

LIMINAL SPACE

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**FADE IN:**

A montage of the following EMPTY PLACES depicting life WITHOUT people, the void and emptiness in between:

A gallery - the backdoor of the gallery leading to an outdoor staircase - streets and alleys - bus - children horse carnival - bar/club - cafeteria - lake, rocks - cemetery.

Echoes of voices singing at a distance, or maybe laughing throughout, then--

AN ALARMING (annoying) phone call interrupts the peace-- until it's cut off.

**INT. GALLERY FLOOR. DAY**

Flocks of people, faces reacting to the timeless ART, the SCULPTURES, the landmarks frozen in time. Mesmerising details, what humans are capable of creating.

Miriam (40's), subtle sophistication, stylishly monotone, but also the kind who would be down to the swamp with you if need be. She's more interested in the people around her than what's on display.

Earbuds on, coming through are breaths of a person uncertain and tired of trying:

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

...I don't know, I look at our pictures and they're full of...I can barely remember how or in which circumstances we took them, it's as if you're looking at two different people. Any ways. I read this article about the loss of warmth in the eyes of--

She cuts the voice message off and continues on exploring (the people).

A pair of STUDENTS bump into her, NO APOLOGY.

LATER

Miriam sits on a couch charging her phone, not working.

People nearby taking turns for selfies or group pictures.

She spots a WOMAN DRESSED AS IN 15TH CENTURY, the woman smiles at her. Cosplay?

There's a MAN at the far corner STARING at her, now he pretends busy with the phone, which falls from his hands.

This is LEO, 30's asian cute beauty, fuzzy hair and beardless.

Now she's the one who's staring, for too long maybe. Awkwardness in the air. He stands up and leaves.

**INT. GALLERY - MEN'S ROOM. DAY**

Leo washes his face. Sink's dirty. He turns off the water with minimum effort. Disgusted. Ding. A vocal message.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hey there, I am checking in, how's your flight? You must be jet lagged. Give me a call when you can. I ...Leo, I miss you. I...anyways, I'll see you when I see you, or when you call. My girlfriends are around, they were like asking if you'll be back tonight, I lied, I said yes, because I want to be left alone.

Throughout the voice message, a BABY'S cry for attention is indistinct.

A MAN DRESSED HIPPIE 80's LIKE enters and starts unbuttoning his long jeans, cosplay again?

**INT. GALLERY - HALLWAY DAY**

Leo attempts to record one voice note, he cancels.

Then a second time.

LEO

Hi honey I--

He cancels this one too. Something's not right.

He texts a heart back. The heart doesn't go through, must be a network issue. He locks his phone.

**INT. GALLERY LOBBY. DAY**

Miriam at the other side of the corner wanders off to another aisle, she finds an ABSTRACT painting.

We are with Miriam now, her eyes lost in the painting, takes out her phone to snap a picture, unaware that Leo's approaching.

He stops BETWEEN TWO DOORS - watching her finding the best angle.

An OLD LADY almost trips over his feet, then stumbles on another young woman right next to Leo.

OLD LADY  
(re: the young woman)  
Oh dear I do apologise.

Leo backs away in shock: Wow, excuse me? Almost displaying it to Miriam.

They lock eyes.

LEO (V.O.)  
The old hag didn't even look at me.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
(chuckling)  
Old eyes. You're standing in the middle of nowhere too, what you'd expect?

LEO (V.O.)  
Well, I was unsure where to go.

**INT. GALLERY CAFETERIA. DAY**

The two sit opposite each other over an empty LONG TABLE clearly meant for a group.

Excited it's finally happening, (the talking), yet both are careful not to make it obvious.

MIRIAM  
Aren't we all? Floating off from somewhere to somewhere.

A beat.

LEO  
You look like someone I should get to know.

MIRIAM  
Is that so?

LEO  
(nods)  
What's your name?

MIRIAM  
Oh please let's not start like that.

LEO  
(laughs)  
You're right.

MIRIAM

But I guess getting to know someone should involve names to a certain degree, along with other things.

LEO

Such as?

MIRIAM

You don't know me, I don't know you, we could tell one another whatever we like.

He thinks she thinks he's interesting. She thinks he thinks she is not interesting enough.

LEO

Redefine who we are?

MIRIAM

For a while...

The passing WAITER smiles at all tables, passes them, IGNORES them, then gives the other table behind them the menu.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

(re: the avoidance)

Since I came here I swear.

LEO

These people don't think we belong here? Something wrong with our clothes?

MIRIAM

You've seen some cosplay around here? What the hell was that all about?

They laugh.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Maybe because we don't understand their language, that's enough to exclude anyone really...well, I don't. Do you?

LEO

No. I am here just for the weekend. Went to meet a client that never showed up, done some research. I hated the idea of coming here but, not so bad come to think of it. Gives me a room to pause and think about, matters and affairs back home. Anyways... What about you? (Re: the waiter) Hello? Hey.

The waiter could genuinely have missed it, or he's a good actor.

MIRIAM

This is my fifth day here, I think.  
(She counts) it wasn't one for me,  
more like 10 clients and I don't  
even remember how they went. So?

She'd rather speak about something else.

LEO

Lack of sleep?

MIRIAM

(Scoffs)

I am leaving tomorrow evening,  
finally.

LEO

No you're not.

MIRIAM

You too?

LEO

7 pm.

MIRIAM

Apparently not the same flight, 5  
pm. I am heading back to London.

LEO

Tokyo. But I can ask the pilot for  
a layover in London.

MIRIAM

Yeah I think you can.

LEO

He won't say no, will he?

MIRIAM

We'll have to ask the other 255  
something other passengers to  
convince him.

A pause. She puts her earbuds aside. Mumbling sorry under her breath.

LEO

Spotify? Any interesting podcast  
you may want to share?

MIRIAM

No. I deleted it a while ago.

LEO  
Tired of people speaking, ideas,  
and point of views.

MIRIAM  
No, not enough storage space.

He thinks she thinks he is not interesting, she thinks he is.

LEO  
Dating apps?

MIRIAM  
What's the point? They stop talking  
after the third day.

LEO  
Yeah, especially when they figure  
out your hobbies.

MIRIAM  
Or your religion. Anyways, at this  
age, I can't stand the niceties  
over the touchscreen anymore. And  
they expect you to send hearts or  
flowers, or lol at the end of each  
sentence.

LEO  
Gosh, I am guilty of that, not  
anymore.

MIRIAM  
Me too. Disaster. I never liked  
apps, except the camera app, maybe  
I am from a different generation.  
My friend put it best: spending  
time on the phone is like entering  
a coma.

A beat. Silence isn't welcome now. Feels uncomfortable.

LEO (CONT'D)  
If not names, how about, just  
initials.

MIRIAM  
(thinks it through)  
M.

LEO  
L. nice to meet you too, M.

Shaking hands.

MIRIAM  
You too. L...LM, ML...Are we  
actually doing this?

LEO  
There are no alternatives.

A beat.

LEO (CONT'D)  
We're here to unmask one another.  
Looks like, we both done this game  
for so long, a number of times.

MIRIAM  
What game?

LEO  
This. Meeting a stranger, over a  
coffee or whatever.

Uncertain if he's tapping into a forbidden territory.

MIRIAM  
Only the coffee's lacking.

LEO  
Coffee will make it better, isn't  
it?

MIRIAM  
Coffee makes everything better.

LEO  
Why some people love coffee more  
than tea, or vice versa?

MIRIAM  
Why some people love yellow more  
than blue, or vice versa?

LEO  
Why some people love their moms  
more than their dads, or vice  
versa?

MIRIAM  
why does everything has to be so  
binary for us people? Is this how  
we can only conceive space, time,  
emotion, life?

There are no answers.

Both looking tense. This is not a game anymore.

LATER

She heads to the empty counter, three people queue ahead of  
her. The only waiter's busy with a trio of STUDENTS arguing  
over a menu.



MIRIAM  
 (back)  
 Maybe we should go somewhere else.

LEO  
 So...Do you keep a record?

MIRIAM  
 A record?

LEO  
 Of all the people you cross path  
 with? Years ago I used to do that,  
 when I started crossing over names,  
 90% of the names it became so  
 depressing I just stopped.

MIRIAM  
 No, I never done that, I guess even  
 if I don't, it sits in the back of  
 my head somehow, all the  
 disappointing encounters, over the  
 years they make a pile. It gets so  
 heavy you can't just get rid of it,  
 maybe I don't remember all the  
 names I met, but I remember the  
 feelings, how I felt. This never  
 goes.

A beat. Some people start leaving, the more time they spend  
 together, the less crowder it becomes.

LEO  
 Why? You know I never thought about  
 it. All the people we met  
 throughout our lives. Those who  
 still matter to us now, and those--  
 it's haunting how some people just  
 disappear.

MIRIAM  
 It's the way it is.

LEO  
 it's like...

Struggles to make a point.

MIRIAM  
 I get what you want to say.

Not listening. He's looking around for inspiration,

LEO (CONT'D)  
 you see that kid struggling over  
 that orange there.

MIRIAM  
 Yeah don't point.

The kid had noticed him, too late. Miriam smiles and waves at him, the kid ignores her.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Never mind.

LEO

Imagine buying a lot, a bag full of oranges, and you start with the first one, but it tastes bad. It's rotten, then you try the next one, the first bite is promising, but it's not sweet enough. It's also dry. Then the third, there's just the skin of it not even the fruit. You might go through a dozen before you could find a decent one that actually tastes how an orange's supposed to taste like--

MIRIAM

And the tragedy is when sometimes you think you found it and you decide to put that bag aside only to realise that the rest of the orange is inedible. And you're left with both disappointment, and hesitation. You don't want to start picking new oranges again, each one might bring hope or kill it altogether.

They exchange looks quietly. More people make the exit.

LEO

No seriously, what's your name?

She laughs, evading it.

LEO (CONT'D)

Come on, at least the second letter.

MIRIAM

mmm, I.

LEO

Mi? Mimi.

MIRIAM

(shakes head)  
yours?

LEO

I won't tell you, it will reveal the rest of the name.

MIRIAM

That's not fair. Play by the rules.

LEO  
I am--

MIRIAM  
Come on--

LEO  
shh, we are in a gallery.

MIRIAM  
Mmm, it's not like we are in a library.

LEO  
Same, this is a library of images, what--

MIRIAM  
Don't change the subject, tell me.

They're two adults who have successfully pulled out the teenager, and the child within them.

It's just the two of them now and the waiter.

LEO  
I really think you'd guess my name if I tell you my second letter, it's so short.

MIRIAM  
Well, you suggested it, not me.

LEO  
ok, E.

MIRIAM  
e? L, e, Le, Leo?

LEO  
(poker face)  
No.

MIRIAM  
You sure?

LEO  
Yeah.

MIRIAM  
Ok.

LEO  
What? What are you looking at?

MIRIAM  
(chuckles)  
Nothing.

LEO  
 Don't smile and say 'nothing',  
 where there has ever been a smile  
 caused by nothing?

MIRIAM  
 I'll just call you Leo until I  
 figure out your full name. And I  
 won't give you the third letter.  
 Not now at least.

LEO  
 No chance?

MIRIAM  
 No chance, ask something else.

LEO  
 Ok. How old are you?

Disappointed face. The waiter lowers down the blinds and  
 leaves from the backdoor of the counter.

MIRIAM  
 Are we in kindergarten--

LEO  
 What? Ok. How about this:

She's all ears.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 how long have you been alive on  
 this earth?

She can't help but LAUGH.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 It's simple. Me, 34.

MIRIAM  
 Next week I will be 43.

LEO/MIRIAM  
 Palindrome.

The cafeteria is now completely deserted.

Realising they're on their own now. Where's everybody?

**INT. GALLERY - ENTRANCE. DAY**

Miriam and Leo walk towards the exit. The GATEKEEPER is busy  
 closing the doors from the outside. The inner doors have  
 been sealed already.

**EXT. GALLERY - ENTRANCE. DAY**

There are two reflective glasses, the outside is brighter, if they waved or knocked over the doors, the gatekeeper won't be hearing them unless he looked up, which he didn't.

The attendees are dispersing away.

**INT. GALLERY - ENTRANCE. DAY**

Realising their situation.

MIRIAM  
well, that's nice.

LEO  
Fuck.

Something attracts her attention

MIRIAM  
Check this.

A sign reads: Open Hours: Mon-Sun from 8:30 to 11. Mon-Fri from 3 to 8. Saturday and Sunday afternoon OFF.

LEO  
Let's try the backdoor, from where the staff went.

MIRIAM  
Why didn't he say anything?

LEO  
He probably didn't want to interrupt us. Maybe it's our fault. Why did you come here? Was it by off chance like me? And I wanted to go the toilets. You had an appointment?

**INT. GALLERY - OUTSIDE THE CAFETERIA. DAY**

They pass the gallery aisles.

MIRIAM  
No, just wanted to be around some art.

The cafeteria where they were a moment ago, transparent blinds have been put down.

