

MELANCHOLIA

2nd and final draft

Copyright Lars von Trier, March 4th 2010

Rev. by VW July 5th 2010

Zentropa Productions3

OVERTURE:

(The overture is a collection of various scenes. All stationary camera. In general, super slow motion. The soundtrack is the overture of Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde." After editing, about 8 minutes.)

(All images are super slow-motion and stationary camera.)

The overture consists of the following images:

Scene 200. EXT. Golf course - Day **Scene 200.**

Close-up of Justine from the back as she turns her face toward the camera, her hair bobbing. Then behind her, dead larks begin to fall from the sky.

Scene 201. EXT. Golf course - Day **Scene 201.**

Grey yarn billows everywhere in a wide shot of the landscape – a small grove on a golf course. Justine struggling through the billowing yarn.

Scene 202. EXT. Brook - Day **Scene 202.**

Fountains of insects spew from the ground of a golf course, Justine is in the center, stretching out her arms.

Scene 203. EXT. **Scene 203.**

A black planet, like a huge shadow, drifts by covering a big red star.

Scene 204. EXT. **Scene 204.**

The planets' dance of death: Earth and the ten times larger Melancholia dance around each other in unpredictable orbits.

Scene 205. EXT. **Scene 205**

The collision of the planets and the final engulfment of earth by Melancholia.

Scene 206. EXT. **Scene 206.**

Melancholia settles in a cloud of dust after it has engulfed the Earth. The dust becomes a halo around the planet.

Scene 207. INT. Claires study - Day **Scene 207.**

Breughel: "The Return of the Hunters" on a shelf in Claire's study ... the paper consumed by glowing embers, ashes falling in front of the process.

Scene 208. EXT. Brook - Day

Scene 208.

(Source: Pre-Raphaelite painting of Ophelia in the moat). Justine as Ophelia gliding downstream under low-hanging branches, holding a bridal bouquet. The current swirling and eddying around her. Mushy pulp stirring under the surface, clinging to a branch hanging down in the water ... weeds and water lilies spinning and near the banks of the creek reeds stirring in the breeze.

Scene 209. EXT. Golf Course - Day

Scene 209.

Claire in a panic carrying Leo across the golf green....with each step she sinks deeper and deeper into the ground...her weight many times normal. Finally becomes stuck.

Scene 210. EXT. Garden - Day

Scene 210.

While snow falls, confused butterflies fly around a flowering bush against a backdrop of a partial view of the Eremitage mansion.

Scene 211. EXT. Garden - Day

Scene 211.

View of the lawn during daytime in front of the mansion towards the lake with the two rows of sheared yews...they cast two shadows (one blue). Justine swinging Leo around in the air playfully.

Scene 212. EXT. Brook - Day

Scene 212.

A lone saddled horse (Abraham) sinks to his knees. Above a small bridge over a brook northern lights appear.

Scene 213. EXT. Golf course - Day

Scene 213.

John is hanging a leg, head down, from a gallows on the golf course. Around him trees are shedding their leaves in the wind which then fly upwards and are captured by the sky.

Scene 214. EXT. Garden - Day

Scene 213.

Through the cloud-cover the three celestial bodies (the moon, Melancholia, and the sun) appear above the Eremitage mansion. John, Leo, Justine, and Claire are standing in a row on the lawn or on the terrace.

Scene 215. EXT. Garden - Day

Scene 215.

Seen from the mansion through leaded windows and lightly stirring curtains, a bush is burning in the otherwise undisturbed landscape.

Scene 216. EXT. Golf course - Evening

Scene 216.

St Elmo's fire is seen from the top of the high-voltage pylons which run across the golf course. Lowlying banks of fog! Justine is standing in the foreground, her back turned and arms raised, green St. Elmo's fire streaming from her head and fingers.

Scene 217. EXT. Garden - Night

Scene 217.

Condensed breath issuing from the mouths of the people who are having trouble breathing, gasping for air. All three of them: Leo, Justine, and Claire are staring at something high above them in the black sky. In the background illuminated trees in the night or the mansion.

Scene 218. EXT. Golf course - Evening

Scene 218.

In a strong blue light Leo whittles bark from sticks Justine is gathering from a thicket. She spots the camera.

Scene 219. EXT. Golf course - Day

Scene 219.

Justine kisses Claire's neck, passionately ... like a patient kissing her doctor's hand....while Claire looks up at the sky through the telescope by the pavilion.

Fade out.

Legend: "**MELANCHOLIA**"

Legend: "**PART I. JUSTINE**"

Scene 1. EXT. Gravel path near "Eremitage" - Dusk

Scene 1.

(From hereon the film is shot entirely in handheld realistic documentary style!)

Dusk across the cultivated and neatly ordered landscape surrounding the merrily winding gravel path from the main road to the country house "Eremitage." The scene is cut in time lapses. A very long stretch limo comes driving along the road, but has more and more trouble navigating the tight curves near a narrow bridge spanning a small brook. The car has to stop and back up several times to get through. Justine and Michael are in the car. They are dressed for a wedding. Justine monitors the driver's efforts. She cannot help laughing. Michael remains serious. He tries to direct the driver.

Michael:

No... one more time! That's it....
(loudly to the driver, but addressed to Justine)

Kind of a tricky road this....

Justine nods and giggles.

Michael:
(to Justine)

Someone should have predicted this.....

Justine kisses him earnestly and intensely.

The two observe the increasingly panicky maneuverings of the car back and forth. It is easy to see that the car does not stand much of a chance of getting through.

Michael is now in the driver's seat giving it a try. The driver and Justine are outside trying to direct him.

Justine:

That's great, darling! Way to go!

After a very odd maneuver, the car almost makes it across the bridge.

Now Justine, in her bridal gown is trying to drive the limo through. She is too happy to take the task seriously. First Michael earnestly tries to help her, but then realizes that a car this long will never make it. He gives up and begins to laugh as well. The driver is the only one still intent on the getting the job done. Justine drives the car into the bridge railing and it becomes irrevocably stuck. She gets out. They both laugh. He is really impressed and proud of his bride. He embraces her and lifts her up and kisses her. Great happiness.

Scene 2. EXT. Courtyard in front of "Ermitage" - Dusk

Scene 2.

Justine and Michael come walking from the road. They have been walking a while since the car got stuck. Claire and John are waiting for them in the yard. There's clearly a party going on in the house – lots of expensive American cars parked in front and big tents erected outside. Michael politely kisses Claire's cheek, and offers John a masculine handshake. Justine has just arrived, her high-heeled shoes in her hand.

Claire:
(to Justine)

I won't even bother to tell you how late you are....

Michael:

The car couldn't get through ... maybe we should've driven something smaller... whose idea was it to get a stretch?

Claire points at Justine who smiles and accepts blame. Claire takes out some folded papers and looks through them.

Claire:
(dryly)

This is very much not my project! Justine, just tell

me... do you want to go through with this or would you really rather not!

(Justine giggles)

I've spent a whole week with the dullest man on earth putting together this ridiculous program.

John:

Not to mention one of the most expensive....

Claire

(shushing John)

I'm entirely ready to tear this whole plan to bits ... just say the word ... what a relief it'd be....

(checks plan)

Cocktails were served over an hour ago!

Justine

(pulling herself together)

No, Claire, of course, we'll follow the plan for the wedding...

John:

After all, it's paid for ...

Claire:

Justine! Look at me!

Claire looks at Justine, but her eyes have wandered to the darkening night sky. Justine is looking at a specific spot just above the small group. She smiles at the tiny, red dot above hovering at the horizon just above the treetops.

Justine:

What star is that?

Michael eagerly follows her gaze.

Michael:

Ask John ... he's an expert on stars!

John:

I wouldn't say that....

Claire:

Oh yes, you would ...

John looks in the direction Justine is looking.

Melancholia.
Side 7.

John:

Which star do you mean?

Justine:
(pointing)

The red one.....

John:

That's Antares ... the main star of the Scorpio
constellation ...

Justine looks happily up at Antares. The camera stays a bit too long on the red star. Claire gets annoyed with Justine again.

Claire:

Hello, Sis – are we going to have a wedding or not?

Justine looks mildly at Claire.

Justine:

Of course we are going to have a wedding. If for
nothing else, then for the sake of Michael's family...

Michael looks around, questioningly.

Michael:

Why exactly for my family's sake?

Claire:

A real Barbie-doll wedding? With speeches and
crap and a time schedule and all that? Promise?

Justine:
(nods with determination)

If we're going to do it at all, we may as well do it
right. Honestly, Clay ... we'll behave from now on!

Claire:

Then you damn well better pull yourselves together.
We're already way behind.
(checks plan)

Starting now we'll have to stick to a tight schedule
then...

Melancholia.
Side 8.

Justine:
(nods)

We just have to run to the stable and say hi to
Abraham!

Claire:
(blowing her top)

The hell we are!!!!

Scene 3. INT. Stables - Dusk

Scene 3.

Justine is standing by a stall in the stable, fondling the muzzle of a horse. She looks at it lovingly. She hands Claire her shoes and enters the stall, without concern for her bridal gown. She is close to the horse now. The horse is a bit uneasy. Michael and John are outside the stall, looking at the two of them.

Justine:

Look, Abraham....! We are married. Michael is my
husband now, Abraham. I'm sure the two of you are
going to like each other....

(to Michael)

This is Abraham... .. I'm....
(giggles)

...his mistress.... I'm the only one who can ride
him.

John:

(quietly to Michael)

Well, occasionally I do take a ride ...

Claire shushes John; Justine looks at Abraham, full of love. Behind the stall, by a gate, stands an electric golf cart.

Scene 4. INT. Hall - Evening

Scene 4.

The four of them, Claire and John and Justine and Michael enter the anteroom that all the guests have to pass on their way to the dining hall. The wedding planner rushes up to Claire and points excitedly at a printed schedule.

Wedding planner:

As the senior wedding planner I can no longer be
silent. The guests have been waiting for over an
hour....I am at the end of my rope!

He very seriously steers Claire into the dining hall. John follows. The guests are impatient. Some are throwing chunks of bread at each other. Justine stops by Little Father, the family butler, who stands staunchly behind a table in the anteroom by a bowl of beans and a bottle.

Little Father is the elderly Maitre D who receives the bride, groom and Claire on their way to the filled dining hall. The guests appear to have been seated for a while ... some of them look with curiosity at the late arrivals. Little Father shoots Claire a critical look, she responds by looking at her plan with a shrug. Justine looks humbly at Little Father. He does not respond, but indicates the items on his table.

Little Father:

Welcome to the wedding of Ms. Justine and Mr. Michael! Would you be so good as to participate in the wedding bean lottery!

A big bowl of beans is placed on the table next to a big bottle, almost full of beans. Acting obsequiously, Justine takes a handful of beans from the bowl and puts them into the bottle. Michael follows suit.

Justine:

Yes, Little Father. Of course, Little Father!

Little Father hands her a handwritten list, but Justine is already on her way into the dining hall, full of joy at seeing all her closest friends and relatives. Michael wants to follow Justine, but Little Father stops him with the list.

Little Father:

Please submit your bid as to the total number of beans in the bottle.

Michael scrutinizes the bottle.

Michael:

Yes, Little Father. Of course, Little Father! 2 million and 6 beans!

Little Father:

(Unaffected, writes it on the list)

I'll put you down for a bid of 2 million and 6 beans in the bottle.....and perhaps you'd also like to bid on behalf of your wife?

Michael:

(Shakes his head, earnest-looking)

.....That I don't dare, Little Father....I really don't....

Little Father:

Very well. We'll let Madame's bid remain open.....

Michael looks for Justine who is making her way around the tables, embracing everyone.

Scene 5. INT. Dining hall - Evening

Scene 5.

Justine walks around the main table, smiling at a group further off who all shout at her and start tearing their rolls and throwing bread chunks at her. Justine is in her element and grins and embraces everyone. Claire comes up to her and discreetly pulls her away.

Claire:

Mum's here ...

Claire leads Justine to the main table where sits Justine's father, Dexter, surrounded by two somewhat younger ladies, both by the name of Betty, Michael's parents, Justine's boss and Michael's friend and best man, Jack, and his subordinate, Tim. And also at the table is Claire and John's seven-year-old son, Leo, beside Claire and Justine's mother, Gaby. Justine smiles awkwardly at her mother who has her characteristic eyeglass case in a thin chain around her neck. Before she has time to hug her mother, Justine is attacked by her small nephew.

