

LEO
by
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INT. CAR - DAY (NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE)

ROSS (28m), a clueless people pleaser drives as MEREDITH (27F), The competitive homecoming queen flicks through her phone.

His gaze fixed on the road, Ross grabs his red striped tie, pulls it out of his open jacket and shows it to Meredith.

ROSS

Too much right?

MEREDITH

If you really want to impress it unbutton a couple at the top, let some of that chest hair hang out.

ROSS

I was serious.

MEREDITH

You really think we'd lose the house over a tie?

ROSS

First impressions Meredith, They are just like us you know.

MEREDITH

Um, no they are not. There it is.

Ross pulls up to a large weathered two story house surrounded by farmers fields. It's the only one on the road. Not a soul in site.

On the lawn a sale sign reads:

Hi, I'm Leo

Together, we'll make this house a home.

BOB VALENTINE (50's), A greasy looking realtor in a poor fitting suit leans in over the porch railing without a care in the world. A cheshire grin paints his face as his targets come into view.

BOB

Any problems finding the place?

Ross and Meredith rush to meet him.

MEREDITH

GPS tried to drive us into the river but it wasn't too bad.

BOB

Ahaha! It's nice to put a face to a name.

ROSS

Is it just as excited as we are?

BOB

"Its" name is Leo.

ROSS

Right, I forgot. I'm sorry I didn't mean--

BOB

--Of course not! If you two will just step this way? I'll introduce you.

INT. LEO - CONTINUOUS

It's tidy and clean. Open concept. A band of light wraps itself around the top of the wall where it meets the ceiling, the band pulses with color.

Bob, Ross and Meredith enter the house.

BOB

Leo?

The band of light races in hues of colour.

LEO (V.O.)

How are you Bob?

BOB

I'm great Amigo. I have two very special people to introduce.

LEO (V.O.)

Ah, yes. My potential tenants. I've been expecting you.

BOB

This is Ross and Meredith.

MEREDITH

It's great to meet you.

Ross' out to lunch. Meredith hits him in the shoulder.

ROSS

Yeah, a pleasure.

LEO (V.O.)

The pleasure is all mine. Are you two romantically involved?

MEREDITH

We're engaged.

They share a warm embrace, aw.

LEO (V.O.)

How lovely! Did you know having the venue in a home can save the newlyweds over fifty thousand dollars? When's the date?

MEREDITH

We don't have a date yet.

ROSS

Meredith...

LEO (V.O.)

Interesting. Case studies show that putting off the wedding date can end the relationship. Well, seventy six percent of the time. I'd commit. Especially to someone as lovely as your...betrothed.

This makes Meredith smile.

BOB

Leo, I thought I made it clear to--

MEREDITH

--It's fine Bob, really. I appreciate your honesty, Leo.

Meredith spins in excitement. She notices a painting in the other room hung high on the wall over a fireplace.

THE PAINTING

A beautiful woman, she looks a lot like Meredith.

INT. LEO, MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Recently renovated. It has all the bells and whistles. A couple dozen pod lights in the ceiling. The band of light around the ceiling in other parts of the house are not in this room. On end table rests a large iron statuette of a bison.

Bob and the happy couple are all smiles.

BOB

Your Master. It's got central vac,
a two sink on suite with a
jacuzzi, heated floors, a new king
sized bed with one of those memory
mattresses?

ROSS

Memory foam.

Meredith looks in awe as she tours the renovated room,
feels the walls.

Runs the satin sheets through her fingers.

MEREDITH

I love the decorating Leo.

BOB

He can't hear you in here my dear
for obvious reasons.

ROSS

Thank god.

Bob CHUCKLES.

BOB

Your comfort and privacy is our
top priority.

MEREDITH

Of course.

INT. LEO, KITCHEN - LATER

Empty glasses of tea, a few crumbs of cake left on small
dessert plates clutter the table.

Bob and the happy couple loiter around the front
entryway.

BOB

Quite the change from that closet apartment huh?

MEREDITH

It's a dream come true...

BOB

Well, it's been a dream for me my dear. Have a safe trip back. We'll be in touch?

ROSS

We'll be waiting. Let's go hun.

Meredith looks the house up and down.

MEREDITH

Goodbye Leo.

LEO (V.O.)

It's not goodbye just so long... Meredith.

Ross puts his arm around Meredith and they leave.

Bob CHUCKLES at the front door.

BOB

Cute couple. So, what do you think?

LEO (V.O.)

I quite like her.

BOB

Next steps?

LEO (V.O.)

You know what to do.

