

STAINED GLASS

by

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adapted from the short story

'STAINED GLASS'

by

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"STAINED GLASS"

FADE IN:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Stephen Campbell just sits there. The dimly lit room is suddenly the coldest, scariest place this 18 year old has ever been. Two detectives, 'Davenport' Caucasian mid-late 30's the other 'Palmer' African-American early 40's, sit opposite him. A large one-way window in the background seems to be staring at the accused trying to pick at the details in his brain.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

Glass. It captures light and glows from within. Add a little colour to it and it becomes the beautiful figurines you see in jewellery stores and gift shops. Stained Glass you see in church windows and cathedrals. Even nature creates glass by lightning strikes on sandy beaches. Sand transformed by fire. One of the great mysteries of life.

The older cop speaks to Stephen, asking him questions but Stephen's brain cannot compute. All he can focus on is this window, until suddenly he snaps back to his senses.

STEPHEN

I told you what happened. It's the truth.

PALMER

You're lying to us Campbell. Your brother is dead and his wife is missing. We know you killed them both and for that my friend you will fry.

Stephen tries to keep his cool. He doesn't want the detectives to think they are intimidating him. At this point his reactions are the only thing he can control.

STEPHEN

How many times must I repeat myself?

Palmer sits back in his seat and turns to his partner. His look is that of frustration but composure also. Davenport turns to Stephen.

DAVENPORT

We've got the rest of the night.
We ain't going no place.

Palmer sits back up and leans in on Stephen.

PALMER

Let's hear it again, this time
from the beginning and try not to
leave out any crucial details.

Stephen closed his eyes and shook his head. Taking a deep breath he began to think back to the beginning.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY (6 MONTHS AGO)

A light drizzle starts to soak through Stephen's thick dark hair as he forces back his tears. Stephen is sat in a wheelchair. He looks up from his parent's coffins and out at the gathering of mourners.

A hand rests on his shoulder. Stephen turns to look up at Olivia Campbell. A feeling of warmth engulfs his trembling body as for one moment the death of his parent's was erased from his mind, replaced with the thought of the kindest, purest and sweetest person he knew, his brother's wife.

He couldn't believe how striking she looked in the rain standing beside his parent's graves. Her red hair and green eyes seemed to brighten up the dull surroundings. Stephen had fantasised over women before but Olivia was different. Her charm and intelligence alone warranted respect and admiration.

Stephen's moment is then suddenly broken...

PRIEST

For as much as it hath pleased
almighty God of his great mercy to
take unto himself the souls of
Mary and William, we therefore
commit their bodies to the ground;
earth to earth, ashes to ashes,
dust to dust: in sure and certain

(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)

hope of the resurrection to
eternal life, through our Lord
Jesus Christ.

As the two coffins are slowly lowered into their graves
Stephen's brother Stan Campbell, mid 30's athletic build
clean shaven and well presented, begins to sob
uncontrollably. Olivia puts her arm around her husband to
console him as Stephen watches the tears of his brother
flow for the first time in his life.

INT. CAMPBELL ESTATE - DAY

The mourners are scattered throughout the main hall, dining
room and kitchen.

INT. DINING ROOM - CAMPBELL ESTATE - DAY

Stephen sits alone at a large window looking out onto the
back garden.

He is startled by the arrival of Olivia as she takes a seat
next to him. She speaks in her usual soft but confident
manner.

OLIVIA

How are you bearing up?

STEPHEN

As well as can be expected.

(beat)

How's Stan?

OLIVIA

He's OK now. I think he's upstairs
freshening up. He didn't think
today would be so tough. I guess
he was wrong.

STEPHEN

Thank you.

Olivia frowns at Stephen.

OLIVIA

For what?

STEPHEN

For just being here, for both of
(MORE)

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

us. I know I couldn't have managed this without you and it seems Stan would've struggled too.

OLIVIA

We're family Stephen. I wouldn't be anywhere else.

She gently puts a hand on Stephen's cheek and with her thumb gently rubs his face.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

If you need me at all Stephen just let me know. Remember I've been here too. I know how it feels to lose both parents.

STEPHEN

I know.

He smiles at her as she gets up and returns to the rest of the mourners. Once she has disappeared into the crowd Stephen turns his attention once again to the yard out back.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Palmer sits back in his seat as Davenport jots down some notes on his pad.

PALMER

You loved her didn't you?

Stephen seems a little taken back by the detective's direct question.

STEPHEN

Of course.

PALMER

Don't act like I've just asked you if you love your Nana. You loved her right?

STEPHEN

She was my brother's wife.

PALMER

Yeah an obstacle one might suggest.

Even though Stephen knew where this was going he couldn't make himself spill his guts on his true feelings for Olivia. It was his personal thoughts, which he chose to keep private, no matter what.

STEPHEN

Exactly what are you trying to imply?

PALMER

That you wanted her and that your brother was an obstacle, which needed removing.

Frustration surfaces within Stephen's tone.

STEPHEN

Have you even bothered to read my medical report yet?

PALMER

I've got someone looking into the report now.

STEPHEN

They're not looking hard enough!

Palmer notices Stephen's change in tone and decides to take a step back for now.

PALMER

OK let's take a break.

Palmer turns to his partner.

PALMER (CONT'D)

Frank, you wanna coffee?

DAVENPORT

You buying?

(beat)

Hell yeah.

Palmer smiles at his partner's wit then turns back to Stephen.

PALMER

Coffee? It could be a long night.

Stephen's impatience finally surfaces.

STEPHEN

Just get the damn report. This night might be shorter than you realised.

Palmer smirks at the mood swing of his suspect then heads out the room.

INT. DARK ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Palmer enters the room on the other side of the one-way window. Detective Kelly Browning acknowledges Palmer as he closes the door.

BROWNING

He's keeping his cards fairly close to his chest.

PALMER

Maybe. That med report come through yet?

BROWNING

I've just got off the phone with County Hospital now. They promised it'll be over here within the hour. What do you suppose this is all about?

PALMER

He probably has an alibi. No doubt he was with his physician when his brother fell two storeys and broke his damn neck.

BROWNING

Not very reassuring then.

Palmer looks through the window at Stephen.

PALMER

It's gotta be him.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Stephen looks up at the window as if to respond to Palmer's stare.

CUT TO:

INT. GRAHAM GREEN LAWYER FIRM - DAY

Stephen sits in his wheelchair outside the office of the Campbell family lawyer Paul Green. Julie Connor, Stephen's private aid is sat on the leather couch beside him. She casts a warm smile towards Stephen, which he reciprocates. He liked Julie and even though she was slightly overweight and twice his age he could see a mild attraction within her gentle features.

Paul Green's secretary approached them.

SECRETARY

Mr Campbell.

Stephen turned in the direction of the voice.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Mr Green will see you now.

STEPHEN

Thanks Karen.

Julie stands up from her seat and releases the brake on Stephen's wheelchair.

INT. PAUL GREEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Paul Green, a slim grey haired man in his 50's, stands to greet Stephen.

GREEN

Hi Stephen, it's good to see you again.

Stephen smiles as he enters.

STEPHEN

Hello Paul.

Stephen turns to Julie once she has stopped his chair in front of Paul's desk.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Thanks Julie.

JULIE

I'll be outside.

STEPHEN

OK this shouldn't take long.

Julie leaves the room closing the door behind her.

GREEN

How have you been?

STEPHEN

It's been tough.

GREEN

I'm sure it has. How about within yourself, how do you feel?

STEPHEN

It comes and goes. I'm having a bad day today.

Paul acknowledges this with a sympathetic smile.

GREEN

Listen, I'll get straight to the point here there's no need for you to hang around longer than need be.

Stephen nods in approval as he takes a brief look around the office noting Green's various certificates of achievement hanging on the walls as well as a photo of both Green and Stephen's dad.

Green retrieves a legal file from his drawer and places it down on his desk. He flips the file open and reaches for his glasses.

GREEN (CONT'D)

It seems that you and your brother's futures will be well taken care of.

Stephen knew how wealthy his parents were so there was no shock to hear this.

STEPHEN

Whatever they've left us won't cover the cost of our loss Paul.

Green looks up from the file at Stephen.

GREEN

No, I'm sure it won't.

STEPHEN

Sorry Paul, please continue.

GREEN

That's quite alright.

(beat)

Well basically Stephen, they have split their estate right down the middle, 50% each to both you and your brother.

STEPHEN

I suppose that was to be expected.

GREEN

That's not all.

Stephen looks on unsure of what's coming next.

GREEN (CONT'D)

Your parents have implemented a clause in their will.

STEPHEN

Which is?

GREEN

They want Stan to look after you.

Stephen shows anger in his tone.

STEPHEN

I won't hear of it.

GREEN

Please Stephen, you must hear me out.

STEPHEN

No Paul! I don't want Stan and Olivia to have the burden of putting up with me. Granted I have some good days but the bad ones are bad. Washing me, taking me to the bathroom, feeding me my dinner. They have their own lives they don't need me disrupting them. I've got Julie. She has agreed to stay on with me and the RF unit are always on hand to help out when necessary.

GREEN

I understand Stephen.
Unfortunately it's not as simple
as that. Your parents have stated
here that if either of you refuse
to adhere to their instructions
then neither of you can claim your
inheritance.

Stephen is both shocked and surprised with this revelation.

STEPHEN

This is ridiculous Paul.

GREEN

I guess it's their way of keeping
the family together. You and your
brother never really got on and I
suppose they knew that in the
event of their death both you and
your brother wouldn't find the
time to keep in touch and would
inevitably grow apart.

STEPHEN

What about Stan?

GREEN

He doesn't know. He's coming into
town this afternoon.

STEPHEN

What if I agree to this and he
doesn't?

Green sits back in his seat removing his glasses in the
process.

GREEN

Then it's simple. The whole \$240
million estate is reverted to you.

(pause)

Also, and this won't be easy for
you to hear...

Stephen's impatience interrupts Green.

STEPHEN

What is it Paul?

GREEN

Well, they've also stated that if Stan dies before you then you would receive the whole estate.

STEPHEN

That's generally how it works right?

GREEN

Well yes but in the event of you passing away before your brother then Stan doesn't get a dime.

