

The Pool

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. POOL - DAY

A BLUE SWIMMING POOL

The sun is beating down on the blue water. In the background , off in the distance, we can see the sea.

It is extremely quiet except for the deafening sound of the crickets, typical of Southern Italy.

The CAMERA finds a perfectly fit man in his early 40's, JACK STARK, bronzed from the summer sun. He lies flat out on the side of the pool. He has a glass of ice and a lime in one hand on his belly, as if he might stay that way forever. He lifts the glass, drinks without moving.

We can't see his eyes behind the dark sunglasses.

Suddenly, we HEAR Someone dive into the pool, off screen, spraying him with water. He jumps.

A few drops of water sprinkle his sunglasses. He turns over, lifts them and sees her body under water cutting through the water.

NATALIE

Swims underwater, holding her breath, she surfaces at the other end of the pool.

JACK

He drops his glasses back down on the bridge of his nose, goes back to thinking.

NATALIE

She hoists herself out of the pool and walks to Jack, who still ignores her. She is stunning, in her 40's. She possesses one of those God given bodies that has never needed work, it's in her genes, long legged and strong. It is impossible to the tell her age, she is simply beautiful. She stands over him, straddling his torso. She twists her wet hair so that water pours on his chest.

She smiles, hoping to annoy him, provoke him. Drops of water fall in a constant stream across his chest. He looks up at her without revealing what he feels, he reaches up both legs with both hands, and she lowers to him, covering his chest with her wet body.

A seemingly perfect fit. He embraces her. She kisses the nape of his neck. The bright sun penetrates them both.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Will you scratch my back?

She wraps herself around him, he digs his nails into her back, tracing ziz-zag white lines across her skin, leaving marks, it probably hurts.

NATALIE (cont'd)

I like that. Feels good. Nobody can do it like you.

He removes the straps of her bathing suit.

Their faces meet; their lips touch. She moves his hand to her breast and she bites lightly on his ear. She is radiantly happy with him.

From inside the adjacent house off screen, a phone rings.

She stops, looks at him, pushes off him, getting up.

JACK.

I thought we weren't going to give out the number.

It rings again. He holds her to him.

She tries to get up but Jack holds her back

NATALIE

Jack, come on.

He holds her still.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Let me go.

He smiles, still holding her.

JACK

Why?

NATALIE

Because I want to go.

The phone is still ringing as they wrestle with one another. She frees herself, walks. He grabs her from behind and throws her in. SPLASH! He jumps after her.

They come to the surface breathing hard. She has to wrestle him from her. She kicks him away. He likes the tiger, grabs her.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Stop it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He laughs, spits water at her. She kicks him, he grabs her leg. She splashes water at him, hard, mad. He dunks her head under, holding her under. Now she's really mad when she surfaces.

NATALIE (cont'd)
I'm not playing anymore.

He laughs, swims away.

She walks away from him in the pool, the water heavy against her legs, her back to him.

An older Italian maid, MARIA, urgently steps out from inside the house. She is the care taker and the cook, she speaks broken English.

MARIA
Miss Natalie! Telephone.

Natalie steps out of the pool.

NATALIE
Who is it?

MARIA
I don't know.

NATALIE
You should always ask Maria,
please.

Natalie grabs her towel and dries off, walking toward the house. She disappears into the house.

CLOSEUP JACK

He wades to the other side - steps out - and makes his way toward the outside shower. He moves like an animal.

He turns the shower on, let's the water run over his body, turns it off. He shakes the water out of his ears.

He takes a towel, dries off as he walks.

The CAMERA follows him as he wanders toward the house, he stops to light a cigarette, when he HEARS NATALIE off screen laughing, thrilled.

NATALIE O.S.
Where are you?

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Natalie stands in the living room on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE
 (she laughs)
 ...Yes... Of course... When?

JACK can be seen behind her, moving down the veranda that extends along the living room, she doesn't see him.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 We'll be here. Right... that's right. Straight up the hill. The only one. You'll see it on the right. Good. See you then.

She hangs up the phone, turns and Jack is there, leaning on the door. She's startled. She doesn't tell him who it was, crosses in front of him going to the stairs, ignoring him. He watches her.

We can tell they like to play this cat and mouse game. She continues up the stairs. He follows her.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The CAMERA follows Natalie when she comes in, she walks toward the bathroom.

JACK O.S.
 Who was it?

She walks into the bathroom.

NATALIE
 I don't ask you about your calls.

Natalie disappears out of frame, Jack enters frame, and the CAMERA follows him onto the adjacent terrace..

JACK
 If you did, I'd tell you.

He lies down on the chaise lounge, on this private terrace above the pool. From here we have a beautiful view of the grounds of the house and the coast. The house is warm and inviting. Not flashy. Old money. Not overwhelming. He thinks while he smokes.

Natalie comes out on the terrace in another suit, takes the cigarette from his hand.

JACK(cont'd)
 Your favorite bathing suit. The one you never swim in.

She drags on the cig.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (cont'd)
(bored)
So, who's coming?

She gives him back the cigarette.

NATALIE
Max.

He smiles.

JACK
I should have known he'd hunt you
down wherever you hide.

NATALIE
He's with his daughter. They're
getting on a yacht, sailing to St
Tropez.

Jack is surprised.

JACK
His daughter? I haven't heard
about her since she was a kid.

NATALIE
I don't think he's seen her since
then. He's showing her the coast.

JACK
Of course he is.

She doesn't respond.

JACK(cont'd)
When are they coming?

NATALIE
In a few minutes. He was at the
port.

JACK
I want to sleep.

NATALIE
Sleep then.

Even if it obvious that she is annoyed, he goes inside to
the bed, lies down. He can't do anything without being
seductive. Not because he tries, but the way he moves,
he's just animal. She comes to the door from the terrace
and watches him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He puts his hand out in a peace making gesture. She can only look at him. Can't leave the sight of him. He closes his eyes to sleep.

She stays watching him. Then goes to the bed stand, takes out her cream, sitting on the bed, puts the cream on her legs.

After a moment, he feels her still there. He puts his arm around her, without opening his eyes.

It is clearly an invitation to stay in bed with him.

She can't resist. She lets him pull her down next to him. She also doesn't want to fight, neither does he. He rolls her into his stomach so they spoon, as if they could just sleep.

The horn honks. She goes to get up and he holds her to him. She resists against him, finally she frees herself.

NATALIE (cont'd)
Can't you make an effort?

He rolls over onto this back.

JACK
Not for Max.

EXT. WHITE ESTATE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The latest ASTON MARTIN COUPE slows into the driveway. We follow it down the long tree lined gravel road.

The car slows at the front entrance. MAX GRAHAM honks. He steps out of the car. He is in his mid 40's - very charismatic, elegant. This man is confident.

Natalie comes out from the house, Max's smile widens, he obviously holds her in great regard, loves her.

NATALIE
Hey!! !

They walk toward each other.

MAX
Hey, right back at ya.

They hug deeply. She looks at the car.

NATALIE
Who's car is this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX
Mine. I bought it yesterday.

She shakes her head at him.

MAX (cont'd)
I didn't want Bond to have
something I don't have.

NATALIE
(laughs)
Oh... I heard about the bond
girl.

MAX
Over.

NATALIE
Gone?

MAX
She served her time.

NATALIE
(laughs)
I bet she did.

She has spotted the daughter in the car.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Hello..

MAX
Jade, this is Natalie.

NATALIE
Hello.

JADE
(barely audible)
Hi.

Even if the window is down, it is hard to see Jade in the
shade. Natalie moves to the window to get closer to her.

NATALIE
I'm so glad you could drop by and
I could meet you.

It is uncomfortable, Jade just sits there as if she doesn't
intend to get out of the car. Natalie can see that she is
maybe shy, decides to help her out.

NATALIE (cont'd)
You must be tired.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Max looks at Jade. It is an uncomfortable moment. Max breaks it.

MAX
Where's Jack?

NATALIE
Sleeping.

MAX
Wellllll... Get him up.

He goes back to the car to get out a cigarette.

MAX (cont'd)
Are you going to stay in the car?

Natalie sees the dynamic between them.

NATALIE
We'll just be out by the pool,
through there.

Natalie smiles and Jade smiles, nods "yes". They walk off.

NATALIE (cont'd)
(about the car)
How are you going to get it back
to the states?

MAX
I'll sell it when I leave...or
give it to you, depending.

NATALIE
(she hugs his arm)
I have a car.

MAX
You don't have the car I want you
to have.

CLOSEUP JADE

Once left alone, JADE lies back in her seat, puts her long tan legs out the window. She is completely relaxed. She just turned seventeen. There is a daffodil coming out of a cobra snake's wide open mouth tattoo on her ankle. She is just naturally a one of a kind beauty. She stares at a tree, lost in it.

JACK O.S.
I lived in a car once.

She turns to see who spoke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack appears at the opposite window.

He is kind, she can see that. And beautiful.

He's bare chested, with the towel wrapped around his swimming shorts.

She moves her legs back out of the window, down to the ground in the car. But stays there.

He takes his cue. Looks inside the car, it is beautiful, but then he leaves her alone, moves off.

JACK

I always wanted to be alone too.

She looks at him, walking away from her. But she still doesn't come. He stops, looks back at her.

JACK (cont'd)

Unless your plan is to get them to come looking for you?

JADE

No.

(she looks at him)

They wouldn't anyway.

He looks in the direction of the pool. Finally, she opens her door and yawns. He waits for her.

JADE (cont'd)

When did you live in a car?

JACK

(shrugs)

When I was younger. Different kind of car.

They walk together toward the patio.

EXT. WIDE SHOT - JACK'S POV

Natalie and Max sitting at the table.

MAX gets up and walks toward them, smiles.

MAX

Hey Jack...

JACK

Max.

There is something tense, awkward between them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

You're looking yourself... Good.
And you're naked.

(hugging him)

Always naked. Are you going to
fuck me or give me something to
drink.

JACK

I would need a drink to fuck you.

Max laughs.

Natalie's eyes go back and forth between the two men. Jade
has chosen to sit on the diving board instead of with the
three adults.

Jack starts into the house to get some drinks.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Have Maria get it.

Natalie smiles, puts her hand out for JACK to touch him as
he walks by.

JACK

I'll ask her.

She watches Jack go toward the house. Max and Natalie look
at each other. He tilts his head questioning.

NATALIE

No. He's clean. Hasn't had a
drop.