They can't reach the counter nor the staff backdoor.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

(laughs)

I guess we'll be seeing more of art these two days.

LEO

We're no way staying here in the weekend.

MIRIAM

Eager to go home?

LEO

(pauses)

No, not really, are you?

MIRIAM

No. I know what will be waiting for me over there. It can wait.

**INT. GALLERY FIRST FLOOR. DAY**

They sit on the floor. Silence. Both stare at a painting in front of them.

LEO

Who painted this crap?

MIRIAM

It still means something.

LEO

I guess it has to, humans need meaning. It's just that I don't see it. Yet.

MIRIAM

My husband would think this is worth two kidneys, mine and his.

LEO

oh, you're married to that kind of guys.

MIRIAM

Are you married?

LEO

Yep.

MIRIAM

She likes galleries?

LEO

She likes me.

MIRIAM

You're not a gallery.

LEO  
A gallery of emotions, that mostly  
don't show.

MIRIAM  
you want to show them?  
It's okay nobody's going to see  
you. Except them.

LEO  
and you, a forty three years old M,  
i.

MIRIAM  
Whom you will never meet again.

LEO  
I don't know about that. Do you?

MIRIAM  
Yeah I don't know, and I don't want  
to know for now.

LEO  
When we were young, we were not  
told that growing old brings with  
it a lot of confusion, do you tell  
kids that, kids you meet?

MIRIAM  
Never. Can't break the rules.

LEO  
You have kids?

MIRIAM  
(difficult question)  
No.

LEO  
Is it, a no no, or a no covered by  
yes.

MIRIAM  
No no. You?

LEO  
No covered by yes.

MIRIAM  
I see, how old?

It occurs to her:

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
How many years on this earth/

LEO  
How many years on this earth/

A brief laughter.

LEO (CONT'D)  
4 years.

**INT. GALLERY, STAIRCASE. DAY**

They ascend, few PORTRAITS of UGLY CRYING PEOPLE hang on the walls in the landing area.

LEO  
Why would any one draw a crying face?

MIRIAM  
Human condition?

LEO  
Nobody needs to be reminded of this see. They run out of ideas so let's paint ugly tears.

MIRIAM  
Have you always been like that?

They continue on upstairs.

**INT. GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR - 1/2 ROOMS. DAY**

Each in a different room.

MIRIAM  
(almost a whisper)  
They put the better looking ones here.

LEO (O.S.)  
What?

MIRIAM  
Nothing.

She takes a few pictures.

LEO'S SIDE

Leo checks his phone, more vocal messages come through, his 'heart' hasn't gone through yet.

Jumps at Miriam sneaking behind him, hides his startle.

LEO  
I heard you sneaking.

MIRIAM  
Did you?



Her eyes meet his screen.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Is she suspecting you're trapped in  
a gallery with a stranger?

LEO  
Maybe.

MIRIAM  
Very business-trip like.

LEO  
Look at this.

He takes her to an empty frame a few steps away.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Why did they hang an empty frame?

MIRIAM  
(not serious)  
New neo-renaissance?

LEO  
Or somebody stole it.

She gestures to the camera above.

MIRIAM  
I don't think so.

She touches the frame.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
What would you put in here if you  
had a choice?

LEO  
Anything, emptiness is full of  
possibilities, no determinacy  
whatsoever...but if I had a choice,  
I'd say...

He flicks on his album and shows her a cute BABY BOY (3)  
picture.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Aw, he doesn't look like you at  
all.

LEO  
Thank you.

MIRIAM  
So cute. What's his name?

LEO  
We haven't given him an English  
name yet.

Miriam swipes to the next picture with no reserve, a picture  
of Leo, he retrieves back his phone in surprise.

MIRIAM  
I saw it. Sorry. Impulse.

LEO, his WIFE (30ish) cosmetic queen and their kid in one of  
those studio HAPPY FAMILY shoots --

MIRIAM  
The perfect family.

LEO  
Every family looks perfect from the  
outside.

Leo's expecting something. She understands what she's got to  
do.

Miriam flips open her phone and shows him a picture of a  
LARGE GROUP standing over a cake.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
My birthday last year, he sent it  
to me a while ago to remind me how  
happy we were.

LEO  
Which one is he?

She points at her HUSBAND (40ish) sporty body fading with  
age and unhealthy lifestyle, he stands at the far right side  
a few heads away from her, barely fitting in the frame.

In the middle Miriam's beside her multi-gender FRIENDS.

LEO (CONT'D)  
(points at his inexistent  
half)  
Well, he can just take the picture  
for you at this point.

MIRIAM  
I told him.

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND FLOOR. DAY**

Standing in front of a PRAYING PORTRAIT

LEO  
So much blue in it, otherwise  
perfect.

There's another one nearby with muted, pale blue.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Look at this one, it could have  
 been better with a little colour,  
 little more blue from this,  
 neighbour. Looks unfinished.

MIRIAM  
 She's busy praying.

And Miriam's busy studying her.

LEO  
 Nothing's fair in this world it  
 seems, look it's the same Artist.

Gestures to the signed name under both.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Why can't he make it even? What  
 does he mean? Why give too much in  
 here and too little in there?

MIRIAM  
 What is she praying for?

LEO  
 For us to get out of this goddamned  
 place?

Her high pitched laughter echoed snapping her from  
 daydreams...for some reason it made them stop.

Spookiness.

MIRIAM  
 Are you sure we're the only one  
 here?

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND FLOOR - 1/2 ROOMS. DAY**

Each in a separate room. A wall separates them, both heads  
 lay on it.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 Do you feel you're alone?

A wall is separating them.

LEO  
 Yes. Lonely too.

MIRIAM (O.S.)  
 Alone and lonely are not the same  
 thing. Look around you.

A series of portraits, from the absurd to the beautiful.

LEO

You ever got the feeling of being constantly watched by someone or something in an empty space?

MIRIAM

Walls don't have eyes.

LEO

(rolling eyes)

They don't need to. Maybe not walls, maybe souls who roamed this place centuries ago. This might have been a no man's land in the forties, a house in 1320, a cemetery in 456 BCE, a witch gathering before that, and now we're standing at the exact same place, looking at art.

MIRIAM

do you believe in this?

LEO (O.S.)

No.

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND FLOOR. DAY**

She's taking pictures of him near some sculptures and painting.

LEO

Would you like me to take some for you?

MIRIAM

No, my hair is not right. Thanks.

LEO

You look fine.

MIRIAM

Thanks, I don't think I look fine. My hair is falling all over. But it's getting better now.

She runs her fingers through her hair strands, checking if any was coming out.

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND FLOOR - CORRIDOR. DAY**

Each in a different side walking off pace to one another.

LEO

Do you believe in ghosts?

MIRIAM

Real of fake? I believe in the kind of ghosts we see in halloween.

LEO

I don't believe in ghosts of halloween. But there are other types of ghosts.

MIRIAM

Such as?

LEO

Our own, those we were before that are no longer us. My 12 years old self is a ghost to me. And whatever I am now, is my ghost when I turn 70.

Miriam approaches a room, he does the same two from the other way, both stand on either thresholds

MIRIAM

Imagine this in halloween, who needs a skeleton or a mummy, if you have your own ghost from the past?

**INT. GALLERY 1ST FLOOR - HALLWAY. DAY**

Miriam trudges ahead of him, while Leo checks every locked door individually and cursing under his breath. No way out.

MIRIAM

What would they do if they were in such situation, Leo?

LEO

Huh?

MIRIAM

So, your name is Leo.

He stops.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

No need to deny it.

LEO

Yes.

MIRIAM

Why did you deny it before?

LEO

Isn't that what we usually do, in first meetings? We deny.

**INT. GALLERY - ENTRANCE. DAY**

Both heads lay on the front gates glasses, looking at one another.

MIRIAM

(again)

What would they do if they were in such situation?

LEO

What do you think they would do?

MIRIAM

They would maybe exchange phone numbers. My husband doesn't enjoy talking so much.

LEO

Mine does, I mean my wife. But only about the things that interests her.

MIRIAM

No you mean your husband.

LEO

Yeah my husband.

MIRIAM

Nobody talks about the things that don't interest them unless there's a reason.

LEO

Yyyyes...but--

MIRIAM

Will she, I mean will they...? Together? You think?

LEO

(realising what she means)

Uh, I don't know. No.

MIRIAM

My husband will most definitely will.

LEO

So sure?

MIRIAM

Yeah, and I don't blame him. He's free to look for it with others.

Leo registers this.

LEO  
Is that why you never had, wanted  
to have children?

MIRIAM  
We tried. And tried, and tried.  
And, nothing.

LEO  
So you--

MIRIAM  
(cuts him, walks away)  
We need to keep looking for a way  
out.

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND HALLWAY. DAY**

Leo unlocks doors from the left, Miriam checks the right.  
Miriam stumbles on an open door. The sound of it alerted  
Leo.

**INT. GALLERY - HIDDEN ROOM. DAY**

No lights come through except from the half-opened door.  
There lay all the 'unwanted material'. A little eerie.

LEO  
Let's go back.

MIRIAM  
(still curious)  
Why?

LEO  
Look at those faces.

Paintings of horrified faces, one worse than the other.

MIRIAM  
Are these photographs? They look so  
real. I am starting to actually  
enjoy being here. Can we take one--

A sound, not sure if it's with them in the room or outside.  
Complete silence before a --  
CAT jumps out of nowhere running towards the door.

Miriam instantly hides behind Leo's back.

MIRIAM  
God...

**INT. GALLERY - SECOND HALLWAY. DAY**

They follow the cat deep into the hallway, there's a hole in a wooden window from which it might have come from and just now went.

LEO  
where did she go?

MIRIAM  
(re: the opposite direction)  
This way.

LEO  
(a window nearby)  
How about this?

He checks. It's too small even for his hand to go through.

MIRIAM  
We need to figure out a way to break into the cafeteria, we'll eat and sleep there until Monday, or until anybody comes in.

LEO  
I am in no way spending the night here, but -- I guess. Don't worry.

She forces a smile.

Leo tries to lift the rest of the wooden window, even with five hundred men, the thick wood won't come off that easily.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Where were the bathrooms?

LEO  
Straight ahead, you will see the signs, we just passed them.

MIRIAM  
Okay.

She walks away from him, slows down and stops, turns.

LEO  
Do you want me to come with you?

**INT. GALLERY - BATHROOM DOORS. DAY**

MIRIAM  
Well, see you in a minute.

LEO  
Okay.

They enter opposite doors. Sometime goes by.



Miriam comes out first, doesn't find him and goes back inside.

Only then he comes out. He puts his shoes and scarf on the floor and sneakily goes back inside.

She comes out one more time, troubled by the findings.

MIRIAM  
Leo? Are you here?

She walks towards the hallway, Leo comes behind her in attempt to scare her,

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Leo? Ar--

but THE CAT steals the moment and throws them both at each other as she suddenly meows and runs to the cafeteria.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Don't. Do. That. Again.

Leo will need two days to recover from laughing.

**INT. GALLERY- HALLWAY. DAY**

Following the cat's footsteps. Leo's shoelaces still untidy.

MIRIAM  
She went this way.

Miriam leads them to the transparent blinds which apparently can be lifted with little effort.

LEO  
(re: the cat)  
she almost killed me.

MIRIAM  
Karma.

They slide from under the blinds and on to the cafeteria.

**INT. GALLERY - CAFETERIA. DAY**

LEO  
This is where we sat.

She takes a picture of their empty table.

MIRIAM  
If you didn't talk to me you might have been out by now.

LEO  
I don't regret it.

MIRIAM  
 You don't really believe that. I  
 need to stop taking pictures, my  
 phone's about to die.

They go behind the counter onto the backdoor, which had been  
 opened by the cat.

He swings the door open to--

**EXT. GALLERY - BACKDOOR. DAY**

A tiny alley that leads to a staircase out into the street.  
 There's a big trash can besides.

MIRIAM  
 Right!

LEO  
 So, you still wanna hang out?

MIRIAM  
 (closing the door behind her)  
 What's your plan?

LEO  
 (still standing on the  
 stairs)  
 I don't really have any. I can take  
 you to-

She was about to say something and she stopped.

MIRIAM  
 You say.

LEO  
 no you say.

MIRIAM  
 What if we mean the same place?

LEO  
 how would we know?

Miriam ascends near him. She spots his untidy shoelace. He  
 fixes one, she helps him with the other foot.

MIRIAM  
 Well, the place I have in mind is  
 not a restaurant, not a cafe, not a  
 tourist site.

LEO  
 Mine neither.

MIRIAM  
And definitely not a gallery.

They think...

LEO (CONT'D)  
What if I take you first to this,  
'special place,' if it turns out to  
be the same as your supposed  
special place, then ta-da, if not,  
we hang out there, you take me to  
your special place, we hang out  
then we...go home.

MIRIAM  
(ascends to the street)  
Right, which way?

**EXT. MAIN STREETS. AFTERNOON**

They're walking in total sync. Crowds, shops and life  
buzzing around.

LEO  
You're not going to tell me the  
third letter?

