

SLIT

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FADE IN:

INT. CANDICE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

CANDICE RODGERS, mid 20's, mildly attractive sits in front of her bedroom mirror brushing her hair in sink with the count of her husband Odell who sits behind her examining her actions. Odell is in his mid 30's, well-kept, with a red-neck quality.

ODELL

88.

She brushes.

ODELL

89.

She brushes.

ODELL

90.

She brushes. Candice stares blankly at her own reflection. Tears form in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM -- EARLIER (FLASHBACK)

Odell angrily stands over an emotionally distraught Candice.

ODELL

What is wrong with you?!
Are you trying to kill me?!
Why didn't you finish
cooking the roast?!

CANDICE

Odie, it was finished. It
was well done.

He kicks her.

ODELL

The hell it was, Candy. Did you see that shit?! I cut it, that meat was damn near raw!

Candice weeps.

ODELL

Look at you. You're disgusting. Sweating and shit, sitting on that dirty floor.

Odell turns on the shower, the steaming hot water flows into the tub.

ODELL

Get your ass up!

He forcefully picks her up.

CANDICE

Odie, it's too hot, it's too hot!! Please, Odie.

ODELL

Shut up and get your ass in there. Its not too hot!

He pushes her in.

ODELL

Pick up the soap with your left hand and your loufah with your right hand.

She horrifyingly complies.

ODELL

Pour the soap onto the luffa a quarter inch in

diameter, like I showed
you, and put the soap back
down with your left hand.
Rub the loufah on your body
counter-clockwise.

She does what Odell demands.

ODELL
Counter-clockwise, counter-
clockwise, counter-
clockwise. Rub the luffa on
your body counter-
clockwise.

He exits as Candice scrubs.

ODELL
Counter-clockwise, counter-
clockwise,
counter,...counter-
clockwise. Rub the loufah
on your body...

End F/B

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM -- LATER

Candice lies in bed next to a slumbering Odell.
She stares out of the nearby window. Her eyes tell
of a hopeful future.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN CARTER MUSEUM (FLASHBACK) -- DAY

14th Century body armor is on display in the
elegant museum. Patrons wonder throughout the
building observing the pieces in admiration.
Candice leads Odell through the exhibit, he is not
as intrigued as she is.

ODELL

This is boring as hell,
Candy. Why are we wasting
our time bring here?

CANDICE

Odie, this is Michelle's
first big exhibit. So we're
here to show support to my
big sister. Just grit your
teeth and hold on, we'll be
leaving soon. It's not like
we ever go out anyway.

ODELL

Whatever, I'm going to go
find a bathroom and a
concession stand or
something.

Odell walks away from a slightly disappointed
Candice. she moves on to admire a sparkling
shining breastplate and helmet. Her reflection
bounces off of the magnificent metal. Another
person's reflection approaches behind hers.
Ezekiel Rawlins, black, late 20's, handsome and
very well-kept, stands a respectable distance
behind Candice.

EZEKIEL

It's amazing how they were
able to restore this piece
to its original luster.

CANDICE

(startled)
Oh, yeah. It's amazing.

EZEKIEL

I didn't mean to scare you.

CANDICE

Oh, you didn't scare me.

EZEKIEL

I just had to come take a closer look at this piece and attempt to hold a conversation with the beautiful woman who has the sad expression on her face.

Candice is shocked by Ezekiel's directness but doesn't yet face him.

EZEKIEL

My name is Ezekiel Rawlins. I saw that you were accompanied here by a gentleman. I'm not trying to take up too much of your time. I just wanted to let you know that not all of life has to be as hard as your expression is saying it is.

She looks over her shoulder at a seductive Ezekiel, who slides past her and props his business card up against the armor. He moves away from her to admire art. Candice looks at the card for a moment, then removes it. Odell draws near.

ODELL

The bathroom was real nice but they ain't got no concession stand or people walking around with trays of food or nothing. I am hungry as hell, we're leaving.

CANDICE

Odie, the real presentation hasn't even started yet. We can't leave now.

ODELL

Now, Candy! Go tell your
sister that you ain't
feeling good or something.
I'll be waiting in the car.