MAX

Good.

Max smiles. These two people know each other well. They
can understand each other with a look.

Natalie looks over at Jade.

Who is up off the diving board and looking at the pond
beside it. Walks around it's edge, down into it.

NATALIE

Are you talking to her mother
now?

MAX

No. It's the same. (he looks
over at Jade) But at least I see
Jade now. The mother will
always be a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Natalie looks back at Jade, her perfect skin, body, unaware of how blessed she is.

NATALIE
Happy mistake, now.

He nods "yes". Jack comes back out.

MAX
I didn't know Monica still owned
this place.

NATALIE
(laughs)
Who knows? We keep thinking
someone is going to show up and
tell us it's theirs.

JACK
No we don't. You do.

NATALIE
True, I do.

JACK
When do you sail?

MAX
Three days. We were suppose to
stay with the Flannigans but I
haven't been able to reach them.
I don't know where they are.

NATALIE
So where are you staying?

MAX
I haven't worked that out quite
yet.

An awkward silence.

NATALIE
Well you should stay with us
until you get in touch with them.

MAX
We could.

Everybody is looking at each other.

MAX (cont'd)
(turns to Jade)
Jewel... you want to stay here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE
(shrugs)
If you want.

She just doesn't want to make the decision.

MAX
No...no..no. It's your decision.

JADE
Do we have another place to stay?

Again, they all look at each other.

NATALIE
She's right. The house is
empty. There are lots of rooms.
Don't even think about it.

They all sit there. Jack looks at Natalie then at Max says:

JACK
Then you're staying. Let's
swim.

MAX
Good idea. I'll go get our
things.

NATALIE
Take the two rooms at the top of
the stairs.
(to Jack)
Can you show them?

Max gets up from the table, and begins to leave with Jack.

MAX
(to Natalie)
It'll be great to see you for a
couple of days.

They start to walk.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Come on Jade. Let's go
swimming...

JADE
I'm okay. I don't want to swim.

MARIA starts to lay the table out, these people eat well.
Natalie picks up a cherry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Thanks Maria. Sorry we didn't
give you much notice.

MARIA

Prego Signorina

JADE is passing by the table.

JADE.

Do you have a cigarette?

NATALIE

Sure.

Maria goes back to the house. Jade lights the cigarette.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Hungry?

JADE

Not that much...

NATALIE

Well there's fruit here...
yogurt.

Jade shakes her head "no".

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

What does it mean ?

JADE

What does what mean ?

NATALIE

Your tattoo ?

JADE

Nothing.

Natalie smiles.

NATALIE

It's nice. You just liked the
design?

Jade looks away.

JADE

Yes.

It is as though she realizes how hard Natalie is trying,
but ignores the effort.

Natalie studies her profile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Come on, I'm going to show you
where you'll stay.

They walk toward the house as the men come out. Max runs toward them.

MAX

AND...

He picks Natalie up and runs with her to the pool, jumping in with her.

MAX (cont'd)

(shouting)

WE'RE going swimming.

They splash into the pool, leaving Jack and Jade to watch.

EXT. VERANDA - EVENING

Jack is picking cigarettes up off the table where we see the four of them have just eaten dinner. But he is alone now. He walks to Natalie who we see sits in a chaise, still dressed elegantly for dinner.

Nothing can be heard except the crickets in the distance.

JACK

Peaceful... finally.

She turns to see Jack coming toward her.

NATALIE

I love it here.

JACK

Dinner was good.

NATALIE

Max grilled his famous zucchini.

He nods "yes".

JACK

As always.

NATALIE

(laughs)

But it's always good.

He massages the back of her neck.

JACK

Are you happy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

I'm always happy when I'm with you.

JACK

Then why did you ask them to stay?

NATALIE

Do you want me to kick them out?

He walks away.

She watches him, he disappears into the unlighted area. He lights the cigarette, it glows in the dark.

JACK O.S.

You going to come?

He reappears in the light.

She doesn't move, he shrugs, turns and is on his way.

She sees he is not going to come back. She waits, we hear his footsteps moving away. She gets up to follow him. She walks into the dark.

She turns, he's behind her.

JACK

Undo your hair.

She looks at him, she does it.

JACK (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Turn around.

She doesn't move.

JACK (CONT'D) (cont'd)

...turn around.

Finally she obeys, offering him her back. He starts to caress her. She shivers, her face turned so she can reach his lips.

JACK (cont'd)

I don't need you to kick them out to be alone with you.

She can see part of their bodies together, through the lattice wall, in the reflection of the living room windows.

He just holds her there. Moving his hands down over her hips. He kisses her neck, let's her watch him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Her eyes dart into the room to see if anyone is there and dart back to the image of them together. She's afraid, conflicted.

NATALIE

I need you inside me.

He keeps kissing her neck but doesn't move to enter her. She turns, rips off his shirt, starts kissing his chest. But then she pulls him out of the way of the window.

NATALIE (cont'd)

(whispers to him)

I love you.

He doesn't respond.

NATALIE (cont'd)

(she repeats)

I love you...

Silence from him. He strokes her. He really holds her. This is an animal kind of love.

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

The shutters are still closed.

EXT. YARD - MORNING

In the yard we see Jade on the lawn listening to music on her ipod. She is doing yoga.

We hear the breaking of the shore in the distance.

Jack enters without seeing Jade. He is sleepy. He walks to the edge of the pool, takes off his t-shirt and lets himself fall in to the water. He swims to the other side. Hoists himself out. Then sees Jade. Stares.

MAX O.S.

Remember waking up on those cliffs in Santa Barbara...

Jack sees Max looking down the cliff at the shore. Jack nods "yes".

MAX

Lota years.

Neither of them looks at each other. There is something tender, sad, about the recalled memory.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Max looks at JADE, looks back at Jack, who is looking at her. The two men stare at the teenager stretching, can't not do it.

MAX (cont'd)
She's beautiful, isn't she...
My daughter.

JACK
Hard to think of you as her
father.

MAX
Really? Why?

JACK
You're usually her date.

MAX
Well people change Jack.

Max walks to the table where coffee is set out.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
You did.

Jack joins him at the table.

JACK
No. That was you Max.

Max didn't expect the come back. Jack picks up a cup of coffee. Maria approaches.

MARIA
Do you want something? More
toast?

MAX
Sure. Thanks Maria. (trying in
Italian) I'll make you some more
of my zucchini later.

Maria laughs at his mistakes in Italian, she says to Jack about Max:

He's funny." Jack smiles and she leaves.

Jade takes off her ipod to unzip her sweatshirt. We can see the bikini top below it, but she doesn't take the sweatshirt off. She stares at the water, moves along the edge and dips a foot in. It is as if she is dying to swim but doesn't want to do it in front of the men.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX(CONT'D) (cont'd)
 What are you thinking about,
 Jade?

JADE
 Me.

Jack smiles, loves the answer.

MAX
 Natalie still sleeping?

JACK
 I guess so...She usually likes to
 sleep in.

MAX
 I remember that.

MAX walks over to under the bedroom windows.

MAX (cont'd)
 Steelllllllllaaaa????

Nothing.

Max goes over to the pool, scoops water up, throws it on
 his t-shirt. Laughs to Jack.

MAX (cont'd)
 Stttttteeelllllllllllllaahhhhhhhh!
 !!

He stands back up. Natalie appears at a window wrapped in
 a sheet.

Max rips his t-shirt, showing his NOT perfect torso,

MAX (cont'd)
 Stella baby, forgive me.

She laughs.

MAX (cont'd)
 Get your ass down here.

Everybody laughs except Jade who doesn't know what the fuck
 they are illuding to. Max saunters back to the table,
 picks up the coffee pot, pours himself some.

MAX (cont'd)
 Anyone?

Jack shakes his head "no", shows him he has a cup. Jade
 doesn't answer. Max notices a book on the chaise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX (cont'd)
Yours?

JACK
No.

MAX
Natalie's.

JADE
Mine.

Max looks at her. Now Max scrutinizes it, reads part of the flap, concerned, wants to know what is in that head.

MAX
Does Natalie write much here?

JACK
She's on vacation.

MAX
Her piece in the N.Y Times on Sharon was brilliant. That's what you should read Jade.

JADE
I did. You've been carrying it with you. Remember.

Jack reaches for a pair of Natalie's sunglasses, puts them on.

JADE (cont'd)
She's a great writer.

The two men sit drinking their coffee and Jade lies out on the diving board taking the sun. Now she takes the sweatshirt off.

Jack turns, watches her.

PAN ON BEAUTIFUL LEGS

Music begins to play.

The beautiful legs are Natalie's. We now find ourself in the living room. She is relaxing on the couch, the CAMERA moves from her body to her face. She looks up at MAX. He stands at the stereo listening like an expert to the cd playing the music.

It's like he listens to each individual note as it is played, judging it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX
What'd ya think?

She nods "yes" in approval. She closes her eyes to HEAR better. MAX can't help but trace her body in her bikini on the couch.

The CAMERA PANS to JADE who is watching her father watch NATALIE. She is visibly disturbed by it. She gets up and moves to the window where we HEAR a splash. She exits.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Still the music plays. JACK is holding his breath as he swims underwater. When he reaches the other side he gets out, wraps the towel around himself, walks toward the house. He sees Jade.

She is walking toward him, he smiles as he crosses her, she returns the smile. They move on.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jack comes to the door, a towel around his waist. He listens with them. Jack walks over to the cd player.

JACK
This the new one?

MAX
Yep.

JACK
When are you releasing it?

MAX
September.

The music is just stopping.

JACK
(to Natalie)
You like it?

They lock eyes.

NATALIE
(slowly)
I do.

JACK
(to Max)
You think it will sell well?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

I hope so.

Jack moves over to Natalie, lifts her legs so that they rest on his chest. She sits up, so as to be closer to him.

NATALIE gets lost in Jack just like she always does, like every time when he just touches her. MAX doesn't like it, tries not to look at them.

NATALIE

Is it hot?

JACK

Boiling.

He cradles her head against him.

JACK (cont'd)

(to Max)

You mind if I try the Aston?

Max is a little taken by surprise but goes for it.

MAX

Do it...

We hear the sounds of a speeding engine.

EXT. ROAD - DAY - HELICOPTER SHOT

Max's ASTON MARTIN soars down a small road twisting among the hills of the coast.