MIRIAM  
R.

LEO  
Wow. That was fast. R? Mir, Mira?  
Are you sure it's not Mary, it's  
not I for the second, a?

MIRIAM  
I am sure I know alphabets.

LEO  
Mir, Miranda, Mira, Mirey...

MIRIAM  
You'll get there in time.

Cars honking, people shouting at their telephones. Street  
shops emitting the loudest songs next to one another.

Leo chuckles.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
what?

LEO

Look at us now, striding  
confidently in the streets,  
surrounded by all kinds of people,  
busy people, angry people, and  
machines and things-- a while ago  
it was just us, and it made us  
feel...

MIRIAM

A little...

LEO

yes...

MIRIAM

Strange, but true. Nothing could  
have harmed us back there, except  
each other, here we're in front of  
all kinds of harm, yet it's the  
most comforting feeling.

LEO

the way that we agree about every  
single thing, so far, I mean, it's  
fascinating.

MIRIAM

I see it as a red flag.

LEO

you'd rather we disagreed.

MIRIAM

Not for the sake of it, but,  
probably me, I've always been in  
peppered relationships. In my  
world, eternal agreement doesn't  
lead to fruitful results.

LEO

well, I disagree.

They stop at the red lights.

MIRIAM

For the first time.

LEO

Look at us obeying the rules, at  
night probably when nobody's  
around-

MIRIAM

It's easy to blend in in the night.

(MORE)

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I don't know I noticed when it's day, I am more open to wait, I can wait for that text or that coffee to be made, at nighttime, I am not that tolerant with time. Some people are the opposite.

LEO

We really were not born to wait as a species, waiting scares the hell out of me.

MIRIAM

Well, since we're born we are in a constant state of waiting, waiting to grow, to get that toy, waiting for summer holiday, waiting to graduate, to get a job, and...on a more sombre note, we wait, really we're waiting to die...waiting is synonymous with everything we do. We just live and wait, and sometimes, people wait their whole lives to live.

Green lights. They cross the road, getting closer to a street shop of mirrors.

A tall-frame mirror SHATTERS the moment they reached it.

The onlookers move away from the broken glass. The merchant apologises to the crowd, collects the mirror's broken glasses.

MIRIAM

Is it the same in your culture?  
Shattering mirror chase away bad  
luck?

Miriam helps in moving away some of it, accidentally injures herself. Ouch.

He leads her to a corner of the street.

LEO

Here, let me.

He presses on it: a small scratch on the top of her middle finger. He takes out a plaster from his handbag.

As he finished putting it on, her middle finger is still erect, giving him unintentional MIDDLE FINGER.

LEO (CONT'D)

Thank you.

**EXT. BUS STATION. AFTERNOON**

A bus comes to a station, ELDERLY COUPLE ascend.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
What are you working on?

LEO (V.O.)  
Nothing. I can't focus. Hungry?

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
Not really. You?

LEO (V.O.)  
It can wait.

**INT. BUS. AFTERNOON**

The elderly couple find their seats in an empty bus, Leo and Miriam are seated at the far end, silent. Each in their own world.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
So, where's this special place of yours?

LEO (V.O.)  
Be patient. By the way, does this road we're taking lead to the same place you have in mind?

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
Mmmmm, hard to tell now. I'll tell you a little later.

Miriam looks at him, he's working on something on his computer, she looks away. She attempts to take a picture of him. It doesn't register ''iPhone storage is full''.

LEO  
I saw that.

MIRIAM  
Not enough space. God I hate smartphones.

LEO  
why do you have one? Oh wait, you love -- I know what you love, phone booths. Or maybe fax?

She stares at him, then pokes him hard on his shoulder. They're intimate now.

**LATER**

Still in the bus, he's no longer on his computer, they're reading a magazine of special restaurants in the city.

LATER

They look at the busy streets.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
Are you enjoying this?

LEO (V.O.)  
I am. Very much. Never really liked  
bus trips, I'd rather blink and  
find myself there. Just get on with  
it.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
I sometimes dread arriving, because  
then I'll have to be doing  
something, meeting that person or  
seeing that doctor or purchasing  
that item, sometimes it's better to  
just, not to. I wish the roads  
could duplicate themselves  
sometimes.

He checks her middle finger. She hides her wedding ring with  
her other hand as she puts them back to her lap.

He does the same. They look at the elderly couple  
descending.

MIRIAM  
Will we ever be their age?

**EXT. CHILDREN'S PARK. AFTERNOON**

They walk among the crowds. Colours, happiness, lights,  
games.

They giggle (v.o)

LEO (V.O.)  
What are we doing?

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
I have no idea.

They're on children's horse carnival. The only two adults.  
Other adults may look at them with envy or delight.

Some kids try to get on their horses, they help them -- the  
kids sit on their laps and ride happily. Parents take  
pictures.

Leo's watching how she's a natural with kids.

LATER

A game of using a rope and a hoop to try and snatch out some snacks from the ground, Leo's taking the lead along with other men -- their women including Miriam are behind cheering.

Miriam's watching how Leo's 'capable' of snatching not one but two crunchy snacks.

LATER

They eat from the two, exchange the snacks, Miriam takes both snacks and runs, Leo does the same later.

Inaudible dialogue, but they're clearly having fun.

**EXT. CITY PARK. AFTERNOON**

They sit on a bench, pigeons surround them, families enjoy a stroll nearby. Only one bag of snacks left. Miriam passes to

LEO

No, I am good. I used to like this but-- it tastes weird.

MIRIAM

Everything here tastes weird, even water.

She laughs.

LEO

What?

MIRIAM

I have had this inner urge to laugh for so long, I don't know why it's coming up now.

A beat.

LEO

Do you believe in happiness?

MIRIAM

Yes. One has to, somehow.

LEO

It works like weather for me, it depends on the mood.

MIRIAM

It doesn't last, yeah we can at least agree on that. As you grow old you feel it, disappearing...

LEO

Does it have to be this way?

(MORE)



LEO (CONT'D)

You're given a whole bag of happiness when you're born, and you exhaust it as you age? Is there anyway to top-up?

MIRIAM

I don't know, unless you use someone else's bag, or they're willing to share when yours is over.

LEO

What if theirs gotten empty too?

MIRIAM

I think there's a problem of the way we think of happiness, as a culture, as species. Happiness is not a goal. No matter what you do, it won't last with you, not the way you hope it would be. You live a life that occasionally gives you moments of happiness, a feeling of fullness after a feast, then hunger starts creeping in your body again, that moment of bliss slowly disappears, and you look for sources of happiness once more.

LEO

This is one of them, for me.

They lock eyes.

MIRIAM

am I supposed to say it's for me too now?

LEO

well, if you want to follow the narrative?

MIRIAM

I thought we had none.

LEO

Can't argue with that.

Leo gently inspects her finger.

MIRIAM

Aw how caring you are.

LEO

And how uncaring you are.

Miriam chuckles, unexpectedly chokes

LEO (CONT'D)  
 God, I was just kidding don't die.

Miriam struggles for breath--

MIRIAM  
 That's not fair. I show care in other ways. Well. Wait, yes, maybe if you're injured I would care.

LEO  
 Is that so?

Ideas fire up in his head.

Leo suddenly stands up and heads to the streets, putting himself out there to be hit by a car. Miriam follows and grabs him just the right moment.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 Are you for real?

LEO  
 Well, you're up for the challenge. Maybe that one.

MIRIAM  
 No, no no no.

She follows and grabs him before he could get to a knife from a street food stall.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing? You're crazy.

**EXT. STREETS. AFTERNOON**

They walk. Against them comes at PREGNANT WOMAN trolly-ing twins.

Miriam looks away. He noticed that.

LEO  
 Recognise the road? Familiar?

MIRIAM  
 Mmmmm no, I don't think so.

LEO  
 So, our special places are not the same one I guess.

MIRIAM  
 Yeah...

A moment goes by without a word.

LEO  
Any hobbies?/

MIRIAM  
Any hobbies?/

A laugh.

LEO  
Telepathy? synchronicity?

MIRIAM  
Not sure you could call it one, but  
I love conspiracy theories.

LEO  
Tell me one.

MIRIAM  
(too many to choose from)  
Umm, you heard of the backrooms?

He holds her hands as they cross, she takes a moment before continuing.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
The backrooms?

LEO  
No I haven't.

MIRIAM  
A thousand stage building, or  
buildings. Apparently you can get  
through if you stumble on wall or  
if you fall -- you find yourself in  
empty rooms where you have to  
ascend and fight off all the  
creatures that live there before  
you could make it back to the real  
world. Like a video game.

LEO  
We just been in one.

MIRIAM  
It's not real.

LEO  
I wish it was. Cool.

MIRIAM  
Only in theory. What's your hobby?

LEO  
(imitating her)  
What's your hobby?

MIRIAM  
What?

LEO  
what?

He even imitates her laugh.

MIRIAM  
stop.

LEO  
stop.

MIRIAM  
Okay.

LEO  
Okay.

MIRIAM  
You're crazy.

LEO  
You're crazy too.

MIRIAM  
Got you. Nice. your son will  
appreciate a funny dad.

LEO  
Tell me one more.

MIRIAM  
Aliens? There are many conspiracy  
theories.

LEO  
No, please no aliens.

MIRIAM  
Who built the pyramids?

LEO  
Um, ancient people? With decades of  
hard work and hundred thousand of  
manpower?

MIRIAM  
Maybe.

LEO  
It's obvious.

MIRIAM  
with conspiracies there's really no  
right or wrong, there's just the  
maybes and the perhaps, it's a grey  
world.

They arrive to crossover. Leo spots something over the side.

LEO

Ok look. I know we need to make it to the special place before dark but, I think we still got time.

MIRIAM

what do you mean?

LEO

I need to fetch something in here. I don't think I'll be in this side of the city tomorrow morning.

He gestures to a LIBRARY.

LEO (CONT'D)

I came last time and I hadn't the chance to look at everything. Not sure if I would find it, it's worth a try. Won't take long.

MIRIAM

Sure.

LEO

Thanks. It won't take long, we'll get right back to the-- special place right away. No more detours.

MIRIAM

I love detours.

#### **INT. LIBRARY. AFTERNOON**

A serene wooden world of books, endless display of archives and the smell of antiquity.

Leo's taken by all of this, Miriam's took note of that.

MIRIAM

One of your special places?

LEO

Yeah one of them -- back in the years I used to fantasise about, if there was a possibility of going back in time, to visit the library of Alexandria, in all its glory before it burned down. I'd love to just sit there and, just be there.

MIRIAM

You'd need to learn ancient Egyptian or greek before you take the trip.

Her words interrupted his daydream.

LEO  
Have you always been like this?

She's glad she's annoying him.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Wait here for a second.

He goes to the counter, empty.

A few people occupy the chairs. Dead silence.

LEO (CONT'D)  
We'll just have to look around  
ourselves.

MIRIAM  
Go ahead look for yours, I'll check  
who built the pyramids.

LEO  
Okay.

As he moves away.

MIRIAM  
Psst.

LEO  
What?

MIRIAM  
Tell me what you're looking for, I  
might stumble on it.

LEO  
Mmmm, never mind, legal references.

MIRIAM  
(she mouths it)  
You won't find them without me.

He imitates her.

LATER.

Leo's busy looking for the books, she appears on the aisle  
walking besides him until -- 'innocently' bumping into him.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Oh sorry, sir. Excuse my blindness.

LEO  
It's okay ma'am, you don't look  
very blind. Your eye contact is  
quite good

MIRIAM

Everybody says so but believe me I  
can see 'nothing'.

LEO

Not sure I'd word it that way but--  
How come you're holding a book?

MIRIAM

Oh, just to fit in with the world.  
Why are you holding a book?

LEO

to escape the world.

MIRIAM

Let's escape together.

LEO

follow me.

He leads the way, she follows him straight up unattended.

LEO (CONT'D)

You need help?

MIRIAM

No, I can perfectly do without.

It's difficult not to break into laughter, but they're  
managing.

He suddenly stops.

LEO

oh my god.

He snatches a book, sounds familiar to him.

LEO (CONT'D)

My dad and I used to read these. It  
says--

Leo reads the poetry in Japanese.

LEO (CONT'D)

古池や  
蛙飛び込む  
水の音

MIRIAM

(clearly not understanding a  
word)

Interesting, I feel the same.

LEO

It says: An old silent pond--  
A frog jumps into the pond--  
(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Splash! Silence again. This Haiku  
 was written by Matsuo Basho, one of  
 the most renowned haiku poets in  
 Japanese literature.

MIRIAM  
 Wait here.

We follow her pass through aisles, her fingers run towards a  
 recently opened book of Farsi Poems.

Leo appears behind.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 I told you to wait.

LEO  
 I can't leave a blind woman on her  
 own.

She flips many pages before landing.

MIRIAM  
 زمین خوابیده زیر پایان ما  
 آسمان دلمان پر از رویاهای پراکنده  
 The earth sleeps beneath our feet,  
 Our hearts' sky scattered with  
 scattered dreams.