Odell storms off and Candice follows but not
before she steals a glance from Ezekiel.

end F/B

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Candice closes her eyes, fading off to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MONTAGE (FLASHBACK)-- DAY

Candice picks up the phone and withdraws Ezekiel's
card from her pocket. She dials the numbers.

CANDICE

Hello, Ezekiel Rawlins?

EZEKIEL

Call me, Easy.

EXT. PARK -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- DAY

Ezekiel and Candice walk together in the park,
laughing at one another.

CANDICE

You don't know me, but we
met at the museum. Well you
left your card.

EZEKIEL

Of course I remember you. I
was beginning to think that
you wouldn't call. I've
been waiting anxiously by

the phone.

INT. CLASSY RESTAURANT -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- DAY

They eat together in a nice restaurant, testing eachother's food.

CANDICE

I can't believe I'm doing this. I'm sorry for bothering you, this was a mistake.

EZEKIEL

Sweetie, there are no such thing as mistakes, just life lessons. It would be ashamed for you to hang up now and not find out what life is trying to show you.

EXT. PARK -- MONTAGE CONT'D -- NIGHT

In the pitch black night Candice and Ezekiel make love under a tree while it is raining.

CANDICE

You seem to know a lot about life.

EZEKIEL

Let me teach you what I know. When can we meet?

End F/B montage

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Candice prepares a large breakfast. She stares blankly into the pan as she scrambles the eggs.

CUT TO:

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM (FLASHBACK) -- DAY

Candice and Ezekiel lay in bed naked, cuddling in his lavish bachelor pad.

CANDICE

Easy, this has been amazing.

EZEKIEL

Well, you know, I do what I can.

She lightly taps him.

CANDICE

You know that's not what I'm talking about. I mean, that was great too but I'm talking about this, us. It's just been amazing. I haven't been this happy in a long time.

EZEKIEL

Yeah, I've really enjoyed myself too.

CANDICE

Why couldn't I have met you before I got married?

EZEKIEL

Well, everything happens for a reason, baby. Just be happy that we're with eachother now.

CANDICE

I don't want this to end.

EZEKIEL

Yeah, this is pretty nice.

CANDICE

No I mean it, Easy. I want
to be with you forever.

EZEKIEL

Baby, calm down. Don't over
fantasize about something
that can't happen.

Candice disengages from the cuddling due to
Ezekiel's sudden burst of realism.

CANDICE

Easy, I know I'm married,
but... what if I wasn't?

EZEKIEL

Candice, you are married
and you're not going
through some messy divorce
because of me. That's why
there's no use over
fantasizing about it.

They both sit a moment in frustration. He pulls
her back to their engagement, embracing her from
behind.

EZEKIEL

It would be nice though,
baby. It would be nice.

end F/B

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM -- LATER

Candice and Odell finish their breakfast in
silence.

Beat.

CANDICE

Odie, I have something to
tell you. I want a divorce.

Odell sits back in his chair, pushes his plate
back and looks at Candice, emotionless. He turns
around in his chair and reaches into a drawer
behind him. He pulls a gun out of it and sets it
on the table. He again looks at Candice, who is so
frightened that she can't move.

ODELL

Candy, I'm not a stupid
man. I know that I'm a dick
to you sometimes. There are
very few people that would
actually put up with my
shit. Fact of the matter
is, you're one of them. So,
we're not getting a divorce
and you're not leaving me.
If you even think about it,
I will kill you. And with
the swamps we have out
here, I'd get away with it
too. I'd just chop you up
and hide a different part
of you in each bayou.
They'd never find you and
I'd just head my ass to
Mexico.

CANDICE

Odie,...

He stands in great anger and advances toward
Candice, standing over her.

ODELL

Don't Odie me, bitch! If
you leave me, I'll kill
you. 'Till death do us
part, you hear me?! 'Till
death do us part!!

CANDICE

Odie?

ODELL

What?!

CANDICE

I knew you'd say that.

Candice backs away and on queue Odell's stance becomes wobbly. His vision blurs and he falls to the ground knocking everything off the table in the process. He convulses.

ODELL

What did you do?

With only a few tears shed, Candice answers.