We follow the car at a very high speed.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jack is behind the wheel, driving very fast. Max watches the road.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Jade walks under a tree towards the pool. She looks up at the house to make sure she is alone. She arrives at the edge of the pool, but we can only see her partially through the leaves. She is taking off her sweatshirt, the shorts, she is undressing completely. She slips into the pool for the first time. She swims and is really enjoying the water. The SOUND of the CAR'S MOTOR continues over the scene.

EXT. CAR MOVING - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY

The car speeds, it arrives at a curve, the wheels screech.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - DAY

Still we HEAR the SCREECHING of the WHEELS. Natalie is in front of her mirror, and she is combing her hair. We are close on her. She is beautiful. She turns her face so she can see how her hair frames her cheekbones. The CAMERA PULLS BACK as she combs. She notices hair tangled in the brush. She takes the hair out, puts it in the trash can, returns to combing.

We can HEAR the SOUND of the car pulling into the driveway.

EXT. ESTATE - FRONT YARD - DAY

JACK and MAX pull up.

MAX

You want one of these now, don't you?

JACK

Of my own? No. I like taking a ride in it...but...

MAX

(laughs)

Oh...You're so full of shit.

JACK

No. I really don't care about having this car. You do.

MAX

You wouldn't want to work as hard as I do to get it, so you've convinced yourself you don't want it.

Max gets out of the car.

JACK

(shakes his head,
smiles)

No. Not everyone is you Max, or wants to be you.

Max just stares at him. .

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

It's good you quit. I missed you being quick. You lost your quickness.

JACK

(laughs)

Well I'm glad it's better for you Max.

Max lights a cigarette. Jack starts to walk to the house.

MAX

You think we can cut the sarcasm?

JACK

No. It saves us.

Max walks past him into the house, pats him on the back as he moves past.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jack sits in front of the TV channel surfing from the latest Iraq war updates to a Looney Tunes cartoon. The sounds of heavy artillery against a silly rabbit's laugh are heard throughout the room. Jack shuts off the noise, walks over to Natalie and Max who are sitting at a table playing a game of gin. Natalie looks at a particular card from her hand to play it. Jack takes a casual two steps over and looks at Natalie's cards.

She is still hesitating.

MAX

Are you going to play? Come on... it's too long.

Jack takes a few steps, he now can see Max's cards, as Maria enters.

MARIA

I did everything. Is ready for you. So.. sure you don't need me for anything?

NATALIE

It's okay we're fine. Go home. Thank you, Maria.

Maria leaves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX
 (sings as he pours a
 drink, from WEST SIDE
 STORY)
 Maria... The most beautiful sound
 I ever heard...Maria...Maria...
 Mariaaaaaaaaaaaa...

Max pours himself a drink, offers the bottle to Jack.

MAX (cont'd)
 Want some?

Jack shakes his head "no".

MAX (cont'd)
 Oh...sorry...

It is not clear whether Max has asked this because he has forgotten or whether he actually intends to provoke.

MAX (cont'd)
 (to Natalie)
 Ready?

JACK sighs glances at Max's hand. Natalie still hesitates. She bites her lip and then looks up at Jack hastily. Imperceptibly, he nods. She nods to double check. He again nods back. She plays the card.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 Thank you. Just the card I was
 waiting for. Gin!

Natalie is furious at the trick Jack has played, slaps the cards on the ground. Jack laughs, leaves.

EXT. DINNER TABLE - VERANDA - EVENING

Jade is sitting at the dinner table reading.

JACK
 You don't want to play cards?

JADE
 (looking up)
 You don't have to pretend
 ...(starting over) Don't be
 polite. I'm fine...

JACK
 Okay.
 (pointing at the book)
 It's the cook, The murderer in
 the end.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE
 (she hides a smile)
 I know, I've already read it.

He smiles.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NEXT DAY

Max and Jack are racing in the pool. They are swimming toward us, neck and neck, a few yards away from the finish. We hear the intensity build in their breaths and the kicks that each take to win.

Max seems to be exhausted but somehow manages to touch first. He wades in the water hardly catching his breath.

The men look over at the girls.

MAX
 Well... who won?

JACK
 Who won?

NATALIE
 Max touched first.

Max still recovering hanging on the edge. JACK is not as tired.

MAX
 You need to quit smoking.

Jack dives under the water, coming up under Natalie's leg like a shark, gets her ankle in his teeth. It startles her.

NATALIE
 Ahhh...oh.. (she laughs at herself)

Jack lifts himself out of the pool, picks up the lotion and starts to massage some into Natalie's leg.

Max watches in silence a moment. He envies their closeness. Can't take it, walks over to Jade on the grass.

MAX
 You're getting a nice tan.

He lies down in the grass next to her.

MAX (cont'd)
 Why are you always over here,
 somewhere? Always away from all
 of us?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE

I'm not.
(she shrugs)
I like the grass.

He looks at her, she looks at him. He picks at the grass,
drops the grass on her legs.

JADE (cont'd)

(bored)
What are we going to do today?

MAX

I have to go to town.

She nods "yes".

MAX (cont'd)

Why don't you come?

She looks over at Natalie and Jack.

JADE

Why don't we leave them alone.
Go stay somewhere else, stay at a
hotel.

MAX

What? They want us here.

She moves her leg away slowly.. He takes her leg and pulls
it back.

MAX (cont'd)

You don't want me to go?

No response.

MAX (cont'd)

I leave because you don't want me
around.

She doesn't answer.

MAX (cont'd)

But you are my jewel.

She is looking up at him, amazed how insecure he is around
her.

MAX (cont'd)

I'll see you tonight.

He picks a daisy out of the grass beside him and leaves it
on her book, then gets up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He walks toward Natalie and Jack.

Jack continues to massage Natalie.

MAX (cont'd)

All right... Aren't you tired of being cooped up here? What do you do all day long?

JACK

What do you think? (he smiles, continues to massage Natalie)

MAX

I'm going to go into town? (To Natalie) Wanna come?

NATALIE

(stuck, she looks at Jack, wanting to include him)

You know he won't want to go. Thanks... some other time.

Max leaving.

MAX

(to Jade)

Good bye Jewel.

(to all of them)

If I'm not home for dinner don't wait up for me.

Natalie has turned onto her stomach giving Jack free reign to massage as he likes.

He is working his way up her legs. She smiles.

JACK

Why didn't you go with him?

NATALIE

I didn't want to.

JACK

Then why did you have to use me as an excuse.

NATALIE

I don't want to be around him when he's doing his thing.

JACK

He wouldn't do that with Jade here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Natalie looks over at Jade.

NATALIE
We'll see.

He massages her more deeply, teasing her.

JACK
You don't think I'll do it.

NATALIE
Jade is probably watching us.
You better not.

He pins her to the ground, she really can't get up. He lies on top of her. Jade looks at them.

JADE'S P.O.V.

Watching them laugh as Jack won't let her up. It gets very sexual.

EXT. VERANDA - SUNSET

Jade has dug bread out of a baguette and is rolling them into balls.

Natalie approaches freshly showered.

NATALIE
How are you?

JADE
(talking about the bread
balls)
Which one do you like?

NATALIE
Which one?

Jade nods "yes". Natalie tries to be nice.

NATALIE (cont'd)
I like them both.

JADE
Which one?

Natalie sees she has to pick one. Does.

NATALIE
This one.

JADE
Me too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jade smiles.

JADE (cont'd)
We always like one better... even
between the things that don't
matter.

NATALIE
Huh... I've never really thought
about that before?

Jade shrugs. Jack enters the room walks over to the french
doors, looks out at the beautiful garden. He takes his
jean jacket.

NATALIE (cont'd)
Are you cold ?

JACK
A little bit.

Natalie walks to him, ducks under his arm, so he is wrapped
around her, and she around him.

NATALIE
Are you hungry ?

JACK
It's almost ten thirty. We should
just eat without Max.

He kisses her on the top of the head. They look so nice
there. Jade watches them.

JADE
Have you known each other for a
long time ?

Natalie looks at Jack, then back at Jade.

NATALIE
Two years.

JACK
Almost two and a half.

He looks at her, she steps back so she can look at him.

JADE
How long have you known my
father?

NATALIE
Max? Five or six... Actually,
maybe seven.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE (cont'd)
 (TO JACK) The first time we met,
 we were at his place. Remember ?

JACK
 Uh huh.

NATALIE
 They were like brothers.

JADE
 (taken aback)
 My dad and you?

Jack watches Natalie.

NATALIE
 They could finish each other's
 sentences. They could finish
 each other's jokes.

Jade is surprised by this.

JADE
 Why aren't you friends now?

NATALIE
 They are.

Jack looks at Natalie . We hear loud music thumping from
 outside. A horn beeps. Natalie looks outside.

NATALIE (cont'd)
 Oh God, he brought the whole town
 with him.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - EVENING

We HEAR honking. Max's car is pulling up to the front of
 the house. Behind him comes a few more cars, all very
 expensive. The jet set is in tow.

Max gets out of the Aston Martin, squeezing out from the
 passenger side.

MAX
 We're here.

There is more honking. Happy people get out of their cars,
 already in a party mood. Max goes around to the passenger
 side of his car.

MAX (cont'd)
 It's this way, "jewels".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(Exactly as he calls his own daughter) two beautiful young girls get out of the car. Natalie appears at the doorway, Max goes to his trunk seeing her.

MAX (cont'd)

Hi Mom.

Max hands off the wine.

MAX (cont'd)

We didn't come empty handed.

(to everyone)

Come on. Help.

Natalie crosses her arms on her chest even if she is amused.

MAX (cont'd)

And don't forget the fireworks.

NATALIE laughs. Next, people are streaming toward the house, following Max.

NATALIE

All your friends.

MAX

Close friends.

To the people streaming in.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Everyone behave, the people who live here like it calm.

Everyone laughs. The CAMERA PANS with the crowd and ends on Jade who can't believe it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The party is in full swing. The room is crowded. The music is loud. People are laughing and dancing.

Jack drifts among the guests without entering the festive spirit of them all.

A man hands two bottles to Jack.

MAN

Could you open these?

The man has turned and left. Jack takes the bottles like a robot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Camera goes with Jack as he crosses the room where he leaves the bottles on the shelf. Natalie enters frame.

NATALIE

Can you make an effort?

JACK

How fun do you think it is to open bottles when you don't drink.

Natalie continues on, carries a tray into the kitchen.