LEO  
 Wow, so you know Farsi too?

MIRIAM  
 My grandparents made sure of that.  
 Are we actually reading poetry to  
 one another?

LEO  
 Yes.

MIRIAM  
 (re: the librarians)  
 They'd be laughing at us if they  
 knew.

LEO  
 Only people who don't understand  
 poetry laugh at it.

LATER

Over a MEDIUM SIZED table, they sit next to each other

LEO (CONT'D)  
 静寂の  
 星の海に迷う  
 心のまま  
 (MORE)



LEO (CONT'D)  
 In the silence,  
 Lost in a sea of stars,  
 Wandering heart's path.

Her turn

MIRIAM

در پی گل‌های زندگی می‌روم  
 در گلستان دوستیها بازی میکنم  
 عشق، هدفم را پیدا کرده است  
 زندگی با معنا و دوستان با مهربانی

I walk in pursuit of the flowers of  
 life,  
 I play in the garden of  
 friendships,  
 Love has found my purpose, wait,  
 this one I am not sure. I'll have  
 to look this up.

Their phones' network isn't helping.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

God...

LEO

What's wrong with this country's  
 network.

MIRIAM

let's try wifi.

LEO

Nobody's going to give us the code  
 here. Not written anywhere either.

LATER

They look up translations on tomes of dictionaries.

MIRIAM

زندگی با معنا و دوستان با مهربانی  
 Life with meaning and friends with  
 kindness.

LEO

This one's actually a song, in  
 Japanese it goes. (He sings,  
 softly) さくら さくら  
 野山も里も  
 見--

MIRIAM

Louder.

LEO

we're in the library.

MIRIAM

So what? libraries can have be a temple for songs too.

He sings but still with a tinted softness.

LEO

さくら さくら  
野山も里も  
見わたすかぎり  
かすみか雲か  
朝日ににおう  
さくら さくら  
花ざかり

Miriam's carried away by it. Claps LOUDLY afterwards.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Thank you.

LEO

well, not very good at it. Every time I sing at home my wife closes her ears.

His chuckles hide pain.

MIRIAM

You're better at singing than imitating.

LEO

(excitedly)

You think so?

She nods.

LEO (CONT'D)

In high school I thought I'd become a singer. Now I am a lawyer. Do you know how I used to memorise for exams? I sang.

MIRIAM

Courtrooms should be operatic. Imagine lawyers singing their defence.

LATER

Both seat across from one another, each with a book in their hands, they study one another when the other is not looking.

LATER

Putting the books back in separate aisles.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
Have you found what you were  
looking for?

LEO (V.O.)  
Nope.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
Told you.

**EXT. NEARBY A CHURCH. AFTERNOON**

They pass an open church, ANGELIC CHOIR is emitting. They pause and listen for sometime, avoiding eye contact, then finding each other's eyes.

**INT. CHURCH. AFTERNOON**

An empty church, except from the CLERGIES and MALE CHILDREN (7-9) performing a Gregorian chant.

Miriam and Leo are entranced, spellbound by all of it.

LEO  
Have you ever been to a mosque?

MIRIAM  
No.

LEO  
I was in, was it Abu Dhabi? I can't remember whether it's Abu Dhabi or Istanbul, it was a back to back trip. Anyways, my guide a local took me there, yeah it's Abu Dhabi, I remember now, because later he invited me for dinner at home with his family, it was in this large tent. Anyways we went to that mosque, oh my god, I don't know what to say. The voices, it was only one man standing, and they were praying using their voices, quite audibly at first, then later they all went quiet. He explained that all their evening prayers are 'voiced'. It's as if, muted prayers can only be done when the sun's up.

**LATER**

Before they leave, Leo proceeds and performs a silent pray.

Miriam watches him from the back.

**EXT. SEASHORE PAVEMENTS. SUNSET**

They sit on a bench, staring at the HORIZON ahead. SILENCE.

AN OLD MAN with an odd costume passes in front of them, interrupting Miriam. He smiles at her.

She looks to Leo.

MIRIAM  
you're still here?

LEO  
are you?

A long beat.

MIRIAM  
It's a luxury, to be quiet with  
someone.

LEO  
we haven't been very quiet.

MIRIAM  
We have been when we needed to.

He almost doesn't blink.

MIRIAM  
What are you looking at? I can't  
see anything.

LEO  
Do you get to choose what will you  
go blind about-

MIRIAM  
(over)  
Tell me.

Leo takes a moment.

LEO  
It's a...it's a...

Waiting for inspiration, clearly not coming.

LEO (CONT'D)  
It's the sun, setting.

MIRIAM  
What is the sun?

LEO  
a star.

MIRIAM  
what is a star?

LEO  
a ball of energy, gives off light,  
and it's going down.

MIRIAM  
How can a ball of energy just  
disappear?

LEO  
Inch by inch, the horizon eats it  
all up.

MIRIAM  
And then what?

LEO  
And then, it's dark. We call it  
sunset.

There's a ROUND GREY HAired MAN (50's) taking pictures of  
the sunset with his INSTANT-FILM CAMERA nearby. This is the  
PHOTOGRAPHER.

MIRIAM  
Sun sets? I guess they're pretty.

LEO  
sunsets are pretty only because  
there's a promise that light will  
be come back again the next day.

MIRIAM  
Does it ever say so?

LEO  
No, but we know it. Somehow.

MIRIAM  
Can people see each other when it's  
dark?

LEO  
Yes, we made city lights. And  
candles, and flashlights and god  
knows what.

MIRIAM  
What about the moon?

LEO  
Oh yes, it's not bright tonight.  
Even I can't see it. It's not  
always punctual that one.

MIRIAM  
Does it come up only when it's in  
the mood?

LEO  
Yeah something like that.

The photographer looks towards them.

MIRIAM  
I like that. How does the moon look like?

LEO  
Have you ever seen a pearl? Guess not, you're blind. Well, in all the darkness you see now, imagine something you've never seen before coming through.

MIRIAM  
I don't really know anything aside from the dark.

LEO  
There's a phenomenon called the new moon. Meaning when the moon is dark, you can't see it in the sky because it's between the sun and earth. Even if we can't see it but it's there. Maybe in the darkness you see there's a moon. A new moon forming.

A beat.

MIRIAM  
(dropping the act)  
You know, you really are--

PHOTOGRAPHER  
(interrupting)  
Hello.

The photographer approaches them wearing a smile wider than his face.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
Any feedback? Check this out.

He shows them a small handbook album of various empty landscapes and people, the film look gives them a timeless touch.

MIRIAM  
Oh it's beautiful.

LEO  
oh, your eyes are back.

MIRIAM  
hush.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Would you like me to take a picture  
 for you?

They debate it in their minds. She touches her hair.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
 Come on, un beau souvenir. The sky  
 is not always as clear as today.

He grins, looks up to Miriam more than Leo.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
 If you could, please this way, no,  
 you.

He leads them to lean against the bars overlooking the sea

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
 Maybe you could relax your  
 shoulders a bit?

LEO  
 me?

PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Yes. Just, maybe loosen up, that's  
 it. (Re: Miriam) no, you're  
 perfect, just stay the way you are.

Leo and Miriam look at one another, she's hiding an urge to  
 laugh, he's hiding an urge to tell the guy to get lost.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
 That's it.

He finds the right angle, squats and clicks.

LEO  
 Alright.

The photographer seems upset to have been told to stop. He  
 produces one picture for them.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Hold it. Hold it tight.

He places it between their hands. Miriam's and Leo's.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)  
 yes. like that.

LEO  
 How much?

PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Oh no no, this is my hobby. Nothing  
 at all, please. if you like it,  
 that's my price.

MIRIAM

Thank you.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Wait for it first before you thank me.

They stand there, awkwardly pressing hands, the photographer eagerly waiting.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Okay.

A beautiful, eerie snap of luminous sun in the background shadowing their two figures.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)

Perfect.

MIRIAM

yes.

LEO

is it?

PHOTOGRAPHER

what do you mean?

LEO

Look at our faces, dark. We should have stood in front of the sun instead.

PHOTOGRAPHER

True, but that's the normal obvious way. Somewhat boring. (Re: the picture ) This is more true to my vision. How I see the world.

LEO

so do the people come to you to interpret the way you--

MIRIAM

Thank you, it's beautiful. Really.

The photographer's glad. He shakes their hands.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Well. good luck.

Reluctantly, he steps away.

LEO

He knows it's not that great for it to not charge any money.

She gives him a look.



Still taken by it, Leo watches as she's studying it.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Well, if you say so.

MIRIAM  
I wish he'd given us two copies, I guess that's impossible. Or maybe the digital ver-- oh, oh my god.

LEO  
what?

he takes the picture and studies it.

MIRIAM  
He has a digital copy of us.

LEO  
so?

MIRIAM  
it's a proof that we met. This, this is a proof we met.

LEO  
we met...

MIRIAM  
Yes...he thinks we're a couple or something.

LEO  
In his camera world, we can be.

Miriam takes the picture back.

MIRIAM  
you're not keeping it, are you? you hate it anyways.

LEO  
I still want to look at it from time to time.

MIRIAM  
well why don't you take a picture of it with your phone.

He was about to.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
no wait.

She begins snapping it in two, very carefully.

LEO  
Ah? what are you doing?

MIRIAM

Here.

She gives him her side of the frame.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I'll keep you. You'll keep me.

How didn't he think of that?

LEO

Alright. I like that.

MIRIAM

Me too.

She has his picture with a little of her elbow, he has a little of her shoulder too.

LEO

What's the fourth letter?

She walks away.

MIRIAM

I can't hear you.

LEO

Oh you're deaf now?

MIRIAM

Yes.

He puts the half-picture in his pockets, she his.

LEO

And you heard it?

He follows her.

MIRIAM

No.

They walk away.

MIRIAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What would she say if she found it?  
You know who.

LEO (V.O.)

who knows.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

What would you tell her if she asks?

LEO (V.O.)

A photo of a blind woman I met.  
(MORE)

LEO (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 What would you tell your you know  
 who?

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
 I ran into the man of my dreams.

**EXT. STREET. NIGHT**

They walk much quicker than before. Leo seems to have lost his way.

LEO  
 They all look the same.

Miriam watches him with a faint smile.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Don't do that.

She copies him.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 you're so bad at it. Where's your  
 special place anyway?

MIRIAM  
 A day of walking away from here,  
 the other side.

LEO  
 Really?

MIRIAM  
 positive.

LEO  
 We're leaving tomorrow. There's no  
 chance for me to see it.

MIRIAM  
 Tomorrow evening.

LEO  
 We'll have to be at the airport by  
 afternoon.

MIRIAM  
 yes, not in the morning.

He ponders it.

LEO  
 Well, okay sorry my plan didn't  
 work.

MIRIAM  
It's alright. it was fun. I thought  
your special place was your hotel  
room.

LEO  
(surprised)  
Really? Why haven't I thought of  
that?

MIRIAM  
Men rarely think.

LEO  
And that's what women do?

MIRIAM  
All the time.

They hear some pop music playing as they pass by a dark  
alley.

LEO  
When was your last time?

She thinks...moving her body with the music.

MIRIAM  
It was a while ago. You? Yesterday.

LEO  
Before yesterday.

MIRIAM  
Why am I not surprised?

They go in.

MIRIAM (V.O.)  
I hate dancing though.

LEO (V.O.)  
yeah me too.

#### **INT. CLUB. NIGHT**

They dance pretty hard. Lost in the movements, in the dark,  
in this world where nothing could go wrong. The lights show  
just the tiny bit of their thrilled expressions.

They copy what others are doing, they scream, and touch and  
jump and spread apart like wild beasts who have been  
hungered and denied both music and freedom.

LATER

A moment of solitude as both of them contemplate what they just did. They are no longer part of the group now. They're observers.

Then they look at one another: it's no longer appealing to be here.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. NIGHT**

24/ service cafeteria restaurant. Only two apparently homeless men at the far end sleeping.

Bright lit space with walls made of glass.

Leo and Miriam sit over A SMALL TABLE, only one hot cup of coffee in the middle.

**INT. CAFETERIA. NIGHT**

He sips. She sips. He sips again, a bit prolonged.

MIRIAM  
Leave some from me.

LEO  
I told you we could order two.

MIRIAM  
I didn't know I'd like it that much.

Leo goes to the counter, grabs a cup and buttons the self-service coffee machine. He watches her as she does too. Intense exchange of looks. The coffee is spilled all over. OH NO...She laughs.

LATER

Both cups are empty now. It might start drizzling outside too. That, and the active sounds of a dormant city, clicking of glasses nearby, and nothing more.

LEO  
I'd like to smoke.

She signals the no-smoking header.

LEO (CONT'D)  
I don't respect the rules at night.

MIRIAM  
How many rules have you broken so far?

LEO  
too far to count.

MIRIAM  
today?

LEO  
I'll think about them when tomorrow  
comes. You? Anything you want to  
confess.

She produces from her bag a small blue book with lacy white  
flowers : Magic answers.