Leo:

Congratulations, Aunt Steelbreaker!

Justine:

(kisses him)

Thank you my darling.

Leo shows her his new dagger in his pocket. Justine smiles.

Justine:

It's beautiful, darling.

In the background, Michael is making the rounds and embracing people. We catch a few of the not yet introduced names. Michael may also introduce some by name to his parents whom Justine subsequently comes over to hug with a big smile.

Michael:

(to his parents)

This is Dexter, who is father to Justine, but not to Claire ...

Dexter waves. Claire follows Justine to Dexter. Dexter embraces his daughter. With a tear-choked voice he introduces the two ladies by his side.

Dexter:

Honey, this is Betty....and Betty....Betty and Betty....this is my daughter: Justine....

(Starts crying again)

We see from their place cards that they are both called Betty. They wave. Dexter looks very satisfied as he winks at the two ladies close by; who are almost wearing the same kind of hat. Everyone offers napkins to the crying Dexter.

Justine:
(whispers to Claire)

What are the two Betties doing at this table?

Claire:
(whispering back)

I don't know....

Justine:

It's so bizarre...

Claire:

It must be something my Wedding Planner thought up ... he is pretty bizarre himself, you know.

They both look at the wedding planner. He stands expressionless surveying the party. The two sisters giggle together.

Claire:

... but he seems quite pleased ... with the Betties ...

Scene 6. INT. Dining hall - Evening

Scene 6.

Everyone is seated and eating. Justine and Claire eat with their husbands at the main table. Gaby mimes with great exaggeration and seriousness to Justine: "I'm not making a speech!" after a couple of tries Justine understands and nods reassuringly at her mother. She sends Claire a knowing look. Dexter smugly holds the hands of both his ladies at the table. He has two spoons in his breast pocket. He summons a waiter.

Dexter:
(acting serious)

Listen....neither one of the ladies next to me has been given a spoon. They would very much like one.

The waiter nods in confusion and leaves. When Dexter has had fun for a while, the waiter reappears with two spoons. With a mischievous smile, Dexter pockets them. They are as visible in his breast pocket as were the two first spoons. He calls the waiter again.

Dexter:
(to the waiter)

Is this an American law? That just because your name is Betty, you are not treated as well as everybody else? They still haven't had their

spoons...

Dexter lifts their plates, pretending to be looking for the spoons. The waiter does not understand. Another waiter discreetly approaches the wedding planner and whispers something in his ears while pointing at Dexter's breast pocket. Gaby is about to loose it on the other side of the table. She speaks to Justine.

Gaby:

Would you mind slapping your father for me ...
hard.

Justine calms her with a look. Now she has been given a large platter of food. She is not sure what to do with it.

Little Father:

(standing behind them)

Always serve from left to right....always left to
right...

Justine calmly submits to Little Father's instruction. A man despondently provides the dinner music on a Hammond organ: "I will Say Goodbye to Love." The sisters sing along for a bit, giggle and throw a glance at the uptight wedding planner. Justine is offered some wine, but she declines by waving a finger. She would, however, like seconds of the main course. And she gets it, too. Not far from Michael, a man (Jack) gets up, reaching impatiently for a stack of post-its handed him by a young man, Tim, who is clearly a subordinate. Jack senses a break in the music and begins to speak with gusto reaching even to the guests at the table furthest away, without checking his notes. Justine is still getting more food heaped onto her plate, but she never gets to eat it.

Jack:

(Having enjoyed the attention for a while)

Justine, listen up, goddammit! As most of you know, I'm here today playing a sort of double role....On Michael's side as best man and coincidentally also as the employer of the bride! I have nothing bad to say about the groom, but the bride ...!

Justine looks down evidently having expected something like this. Jack performs a bit for Tim, his employee too.

Jack:

Justine, you gorgeous woman! Where is my tagline? You've always been great at coming up with a tagline in a hurry Has your emotional life suddenly taken over? Has meeting the man of your life rendered you unable to work? I'm just asking. Because if I were to choose between a woman for my dear friend Michael and an employee, you know I'd always choose the employee ...

Jack changes the picture on the projector behind him, which until now has shown only the menu, to a photo of three female models lying under a table in a pose familiar from a classical painting. Justine secretly takes Michael's hand. We can tell she means it.

Jack:

Advertising....Justine!....You're way too good for advertising! You know that, I know that....we all know it, but thanks anyway for staying with it! Now I'll leave you and the rest to think about that tagline....while I leak a bit of news....Today the firm has not lost a copywriter..... the company has gained a new ... art director! You! Congratulations, Justine.... Damn it you're worth it!

Justine gives a heartfelt smile at this announcement. She sits for a while, then gets up and walks slowly over to Jack, who has sat down. She gives him a way too fierce hug. Tim gets up and hugs, too. Everybody claps. Jack hugs her back for a while, too. Then he looks at the gathering.

Jack:

By the way, the father of the bride wants a word.....

Dexter gets up, befuddled. He shakes his head for a while. Then he speaks in broken English.

Dexter:

My dear girl, how you glow today! And me – who's so confused about all the Betties at my table... I've never seen you so happy. What can I say? Without talking about your mother ... my wife back then ... and that's exactly what I don't wish to do. And yet, I don't think I'm revealing any secret by saying that she can be rather domineering at times...

Dexter looks questioningly at Gaby seated further down the table. She gets up in her tie-and-dye tunic as if on cue:

Gaby:

Domineering.... you should talk...what a load of crap.... for those who don't know me, my name is Gaby, and I'm Justine's and Claire's mother. Justine! If you have any ambition at all, it does come not from your father's side of the family....yes, I wasn't at the church. I don't believe in marriage, even if apparently there's no other way ...I see that the bride and groom are wearing wedding bands a symbolism which thankfully during my generation went out of style.

Justine's and Michael's are holding hands tightly.

Gaby:

Claire! Whom I've always taken for a sensible personto think that you've arranged this spectacular party...oh well...I just think it's too much, even a lie, to promise all kinds of things like 'till death do us part, and forever and ever Justine and Michael: The one thing I have to say is: enjoy it while it lasts! I myself hate weddings ... especially when they involve my closest family members!

Claire:

(low)

Then why did you bother coming?

Gaby:

(sits down)

...I'll be damned if I know...

Justine has been listening to the speakers, but now her thoughts are drifting.....perhaps listening to some strains of Tristan and Isolde in her mind. The party goes on around her, noiselessly. Claire looks intensely at Justine. Claire gets up and grabs Justine, pulling her out of the room. Justine does not understand why.

Scene 7. INT. Claire's study - Evening

Scene 7.

Claire pulls Justine into her study. The walls are covered with lots of shelves, some filled with art books. The room functions as a sort of art exhibition as the books are all opened to a page with reproductions of one or more paintings. Claire is angry now. She pushes Justine down in a chair among all the reproductions.

Claire:

Damn it Justine, I don't believe you! We agreed you weren't going to make any scenes tonight!

Justine:

We don't want any scenes....

Claire:

No....

(Justine lifts Claire's face)

....we don't...

Justine:

(laughs)

No, we don't want ... any scenes....

Claire:
(looks severely at Justine)

Look at me when I'm talking to you....!

Justine:
But I didn't do anything....

Claire:
You know what I mean

Justine eventually nods.

Justine:
Okay.

Scene 8. INT. Dining hall - Evening

Scene 8.

Claire re-enters with Justine. Jack gives the floor to a girl further on down the line.

Girl with guitar:
I took the liberty of bringing my guitar....

Justine is in her seat. She shuts her eyes, annoyed. The girl strikes a few chords to see if the guitar is in tune. She cannot see her notes. Somebody lends her a pair of reading glasses. Justine gets up quietly and leaves.

Scene 9. EXT. Courtyard - Night

Scene 9.

Justine makes for the stables.

Scene 10. EXT. Golf course. Green 1 - Night

Scene 10.

Justine comes driving from far away in the golf cart. She is driving in the night on the lit-up golf course. There are some white tents on a windy green, evidently to be used later on in the party. Justine drives around them and onwards.

Scene 11 A. EXT. Golf course. Tents - Night

Scene 11A.

We pan with Justine as she drives by the tents.

Scene 11 B. EXT. Golf course. Pavilion - Night

Scene 11B.

We see the small Pavilion. There is sure to be a telescope in there.

Scene 12. EXT. Golf course. Green 18 - Night

Scene 12.

Justine stops the car and gets out onto a green. It is green number 18. She is feeling a bit nauseous and has come out for a bit of fresh air. She squats to pee. Now she sees the canopy of stars above her. We still hear the faint start of the Wagner overture. Justine stands still for a long time afterwards. And looks further into the night sky than is humanly possible.

Scene 13. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 13.

Jack checks his watch and taps his glass.

Jack:

Now the groom will give a speech to the bride!

General panic at the main table because Justine is absent. Michael is confused. The wedding planner attacks Claire right away.

Wedding planner:

I don't see the bride! We're drastically late as it is.
Wherever I look, no bride! She is only here on
paper ... otherwise, not at all.....

Claire does not know what to say. Luckily Justine suddenly arrives. She sits down by Michael and kisses him. Now Michael gets up and taps his glass.

Michael:

Dear Justine....Do you see what you're doing to
me? I've never given a speech before....

Many at the table erupt in a compassionate: ohhh.....!

Michael:

No ... I mean it. Justine is the speaker. She can say
the most fantastic things....

Gaby:

(growling)

Then let her make the speech, damn it

Justine smiles and raises a hand to ward off the plea.

Michael:
(has not heard Gaby)

NoJustine, I just love you so much. I never thought I'd have such a gorgeous wife. Well, that was the whole speech really

Michael is a bit confused. Then he is saved by Jack who raises his glass.

Jack:

A toast for the bride and groom!
(Smiling as he sits down)

....not to mention my new AD who by the way owes me a tagline....

Everybody gets up and toasts. Justine wipes a tear from her cheek and gives Michael a long, grateful and passionate kiss. Claire gets up after the toast, schedule in hand, to demonstrate to the wedding planner that she has got things under control.

Claire:

(Pointing to the projected program for the evening)

Hello everyone! We're going to move into the living room so we can clear some tables. Then the newlyweds will dance ... after which everyone can join in and dance. Next important point on the program is at 11.30 when the bride and groom will cut the cake in here.

Somebody starts to move the Hammond organ.

Scene 14. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 14.

First the bridal couple dance to their favorite tune. The Hammond organ has been supplemented with a few extra musicians. Michael dances proudly with Justine who seems to be in a state of intoxication. After that, several traditional combinations of the wedding party dance together and eventually, everybody dances. The room is swaying and it is fantastic and Justine smiles broadly, her eyes closed. Now Little Father discreetly enters the dance floor hand in hand with a sleepy Leo. He addresses Claire quietly, while she is dancing.

Little Father:

Leo wants to be put to bed now....

Claire:

Yes, of course ... thank you....

Justine:

(heard Little Father and stops dancing)

I'll do it, Clay!

Justine makes for the front room passing all the dancers carrying the almost sleeping Leo in her arms.

Scene 15. INT. Leos room - Night

Scene 15.

Leo is in bed in his pajamas. Justine has dressed him for the night. She kisses him and tugs him in.

Leo:
(Smiles)

When are we going to build caves together?

Justine:

We're going to build lots of caves together, just not tonight....

Leo:

Yes, because you're my Aunt Steelbreaker, aren't you?

Justine:

That's exactly who I am....

Once she thinks Leo is asleep Justine tries to leave but Leo holds on to her hand and won't let go.

Scene 16 A. INT. Leos room - Night

Scene 16A.

Justine has fallen asleep beside the sleeping Leo on his bed. Claire enters. Justine wakes up and smiles sleepily at Claire.

Justine:

Hey sweetie ... I was just taking a little nap.

Claire:

Don't nap ... it's your wedding.....You're not even halfway through yet.

Justine:

No, you're right. I have to pull myself together.

Claire:

Yes, you have to!

Justine:

(shuts her eyes again)

Yes, I have to....we have to cut the cake....

Claire looks severely at Justine's eyes.

Claire:

What's going on, Justine?

Justine:

(smiles with her eyes shut)

I'm trudging through this grey woolly yarn....

Claire observes Justine for a moment.

Claire:

No, you're not!

Justine:

As a matter of fact, I am. It's clinging to my legs....