Across the room JACK notices Jade on the couch with a glass of wine. She looks around with a certain amount of disgust, boredom.

Jade and Jack find one another through the crowd and stare in an unspoken understanding.

EXT. VERANDA - LATER

Max sits in the central area of the group talking, entertaining them. We have never seen him more in his element.

And if there was any doubt that none of the other woman in the room can compete with Natalie, it is apparent now. She sits to the side of him, sparring with him, anytime he needs to be put into his place.

MAX

She had just come in from Sierra Leone where her plane caught fire and I had just gotten in from Mali where the Taureg had chased...literally chased... our van down the road into... thinking we had something they wanted. And all we had in our van was Dave Mathews who was trying to check out a new drummer from Mauritania... anyway.. I see this beautiful girl in Dakar sitting on the ground in the airport and she tells me that the plane on fire isn't important.... Isn't important...

Natalie

Wasn't..

MAX

"Isn't important" she says...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Wasn't...

MAX

Because there is a new female president in Liberia... that's important...

NATALIE

That is important...

MAX

I am asking her how that can be more important to her than the fact that she has almost died...

NATALIE

When it happens to you Max you'll know... when you're done hanging out with the Dave Mathews of the world... then you'll.. Wait, the Taureg? Are you sure they were Taureg? In Senegal? I didn't remember that part of the...

MAX

Yes... Taureg ... Anyway, we get into this conversation.. Do you remember it?

(she smiles, she does)

I say what is the essential experience in life?... If not the moment when you are faced with death?... and she says..."it's that moment when you accept death as part of life... that moment when you choose how to contribute... is the most real moment you'll experience"...Not the moment of your death. She says that moment is the great equalizer... that every one is the same, that she has never... you said "never"...right?

NATALIE

I still say never...

MAX

She says never do you see someone dying who isn't thinking... Why me? Why now?

(a beat)

And I say why is that the defining moment in life... and she says...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Oh I hope you get this right
since I know you have probably
told this story over and over...

MAX

Are you kidding? I'd never forget
what you said...

NATALIE

Okay...we'll see..

MAX

Because after you say: 'why me?
Why now?' You think to yourself:
Did I participate... Was I
here...and I said... I said...
(everyone waits) I said to her..
You've never been in love..

She nods "yes" , people are wondering.

MAX (cont'd)

...because then you'd know the
defining moment of existence is
that moment you fall in love...
because that's when you feel the
most alive... and she says I
don't agree... and I say "then
you've never been in love"..(more
laughter) and we've been arguing
that same point... ever since...
right? Haven't we?

Natalie nods "yes", really enjoying the performance also.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(admiring Max)
And whose winning?

NATALIE

(begrudgingly)
He is...

Everyone laughs.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I fell in love.

They all laugh.

EXT. POOL AREA - NIGHT

The music has gotten LOUDER as people are starting to bounce on the dance floor in the living room. People are also having fun out by the pool.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

In the middle of all these people, Max looks around for Jade. He yells to her, but can hardly be heard over the music.

MAX

Let's dance, Jade!!

Instinctively, she steps back. She doesn't want to dance, at least not with her father. But he insists, grabs her by the arm again, and they are in the middle of it all, people dancing all around them. Instead of dancing he just holds her tight to her chest.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Did you miss me? (pulling her
ever closer) You smell good.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jack enters, Natalie is there.

JACK

They want more wine.

He helps open it.

NATALIE

Are you alright?

He doesn't answer.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Sorry... I should have seen what
would happen. I guess I have
this secret hope... you'd be
friends again.

He slowly takes one of his wine stained fingers and touches it to her lips so that she can taste.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Still people are dancing. This party is fun. Jade is back on the couch drinking and smoking. Brian, a wanabe businessman intern is talking a blue streak to her.

BRIAN

Personally, I love Switzerland. It's a beautiful country. It's so clean. You get paid better than you'll be paid anywhere in America. And I hate... as an America... the way we impose our ideas on everyone. That's why I am so happy to live in Europe. I think I'll stay for a long time..I could stay for a long time if my firm decided to expand its base here, which I think it might do as there certainly a market in Europe for what we do.

He takes a long sip of his drink. Jade isn't listening to a word he says. Her eyes are fixed on Natalie and Max who are dancing salsa.

JADE'S P.O.V.

Of Max and Natalie. They are good, very good, smiling. Natalie is really having fun. Moving her body and being very sensual with Max who is really enjoying the dancing.

CLOSEUP JACK

We may have expected to see Jade watching, but we see that JACK is watching them also.

CLOSEUP JADE

She is now completely unaware of Brian who rattles on. She's becoming angry, watching her father with Natalie.

JADE

(to Brian)

Sorry..

She gets up, walks out of the room. She passes Jack who is being tracked by a beautiful girl.

JACK

(to the girl)

Sorry...

He follows Jade.

EXT. POOL AREA - NIGHT

People are in the pool having fun. Jade is walking by. Jack catches her arm.

She looks at him, says nothing, Neither does he.

JACK
Where are you going?

JADE
I was worried for my health, that
guy was boring me to death.

He smiles.

JACK
And?

She still says nothing.

JACK (cont'd)
They've always been that way.

JADE
What way?

JACK
They were together when she was
younger.

JADE
It doesn't bother you?

JACK
No. Does it bother you?

JADE
Yes.

JACK
Why?

JADE
It just does. It's like he
thinks she's still his.

He smiles.

JACK
But she isn't.

He takes his jacket off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Are you cold?

JADE
No.

He puts it on her shoulders anyway.

They look at each other.

JACK
(really concerned)
What's the matter?

She looks at him.

JACK (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Just say it.

JADE
I'm angry at myself.

JACK
Why?

JADE
For not just leaving.

JACK
Here?

JADE
Just running.

JACK
From him?

JADE
From my father. My mother. From
Here. These people. From my
face. And you.

He smiles.

JACK.
Why don't you then?

She looks at him, vulnerable, as if she has maybe gone to
far with this conversation.

JADE
I'm afraid.

JACK
Then you don't really want to go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE

No. I want to go.

JACK

You will when you really want to.

JADE

Did you ever want to?

JACK

I did. I ran so far...I don't need to anymore.

They stare at each other, into each other.

NATALIE Standing outside the house watching Jade and Jack.

NATALIE'S POV

Jack must have said something funny because Jade is laughing.

NATALIE turns to go back to the house, when she walks the focus does not rack but stays out of focus and the shadows dance, undefined shapes undulate on the screen trees, people, lights.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSEUP EMPTY BOTTLES

Maria enters frame, she cleans the house, picking up things. We follow her to the kitchen where Natalie is, preparing her tray with coffee and toast and two orange juices.

MARIA

(in broken English)

The sky is so blue today it's almost white. It's going to be a very hot day. Today.

EXT. NATALIE'S ROOM - SEA VIEW - DAY

Jack is sound asleep. Natalie walks over to the bed with a tray of juice and coffee. He slowly wakes from the sunlight against his swollen eyes.

JACK

Is it late?

NATALIE

Almost three.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He covers his eyes as if the sun were bothering him.

JACK
Some days aren't worth the
trouble. Maybe I should just
miss today. Wake up tomorrow.

She smiles. Kisses him.

NATALIE
Stay in bed, then. You want me to
close the shutters?

He struggles to sit up, nibbles on a croissant.

NATALIE (cont'd)
I lost track of you last night.
Where were you?

They eat.

JACK
With Jade.

She tenses, but covers it.

NATALIE
Good. So you're getting to know
her.

He doesn't answer.

NATALIE (cont'd)
What's she like?

JACK
She's.. not what you expect.

NATALIE
(smiles)
Ah... Your type...

JACK
(nonchalantly)
Yeah. She is.

He closes his eyes to sleep. She watches him.

NATALIE
(only half joking)
Should I get out of your way?

JACK
(closed eyes, joking)
Wait a bit, and see.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Max has just finished doing laps, look over at Jade, who is lying down on the chaise, like she is going to go back to sleep.

MAX
Did you sleep?

JADE
I didn't sleep enough..

Max steps out of the pool. He towels off.

MAX
I'm glad. You'll have time to sleep later in life, you'll get married some day.

He picks up the tray of coffee brings it closer to her.

MAX (cont'd)
Want some coffee?

JADE
Later.

He pours himself some coffee, sits down beside her

MAX
You know what I think we should do? Go to Venice. It's a shame, we're in Italy, I want you to see the most romantic of cities.

He kisses her back.

MAX (cont'd)
You're skin...

JADE turns to see what her father meant by that murmur, it's disturbing to her.

Jack saunters over to the area in which they are sitting. He hides behind dark sunglasses.

JACK (OFF)
Good morning.

MAX
Good afternoon.

JACK
(to JADE)
Hello.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE
(she can barely get this
out she is so effected
by his presence)

Hi.

Jack sits down on the end of Jade's chaise, takes some coffee.

JACK
Want some coffee?

JADE
(sits up)
Just a little.

Max notices how easy it is for Jade to speak with Jack.

JACK
No Yoga today?

JADE
I only do it when I'm annoyed.

JACK
Why aren't you annoyed today?

She smiles at the joke, Max is really bugged.

MAX
So, when is the wedding?

JACK
What wedding?

Max sits on it for a moment. He stares at Jack and then back at Jade, seeing if they will look at one another.

MAX
Natalie and yours. When are you
two going to get it over with?

Jack looks down at his coffee.

JACK
Why would we get married?

MAX
To make it official. (joking)
Her taking care of you.

JACK
Fuck off Max.

JADE listens intently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

Oh...you really aren't in a good mood, are you Jackie?

Max puts more sugar in his coffee.

MAX (cont'd)

(unable to let it go)

She's the perfect wife, I'd hate to see you blow it.

JACK

You marry her then, Max.

Max doesn't know how to respond at first.

MAX

Me? Married? I'd only get married if Jade wanted me to.

JADE

Why would I care?

Natalie walks out carrying two large straw bags, looking ready to do a little shopping.

NATALIE

Max will you take me into town in your Bond car before everything closes.

She walks past JACK to Max.

MAX

I'll get my keys.

Jack just stands there, as Natalie walks back by him. Max throws on a t-shirt and walks by Jack without saying anything.

Jade and Jack are still there.

The silence is tense.

He puts his coffee down, stands up, stretches. She watches him as if she were waiting for what he was going to do or say next.

JACK

Do you need anything?

JADE

No.

She smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
I'm going to shave.