LEO  
Where did you-

A simple look at her and it told him everything.

LEO (CONT'D)  
You did not, you-

MIRIAM  
(opening it)  
Ask any question.

LEO  
it's illegal.

MIRIAM  
I know. Oh that's a nice question.  
Is this legal?

She closes the book and her eyes, a beat then opens to a  
random page.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
(reads)  
'You may have opposition'...your  
turn.

LEO  
What should I ask?

MIRIAM  
Anything.

Leo thinks hard, not coming out.

LEO  
Why is it when everyone pays  
attention to doing one thing, one  
simple thing like asking a  
question, it becomes suddenly so  
difficult.

MIRIAM  
The "observer effect" or  
"measurement problem."  
(MORE)

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

" In quantum mechanics, particles like electrons exist in multiple states simultaneously until they are observed or measured. The act of measurement forces the particle to adopt a particular state. However, when unobserved, particles exist in a superposition of states. When particles, such as photons or electrons, are not observed, they exhibit wave-like properties and can interfere with themselves as waves do. However, when observed, they behave like particles, and the interference pattern disappears. It's all down to focus, you focus on asking the question, the thing, asking the question behaves differently than when you don't focus on asking the question.

LEO

This is a conspiracy theory?

MIRIAM

No, quantum mechanics. Ask.

LEO

What's the fourth letter in her name, this woman in front of me. What's the fourth letter in her name?

He opens to a random page but she snatches the book from him

LEO (CONT'D)

Give it back, you-- give it back now.

Miriam deliciously checks the answer then gives it back.

MIRIAM

It's there I swear but you won't know which one.

Leo reads the answer (the circumstances will change very quickly)

LEO

What the fuck? Is it the first consonant or vowel? There are hundreds in this sentence alone.

He tries alternatives.

LEO (CONT'D)

Miric, Mirii, Mirir, Miricu

MIRIAM  
Enjoy the enigma.

LEO  
(throws it back to her)  
Fine.

She misses catching the book. It falls under the table.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Blind.

Miriam goes down to grab it, finds Leo under, for a moment they were about to--then she takes the book and comes up again.

She takes a moment, asks in silence and opens to a page.

LEO (CONT'D)  
What? That's not how it's supposed to be.

Miriam closes the book and gives it to him.

LEO (CONT'D)  
What was the question?

MIRIAM  
personal one.

Leo, seriously?

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
I---

LEO  
I thought 'we could be or say whatever since what are the odds of us meeting--'

MIRIAM  
I asked, if I ever will have children.

LEO  
and? will you?

A beat.

LEO (CONT'D)  
what did it say?

MIRIAM  
It's what it didn't say. Maybe I am cursed, maybe the universe, God, knows I am not a fit parent, we both are not really ready.

(MORE)



MIRIAM (CONT'D)

yet I cling to this life that might grow in me, this possibility, after so many attempts. Every-time you lose something, all the doors to pain open in you, and nothing else can fill what's been lost, and that's your only gain.

LEO

I am sorry.

MIRIAM

You know I've got great friends, not a bad husband, he's okay, most days. Honestly I find I am the problematic one the more I think about it. I am getting paid very well. Last I checked my body's doing fine. My parents are still alive. My two siblings are adorable. Everything's really perfect, or is it? The one thing that I--, the void that grows everyday, the fact that I've been denied being a mother makes want to not like or enjoy my life.

LEO

Do you need to have children to be a mother? You can be a mother to anyone. I am not even talking about adopting, you can be a mom to every person you meet. Really, you thought about--

MIRIAM

(over him)

I had four miscarriages, four possibilities, lost. The first would be 12 years this year. Might be off playing basketball now or piano. I knew it was male. I look at your nose, how it gets red sometimes. Like his in the first few months. The second would have been 5, she was a girl. Both were stillborn. The third had only been inside me a few weeks, and the fourth, maybe a year ago, also not lasting than a month. And life goes on, and I know I might not be called 'mommy' someday. Some of my friends have children and they think I am lucky. They call them their little monsters. They love their children but-- they don't know how it feels like.

(MORE)

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I don't think I'd call my children little monsters. But I don't know. Would I? They can pretend they're tired or they don't want them as long as they actually have them. When you don't have them, you can't joke about not having them.

Music tunes in, oldies lo-fi style playing from a small classic-type TV.

He closes the book and they both just listen to the music.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

You know I lied to you, I am not here for business, I run away from the anniversary.

LEO

What anniversary?

MIRIAM

My husband has this thing where, he still celebrates our four kids birthdates, even if they're not with us anymore. For the stillborns it's the day they came to this world, and for the others, the day I lost them. He believes it's not a bad thing, it's his way of dealing with it. But that's not mine. That's not how I deal with it. But I am forced to watch it. We had a huge row over it, nasty. Tomorrow's my second anniversary, and I have been making excuses recently. I told him the exact thing I told you, meeting dozen clients crap. My job's got nothing to do with clients. But he doesn't know that, he doesn't bother if my job's got to do with meeting clients or ghosts.

LEO

Why?

MIRIAM

Lack of attention, or care.

Leo stands and goes to her and gives her the warmest longest hug. They actually both need it.

LATER

They're dancing to the tunes. Relaxed, therapeutic moves, more about them finding comfort than following the right steps. The music stops.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Oops.

They stop.

LEO

We can go on.

They dance without music.

MIRIAM

He never did that.

LEO

Who? Oh... him. She would never allow me.

MIRIAM

Her loss...what are they doing now?

LEO

Definitely not dancing.

MIRIAM

If by any chance they are dancing, there will definitely, there has to be music.

LEO

Yes it has to be.

MIRIAM

right?

LEO

Yeah, we don't need that.

MIRIAM

If we could just stop the day here, forever, until the world goes by some dreadful years that we don't have to see or participate in.

They disengage, each goes back to their chairs.

LEO (CONT'D)

(imitating his wife)

So ungentlemanly of you to sit before I did. Husband.

Miriam picks up on it, deepens her voice.

MIRIAM

(with her husband voice)

So, where you've been today? You went to see your grandma? Oh sorry, I forgot she died last year.

Leo struggles to keep the show going.

LEO

(his wife)

Seriously, you're my husband.  
hu.s.b.nd, I am your wife. bound to  
you by fate and vows and children  
and love. Don't you dare me to say  
things I am not going to say even  
in imagination. You know I love you  
more than you do.

MIRIAM

(Her husband)

Yawns, oh I hear a phone call.  
Wait, I'll be back in 2 minutes. Or  
3.

LEO

(his wife)

Your phone is right here.

MIRIAM

(her husband)

My bad, I didn't tell you I got a  
new phone. Sorry darling. I mean,  
sorry (Miriam's own voice) insert  
name.

LEO

(his own voice)

You can't even tell me your name in  
your husband's voice, what's wrong  
with you? I don't blame him at this  
point.

She kicks his leg, Ouch.

MIRIAM

(her husband)

What's wrong? You're sick? Again?  
Why don't you sleep downstairs  
tonight? Got a meeting with an  
important envoy from Hong Kong  
tomorrow. I don't want to come down  
with something.

LEO

(his wife suddenly so  
serious)

What did you say? A meeting? I hope  
you are not suggesting you're  
travelling again.

MIRIAM

(Her husband)

You heard wrong. Typical.

LEO

(his wife)

In fact I heard right, but I want to make sure, is this the husband I chose to have in my life. in myyy, llllife. And my baby boy's father.

MIRIAM

Oh my god...stop I can't...

The music comes back, they take a break.

The lofi-oldies are the perfect companion now.

MIRIAM

What time is it over there now?

LEO

Does it matter?

MIRIAM

They will be wondering why the radio silence, and it's all because of a torturous network.

LEO

My wife definitely, if only she could control time, and maybe my boss too, she'd be the happiest woman alive.

MIRIAM

Were you the happiest man alive before you met her?

LEO

I was happiest when I didn't have to change who I was, I think.

MIRIAM

change is inevitable... I don't think I'd be still working if I had kids. I don't want to be a career woman, others want that, I don't. But I don't really have a reason not to right now. So I am doing it.

LEO

Well that's a situational change, not the kind of change I am talking about.

MIRIAM

What do you mean?

It's clear what he's about to say had been inside him for quite sometime.

LEO

When you put oil into the water, it keeps itself to itself, you see the two clearly defined even if they share the same space, even if they're the same kind, liquid. Oil understands water, that's why it doesn't change it. Or should we ask for a third opinion?

They both eye the book, then at one another.

LEO (CONT'D)

what I told you earlier about me believing in ghosts, I don't really, I only said it to impress you. I guess. But it might have come from somewhere, otherwise I wouldn't have said it. Maybe I do believe in what I said, but I hadn't realise until I met you, and I had to say it.

MIRIAM

I was about to ask the book whether you've lied to me at some point today.

LEO

I lied about what I believe, I never lied to you, your person. My person to your person is all -- we lie to ourselves too, why are we surprised when we lie to other people existing outside of us?

A beat.

LEO (CONT'D)

And, I still use dating apps, not for anything, just a way to chat. Whatever it may lead to, I don't know. I don't use them back home.

MIRIAM

Of course not, your wife would murder you.

LEO

I only use them when I travel. But with work, I barely find time to meet anyone.

MIRIAM

Yet you're here with me.

LEO

You're different, we're different.

MIRIAM

Because you met me face to face and  
not on your touchscreen?

Miriam touches the book with her fingers.

LEO

Because you stole a book, without  
considering the fact that I could  
press charges against you. Do you  
want to ask another question?  
Besides lying.

MIRIAM

I'd like to keep some questions for  
me...don't want to live a life  
where I have all the answers. I  
think neither should you.

LEO

Maybe I can live with the answers.

He snatches the book before she does.

MIRIAM

Go ahead then.

LEO

(takes a deep breath)  
Are we ever going to meet again?

He opens to a random page, smiles then switches the book to  
her, we don't see what's written. We just see a reaction  
full of awe, despair and compassion.

Then suddenly, A PHONE CALL.

Both are paralysed, they don't want to check which of their  
phones.

Then Leo takes out his. Still ringing.

Miriam shakes her head. Don't answer. Her eyes leaping for  
him not to.

But you know what? He does.

LEO (CONT'D)

Hey baby.

Miriam's thrown. He stands up and hovers around.

LEO (CONT'D)

Yeah I am good, the network's been  
bad. Yeah. Still same time. How  
about you? How's your day?

He notices the look on Miriam, he comes to sit again, she  
stands up.

She goes to another table in the far corner.

He follows her. Sits across from her, then activates the speaker button, we hear his wife's interrupted breaths.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
Umm, not bad, I mean, you're not here so, it was terrible. That's my fate, to be married to an ever busy husband. (Laughs awkwardly)

Leo leaves the phone and runs to his bag on the first table, he picks a notebook from his bag and a pen. He writes something then passes to Miriam.

'What do I say?'

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
So...you sure you coming tomorrow?

Miriam doesn't want to play this game, but her rage says otherwise.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Hello...You there?

LEO  
Yes, here.

Miriam writes: 'Yes but bad news, I might go on another trip the week after.'

LEO (CONT'D)  
Yes but bad news, I might go on another trip the week after.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
What? You're actually not serious, I know, you're kidding. Yeah..say it... you're kidding. Tell me you're kidding, haha.

Miriam writes: 'no I am not. I am going to London.'

LEO  
No I am not, I am going to London.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
Weren't you there last month?

LEO  
Was I?

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
You know baby I understand but, remember we talked about Olivia.

LEO  
Olivia?



LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
The dog. She might have an  
operation.

Miriam covers her mouth, minimising any sign of laughter.  
She writes.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I don't want to go through it on my  
own. Besides you said this trip was  
your last this season. And Carlos  
can't stop talking about baba baba  
baba he misses you so--

LEO  
(takes a new note from  
Miriam)  
Maybe you can come with me this  
time.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
Really? Oh my god, you never-

LEO  
yeah...

Miriam delights in this. Leo has no room but to obey her  
notes. He doesn't seem to approve of what she writes.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
What about Carlos? I mean, he can  
stay with my mom. Not a big deal,  
unless you want him to come too, a  
small family trip. Well it's not a  
family trip. You're doing business.

MIRIAM  
(whispers)  
Oh god...

She passes him a new note, he reads:

LEO  
We'll talk about it when I am back.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
My god I am excited already.

Miriam writes again, gives to Leo.

LEO  
baby,

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
Yes honey?

MIRIAM  
(mouths to him)  
I didn't write baby, you asshole.

Leo chuckles in mute mode.

LEO

I am going to bed now, tomorrow  
I'll be catching the flight back  
home.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)

Yes honey rest, you said your  
flight was in the evening. You can  
go out and--you know have fun now.  
Any colleagues you might want to  
hang out with? Male colleagues?

LEO

No, yes, I had a tour. Now I am  
back to the hotel, took a shower,  
listened to some music...I'll go to  
the library again tomorrow before I  
head to the airport.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)

(over him)

By the way I went to the mall  
today, you know, for girl  
shopping...and, the card didn't go  
through, so Lydia paid, I guess I  
have to pay her back once you're  
back. I don't know what's wrong.

