TITLES OVER:

BLACK SCREEN. Accompanied by a RHYTHMIC ORGANIC PULSE.

FADE IN:

On a MICROSCOPIC VIEW of a blood stream. Translucent artery walls. Channels branching off from one another. Cells SURGE forward then CREEP back in a regular, hypnotic rhythm.

The TITLES and PULSING SOUND continue over...

EXT. REGENT'S PARK — MORNING

Another kind of circulatory system. Paths. Walks. Bridges. Here the ebb and surge is more chaotic: CHILDREN on rollerblades; COUPLES strolling; LONELY MEN dragging their worlds along in plastic bags as...

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY


The tip of the needle is placed against a WOMAN'S naked hip and we are back to...

EXT. REGENT'S PARK — MORNING

A dog walker marches along a path with a formation of six purebreds. BEAN is seventy but looks younger. His faux military manner is undermined by the bright red cap he wears.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

The needle PENETRATES the woman's skin. Stops when it hits bone. Force is applied. The syringe JUMPS FORWARD as bone is breached with an AUDIBLE CRACK.

EXT. PRIMROSE BRIDGE -- MORNING

Bean and his squad of dogs start across the bridge. TILT DOWN to the darkness beneath where a man in a grime-clotted jacket squats. HOB has one boot and sock off and a cord cinched tight around his ankle. He uses a syringe to inject heroin into a vein in his foot.

INT. OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

FOAMY BLOOD is drawn into the syringe. The PULSING SOUND fades... fades...

END TITLES.
EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- MORNING

The homes of the Terrace are painted a wedding cake white. Bean leads his dogs along the curving street to...

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- MORNING

Bean RINGS the bell. Sees a bundle of letters jammed in the door's mail slot. He pulls them loose. Takes a fast snoop.

The front door opens. Bean conjures up an overly-polite smile and bestows it upon...

MARY JAGO. She's in her late twenties. A porcelain blonde beauty with an earnest manner. She drops to one knee and scoops up the smallest dog in Bean's litter: an ugly little ornament of a shih tzu named GUSHI.

MARY
Hello, young lady. Did you enjoy your walk?

She unclips Gushi from the lead and lifts her up. Bean offers the letters.

BEAN
The mail, Miss.

MARY
Thank you, Bean.

BEAN
Have you given any more thought to my request? I keep a fixed schedule.

MARY
I'm just looking after the house--

BEAN
Her Ladyship was always here to meet me. You work.

He JINGLES the HEAVY RING OF KEYS clipped to his belt.

BEAN (CONT'D)
My other clients found giving me a key to be a great convenience. Of course, I'll provide a reference.

MARY
You're very professional.

(CONTINUED)
BEAN
The dogs benefit from the discipline, Miss. It's one of the tricks you learn. Like my red cap. They can see it from a distance.

MARY
I thought dogs were color blind.

Awkward pause. Bean glares.

BEAN
No, they're not.

She suppresses a smile. Strives to look properly chastened.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- MORNING

Mary slips back inside and closes the door. She puts down Gushi who scrabbles away through the oak-panelled gloom. The interior of the house is rich and stately and filled with echoes.

Mary sorts through the mail. She finds a letter addressed to her that bears no stamp or postmark. Curious, she opens it and unfolds a short note.

A SMALL PHOTOGRAPH falls out. Mary bends to retrieve it as she reads the FIRST LINE of the note.

"TO MARY JAGO, THE WOMAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE."

Mary utters a tiny gasp of delight and relief. She turns to the photo: a shot of a thin young blonde man with a lit-up smile. His image has been cut from a larger picture. There is someone's arm around his shoulder.

Mary's eyes drink in the young man's face.

EXT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM -- DAY

A large house with a discreet BRASS PLAQUE mounted by the door that reads: "IRENE ADLER MUSEUM".

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - SITTING ROOM -- DAY

Mary stands by the mantel, lecturing an AMERICAN COUPLE and a British family consisting of a FATHER and TWO YOUNG DAUGHTERS.

MARY
Irene Adler's reputation as a woman of extraordinary character was enhanced (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
MARY (CONT'D)
by the scandal linking her with the
King of Bohemia.

The American Man points to a spot above the mantel.

AMERICAN MAN
Is that where she hid the photograph
of herself and the King?