(smiles)

It's really heavy to drag along.....

Claire:

(seriously)

I just really hope you're enjoying the wedding,
that's all. It's mine and John's gift to you

Justine:

I know, and I'm really grateful for it

Claire:

Don't be grateful, just enjoy it damn it...

Justine:

No, Clay, honestly ... the wedding is great ... thank
you, Clay! You're wonderful! You've done a great
job. But it hurts, Clay....I know you hate to hear
about it, but your legs ache when you can't move
forward.....I really have to struggle sometimes....

Claire:

You promised you'd pull yourself together.

Justine:

Of course I will....I'll just sit for a while.....I can
control it ... I've told you that....

Claire:
(cool)

Whatever you do, don't say anything to Michael tonight....not a word....for God's sake....

Justine:

Do you think I'm stupid?

Claire:

So we agree?

Justine:

Mm.....

Claire:

You chase everyone away ... it's what you do....

Justine:

(opens her eyes and looks at Claire)

I've never smiled as much as tonight!

Claire:

....keep at it, then!

Justine:
(nods)

I will.....

Claire gets up and checks her watch.

Claire:

We cut the cake at 11.30 ... not a second later.

Justine:

I have a clock in my room....I just need a quick bath....

Justine points to a clock on the table. It says 11.10. Claire leaves the room. Justine finds the key to Room 9.

Scene 16 B. INT. Corridor. Guests - Night

Scene 16B.

She quietly closes the door to Leo's room and searches down the hallway for Room 9.

Scene 17. INT. Justine's room. Bath - Night

Scene 17.

Justine sits in the bathtub lost in her own thoughts. Now she finds an old cassette player and skims through a lot of songs, eventually finding the one she was looking for: a Carpenter song.

Justine is far away in her thoughts ... she is staring at a poorly caulked joint along the bathtubs edge. There is a bit of mould growing in the joint. Justine smiles. The clock by the sink says 11.45. Justine is far away.

Scene 18. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 18.

Claire stands with Michael who is ready to cut the cake. All the guests save Gaby and Justine are present. The wedding planner paces the floor impatiently.

Wedding planner

I am at the end of my rope.....

Someone takes a flash photo of the cake. John checks his watch then looks at Claire with frustration.

John:

I'll get her....

Claire:

And mum.....she is not here either....

John nods and makes for the staircase.

Scene 19. INT. Corridor. Guests. - Night

Scene 19.

John finds the door to number 9. He knocks.

John:

Justine! We are ready to cut the cake....!

He listens, but there is no reply from the room. He is dissatisfied. He knocks again, harder, but still no reply. John walks down the hallway and stops at another room. He knocks.

John:

Gaby.....We're about to cut the cake....It's your daughter's wedding goddamn it!

John tries the handle. The door is open.

Scene 20. INT. Gaby's room - Night

Scene 20.

John enters, but finds the bathroom door locked from within. Around him are various open suitcases, their contents scattered all over. John knocks on the bathroom door. He hears the sound of running water.

John:
(more quiet)

We're cutting the cake now....

Gaby:
(through the door)

When Justine took her first crap on her potty, I wasn't there ... when she had her first sexual intercourse, I was tactful enough to stay away ... so give me a break with all your fucking rituals ... please!

Scene 21. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 21.

John joins the people waiting around the cake. He finds Claire.

John:

Both bitches have locked themselves up ... I refrained from telling them what your sister's wedding has cost us ... and now they are both taking a bath, damn it! They're totally nuts. All of your family ...

Claire shushes him....Michael looks insecure.

John:
(to Michael)

We should have put showers in the guest wing....I've said that a hundred timesfor fucks sake - people can linger in their own bathtubs at home..... here we offer an eighteen-hole golf course ... where else can they get that?

John stands for a while, uneasy. He shakes his head and makes for the staircase again.

John:

That's it – out she goes....

Claire:

Justine?....oh, please....

John:

Your mother, damn it.....!

Scene 22. INT. Gaby's room - Night

Scene 22.

John barges into Gaby's room and starts throwing her belongings back into the suitcases . He drags the half-closed suitcases out and down the stairs.

Scene 23. EXT. Courtyard - Night

Scene 23.

John comes out with the suitcases and puts them down in the courtyard, clothes spilling out of them. Eventually he calms down and re-enters the house with the guests. We stay in the courtyard a bit too long. Little Father picks up the suitcases from the courtyard as if he has done so many times before.

Scene 24. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 24.

Time lapse. Everybody is dancing around the cake. Justine comes sneaking down the stairs. She checks herself in the mirror to find that her bridal veil is crooked. Justine pulls off some of the train ... she finds Michael conversing with his parents. They kiss her enthusiastically. Justine takes them all to the cake and cuts it with Michael. Somebody photographs the moment. The wedding planner turns to Claire.

Wedding planner

She's ruining my wedding! I can't look at her!

Michael's parents immediately start making arrangements with the photographer about getting copies. Justine and Michael are left at the cake. Justine looks at Michael, conscience-stricken.

Justine:

I'm sorry....

Michael:

No, no, never say you're sorry....I'm to blame.....I haven't been looking after you lately.....As I promised . I can see you're not feeling wellI should've seen it already yesterday....

Michael looks at her with joy as if he saw her for the first time.

Michael:

Can we talk for a bit?

Justine nods.

Justine:

Of course.

She leads him out of the room.

Scene 25. INT. Claire's study - Night

Scene 25.

Justine enters with Michael. They sit down on a couch. Michael has something to say; he collects himself.

Michael:

I wasn't going to give it to you until tomorrow....

Michael produces a photo he has kept in his wallet. He ceremoniously hands it to Justine. She looks at it politely. It is a picture of some small apple trees in rows.

Michael:

(happy to see her with the photo)

I've found our plot of land!

Justine checks the photo as if to discover more than meets the eye.

Michael:

(big smile)

They're Ribston Pippins apples, bright red and sweet with a perfect tartness....I had them once as a kid. In ten years' time when the trees grow, , you can sit in the shade in a chair ... and if you still have days when you're sad... that'll make you happy again ...

Justine nods. She looks at Michael with an almost compassionate smile.

Justine:

So that's why you've been so busy....

Michael:

I signed the deed for us yesterday.....

Justine embraces him. She wants to return the photo to Michael, but he stops her.

Michael:

Keep it.... so you can look at it once in a while.... even though I wasn't going to give it to you until tomorrow morning!

Justine nods gravely at Michael. She turns serious and puts the photo down on the couch and kisses him passionately. Michael picks up the photo and gives it to her again. She smiles at him for a while.

Justine:
(smiles)

I'll always keep it with me....

Michael:

We can have a swing hanging from the trees, too...

Justine:
(correcting him, putting down the photo)

We'll talk about that when the time comes....

Michael:
(nods lovingly)

Yes, we will ... we will....

Justine gets up and closes his eyes with her fingers.

Justine:

I love you....

She gently leads his hand up under her skirt to her lap. Michael smiles, his eyes closed. He opens them and smiles at her. She closes his eyes again, acting cross. Justine leaves Michael sitting on the couch with his eyes shut. She quietly exits. Michael sits blissfully for a while with his eyes closed . Some time later the door has been shut. Michael opens his eyes. He looks contentedly around the room full of art books,... then he sees, on the edge of the couch ... the photo of the apple plantation that Justine left behind.

Scene 26 A. INT. Corridor. Private - Night

Scene 26A.

Justine passes quietly along the hallway and finds the nursery.

Scene 26 B. INT. Leos room - Night

Scene 26B.

She peers into the darkness ... hears the rhythmic respiration of the sleeping kid. She looks at the sleeping Leo who is restful. Suddenly she hears a voice from the darkness. It is John, in a chair.

John:

You'd better be goddamned happy!

Justine recognizes the silhouette in the room.

Justine:

Yes, I'd better be... I really better be....

John:

Do you know what this party cost us? Just a ballpark figure....?

Justine:

No, I don't....I don't know what this party cost you. Should I?

John:

Yes, I think you should....lots of money! a really huge amount of money... an arm and a leg, actually!

Justine:

I hope you feel it's well spent....

John:

Well, do we have a deal?

Justine:

A deal....?

John:

That you'll be happy?

Justine:

Yes, yes, of course we have a deal....

John:

I've tried to throw your mother out ...

Justine:

Yes, you usually do
(looks tenderly at John)

Thank you! It's a wonderful party you've given me!

John:

(nods)

And how many holes does our golf course have?

Justine:

18!

John nods and smiles vaguely.

Scene 26 C. INT. Corridor. Private - Night

Scene 26C.

Justine tiptoes down the hallway and off.

Scene 27. INT. Staircase - Night

Scene 27.

Justine tiptoes toward the sound. She passes someone and remembers to smile broadly. Distant music from the band. There are some people here and there drinking. She smilingly waltzes past them.

Scene 28 A. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 28A.

People dancing. Justine's face brightens. She is caught by the music. Dexter is dancing with his two Betties.

Dexter:

Did I tell you....this is my daughter: Justine.....this
is Betty and...

Justine:

Betty!

He nods. He stops to look at Justine. He shakes his head.

Dexter:

You're so beautiful.....

Justine smiles and dances around for a bit. She bumps into Jack and Tim who are hanging at the bar, drinking.

Jack:

Justine....meet this young man!

Justine shakes hands.

Tim:

(cautiously)

I'm Tim.....

Justine:

Hi, Tim.

Jack:

(looks up and down Justine)

Tim started working for us two days ago. And he happens to be my nephew ...- but ignore that. Tim thought I couldn't squeeze that tagline out of you on

your wedding day.

He looks at the bashful Tim.

Tim:

No, I thought it might be difficult.....

Jack:

You're colleagues, Justine. I hired him the second I heard about his education

Justine:

Okay?

Jack:

Yes. What education is perfect if you want to make it in PR?

Justine cannot answer ... Tim looks down, embarrassed.

Jack:

None at all, of course. It was almost too perfect. My nephew has no education whatsoever, he told me. In other words, he knows nothing ...so I hired him on the spot ... at a good ... salary ... what do you think, Tim?

Tim:

A very good salary.....

Justine:

(not too thrilled)

Welcome, then, Tim!

Jack:

There is only a slight catch to the good job....with the very good salary...

Tim:

(nods)

The salary is very good....

Justine:

And what is it you are pushing poor Tim into doing?

Jack:

To get that damn tagline out of you. Tonight!
Otherwise, he's out on his ear, that simple ...and that
sucks, considering the debts he's in ...

Justine:
(curt)

Goodbye....

Justine passes through the dancing people. Jack follows her with Tim.

Jack:

She's incredible, but you have to keep at her....She
won't admit it, but once you give her a job, she
can't let it go.....no matter what she says. You just
have to be there at the time of birth. Now, follow
her, and I mean it, every step she takes, and get that
tagline ...

Jack pushes Tim after Justine. Justine dances across the floor. Tim diligently follows, without
dancing. Justine looks at Tim....

Justine:

Wanna dance?

Tim looks back at his uncle who motions to him to proceed. Justine puts her arms around Tim's
neck and they dance. Tim is ill at ease. Now Justine feels they have been dancing long enough. She
breaks loose. She moves toward the edge of the room, Tim following her closely.

Gaby smiles triumphantly to John

Scene 28 B. INT. Corridor. Private - Night

Scene 28B.

Justine almost runs from him, down a hallway.

Scene 29. INT. Corridor. Private - Night

Scene 29.

Justine is about to open the door to Claire's study. Tim stops her with a hand on her arm. He has
pencil and paper ready.

Tim:

Do let me know if the tagline is there ... I'll jot it
down...the sooner we have it, the sooner we're
ready for the actual campaign ... I think that's what
my uncle said.

He gives Justine a photo copy of the model photo for the campaign. Justine glares at him full of rejection.

Justine:

Spare me.....

Justine slips into Claire's study and locks the door behind her so Tim cannot follow.

Scene 30. INT. Claire's study - Night

Scene 30.

Justine sees Michael and Claire on the couch. They look serious. Justine throws herself on the couch next to her husband. He moves slightly away from her. She puts her feet on the table. Michael looks gravely at Claire. She nods at him. Then he leaves with his photo of the apple plantation in his hand. Claire and Justine sit for a while in silence.

Justine:

Listen....I'm thrilled about this wedding.....though it may not look that way....John says it cost an arm and a leghowever much that may be....