He then passes behind her, then moves off to the house.

JACK (cont'd)
This is your chance... If you
want to run...

Jack walks away. Jade's eyes are following his every move.

She waits. She remains motionless, pensive. She gets up slowly.

The CAMERA follows her as she walks toward the house and we see the smile spread on her face. She's happy, for the first time since we have met her, she's happy. She feels the leaves of the tree as she walks by. She skips up onto the veranda.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Jade walks inside from the veranda. She is still smiling, she feels the surface of a table as she walks by. She HEARS the SHOWER upstairs. She looks up at the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Jade is slowly and very quietly climbing the stairs. She stops two or three times listening and as if she were going to change her mind and goes back down. But each time she continues.

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR

We see JADE come to the top of the stairs. And she is radiant. She walks down the corridor to opposite the room that has the shower, and she leans against the wall.

INT. BATHROOM SHOWER - DAY

Maria is cleaning the shower. There is no Jack.

CLOSEUP JADE

Listening to the shower, her back to us, she turns toward us still smiling and stares.

JADE'S P.O.V.

Jack. He is standing behind her in the hall. He has seen her spying, trying to be close to him.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

NATALIE and MAX are shopping.

She stops at the wine.

NATALIE

They cleaned us out, right? We should restock.

She picks up a couple of bottles.

MAX

Are you afraid he'll slip again?

NATALIE

He's never even talked about going back to it. I don't know.

MAX

But you've been hiding him out. He hasn't had any pressure on him.

She looks at him, agrees.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)

But that's not the kind of slipping I was talking about.

He waits for her to understand what he means.

NATALIE

Oh... That...

(a beat)

I've never actually been able to believe it and I'm the one who found him. I saw him lying there And I'm in denial about that.

She laughs at herself.

MAX

Nothing like denial to get us through. I think it's saved way more people than it's killed...and it gets such a bad rap.

NATALIE

Did you see it coming?

MAX

I wasn't surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She just looks at him.

NATALIE

Why?

MAX

I think he's capable of almost anything. He hides.

She puts the wine in the cart.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jack watches Jade, close to her on the couch. Jade is trying to wipe the tears from her face but more come and they keep coming.

JADE

I was with him in Naples and someone thought we were boyfriend and girlfriend and he loved it...but do you know what he loved more, when he tried to convince them: "Oh no...she's my daughter" and they didn't believe him. He loved that. He wanted them to think it. How sick is that? He wants to pretend it.

She wipes her face. But we can see this is very hard for her. But she can't stop her anger at him.

JADE (cont'd)

And I don't like the way he is anyway. It's weird to say, but if he wasn't my father.. And he was my age...I'd NEVER like him. He talks about people when they're not there. Talks about their weak point. And wants me to be his confidante and.... I just want to say:"Stop". (She puts her hands up to her ears.) Whether he's right or not, whether it's true about them or not. I guess it makes him feel like God for thinking he's seeing it all. Then he tries to make them see it his way, endlessly, like that's going to help anyone change it...

He waits for her to explain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

He is sure of what he believes
whether it's true or not.

JADE

I think he was trying to get me
to dislike you, before I met you.

JACK

Why do you think that?

JADE

Because he was saying stuff like:
(she says like a list) It's not a
right to be an artist. And if
you don't face that you're not
talented, you're a drain on
everyone around you. You're a
parasite. He said you quitting
was inevitable.

They sit in silence. And then Jack laughs. Just starts to
laugh. It dies out, fades. He is really enraged to hear
this behind his back.

JADE (cont'd)

I don't want him to get to know
me. I don't want him deciding
what my weakness is.

Her hair is in her face and Jack puts it behind her ear.
He catches her tear on his finger.

EXT. CAFE - TERRACE - AFTERNOON

Max and Natalie sit at a table, coffee in front of them.

MAX

You're different with him.

NATALIE

I am different with him, because
it's the first time I've really
been happy with a man.

MAX

Happy?

NATALIE

Yes. I've never been happier
with a man.

He is still not celebrating it ,somehow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 What's the matter? Are you
 against my being happy?

Deciding to make fun of it.

MAX
 What? Did you say am I against
 you being delusional?

She has to laugh.

NATALIE
 Oh very funny.

She looks at him.

NATALIE (cont'd)
 But you're always serious when
 you're kidding.

INT. ESTATE - KITCHEN - DUSK

Natalie turns on the light. She puts down the groceries.

NATALIE (OUT LOUD)
 Hello? Anybody home ?

Maria comes walking into the kitchen

MARIA
 Evening, miss.

NATALIE
 Hi, Maria ? Have you seen Jack?

MARIA
 No, miss. I haven't seen anyone.
 I wanted to leave but I didn't
 want to leave the house without
 anyone here.

NATALIE
 Hmm?

MARIA
 Is there anything you need before
 I go ?

NATALIE
 No, Maria, I think we're fine.
 Thank you.

She walks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIA
Good night then.

BOTH
Good night.

Max puts his groceries down. They smile at one another furtively, as if being alone together made them uneasy.

MAX
I am going to shave. You coming
with me?

She laughs.

NATALIE
I'll shave later.

Max walks away touching her behind ever so lightly. He just has to tease her.

EXT. OUTSIDE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A candle lit table awaits the arrival of guests. Natalie enters. She does have a concerned look on her face. She stops and stares into the pool.

Max looks at her, finds her beautiful, walks over to her.

MAX
You shouldn't do that to me.

She knows what he means, smiles, it cheers her up to have this effect on him.

MAX (cont'd)
(smiles)
You want a drink?

NATALIE
I wonder where they went?

Without a word he hands her his glass of red wine. He looks at her bare back and finds the opening. He slips his hand into the back of her dress and rubs her back. But he leaves his hand there. Natalie turns. Laughs.

NATALIE (cont'd)
You have to be kidding.

They HEAR A CAR on the driveway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF THE ESTATE - NIGHT

Jack and Jade are already out of the truck that brought them here, and the truck is moving back out the driveway. They are waving to the driver. She too has wet hair and her face looks a little flush. She wears his jean jacket.

JADE
Are they here?

JACK
It's so quiet here.

We follow them until they see Natalie and Max out on the veranda at the table. As soon as Natalie knows she can be seen, she brightens.

NATALIE
I'll always feel I'm thirty again
around you.

MAX
You are thirty.

She laughs loudly. MAX dips her as if they are dancing. Playing it to the hilt, as if she could care less whether JACK and JADE are there. JACK is effected by what he sees but covers.

JADE and JACK walk toward them.

MAX (cont'd)
Where did you two go?

JACK
To the beach. For a change.

MAX
We've been waiting for you to
eat.

JACK
It took us a while to get a ride
back.

MAX
You hitch hiked?

JACK
Yes.

Jack picks up a piece of bread and starts to eat. Jade doesn't even look at her father. Seems to be hanging back behind Jack. Natalie sensing something. They glance at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX
(to Jade)
Did you go swimming too?

JADE
Yes.

NATALIE
(to Jade)
You swam? I thought you didn't
like the water?

JADE
I like the sea. I don't like the
pool.

MAX
(to Jack)
How was the water?

JACK
Great.

MAX
Well... I'm hungry.

NATALIE
I'm going to go get the rice.

Natalie leaves. The rest of them sit. Max sits beside
Jade, who sits in front of Jack.

No one says a word.

It is an awkward silence.

Natalie returns with the bowl of rice and sits. Natalie
takes her place beside Jack in front of Max.

JACK (TO NATALIE)
Did you make this?

NATALIE
We did. Max made the rice.

MAX
I had to add a few spices-pepper,
saffron. Otherwise it was a
little flat.

JACK
It's good.

Everyone is serving themselves. They all start eating,
except Jade.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

It's difficult to cook rice. You don't find good rice very often.

NATALIE

I love Chinese food. It's tasty but it's light.

MAX

Vietnamese cooking is even better. And Indonesian food is my favorite. The best I've ever had is in Amsterdam.. (he looks at Natalie) Do you remember?

There is a long uncomfortable pause. We hear only the sound of chopsticks against the bone china and Max who eats rather loudly. Natalie turns to Jade, who has barely touched her food.

NATALIE

You don't like it ?

JADE

I'm not that hungry.

The pretence is too much for JADE. She stands up from the table.

JADE (cont'd)

I'm... I'm just tired, I want to sleep..

MAX

Sure... (he watches her walk from the table) good night.

NATALIE

Good night.

Jack says nothing. Max turns to him.

MAX

I hope she didn't catch a cold.

JACK

I'm sure she didn't.

Another silence.

NATALIE

Swimming in the sea always does that to you. Wipes you out.

Max continues eating like nothing has fazed him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

OK, I'll just go make sure she doesn't need anything. Be right back.

He leaves the table and enters the house. Natalie and Jack are left to the chirping of crickets.

NATALIE

Where did you go?

JACK

Down the cliff.

NATALIE

Why? You haven't left the house in a month.

He looks at her.

The guilt of her thoughts starts to weigh on her mind. A loud zapping noise is heard as a bug has gotten caught in the zapper light.

JACK

There are a lot of mosquitoes tonight.

NATALIE

The light attracts them.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Max shuts the door from Jade's room. Something happened. He has suddenly changed; he is stunned and angry.

Moving down toward the stairs he visibly tries to regain his composure. He does.

EXT. OUTSIDE DINING ROOM - SAME

Max walks rapidly over to the table where Jack and Natalie are still sitting. He comes up to Natalie and puts his hand on her shoulder in a friendly manner, and smiles.

MAX

She's fine. Sound asleep.

Natalie smiles.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I have to run into town again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Again? Why?

MAX

I promised Weiszman I would see him before I left. We have to go tomorrow.

Natalie is taken aback. She knows something is up.

NATALIE

You're going tomorrow?

MAX

Tomorrow morning. Yeah.

Max manages a smile. He kisses Natalie on the cheek, takes his keys and leaves.

MAX (cont'd)

I want to get to bed early so I'll be back before too late. But. I'll wake you before we leave tomorrow morning in case...

He walks off. Thinks of something, turns to Natalie.

MAX (cont'd)

You might check in on her, make sure she's sleeping, tell her I'll be back if she asks.

NATALIE nods "yes".

And he leaves.

NATALIE waits to hear the sound of his car. She looks over at JACK, he looks up at the ceiling. Natalie follows his eyes, he watches a lizard slither by on the concrete wall.

