Jonathan

and S, seated center-frame, two small figures side by side, face to face, talking intimately as we.

FADE OUT.

THE END