Stephen looks disturbed by what he is hearing.

STEPHEN

Are you suggesting that my Mother and Father have taken precautions to prevent my brother offing me just to get the whole estate?

Green looks uncomfortable as he replies.

GREEN

Yes Stephen that is what I'm saying.

Stephen sighs at what has been predetermined for him here this very moment.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Julie drives with Stephen in the front passenger seat.

JULIE

You ok Stephen? You haven't said a word since leaving Paul Green's office.

Stephen looks out the passenger window for an answer. His image reflects back at him blankly.

STEPHEN

I'm fine.

Julie looks over at Stephen not convinced at her friends attempt to reassure her.

JULIE

Come on Stephen. We've been friends for six years. I'd have thought you could trust me by now.

Stephen turns towards his friend and companion.

STEPHEN

It's the will.

JULIE

What about it?

STEPHEN

I've gotta go live with Stan and Olivia.

JULIE

I think you're old enough to make your own decisions don't you?

STEPHEN

It's not as simple as that. My parents knew that if it wasn't for them me and Stan wouldn't have anything to do with each other.

Stephen turns back towards the window and his blank reflection.

STEPHEN

Ever since we were kids we've never had two words to say to one another. He'd only visit to see Mom and Dad. If it wasn't for Olivia I wouldn't even know he was at the house.

JULIE

You haven't spoken much of your brother. Why?

STEPHEN

There's nothing to talk about. I hardly know him. He's ten years older than me. When I was young he was always at the gym, playing sports with his friends. I don't think he had ten minutes with me my whole life.

JULIE

Come on Stephen surely it wasn't
as bad as that.

Stephen turns back to Julie.

STEPHEN

Oh it was, and he's not gonna be
happy when he meets with Paul this
afternoon.

JULIE

What did Mr Green say?

STEPHEN

Mom and Dad have implemented a
clause in their will, which
basically equates to the fact that
if either I or Stan don't agree to
this then neither of us get our
inheritance.

JULIE

That's a bit harsh.

STEPHEN

It's their way of keeping the
family together. But what they
don't realise is that I'll be
losing the people I've grown fond
of, you and all the guys from the
support group.

Julie rests a hand on Stephen's knee.

JULIE

Its New Hampshire isn't it?

STEPHEN

Sorry?

JULIE

New Hampshire, your brother and
his wife live in New Hampshire?

STEPHEN

Yeah.

JULIE

Well that's only a couple of hours
(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)
away in the car. I can visit you
know and the unit will keep in
touch on a regular basis.

Stephen ignores Julie's attempts at cheering him up.

JULIE
Stephen, what is it? There's
something else isn't there?

Stephen turns back to Julie.

STEPHEN
If I die due to Stan's negligence
towards me then he loses
everything.

JULIE
My god.

STEPHEN
It's just the thought that they
considered this to be a
possibility.

Julie immediately tries to reassure Stephen.

JULIE
It is their will Stephen. They
have to cover every eventuality.
They would've been legally advised
to insert this clause based on
your condition, I'm sure of it.

STEPHEN
Yeah but the chance my brother
might let me die so that he
wouldn't have to look after me
anymore sends a shiver down my
spine.

JULIE
This is a tough job Stephen I'm
sure I don't need to spell it out
for you. Your Mom knows the impact
this could have on your brother's
life.

STEPHEN
I suppose.

JULIE

I really wouldn't dwell on it too much. Most of what's written in your parent's will probably didn't come from their mouths but from a team of pencil neck lawyers.

Stephen manages to raise a little smile.

STEPHEN

I'll miss you Julie.

JULIE

Don't go all soft on me now. Besides this isn't the end. It'll take more than a few hours drive to get rid of me.

EXT. THE CAMPBELL ESTATE - DAY

Julie pushes Stephen in his wheelchair towards a black limo, the driver loads the boot with Stephen's belongings.

JULIE

Now I've made all the arrangements at the CCU. They'll make two weekly calls to your brother's to make sure all is well. They'll keep your file updated and supply the necessary medicine based on their evaluations of your progress. I've referred your case to Dr Gates at the New Hampshire Hospital. He's one of the best cardiologists in the area. The CCU will also keep him updated with your status. I'll try and get over to see you as soon as you've settled in.

STEPHEN

That might be months away.

JULIE

I know but I've got to at least give Olivia the chance to connect with you. I'm sure she'll do a grand job.

They stop at the limo door.

STEPHEN

I can't believe she's willing to take on the responsibility.

JULIE

Like you said, she doesn't have to work anymore, besides she used to work in a nursing home so has a little experience.

Stephen looks at his friend and laughs.

STEPHEN

You calling me senile?

Julie laughs back.

JULIE

Me? I can't believe you'd think such a thing.

Julie bends down in front of Stephen.

STEPHEN

I'll never forget you and everything you have done for me.

A tear freely falls down Julie's cheek.

JULIE

I won't let you.

She gently reaches out to hug Stephen. They embrace.

STEPHEN

Thank you. Thanks for everything.

INT. LIMO (MOVING) - DAY

Stephen looks out at the family estate for the last time as the 'For Sale' sign falls away in the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO (MOVING) - DAY

Stephen takes in the sites of a new rural surrounding. Up ahead he can see what looks like a converted barn.

The limo approaches a long drive which leads up to the front of the house.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Stan and Olivia come out of the house and down the steps of a large porch as the limo turns into the drive at the front of the house.

INT. LIMO (MOVING) - DAY

Stephen looks up and notices the barn standing alone with no other property for what seems like miles around. A backdrop of woods adds to the beauty of the house's surroundings.

His eyes are then suddenly attracted to a beautiful arched stained glass window high up on the second floor of the barn, where the delivery hatch once was. A green mosaic flower design crawled its way around the edge of the window. The glass reflects in the sunlight as the limo pulls round to stop outside the barn.

The car door opens and Olivia pokes her head inside the door.

OLIVIA

Hi Stephen, welcome to your new home.

Stephen smiles at the warm and friendly Olivia.

STEPHEN

Hey Olivia.

INT. HALL - BARN - DAY

The door to the house opens up as Olivia pushes Stephen into the hallway. The modern conversion job on the barn stands out as soon as Stephen enters the hall. From the road it just looked like an old barn except for the stained glass window but inside everything smells fresh and new.

Stan brings up the rear carrying Stephen's suit cases.

STEPHEN

The house looks great.

OLIVIA

Thanks. We finished it about 2 months ago we're happy here.

STEPHEN

Can I just say I appreciate everything you've done in preparation of my moving in.

OLIVIA

It's the least we could do.

Stan walks past both Olivia and Stephen muttering sarcastically under his breath.

STAN

Yeah, the least we could do.

Olivia acknowledges Stan's cold remark.

OLIVIA

Take no notice of him he's still coming to terms with losing his Mom and Dad.

STEPHEN

Our Mom and Dad.

Olivia places a gentle hand on Stephen's shoulder.

OLIVIA

Of course.

(beat)

Let me show you to your room.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - DAY

Stephen enters his room as Stan is placing his suitcases on the bed.

The room is very spacious and adequate for Stephen's needs. There is a brand new computer desk and pc to the left, a large TV and surround sound system by the wall nearest them and an en-suite just off to the right.

All the furniture is decked out in solid antique oak with original floorboards sanded down and varnished.

On his way out Stan mutters again..

STAN

Welcome Stephen.

STEPHEN

Thanks Stan.

Stephen looks up at Olivia who looks back at him with a slightly embarrassed look.

OLIVIA

Ignore him he'll come round.

(beat)

What do you think of the room?

STEPHEN

I love it.

OLIVIA

What about the computer? It's the best on the market you know.

STEPHEN

It's lovely, although I don't know how often I'll get to use it. Sometimes my hands are ok and I can have a good hour on it sometimes I can only manage five minutes.

OLIVIA

Five minutes is five minutes none-the-less.

The feeling of attraction and warmth makes Stephen's body tingle.

STEPHEN

I never got the chance to say thanks, you know in person.

OLIVIA

Thanks for what? All this? He is your brother.

STEPHEN

I meant you Olivia. You've given up everything for me, your job, your life, everything.

OLIVIA

What can I say? I'm fond of you Stephen you know that and I'll do anything I can to help Stan and his family.

STEPHEN

Even when it means giving up everything?

Stephen didn't want to think that Olivia had only agreed to this for the money so immediately pushed the thought to the back of his mind.

OLIVIA

This world does have it's kindness
in places. We're not all killers,
robbers or drug dealers.

Stephen smiled at Olivia's wit it reminded him of Julie and home.

STEPHEN

Thanks again.

OLIVIA

Look why don't I leave you alone
for five minutes. Let you take in
your new surroundings.

Olivia pushed Stephen over to the computer desk. On top of the desk was a leather case.

OLIVIA

That's all your personal items
from home. Give me a shout if you
need anything.

She leaves the room and with it a fragrance of beauty.

Stephen slowly reaches for the leather case and unzips it. From inside the case he removes a wallet of photos, which he opens up.

He begins sifting through the pictures of himself with his mother and father, of Julie and his friends at the support group.

A tear trickles down his face and drops onto the picture of his parents.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - MORNING

The room is dark except for a few rays of sun trying to creep into the room through the closed blinds.

Stephen is lying awake in bed. Suddenly the door opens and Olivia walks in.

OLIVIA

Morning, how are you feeling?

STEPHEN

Morning, I'm ok I had a good night. The drugs seem to be working fairly well at the moment.

Olivia walks over to the blind and opens them up allowing the bright morning sun to engulf the room.

OLIVIA

Are you going to need a hand to get ready?

Stephen always knew if he was to have a good day or a bad one. He knew today would be one of those good days. However he couldn't help himself...

STEPHEN

If you wouldn't mind.

OLIVIA

No problem, that's what I'm here for after all.

(pause)

Stan's cooking eggs. After breakfast we'll show you around, maybe get some fresh air?

STEPHEN

Sounds good.

Olivia moves over to Stephen's bed and pulls back the bed clothes.

OLIVIA

Let's get you up.

She puts both arms under Stephen's armpits.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

After three.

Both Olivia and Stephen count simultaneously.

OLIVIA/STEPHEN

1, 2, 3...