LEO

Okay. Yeah. Happy shopping.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)

Thank you. My charming husband. My  
hus.b.a.nd. (awkward pause) I know  
you hate it when I say it like that  
but I love it. Anyways.

Leo chuckles politely, Miriam snorts. When will this be  
over.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, it's going to be a big  
day. Oh, look who's here? You wanna  
say hello to baba, say baba come  
home. Babaaa.

We hear a young boy's attempt at speaking, her voice and his  
all over the place. Miriam is imagining his perfect family  
life, the one she lacks.

LEO

(uncomfortable)

Okay, I'll call you tomorrow.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)

Okay. See you.

(MORE)

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Can't wait to hold you in my arms.  
 Carlos is jumping. No wait, wait,  
 maybe it can't wait, this is why,  
 one of the reasons I called you. I  
 wanted to send a voice message and  
 I was no, I wanted to hear your  
 reaction. I wish I could see it  
 but, just to tell you...uhm, Leo...

Miriam and Leo brace themselves for what's to come.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 I said we went shopping today with  
 my girlfriends, well in fact, we  
 went shopping after I checked, kind  
 of to celebrate, I didn't think of  
 it much before but I needed to do  
 some tests and...

LEO  
 and?

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
 We're going to have a new baby.  
 (Laughs or cries or both)

LEO  
 Oh.

Miriam is just...there listening to all of this.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Wow. I mean, wow. Really?

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
 Yes, really. We will be a family of  
 four. FOUR. My girlfriends are --  
 jealous. Well they've all been  
 jealous of me having a husband like  
 you in the first place, ok? Let's  
 put this right, then Carlos came  
 then our new car-- then now, I am  
 going to be a mom of two children,  
 from you. I just pray it's a girl.  
 I don't mind a boy again, but a  
 girl. Oh, perfection. Leo? What are  
 you thinking?

LEO  
 I wish you waited until you, until  
 I came there, but yeah. Wow. Great.  
 Happy. Very happy.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
 so, grab that bag and come asap. a  
 lot of arrangements needed to be  
 made.

LEO  
yeah yeah...okay.

LEO'S WIFE (O.S.)  
love you.

LEO  
Bye.

Miriam's stone faced. Barely keeping a straight face, eyes barely containing themselves.

The music stops.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. NIGHT**

It's raining heavily now. They are seated across from one another in the far-end table.

**INT. CAFETERIA. NIGHT**

Who is going to speak first? It drags on and on.

MIRIAM  
Congratulations.

LEO  
I am sorry. I shouldn't have answered.

MIRIAM  
You know there are two things I hate in this world. My sister in law and 'should have'.

LEO  
Okay.

MIRIAM  
oh and Matcha latte, three things. God I hate matcha.

LEO  
I am sorry--

Her phone RINGS. She contemplates.

LEO  
Don't. Don't. You don't have to--

She does, immediately switching to speaker.

MIRIAM  
Hi honey.

Leo stands up. Losing it.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
Hi, feels like eternity. Everything  
good over there?

MIRIAM  
yeah.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
People treating you well?

MIRIAM  
Yeah very well. Well, not so well.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
mmmm, typical.

She chuckles. Leo is still hovering in despair.  
She stands and goes back to another NEW table.  
Leo follows her with the notebook and pen.

MIRIAM  
how's your knee?

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
My knee? Not so bad, I'll probably  
hurt it again this weekend when I  
play with the boys.

MIRIAM  
You will never stop.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
You know your husband. and uh- how  
was work?

MIRIAM  
Not bad, the usual clients, the  
usual conversations, over and over  
again. Endless loop.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
Well, speaking of endless loops. I  
miss you, endlessly miss you.

Leo writes: 'change the subject.'

MIRIAM  
I miss you too. Very much.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
really?

MIRIAM  
Yes. A lot. I wish you were here  
with me.

Her husband's lost for words, only his breaths come through.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 Earlier today I was in a library,  
 and, I was reading some farsi  
 poetry to myself. I was thinking of  
 you.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND  
 What were they about?

MIRIAM  
 I'll tell you when I meet you.  
 Upstairs, in the first room in your  
 right.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND  
 On the purple bed?

MIRIAM  
 With lights off.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 (turned on)  
 Oh, you're torturing me. Do you  
 want me to come?

MIRIAM  
 Don't be silly.

They laugh.

Leo furious, writes and gives her: 'Hung up the phone NOW'.  
 'Now' is underlined a thousand times.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 So, are you there on the purple  
 bed?

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Yeah, but without you, it's not  
 purple, it's sick purple.

Leo's like a bomb who hasn't been allowed to explode.

MIRIAM  
 Well soon I will be.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 and then?

MIRIAM  
 And then, we will do what we're  
 best at.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 oh, Mir-

MIRIAM  
 (interrupts him)  
 Pick me up tomorrow, will you? I  
 mean if you're free.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 I will make time even if I am not  
 free.

MIRIAM  
 That's sweet. Thank you.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 Then dinner same place? What food  
 did you miss the most?

Leo writes: 'you made a point, please stop'.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Hello?

MIRIAM  
 Yeah, dinner same place. And wear  
 something nice, because I will too.

MIRIAM'S HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 I miss you so much baby, I love  
 you.

Leo dares her with her eyes.

MIRIAM  
 I love you too.

She hangs up. Leo stands and goes to a different table.

The lo-fi music returns.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. NIGHT**

Sitting far from one another. their backs asymmetrical to  
 each other. It had stopped raining.

**EXT. STREETS. NIGHT**

The fun is over now. it's all sombre and ugly.

They walk, not in the same line, both wanting to reach  
 somewhere and nowhere.

A taxi drives by.

MIRIAM  
 Taxi! Taxi.

It keeps on driving...Leo waits for her to get back to the  
 pavement.

They walk again.

**EXT. BY THE LAKE. NIGHT**

They pass the empty lakes, few people pass by. Some are doing late night sports.

**EXT. PROMENADE BY THE LAKE. NIGHT**

They walk up to a mystical sound, an old asian blind man playing an Erhu.

They sit by in front of him, while he plays. He stops to drink water. She proceeds to put some change on his plate, Leo follows to do the same.

**EXT. FOREST. NIGHT**

They walk separated by trees.

LEO  
So, we won't be speaking anymore?

MIRIAM  
we've spoken so much by now. I don't know where it's getting us.

LEO  
Unspoken feelings can be deadly.

A beat.

LEO (CONT'D)  
You wish the flight was now, don't you.

MIRIAM  
That's what you wish.

She heads to the Main Street.

LEO  
Where are you going?

MIRIAM  
Hotel, I'll take a cab. I suggest you do the same. We've had enough from one another today. It was nice meeting you Leo.

She steps away.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
No, that's a lie. It was not nice meeting you.  
(MORE)



MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 You're just, one of the endless  
 piles. I guess I'll remember this  
 feeling, maybe not your name.

**EXT. MAIN STREET. NIGHT**

Both stand far apart from one another, few cars pass by, no sight of a cab.

A cab comes, Miriam runs to it, we stay with Leo.

The taxi pulls over so that a customer exits, then immediately drives away before Miriam could reach.

She comes back disappointed.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 What an ass.

Cars pass by, time goes by. He takes out a cigarette and proceeds. Passes her one. They smoke.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 I've got an idea.

Now what?

LEO (CONT'D)  
 Hear me out. Please.

MIRIAM  
 What is it?

LEO  
 where were we before we had the  
 crisis?

This unwillingly makes her laugh.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 No, I mean it, where were we?

MIRIAM  
 The cafeteria?

LEO  
 No, before that.

MIRIAM  
 The club.

LEO  
 It's the last place we were more  
 like ourselves.

MIRIAM

That's what you think? It's where we were most unlike ourselves.

LEO

Let's go back there, at least until dawn, which is not far by the way.

MIRIAM

I don't know...it's too loud.

LEO

Not really.

MIRIAM

You must be deaf.

LEO

yeah, and you're blind.

Using their own vocabulary softens the air, a bit.

MIRIAM

No, bad idea. I don't want to go. Let's just wait here. I am sure there will be a taxi.

LEO

(complying)

Okay.

**EXT. BAR/CLUB. NIGHT**

They walk up to the entrance then onto --

LEO (V.O.)

Let's not even pass by the cafeteria please. Cursed place.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

it's got good music though.

**INT. BAR/CLUB. NIGHT**

There's A STAGE live music now where it wasn't before, and less crowded too. It feels like the same place they were at, but at the same time quite DIFFERENT.

MIRIAM

there wasn't live music before, was there?

LEO

I guess...maybe they start now?

MIRIAM  
I don't think I saw a stage when  
we--never mind.

They reach the counter and sit next to one another, elbows  
far.

Leo's trying to get the attention of the bartender but to no  
avail.

LEO  
Asshole.

She shrugs. Turns to watch the live music.

LEO (CONT'D)  
The music's nice. Are you hot? I  
mean, feeling hot.

MIRIAM  
I'm good.

LEO  
(re: bartender)  
Hey, hello?

Miriam spots two BEERS, she grabs one and pushes the other  
to Leo. They drink for a while.

LEO (CONT'D)  
You wanna dance?

MIRIAM  
People listen to this kind of  
music, they don't dance to it.

LEO  
We can dance to it. Earlier we  
didn't need music to dance.

She checks her phone, just now the battery's died.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Oops.

She looks around where to plug the charger

LEO  
No, please don't. Mine's same.

He picks his, it's 2%.

LEO (CONT'D)  
It will be off now.

He puts it on the table in between them, touching the screen  
bright whenever it goes dark, waiting for it.

MIRIAM  
Just turn it off.

LEO  
No.

He picks it up and starts taking random photos, excessively, maniacally, until it's off.

LEO (CONT'D)  
There.

She shakes her head, drinks.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Nothing's going to ruin the rest of the night.

Her attention is still at the live music.

LEO (CONT'D)  
I'll be right back.

He puts his glass and heads to men's room. She doesn't look at his direction until he's gone. We stay with her for a little while.

**INT. BAR/CLUB - MEN'S ROOM. NIGHT**

Leo stares at himself. A few drunken men pass him, one DRUNK MAN pushes him ASIDE.

Leo thinks hard. He's got an idea, he addresses the drunk man.

LEO  
Asshole, hey asshole. I am talking to you. You fucking son of a bitch.

The drunk man vomits on to the sink, then spills water on his face.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Hey.

He kicks him, the drunk man falls to the ground.

LEO (CONT'D)  
stand up you filthy fucking--

The drunk man groans and sleeps in the floor.

LEO (CONT'D)  
The hell.

Leo looks around. There's just soap, tissues, mirror and faucet.

Leo tries to pull the faucet out, it's stuck. There's only one option now.

He gets down, pretending to wash his face, then smashes his face-

**INT. BAR/CLUB . NIGHT**

Leo reappears, tissues over his bleeding nose. Head slightly lifted.

He makes his way through the crowds, Miriam is having FUN talking to another MAN, his back to him.

Leo stands there watching it unfold. They even flirt. She pokes his arm.

She looks up and finds Leo staring.

MIRIAM  
(oblivious to his bleeding)  
oh there you are. Come.

Leo proceeds, the man is the photographer they met earlier. His camera sits besides the counter and Leo's phone.

He's even drinking from Leo's glass.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Guess who I ran into...

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Hey, you okay man?

LEO  
I am fine.

MIRIAM  
I told you I wasn't on my own. (To Leo) he didn't believe we came here together. He thought I ran away on my own.

She laughs.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Which maybe I should've done.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sorry man I got your chair, and your drink. They don't seem to listen to foreigners here.

MIRIAM  
Don't they?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Here.

Photographer grabs for Leo another chair.

LEO

I'm good.

MIRIAM

Sam was telling me, was it Sam right?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Yeah, well everybody calls me Sam the photographer or just the photographer.

MIRIAM

Yeah. Well, he went to the same gallery we were trapped in today, I mean earlier today, I mean yesterday, it's past midnight.

PHOTOGRAPHER

How did you go out? It's crazy.

MIRIAM

I know. By the way you never thought of submitting any of your work to a gallery or something?

PHOTOGRAPHER

No, it's just a hobby.

LEO

(interrupting)

So why did you come here?

PHOTOGRAPHER

(Surprised)

Uh, I am here to dance, enjoy music and make friends...drink--

MIRIAM

He means this city.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Oh, just a holiday. One of my favourites. It's where I met my wife. She passed away last year. And...she was originally from here. I come here to relive what we had. It's like, I am still looking for her.

MIRIAM

Oh, I am sorry.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
that's alright. Excuse me.

Emotional, he heads to the direction of men's room, leaving behind his camera.

MIRIAM  
you don't want to sit down.

LEO  
I'd like to leave.

MIRIAM  
Why?

LEO  
It's too loud.

Miriam's look was enough an answer.

LEO (CONT'D)  
isn't it loud? crowded?

MIRIAM  
What time is it now?