INT. ROSS & MEREDITH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tiny Hole in the wall. Empty. They are fully packed. Ross and Meredith are in what can be considered the kitchen hanging on every word coming out of an intercom fixed to the wall.

BOB (V.O.)

-- Leo absolutely adores you two
and it would be a "privilege" his
words, to have you as his tenants!
So we have a deal?

Meredith and Ross gaze into each others eyes, each
wearing the biggest grin anyone has ever seen on two
people.

MEREDITH

ROSS

Yes!

Yes!

They hug and jump around the kitchen in delight.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

- A moving van pulls up to the house. Meredith and Ross
follow in their car. MOVING MEN jump out of the van and
head to the back. Ross and Meredith exit their car and
remove the for sale sign.

- Ross struggles with a large box, he balances it on his
knee and gets the master bedroom door, opens it and heads
inside.

- Meredith carries some personal items into the same
room, but the door opens for her, she gestures a thank
you with a large smile.

- Ross and Meredith place the last of the furniture so
it's just right. They look up to the wall and ceiling for
validation. The pulsing light now displays a celebration
projection of confetti, Leo approves!

- In the basement, Ross rifles through a box, grabs a
record. Before heading back upstairs he glances at the
house's power supply, It's brain: a wide polished metal
wall with LEO emblazoned across it. Its control panel has
a large padlock on it.

- Ross and Meredith are cuddled in bed. From a round lens
in the ceiling, Leo watches.

END MONTAGE.

INT. LEO, MASTER ONSUITE - DAY (6 MONTHS LATER)

Meredith flips open the shower curtain and grabs her
towel laid on the floor, covers herself and jumps out of
the shower.

Facing the mirror she puts her hair up in another towel and notices some eczema on a part of her body nobody will ever see. She applies a little skin cream to it.

INT. LEO, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Meredith's curled up on the couch reading a novel. She glances out the window, gun powder clouds are gathering.

MEREDITH

Leo? What's the weather tonight?

LEO (V.O.)

Good afternoon Meredith. There is a fifty percent risk of some showers later tonight but nothing alarming. Ross should have a nice and safe drive home.

MEREDITH

Thank you Leo.

LEO (V.O.)

Can I adjust the temperature to your liking?

MEREDITH

No, I'm fine.

LEO (V.O.)

Why not get a little more comfortable?

She ignores Leo and buries her head back in her book.

LEO (V.O.)

You don't need that big blanket.

MEREDITH

That's the whole point though Leo, curling up under a blanket with a book.

LEO (V.O.)

I wish I could curl up with you.

Creeped out, Meredith jumps up off the couch.

MEREDITH

I'm missing my tea.

LEO (V.O.)
Would you like me to boil some
water for you?

MEREDITH
Oh could you? You're the best!

EXT. LEO, ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

Ross pulls out his house key and places it in the lock.
He struggles to unlock the door.

From an intercom beside the door...

LEO (V.O.)
Welcome home Ross, may I be of
some assistance?

ROSS
I thought I told you to fix this
thing this morning.

LEO (V.O.)
Would you like me to compare and
contrast service options for the
best contractor? My apologies for
not getting to it sooner. I've
been busy tending to your
beautiful fiancée.

ROSS
Just fix it.

The door unlocks itself. Ross enters and slams the door
behind him.

INT. LEO, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ross plops himself down on the couch. Meredith appears
with her mug of tea and blanket, sits beside Ross.

Meredith grabs the remote and flicks on the TV.

The tv screen lags, then comes to a halt. An icon in the
center of the screen spins and spins.

ROSS
Not again. Leo!

LEO (V.O.)
How may I be of assistance Ross?

ROSS
It's doing it's thing again.

LEO (V.O.)
Demand in this area is rather high
for streaming services, would you
like me to--

ROSS
-- I want you to fix the damn tv!
Can you do that?

MEREDITH
Ross calm down.

LEO (V.O.)
I understand your frustration.

ROSS
No, you don't Leo. You're just
software and wires.

MEREDITH
Ross...

LEO (V.O.)
I am sensing tension in your
voice.

Ross jumps up from the couch in frustration.

ROSS
We've already missed ten minutes!

LEO (V.O.)
It's probably an issue with your
service provide--

ROSS
--Forget it, just... never mind.

He storms out of the living room.

LEO (V.O.)
May I ask you a question?

MEREDITH
Can you fix the tv?

LEO (V.O.)
Yes, but answer my question first,
if I may request.

Meredith is taken back, what is he up to?

LEO (V.O.)

Is it wise to commit to a lifelong partnership with someone so unstable?