Mary smiles and opens a secret panel at the spot he indicated.
Behind it is a small alcove containing a black-and-white
PHOTOGRAPH of Irene and the King of Bohemia. The Americans
grin and crowd closer for a look.

The British Father motions Mary over, perturbed.

FATHER
Could you explain—for the benefit of
my girls, of course—Irene Adler's
greatest achievement?

MARY
She was a 19th Century adventuress
who outsmarted the greatest detective
of all time.

FATHER
How?

MARY
Holmes snuck into Irene's house by
pretending to be a clergyman. He
thought he'd fooled her but she fled
the country leaving behind a letter
explaining to Holmes that she'd seen
through his disguise.

One of the little girls frowns.

DAUGHTER
She ran away?

MARY
She had no choice.

FATHER
I'm sorry... did you say "Holmes" as
in "Sherlock Holmes"?

MARY
Yes. Irene Adler was the only woman
he ever loved. Or admired.

(CONTINUED)
FATHER
But he wasn’t real.

MARY
No.

FATHER
So she wasn’t real?

MARY
She’s a character in the popular Sherlock Holmes story "A Scandal In Bohemia".

FATHER
So this isn’t really her house?

MARY
No, but it’s the sort of house she would have lived in.

FATHER
But that’s absurd. I’ve paid ten pounds and it’s not even a real museum.

The American Man taps Mary on the shoulder and offers up his camera.

AMERICAN MAN
Could you?

Mary takes the camera. The American Couple rummage in their bags. Mary turns to the British Father with a smile.

MARY
Some people love our museum.

He nods towards the Couple and whispers.

FATHER
But they’re bloody idiots.

Mary sees both Americans wearing DEERSTALKERS and posing with large PIPES. She whispers to the British Father:

MARY
Least they didn’t think that Irene Adler was a real person.

She snaps the picture.
INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - GIFT SHOP/OFFICE -- DAY

Mary returns the admission fee to the Father who stomps out with his girls. Her boss, ROMAN ASHTON, notices. He's a well-dressed middle-aged man. A dependable dreamer.

ROMAN
Another satisfied customer?

MARY
Some people prefer their history to have been true, Roman.

ROMAN
It is true. Just not real.

Mary opens her handbag and takes out a mirrored compact. She carefully examines her make-up. Roman frowns.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Meeting Alistair.

MARY
We're having dinner with some big shot in the loan department.

She catches sight of something else in her bag. She pulls out the photo she received in the mail. Stares at the image of the young blonde man. Roman glances over and sees it.

ROMAN
Who's the mystery man?

MARY
Hmmm? Oh... no one.

She tucks the photo away. Roman grins knowingly.

ROMAN
Handsome chap. Nice to see you're making new friends.

Mary laughs and throws a pencil at him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - FOYER -- EVENING

Mary enters the bustling foyer. Sees a dark-haired man hurry toward her.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR WINTER is a handsome, hearty fellow in his early thirties.

ALISTAIR
Mary-dear.

MARY
Hello, Alistair.

He kisses her cheek. Steps back and takes a quick, smiling glance at her dress.

ALISTAIR
You wore that instead. Never mind, it's charming. Come meet Mr. Maddox.

He leads her deeper into the restaurant.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT — EVENING

Mary, Alistair, and TWO OTHER COUPLES—banking types—dine at a table presided over by the regal ANTHONY MADDOX. The air is full of shop talk.

BANKER TYPE 1
... and they want to come in and talk to us about "exploring their options".

BANKER TYPE 2
Which means restructuring their loan.

Mary picks at her meal, trying not to appear too bored. Alistair is too busy following the discussion to notice.

ALISTAIR
How did they get into this mess?

ANTHONY MADDOX
Optimism.

BANKER TYPE 1
Precisely. They expanded much too rapidly.

ANTHONY MADDOX
When you see them, Mr. Clitheroe...

BANKER TYPE 1
Yes?

ANTHONY MADDOX
Remind them that we are a financial institution, not a charity.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
Speaking of charities, you were the keynote speaker at the Middlesex Hospital Fundraiser, weren't you Mr. Maddox?

The awkward segue makes Mary wince. Alistair pushes on.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Mary's Grandmother is involved in that cause and several other prominent charities. Isn't that right, Mary?