Claire:

Shut up! John is filthy rich and he needs to shut up about it! It has nothing to do with the cost. It's just that you told me you wanted this ...

Justine:

(insisting)

But I DO.

Claire:

Michael has tried to get through to you all evening. To no avail ...

Justine:

(tears in her eyes)

It's not true! I walk around and I smile and smile....

Claire:

You're lying ... damn it ... to all of us

Claire gets up and leaves. Justine snivels. She shakes her head as tears run down her cheeks. She sits down on the couch with a furious expression on her face. She will not put up with this from Claire. Justine looks around quickly. Then she gets going. In a rage. She aggressively pushes the furniture around.. puffs a bit as she sees it is all helter skelter... then catches sight of the shelves with the art books ... she leafs through all of them and finds pictures that are much more melancholy and mysterious than the harmless ones Claire had exhibited on the shelves. Justine chooses Hill, and Breughel, of course; "Hunters in the Snow" and the source of Jack's publicity photo, Breughel's "The Land of Cockaigne". Bizarre and almost perverted images from the melancholy part of art

history. We see all the pictures and understand their pull on Justine. Even after she has left the room.

Scene 31. INT. Corridor. Guests - Night **Scene 31.**

Justine passes down the hallway to see a lot of suitcases outside a door. She recognizes them. They are a kind of hippie-ish. Justine turns to see that Tim is right behind her. Justine stares coldly at him.

Justine:

Don't breathe a word about any stupid tagline! Do I
make myself absolutely clear?

Tim shrugs. He retreats a bit and leaves her to collect her mother's things.

Scene 32. INT. Gaby's room - Night **Scene 32.**

Justine, with the suitcases, knocks on her mother's door. Gaby opens.

Justine:

Aren't you missing something?

Gaby:

Not in particular!

Justine puts the clothes and the suitcases into Gaby's room.

Gaby:

What the hell do you want in this place? You have
no business here. Nor do I. Your sister, it seems, is
somewhat bewitched by it all ... the money, most
likely ... but you ... you don't have to be here

Justine:

(sitting in a chair)

Mom ... I'm a bit scared!

Gaby:

A bit! I'd be scared out of my wits if I were you.
Your sister's husband is insane.... no surprise there
....

Justine:

No, it's something else....I'm frightened, mom! I
have trouble walking ... you know, properly....

Gaby:

But you can still wobble, I see....so wobble the hell

out of this place. Stop dreaming, Justine ... just live your life! Fully! It's not your fault that your sister's husband's crazy

Justine:

I have my own husband....

Gaby:

Just as crazy, I'm sure....

Justine:

(holding Gaby)

I'm really frightened....

Gaby:

Yes, we all are, sweetie... just forget it, and get the hell out of this place.

Gaby leads her daughter out of the room.

Scene 33. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 33.

Justine plops down on a bench among the dancing guests. Someone comes up and sits down next to her. At first she is pleased until she realizes it is Tim.

Justine:

You don't even know what a real tagline is!

Tim:

I never said I did, but I do know when someone's given me a task

Justine catches sight of Michael amongst the crowd and is drawn to him. They stand for a while just looking at one another. Forgiving each other it seems. Claire comes up from behind and puts a whole bottle of brandy into Justine's hand. Justine takes a swig which turns out to be more than a quarter of the bottle. Michael looks at her in surprise. He looks at the bottle. Then he takes it and downs another quarter. Justine smiles. They dance out onto the floor ... and soon start kissing passionately. She presses up against him. Everyone around them cheers and applauds. Claire enters and stops everybody.

Claire:

Everybody out now... to the balloon....

The guests stumble out, including the wedding planner who glares at Justine but when she returns his gaze turns away demonstratively. Disgruntled Dexter stumbles by Justine with a Betty on each arm. He sees a waitress, and motions to her, but she does not respond.

Dexter:

Betty! Betty! Another glass please....?

The waitress reacts to the name.

Dexter:

(looks at Justine)

Damn it! They're all named Betty.....

Dexter is still surprised about the applicability of the name. Wine is poured into his glass. He winks at Justine.

Dexter:

Thanks.....Betty.....!

Justine:

Dad ... can we talk....?

Scene 34. EXT. Terrace & Garden - Night

Scene 34.

Dexter does not hear his daughter, but is swallowed up in the flow of people streaming across the courtyard on waves of laughter.

Scene 35. EXT. Golf course. Tents - Night

Scene 35.

The crowd spills onto the lit up golf course, moving past the white tents we saw earlier. There is a small band in one of the tents playing melancholy jazz. Drinks are served from somewhere. But Claire leads the crowd onwards past the tents. They all follow.

Scene 36. EXT. Golf course. Pavilion - Night

Scene 36.

Far out on the course, by the observatory pavilion, the balloon is being prepared for launch. Somebody has taped pieces of paper together to make a balloon, with candles under to make it go up. Most of the guests gather to write greetings on the paper. John is already there, opening the pavilion and pushing the telescope into position. Justine follows him. And Claire. Now the guests by the balloon are lighting the candles and making it ready. Justine sees Gaby somewhere on the outskirts of the group, unaffected by the festive mood, but when Justine looks again, Gaby is gone. Little Father and a waitress serve champagne to everybody.

John looks with delight at the stars above the area for a while. Now they are ready to launch from the green. John carefully guides Justine to the telescope, helping her to look through it and follow the rising balloon. Justine seems hopeless with the telescope, but cannot help looking. We see what she sees: the balloon rising, going in and out of focus. It is all a flickering blur. Whirling past stars and mysterious blurs. Now the balloon breaks out of the field of vision and melts into eternity. Everything disappears in mysterious manifestations. Justine gasps and grows pale. She cannot look any longer, so Claire takes over. She thinks it is all fantastic and gets Justine back to the ocular.

Justine is focused now. She lets her focus glide upward and upward. It is so enticing, so tempting. She wants to see further up. Justine is about to faint now but then as she falls; someone is there to catch her. It's Michael. Justine smiles up at him as she slowly comes to in his arms.

Scene 37. EXT. Golf course. Pavilion - Night **Scene 37.**

Justine and Michael walk together back toward the house across the deserted golf courses along with all the other guests. They walk in silence for a while. Tim approaches with the photocopy of the picture of the three models under the round table and signals with a raised hand that he has something to say, but Justine waves him away.

Michael:

If it's my turn to speak now, - I never in my life
thought that I could love someone so much...

Justine nods. She walks for a while.

Michael:

I really always thought it would be something
superficial ... with anyone. But it has turned out to
be so much, much more than that

Justine:

I agree..... In principle. The problem is that I'm just
not happy.

Michael and Justine walk on while Michael tries to digest what he has just heard.

Michael:

What do you mean?

Justine:

I'm just not happy....

Michael nods. He has understood. But he is not satisfied. He nods again.

Michael:

And you need to be?

Justine:

Happy?

Michael:

Yes ... you need to be?

Justine:

I do, as a minimum....

Michael:

How can you say that?

Justine:

How can I not say that? Of course I need to be happy!

Michael:

And you're not?

Justine:

No ... to be brutally honest....

Michael:

Well, to be brutally honest ... who is?

Justine:

I don't know....

Michael:

And yet you still know that you need to be?

Justine:

Yes.

Michael:

(a bit aggressive)

Who the hell told you that?

Justine:

Pardon?

Michael:

Who the hell told you that you must be happy?

Justine:

Who told me?

Michael:

Yes, because no one else is....

Justine:

No one?

Michael:

No.....not happy....content, perhaps, in

general.....maybe sort of happy in brief moments,
perhaps, but just content, when there's a reason to
be

Justine thinks this over for a while as they approach the front door of "Eremitage".

Scene 38. INT. Staircase - Night

Scene 38.

Justine and Michael enter the hall which is suddenly full of noisy people. They have gathered at the bottom of the stairs, ready to clap the couple up the stairs to bed. Michael is ready to ascend, but Justine who has just been handed her bridal bouquet, seems in doubt. Everybody applauds, but Justine is unable to move. Claire intervenes again, takes the flowers and throws them. Justine comes to and walks with Michael up the stairs. The guests follow, clapping rhythmically.

Scene 39. INT. Wedding suite - Night

Scene 39.

Michael carries Justine over the threshold to room 9. The rhythmical clapping dies out. He carefully puts her down on the bed. He looks at her. He slowly loses his initiative. He does not know what to do. Justine starts to undress. A bit later Michael follows suit. After a while, Justine stops. She looks at Michael who is still undressing. She looks intensely at him. She sits down beside him.

Justine:

Sit with me for a while.....

Michael agrees and they sit for a while.

Justine:

Can you give me a moment?

Michael:
(calmly)

Take all the time you need.

Justine smiles at him and puts her clothes back on. Michael smiles at her. Soon she is fully dressed. She sends him a loving look and disappears out the door.

Scene 40 A. EXT. Garden - Night

Scene 40A.

From this point in the first part of the film, we and the story zoom in on Justine, who increasingly appears to be in a bubble. It all becomes dreamlike.

Justine takes the back stairs. She looks around and carefully avoids meeting anybody on her way

Scene 40 B. EXT. Golf course. Green 18 - Night

Scene 40B.

Out across the golf course (music: Tristan and Isolde Overture.) She moves still further away from the brightly lit main building. She nears the pavilion with the telescope.

Scene 41. EXT. Golf course. Green 18 - Night

Scene 41.

Justine in her bridal gown has come to a stop beneath the starry sky on the lit green of the 18th hole.. There is a slight breeze. The flag by the hole stirs faintly. The wind passes through the shrubbery that borders the green in a semi circle. Justine stands for a while. Then she looks around. A little behind her, a silhouette emerges from the shrubbery. She looks at him, gradually recognizing him as Tim. He approaches, signaling with his hand that he has something to say. Justine knits her brow. She silences him with a gesture before he has a chance to speak. Tim lowers his hand. Justine slowly goes to him. She takes off his jacket. He lets her without moving. Justine continues to undress him. She initiates sexual intercourse right there on the green of the 18th hole. She straddles him and rides him aggressively. It takes some time – she needs to get off, too. She lets him lie there, straightening her clothes as she gets up. Justine trudges back across the course. Her veil is all askew so she tears it off and leaves it on the course before making her way towards the lights from the building on the horizon.

Scene 42. INT. Wedding suite - Night

Scene 42.

Michael sits waiting on the bed, still wearing most of his wedding suit. He breathes deeply as he straightens himself.

Scene 43. INT. Dinning hall - Night

Scene 43.

Justine enters the dance floor where her father is dancing with several women. Justine dances with her father. They have a lovely time.

Scene 44. EXT. Garden - Night

Scene 44.

Justine pulls Dexter outside. He is game. He waves goodbye to various women.

Dexter:
(too loudly)

Hi, Betty ... you're looking good tonight, Betty.....

Someone already in bed shushes Dexter from the first floor. They laugh, however. They have only been shushing for fun. They are drunk. Justine is pleased to see her father happy. He becomes aware that she is looking at him.

Dexter:

Darling, I'm on my way home....That's all your old father can take....

Justine:
(suddenly serious)

Dad.....I so want to talk with you....stay a little.....please, dad.

Justine looks around.

Justine:

Can't you stay tonight....then we can talk in the morning....I need to....

Dexter:

That wasn't what I had planned....

Justine:

No, but think it over, now....

Justine has spotted Little Father. She pulls her father over to him.

Justine:

My father would like to stay ... can that be arranged?

Little Father:

Room 18 is vacant....Should we prepare it for your father?

Justine looks pleadingly at her father. He shrugs. Justine smiles.

Justine:

My father would like that, yes.

Little Father withdraws to the building to make the necessary preparations. Justine smiles at her father. He smiles back at her.

Justine:

Then we'll have breakfast together....

Dexter:

(smiles and nods)

And lunch if need be ... darling!

Dexter smiles broadly just as Gaby walks by. She looks furiously at Dexter. Dexter notices but doesn't understand.

Dexter:

What have I done now? What exactly have I done?

Justine laughs. She takes her father's arm and wants to escort him into the house. They walk together toward the front door.

Scene 45 A. EXT. Terrace - Night

Scene 45A.

Michael is at the window and sees Justine on her way in. But then she stops. She cannot bring herself to enter. She kisses her father and leaves him again. In a hurry she heads back out onto the golf course. Michael watches her go.