CANDICE

'Till death do us part.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKWOODS LOUISIANAN BAYOU ROAD -- NIGHT

The front right tire blows as Candice's car speeds along the highway. The car skids, then comes to a screeching halt.

INT. CANDICE'S CAR

Candice pounds the steering wheel ballistically, with tears streaming down her face.

CANDICE

Fuck, fuck, fuck! Two
fucking miles away and this
has to happen?! Shit! Okay,
okay. Think, think, think.

EXT. BACKWOODS LOUISIANAN BAYOU ROAD

Candice exits the car, slamming the door.

CANDICE

Fuck!!

Panicking she moves to the right side of the car and kicks the tire. She paces back and forward. Continuing on to the rear of the car, with shaking hands, she opens the trunk and stares at the contents for a moment.

CANDICE

What the fuck am I doing?

What the fuck am I doing?

She pulls out two severed arms, then drops them and throws up. Regaining her composure, she picks the limbs up again. She walks off the highway to a nearby swamp and throws one of the limbs in. Taking a deep breath, she throws the second limb in and slips in the mud.

CANDICE

Shit!! Great, fucking great!

She picks herself up and looks at the car, desperately.

CANDICE

Two fucking miles.

Candice turns and walks in the same direction she was driving.

CUT TO:

EXT. EZEKIEL'S HOME -- LATER

A dirty and tired Candice goes up to the front door.

CANDICE

Your car's not here. Why aren't you home? I need you.

Candice moves to a nearby plant. She looks under it and picks up a key.

CANDICE

For the nights when you're
too drunk to remember what
pocket you put your keys
in, and too lazy to care,
right Easy?

Candice laughs to herself and unlocks the front door, entering the home.

INT. EZEKIEL'S HOME

Candice walks through the home as if it were her first time there. She admires paintings, parts of architecture, and runs her fingers along furniture.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BATHROOM

Candice strips away her clothes as if they were sins and she turns on the shower. Setting it to her desired temperature, she allows the gentle streams to dance on her hand. She enters and washes off the dirt revealing a glistening beauty.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Candice walks throughout the bedroom in a silk bath robe. She gets comfortable in bed enjoying the texture of the sheets. The front door SLAMS. Candice sits up in excitement.

EZEKIEL

Baby, will you stop?! We'll
be up stairs in a minute.

WOMAN

(giggles)

Candice's expression is as if she is dying. The Woman, early 20's, Hispanic, gorgeous, SCREAMS.

Panicking, Candice scrambles to a nearby closet and hides from the playful couple as they enter intoxicated and lustful. They immediately fall upon the bed.

INT. CLOSET

Candice weeps uncontrollably yet silently as she peers at the spectacle before her through a slight crack in the door. Anger, pain, despair, and disappointment all read on her face at once.

EZEKIEL

(groans)

You're incredible, baby.

WOMAN

(moans)

Easy, just don't stop. Keep going just like that, baby.

The Woman SCREAMS again.

CUT TO:

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Ezekiel and the Woman cuddle as they drift off to sleep.

WOMAN

Hold on baby, I'll be back. I need to get a drink, my throat is dry. Do you want anything?

EZEKIEL

(groggy)

NO baby, just hurry back.

She gets out of bed bringing the sheet with her. It clings to her perspiring body. She exits.

INT. CLOSET

Candice's face exudes a cold disposition. She is emotionless. She silently exits the closet.

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM

Candice walks past a slumbering Ezekiel as a ghost gliding through the room.

INT. EZEKIEL'S KITCHEN

The Woman bends over looking into the refrigerator, unaware of Candice approaching. Candice presses her pelvis against the Woman's well developed ass. The Woman welcomes the uninvited gesture by backing up into Candice's pelvis.

WOMAN

Easy, didn't you get enough earlier? I don't think that I can handle another round.

Pushing her further in with her pelvis, Candice grabs the refrigerator door and SLAMS it on the Woman's head. Before the Woman can recover, Candice takes a butcher's knife from a drawer, pulls the Woman's head back and SLITS her throat. The Woman is unable to scream.

INT. BEDROOM

Candice enters slowly, silently. Bloody footprint soak the carpet behind each step she takes. Candice eases into bed next to a slumbering Ezekiel.

