

FADE IN:

INT. HALL - NIGHT - ZOE'S APARTMENT

CLOSE ON face of **ZOE BETHEL (27, beautiful)**. She has a serious look on her face.

CLOSE ON face of **JAMES BLACK (30, handsome)**. He has a smirk on his face.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME

Zoe and James sit at a small table forking their Chinese food -- in the silence, they stare at each other - CLOSE ON their hands, which rest on the table - their hands are close but not touching --

CAMERA ON Zoe, who takes a bite of food, her eyes fixed on her plate.

JAMES (O.C.)
I never see you laugh anymore.
(a beat)
I'm a funny guy, you know?
(a beat)
I don't even remember what your
fucking smile looks like.

Zoe finally looks up at James, the two locking eyes.

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - ROOM

Dark room.

Zoe lies on the bed, looking up at her ceiling populated with glow-in-the-dark stickers --

The LIGHT turns on. Her cousin, SHEENA (25) walks in.

SHEENA
So?

Zoe sits up. A beat.

ZOE
So what?

SHEENA
So...how did it go with James?

Sheena sits next Zoe, who seems a bit catatonic.

ZOE
He proposed.

SHEENA
What? The? Fuck?

Zoe gets up, soon walking out.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Shit.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Zoe sits on a bench, looking at the beach. Her hair BLOWS in the wind.

In view is a HOMELESS MAN (60, disheveled) eating from a box of chicken. Zoe glances over at him.

The Homeless Man places the chicken in his mouth, soon wiping the grease from his lips --

Zoe walks over to him, PLACES a few TEN DOLLAR BILLS next to his box. She puts a small ROCK on top of the cash. Soon she places his worn and blackened HAND on the ROCK.

The Homeless Man puts his BLACKENED HAND on the rock while looking at her. Heart full, he nods --

The Homeless Man watches as Zoe walks toward the parking lot.

HOMELESS MAN
God bless you. God bless you --

CAMERA ON him as he stands:

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
God bless you.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON DR. LIVINGSTONE (70). He scribbles notes on a notepad, soon looking over to Zoe and James.

CAMERA ON James' hand on top of Zoe's hand.

DR. LIVINGSTONE (O.C.)
So...what did you think of the proposal?

Zoe moves her hand from under James'.

ZOE

I think it's a beautiful cover up for all the issues we have.

JAMES

A cover up?

DR. LIVINGSTONE

If you're going to move forward, we need to discuss those issues.

ZOE

May you check his list?

DR. LIVINGSTONE

The list?

ZOE

Yeah.

Dr. Livingstone starts flipping pages in his writing pad, settling on a page. He looks down at the SCRIBBLED WORDS on the paper.

DR. LIVINGSTONE (O.C.)

Okay, yes. The List of Issues.

INSERT - WRITING PAD

CHEATING

LYING

FACADES

FATHER ISSUES

BACK TO SCENE

DR. LIVINGSTONE (CONT'D)

Is there anyone in particular that you want to start with?

JAMES

I mean, I feel like we've moved past those issues.

ZOE

Cheating.

James inhales and exhales, soon sitting up in the chair.