MARY
Alistair, I don't think Mr. Maddox is interested in--

ALISTAIR

ANTHONY MADDOX
I know Mrs. Jago. Charming lady.

Mary laughs affectionately.

MARY
A force of nature, you mean.

Maddox smiles.

ANTHONY MADDOX
Does such boldness run in the family?

MARY
Oh no. My Grandmother has the monopoly on that.

ANTHONY MADDOX
But not on charm.

Mary beams. Then she sees Alistair give her a nod, pleased by the exchange with Maddox. She watches him glance around at the others at the table with a smug expression.

Her smile dies.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- NIGHT

Alistair's car stops out front of the Terrace House. Mary climbs out. Cringes a little as Alistair's goodbye HONK-HONK shatters the quiet.
INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Mary shuts the refrigerator. Sits at the table cheerlessly eating ice cream from the carton. She digs into her handbag and removes the photo.

Stares once more at the image of the pale blonde man.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Mary leads Gushi through the front garden and up the steps of a sprawling house.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

In this well-appointed room sits a well-appointed woman in her eighties: Mary's grandmother, FREDERICA JAGO.

Mary watches her delight in spoiling Gushi.

MARY
Are you sure she's not going to be too much for you, Gran?

FREDERICA
There's life in these old bones yet.

MARY
Still hoping for that letter from the Queen?

FREDERICA
Certainly. Though I think she may have to send it to Tahiti.

MARY
Tahiti this time. Why Tahiti?

FREDERICA
I've never been. And they have those lovely hotels over the water. You could come with me, dear.

Mary smiles.

MARY
We two girls on the prowl?

FREDERICA
Sipping pina coladas at the swim-up bar.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Flirting with all the handsome men.

FREDERICA
Why not, Mary? A young woman should travel.

MARY
And that's what I'm about to do. Right out the door. I don't want to be late.

Frederica gives a little sniff.

FREDERICA
You know how I feel about this.

MARY
Gran, how could I not agree to meet him? To find out he lives so close--

FREDERICA
You told me he lives in Somers Town.

MARY
Yes. The wrong side of the tracks.

FREDERICA
The other side of the tracks.

MARY
Wouldn't you be curious?

FREDERICA
You've done a good thing for this...

MARY
Leo. His name's Leo Nash.

FREDERICA
You've done a good thing for this Mr. Nash. A Christian thing. You should leave it at that.

MARY
But now that I know who he is--

FREDERICA
You have his name; you've seen his picture: you don't know who he is.

Mary smiles. Kisses her Grandmother's cheek.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
It'll be fine, Gran. I have you around to keep me out of trouble.

Her Grandmother doesn't look convinced.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON

Clothes are scattered about. Mary stands in front of a full length mirror trying to strike the right balance between prim and provocative.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- AFTERNOON

Mary comes down the stairs. She's chosen a conservative outfit jazzed by earrings and heels. She scoops the photo of the blonde man and her keys into her bag just as the phone RINGS. She answers automatically.

MARY
Hello?

ALISTAIR (V.O.)
Mary.

The sound of his voice seems to leech some of the light out of Mary.

MARY
Hello, Alistair.

ALISTAIR (V.O.)
I've got some great news.

MARY
I can't talk right now. I-

The doorbell RINGS. Relief flashes across Mary's face.

MARY (CONT'D)
There's someone at the door. Can I call you back later?

ALISTAIR (V.O.)
Sure. I'm on the mobile.

Mary hangs up and moves to the door. She unlocks it and swings it open...

To reveal Alistair leaning casually against the frame. He grins at her.

MARY
Alistair, I really wish you'd--

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
Called first?

He laughs easily and shuts his mobile phone with a practiced flip of the wrist. Steps inside, crowding Mary back.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Mary, old man Maddox loved you. He's invited us to the country this weekend.

MARY
Alistair, we need to talk about--

ALISTAIR
This is a great opportunity for me. You should have seen Clitheroe's face when I received the invitation.

MARY
I'm sure it would be wonderful, but--

ALISTAIR
Don't say "but"!

MARY
... you know that going out to dinner was just, well... a favour. We've separated.

ALISTAIR
A trial separation.

MARY
I don't think going to the country is a good idea.