Olivia pulls Stephen up towards her chest. Stephen's heart begins to pound as he feels her breasts against the side of his face. A look of embarrassment then suddenly interrupts his daydream when he notices Olivia looking at him.

OLIVIA
You ok Stephen?

STEPHEN
Sure, it's just a little strange
getting used to someone else.

OLIVIA
It must be hard. Your Mom and
Julie did a good job, I'll do my
very best to help you.

STEPHEN
Oh I don't doubt that for a
second. It's just that transition
period. You'll just have to bear
with me.

OLIVIA
Of course.

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - DAY

Stan dishes up breakfast, Olivia and Stephen are seated at
the table.

STAN
How are you today Stephen? Mom
said that one day you'd be fine
the next the complete opposite.

STEPHEN
It's not as clean cut as that. I'm
always in pain it's just that some
days I can cope with it.

Stan brings the breakfast over to the breakfast table.

STAN
Well hopefully this will get you
in good stead for today.

Olivia smiles at Stan glad to see him making an effort with
his younger brother.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - MORNING

Stan is making his way up the stairs. Olivia is at the
bottom with Stephen.

OLIVIA
Can you manage?

Stephen grabs the banister against the wall with his right hand. The left hand side of the staircase has no banister.

STEPHEN
I'll be fine.

OLIVIA
We had this banister put in for you.

STEPHEN
I appreciate it although I doubt I'll be coming up here that often.

With a deep breath Stephen begins his ascent up the stairs but after only a couple of steps he needs Olivia's help to climb the rest of the way.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - BARN - MORNING

At the top of the stairs Olivia can see that Stephen is a little tired so directs him down the hallway by holding onto his arm.

Stan has already disappeared into his room.

They approach the first room on the landing.

OLIVIA
This is a spare room we don't get many guests, but it's here in case.

Olivia opens the door and Stephen walks in. The room isn't much different from his room. There is a bed next to a wardrobe and a chest of drawers by the window.

STEPHEN
Maybe Julie can stay over when she visits.

OLIVIA
Sure that'll be nice.

They leave the room and carry on down the hallway.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Here is our guest's bathroom, not very fascinating.

She opens the door and Stephen just glances in.

STEPHEN

Nice.

OLIVIA

And this is mine and Stan's room.

The bedroom door is open at the end of the corridor. The sun is casting a large arched shaped pattern on the varnished wooden floor.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - MORNING

As Stephen walked in the first thing he noticed was the stained glass window on the far right of the room. He'd forgotten all about this window from when he arrived but its beauty was immediately recognisable. The mosaic design reflected a thin shadow within the arched shaped pattern on the floor.

Stephen slowly approaches the window.

STEPHEN

I love this window. I noticed it
when I pulled up outside
yesterday.

He notices his reflection in the glass. The mosaic design causes a disfiguration to his image.

Stan suddenly appears from an en-suite to the left of the room startling Stephen.

STAN

I'd hope so the damn thing cost
enough.

OLIVIA

Don't Stan I love this window.

STEPHEN

It's great, besides what are you
worried about money for?

Stan's attitude changed as if he was just waiting for an angle.

STAN

That's Mom and Dad's money. I
don't want anything to do with it.

STEPHEN

Then why am I here?

STAN

It's what they wanted.

STEPHEN

Oh right so you're not doing this
for me then?

Stan walked over to the only other clear glass window in
the room.

STAN

Damn right.

Olivia interrupted...

OLIVIA

Stan. Please don't go down this
road. I thought we'd agreed to put
all this behind us? Besides you're
gonna need that money now that
I've given up my job to take care
of Stephen.

Stan turned and stormed out of the room.

STAN

Whatever Liv, since when have I
had a say in what goes on around
here anyway?

Olivia looked at Stephen whose head was lowered. She put
her hand under his chin and gently lifted his head up so
that she could look into his eyes.

OLIVIA

Don't listen to him. He's always
had a problem coping with change.

STEPHEN

I'll try not to but it's hard
living with someone who doesn't
want you.

OLIVIA

Leave him to me.

She leant forward and kissed him on the cheek.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

The room is mostly in darkness. Stephen is at his desk the light from the monitor the only light in the room.

Stephen types slowly on his keyboard. In front of him is a network messenger service. He types the following:

"Stephen says...

The house is lovely and Olivia is great. I think Stan resents my being here."

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie sits at a desk in a small but comfortable den. She reads Stephen's message before replying.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

After a couple of seconds a reply appears on Stephen's screen.

"Julie says...

I'm sure it'll be fine Stephen. You'll probably find he'll come around after a few days.

Tell me more about Olivia."

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen is lying on top of his bed covers the lights are out. The moonlight casts a gaze of light into the room.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

She's everything anyone could want in a woman. She's beautiful, intelligent, clever. She's the only girl I've ever been around who can see past my disability. See me for someone other than a weak pathetic fool. Stan doesn't appreciate her, I do.

At that moment Stephen's thoughts were broken with a loud murmur. He tried to listen harder.

The murmur grew louder he could make out Olivia's tone. She seemed to be enjoying herself. Then Stan began to get excited. The sound of their passion grew louder and more intense.

Stephen closed his eyes turned over on his side and tried to go to sleep.

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - DAY

Stephen and Olivia are seated around the table playing cards. They are laughing and joking. Stephen begins to slowly deal the cards. Olivia gets up from the table and retrieves a digital camera from a nearby cabinet. She sits back down next to Stephen and holds the camera up in front of them both to take a picture.

OLIVIA
Say cheese!

Both smile at the camera as Olivia takes the picture.

The sound of the front door opening then closing can be heard.

Stan then enters the kitchen with his leather case in his hand. He notices their laughter and enjoyment and decides to place the case in the middle of the table.

OLIVIA
Stan we're playing cards.

STAN
Sorry.

Stan returns to the table and removes the case.

OLIVIA
Good day at school honey?

STAN
Would've been if it wasn't for the regular brats who try to ruin a decent lesson.

Olivia retorts...

OLIVIA
Ah, won't the bigger boys play nice?

Both Olivia and Stephen chuckle at her comment. Stan grabs a beer from the fridge and heads back out the kitchen door.

STAN

I'm in no mood for jokes Liv.

Olivia looks at Stephen and pulls a face mocking Stan's last sentence.

They both laugh quietly.

EXT. PORCH - BARN - NIGHT

Stan sits in a seat suspended from the roof of the porch. He takes a swig of his beer as he gently swings back and forth. Olivia appears pulling a thick woolly cardigan around herself.

She's carrying two beers in her hand and holds one out to Stan.

OLIVIA

Peace offering?

STAN

It shouldn't be you coming to me I should be coming to you. After all I snapped your head off not the other way around.

OLIVIA

Here have another beer.

Stan takes the beer from his wife.

STAN

You trying to get me drunk Mrs Campbell?

OLIVIA

I don't need to get you drunk.

STAN

Damn right there.

Olivia takes a seat next to Stan they continue to swing gently back and forth.

OLIVIA

About Stephen.

STAN

Look I know what you're gonna say.
I'm being too hard on him right?

OLIVIA

Well yeah that was one of the
things.

STAN

I'm sorry Liv but I can't help but
feel he pushed Mom and Dad into an
early grave.

OLIVIA

Stan, they died in a car crash.

STAN

Yeah but they were speeding
weren't they, trying to get home
to Stephen because he was having
an attack. All they were trying to
do was have a night out, one night
off.

OLIVIA

It was Julie's night off, the
stand in nurse wasn't prepared for
Stephen's fit. It's not one of his
symptoms. She got scared called
the ambulance then your Mom and
Dad...

Stan interrupts abruptly...

STAN

I know what happened you don't
have to relive it for me.

OLIVIA

Sorry.

STAN

Damn Liv stop saying sorry. None
of this is your fault, none of it.
And now you've given up your job,
your life to look after my
brother. How do you think that
makes me feel?

OLIVIA

I'm doing this for me not just for
(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

you. I'm very fond of Stephen. I wouldn't let him be palmed off outside of the family when I'm fully capable of looking after him myself.

Stan takes his wife's hand and puts it to his mouth. He gently kisses it.

STAN

You are a good woman. Sometimes I don't deserve you.

Olivia moves Stan's hand up to her lips and kisses him back.

OLIVIA

You're a good man Stan. If you weren't, you would've seen your brother passed off outside the family.

Stan replies jokingly...

STAN

Anyone would think you were in it only for a few mil.

Olivia returns the joke.

OLIVIA

Mr Campbell are you suggesting I only married you for your inheritance?

Stan smiles.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Well maybe for only a couple of hundred thousand.

They both look at each other smile then hug. Stan starts to kiss Olivia on the neck. He slowly moves around to her lips they begin to kiss.

Suddenly Olivia's beeper goes off. She unclips it from her belt and looks at Stan.

OLIVIA

I'd better go. He probably needs
me to help him into bed.

She gets up and enters the barn. Stan looks out over the
front lawn and in frustration throws his empty bottle into
the darkness of the night.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen is seated in front of his PC. He types a reply to
an instant message he'd just received.

"Stephan says...

Things seem to be changing here."

"Julie says...

In what way?"

"Stephen says...

It's Stan. He doesn't want me
here. He's kinda changing into
this bitter person."

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie sits alone at her desk. She reads Stephen's message.
Without hesitation she replies to reassure Stephen that all
is well.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Stephen reads Julie's reply.

"Julie says...

He's just struggling to adapt to
having you around. He'll be OK."

"Stephen says...

He scares me."

"Julie says...

In what way?"

"Stephen says...

I'm not sure he just has this evil look about him sometimes like he could cave my head in any minute."

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie seems a little taken back by Stephen's comments and begins to type.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Stephen reads Julie's reply.

"Julie says...

I don't know Stan very well but what I do know is that he would never raise a hand to you Stephen. You have nothing to worry about."

Stephen looks up from his monitor. A look of uncertainty etched on his face.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - EARLY EVENING

Olivia and Stephen are sat on Stephen's bed facing towards the TV. Both are laughing hysterically at a rerun of an early 'Laurel and Hardy' episode.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - EARLY EVENING

The front door opens as Stan steps in from work carrying his leather case. He immediately looks in the direction of Stephen's room as the sound of laughter fills the house.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - EARLY EVENING

Stephen is now laughing so hard that he slumps against Olivia's shoulder. Olivia continues to laugh at the TV.