Leo checks his wristwatch.

LEO  
Late. By the way I remember.

MIRIAM  
you remember what.

LEO  
The way, the way to the special place.

MIRIAM  
This is not one of your games.

LEO  
No. I remember. It's not very far from here.

MIRIAM  
Not your hotel. Remember I gave you the idea.

LEO  
(scoffs)  
No no. Let's go.

He takes his phone. Miriam grabs her bag and gives the camera one last look.

**EXT. NEON LIGHTS STREETS. NIGHT**

There's urgency in their walk.

MIRIAM  
Ugh, I got a massive headache.

LEO  
Doesn't seem like it.

She stops.

MIRIAM  
What do you mean?

LEO  
(immediately)  
I mean a minute ago you were spirited and full of life talking to Sam or whoever.

MIRIAM  
And? Do you actually hear what you're saying-

LEO  
why didn't you have a headache back then?

MIRIAM  
What are you trying to say?

LEO  
what I am trying to say is...

MIRIAM  
I was talking to the photographer and so what? We ran into one another, what's wrong with that? I talked to him about if he had any digital copies of our pictures, he said his camera doesn't-

LEO  
I don't give a damn what he said to you.

MIRIAM  
You're the one who suggested we go back-

LEO  
You don't even see, that's not the point.

MIRIAM  
what is the point?



LEO

I got hurt and you didn't even, you didn't even care. He asked if I am okay, you didn't.

MIRIAM

You didn't lose an arm. Everybody has nosebleeds.

LEO

You don't know how I got it. You don't know if I got into a fight or-

MIRIAM

Whatever happened you still came back standing on your two feet unharmed, no need to be so dramatic about it.

She walks ahead of him.

LEO

I just--I am appalled.

MIRIAM

You're appalled, you suffered blood loss that's what happened.

He's still behind her.

LEO

Is this it then? Each to their way?

She turns.

MIRIAM

I already told you, you still wanted to stick around, you're just like a child.

An OLD WOMAN passes them carrying flowers on her bicycle. She accidentally drops one small bouquet, singing and driving away unnoticed.

He grabs the bouquet from the ground. Not going to say anything.

MIRIAM

I really didn't want it to come to this.

LEO

Me neither.

He keeps the flowers to himself. She notices his genuine sadness.

MIRIAM  
 You still don't remember the way to  
 your special place?

Leo shakes his head.

LEO  
 And you knew I was making it all  
 up.

She nods. He gives her the flower.

MIRIAM  
 You're right, it's time to call  
 this all off.

LEO  
 Where will you be going?

MIRIAM  
 my special place.

LEO  
 The other side of the city?

MIRIAM  
 I've got all night.

LEO  
 Well. Goodbye then.

MIRIAM  
 I.

LEO  
 What?

MIRIAM  
 Fourth letter. I.

LEO  
 Thank you. Miri...? There's more?

MIRIAM  
 Two more letters.

LEO  
 I'll work it out. If we ever meet  
 again, I'll tell you. If we don't  
 meet-

MIRIAM  
 then it's not meant to be.

She splits the flower bouquet in two, gives him half.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 Good luck.

LEO  
You too.

He goes one way, she goes the other.

Both walk away from one another into the darkness.

**EXT. TIGHT ALLEY. NIGHT**

Leo walks on his own. The only moving being in a cold, dark empty street.

But is it? He turns? Maybe someone is following him...maybe not.

He keeps on going. Stops.

The shadows work against him, the many cars and the tightness of the buildings, the many doors and the many dark frames...

LEO  
Who's there?

Probably nobody. Or whoever is will not just reveal themselves.

He lights a cigarette, there's a semi-broken plastic chair on the other side.

He sits, cigarette trembles in his fingers, eyes worn out from a long day. He notices a SECURITY GUARD seated with his dog on the other side, both sleep.

Leo watches them. Later he hides his face with the flowers and cries. First, as quiet as he could, then groan cries erupts.

The dog stares at him.

**EXT. ALLEY. NIGHT**

Miriam is standing on a dark frame, breathing heavily, eyes moving all around the place--

TWO DRUNK TEENS resume their fight, they shout and scream.

TEEN 2  
Leave me alone. Leave me.

TEEN 1  
You leave me, me, you me.

TEEN 2  
Enough.

Teen 2 grabs an empty bronze jar and kicks teen 1 head. Teen 1 was still finding his footing when teen 2 looks at Miriam's direction.

She steps back in the dark just as. The flowers clutched in her hands.

TEEN 1

What are you looking at you dumb-?  
Idiot. Talk to me, what are you looking at?

TEEN 2

Look, (laughs) look, the flowers hanging in the air.

TEEN 1

(adding fuel to laughter)  
Flowers...hanging....flowers...

Then teen 2 unexpectedly PUKES at teen 1's face, killing the fun.

Miriam tries not to be seen, but the silence had lingered.

She pokes her head in and out and witnesses how teen 1 manages with his disorientation to grab a ROCK a few miles away, his steps are all over the place but determined.

Teen 2 was still puking on the ground when teen 1 shoves the rock down on his head.

Miriam holds her mouth, blood streams fill the area, teen 1 just stares at what he's done...then after realisation RUNS for dear life.

Teen 2 stands on his foot moments later, almost half of his head is tilted down, blood sprouting like a fountain. With rage follows up, swearing to kill him.

Miriam steps out of the shadows only when it's safe, muttering under her breath God...

She clutches the flowers in her hands intensely, watching the pool of blood and the rock.

#### **EXT. LAKE - ROCKS. EARLY MORNING**

Smoke leads to the feet of a man on the rocks, revealing Leo smoking, seated in front of the lake.

It's still completely dark, but the colours will start taking shape in the sky any moment now.

No flowers. He throws the cigarette and opens his notebook aside, lots of scribbles and scratches, most of the words start with: MIR, MI, MIRA...

He tries other variations. Next page a grid of ABC has been drawn, he mixes letters together, trying to match.

Miriam comes behind him. No flowers. There's a hint of a smile, a sense of relief. She clicks with her shoes on one of the rocks.

He's deeply focused.

She clears her throat. Still nothing from him.

She thinks about it, then walks backwards, she will leave without him noticing--

LEO  
(still on his scribbles)  
Aren't you going to sit?

Miriam freezes.

LEO (CONT'D)  
You didn't come all this way for nothing.

MIRIAM  
I came to see the sunrise.

LEO  
You're blind, you can't see sunrises.

Miriam turns, walks up to him and sits nearby.

MIRIAM  
You're right, but I can feel them. I've had enough darkness, I am ready to see what comes after it.

He scratches a few more. Writes another. She takes a look.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Wrong.

He looks at her for the first time, and lingers.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
What?

LEO  
I just want to look at you.

MIRIAM  
That's nice but my face won't spell the last two letters for you.

Frustrated he closes his notebook shut.

Both stare ahead into the moving darkness, purplish things are forming over the horizon.

LEO  
why did you come here?

MIRIAM  
I could ask you the same thing.  
That's not your special place is  
it?

LEO  
Could be? It isn't yours?

A beat.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Say it.

MIRIAM  
I can't...you're better with words.

LEO  
Me? You mock me.

MIRIAM  
Just say it and get on-

LEO  
say what-

MIRIAM  
There was no special place in the  
first place.

LEO  
speak for yourself.

She laughs in disbelief.

LEO (CONT'D)  
That's not what I thought you  
wanted me to say.

She takes his chin in her hands.

LEO (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

She touches his nose, gently then with force. Leo pulls out  
from her grip in pain.

LEO (CONT'D)  
You'll only make it worse.

MIRIAM  
(re: nose)  
Not so serious.

LEO  
Now you're asking.

MIRIAM

I am sorry, I know I am late. But I am not heartless.

LEO

And I am judging you, you think?

Miriam takes his notebook and flips the pages.

LEO (CONT'D)

what did you want me to say?

MIRIAM

Whether you followed me.

LEO

I thought you were following me.

MIRIAM

then, did you notice it too?

LEO

notice what?

MIRIAM

So you did not follow me. Or did you?

Leo's lost.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

You're not denying it.

She draws something, Leo's peeking, she's not letting him.

LEO

Where are your flowers?

MIRIAM

I get rid of them.

LEO

Okay.

MIRIAM

Not like that. I had to.

LEO

You're not going to ask where are mine?

MIRIAM

Where are your flowers?

LEO

You see, always late, late to ask--  
late to care--

MIRIAM

Where are your flowers?

LEO

Got rid of them.

MIRIAM

Bingo.

She hands him a sketch of a STANDING silhouette holding something like a ROCK, another person lies around a pool of blood.

LEO

Okay? Is this us? Do I grab a rock or you go first? Who is going to murder the other?

MIRIAM

I saw two teenagers fighting, one hit the other, thank God he isn't dead. Do you know how he got hurt? because he threw up on the other's face, and it happened because he was staring at the flowers I was holding, I was hiding in the dark and didn't realise the flowers were hanging out of the shadows. If it weren't for those flowers he wouldn't be distracted--

LEO

Why were you hiding?

MIRIAM

Because, I was afraid? I don't know, I wanted to see but not be seen.

LEO

Human's primal emotion, fear.

MIRIAM

And curiosity...what if he died?

LEO

You know what they were fighting about?

MIRIAM

No.

LEO

What do most humans fight about anyway?

MIRIAM

You know...life is hard, Leo.

(MORE)



MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Sometimes I feel glad, I feel glad mine didn't get to live to see it, all of them, deep down I know I am lying to myself, it's something I tell myself so I could sleep at night after all these years, but recently, I look at people, beyond the facade of niceties and good will, we're no better than beasts. We constructed so many things around us, pretty things, we think it will distract us from where we came from, how we were, but it's always there. It's even in me, I feel it Leo. I am not a bad person, at least I think I am not. I am really not a danger to anyone, but moments I imagine wanting to really hurt someone, really really hurt them. And the worst is, when that someone is somebody I thought I loved.

A beat, looking at the horizon, he puts his arm around her, she allows her head to rest.

LEO

The sun is about to rise.

MIRIAM

It's always on time that one.

LEO

Except in winter.

The beginnings of sunrise. A holy and magical moment. They inhale it, deeply.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

How did you get rid of your flowers?

LEO (V.O.)

I don't remember how I got rid of them.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

I don't remember too. Yeah let's tell each other that.

LEO (V.O.)

Okay.

**EXT. LAKE - ROCKS. DAY**

The sun had risen, seabirds soaring and the busy life is back.

Leo and Miriam sleep on each side of the rocks, feet to one another. The notebook pages ruffle gently with air.

The waves wake Miriam first. She watches Leo for sometime, innocent and serene, like a cute big sized baby...he snores.

MIRIAM

Oh god.

She moves and sits by his head and caresses his hair as a mother would. Then finds his ears.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

(singing softly)

Good morning, good morning, it's  
such a beautiful day. the sun is  
up, the birds are singing, the  
grass is green and the sky is  
blue--

He's smiling before opening his eyes. A moment of bliss.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Don't look at me, I am unkempt.

LEO

No, you are endlessly beautiful.

LATER

They wash their faces from the water by the rocks.

LATER

Both walk out of the rocks, he is ahead of her, helping her leap from one to the next.

**EXT. MAIN STREET. DAY**

The dreaded question, who will speak first...or where to go from this?

LEO

You were talking in your sleep.

MIRIAM

So my husband was right all this  
time.

Leo chuckles.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I dreamt I had a baby, so adorable and perfect, I smothered her until she died in my arms, and I was terrified, I woke up feeling relieved that God cursed me with an empty womb. What about you? Any dreams?

LEO

I dreamt we missed our flights and we stayed lost in this city for eternity.

Miriam chuckles.

LEO (CONT'D)

Hell isn't it?

MIRIAM

No, not hell.

A pause.

LEO

I have an idea.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. DAY**

Seated in the same corner of the first small table where they were. We could see plenty of people coming in and leaving with takeouts.

Only one table a little behind theirs is occupied by A WOMAN.

Miriam looks outside. Spots a CHILD WITH ANTIQUE CLOTHES.

**INT. CAFETERIA. DAY**

Each with their cups, they drink and stare at one another. The music emitting from the small TV above makes Miriam mumbles along under Leo's watchful eyes.

MIRIAM

(what?)

Everyone knows this song.

LEO

I can't hear it.

MIRIAM

Oh I see.

LEO

(playing victim)

deaf.

MIRIAM

It all makes sense now. Why did I have to go through all that trouble of talking?

LEO

It's always nice to try. Come on, Describe it to me.

MIRIAM

Talking?

LEO

Music.

MIRIAM

It's...music is...

She's lost for words but her eyes say it all.

LEO

Okay. Thank you.

MIRIAM

You know what I mean.

LEO

I do.

MIRIAM

Before we go I want us to do something.

Leo gives her a dirty look.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

no, not that.

LEO

You wish.

MIRIAM

You don't know half of it.

LEO

tell me.

She takes his half-picture from her bag.