ALISTAIR
Let's sit down and talk about this.

MARY
I can't. I'm... going out.

He looks surprised. Notices for the first time her earrings and high heeled shoes.

ALISTAIR
Out?

MARY
Yes, I... I promised to spend the evening with my Grandmother.

ALISTAIR
I see.

(CONTINUED)
He forces a smile over his hurt. Mary shifts awkwardly.

MARY
Why don't I call you?

ALISTAIR
Okay. I'll call you tomorrow. I didn't mean to make a nuisance of myself.

MARY
Of course not. You didn't. Don't be silly.

ALISTAIR
Kiss?

Without comment, Mary offers her cheek. Alistair kisses her.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
You know all our friends keep asking about you.

He steps out. Mary closes the door behind him and leans against it.

MARY
They're your friends, Alistair.

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- AFTERNOON

Mary steps out and starts off down the street, oblivious to the CAR parked at the opposite end.

Alistair sits behind the wheel watching her walk away from him. He looks suspicious. When a homeless man begins to clean his windshield, he flares.

ALISTAIR
Hey, bugger off!

It's the man we watched shooting heroin under the bridge. Hob. He glares at Alistair who prudently rolls up his window.

The RHYTHMIC ORGANIC PULSE from the title sequence begins again as...

EXT. PRIMROSE HILL BRIDGE -- EVENING

We see Mary hurrying across the bridge. She checks her watch and increases her speed.
EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- EVENING

Mary is running now. The PULSE has accelerated with her.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK CAFE - PATIO -- EVENING

Mary stops in the porch, out of breath from her run. The PULSE is pounding in time with her heart. Drowning out all other sounds.

She spots the man from the photo sitting at a table. LEO NASH is in his mid-twenties and paper-pale with a gently mocking smile and warm eyes. He seems to swim inside a comfortably battered leather jacket.

The PULSING stops. Mary fights to catch her breath.

And Leo suddenly turn. Sees her standing there. His face lights up as he raises his eyebrows in friendly enquiry. Mary breaks into a big embarrassed smile. He rises as she makes her way toward him.

LEO
Mary? I'm Leo. Leo Nash.

There is an awkward moment they fill with a handshake. With their pale colouring they look like they could be related.

MARY
I'm sorry I'm late. I had to run. I thought you might have gone.

LEO
No. Please, sit down.

He pulls a chair out for her. Remains standing.

LEO (CONT'D)
What can I get you? Cup of tea?

MARY
Yes, please.

LEO
Cake?

MARY
No, thanks.

LEO
Well, if I get one for myself, what sort do you think I should get?

(CONTINUED)
MARY
I wouldn't know. Really.

He starts toward the cafe. Mary watches him then calls out:

MARY (CONT'D)
Chocolate.

Leo glances back over his shoulder with a grin. Mary settles back against her seat.

And then she catches sight of a familiar red cap outside the enclosure. Bean is walking past with a bag of take-out food. He pauses to watch Leo then looks to her. He gives her a thin smile and continues on.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP: A HALF-EATEN CHOCOLATE CAKE AND TWO FORKS.

Mary watches, fascinated, as Leo eats. He looks embarrassed.

LEO
The doctors told me to eat. I think they meant stuff like fruits and vegetables though. But I feel good. Thanks to you.

Mary smiles, pleased.

MARY
Can I ask you--

LEO
Anything.

MARY
I want to know about... it.

LEO
It?

MARY
Your illness.

LEO
I never really thought of it as "mine".

MARY
All these months... I've been so worried about you.

LEO
You didn't even know who I was.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Of course I did... in a way. I knew you were in trouble. Besides, not really knowing you--

LEO
Let you imagine me to be whoever you wanted. I know. I did the same with you. I hope I'm not a disappointment.

Mary blushed.

MARY
Of course not. You're here. You're healthy.

LEO
I am.

MARY
Still... can you tell me about it?

She looks at him expectantly. Leo seems uncomfortable but eager not to disappoint. He sits back, arms folded.

LEO
Well... I'd just finished university when I started getting pains in my side. It got worse. A lot worse. I started having terrible nosebleeds... and bruising easily. I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Mary listens raptly. Leo sounds matter-of-fact but he tightens his arms about himself as he goes on.