NATALIE

Do you want me to stay out of your way?

JACK

What do you mean?

Each look at each other waiting for the other's next move. After a while...

NATALIE

Go see her...

He doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
She'll be leaving tomorrow.

JACK
So will I.

She can't believe he's said this. She is frozen. Can't believe it's gone this far.

NATALIE
Everything's a betrayal to you,
isn't it Jack? Even guests in
the house.

JACK
Maybe.

She's becoming enraged.

NATALIE
So... I brought them into the
house, you didn't want that.. you
can make this my fault.

JACK
It's no one's fault.

She did not think she could be more stunned but now she finds herself even more shocked.

NATALIE
Well... She's very beautiful.
And she's Max's daughter.

JACK
You're talking nonsense.

A long beat.

NATALIE
It would be a mistake.

We stay on Jack who doesn't move.

JACK
You know what's best for me?

She doesn't know what to say.

JACK (cont'd)
Well you're only thirty... Maybe
when you're older you'll be
wiser.

He gets up and walks out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE
You're leaving....? Stay in the
room.

He leaves.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Natalie, in her evening dress, mounts the stairwell slowly. Holding her tears. She looks down at JACK sitting on the couch in the living room. He feels her but doesn't move.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Natalie lies in her bed. She buries her face in the pillow so no one will hear her cry. Her makeup runs down her face.

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

The lit pool is still and beautiful, eerie. Silence. Except for the crickets.

Then, we HEAR the SOUND of the PIANO being played in the living room.

It stops, then starts, stops again. Obviously Jack is playing.

After a moment of silence, Jack comes from the house with a glass and bottle. He walks toward us. He walks around the pool, and sits in CLOSE UP in front of us. He swallows in one gulp the end of his drink. He's drinking again.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER - WIDER SHOT - JACK AND THE POOL

From a different angle, Jack is alone, sitting in the same place, alone, with his bottle. The pool is the only thing lit.

We hear the sounds of a car's engine speeding its way up the driveway. Jack looks toward the trees and spots the beams of two headlights through the woods.

CRASH. Jack looks toward the driveway and waits.

Max comes into view coming from the driveway. Obviously he is drunk

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

Fuck... Shit... shit... shit.. I
hit the gate. I fucked my car.

He sees Jack.

MAX (SURPRISED)(cont'd)

A god damn deer jumped in my way.
Fucking things are everywhere.
Makes me want to hunt.

He grabs the bottle off of Jack's table.

MAX (cont'd)

Are the girls asleep ?

JACK

They've been asleep for a long
time now.

MAX

Hey, I wanted to thank you for
showing Jade and I such a good
time.

JACK

Sure.

Max pours himself a drink in Jack's glass, drinks it down.
Then realizes.

MAX

(OFF THE BOTTLE) You've started?

JACK

Just a drink.

MAX

Well... a little late night juice
never hurt anybody. Right ?

JACK

Good of you to give me your
blessing, Max.

MAX

Sure.

(levelling his eyes at
him)

You never really fooled me
anyway, Jack.

JACK

That's good, cause I was never
trying to fool you Max.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Max laughs disgustedly.

MAX

Oh the drink is gunna bring you back, isn't it ole Jack. It's gunna bring you out again to play. All that self pity...all that wallowing.

JACK

Oh you're wrong. It's envy... that's what it is. (cynical) I dream about being you all day Max.

Max is surprised at this, looks at him.

MAX

Exactly... self pity...by another name.

Jack laughs, Max hasn't even understood what he meant.

JACK

Just keep deflecting it all Max. Just deflect it.

Jack gets up, starts to take the long walk back to the house. But Max is not done with him, walks toward Jack..

MAX

Deflect what? Let me have it. Come on.. Come at me like a man.

(LOOKING AT THE HALF EMPTY BOTTLE)

A little more than one drink, hmm ? Have to get your nerve up ole Jacky boy. Is that why you started tonight?

Max winks at Jack.

JACK

Why don't you go to bed Max. There are better times to talk.

MAX

What ? What is it, Jack ?

Jack says nothing.

MAX (cont'd)

You look like you are dying to tell me something. It's late, You were waiting for me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX (cont'd)
 You want to talk to me about my
 daughter ? Is that why you
 needed the drink? Not man enough
 to talk without it?

Max's stare becomes insulting and contemptuous without
 raising his voice.

MAX (cont'd)
 What do you think ? You think
 I'll put up with your shit ?
 (enraged, serious) My daughter
 is not going to know you, Jack.
 She will not know you.

Jack looks Max straight in the eyes. He is not going to
 budge.

JACK
 She's not yours, Max.

Max finishes his drink and then tosses the glass onto the
 grass.

MAX
 Natalie is the best thing that
 ever happened to you. You don't
 care. You have to have
 everything, to prove to yourself
 you're not the piece of shit that
 you are. Is this your final
 victory over me ? To get my
 daughter ? You have never been
 able to beat me at anything or be
 better at me in anything so you
 take it out on Jade ? Does that
 make you fucking proud!

Max stops. Jack looks at him and says simply:

JACK
 Max go to bed. You could never
 hear the truth, you're not going
 to hear it now.

MAX
 You're a fucking whore Jack.

JACK
 What would you know Max? You
 don't know my story. You never
 bothered.

MAX
 "You don't know my story Max."..
 oh Boo who..what the fuck... you
 fucking weakling.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX (cont'd)
 We all have a story.. it gets us
 where we are...we can press
 against the obstacles...we can
 fight... or..

JACK
 ...we can be a parasite.

This stops Max. A nightmare for him on every level.
 Knowing that Jade has taken JACK into her confidence. He
 rushes at Jack pushing him backwards.

MAX
 YOU STAY AWAY FROM HER!!!!

JACK is stumbling backwards. MAX is really going for him,
 his rage is out of control.

JACK
 Are you jealous Max?

With this, Max throws a punch at his head.. Jack ducks, to
 protect himself.

SPLASH ! Max is in the pool.

He disappears under water for a second, then re-appears.

MAX
 Fuck... It's freezing.

Jack watches Max.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 Help me?

Jack holds out his hand for Max to grab and then lifts him
 out of the water. As soon as Max is near out. Jack lets go
 of his hand and he falls back into the water.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 Fuck... very funny...

They stare each other down.

Max tries to crawl out on his own. He can't, he's so
 drunk, being in the deep end, he needs help.

He goes under, after a moment he surfaces again. He grabs
 the side of the pool with his hands.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 Are you satisfied ? You fucking
 coward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Max swims to where it is more shallow, the Camera follows him and we arrive at Jack's feet who are following him, he kicks off his shoes.

Max tries to hoist himself out of the pool. Jack is there to greet him with his bare foot pressing into Max's shoulder, sending him splashing backward into the water.

He disappears. It is quiet. The water is almost calm.

His tired floating body is like a stabbed whale filling up with air to get energy and then finally he emerges angrily.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Cut it out now. That's enough. I
drank too much and I am
fucking...

He turns and swims back toward the other side of the pool. We follow him through the water to the other side.

Jack is standing there waiting. With even a harder kick than before, he sends Max again back into the water.

Max is becoming tired and scared.

MAX (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Help me! Don't be crazy ! I am
getting a cramp, I'm cold !

Jack leans down and lends Max his arm. Max reaches up to grab it when Jack pulls it away. He then grabs Max by the shirt collar and flops to his belly on the side of the pool to better his grip.

Max struggles to get away and slips through Jack's hands. Jack uses all his might forcing Max to become submerged underwater. Max breaks the surface again, gasping for air.

He puts his right hand on Max's head and then pushes it under water. He tries to keep him there, but Max struggles, gasping for air, desperately, uncomprehendingly. He tries to speak. It occurs to him what Jack is capable of.

MAX (cont'd)
Don't Jack... don't

On Jack's face there is a growing sense of madness mixed with sweat and determination.

He over powers Max under the water again.

Max's hands come out of the water and seize Jack's wrist and forearm, desperately grabbing him toward the water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack's body, yielding to Max's weight, starts slipping toward the pool. At the last moment, Jack grabs one of the rungs of the pool ladder and clings onto it. His body immediately stops sliding.

He betters his grip.

Jack then twists his arm around and reaches for the back of Max's shirt. He grabs it from underneath the water and quickly pulls it over Max's head. He now looks like a wild animal wrapped in a tarp and ready to be tranquilized. He lunges up for air but Jack's grip on the shirt overpowers his head and slams his covered face back into the water.

MAX (THROUGH THE MUDDLED SOUNDS OF
WATER) (cont'd)

Please !

We hear him choking and coughing.

Jack lets him up again.

MAX (cont'd)

Please.

Again Jack slams his face back to the pool.

MAX (cont'd)

No! I'm...

Jack thrusts him down again. He is growing angrier and angrier with each thrust.

Jack releases his grip. Max comes up coughing still wrapped up like a mummy in his own shirt. It is uncomfortable to hear him in so much pain trying to get air between his mouthfuls of water as the fabric clings tightly, suffocating his face further.

Jack thrusts even farther. He teases Max by dunking him in and out of the water.

Jack surges one last time. Max's whole head is submerged under water. We hear his muted pleas for life turn tragic. He is going to die.

His legs slowly start to kick above the surface as his body contorts about searching for a glimpse of air. There are no more words.

Jack holds his head under the water.

Longer...

And longer...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And longer...

He makes sure that there is nothing left.

And longer...

...Until his limbs kick and bounce dousing Jack in splashes of water. We watch the fight in his legs give way to only a few desperate kicks and to then only one shocking thrust left before eventual silence. The animal has lost. Dead.

Max's hands slowly relax their grip.

His lifeless body slowly sinks.

Only the sound of crickets are once again heard.

A long static shot of Max's body floating below the surface. It is a large gleaming, dark mass making its way to the top.

Jack seems to snap out of his hypnotic-like state. He throws himself down prone and reaches back into the water. He manages to grab Max by the shirt again and then drags his body to the shallow end of the pool and pulls him up onto the grass, RIPPING THE SHIRT.

He takes his pulse, listens to his heart: Nothing. He slaps Max a few times with no result.. It's no use, he's dead. Jack looks around as he begins to panic. He runs toward the inside of the house. But slips hard on the deck, (having been soaked by splashes from the struggle).

He is down on his back, hard. It takes a moment to turn onto his side.

He rolls up, then onto his knees, when he is on his knees he is eye level with MAX. He freezes. Just looking at him. Thinking.