Stephen's bedroom door is open enough to see out into the hallway.

Olivia, still laughing out loud, tries to sit Stephen up.

OLIVIA
Let's get you up.

She holds Stephen's shoulders and sits him upright.

STEPHEN
(still laughing)
It's OK. I'm alright.

They both make eye contact. Stephen reads the moment wrong and leans forward kissing Olivia on the lips. Olivia immediately pulls back.

OLIVIA
(surprised)
What was that?

Stephen looks embarrassed as he replies.

STEPHEN
Sorry Olivia, I just got a little
caught up in the fun.

Olivia smiles.

OLIVIA
That's OK. It's not everyday a
handsome young man kisses me you
know.

They both smile at each other and turn back towards the telly. Stephen chuckles at the next scene from 'Laurel and Hardy'. As Olivia turns she catches a glimpse of something through the gap of the door.

She's startled somewhat to see Stan looking at her through the gap in the door. He doesn't say a word he just stares at her through the door his eyes fixated on her.

Olivia manages not to let on Stan's presence. Stan turns and walks away from the door.

INT. DINING ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan, Olivia and Stephen sit around the dining table. Olivia is helping Stephen cut his meat.

STAN
Can you get a nurse to look after
Stephen tomorrow night?

Both Stephen and Olivia look up at Stan surprised at his question.

OLIVIA

Tomorrow? Why?

STAN

Yes and because we have a function to go to which I'd very much appreciate you being there.

Olivia looks at Stephen.

OLIVIA

But what about Stephen?

Stephen interrupts quickly pretending he is OK with the situation when really he's not.

STEPHEN

That's fine Olivia. I've been OK over the last couple of days. I'll probably be good tomorrow.

STAN

See he'll be fine. You can call your old work and maybe get Carol or someone to come over. They owe you a favour for all the help you've given them.

OLIVIA

I don't know Stan. I know how to handle Stephen's condition. The girls aren't familiar with his case.

Stan slams his knife and fork down and looks at Olivia.

STAN

Damn Olivia! We haven't been out together for months. All I'm asking for is one night. The Dean has invited us to a party at his place. A lot of important people will be there. If I want to make tenure then I have to be there and how would it look if my wife couldn't find the time to join me?

Olivia looks back at Stephen who just looks down and continues with his meal.

OLIVIA

I suppose it'll be OK. I'll call Gloria in the morning see if she can spare someone for tomorrow night.

STAN

Good.

Stan finishes the last mouthful from his plate and leaves the table.

STAN

I'm gonna take a shower.

Stan leaves the room. Olivia turns back to Stephen.

OLIVIA

You sure you're OK with this?

STEPHEN

Yeah.

There is uncertainty in Stephen's eyes.

OLIVIA

You don't look certain.

STEPHEN

I just enjoy the things I like and that includes spending time with you. I didn't think I'd find anyone like Julie but I have. I've found someone who's intelligent, beautiful and who likes me and who I am. Now I have to spend a night with someone I don't know from Adam.

OLIVIA

It's only one night and besides I thought you said you were alright with this?

Stephen continues to eat.

STEPHEN

I'll say anything to keep Stan happy.

OLIVIA

And I have to be there for Stan
when he needs me too.

Stephen stops eating and turns to Olivia.

STEPHEN

You misunderstand me.

OLIVIA

How do you mean? Is there
something wrong with Stan?

Stephen decides to keep his thoughts to himself, the time
was not right.

STEPHEN

Never mind. You go out tomorrow.
Have some fun.

Olivia smiles at Stephen. The texture of her skin and the
inner beauty which forces itself from her captivates
Stephen as he smiles back.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - NIGHT

The doorbell rings. Stan opens the door welcoming Carol
Green into the house. Carol is in her mid-forties, plump
looking with a stern face.

STAN

Ah Carol, so glad you could make
it. Please come in.

CAROL

Evening Stan.

Olivia reaches the bottom of the stairs as Carol steps into
the hallway. Olivia is dressed in a long black gown which
hangs exquisitely from her toned, curvy figure.

CAROL

My Olivia, you scrub up well.

Olivia smiles at her old friend.

OLIVIA

Why thank you Carol and how are
you?

Olivia takes Carol's hand and leads her into the house.

CAROL

I'm fine. We miss you at work.
Miss the laughs.

OLIVIA

I miss you all too. Come on, come
with me I'll introduce you to
Stephen.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - EVENING

Stephen is watching TV when Olivia and Carol step into the
room.

Stephen looks up at them as they enter.

OLIVIA

Stephen, I want you to meet Carol.
She's an old friend from work.

CAROL

(retorts)
Hey less of the old.

Both girls laugh as they turn back towards Stephen who says
nothing. He looks back at the TV in an almost sulking like
manner.

OLIVIA

Stephen this is Carol.

STEPHEN

I told you I felt alright tonight.
I don't need a babysitter.

For the first time Olivia shows a little anger towards
Stephen.

OLIVIA

This is a friend of mine Stephen
and I'd appreciate it if you
showed her some common courtesy.

Stephen reluctantly looks back up at Carol.

STEPHEN

(sarcastically)
Hello.

CAROL

Hello Stephen. I've heard a lot
about you.

Again Stephen turns back toward the TV.

OLIVIA

Oh ignore him he's been like a bear with a sore head all day.

Olivia guides Carol out the door looking over her shoulder at Stephen who in turn is looking at her.

STEPHEN

You look beautiful.

Olivia smiles at Stephen as she leaves the room.

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - NIGHT

Stan holds Olivia's coat up as she pushes her arms through the sleeves. Stan then lifts the coat up onto her shoulders and gently kisses her neck.

OLIVIA

Right Carol, our cell numbers are in the phone book on the phone stand. Stephen's meds are on the work surface with the required dosage and erm...

CAROL

I'll be fine I have done this before.

Olivia smiles.

OLIVIA

Of course you have. I'm just being...

Stan interrupts her...

STAN

Over protective, now come on otherwise we'll be late.

Stan moves Olivia towards the door.

CAROL

Have a good night.

INT. DEAN'S PARTY - NIGHT

The party is in full swing. Stan is in deep conversation with some colleagues whilst Olivia is in conversation with Mark Stein a slightly drunk overweight fifty-something who is also a Psych professor at Stan's school.

OLIVIA

It's going fine. I mean Stan loves his work and that's the main thing. I'm happy at home and have my time taken up looking after Stephen.

The drunken man speaks. He clearly hasn't been listening to a word Olivia has said.

MARK

And Stephen is who?

OLIVIA

The boy I look after, Stan's younger brother.

Mark leans in on Olivia's shoulder the smell of booze and cigarettes repulses her.

MARK

Will you look after me?

Olivia slowly slides away from his leaning head. He smiles at her acknowledging that he may have over stepped the mark. However it doesn't stop him.

MARK

So how long have you and Stan been married?

By now Stan has noticed Mark advances towards his wife. But in favour of not causing a scene he holds back expecting Olivia to walk away.

OLIVIA

5 years.

MARK

Are you happy?

Olivia looks stunned with this question.

OLIVIA

That's a little personal don't you think?

MARK

That's a big fat 'no' then.

Mark takes another swig of his wine. He trips over his own feet falling against Olivia who falls back against the wall. The wall prevents both Olivia and Mark falling to the floor.

Stan looks on.

Olivia pushes Mark back up to his feet. Mark takes in a deep breath through his nose.

MARK

Hmmm, you smell good.

Olivia retorts under her breath...

OLIVIA

Pity I can't repay the compliment.

MARK

Sorry, you say something?

OLIVIA

I think it's time I got going.

Olivia looks over at Stan and inches her head towards the door. She mouths the words 'Let's go'.

Stan ignores her and continues to talk to his group of colleagues.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen sits at his PC. He slowly taps at the keyboard. There's a gentle knock on the door. Carol pokes her head in.

CAROL

I'm just popping to the kitchen
Stephen. Can I get you anything?

Stephen ignores her.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Stephen?

Stephen replies without turning in the nurse's direction.

STEPHEN

I'm busy.

Carol tries to ignore Stephen's attitude and asks him again.

CAROL

Are you sure? Because it's no bother.

Stephen ignores her again. All he can think about is Olivia.

Carol slowly backs away from the doorway and turns to head up the hallway towards the kitchen.

Stephen clicks the button on his mouse bringing his monitor back to life. On the screen is the photo Olivia took of them both when they were playing cards.

Stephen gently touches Olivia's face with his finger.

Suddenly he hears the front door open and close. He quickly switches off his monitor. He didn't notice at first but he can now make out an angry tone coming from Stan.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - NIGHT

Stan removes his coat and throws it across the hall in a heap under the coat rack. Olivia is immediately startled by his actions.

STAN

The most important night of my life and you had to hang all over the Psych professor.

OLIVIA

I did not hang all over him. He was drunk. He could barely walk. I was just something to lean on so he wouldn't fall down.

Olivia begins to remove her own coat as Carol comes towards them from the kitchen. She has already put her coat on and is ready to leave.

She uncomfortably approaches Olivia and kisses her gently on the cheek.

CAROL

I think I'd better be off.

Olivia diverts her thoughts away from Stan for a minute to ask after Stephen.

OLIVIA

How was Stephen?

CAROL

OK I guess, he never said more than two words to me so I suppose you'd better check with him. Anyway I better be off.

Carol hastily walks towards the door and opens it.

OLIVIA

Bye Carol, thanks.

Carol shuts the door quickly as her footsteps can be heard leaving the porch.

STAN

That little brat. I swear he wants to ruin my life just because his is a fucking mess.

OLIVIA

Stan don't talk that way about your brother.

STAN

OK let's not get off the beaten track here. Don't think I've forgotten about your boyfriend at the Dean's party.

Olivia is tired and in no mood for an argument.

OLIVIA

Oh come on Stan don't over react.

Stan begins to boil up inside. A drunken rage begins to surface.

STAN

Over react? You couldn't walk away? Let him "lean" on someone else.

OLIVIA

I tried. He kept holding on to my arm. I didn't want to make a scene.