Scene 45 B. INT. Wedding suite - Night

Scene 45B.

Then he sits down on the bed. Stiffly.

Scene 46. EXT. Golf course. Tents - Night

Scene 46.

Justine full of purpose heads away from the houses. She is about to cry. She walks with measured steps. She closes her eyes and plods on. Suddenly from behind a hand grabs her shoulder. Surprised she stops. It's Jack.

Jack:

The onion soup has arrived.

Justine has no idea what he is talking about. But then she sees a catering van parked close by serving onion soup to the many hungry guests sitting in the white tents. On the periphery of the guests, the wedding planner tastes the soup. He is with Gaby. He can't eat the soup at all which apparently tastes awful. He pours it out. Gaby has a taste and seems to concur. Jack leads Justine to the soup bar where Tim is already eating. When the wedding planner spots Justine he turns away. Justine takes her bowl like everybody else in the line. She eats with Jack and Tim for a while in silence. Some of the people behind them are very drunk and run around shouting loudly.

Scene 47. INT. Stables - Night

Scene 47.

Abraham and the other horses are scared by the loud noises. They are uneasy in their stalls.

Scene 48. EXT. Golf course. Tents - Night

Scene 48.

Justine has finished her soup. Jack and Tim are still gulping it down.

Jack:

(smiling deviously)

Too bad about Tim....

Justine:

(confused)

About Tim?

Jack:

That he's fired. He didn't last many hours in the business. But then again, it is a rather unpredictable one. King one day, beggar the next. Back to where he started from.....

Justine looks at the grave Tim.

Justine:

Jack, I've been looking for you....I'm glad we found each other....

Jack smiles.

Jack:

Didn't I tell you, Tim!....She can't stop working....not even on her wedding night.....ha, ha, ha....you're amazing, Justine.

(to Tim)

I think her secret is that she works emotionally. Not cynically like the rest of us ... that the goal in the end is cynical ... we don't have to tell anyone ..., Ok, Justine come out with it. Our tagline!

Justine looks seriously at Jack.

Justine:

I had nothing in the church, but since then I've been toying with an idea for a small campaign ... the problem is how do we most effectively hook a large group of minors on our substandard product ... in a preferably habit-forming way,... and I've reached the conclusion, that with regards to the tagline ...

Jack and Tim hang by her lips. Jack is eating soup at the same time.

Justine:

....what if instead we try and sell you to the public, Jack.....well then, that's when I surprisingly arrived back where I started from.....at: "Nothing!"

Tim nods without understanding.

Tim:

"nothing"...well...."nothing".....

Jack stops with a spoonful of soup halfway to his mouth.

Jack:

Would my newly fledged AD perhaps expand a bit

on her thoughts for the tagline....?

Justine:

"Nothing" may not cover it all....but it comes close.
You are a despicable, power-hungry little man,
Jack. Who actually believes he's contributing
something to the world in return for the gift of life.
But 'nothing' is too much for you, Jack ... I hate you
and your firm so deeply that I couldn't find words to
describe it, even if I worked emotionally at it all my
life!

Jack ponders.

Jack:

Is that a resignation? Because there aren't too many
jobs out there, let me tell you...

Justine looks at Jack. She has nothing else to say. Jack stands still for a moment, then hurls the soup bowl in the direction of the stable where it smashes a window. Jack turns around and leaves.

Scene 49. INT. Stables - Night

Scene 49.

Abraham shudders nervously in his stall at the sound of the smashed window pane.

Scene 50. EXT. Courtyard - Night

Scene 50.

Furious, Jack gets into his car. He starts it, revving the engine with a great noise, but cannot make his way out. Again and again, his car hits other cars parked around it. Jack is moving the car with more and more anger. Justine and Tim arrive in the parking lot. They look at his violent attempts at getting his car out of the lot. Finally he succeeds. Jack floors the pedal, speeds across the lawn and off. Justine and Tim stand a while in silence. Then Michael emerges from the house with his slightly too fashionable suitcase and proceeds toward the parked cars. He comes up to Justine and Tim. Michael is quite calm, even bashful, perhaps. Tim instinctively withdraws.

Michael:

Well, I think I'll be off now....

Justine:

(nods, she too now is bashful)

yes....

Michael:

So many things could have been different....

Justine:

Yes.....Michael....they could have.....

Michael looks at her, trying to find a speck of hope to coax him into staying. He tries to make her speak, but she is silent. Eventually, she nods. She looks up at him.

Justine:

But, Michael....

Michael a little encouraged, as if he had been given a hint of an invitation.

Justine:

.....what did you expect?

Michael thinks for a while. Lets hope evaporate. Smiles slightly to himself.

Michael:

No, Justine....you're right.....

Michael walks quietly with his parents to their car. They drive away. Justine watches until the car is out of sight. Tim walks over to her again. He looks at her a bit shyly.

Tim:

The way I see it, you're now short a boss and a husband ... may I in all humility offer my services? You have the ideas and I have the head for business ... we could be the perfect couple ... we've had great sex!

Justine looks at Tim.

Justine:

....I don't think that's a very good idea....

Tim looks down, and nods.

Tim:

.....No, perhaps not....

Tim goes back to the house and Justine remains to look up at the stars. She listens to the dance music in the distance. She closes her eyes, as if soothed by the music. When she opens them she sees Claire trying to sneak by her into the house. Justine is happy at seeing her sister. She runs over and stops her. She takes her hands and smiles at her. Claire stares coldly at Justine.

Claire:

.....Sometimes I really hate you so much!

Justine is shocked. She doesn't understand. Claire breaks loose and goes into the house. Justine stares after her, still not understanding.

Scene 51. INT. Hall - Night

Scene 51.

We follow Claire through the main entrance. Little Father is back at the table with the beans in a bottle, the wedding planner by his side. Little Father stops Claire.

Little Father:

The result is ready ... if it's of any interest....

Claire:

The result?

Little Father:

Yes, the number of beans in the bottle has been arrived at....

Little Father and the wedding planner look at Claire.

Claire:

And?

Little Father:

678 beans. That's the final count.

Wedding planner:
(smugly)

678 beans ... and none of the guests got it right....

Claire:

Really?

Wedding planner:

Yes....some were pretty close, but no one actually guessed exactly 678 beans in the bottle.

Claire:
(thinks)

678?

Wedding planner:

No less....

Claire:

Incredible....

Wedding planner:

You could say that....

Claire:

Incredibly ... trivial!

Wedding planner is shocked.

Wedding planner:

But that's the result of the competition...I am sure
a lot of people are looking forward to getting the
result...and then there's the prize...

Claire:

Throw it away....

Claire proceeds up the stairs ignoring the wedding planner. He is shattered. He cannot even bear to look at Little Father.

Scene 52 A. INT. Dining hall - Night

Scene 52A.

Justine walks through the sleeping house. The dance hall is deserted and quiet. Everybody has turned in and it is late.

Scene 52 B. INT. Mansion - Night

Scene 52B.

She looks through a window.

Scene 52 C. INT. Mansion - Night

Scene 52C.

And spots her mother in the other wing intently doing her yoga exercises on a mat.

Scene 53. INT. Corridor. Guests - Night

Scene 53.

Justine walks down the hallways and all is quiet. She looks for a certain room. It is number 18. She knocks.

Justine:

.....Dad.....?

No response. Justine quietly knocks on the door again, but there is still no answer. She tries the handle – the door is open and she cautiously enters.

Scene 54. INT. Dexter's room - Night

Scene 54.

Justine finds the room empty. There is no one inside and no suitcases or luggage. Justine wanders about for a while. On the still made bed is a folded slip of paper. She takes it and reads: "To my beloved daughter Betty! I'm as proud of you as any father could be, but I was offered a ride home which I couldn't refuse. We'll meet again soon in this big world. In this long, long life! Kiss from your stupid Dad." Justine stands for a while holding the letter before she puts it back where she found it.

Scene 55. INT. Claire's study - Early morning

Scene 55.

Justine is fast asleep on the couch with all the reproductions around her in the severely redecorated study. Claire enters wearing a riding outfit with a stack of clothes on her arm. She looks lovingly for a while at the sleeping Justine. Then Claire carefully wakes her.

Claire:

Justine....wake up! We're going for a ride!

Justine slowly wakes up and looks at Claire. Justine is about to collapse with unhappiness when it dawns on her where she is.

Justine:

We're going riding? I don't think I have the energy.

Claire nods encouragingly.

Claire:

Sure you do.....

Claire slowly helps Justine into the riding outfit.

Justine:

But I'm so heavy ... I've never felt so heavy....

Claire:

(smiles)

You can manage it all.....Justine! In this world.
Now, come on.....

Scene 56. INT. Stables - Early morning

Scene 56.

Justine, now also wearing a riding outfit, and Claire saddle the horses; Abraham and another horse. Justine looks ruefully at her sister.

Justine:

I really tried, Claire!

Claire:

(nods reassuringly)

You sure did. You really did. No one can say you didn't.

Justine:

Did I have a really truly traditional wedding?

Claire:

(nods reassuringly)

Well, yes... partly ...

Scene 57. EXT. Golf course. - Early morning

Scene 57.

Dawn, first light. Claire and Justine gallop along the bridle path through banks of mist in the early twilight, across the endless golf course. The camera whirls along with them, maybe in a helicopter shot. Justine has regained her good cheer from the speed. Claire and Justine are truly alive now. They have done this together so many times before.

Scene 58. EXT. Brook - Early morning

Scene 58.

Suddenly by the obviously dead oak just before the small wooden bridge across the brook, Abraham stops and rears. The horse is frightened by something and refuses to proceed no matter what Justine does. It can neither be coaxed nor forced ahead. After a long struggle with Abraham, Justine gives up. The horse remains still. Claire watches from her own horse which has shown no sign of apprehension. Justine sits still on Abraham. The horse calms down. An unreal silence settles over the landscape. Justine looks around. And finally up. She looks at the fading stars. She focuses on a specific constellation. Claire looks at her and squints in order to catch the last brightness of the stars. Justine alights. She looks at Claire.

Claire:

What's going on?

Justine:

(dry)

The red star in the Scorpio is missing! Antares is no longer there...

Claire looks up. She can hardly see the stars this late in the morning.

Justine drags Abraham home. Claire, still on her horse, tries to find the constellation. Claire does not know what to think. She cannot make out anything specific. Justine is now far off pulling Abraham home. Claire is still searching the sky not understanding

Fade out.

Legend: "**PART II. CLAIRE**"

Legend: "Nine weeks later. Five days to Flyby."

Scene 59 A. INT. Claire's study - Afternoon **Scene 59A**

Late summer at Eremitage. Claire sits inside watching the storm in the trees outside the house. We pan round between the open art books left by Justine. Among others, Hill's drawings. Music. Claire is lost in thought. She looks around.

Scene 59 B. INT/EXT. Claire's study - Afternoon **Scene 59B**

POV. The storm

Scene 59 C. INT. Kitchen - Afternoon **Scene 59C**

She can see Little Father at the kitchen sink, wearing an apron.

Scene 59 D. INT. Kitchen - Afternoon **Scene 59D**

At a distance in another room she can see Leo playing with some golf balls which he places in patterns and drive past each other.

Scene 59 E. INT. Claire's study - Afternoon **Scene 59E**

Claire pulls herself together. She picks up a wrapped piece of chocolate from her desk and gets up.

Scene 60. INT. Justine's room - Afternoon **Scene 60.**

Claire is fiddling with a newly made bed. She puts the little piece of chocolate on the pillow and folds down the corner of the blanket. She contemplates her work, satisfied. She also rearranges a bouquet of flowers on the nightstand. Branches beat against the window. Claire shudders slightly and pinches a dry leaf off the bouquet. Looking out at the storm her mind wanders again. John enters hastily with a cell phone in his hand. Shaking his head, he hands it to Claire.

John:
(whispering)

Of course, she can't do a damn thing on her own!

Claire takes the phone, smiling almost tenderly.

Claire:

Hello darling. How are you?

Claire listens.

Claire:

Now, do as I've told you! There's a taxi waiting for you down in the street.

John:

(mocking)

I already told her....

Claire:

A taxi.....just get in ... we'll pay for it when you arrive ... don't worry about it...

John:

(shrugging)

....Well, I don't know about that....