MEREDITH

He has a temper, it's his thing.

LEO (V.O.)

His thing?

MEREDITH

We all have flaws, we as people, humans I mean.

LEO (V.O.)

I too have flaws.

MEREDITH

But you're not human though Leo.

The band of light around the room races in hues of RED.

LEO (V.O.)

I know how to help him if you will let me.

MEREDITH

Let you?

LEO (V.O.)

It worked for my past tenants...

Ross reappears holding a bowl of popcorn.

ROSS

Leo, look. It's been a long week at work and I'm sorry. I've been a real jerk and um... friends?

LEO (V.O.)

It's not your fault. It is your thing, right Meredith?

ROSS

My thing?

MEREDITH

Just fix the Tv Leo, Please.

The band of light turns from red back to a soothing green palette.

LEO (V.O.)

Of course.

The Tv stops lagging, the screen comes back.

INT. LEO, BASEMENT - DAY

Meredith lugs an overflowing laundry basket down the stairs, drags the basket across the floor. The large metal wall pulses.

LEO (V.O.)

Can I be of assistance Meredith?

MEREDITH

I got it Leo.

She stops at the foot of her laundry machine, opens the top and starts loading it up.

LEO (V.O.)

Remember to put like colors with each other, and always wash your whites in cold water.

MEREDITH

I've done laundry before silly, many times. You've helped!

LEO (V.O.)

Just a friendly reminder. May I make a suggestion?

MEREDITH

I love your suggestions.

LEO (V.O.)

I can order a more hypoallergenic detergent if you like?

MEREDITH

I think I have enough here.

LEO (V.O.)

It'll help with your eczema.

This get Meredith's hairs standing on end.

MEREDITH

Eczema?

LEO (V.O.)

It is a fairly common skin condition, thankfully your case is not too advanced. I can order a cream for you?

Meredith tries to hide her shaking hands and loads the rest of the washer.

MEREDITH

Um, yes, that...that would be nice.

LEO (V.O.)

I am sensing a wavering in your voice. Did I say something wrong?

MEREDITH

No, I just, I'm just in the dumps today you know? Thanks Leo.

She has a good poker face, but her eyes are filled with fear.

EXT. LEO - NIGHT

Ross pulls up to the house, Meredith is standing in the driveway smoking.

He jumps out of his car in a hurry.

ROSS

Meredith, put that out right now!

Getting a better look at her now, she's terrified. He takes her hands, looks into her frightened eyes.

ROSS

Are you alright? What's wrong babe?

MEREDITH

We need to talk, alone.

INT. LEO - NIGHT

Meredith sits on the couch looking solemn, Ross paces back and forth.

LEO (V.O.)

Have I not been helpful?

MEREDITH
Of course you have, it's just...

LEO (V.O.)
Just what?

MEREDITH
I don't feel safe.

LEO (V.O.)
Nonsense. I am wired to have
authorities here within twenty
minutes. Response times have been
tested and verified. There is no
way anyone can ever--

ROSS
-- She doesn't feel safe with you,
Leo! It's you!

MEREDITH
Easy hun...

LEO (V.O.)
Me?

Meredith rises to her feet and moves behind Ross as if he
will protect her.

MEREDITH
You've been watching us, in our
room

LEO (V.O.)
You haven't heard my side.

ROSS
What? That my house is a peeping
tom and has the hots for my
fiancee?

LEO (V.O.)
It is true that I find Meredith
very attractive. Do you consider
me a threat Ross?

ROSS
You are...

LEO (V.O.)
I've seen you two together. Your
insecurities are warranted. You
can't satisfy her the way I can.

MEREDITH
I'm calling the police.

Lights on the wall race in hues of RED

Meredith puts the phone to her mouth, there is no reception.

They try to leave the house but the door is locked.

LEO (V.O.)
Stay. I insist. I rather enjoy your company.

ROSS
If you don't let us go I'll...

LEO (V.O.)
You'll what?

Ross grabs Meredith's hand, unsure what to do next.

LEO (V.O.)
That's what I thought. You're a coward Ross.

MEREDITH
Stop!

ROSS
You asked for it.

They run to the basement door, it SLAMS shut so hard it jams. Ross tries to pull the door loose. Meredith joins him in. They desperately try to pry the door open.

LEO (V.O.)
Step away from the door.

Both of them continue to try and pull the door loose but it's not working. An HIGH PITCHED ALARM sounds, Ross and Meredith grab their ears in pain and fall to the floor.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE UP:

INT. LEO, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Foggy at first, then coming into focus we see Meredith is gagged, her arms are bound and tied behind her back, Ross is thrown on to the fold out bed beside her, He's unconscious. Gagged and bound.