STAN

Well, you didn't succeed in that venture. Everyone was looking at the two of you. Everyone. I know what they were thinking. "Poor Stan!" and "Look at Olivia, flaunting her affair with Mark right here in front of Stan". It was embarrassing.

OLIVIA

Well, you could have come over and rescued me from him. You just stood over there, glaring at the two of us. I would have welcomed your help.

Stan's anger is now in full swing.

STAN

Yeah, you looked like it. The two of you really looked like you needed rescuing. A room is what you needed. Why didn't you just go upstairs and borrow one of the Dean's bedrooms?

OLIVIA

Stop being ridiculous. You know there's nothing going on between Mark and me. You're just being stupid. You've had too much to drink. I'm going to bed.

Olivia turns to walk away from Stan but he grabs her arm, turning her back to face him. He pulls her close to him.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen leans forward to hear what Stan is saying. He turns to the gap in the doorway where Carol was offering him a drink not 5 minutes ago.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - NIGHT

Suddenly, Stan lets go of her arm, draws back his hand and slaps her full pelt in the face with the back of his hand.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

The sound is like a gunshot. A look of horror engulfs Stephen's face when he sees Olivia's face hit the floor, through the gap in his door. Her hand goes up to her face as she lets out a scream.

A look of hatred comes across Stephen's face as Stan comes into view. Stan grins at Stephen through the gap in the door, steps over Olivia's sobbing body and off towards the kitchen.

Stephen hears the door slam. Olivia slowly moves her hand from her face and looks up at Stephen who looks useless in his wheelchair. She sobs in embarrassment as a tear falls down Stephen's cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Stephen is visibly shaken as he reaches this part of the story.

STEPHEN

From this point I started noticing loud noises coming from their room almost every night now. Fighting noises. Glass being broken, shuffling, yelling, crying. The second time I heard it I tried talking to Olivia the next morning, but she refused to speak about it. She hugged me briefly and I noticed the bruises on her arm. What could I, a weak, sickly, 18 year old do against my healthy older brother?

PALMER

Why didn't you come to us?

STEPHEN

Don't you understand? She was

(MORE)

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
embarrassed. She was a strong
intelligent woman who didn't want
to believe that she had become the
target of something she's always
felt strongly about in the past.

PALMER
So what happened next?

STEPHEN
Then she found out that she was
pregnant.

PALMER
Pregnant?

Stephen nodded.

PALMER (CONT'D)
Then what?

STEPHEN
The beatings continued.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - MORNING

Stephen and Olivia are eating breakfast together. Stan has
already left for work.

Olivia has her head inches from her bowl. She hasn't said a
word all morning.

STEPHEN
You OK?

Olivia begins to cry. Stephen puts an arm around her
shoulder.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
Please don't cry Liv. I hate to
see you cry.

OLIVIA
(head lowered)
You don't understand.

STEPHEN
What's there to understand? He
(MORE)

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
beats you and I can't do anything
about it other than go to the
police.

Panic sets in across Olivia's face. She looks up at
Stephen.

OLIVIA
You can't go to the police. You
promised you wouldn't. Please
don't go to them Stephen. Please I
couldn't bear it. Please promise
me you won't go.

STEPHEN
But Liv you can't go on taking
this punishment any longer.

OLIVIA
It'll stop soon anyway.

STEPHEN
Stop?

That embarrassed smile appears on Olivia's face again.

OLIVIA
I'm pregnant.

Stephen is physically shocked by this revelation.

STEPHEN
Pregnant?

Olivia tries to look pleased but deep down she knows she's
not happy in her relationship anymore and that she'll be
raising a child in an environment no woman should ever have
to experience.

OLIVIA
That's right, pregnant. And even
Stan won't try anything on when he
finds out.

STEPHEN
You mean you haven't told him?

OLIVIA
No not yet.

STEPHEN

Why? You really think he'll stop knocking you around when he discovers you're carrying his child?

OLIVIA

You don't think he will?

STEPHEN

His drinking has gotten worse Liv. If I've noticed that then I'm sure as hell you have.

Olivia turns back to her breakfast, she starts to sob.

OLIVIA

Surely he won't continue when he finds out.

STEPHEN

Look, all I know is that the sooner you tell him the better. If he finds out that I know then it'll be me he turns on.

Olivia looks back at Stephen angrily.

OLIVIA

Is this what it's all about then you? You want me to tell him to keep you outta his path?

STEPHEN

That's not what I meant and you know it. I love you Liv I don't want anything to happen to you and the sooner it all stops the better.

They both hug each other. Olivia gently kisses him on the cheek.

OLIVIA

I love you too.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen is lying in bed his light is on. Olivia walks into his room.

STEPHEN

Hey.

OLIVIA

Hey. I'm going up to bed now is there anything I can get you before I go up?

STEPHEN

No thanks.

OLIVIA

OK goodnight Stephen.

She turns to leave the room.

STEPHEN

Have you told him yet?

Olivia stops in her tracks, turns and shakes her head.

OLIVIA

No.

STEPHEN

Why? You can't risk him hitting you in your condition.

OLIVIA

He left work early today. He's already worked his way through a quarter bottle of JD, I can't risk upsetting him.

STEPHEN

How do you mean? He's always wanted children hasn't he?

Olivia seems irritated at Stephen's persistence.

OLIVIA

I'll tell him in my own time just let it lie.

She turns and heads for the door. She turns off the light and shuts the door behind her.

A few seconds pass...

The door opens again and Stephen turns towards the light from the hallway expecting to see Olivia and hopefully making up from their little disagreement.

The light comes on to show Stan standing in the doorway. He has a glass of Jack Daniels in one hand and a piece of paper in the other.

He seems to be looking for a fight. He heads towards Stephen's bed, Stephen looks physically scared.

STAN

You not content with your own
fucked up life that you have to
drag me down with you?

STEPHEN

I don't know what you mean Stan.

Without hesitation Stan slams the glass against the wall behind Stephen's bed. Stephen flinches in horror as the glass smashes into tiny fragments cascading down to the floor.

STAN

You want my wife don't you.

STEPHEN

Please Stan I don't know what this
is all about.

STAN

It's about you wanting to fuck my
wife. Tell me I'm wrong you little
prick.

Stephen begins to plead.

STEPHEN

Please Stan don't do this. Take a
look at me why would I try
anything on with Liv, why would
she be interested in me at all for
that matter.

Stan throws the piece of paper onto Stephen's bed. Stephen looks at the picture Olivia took of her and Stephen playing cards. The smiles on their faces reminded Stephen of happy times, which now seemed so long ago.

STAN

Found this on your PC. What I
didn't understand was where were
all the other photos from the
memory card? All I could see was
this picture.

Stephen shows a little anger in his reply.

STEPHEN

Why are you going through my things? They are personal.

Stan grabs the back of Stephen's hair and pulls his head back. Stephen's weak heart starts to race out of control.

STAN

So is Olivia.

Stan throws Stephen's head back against his pillow as Olivia rushes into the room. Stan puts his hands around Stephen's neck and begins to squeeze.

OLIVIA

(screams)

Stan! What are you doing?!

Stan turns to Olivia.

STAN

Just having a friendly chat with your boyfriend.

Stan continues to squeeze, both Stephen and Olivia try to prize Stan's hands from his younger brother's neck. Stephen's face begins to turn purple.

OLIVIA

Stan! You're killing him!

Without a second thought Stan releases his brother turns and heads for the door. Olivia watches Stan walk away then turns back to Stephen who seems to be suffering from some kind of attack.

OLIVIA

Stephen!

She immediately begins CPR.

Stan stops in his tracks and looks back as Olivia begins compressions followed by mouth to mouth.

OLIVIA

Come on Stephen stay with me.

She leans over Stephen again and puts her lips to his. Pinching his nose she breaths hard into his mouth. She then returns to compressions.

OLIVIA

Call 911.

Stan reluctantly leaves the room. As Olivia continues we can hear Stan outside in the hallway making the phone call.

OLIVIA

Come on Stephen.

As she applies compressions once again Stephen suddenly begins coughing and spluttering as he returns to the room and the woman he loves.

He looks into her eyes as she does his. They embrace.

INT. ROOM - NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Stephen lies in his bed. His neck is bruised. Dr Gates, a slim grey haired physician, stands to the left of him and Olivia to the right.

OLIVIA

Can it happen again?

GATES

Of course, Stephen has a very weak heart.

Olivia looks at Stephen and smiles glad to see him still alive.

GATES (CONT'D)

Any kind of excitement could well trigger a heart attack.

STEPHEN

Am I going to be OK.

GATES

Yes, as long as you stick to your side of the bargain and try not to exert yourself. You were lucky in this instance to have Mrs Campbell with you, she saved your life. It's just a shame the police never caught the attackers. You think you're safe in the confines of your own home.

Stephen glances at Olivia confused. Gates moves to the foot of the bed.

GATES (CONT'D)

We'll keep a close eye on you tonight. You should be fine to go home in the morning.

The Gates heads for the door.

OLIVIA

Thanks doctor.

STEPHEN

Thanks.

Stephen waits for the door to shut.

STEPHEN

Why did you lie to him?

OLIVIA

Why didn't you correct him?

Stephen finds their situation back at square one.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I'm not ready for the next step yet. I think Stan will change. I think what happened tonight has really shook him up.

STEPHEN

I suppose there's only one way to find out.

OLIVIA

I guess so.

STEPHEN

I'll never forget what you've done for me.

OLIVIA

It's my job.

Stephen looks at Olivia again she glows with radiance even after the night they've both had. Stephen feels warmth from Olivia's presence.

Should he tell her his feelings for her now? Was this the right time? Does she feel the same way for him? Surely Stan doesn't love her the way that Stephen could?

Before he can say anything Olivia asks him a question...

OLIVIA

What was that picture of me and
you doing on your PC.

Stephen finds himself caught off guard and uncomfortable by
the question.

STEPHEN

I er... Well I thought I'd send a
picture to Julie let her see how
we were getting along. I guess
Stan took it the wrong way.

OLIVIA

I guess he did.

Stephen wants to tell her that he loves her more than
anything in the world. He wants her to know that he wishes
he could protect her from Stan.