MIRIAM

I will give you this back. You write something on the back of your own picture. I will do the same with mine. We swap them back. And we won't read what we've written for one another until we get home. We won't be just saving each other's picture, but our own words too.

LEO

And what if it broke my heart?

MIRIAM

Read in the bathroom, pretend you're having a shower, you can cry too. I'll do the same. When you go out, embrace your wife and play with your kids, hearts are easily mended with a little love and attention... but we have to promise each other, never destroy it.

LEO

Okay.

MIRIAM

Okay?

LEO

Okay, okay..

MIRIAM

Who goes first?

LEO

Both at the same time.

She fetches a newspaper laying on the table next to them with a pencil on top.

She takes her picture from him. They pause, looking at one another.

LEO

What are we going to write?

MIRIAM

No idea.

They both start jotting down. Hiding with one hand like primary school students behave in a test.

ANCHOR (O.S.)

...the unsolved mystery of Hart Dully and his wife Martha Dully Piers, 51 and 49 of age respectively at the time of their supposed suicide still captivate the attention of so many after a year of its occurrence. Hart dully was believed to have killed his wife first before committing suicide as both have shared a trip to (...)

Leo lifts his head and slowly turns to the TV. Miriam stops writing momentarily.

Both meet a picture of the PHOTOGRAPHER and HIS WIFE.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Hart Dully was a Tax officer before he decided to open a small studio for wedding and parties photography. Soon this became his passion and continued on expanding his talents even abroad, what had started as an amateur attempt became a professional vocation. Today, exactly a year after their two bodies were found at Sheraton, police investigations have not come yet to any--

The Cafe BARISTA switches the TV channel back to a music channel.

LATER

Transition of sunlight over them as they sit across from one another.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

Leo?

LEO (V.O.)

I am here.

LATER

He takes her picture and roll it around his cigarette, seal it with saliva and lights the cigarette and begins smoking. perhaps there were tears.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

You ever heard of the Schrödinger cat experiment? There is a cat in a box, along with something that could kill the cat, the box is closed. Is the cat dead? Or alive? Or both? One could never know for sure, until the box's open. Before you open it, the cat is both dead and alive. It's only when you open it then you'd know for sure.

She dips his picture onto the coffee, and drinks it all in one go. Perhaps there were tears too.

LATER

The magic book of answers is between them.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

You still have a question in mind?

LEO  
I am not sure.

She passes him the book. He passes it back to her.

MIRIAM  
Are we...are we going to meet  
again?

He averts his look away, bracing for impact. She opens to a page and turns it to him.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
look at the answer. Look.

LEO  
Miri, don't make me to--

MIRIAM  
Don't call me that.

LEO  
Well I don't know your name.

We read the answer with him (the answer may come to you in another language) she smiles. Then laughs. He does too. Addicting.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Unbelievable.

MIRIAM  
Was it the same we got last time?

LEO  
Was it?

She passes him the book.

MIRIAM  
Ask the same question.

He closes his eyes, opens to a random page: SAME PAGE.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
What? Oh my God. You cheated didn't  
you.

LEO  
No I swear I didn't.

They realise their voices are high. The people around them are not registering any of it.

MIRIAM  
Can they hear us?

Leo grabs a chair nearby and moves it slightly. Nearby them the MIDDLE AGED WOMAN sits reading a book and drinking tea.

She lifts her head towards them.

We see the cafeteria from her POV, there's nobody else except her.

Leo moves the chair a little ahead.

The middle aged woman lifts her head again. This time we stay with her as she sees the chair MOVES BY ITSELF.

She starts panicking.

We are back with Leo and Miriam.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
Don't do that.

Leo winks at Miriam. He stands up quietly then pushes a whole table nearby sideways.

The woman races to the exit in terror leaving the book behind.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
That was cruel. She will have a heart attack.

LEO  
Well, after the heart attack she can join us.

The barista makes it to the tables. From his POV, the table is inexplicably in disorder with the others. He proceeds to fix it.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. DAY**

A figure stands watching Leo and Miriam. He caught Leo's attention, then Miriam turns to--

**INT. CAFETERIA. DAY**

Teen 2 stands just besides the all-glass. He doesn't look drunk or hurt, he's radiant. Waves at Miriam.

She takes a moment before she waves back.

MIRIAM  
It's him.

Teen 2 walks away, turns to them one more time. Miriam stands up, Leo follows her as she heads to the door.

**EXT. CAFETERIA. DAY**

Miriam and Leo follow teen 2 onto the streets.



MIRIAM  
 Wait, wasn't the cafeteria in the  
 other side of the street? Last  
 night?

Leo tries to remember, they keep on to following Teen 2.

**EXT. STREETS - PARKS - ALLEYS. DAY**

Among the plenty crowds, Teen 2 has started to blend with the others.

They pass the bus station - the city town - onto tight alleys away from the noise.

**EXT. CEMETERY ENTRANCE. DAY**

Teen 2 can no longer be seen.

They stand at the entrance for a while, A WOMAN AND HER TWO CHILDREN in black go in, they follow them.

**EXT. CEMETERY. DAY**

A few steps later they find themselves in front of an ongoing burial.

A lot of MEMBERS in black are visibly shaken, a small picture of the smiling innocent Teen 2 hangs near flowers.

Both attend the funeral.

LATER

Only Miriam and Leo stand in front of the new tomb.

MIRIAM  
 I wonder how his friend will be  
 feeling now.

LEO  
 Where do you think ours are?

His eyes gesture to the graves.

MIRIAM  
 I guess, it happened on the way  
 here. I don't think they've found  
 us yet.

LEO  
 Do you remember the last thing you  
 did?

MIRIAM

Getting on the plane, not wanting to keep my brother on the call, pretending I am about to take off, where in truth we had a delay. I must have dreamed of all those meetings I thought I had here, it felt like a nightmare, nothing made sense. What about you?

LEO

Probably the same thing, did we sit next to each other?

MIRIAM

I don't think so. An old lady sat next to me.

LEO

Her seat has been switched.

MIRIAM

Wait, I remember going to the bathroom, before I fell asleep I felt some movements by my side.

LEO

I was told to change my seat and move two rows ahead. I was in the middle of my sleep when the flight attendant woke me up--

MIRIAM

and the next thing we know, we were looking at Art.

They stare at the graveyards.

LEO

Then, how come, how come we both talked to--

MIRIAM

That phone call? I don't know.

LEO

Perhaps they have dreamed it.

MIRIAM

The only way it seems.

LEO

Maybe not, maybe each of us did it in their own rooms. nobody's talking about a plane crash...

MIRIAM

I can't deny I haven't had that idea too.

Leo begins crying, hailing rather, like a child.

LEO

I am afraid. I am so afraid. I keep thinking, my wife and my kids, my unborn--

He finds Miriam arms who comforts him in silence. She's devastated too but she's keeping it altogether for him.

They finally get to sob, cry, express the dreadful realisation, they have been desperately trying to avoid. Looking at one another, their faces ignite in one another more desire to mourn themselves.

**EXT. CEMETERY - UP THE HILL. DAY**

They stand over a hill overlooking the city. It's all calm now.

MIRIAM

We can just stay here, this could be our new life.

LEO

No. I want to go back. I want to watch my kids grow.

MIRIAM

You don't have to be in person for that anymore.

LEO

what will you do?

MIRIAM

You watch your kids grow, I'll look for mine. All the four of them, I know I'll meet them somewhere.

LEO

We're no better than the photographer, Sam, wasn't it? Didn't he say he's still looking for his wife? How long's going to take you?

MIRIAM

I've got all the time in the world.

Leo looks down, finds the same FLOWERS they had before spread around the ground.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

I spread them around, thinking you'd find them, if you ever made it here.

LEO  
me too. That's what I thought too.

Miriam and Leo collect back the flowers. They smell them.  
Inhale them, each inhale the leaves in each one's palms.

LEO (CONT'D)  
That was our special place.

MIRIAM  
graveyards.

LEO  
Perfect date.

He places one flower near her ear, she does the same.

LATER

Overlooking the city on the hill.

LEO (CONT'D)  
A lot of people imagine that it  
would take them sometimes to get  
from A to B, there's always going  
to be a journey to enjoy, good or  
bad, but sometimes you wake up and  
you find it all changed, you  
haven't even been given the chance  
to journey, you're there, you've  
arrived, no introductions, it's all  
sudden and abrupt.

MIRIAM  
Where's heaven? And Hell?

LEO  
It's all in here.

They look at each other.

**EXT. CEMETERY GRAVEYARDS. DAY**

Descending from the cliff.

MIRIAM  
How do we get out from here, from  
all of this?

LEO  
Look for a cat. Cats know the  
answers.

MIRIAM  
Here's one.

She gestures to a FAT SLEEPING CAT. It MEOWS.

MIRIAM

I wonder how do we look to her. We  
are standing between two worlds  
now. Maybe more.

Leo caresses the sleeping cat.

Suddenly a bright cloud takes hold over Miriam's mind, as if  
she realised something amazing.

MIRIAM

Oh my god, everything's free now.  
We can eat or wear whatever we  
want.

LEO

Where do you think we should start?

Uncertainty looming.

MIRIAM

We're not going to stay together?

LEO

(afterthought)

No.

**EXT. CEMETERY ENTRANCE. DAY**

Leo and Miriam make an exit just as some THREE VISITORS  
enter at the same time, bumping onto Miriam (unknowingly)

MIRIAM

Well...have to get used to that.

LEO

(in Miriam's voice)

'Well you were standing in the  
middle of the way, what do you  
expect?'

MIRIAM

It's nice we get to keep everything  
good and bad, even  
after...everything.

FEW PEOPLE are in a hurry

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Now I know what I know, life is  
really but a dream. I wish I could  
tell them.

They look around, the people, the children.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
 I wish I could tell them so many things. Or just one thing...what would you tell them?

LEO  
 That death is rarely about the departing of the soul from the body.

They look at one another, then hug.

**EXT. 1/2 PAVEMENT. DAY**

Each toddles on a pavement separated by the street. They try not to look at one another. Both arrive at a red light stop.

They leave people behind waiting while they cross the streets alone.

LEO (CONT'D)  
 (shouting)  
 Why don't you start by telling me one thing?

MIRIAM  
 (shouting)  
 What?

LEO (CONT'D)  
 (insisting)  
 Just the one thing. Don't pretend you're deaf.

MIRIAM  
 M.

LEO  
 M?

MIRIAM  
 my fifth letter.

LEO  
 You didn't give me the fourth letter yet.

MIRIAM  
 I did.

LEO  
 you did?

MIRIAM  
 I did.

LEO  
 You didn't.

MIRIAM  
check your notebook.

LEO  
What?

MIRIAM  
Do as I say.

He takes a moment. Opens his bag, his notebook, flips nervously.

She stomps onto him, snatches the book and finds the sketch.

LEO  
The fighting scene?

MIRIAM  
The murder scene.

LEO  
and?

MIRIAM  
it's there. look closely.

LEO  
I can't see anything.

MIRIAM  
Are you sure? You don't get to be  
the blind one, you're the deaf.

Leo shoves the book very close to his eyes.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
that's not how we gain perspective.  
Check the heart.

LEO  
the heart--A?

A small a has been shaped near the heart area of the Teen 2  
body.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Me, mi-r-i-a-m. Miriam. Palindrome.

MIRIAM  
Congratulations, it took you a  
lifetime to figure it out.  
Literally.

LEO  
Wait, I kind of have said Mary at  
the beginning, isn't it just a  
variation?

He puts the book back.

MIRIAM

Yes, but nobody calls me Mary,  
well, except my sister in law. Oh  
she'd be glad when she finds out.

LEO

Push a chair or two around her. Or  
call her name.

MIRIAM

Yeah, yeah I think I might do that.

They pace together.

LEO

(excited)

oh my god, are we going to be bad  
guys?

MIRIAM

Very bad. There will be no recorded  
sins for us anymore.

LEO

That's right.

MIRIAM

Speaking of sins, I've got to  
return this.

She reveals the little blue book of magic answers.

LEO

You still remember the way to the  
library?

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Do I have to? One last time.

They put both their hands on the book and open together to a  
random page: (don't forget to have fun)

LEO

I still haven't found that paper in  
the library.

MIRIAM

Maybe it's in Alexandria.

LEO

Something tells me you'd like to  
come too.

MIRIAM

I tend to commit so many sins  
around you.

He saunters, waving at her.



LEO  
I'll be off then. If I meet you  
again I will tell you all about  
Alexandria and all the books I  
found there.

MIRIAM  
You won't find what you're looking  
for.

LEO  
Why is that?

MIRIAM  
What if what you're looking for was  
not already written, but will be  
written?

LEO  
Oh.

MIRIAM  
There's only one way to know.

She reaches his hand.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)  
take my hand.

He does.

LEO  
what about your plans?

MIRIAM  
I'd better have a witness for  
whatever I am going to be doing  
from now.

They stride, hands firmly tied together.

LEO  
Miriam, where's God?

MIRIAM  
Don't worry. We'll find about that  
too.

We ascend above them onto the infinite clouds.

**FADE OUT:**