Claire:

(sticks a finger in her ear to avoid hearing John)

That's all you have to do.....the driver knows the address....just open the door and get in.....yes, bring your little bag.....but you don't have to....we've got all you need here

(listens and nods)

Just go down and get in the cab, darling! We can talk all the way if you like....or call back if you can't make it into the cab....or whatever....I love you, darling!

Claire hangs up. She sends John a reproachful stare.

Claire:

Damn it, John....she's my sister!

John:

She has a bad influence on you ... and on Leo!

Claire:

She's ill!

Claire looks at the storm for a while, then she feels sad. John embraces her.

John:

You haven't been on-line again, have you?

Claire nods.

John:

You promised...

Claire:

I'm afraid of that damned planet...

John:

That *damned* planet...? That wonderful planet, you mean! First it was black and now it's blue. Blocking Antares and then hiding behind the sun. It's the most beautiful thing the two of us will ever experience!

Claire:

That really doesn't make it any better! It'll hit us in five days!

John:

It didn't hit Mercury, as we knew it wouldn't ... it didn't hit Venus, as we well knew it wouldn't ... and it won't hit Earth, as we know it won't. Not a chance. Damn it, haven't you learned to trust science by now

Claire:

They write that it will hit....

John:

Yes ... you can read that in thousands of places. The prophets of doom will write anything to attract attention. But none of the real scientists agree ... it'll pass us by and it'll be the most amazing sight ever ... I wish you'd come out and watch it through the telescope with me ...

Claire:

No ... I think I'd better not....

John:

We won't see the likes of it in another 5 million years ... so even though your family has a habit of reaching old age.....!

Claire presses against him and kisses him.

Scene 61. EXT. Courtyard - Evening

Scene 61.

Justine arrives in a taxi in the courtyard as the storm has diminished,. John pays the fare. He shakes his head at the amount. Claire embraces and supports Justine who really looks ill. She is wearing a bathrobe. Leo is there, too. He gives her a strong and loving hug. Little Father is there too. He remains politely in the background.

Leo:

When are we going to build caves Aunt
Steelbreaker?

Claire smiles and holds him back a bit. Justine doesn't reply. Claire helps her into the house. Little Father takes Justine's tiny bag.

Scene 62. INT. Justine's room - Evening

Scene 62.

Claire and Leo put Justine to bed. Justine has her eyes closed the whole time.

Claire:

And I've decided we need to make a plan -
the two of us together - for how to get you back
into shape ... but I'm sure you'd rather wait until
tomorrow to hear about it?

Justine nods very faintly. Claire takes Leo with her and turns off the lights on the way out. Justine lies immobile as if she were dead. We stay in the room a bit too long.

Scene 63. INT. Justine's room - Early noon

Scene 63.

Justine is still lying in bed with her eyes closed as the night before. Claire sits with a breakfast tray.

Claire:

I know you don't want to get up

Justine does not respond. Claire puts the untouched breakfast away. She pulls up a chair by the bed.

Claire:
(positive)

But you may as well hear a little bit about the plan.
The idea is for you only to do the things you enjoy.
And then we'll make a schedule of how often you
should do these things you enjoy each day. I
promise to start you off easy.

With forced optimism, Claire produces a note pad.

Claire:

What do you think we should put on the list? Only what you really enjoy doing... yes, I know you don't feel like doing anything right now ... but how about what you hate the least ... what makes you feel just a little bit inclined to

Justine does not move.

Claire:

I'll put down the things in this order: make marmalade with me, create flower arrangements and spend time with the horses ... oh, yes, and take a bath every day

Claire looks at Justine's neck.

Claire:

.....yes, that's what we'll do....

Claire stares at her neck in resignation.

Scene 64. INT. Kitchen - Evening

Scene 64.

Claire is cooking with Little Father. John comes downstairs.

John:

She's still asleep....

Claire:

(busy cooking)

Yes, but she has to get up now.....

John:

What are you making?

Claire:

Corned Beef.

John:

Corned Beef?

Claire:

Yes. If that doesn't get her out of bed, nothing will.

Scene 65 A. INT. Justine's room - Evening

Scene 65A.

Claire and Little Father are looking at the sleeping Justine. Claire kneels and whispers to her.

Claire:

Time to get up, Justine....no more sleeping....

Claire helps Justine to sit. Justine shakes her head. She will not open her eyes.

Claire:

You need a hot shower....you know you love that....

Claire motions to Little Father to help. They get her up.

Scene 65 B. INT. Justine's room. Bath - Evening

Scene 65B.

They lead her very slowly to the bathroom. Claire puts her in front of the bathtub. She signals to Little Father to leave. Justine remains standing with her eyes shut tight. Claire undresses her and turns on the tap, and adjusts the temperature. She takes Justine's hand.

Claire:

Come on, Justine, it's only a small step....I'll wash you....lift your foot...

Justine tries to lift her foot over the edge of the tub, but cannot make it,...Tries again, still with closed eyes. Then she gives up. She is about to fall, but Claire catches her.

Claire:

Okay, now we've practiced for tomorrow then ... and for dinner I have a surprise.

Scene 66. INT. Kitchen - Evening

Scene 66.

Leo and John are seated at the festive table as Claire and Little Father very slowly lead Justine down the stairs. They seat her at the table; her eyes are still closed. Claire sits down. She smiles at Justine.

Claire:

Can you smell what's for dinner?

Justine sits a while, but can't help sniffing. She recognizes the smell, then slowly opens her eyes.

Justine:

Corned beef?

Claire:

(smiles)

Exactly! I knew that would do it.

Claire heaps a healthy helping on Justine's plate. With all the trimmings. She puts it in front of Justine. Justine slowly picks up her knife and fork. She smiles faintly at Claire. Justine takes a small bite of food on her fork and puts it to her lips. She tastes it, but only with her lips. She is very preoccupied with it. Claire looks at her, smiling, like the rest of the family. Suddenly Justine's face darkens again. She shakes her head and drops her knife and fork. She looks apologetically at the others around the table.

Justine:

(faintly)

I'm sorry....but it tastes like ... ashes ...

Justine shuts her eyes in pain. Sits for a while, then starts sobbing heartrenderingly. She cries all her sorrow out.

Leo

(confused)

Aunt Steelbreaker is crying.

Claire:

It's all right, Sis....it's all right....

Little Father is at their side, helping them. The three move toward the staircase.

Scene 67. INT. Kitchen - Evening

Scene 67.

Claire is back at the table with the rest of the family eating their dinner. Leo finishes first.

Leo:

May I leave the table?

John:

Of course, Leo....

Leo takes out his plate. Then he goes to another room and returns with a laptop computer under his arm. He looks at his parents at the table. They do not notice him, so he sneaks up the stairs.

Scene 68. INT. Justine's room - Evening

Scene 68.

Leo enters Justine's room; she is lying with her back to the door. He cautiously closes the door. He lies down beside her and turns on the computer. He finds something on it.

Leo:

Look! Look here!

Justine slowly turns and looks weakly at her nephew. Then she looks at the screen. It is a big photo of a scarred, blue planet. Under the picture, the caption reads: "Melancholia". Leo changes the picture. It is an illustration of the proposed trajectory of the planet. It passes close by Earth and then disappears again.

Leo:

It's a planet that has been hiding behind the sun and now it passes by us! It's called a fly-by!

Justine:

Darling, I need some peace....

Claire enters and sees what is happening. She takes away the computer.

Claire:

It's not something you need to frighten Aunt Steelbreaker with now.....

Justine:

(stares hazily at Claire)

If you think I am afraid of a planet then, you're just too stupid!

Justine turns her back and shuts her eyes. Claire remains for a while.

Claire:

I've got something to ask you, Justine, but you only have to answer if you feel like it. How do you think you're doing, mood-wise, on a scale from zero to ten?

Justine does not reply. Claire, carrying Leo, looks at her for a while, then withdraws.

Scene 69. EXT. Fruit garden - Day

Scene 69.

By the blackberries. Claire is picking blackberries with Justine. Claire looks into Justine's bowl to find that she has only picked two blackberries, compared to Claire's full bowl. She empties both bowls into the big basket on the ground and smiles. Justine suddenly looks up. High up, a bird is chirping. It is a lark ... or rather, a multitude of larks. The sisters smile at the birdsong coming from the sky. And then, at once, the snow appears. Snow is falling down over the summer landscape.

The two laugh when they see butterflies flutter in confusion amid the snowflakes. The sisters shut their eyes and let the snowflakes land on their faces. All is quiet.

Scene 70. EXT. Front garden - Day

Scene 70.

Claire binds a bouquet of the flowers she has gathered. It turns out fine. Now Justine arrives with a bunch of flowers. However, they are useless pickings; thistles and withered plants. Claire binds them into the bouquet without complaining. She acts impressed with Justine's initiative.

Scene 71. INT. Stables - Day

Scene 71.

Justine is in the stable, grooming the nervous Abraham. Exceedingly slowly and with pathologically monotonous movements, but with love. Now the gate opens from outside. It is John and Little Father; they unload a whole lot of kerosene lamps and portable kitchen utensils and a lot of cans of petrol, and a large amount of canned goods. And a couple of transistor radios. John smiles at Justine.

John:

Just a few things we might need if Melancholia moves really close. If you can, don't mention it to Claire ... she gets anxious so easily

Justine looks indifferently at John.

Scene 72. INT. Kitchen - Morning

Scene 72.

Justine descends the stairs on her own, wearing a housecoat. Everybody looks pleased.

Justine:

Time to show myself to the nuclear family!

When Justine sits down, Claire hands her a jar of blackberry jam. Justine smiles and opens it. She sniffs the jam. It smells right. She looks around and for a while looks at John. Then she becomes as if possessed and takes a spoon and starts to eat the jam right out of the jar in a very provocative way. Leo looks mightily impressed. John looks at Justine and gets that she is trying to provoke him. Claire gets up in a hurry and drags Justine out with her.

Scene 73. INT. Stables - Evening

Scene 73.

Justine is in the stable in her riding outfit. She is furiously grooming Abraham. Claire enters and saddles him. Justine stubbornly goes on with the grooming. Claire mounts the horse outside the open gate. She looks at Justine who ignores her and keeps on grooming.

Claire:

Come on, Sis.....We're going riding!

Justine stops the grooming. She looks at the saddle with doubt.

Claire:

Mount him ... come on....

Justine grabs the pommel, but cannot proceed. She stands for a while with one foot in the stirrup, but gives up and brings it down again, lost in her own thoughts again.

Claire:

(gets angry all of a sudden)

Get the fuck up on that horse, Justine!

Justine listens and obeys; she mounts Abraham with style and rides out of the stable. Claire smiles.

Scene 74 A. EXT. Golf course - Evening

Scene 74A.

The two sisters fly by on their horses again. The speed grabs them both. They gallop by the same locations as on their last ride. Justine is feeling good, in control. It makes Claire smile to see her gallop. The evening sky surrounds them.

Scene 74 B. EXT. Brook - Evening

Scene 74B.

Now we get to the brook and the narrow bridge where Abraham reared on their last ride. Justine wants to go on, but Abraham refuses even more vehemently than the last time. Justine does not want to give up the rush. She struggles with Abraham. Whips him. Much too hard and for way too long. Claire watches her with increasing indignation and finally anger.

Claire:

(shouting)

Don't beat him!!!

Claire only succeeds in increasing the fear of the horse by shouting. Now he starts to go down on his knees. Claire jumps off her horse and tries to grab the whip that Justine uses in a frenzy, in order to make her stopIt is too much. Now the whipping Justine focuses for a quiet moment on Abraham's eyes. They are looking upwards, impervious to the fight with its rider. Justine follows the horse's gaze. She also looks up for a while, spellbound. Then she stops her whipping and alights. Justine stands beside the beaten horse and looks up. Claire grabs Justine's whip and Abraham's reins and looks in the same direction as the other two. Justine and Claire see the planet Melancholia in the sky for the first time. It is fifty times as luminous and clear as the moon which is also in the sky.... but bigger by half. It is a frightening sight. Justine turns her head and looks calmly at Claire.

Justine:

(calmly)

There you go!.... There's your Fly by!

Claire remains standing, holding the two horses by the bit, just looking . Justine leaves.

Scene 75 A. INT. Terrace - Morning

Scene 75A.

Start on Claire. She is on the terrace.

Scene 75 B. INT. Mansion - Morning

Scene 75B.

She sees her sister in staring intensely at the morning sky.

Scene 75 C. EXT. Garden - Morning

Scene 75C.