EZEKIEL

(groggy)

What was that sound, baby?
Did you drop something?
Ooh, your feet are cold.

CANDICE

(whisper)

Easy?

Ezekiel opens his eyes and turns to look at Candice.

EZEKIEL

Candice?! What... what are you doing here?!

Ezekiel hastily attempts to get out of the bed. He notices the blood at the bottom of the covers and the carpet. He falls from the bed as Candice sits up.

EZEKIEL

What, ... what did you? Where's...

CANDICE

Don't you dare say her name again. You've been saying it all night. She's not here to get in our way, honey, no one is. Now come back to bed. We can be together now.

EZEKIEL

Candice, what did you do?

CANDICE

Easy, you said yourself that it would be nice if we could be together.

EZEKIEL

Candice that was a fucking year ago? I haven't seen you in 10 months.

CANDICE

No baby that was only last week, I'm sorry it took me so long but I had to move

Odie out of our way.

EZEKIEL

Move Odei,... you crazy
bitch, what did you...

Ezekiel rises to his feet and leaves the bedroom.

CANDICE

Easy? Easy?! Don't speak
to me like that. Do you
know what I've gone through
for us?! Easy?!

INT. EZEKIEL'S KITCHEN

Ezekiel rushes to the lifeless Woman's side.

EZEKIEL

Shit!! Baby, what did that
crazy bitch do to you?!

Ezekiel feebly attempts to stop the blood flowing
from the Woman's neck. He cries due to horrific
site before him.

Candice stabs the knife into his back twice.
Ezekiel turns swinging his fist, punching Candice
to the floor. He reaches for a nearby cordless
phone. Candice cuts his Achilles tendon. Ezekiel
crashes to the floor. Attempting to get away,
Ezekiel crawls from the kitchen.

EXT. OUTSIDE DECK

Ezekiel crawls onto the deck.

EZEKIEL

Help!! Help!! Somebody call
the police! She killed her,
somebody help!!

Candice stalks him, crying.

CANDICE

Where you going, baby? Did
you want to go skinny
dipping in the hot tub
again?

Candice drops her robe.

EZEKIEL

Fuck you!

CANDICE

You did!

Candice gives one last fatal stab to Ezekiel's
back leaving the knife there.

CANDICE

No baby don't stop now,
we're almost there.

Candice grabs Ezekiel's wrists, dragging his body
the few remaining feet to the hot tub. She turns
it on and pulls him in.

CANDICE

It'll warm up in a minute.
Now, honey you can't skinny
dip with these on.

She takes off his boxers and tosses them out of
the hot tub. She kisses his cold lips.

CANDICE

When I said that I didn't
want this to end, I meant
it. You're too amazing to
let go, Easy.

Candice lays against the side of the hot tub and
pulls Ezekiel close to her, embracing him from
behind. She gazes skyward.

CANDICE

Look at those stars, baby.
We should get married under
stars like these. What do
you think? Yeah, there's no
time like the present.

She kisses his neck and removes the knife from his
back. She lightly bites his neck and nibbles on
his ear.

CANDICE
Flesh of my flesh,...

She traces the knife across his chest.

CANDICE
And blood of my blood.

Candice lifts both of her hand out of the water
and SLITS each wrist.

CANDICE
Even in death we won't
part.

Candice lies back deeply embracing her love as
their blood mixes together in the bobbling hot
tub.

CUT TO:

INT. EZEKIEL'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Candice awakens in a cold sweat breathing hard.
Ezekiel rises behind her.

EZEKIEL
Bad dream baby?

CANDICE
Yeah, but I'm okay.

EZEKIEL
Okay, go back to sleep.

CANDICE

Easy?

EZEKIEL

Yeah, baby.

CANDICE

Thank you. A lot of men
wouldn't have understood.

EZEKIEL

You're my baby, when I said
that it would be nice, I
meant it. Go back to sleep.
We'll clean up in the
morning.

Candice lays her head back down. She adjusts her leg positioning and fidgets her feet at the bottom of a bloody bead. The long crimson stained comforter leads down to the floor revealing a trail of bloody footprints.

Fade out.