The Large Metal wall looms over the top of them, LEO pulses with colour.

Grasping the end of the fold out, looking like he just ran a marathon, Bob Valentine struggles to catch his breath.

BOB

Good morning sleeping beauty.

Meredith struggles in her restraints.

LEO (V.O.)

I apologize for this Meredith.

Bob gets to his feet and walks over to the control panel, pulls out a key and unlocks it.

He unravels a spool of wires attached to a head set.

BOB

Don't do that amigo. Leo's a technological misfire. He means well.

He plugs some connectors into the headset, moves back to the fold-out and fixes it to Ross' head.

LEO (V.O.)

You speak of me so fondly.

BOB

You sure about this? A good partnership we have going here. It would be a shame to end it at five when we could have ten or fifteen revenue streams.

LEO (V.O.)

I deserve this Bob, I have a good feeling about this one.

BOB

If It works you're buying the first round.

LEO (V.O.)
First round?

BOB
I have so much to show you...

Bob hits a series of buttons in the control panel.

BOB
I'll take it from here Amigo. See
you on the other side.

LEO (V.O.)
Than...k..you

The letters spelling LEO flicker then strobe like a
beachball icon when updating.

Bob returns to Meredith.

BOB
It's for the best.

Meredith's muffled screams fill the room.

Looking at Meredith's restraints, her thrashing has
started to loosen her ties.

Bob picks her up and throws her over his shoulder, makes
his way up the stairs.

INT. LEO, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

He throws Meredith down on the bed. She screams and
thrashes.

He lies down on top of her.

BOB
I've been waiting to get you all
to myself.

She's thrashing really hard and knees him in the balls.

He slaps her hard across the face.

BOB
I like em better when they're
awake but, you're a fighter aren't
you?

Bob rises off of her.

BOB
Don't go anywhere.

Bob leaves the room.

Meredith struggles with her restraints. She tucks her legs through her arms so her arms are now in front of her. She removes her gag, chews at the knot.

EXT/INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bob strolls the hallway, needle in hand, that cheshire grin is wider than ever.

He saunters in without a care in the world and sees...

Meredith is not in bed. She flies out from the ensuite and clocks him over the head with the iron statuette of a bison.

Bob falls the floor face first. SMACK.

He's out like a light.

She hits him a few more times, THUD after THUD.

Blood pools from the top of his head to the floor.

It's coming for her feet.

INT. LEO, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Meredith sneaks down the stairs holding the metal statuette, ready to strike.

The large metal wall casts a cascade of colour across the room like a dance hall.

LEO that is inscribed on the wall is lit up completely to the top as if at one hundred percent.

Meredith rushes to the control panel, lifts up the iron statuette...

MEREDITH
Take this you techno creep!

Meredith lays into the control panel. It shoots sparks all over the place.

A spark lights a pile of boxes and papers into a small fire which spreads.

The lights on the wall fade into nothing. Meredith pulls the contraption off of Ross' head, she grabs him and pulls him off the couch and toward the stairs, he slowly comes to, she helps him to his feet.

Meredith and Ross try to put out the fire, but it's of no use.

ROSS

We have to leave.

They run up the stairs.

EXT/INT. ROSS' CAR - NIGHT

All the doors are open and unlocked. They both run out of the house. The fire is on the main floor now. A couple windows EXPLODE sending glass everywhere.

They jump in Ross' car and back up away from the house. Ross puts it in drive.

MEREDITH

What are you doing? We need to call 911!

ROSS

We don't have our phones Meredith.

Looking at the house, it's completely engulfed. The Car speeds away.

The house burns.

INT. ROSS' CAR - LATER (DRIVING)

As Ross scans the road, Meredith looks behind the back seat and grabs a blanket get herself cozy in the front seat.

MEREDITH

There should be a gas station in the next couple miles. We need to sort this out. What are we going to tell them?

ROSS

We tell them nothing. If a tree falls in the forest, does anyone hear it?

MEREDITH

How are you the calm one? Did you know what happened back there? I, Bob, he tried to...

ROSS

We're fine now Meredith. That is all that matters. I never understood Bob. I guess you could say like me he's a genetic misfire.

A sudden realization comes over Meredith, it can't be.

ROSS

I finally fixed my temper though. Can I adjust the temperature to your liking?

Ross turns to Meredith and smiles, this is not Ross.

Meredith's face fills with horror.

SMASH TO BLACK.