Claire turns to see Leo and John on the lawn, deeply absorbed in photographing the celestial body. They are in high spirits. Claire sits down to read a book, but cannot concentrate because of the loud noises from the stables.

Scene 76. INT. Stables - Night

Scene 76.

Claire enters the stable and sees the very restless horses in the stalls. They kick at the woodwork and move nervously around. Claire tries to calm them, but to no avail.

Scene 77. INT. Justine's room - Night

Scene 77.

Justine is lying quiet, listening to the sounds from the horses. It is as if she gets an unwelcome summons. Eventually, she has to get out of bed. She sneaks downstairs in her nightgown.

Scene 78 A. EXT. Courtyard - Night

Scene 78A.

Justine tiptoes through the night. She stops in front of the stable to listen to the anxious horses. Claire comes out from the stable and follows her.

Scene 78 B. EXT. Golf course. Green 1 - Night

Scene 78B.

Out in the open, Claire notices that she casts two shadows this night. One black and the other blue. She spreads out her arms and is amused by the phenomenon. Justine goes down the slope towards the brook, Claire following.

Scene 79. EXT. Brook - Night

Scene 79.

Justine arrives at her favorite spot by a curve in the brook. She undresses and lies down in the medium high, moist grass. She smiles up at the strongly luminous planet. She places herself in a position that must be describes as inviting, sensuous, still focusing on the planet. She follows her longings. Music: Overture and entr'acte from Tristan and Isolde. Claire observes her and calms

down. She has no wish to follow or observe Justine further into the night. The music continues into the next scene.

Scene 80 A. EXT. Terrace - Morning

Scene 80A.

Claire has breakfast outside on the terrace. We see Claire mostly in close-ups; she is on guard in the romantic sunlit scenery with the music. Among other things that Claire observes: a relaxed Justine who is eating her breakfast as if nothing were wrong. She is squinting at the sun and seems okay. John arriving with Leo in the golf cart. They have brought in the telescope from the golf court. They are happy together. Claire is moved at the sight of the three of them. She glances at the blue planet which is even bigger now. Music ends as Claire looks toward the stable.

Scene 80 B. EXT. Stables - Morning

Scene 80B.

The horses are still jumpy.

Scene 81. EXT. Terrace - Morning

Scene 81.

Claire arrives to where John and Leo are setting up the telescope. Leo is running about with a wire gadget on a stick. An adjustable wire ring. He shows it to his mother.

Leo:

Look!

Claire holds the device, not knowing what to make of it. John intervenes.

John:

It's a fine instrument that Leo has invented.
(demonstrates)

You hold the stick against your chest and then
adjust the ring so it encircles the planet ... then you
can check how much it is approaching or
receding....

Claire tries. She does not like to look at the planet. The wire is adjusted so that it just fits the blue planet. She hands the device to Leo who puts it on the golf cart truck and goes back to help with the telescope. Little Father removes things from the table in the background. John looks at his son with pride.

John:

And what are we looking forward to?

Leo:

Tomorrow night!!

John nods and smiles. Looks at Claire.

John:

We are ready!

He smiles broadly, but Claire is doubtful.

Scene 82. EXT. Terrace - Late evening

Scene 82.

Claire comes out of the house in a nightgown. She cautiously approaches the telescope on the lawn. At first, she only sees clouds, and, behind them, holes in the clouds and the northern lights. But then, suddenly, the planet is there. Claire is fascinated and frightened. You can see the outline of mountains and valleys and the shining blue surface, or whatever it is. (Maybe start music: Carpenters: "Close to you", possibly overlapping the start of the next scene.)

Scene 83. INT. Claire's study - Late evening

Scene 83.

Claire enters and almost in a panic, she turns on the computer. She checks "Melancholia". There are a million hits on this search. She surfs in confusion among them. Then she stops at a page with a drawing of the planet's trajectory. It veers and circles the Earth in a wide elliptical curve. Claire has a hard time understanding it. She presses to print. The printer starts. But suddenly there is a power outage. Both printer and computer turns off. Frightened, Claire looks around— she pulls the page from the printer. Suddenly Claire is alarmed at the sight of a light drawing near from the hallway. It is John arriving with a lit kerosene lamp. He smiles at her.

John:

We're ready for this ... the power will return in a few days....

Claire looks doubtful. She stares at the print in her hand. Only the words: "The Death Dance of Melancholia" have been printed. Claire shudders.

John:

(looks at the words)

Didn't we agree that you wouldn't search the web?
Those pages only serve to frighten people ...
tomorrow night it'll fly by us ... and far away...and
then you'll never see it again.

Claire:

(wanting to believe)

So it won't hit us....

John:

Absolutely not!

Claire:

But what if your scientists have miscalculated....

John:

.....They haven't....

Claire:

Promise?

John:

(with a smile)

I promise ... trust me! Damn it, I promise.....!

Claire:

Thank you.....!

John smiles and nods at Claire. Looks out the window. Sees the planet close to the horizon in the middle of a fantastic sky ablaze with northern lights.

John:

Now it's rising....

Claire is uncertain again.

John:

It's just like the moon ... because of the rotation of the Earth!

Claire looks at the rising of moon and planet, ill at ease.

Scene 84. EXT. Gravel path - Day

Scene 84.

Claire drives the four-wheeler fast across the bridge, through the curves and away from us. The car disappears beyond the horizon.

Scene 85. EXT. Terrace - Day

Scene 85.

John is cooking at a gas stove on the terrace when Claire returns. He looks at her over his shoulder.

Scene 86. INT. Claire and John's room - Day

Scene 86.

John enters to find Claire sitting on the bed. He goes right for the drawer she had time to close just before he arrived. He opens it. There are some pills in a large bottle of opaque glass. He picks it up.

John:

Haven't I better take these?

Claire:
(with pathos)

Don't you touch them ... don't you touch them!

John puts the bottle back in the drawer. Claire locks the drawer with a key hidden on a high shelf. John smiles reassuringly at Claire.

Scene 87. INT. Claire's study - Day

Scene 87.

Claire enters. Justine is on the couch amid all the pictures on the walls. Claire spots her.

Claire:

Justine. Come and have a bath first!

Justine:

I have had a bath.....

Claire:

Really?

Justine:

Yes ... I'm very clean!

Claire looks at her sister.

Claire:

Well, there you are.....you could do it....

Justine:
(dryly)

Yes, you were right about that....

Claire sits down in a chair close by Justine's bed.

Claire:
(suddenly apologetically)

I'm sorry....I'm a little on edge today. Little Father didn't come to work. I checked the noteboard. He didn't leave one. And I can't call him, there's something wrong with the phone. You see, it's never happened before that he didn't show up. Without giving us notice.

Justine:

Does he have a family?

Claire:

He lives down in the village ... I don't know if he has a family.....

Justine:

He's been working here for as long as I remember, and you don't know if he has a family.....?

Claire:

No. Silly, isn't it?

Justine:

Maybe this is the day when he needs to be with his family? That is, if he has one....in the village....

Claire:

(nodding)

Yes... you're right ... it will pass us by tonight.....I'm so confused too, today of all days.....But John seems to be quite calm about it....

Justine:

Does that calm you down?

Claire:

Yes, of course. John studies things, he always has.....it'll pass at 11.30, he says...

Justine:

So what? The Earth is evil....you don't have to grieve for it....

Claire:

Would you listen to yourself, Sis...?

Justine:

Nobody'll miss the Earth.

Claire:

Where else would Leo grow up.....?

Justine:

I just know that all the evil in life here doesn't seem as if it can be reversed.....

Claire:

Perhaps if you say so.....even though I don't entirely believe you....but then perhaps there are many other places....

Justine:

No. There are no other places. We are alone!

Claire:

You seem so sure.....

Justine:

Because I know things!

Claire:

Yes, you always imagined you did!

Justine:

I know there are no other places....the Earth is the only inhabited place....and not for long.....

Claire:

There may be life somewhere else....

Justine:

But there isn't....

Claire:

I don't think you know that at all...

Justine looks around. On a table is the bottle with beans from the wedding.

Justine:

678!

Claire looks puzzled.

Justine:

The bean lottery. Nobody guessed the number of beans in the bottle....

Claire:

No, that's right.....

Justine:

But I know! 678!

Melancholia.
Side 64.

Claire:
(uncertain)

Perhaps! But what does that prove?

Justine:

That I know things.

Claire:

Okay....

Justine:

And when I say we're alone ...we are alone!

Claire is silent. She sits for a while. Leo suddenly comes running.

Leo:

Mom, Mom....I can stay up....all evening till the middle of the night.....when we see the planet fly by.....and I get to look in the telescope...

Claire:

Yes, of course, darling....but do you really think you can stay awake that long....you haven't slept much lately.....

Leo:

Yes, I can...Can't I, Aunt Steelbreaker?

Justine hesitates.

Leo:

Can't I?

Claire:

(interrupts hastily)

Yes, you can....Of course you can. You have to look through the telescope....

Leo embraces his mother.

Scene 88. INT. Claire's study - Night

Scene 88.

Justine is looking at Leo who is fast asleep with a blanket across him on a couch in Claire's study. He is wearing his fine suit from the wedding. The clock on the wall reads a few minutes to eleven. Leo sleeps among all the paintings and the books. After a while John and Claire enter. They lift him and try to wake him, but they cannot.

Justine:

You have to wake up...It's eleven, darling. It'll be here any moment....

John carries the sleeping boy out. Claire and later Justine follow. Claire worriedly looks at Justine, who shows no emotion whatsoever.

Scene 89. EXT. Terrace - Night

Scene 89.

The four wait on the terrace, kerosene lamps lit up all around them. John, in his suit from the wedding, is at his telescope. Only the anxious horses can be heard. John keeps an eye on the horizon. Claire sits with the sleeping Leo in her lap. Now he wakes up and seems ready, but then falls asleep again. Justine is sitting in a chair, straight up. Now a distant rumbling is heard ... everything trembles. Claire looks at John who has not abandoned the telescope.

Claire:

John....!

John:

(raises his hand and shushes)

Now it's here...come on Leo...you have to see this ... it's rising!

Claire tries to wake up Leo, but he falls back asleep in his father's arms by the telescope, having seen nothing. Claire lovingly tugs him in a blanket in a chair. She smiles at the little guy. Then she sees the blue light behind her. She turns; the planet is enormous. The three grown-ups stand petrified and look at it as it majestically glides across the sky, bathed in blue light. Everything may tremble around them. Now John, delighted, looks through the telescope.

John:

Damn it....Leo ought to see this....

John looks at the sleeping boy. Claire shakes her head.

Claire:

I don't think so....

John:

(to Justine and Claire)

Come here and take a look!

Justine shrugs and goes to the telescope. Claire looks at her. Now a kind of satisfaction seems to appear on Justine's face. John smiles. He gently pulls Justine back.

John:

Claire has to have a look, too....

Claire:

No ... John, I don't like it ... I really don't....

John:

Why not...?

Claire:

It frightens me....

John:

I'll bet you it won't....

Claire approaches. She looks at Justine who smiles gently at her. Claire is afraid to look. Then she does, anyway. We see what she sees. A mysterious blue planet so close that you can see landscapes and rivers or whatever it is ... Claire is not frightened at all. She stands for a long time looking.

John:

Well, are you frightened?

Claire:

(shakes her head)No.....it looks so.....friendly, I think....

John:

Yes, damn it, that's what I've been telling you.
Fantastic!

Scene 90. EXT. Terrace - Night

Scene 90.

Time lapse. They are drinking champagne by the sleeping Leo in the blue light. John takes a photo of them. Claire looks up at the planet. It seems to be standing still. John proposes a toast.

John:

Here's to life!

Claire:

To Life? But you seemed so calm the whole time....

John:

Well, no reason to upset anyone.....

Claire:

Are you saying that our lives were in danger?

John:

Well, all calculations have a margin of error.

Claire ponders gravely for a while.

Claire:

Here's to life.

John and Justine:

....to life....

Claire looks at the planet, annoyed.

Claire:

I think it's been there long enough. It's not fun anymore....

John:

It's on its way away from us. It's grown smaller.
You just can't see it....

John finds Leo's wire gadget and hands it to Claire.

John:

Now adjust it according to the circumference....

He helps her.

John:

Then look again in five minutes.

Claire waits. She is suddenly breathing more heavily. She gasps. She looks with alarm at John.