He gets up, kills the pool's lights.

Then, slowly, in the dark, we see him move back to Max.

He is taking his shirt off him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack enters the room without turning the light on. Then crosses it.

He bumps into a chair, catches it before it falls to the ground. He puts the light on. He moves into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns the light on. There is no one there. Then he turns it off.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Jack is moving up the hall, first to Jade's room. He pushes the door open, looks at her sleeping.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM

Again, Jack pushes the door open. Natalie is sound asleep.

INT. MAX'S ROOM

Jack opens the drawer slowly, finds another shirt and pants for Max.

EXT. POOL SIDE - NIGHT

Jack comes to Max still lying by the pool, but now he is in only boxer shorts.

His wet pants and shirt are beside him where JACK left them.

Jack drapes the dry clothes over the nearby chaise.

He is on his way back to MAX when he suddenly picks up his foot, he has stepped on the glass. He picks it up, thinking. He slowly turns to the table, sees the bottle --- decides to leave it there.

Then, he continues to MAX, pushes him with his foot, hard. Max rolls toward the pool.

He pushes him again with his foot, rolls him into the pool.

It makes quite a splash when it goes back in.

Jack looks back up at the house. He takes the wet clothes he stripped off Max. Then he walks quickly around the side of the house.

INT. HOUSE CELLAR - NIGHT

Jack enters the cellar. He turns the light on. We see him looking around for a place to hide the clothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He sees a huge stack of wood that has been cut and stored for the whole winter.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack enters carrying the glass. He goes to the sink, cleans the glass frenetically, puts it back in the cupboard with the other glasses.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM

Jack is looking for something, trying not to make any noise. He is crouched over one of her bags that sits under the night stand. But does not find what he wants. He goes to the bathroom without turning on the light, still looking for something. He comes back to the bed. Natalie is still dead asleep, and he sees what he wanted, the sleeping pills on top of the night stand.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack's hands are shaking as he takes several capsules. He looks at them and gulps them down with a shot of liquor. He has a last look in the direction of the pool. He decides to go outside again, Jack disappears out of frame.

Then we see the lights around and in the pool go on.

EXT. POOL SIDE - NIGHT

Max's body is floating in the middle of the pool.

EXT. ANOTHER ANGLE

Jack enters the living room, finally lies his head back on the top of the couch.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON POOL'S WATER - DAY

We are looking at IMAGES REFLECTED in the water upside down.

The clouds move across the pool.

A bird sitting on a tree's branch takes flight upside down across the screen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Another bird passes it, upside down, lands on the tree branch, upside down. There are other shapes reflected, we don't really know what they are.

The CAMERA finds the reflection of JACK standing upside down next to the pool

The SOUNDS of the activity around the pool become louder as the CAMERA tilts up, to JACK standing right side up, looking down into the pool. He wears sun glasses. Natalie enters the frame.

NATALIE

I can't believe it.

As we widen out, we see the post death ritual. A lot of people performing their duties. Policemen, paramedics, a photographer. Jack is the only one who is not moving.

He is in a trance.

Natalie is wrapped in a blanket.

She looks up at Jack.

NATALIE (cont'd)

We can't stay here. I want to go back home.

Jack nods "yes".

Chief of Police Conversi walks toward Natalie and Jack.

CONVERSI

Sorry to meet under these circumstances. I'm...

He sticks out his hand.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

...Chief of Police Fabio Conversi. (explaining his dress) I was near here when the call came so...

They shake. He offers a cigarette to both Natalie and Jack. Jack takes one. The Chief of Police lights it for him.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

His daughter is here?

NATALIE

Yes. Jade. She wanted to stay in her room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONVERSI

This must be a shock.

They say nothing. Natalie nods "yes".

CONVERSI (cont'd)

And she's the only relative here...?

NATALIE

Yes. But she's a kid. . I'll arrange for... (she is upset doesn't want to say it). For her father...to travel.

The chief of police smiles warmly toward her.

CONVERSI

To release him to you, I'm going to need to ask you some questions over the next few days. Your cooperation will be appreciated. I know this is hard for the two of you, but it's operating procedure.

NATALIE

All right.

CONVERSI

I will be in touch.

He walks off.

NATALIE

I guess we have to stay.

JACK nods "yes".

NATALIE (cont'd)

This is hell.

She watches the Pool as a POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER shoots off various photos.

NATALIE (cont'd)

I don't know why I keep trying... because as much as I try, I can't imagine him old, with grey hair...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

MARIA is coming into the room and the CAMERA follows her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIA

I prepared a light meal.

We find Natalie at the window, she turns.

NATALIE

Thank you Maria.

MARIA

I thought you should eat something.

NATALIE

Very nice of you, thank you.

We discover Jack who was sitting on the couch and now comes to the table.

NATALIE (cont'd)

We should call Jade down. Is she still in her room.

JACK

She doesn't want to leave her room. We should let her sleep.

Natalie nods "yes". They sit at the table facing each other. Trying to eat.

JACK (cont'd)

Are you angry with me?

NATALIE

Why?

JACK

Everything that happened. Things changed....

There is a door bell.

Natalie and Jack look at each other. Jack gets up but by the time he is walking toward the door, we see Conversi outside the window on the Veranda.

They see each other.

CONVERSI

Forgive me for interrupting. You're eating?

NATALIE

No. It's all right. Come in. Do you want to eat something?

The men walk in the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONVERSI

No I'm fine. . I just have a few questions to ask you.

NATALIE

You don't want anything to drink?

CONVERSI

No thank you. Do you mind if I smoke?

She offers him one.

CONVERSI (CONT'D) (cont'd)

The report says he died by drowning about four am. Was he a good swimmer?

NATALIE

Yes. Very good.

CONVERSI

Was he...

Suddenly Jade appears. He gets up, goes to Jade.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

Are you Miss Graham? I'm inspector Conversi. Accept my heart felt sympathy. I have a few questions, you can sit if you want.

She moves to a corner of the room, but stays standing, the others sit at their places.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

(to Natalie)

It's you who found the body?

NATALIE

Yes. It's me.

CONVERSI

And where were his clothes?

NATALIE

By the side of the pool.

CONVERSI

(he reads a sheet)

Light blue trousers and a light blue shirt were folded and on the chaise?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Yes.

CONVERSI

Did you see him that night?

NATALIE

Yes. Of course.

CONVERSI

You too?

JACK

Yes.

CONVERSI

The report says you slept in the living room that night?

JACK

Yes. (a beat) It is much cooler there.

CONVERSI

Where is the living room?

NATALIE

Through here.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Through the window of the room we can see Conversi out on the driveway. He is looking up the drive, then he comes towards us. Enters the living room where Jack and Natalie wait for him and Jade didn't follow.

CONVERSI

(to Jack)

When Mr. Graham ran into the gate you heard nothing?

JACK

Nothing. I'd taken sleeping pills.

NATALIE

But we've been asked all of this.

CONVERSI

I know. I apologize. But there were some things unasked. I have to get through them so you can leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
We'd like to leave.

CONVERSI
I'm going to have to ask you to
stay til the end of the
investigation

NATALIE
Will it be long?

CONVERSI
Some days.

NATALIE
Some days? You said earlier
it...

CONVERSI
Listen, I have a drown child on
the other side of the hill. Pools
are the biggest danger we have
all year here. This is a
tragedy. And I will get it
closed as soon as possible, but
you are going to have to be a bit
patient. Moving the remains
across an International border
always takes time.

NATALIE is nodding "yes".

NATALIE
A child?

CONVERSI
Four year old boy.

He is already stepping inside his car, leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CLOSEUP T.V. - NIGHT

Jack is watching television. As the reflected light
flickers on his face, they are watching an old black and
white American film dubbed in Italian.

Jack and Natalie sit on the couch next to each other.

NATALIE
I wonder what she's thinking...
here with strangers, right now.

Jack doesn't answer. Then gets up and goes to the stairs.

EXT. JADE'S ROOM - NIGHT

JACK knocks on the door.

No response.

JACK
Can I come in?

INT. JADE'S ROOM

Jade lies on the bed.

JACK enters her room. She looks up.

He sits down on the bed next to her.

A long pause.

JADE.
I heard something last night. It
woke me up. I thought the two of
you were fighting.

She looks over at him, he looks blankly back at her.

JADE
(squints, confused)
I don't know if it was something
I was dreaming and then a sound
woke me up.... and I took what I
was dreaming...and made
it...real... I don't know.

The tears start down her face again.

JACK
Do you need something to sleep?

JADE
I think I need you to sleep.

JACK
You want me to stay til you fall
asleep?

She nods "yes", rolls back over and reaches for his hand.
He stays in the chair, but holds her hand as she closes her
eyes.

EXT. WHITE ESTATE - VERANDA - NEXT MORNING

Natalie is outside watching Jade sit on the diving board, looking down into the pool when the phone rings...and rings... and rings.

Natalie decides to go to the phone she leaves the frame.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Jack has the phone and we see Natalie behind, walking along the veranda watching and listening to him.

JACK

Hello... Fred. Hi.. Yes,
everything is okay. Natalie is
all right...I can't tell you yet.
Yes... yes. We're just here .
Sure...come if you want.

EXT. VERANDA - DAY

Natalie is watching, Jack who is still talking on the phone. It is very reminiscent of him watching her at the beginning of the film when she first spoke with MAX on the telephone.

We HEAR a CAR COMING. Natalie goes to the driveway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF THE ESTATE - DAY

Conversi is pulling up and Natalie walks to him as he gets out.

CONVERSI

Good morning.

NATALIE

Good morning.

CONVERSI

(holding a report)
Listen, I need to talk to you.

NATALIE

Of course. Please come in.

She walks toward the door.

CONVERSI

No. Let's just stand here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

(confused)

All right.

CONVERSI

I thought this would be routine...but... you see this report I have. We sent in the clothes draped over the chair. (It is clear he is quite upset) The report says Mr. Graham's pockets were empty. Completely empty not a shred of tobacco. Not a coin, nothing. No trace of sweat. Clothes as clean as what we get back from the laundry. Yet Mr. Graham had drunk a lot that night. And danced. People saw him. So you see if he had been pushed into the pool and his wet clothes replaced by clean clothes it would be exactly like this.

She realizes fully what he is saying. She is shocked.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

Were you a good friend of his?

NATALIE

I'd known him a long time.