Olivia bends over him and kisses him on the forehead.

OLIVIA

I'll be by first thing in the
morning to pick you up.

STEPHEN

The sooner the better I can't
stand the food in these places.

Olivia smiles, turns and leaves the room. Stephen looks up
at the ceiling frustrated at another opportunity which has
passed him by. He begins to sob.

INT. OLIVIA'S CAR (MOVING) - MORNING

Stephen sits in the front passenger seat, Olivia drives.
She can see that Stephen seems a little down.

OLIVIA

I've got some good news for you.

Stephen seems uninterested.

STEPHEN

What's that?

OLIVIA

I got a call this morning from
Julie. She's coming out to visit
for the day.

Stephen's face springs back to life.

STEPHEN

Really? That's excellent. When?

OLIVIA

Thursday. She says she's really sorry it's taken this long but she's been busy at her new job.

STEPHEN

I can't wait to see her.

OLIVIA

I thought you'd be happy.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Stephen is in his wheelchair on the porch with Olivia as Julie's car pulls up outside the house.

Olivia walks down the steps to greet Julie.

Julie steps out the car.

OLIVIA

Julie?

JULIE

Hi, you must be Olivia?

They hug. Stephen smiles as he sees his two best friends greet each other.

Julie turns to Stephen and heads up the stairs.

JULIE

Hey Stephen how are you.

She steps up to him bends over and hugs her friend.

STEPHEN

I've missed you.

JULIE

I've missed you too but I hear Stan and Olivia have been taking good care of you.

Olivia comes up behind Julie.

OLIVIA

Yeah we've been having fun. I'm sure Stephen's filled you in. I know he's been sending you pictures of our crazy card games.

Olivia smiles then notices Julie look at Stephen confused at this statement. Stephen quickly changes the subject.

STEPHEN

Let's get you inside it's been a long drive you must be hungry.

Julie takes Stephen's wheelchair and follows Olivia into the house.

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - DAY

Stephen and Julie are sat at the table whilst Olivia fixes lunch.

Julie turns to Stephen.

JULIE

Is Stan at work? I'd like to meet him.

Olivia interrupts...

OLIVIA

He's off work at the moment. It's just a temporary arrangement. He's in town at the moment he should be back soon.

Julie smiles then turns to Stephen.

JULIE

So how you been Stephen?

STEPHEN

Good. Olivia's taken real good care of me and we get on just fine.

JULIE

I can't tell you how pleased I was to hear you had settled in here.

All the while Julie speaks to Stephen she senses that he's not being totally honest with her. She decides to let it lie.

The sound of the front door opening then closing can be heard.

OLIVIA

That must be Stan.

(beat)

We're in here honey!

Stan walks into the kitchen with a couple of grocery bags. He has grown a beard, his usual perfect appearance now flagging with neglect.

He places the two bags on the table and removes a bottle of Jack Daniels from the one bag. Olivia notices this and quickly tries to get Stan to divert his attention from the bottle to their guest.

OLIVIA

Stan, this is Julie, Stephen's former nurse.

Stan stops what he is doing with the bottle and turns to face Julie.

STAN

Ah, Julie. Hello pleased to meet you.

His attitude is both sullen and false.

JULIE

Hello Stan I've heard so much about you.

STAN

Don't believe everything you hear.

Julie smiles uncomfortably. Stan takes the bottle and leaves the room.

Olivia tries to make up an excuse for her husband's behaviour.

OLIVIA

Sorry if he seems a little abrupt. He's having some pressures at work. He'll get through it.

JULIE

I understand.

OLIVIA
Right lunch is served.

Olivia walks over to the table with a tray of sandwiches and drinks.

EXT. PORCH - BARN - DAY

Stephen and Julie sit alone on the porch. A cold chill picks up and Julie pulls her coat around her shoulders.

JULIE
She seems lovely.

STEPHEN
Olivia? Yeah she's great.

Julie smiles.

JULIE
Do you keep pictures of me on your computer?

Stephen looks embarrassed.

STEPHEN
No.

Julie laughs a little.

JULIE
Mr Campbell are you attracted to your nurse?

Stephen smiles back at Julie glad to finally have someone to confide in.

STEPHEN
How do you know?

JULIE
Well I figured I never got those pictures you were supposed to have sent me and I couldn't think of any other reason why they would be on your PC.

STEPHEN
You don't miss a trick do you.

JULIE
Nope.

STEPHEN

She's just great. Everything about her is great. Her personality, her determination, her drive..

Julie interrupts..

JULIE

Her marriage.

(beat)

To your brother.

Stephen's excitement about sharing his feelings for Olivia is short lived.

STEPHEN

He doesn't deserve her.

JULIE

And you do?

STEPHEN

I don't hit her.

Julie's smile is wiped from her face.

JULIE

You're kidding me right?

Stephen realises his mistake.

STEPHEN

Well not all the time but he has.
To be honest it's stopped now.

JULIE

Olivia seems happy. I wouldn't have thought she was being knocked about.

STEPHEN

She's not anymore, well she.

(beat)

Oh forget I even said anything.

JULIE

What is it Stephen.

Stephen looks into Julie's eyes.

STEPHEN

I don't trust him. I don't know what he's capable of doing.

JULIE

How do you know he hits her?

STEPHEN

I just know.

JULIE

You sure you're not just imaging it? Maybe it's your way of dealing with the fact you can't have Olivia.

STEPHEN

I thought you were my friend.

JULIE

I am.

STEPHEN

Then I'd appreciate some support, don't ridicule me.

Julie takes Stephen's hand.

JULIE

I'm not ridiculing you Stephen. But what you are suggesting is a serious accusation. You have to be sure you're right.

By now Stephen has had enough of the conversation and tries to change the subject. Maybe this was just a situation he and Olivia had to deal with together, by themselves.

He turns away from Julie who accepts his decision to drop the conversation for now.

JULIE

How have you been?

STEPHEN

I have my good days and bad. The bad ones are becoming more frequent than normal.

Julie pulls her coat further around her shoulders.

JULIE

I'm not surprised with this weather we've been having.

They look at each other and laugh.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Olivia is at the dressing table. Stan comes in and sits on the bed, staring at her. He's been drinking again. She can see him in the mirror. It's been a while since their last fight maybe now was the time to tell him about their baby.

OLIVIA
I've got some news.

STAN
You're leaving me for my brother?

Olivia turns around on her stool to look at Stan.

OLIVIA
Don't be stupid.

STAN
Sorry, what is it?

OLIVIA
I'm pregnant.

As the sentence rolls off her tongue she can already see the whites of his eyes become darker. She frowns.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

STAN
Is this the life you want to bring our baby into? Me drinking at every opportunity I get and you looking after my cripple of a brother.

Olivia begins to sob. Stan stands up and moves over to her. He kneels down in front of her. He speaks with a cold tone.

STAN (CONT'D)
Remember what it used to be like before he came here. We used to go out. We had friends. We had hobbies and interests. Now all you're interested in is him.

OLIVIA
Please Stan don't do this again. I love you.

STAN

I love you too and I know you'll
never leave me, ever.

Stan stands up turns and leaves the room leaving the door ajar.

Olivia sits at the dressing table trembling, waiting for what she thinks is coming next.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - BARN - NIGHT

Stan opens the door to a cupboard and reaches for a Nike shoe box on the top shelf. He retrieves a revolver from the box and six bullets.

He walks over to the bedroom door. He stands out of Olivia's view and opens the gun chamber. The sound seems to magnify around the now silent house.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Olivia recognises the sound of the chamber opening. She jumps losing her breath for a brief second.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - BARN - NIGHT

Stan starts to drop the bullets into the chamber.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

The sound of each bullet hitting the chamber seems to be getting louder, Olivia's fear increases. Then, silence. Olivia wants to go and see if he's there, but she's afraid to move. He could still be there, waiting for her to leave the room so he can use that loaded gun. She puts her hands over her face and cries silently.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - BARN - NIGHT

Stan smiles, the feeling of extreme pleasure and satisfaction engulfing his very soul.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - MORNING

The room is suddenly pelted by sunlight as Olivia opens the blinds. Stephen squints as his eyes adjust to the bright light.

Olivia seems to be preoccupied.

STEPHEN

You OK?

Olivia moves over to his bed and sits on the edge.

OLIVIA

I'm going to leave Stan.

Stephen is shocked to hear her revelation.

STEPHEN

Leave him? Why now?

OLIVIA

I don't trust him. He's gone too far. Even his appearance has changed. He doesn't look like the man I married any more. The drinking seems to be getting worse instead of better and I don't know what he's capable of doing anymore.

Stephen wants to ask so many questions, he just doesn't know which one to ask first.

STEPHEN

When? How?

OLIVIA

This weekend. Stan always goes into town on a Saturday morning. I only need an hour to get everything I need ready.

Stephen looks sad, unsure of his future.

STEPHEN

What about me? You're not gonna leave me here with him?

Olivia smiles at Stephen and gently places the palm of her hand on his cheek.

OLIVIA

Of course not. You're coming with me. Who will I play cards or watch re-runs of 'Laurel and Hardy' with?

STEPHEN

Where will we go?

OLIVIA

My sister's. We'll drive out there and surprise her. Once we've settled in I'll fill her in.

They smile and hug. Stephen hugs Olivia tightly to his chest, his heart begins to pump fast with both the excitement of holding the woman he loves and the fact they will be leaving, together.

INT. KITCHEN - BARN - NIGHT

Stan takes a seat at the table. Stephen and Olivia have already begun eating. Neither speak, their heads face down towards their plates.

STAN

You pair are quiet. Something you need to tell me?

Stephen looks at Olivia who in turn looks at her husband. She hates to even look at him now. She tries hard to control her emotions.

OLIVIA

No. I'm just a little tired. I think I'll go to bed after this, if it's OK with Stephen.

Stan looks at Stephen.

STAN

Well your highness? Can my wife go to bed when she's finished? Or does she have to spend the rest of the evening running around after you?

Stephen puts his knife and fork down and turns in his wheelchair. He attempts to push himself away from the table towards the door. His weak arms prevent him from going much further than a couple of feet.

Olivia gets up from her chair.

OLIVIA

Don't leave Stephen. Finish your meal you'll need the energy.