Claire:

I can't breathe....

Claire coughs.

John:

The planet has taken some of our atmosphere. Not much, but enough to make us short-winded ... the atmosphere will be back, don't worry ... but it's pretty amazing, isn't it?

Claire:

It's very unpleasant...

Melancholia.
Side 68.

John:
(tries to breathe)

Just breathe calmly!

Claire is struggling to breathe. Then she takes the wire gadget.

Claire:
(almost whispering)

May I look now?

John smiles and nods. We see what she sees. The planet is definitely smaller. Claire starts to cry.

Claire:
It's smaller...

John:
...because it's heading away from us at the speed
of 100,000 km an hour.

Claire:
Justine! Justine! It's smaller! It's going!

Justine nods. Claire embraces John and the sleeping boy.

Scene 91. INT. Leos room - Night

Scene 91.

Claire puts Leo to bed, almost ecstatically happy. Justine is looking at them from the doorway. Leo wakes up slightly.

Leo:
(out of breath)

No Mom...I have to be awake now...I have to
look through the telescope!

Claire:
You already have ... just go to sleep ... breathe
calmly....

He falls asleep right away. Claire smiles. Justine smiles at seeing Claire so happy.

Claire:
Be happy, please! If I dare, you can too....

Justine:
I'm happy you're happy....

Claire is cross.

Claire:

You have it easy, don't you? ... all you have to do is be strange and ... different ... and imagine the worst thing possible.

Justine hugs Claire and smiles.

Justine:

That's right, Clay! Sometimes it's easy being me.

Claire:

If you were to deduce something from all of this ... it would be to teach you that it's not always the most negative thought that is the truest

Justine:

Yes... it would seem that way....if only we could learn that.

Scene 92. EXT. Terrace - Day

Scene 92.

Next day at noon, Melancholia rises in the east like a 'crescent moon' and is decidedly smaller, 'only' 25 times as big as the moon. Claire comes out on the terrace. She sees John by his telescope. He looks intently through it and jots down lots of notes on a pad.

Claire:

Hi, Darling.... Melancholia has risen again...

John nods absentmindedly.

Claire:

Do you want anything? Something to drink?

John:

(distant)

No thanks ... I'm fine....

Claire looks at her distant husband for a while. Then she sits down in a deck chair and shuts her eyes. The horses are still jumpy in the stable.

Scene 93. EXT. Terrace - Afternoon

Scene 93.

Claire has fallen asleep in her chair on the terrace. She wakes up. Everything is quiet. John's not there. She sits for a while gathering herself. She waits for a while. She gets uneasy. She looks at the

telescope. She sees nothing. She sits for a while looking around. Now she spots something in the grass under the telescope. She shakes her head, annoyed with herself for being nervous, and sits for a while more. She gets up and goes to it. She stoops and finds Leo's wire gadget. She goes back to her chair. Then she uses Leo's wire gadget ... half in jest. She adjusts the wire ring. Checks her watch. She shuts her eyes, tormented. Checks the watch now and then. And has to look again. She pulls up Leo's wire gadget. She looks through it, horrified. The planet is much bigger than the wire ring. About thirty times bigger than the moon. Claire is frightened and confused. She looks again. Same result. Claire hurries toward the building.

Claire:
(insecure)

John....John.....

Claire disappears inside.

Scene 94 A. INT. Corridor. Private - Afternoon **Scene 94A.**

Claire is looking for John. She cannot find him. Then she has a suspicion; she runs to the bedroom.

Scene 94 B. INT. Claire and Johns room - Afternoon **Scene 94B.**

She Gets the key and opens the drawer. The pill bottle is still there. She goes out again, but has second thoughts, returns to get the bottle and then she shakes it. It is empty! She runs out.

Scene 95. INT. Justine's room. Bath - Afternoon **Scene 95.**

Claire enters. Justine is in the tub, her eyes closed. She opens them.

Claire:

I can't find John. Do you know where he is?

Justine shakes her head. She seems a bit confused.

Claire:

Well, he'll turn up. Sorry to disturb you.

Justine:

No, no ... I was just listening. Can't you hear?
Something is different ... now I know ... it's the
horses....They've calmed down!

Claire looks at Justine and listens. She hears it, too.

Scene 96 A. INT. Stables - Afternoon

Scene 96A.

Claire searches the stable. The horses are strangely calm now. It is uncanny. Their eyes follow Claire. Claire goes directly to Abraham's stall. John is lying in a corner of the stall. He has vomited, but is lying completely still now. Claire tries to find his pulse, but cannot ... she gets short-winded again. She shakes her head in disbelief. Claire is not frightened ... but it pains her to see her husband dead. Then she pulls herself together. She covers John with straws. Claire saddles Abraham, pulls him away.

Scene 96 B. EXT. Courtyard - Afternoon

Scene 96B.

Claire lets Abraham loose through the gate and, with a forceful slap on his back, sends him running across the golf course.

Scene 97. EXT. Terrace - Late afternoon

Scene 97.

Afternoon, five o'clock. Claire is making pancakes at John's gas stove. A sleepy Leo comes out onto the terrace, yawning.

Leo:

Good morning, Mom....

Claire sees that he's shivering.

Claire:

Get a blanket.

Leo wraps a blanket around himself.

Claire:

(nods)

Justine! Justine....breakfast....

Justine comes down. Justine looks at Claire.

Justine:

Where is John?

Claire:

(vaguely)

He rode to the village....

Justine:

Why didn't he just take the car?

Claire:

Abraham needed a ride ... since you don't ride him!

Claire moves about restlessly while the other two are having pancakes. She has seen Leo's wire gadget a long time ago. Now she walks, or rather runs, for it. She puts the instrument against her chest. She sees the planet which is very big by now, much bigger than before. She stands huddled for a while, breathing heavily. She straightens herself.

Claire:

Leo! Justine, come!

Claire panics. She runs but is out of breath toward the cars still yelling for Justine and Leo.

Scene 98. EXT. Courtyard - Evening

Scene 98.

Out of breath Claire jumps into her car in the parking lot with Leo. Justine doesn't get in. Claire tries to start the car, but there is no power. Claire throws Leo into John's pickup. It does not start either. Justine stands by, helpless.

Justine:

Claire! Claire, damn it...

Claire does not hear her sister. She finds the keys to the golf cart in the golf cart

Justine:

Where are you going?

Claire:

The village...anywhere where anyone knows something!

Justine:

But ... this has nothing to do with the village.

Justine shakes her head as her sister drives off with Leo across the golf course.

Scene 99. EXT. Golf course. Green 19 - Evening

Scene 99.

Claire drives as fast as she can through the landscape. Past the dead oak and the bridge. She drives under the power cables and across the endless golf course where the fog has settled. Huge green flames of St. Elmo's Fire crown every high-voltage pylon. A couple of greens further on the car stops, out of power. Claire looks around in panic.

Scene 100. EXT. Golf course. Green 19 - Evening

Scene 100.

Then she grabs the sleeping Leo in his blanket. She carries the rather heavy child across the golf course. Claire gasps for air now. She seems to think she is heading in the right direction. The

weather on the 19th green changes into a fierce hailstorm.....now Claire staggers onto the green, carrying Leo, completely exhausted. She has to stop in order to catch her breath. She puts Leo down. Leo gathers the blanket around him as he sits on the green. Claire is worn out. She stands with her hands on her knees for a while. Then she looks around. All she sees is the endless golf course around her. She briefly looks at the flag at the 19th hole. Then she closes her eyes.

Scene 101. EXT. Golf course. Green 1 - Evening

Scene 101.

Justine waits by the house on the hail-covered lawn. She peers out at the landscape. Now, far away, she can see Claire returning, carrying Leo. Little by little Claire makes her way back. Once she arrives home she places Leo in a deck chair then collapses into one herself. Justine looks for a long time at Claire's breathless exhaustion. She can hardly breathe.

Justine:

How do you think you're doing? On a scale from 1 to 10?

Claire closes her eyes. Leo, also out of breath, lies down with his blanket and seems to settle down. Then Claire gets up and pulls Justine away with her.

Scene 102. EXT. Terrace - Evening

Scene 102.

Claire:

I want us to be together when it happens....

Justine:

Where did you have in mind?

Claire:

Here on the terrace.

Justine:

Okay....how original....but we've never been much good at rituals in our family ...

Claire:

Help me, Justine. I'd like to do this the right way.....

Justine:

If you want to come up with something, you'd better do it really quickly... ..

Claire:

A glass of wine together.....I don't think I'm up for much else, if I have to be honest....

Justine:

You want me to have a glass of wine here on the terrace?

Claire:

Yes, will you do it, Sis?

Justine:

And hold hands ... the three of us?

Claire:

Yes, that would be good, I think....

Justine:

How about a song?

Claire:

Well, if you know one, that would be fine.....

Justine:

Beethoven's ninth....something like that?

Claire:

Yes, or a Christmas carol ... or something like that.....

Justine:

In other words, we'll gather on your beautiful expensive terrace to sing a song, or have a glass of wine? The three of us? Together?

Claire:

(short of breath)

Yes ...

Justine:

Honestly?

Claire:

Yes, honestly. That would make me happy.

Justine:

What about Leo?

Claire:

Leo doesn't know anything....so he'll be happy,
too.

Justine:

Maybe... and you think we'd better not tell him.....

Claire:

That's what I thought....

Justine:

Do you know what I think of your plan?

Claire:

No. I was hoping you might like it.

Justine:

I think it's shit!

Claire:

Justine....please...

Justine:

No, let me be quite clear about this....

Claire:

I just wanted it to be...."nice"?

Justine:

Nice!? We might as well meet in the goddamn
toilet!

Claire:

Sorry I asked....

Justine:

Clay....You are horrible to listen to.....there's
nothing I'd less like to do than to stand here all
classy with a glass of wine....it would be so
phony....a crock of shit!

Claire:

Then let's not....

Justine:
(furious)

You're damn right let's not...I can't stand you now! Emotional pornography, that's what that is....Don't you think it's all been worth more than that? Well, evidently you don't....

Claire leaves Justine.

Claire:

Sometimes I just hate you so much, Justine!

Claire enters the house leaving Justine outside.

Scene 103. EXT. Terrace - Evening

Scene 103.

Justine returns to the terrace to find Leo fully awake and present and very scared. He is shaking. Justine holds him. He is looking onto the lawns beyond. He sees what he has been watching for a long time: Abraham has returned without a rider, and is grazing near the house. Leo is crying. Justine is there for him right away. She caresses his face and holds him.

Leo:

I'm afraid that the planet will hit us anyway.....and I can't help it....

Justine:

Don't be.....believe me....

Leo:

Yes, because Dad says there's nothing to do then.....nowhere to hide...

Justine looks for a while at the crying boy. Then she pulls herself together.

Justine:

If you father said that...I think it's because he's forgotten about something ... he's forgotten about the 'magic cave'!

Leo stops crying and looks at his aunt.

Leo:

"The magic cave"?

Justine:

Exactly.....

Leo:

Is it something everybody can build?

Justine:

Aunt Steelbreaker can.....

Leo looks with admiration at Justine.

Scene 104. EXT. Golf course. Bushes - Late evening

Scene 104.

Justine and Leo walk around in some bushes, looking for sticks. Leo brings some sticks that are promptly rejected by Aunt Justine. But they have managed to gather some. Leo peels them nice and white with his dagger. They are short of breath and their breath is visible in the cold night. The light falling on them turns bluer and bluer. Insects and worms squeeze up from the ground from each footprint they leave in the mud among the bushes.

Scene 105. EXT. Golf course - Dusk

Scene 105.

Leo and Claire sit looking at Justine as she arranges the sticks they have found in a circle on the green in the by now strongly blue light. There are only 7-8 sticks. They meet at the top. Justine is meticulous about arranging the sticks properly. Now there is actually a ramshackle shelter on the grass. Justine takes Leo and Claire by the hand and leads them into the shelter. Claire is full of gratitude for what Justine is doing. They sit in a small circle and hold each other. Leo feels quite safe. Claire seems calm now. Justine is composed. They sit quite silent, holding each other. Now we see a full shot of the scrappy structure and the three people against the horizon; the planet "Melancholia" fills the sky! Now the explosion starts. Everything burns in a fraction of a second. We see the people in the magic cave burn in a short flash before everything is fire.

Fade out. End credits.