CONVERSI

Did Mr. Stark know him a long time too?

NATALIE

Yes...

Jack arrives.

JACK

Fred is probably going to visit us. (to Convesi) Hello.

CONVERSI

Whose Fred?

NATALIE

A friend?

CONVERSI

Was he here that night?

JACK

Fred?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONVERSI

Some problems have arisen in the report.

NATALIE has started to wander off and we go with her as she thinks.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

I'm going to have to ask you to stay longer than we all expected.

INT. HOUSE CORRIDOR

Natalie enters Max's room.

INT. MAX'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Natalie feels strange being in here, moved. As we HEAR Conversi's car leave. She opens the closet, touches the hangers with his clothes. You can see she is really thinking more about what Conversi said about Max's clothes having come from the laundry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jack enters and Natalie is at the window again, thinking.

JACK

You haven't said a word to me since the morning?

NATALIE

What should I say? I can't think of anything but him.

JACK

Me either.

She turns to him, studies him carefully.

NATALIE

I look at you alive eating, walking, answering the phone, it's as if I never saw you before.

Jack sees that she is changed, cold. She turns her back to him again.

JACK

We need to get out of here. Away from this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

We're not going to be able to.

JACK

Did the lieutenant tell you something ?

NATALIE

No.

JACK

What did he say?

NATALIE

Nothing. But you know Max's clothes... the ones found at the pool? He said Max couldn't have worn them.

We realize she has not been able to turn around and face him because she is fighting the idea that Jack is guilty. She can not face this idea so she can not face him. She is very emotional and talks slowly.

NATALIE (cont'd)

They were too clean. No sweat. And the shirt wasn't blue. It was white. I'm sure of it. I remember it very well now. And he said that maybe someone pushed Max into the pool and drowned him. And then changed his clothes. (she decides to try something) He says that you killed him. Do you understand?

A beat.

JACK

No.

NATALIE

He's looking for evidence.
(slowly)
Maybe a bundle of wrinkled clothes hidden somewhere.

Jack walks close to her.

JACK

Did you find them?

Natalie's worse fear is confirmed. We HEAR the SOUND of a car horn on the driveway. Fred and his friends have arrived.

EXT. HOUSE VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

We recognize friends of Max's from the party. A group of them is moving toward the house. They have brought some food, they are somber, careful. Fred comes to the living room door.

FRED

How are you?

NATALIE

Fine. What would you like?

Beer, wine, water?

FRED

Whatever you have. I don't want you to have to bother. Hello Jack.

JACK

Hello.

They come in the house, put the cake they brought on the table.

BRIAN

Where's Jade?

NATALIE

Outside somewhere or in her room?

BRIAN

Is she going to stay here?

NATALIE

No. She's going back to her mother.

FRED

What about you?

NATALIE

We're leaving too of course.

Jack and Natalie exchange a look.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The lights are on, it's night outside. It's very silent in the room.

Natalie is sitting on the couch, physically very tense, staring at JACK playing cards with Brian and Fred. The CAMERA studies him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His eyes twitch, his brow breaks out in sweat. He rubs his forehead, he is having a hard time concentrating on the game, but he needs the game so that he doesn't have to face Natalie staring at him. The Camera traces his hands lighting his cigarette. He drops a card, he picks up the card. He seems unable to look at Natalie. She still stares at him. He feels it, he looks at her very briefly, looks back at the game.

We end on Natalie staring at him. She knows.

EXT. - FRONT DRIVEWAY - LATER NIGHT

The guests are hugging Natalie good bye. The CAMERA follows Natalie as she moves back to the Veranda. Jack is at the door to the living room, when she passes him to move inside he catches her arm. She stops.

JACK

We were over there... he was drunk...he tried to hit me... he fell in... all by himself... And then...I don't know what happened.

NATALIE

Come on..inside. It's cold out here.

She takes his arm, they move inside.

NATALIE (cont'd)

Tell me.

JACK

That's it. I kept him from getting out.

She stares at him in shock, even though she suspected it, it's impossible to process it.

JACK (cont'd)

I could have banded his head against the side if I wanted to kill him. I didnt' even think of that..I just wanted him held under. I wanted him kept under the water..and my hands...

NATALIE

SHHHHH!!!

She has pounced on him like an animal, shaking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE (cont'd)

(whispers)

SHUTTT UP!! (her voice is grotesque from needing to stay silent at the same time she is enraged) DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!!! (whispers deeper) You did it...(she starts to crack, completely overwhelmed with emotion) You did it. It was you. Your hands...

Jack moves and sits on the couch. He hangs his head. He is completely spent, guilty, worried. Natalie just looks at him, so many conflicted emotions.

NATALIE (cont'd)

You should have called me when you felt...

JACK

What were you going to do...

She doesn't say anything, doesn't know what to do. They are both looking down at the ground.

But Natalie stiffens, as cold as stone when she says:

NATALIE

Jade will have to go.

A beat.

He nods "yes" like a child.

He lays back in the couch. She looks at him, we don't know if its' pity or love she feels.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Max's clothes. Where did you put them?

He looks at her amazed, understanding that she trapped him into confessing.

JACK

In the cellar, under the wood pile.

INT. CELLAR - NIGHT

Natalie stands on the other side of the burning pile of clothes. We can see her through the flames.

INT. -EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The police are fanned out inside and outside the house searching for evidence. They dust for fingerprints and pick up cigarette butts, all the usual. Natalie, Jack and Jade watch the police from three different locations on the grounds. Conversi stands watching the three of them so isolated. He knows there is something wrong, strange.

INT. AIRPORT - NEXT MORNING

Jade and Jack float into the frame from the left. They are being moved toward the gate while they stand on the airport people mover.

EXT. HOUSE- NEXT MORNING

Natalie is sitting on the bench facing the window where she could see the reflection of Jack and herself through the lattice. But now there is no reflection. She is deep in thought, in a trance, so much so, that when we HEAR MARIA say::

MARIA O.S.
Your cab is here.

She doesn't even HEAR her. She doesn't move.

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Jade and Jack look at each other in front of the gate now. There are a lot of people around them. Jade is extremely vulnerable.

JADE
What really happened to my
father?

JACK
He drowned.

JADE
I feel like I had something to do
with it. I upset him.

JACK
No...

JADE.
I'm why he got drunk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

When you're young you think you can trace things back to a cause... you think it has something to do with you... but it doesn't.

He hugs her.

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Jack watches a plane accelerate down the runway, and take off.

INT. CONVERSI'S OFFICE - DAY

He sits behind his desk, looking at Natalie.

CONVERSI

So that's your final statement. You don't have anything else to say?

NATALIE

No.

CONVERSI

So ...(slowly) I have to sign the authorization for you to be able to take back your friend's body... (while he signs) your good friend? (he looks pointedly at her) He was your good friend. That's what you said, right? You knew him a long time? Both of you.

She nods "yes".

CONVERSI (cont'd)

So you have to sign also. To say you agree with the report.

He pushes the paper toward her but hands her the pen. He holds the pen out in the air between them as if a lot were hanging in the balance.

She finally takes the pen, looks down at the rather long document.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

I hope you know what you're doing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Could you just tell me where to sign it.

He points.

CONVERSI

Here.... There... and there.

She signs with assurance. And gives him back the paper.

They just stare at each other.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

You know a case is not ever definitely closed. It can be reopened, should something come up. If you someday have any regrets....

NATALIE

No.

CONVERSI

Don't say "no". You can come see me anytime.

They look at each other again.

CONVERSI (cont'd)

So you can go.

They get up, he follows her, she looks at the floor. He puts his hand out to shake goodbye. She looks back at him poker faced.

NATALIE

Good bye, Inspector.

CONVERSI

Good bye. Have a save trip home.

She leaves. He walks to the window, looks outside.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

WIDE SHOT FROM ABOVE

A taxi sits on the driveway. JACK is putting his luggage in the trunk. He goes back to get more inside, he runs into Natalie at the door.

JACK

Is Maria coming with your luggage?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NATALIE
No. I'm not leaving.

He is stunned.

JACK
What? What do you mean?

NATALIE
I'm leaving later.

He catches her arm.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Leave me alone.

Maria interrupts them.

MARIA
What should I do with the food,
Miss?

NATALIE
Take it all, Maria.

MARIA
(smiles)
Thank you.

She leaves.

NATALIE
I feel as if I don't know you any
longer. I can't bear it.

She moves, he catches her again.

JACK
Natalie let's leave together.

NATALIE
No.

She moves inside the house. The taxi driver is waiting to
leave.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Natalie is on the phone.

NATALIE
Can you tell me when the last
flight from Naples to New York
is? (she waits) Yes... Thank
you... (she holds the line)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack enters the frame and takes the phone, hangs the phone up. Looks at her. They stare.

They do not move. They look at each other as they never have before. They are raw, no masks anymore.

EXT. POOL - DAY

The pool is completely still, not even the wind disturbs it. And it is green. Not blue, today.

EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

NATALIE is now against JACK's chest. He holds her head close to his heart in a tender caress.

WE ARE LOOKING AT THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jack sits at the piano, concentrating on the piece he plays. Lost in it, as if there was no past, there is no future. It is beautiful, he is living inside the music.

The CAMERA pulls back and away from him and pans to a long corridor, where we see at the end, a door ajar.

INT. NATALIE'S OFFICE AJAR DOOR FROM THE OTHER SIDE
CONTINUOUS

We can still HEAR the PIANO.

We pull back to include NATALIE but she is slowly clasping her hands to her ears, tightly so she can not HEAR.

We HEAR the PIANO MUTED as if we are in her HEAD.

The Music STOPS. Natalie relaxes her hands.

JACK enters her office, she smiles at him, he puts his hands through her hair.

JACK
How about a drink?

NATALIE
I'm fine.

As he leaves.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jack enters the kitchen. He walks to the fridge, opens it, takes out a beer, it slips his hand and crashes on the floor.

INT. NATALIE'S OFFICE

Natalie jumps, afraid.

INT. NATALIE AND JACK'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are in the bed, making love. There is a fire in the see through fireplace that connects the bedroom to their sitting room.

We move closer to them in bed.

JACK
(whispers)
I love you...

She doesn't respond.

JACK (cont'd)
I love you.

Again, she doesn't respond.

Now we see them making love through the see through fireplace, from across the sitting room

WE MOVE in on the FIREPLACE.

The flames now cover the frame.

- THE END -