She turns Stephen around and wheels him back to his dinner.

STAN

Yeah that's right. You should listen to my wife. She used to be a nurse. You know back when we used to have a life.

OLIVIA

Stan please.

Stan looks at Olivia. Hate boiling up within him.

STAN

Don't 'Stan please' me!

OLIVIA

Can't we just have one meal in peace?

STAN

That's right you stick up for this little prick.

With that Stan pushes his plate off the table. The china plate smashes onto the floor, the food sprawling out everywhere.

Both Stephen and Olivia jump from the shock of Stan's actions. Stan gets up and leaves the room.

Stephen looks at Olivia.

STEPHEN

Don't worry Liv, come lunchtime tomorrow we'll be out of his life.

Olivia manages to give Stephen that warm smile he knows and loves, but this time there's a tint of sadness there. Almost like she knows something Stephen doesn't.

STEPHEN

You OK?

OLIVIA

I just can't wait. The sooner we're gone the better.

Stephen reaches his hand out placing it on top of Olivia's hand on the table.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan is looking for something. Olivia is climbing into her nightgown.

Stan steps into Olivia's closet and starts to rummage. Olivia notices and seems a little on edge.

OLIVIA

What are you looking for?

STAN

That box of photos of us when we started dating.

OLIVIA

What do you want them for?

STAN

I just want them. I want to remember what our life used to be like.

OLIVIA

Stop exaggerating Stan. Our life is fine.

STAN

I'll be the judge of that.

Stan reaches up to a shelf and grabs a black bag from the shelf. He brings it down and walks out of the closet with it. Olivia sees the bag. She suddenly turns white as he begins to open the bag.

As the zip opens up Stan reveals the contents one might pack for a short trip. He looks up at Olivia, that cold stare returning to his features.

STAN

Going somewhere?

Olivia freezes. She can't get her words out. She starts to fumble her words looking for the right thing to say to avoid a fight.

OLIVIA

I was thinking about going over to see my sister for a few days.

STAN

What?

OLIVIA

My sister. It's been a while so I thought I'd go see her.

STAN

And Stephen?

She gulps.

OLIVIA

I was going to take him with me.

Stan's face turns red. He looks like he's about to attack her. He marches up to her face.

STAN

You are going nowhere.

He brings his hand up and strikes Olivia across the face. She falls to the floor with a thud.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen's eyes spring open with the sound of Olivia hitting the floor.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Olivia is crying as she tries to pull herself up. Stan grabs her by the hair and pulls her to her feet. He then throws her back onto the bed.

STAN

(shouts)

You're staying here with me.
Stephen stays here too. If I can't
have a life then neither can you
two.

He pulls Olivia up from the bed and throws her to the floor again.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen slowly climbs out of bed every limb seems to ache. He makes his way towards the door.

He opens it and steps out of the room. His face is a concoction of anger and frustration mixed with grimaces of pain.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan stands over Olivia. She looks up at him and pleads.

OLIVIA
Please Stan stop.

He smiles at her pulls back his foot and kicks her in the small of her back.

She screams out in pain.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen falls to the floor in pain as he hears Olivia scream out. He pulls himself along the floor towards the staircase.

He reaches the bottom of the stairs all the while hearing mumbling, screaming and crying coming from Stan and Olivia's room.

He looks up the staircase at the daunting task ahead. He knows he has to climb it, in the hope his mere presence will be enough to stop Stan beating her.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Olivia tries to crawl away from Stan but to no avail.

INT. STAIRCASE - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen is about halfway up. Sheer exhaustion prevents him from going any faster but the determination of getting to their room provides him with ability to find that extra willpower to continue climbing.

As he gets nearer the top the mumbling from their bedroom becomes clearer.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan pulls his foot back again this time releasing it into the pit of Olivia's stomach.

Again she screams out.

OLIVIA
Please stop!

Stan kicks her again. She screams out again.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Stan the baby!!

INT. STAIRCASE - BARN - NIGHT

As Stephen hears Olivia's last plea he pulls himself onto the top step. Anger replaces the pain etched on his face.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan's face is a sea of red.

STAN
It's not mine is it?! Who's is it
you fucking slut?! My brother's?!

He kicks her again, again she screams out. Each time she speaks her words become more muffled from crying in pain.

OLIVIA
It's yours!! It's yours.

She's now crying uncontrollably.

Stan pulls her to her feet just as the door to the bedroom opens.

Stan turns to see Stephen standing in the doorway leaning on the doorframe. Stephen looks at Olivia who is almost limp in Stan's arms.

STEPHEN
Stan, please stop!

Stephen's trembling in fear but stands his ground. The man glaring at him looked like his brother, but for his eyes. His eyes were cold and hard and, evil. Stephen knew he had made a mistake, but it was too late to turn back now. He should have called the police.

Stephen turned his attention back to Olivia, still limp in Stan's grip. Her pale pink nightgown was torn with dark, red blood splattered on the front from a nose bleed. The left side of her face was bruised and she had a cut on her lip.

Stan then broke Stephen's gaze...

STAN

You fucking brat! Is it yours?!
Did you fuck my wife?!

The impossibility of this question almost made Stephen laugh as he remembered the difficulty coming up the stairs. Stephen? Make love to a woman? To Olivia? The excitement would have certainly killed him.

STEPHEN

Stan, why would Olivia want to be
with me when she has you?

Stan looked Stephen up and down as he stood helpless against the doorframe. A wicked smile stretched across Stan's face.

Stan almost manages a chuckle before Olivia's fist connects with the side of Stan's face knocking him to the floor. Stephen gasped in horror knowing now that this night was to get worse.

Stan stood up almost immediately and grabbed Olivia. He brought his head back and butted her on the bridge of the nose. The sound of the bridge of her nose breaking forced Stephen to cry out.

STEPHEN

For fucks sake Stan! Stop it!

Stan turned again in Stephen's direction but this time being cautious of Olivia's actions.

STAN

Your turn now you little prick.

He threw Olivia away from him and started towards Stephen.

Suddenly, there was a loud crashing sound, both Stan and Stephen turned to look in the direction Stan had thrown Olivia.

There was stained glass all over the bedroom carpet mixed in with Olivia's blood. The beautiful stained glass window was now filled with a gaping hole.

Stan rushed to the window. Stephen found energy he never dreamed he had to get over to the window just after Stan.

They leaned out the window. There lying on the ground was the woman they both loved. Her body was twisted grotesquely and she stared up at them with horrified eyes. Stephen fell to the floor sure that this was the end. He held his head in his hands and waited for his heart to stop beating.

It didn't.

STAN

Get up!

His words came through the fog that was Stephen's brain, but Stephen was slow to react.

STAN (CONT'D)

Get up. We have to bring her in.
You walked your pitiful ass up the
stairs, now you can help me cover
up this mess.

Stephen lifted his head from his hands, tears still streaming down his face.

STEPHEN

No Stan, we have to call the
police.

STAN

Yeah that'd suit you just fine
then you'd be \$240m richer,
wouldn't you?

He pulled Stephen up by the back of his t-shirt and dragged him to the bedroom door.

INT. STAIRCASE - BARN - NIGHT

Stan carried on down the stairs practically dragging Stephen behind him as his younger brother screamed out in pain.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Stan appeared around the corner from the front of the house pulling Stephen by the arm. The sound of their shoes crunching on the broken glass can be heard.

They stop at Olivia's body.

STAN

Pick her up!

Stephen bent down to pick her up. She felt amazingly light, but it still took all the strength Stephen had to lift her.

CUT TO:

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT (DREAM)

Stephen suddenly sits up in bed. He is panting and sweating profusely. Olivia is standing at the bottom of his bed. Her nose is broken and bleeding. Her face is cut and bruised. Stephen gasps in horror.

CUT TO:

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - MORNING (DREAM)

Stephen wakes up this time he's not sweating or panting. Olivia is there in his room alive and well. The sun now beams through the open blind lighting the whole room. Olivia turns to look at him.

He's shocked to see her. She walks over to him looking as beautiful and as radiant as ever. She bends over to kiss him passionately.

CUT TO:

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - MORNING

Stephen wakes up suddenly, he's sweating and out of breath again. The room is dark with sunlight squeezing through the gaps in the blinds.

Stephen looks to a chair in the corner of the room. Stan is sitting there staring at him his cold gaze sending a shiver up Stephen's spine. Stan is holding a shovel across his lap. By his feet lays his wife's dead body.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Stephen is still seated across from Palmer and Davenport.

PALMER

So your brother was in your room
with Olivia Campbell when you
woke?

STEPHEN

That's right.

Palmer's not convinced.

PALMER

And you heard nothing? No glass
shattering? No screaming, nothing?

STEPHEN

I told you, he killed her! Threw
her out the damn window!

PALMER

What happened after your brother
woke you?

STEPHEN

He made me dig her grave.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - MORNING

Stephen had Olivia cradled in his arms as he followed Stan
along side the barn and off towards the woods behind the
house.

Her body was cold and hard Stephen couldn't believe she was
gone. He gently kissed her bruised cheek.

STAN

Move your sorry ass.

They both passed the back of the house on their way to the
woods, Stan in front carrying the shovel and Stephen
carrying Stan's dead wife.

Suddenly Stephen collapsed to the ground under the sheer
weight of Olivia's body. Stan heard the thud stopped and
turned round.

Stephen was lying on the floor, Olivia just to the right of him. Stan started back towards them.

STAN

Here you carry this I'll take her.
I need you to conserve your
energy.

Stan threw the shovel down on the ground next to Stephen.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Stan lay what was once Olivia down on the grass and straightened her nightgown as if to keep her dignity. Stephen closed her eyes in disgust as he approached what would be Olivia's burial site.

STAN

Start digging.

Stephen did as he was told, hoping that death would finally come to him and put him out of his misery.

Moments passed...

The hole had begun to take shape but Stephen was tired and flagging. His heart was pumping out of control. He thought he was going to get the wish he so badly wanted.

Just then Stan whipped the shovel away from Stephen's sweaty grasp and continued to dig.

Moments passed...

When the hole was big enough Stan turned to Stephen.

STAN

Put her in.

Stephen, tears streaming down his face, took one deep breath and lifted Olivia's body up off the ground and slowly laid her down in the hole. His tears fell on her face.

Suddenly her eyes flew open and she grabbed Stephen's hand, scratching the back of it. Stephen screamed then passed out.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - DAY

Stephen woke, finding himself back in his room. For a brief second he thought he'd dreamt it all.

Stan was sitting beside his bed waiting for him to wake up. When Stephen turned and saw Stan he grinned evilly at him.

STAN

You whimp. I knew you'd flake out.
I don't know what you saw but
whatever it was made you scream
like a girl.

Stan laughed. All Stephen could think of at that moment was how stupid Stan used to make him feel when they were kids.

STAN (CONT'D)

I was hoping you'd died from a
heart attack. But since you
didn't, I don't have to tell you
to keep your fucking mouth shut or
you'll be sorry.

(beat)

Oh, and don't expect me to baby
you like our parents and my dearly
departed wife did. A little self-
reliance should toughen you up
some.

Stan got up from the chair and turned for the door. He then remembered something and turned back to Stephen.

STAN (CONT'D)

Oh I almost forgot. Your friend
Julie's been trying to reach you.
Unfortunately all she's been
getting is the answer phone. As
long as it stays that way I won't
have to deal with you or her.

Stephen musters up some anger from somewhere.

STEPHEN

You leave her the fuck alone you
understand?

Stan just smiled then left the room.

INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Julie sits at her desk. She picks up her phone and dials out.

INT. HALLWAY - BARN - EARLY EVENING

The Campbell's phone starts to ring. Stan stands over it. The answer phone kicks in.

Julie's voice can be heard throughout the hallway.

JULIE

Stephen, this is Julie again. If you get this message then call me back. Bye.

Stan immediately deletes the message. He now looks insane. His physical appearance is a shadow of his former self. He starts laughing uncontrollably then heads upstairs.

INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Julie picks up the phone again and dials out. The phone is answered at the other end.

VOICE

Doctor Gates' office.

JULIE

Hi, may I speak with Doctor Gates please.

VOICE

Who shall I say is calling?

JULIE

Julie Connor from County. I'm calling regarding Stephen Campbell.

VOICE

Hold the line.

INT. OFFICE - NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Doctor Gates is sat at his desk. He answers the phone.

GATES

Hi Julie how are you?

INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Julie smiles when she hears Dr Gates' voice.

JULIE

Hi John how are you.

Dr Gates' voice can be heard on the other end.

GATES

I'm good, what can I do for you?

JULIE

I was a little worried about
Stephen Campbell. I haven't heard
from him in a few days.

INT. OFFICE - NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Gates replies...

GATES

I haven't seen him since I
discharged him the other day.

INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Julie is taken back by Gates' statement.

JULIE

Discharged?

Doctor Gates can be heard at the other end of the phone...

GATES

Yes, he was admitted after he was
attacked at his home.

Julie is shocked by this revelation.

JULIE

I wasn't told of this attack. Why
wasn't the RF unit informed?

GATES

I told my people to fax the
details. I'd assume they'd do what
they were told.

Julie is confused and can't think straight.

JULIE

But when, why, who attacked him?

GATES

They had a break in. One of the burglars got to Steph..

Julie speaks into the phone but is talking to herself.

JULIE

Where was Olivia and Stan?

FLASHBACK

EXT. PORCH - BARN - DAY

Stephen and Julie sit alone on the porch.

Stephen looks into Julie's eyes.

STEPHEN

I don't trust him. I don't know what he's capable of doing.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - EARLY EVENING

Julie hangs up the phone grabs her coat from the back of her chair and heads for the door. She looks over to a colleague as she opens the door.

JULIE

I'm going over to the Campbell's I don't know when I'll be back.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Davenport is still taking notes. Palmer leans in on Stephen.

PALMER

Right, well that takes us up to date. What happened tonight Stephen.

Stephen is sweating now, but he tries to remain calm.

STEPHEN

Can I have a drink of water?

Palmer turns to Davenport who in turn puts his pad and pen down gets up and leaves the room.

Palmer turns back to Stephen.

PALMER

You OK?

STEPHEN

Yeah, why wouldn't I be.

PALMER

Seems to me like you're struggling to get your story out.

STEPHEN

Look you carry on doing your job and I'll carry on with the facts.

Palmer smiles at the confidence of this young man sitting in front of him.

PALMER

Well that's what we're here for.

Davenport comes back in the room with a cup of water and hands it to Stephen.

Stephen takes a couple of gulps.

PALMER (CONT'D)

Let's hear it.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen is lying in bed, scared, confused and tired.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

It began when I heard a loud crash from upstairs which startled me.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan is now freaking out throwing stuff to the floor, pulling out drawers and punching and kicking furniture.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

I tried pulling the covers over my head to push Stan to the back of my mind. The noises were getting louder.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen climbs out of bed and slowly walks over to his door. He puts his hand on the lock. That look of anger and frustration resurfaces on his face. He clenches his free hand into a fist and smacks the back of the door.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

I thought he was going to come down for me to finish me off. So I climbed out of bed and crawled over to the door. I locked it hoping it would keep Stan out.

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan had photos of him and Olivia sprawled out over the bed. He picked one up and brought it too his lips kissing it.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

I crawled back to my bed and climbed back in. I started to pray. I never pray but today I felt I needed god's help.

Stan gets up and continues to vent his anger on whatever he can get hold of.

STAN

Why?! Why did you have to take her away from me?! Why?!

Stan pulled at his own sweater and hair. His face is red with anger and frustration.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

He was shouting 'Why?' I think 'Why take her away from me?' I couldn't quite make it out.

Stan was now standing at what used to be the stained glass window the hole still fresh from his wife's fall. He is sobbing looking out towards the woods.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Stephen continues, Palmer seems hypnotised by the story, Davenport has stopped writing.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Then it went quiet. I guess he couldn't live with the horror of killing his wife and unborn child. And that's the end of my story. That's the truth. All of it.

Palmer snaps out of the story and continues to question.

PALMER

Then Julie Connor found you asleep in your room?

STEPHEN

That's right.

Palmer looks puzzled.

STEPHEN

It wasn't Julie! She wasn't even there!

PALMER

We know. We know that Miss Connor left County Hospital at around 6pm. It's at least a 2 hour drive out to New Hampshire. Your brother's body had been dead at least an hour by the time she called us at around 8pm, which is why we still think you killed your brother and his wife because if you couldn't have her then nobody could. Right?

STEPHEN

Wrong!

Browning suddenly opens the door. Palmer turns towards the door.

BROWNING

Have you got a minute?

Palmer gets up and leaves the room huffing at the fact he has sat there for an hour and is still none the wiser.

INT. OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Browning hands Palmer a file.

PALMER

Is this Campbell's medical report.

BROWNING

Unfortunately it is.

PALMER

Unfortunately?

BROWNING

He has a serious heart condition.

Palmer frowns.

PALMER

How serious?

BROWNING

The valves in his heart are severely damaged. It was caused by a case of Rheumatic Fever when he was very young. Plus, they think he might have had some kind of undiagnosed heart condition prior to the acquiring the disease, making his case more serious than normal.

PALMER

Are we saying that's not our man in there?

BROWNING

Well Rheumatic Fever is rare. It occurs in about 3% of cases. Not much is known, apparently the results of the body fighting off the strep virus on its own causes infection in other parts of the body, including the heart rendering him disabled.

Palmer looks pissed.

PALMER

In a nutshell?

BROWNING

As I said, his heart valves are severely damaged. So much so that surgery was/is not an option. As a result, he couldn't take a piss without hired help. There's no way he could've got up those stairs let alone push a fit, strong man from a second story window breaking the mans neck in the process.

PALMER

Fuck!

(beat)

So what now then?

BROWNING

The captain says we'll just have to put it down to suicide. There are no other suspects or motives.

Palmer can't believe how this evening has panned out.

He looks through the little window in the interrogation room door. Stephen looks back at Palmer. They stare at each other as Palmer continues with Browning.

PALMER

What about Olivia Campbell? Did you find her body?

BROWNING

Yeah, it was exactly where he said it was.

PALMER

He helped to bury her surely that's something.

BROWNING

The captain said that you've gotta let him go. He was in no condition to protect himself from his brother. He did what he did to stay alive.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Palmer re-enters the room throwing Stephen's file onto the table.

PALMER

Any particular reason why you didn't tell us about your condition earlier?

STEPHEN

Would it have made a difference? You would have still waited for the evidence of my disease before letting me go right?

PALMER

Nobody likes a smart ass.

Palmer goes over to the door to leave, he turns back at Davenport.

PALMER (CONT'D)

Take Mr Campbell to the foyer. Miss Connor is waiting for him there.

INT. STEPHEN'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stephen woke up with Olivia standing over him again. She was beautiful once again. All her bruises were gone and she glowed like sunshine. She reached down and touched his cheek and smiled. Stephen smiled back at her.

Olivia then whispered to him...

OLIVIA

Thank you for killing him for me. I knew you could do it. I knew deep down you would find the will to do what was right.

Then she touched her stomach that held her child with her right hand and placed her left hand over Stephen's chest. Stephen could feel his heart beating in his chest, no longer weak, but strong and healthy.

Then she faded away. Stephen smiled closed his eyes and went to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. STAN AND OLIVIA'S ROOM - BARN - NIGHT

Stan stood at the gapping hole in the stained glass window. Only this time there is something different. There is someone else in the room.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

Even more mysterious than glass
are the effects of fear and anger
on a human being. When faced with
these emotions instinct takes
over.

Stan could feel someone breathing down his neck. Suddenly he turned to see his younger, weaker brother standing there before him.

STEPHEN (V.O. CONT'D)

Sometimes we run for our lives.
Sometimes we fight for our own
lives or the lives of those we
love. Adrenaline fuels the fire of
courage. And gives you the heart
to fight.

Stephen catches a glimpse of himself in the broken Stained Glass window. For the first time everything seems clear.

The shock in Stan's eyes is poetic justice as Stephen pulls all the strength he can muster from within his soul and pushes his older brother out of the same window Stan had, just the day before, sent Stephen's beloved Olivia to her death.

FADE OUT.