LEO (CONT'D)
The doctors told me my only chance was a bone marrow transplant. They tested my brother Carl for a tissue match but he wasn't suitable. We couldn't find anyone else.

MARY
That must have been terrifying.

LEO
Terrifying and... maddening. Living in a city this crowded, you know--statistically you know—that there's someone who has the cure you need living close by.

He gestures to the people around with short jabs.

(CONTINUED)
LEO (CONT'D)
They could be at the next table or walking past you every day but you've no way of... of...

MARY
Connecting.

LEO
Yes! Connecting. Yes, exactly.

He takes a deep breath. Finds a smile.

LEO (CONT'D)
It was my brother Carl who knew there'd be a way. Carl was amazing. Through the hospital he found out about the Harvest Trust. And the Harvest Trust found you.

He fixes her with a direct look.

LEO (CONT'D)
And you saved me.

MARY
All I did was offer to be tested.

LEO
Why did you?

Mary seems surprised by the question. Leo smiles.

LEO (CONT'D)
You don't wake up one morning and just volunteer to donate bone marrow... or do you?

MARY
The Harvest Trust is one of my Grandmother's charities. She knew how badly they needed donors. It just seemed like a good thing. A small thing, really.

LEO
Not to me. I wouldn't be here if--

MARY
Some people thought I was foolish.

LEO
Who?

(CONTINUED)
MARY

My boyfriend.

She winces at the sudden stab of memory.

MARY

He thought the operation was a risk.
He told me I wasn't strong enough.

LEO

Maybe he was jealous that you were helping a stranger.

Mary nods.

MARY

He hated the idea of someone else having even a little part of me. The thought that you and I were somehow...
I don't know--

LEO

Connected?

Mary looks up sharply to see if he's making fun of her. He's not. She holds his gaze for a moment and then glances away. She's unable to keep a small measure of satisfaction out of her voice.

MARY

He couldn't stand it.

LEO

I'm glad you stood up to him.

Mary laughs.

MARY

Oh, well... I didn't. I'm not terribly brave. I made the donation without telling him.

FLASH CUT:
INT. ALISTAIR'S FLAT - BEDROOM - FLASHBACK -- NIGHT

The man's hand RIPS away the bandage. Exposes two tiny red punctures on the woman's skin.

MARY (V.O.)
He found out later.

The man is Alistair. He rears back from Mary, looking shocked and betrayed.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK CAFE - PATIO -- EVENING

Mary falls silent. Leo studies her.

LEO
What does he think of us meeting now?

MARY
It doesn't matter. He's not my boyfriend anymore.

There is quiet defiance in these last words. Leo picks up his fork and spears another piece of cake.

LEO
Maybe you are brave.

He eats with a smile. Mary finds herself smiling back. This time she doesn't look away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- LATE EVENING

Mary and Leo walk along the shadow-dappled path. Leo has his hands thrust deep into his jacket pockets.

LEO
My brother didn't want me to write to you, you know. He was afraid you might be... I don't know, God squad or something.

Mary laughs.

MARY
Imploring you to find faith in the miracle of your salvation?

LEO
Maybe. Or maybe you'd be somebody looking for an emotional boost.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
I'm glad you took the risk.

LEO
Believing you're going to die changes your idea of risk.

They come to a fork in the path. They stop and face each other: a comfortably awkward pause.

MARY
I had a lovely time meeting you, Leo. Thank you.

She offers her hand. Leo takes it in both of his.

LEO
I'm the one who should be thanking you.

He hugs her suddenly. We see Mary's face over his shoulder. She's surprised and moved by the intensity of the embrace.

And then, just as swiftly, he releases her. He steps back, looking embarrassed.

LEO (CONT'D)
Sorry... I'm sorry.

Mary can't help but smile. Both shift from foot to foot. Both prolonging the moment.

Then Leo takes another, more resolute step away from her. He grins sheepishly. Gives a little wave goodbye.

Mary waves back. Watches him back away down the opposite fork before finally turning and disappearing into the gathering dark.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK - NEAR THE EXIT -- LATE EVENING

Mary strolls along, happily lost in a replay of the evening. She becomes aware of someone on the other side of a hedge. A DARK SHAPE glimpsed through the foliage. Keeping pace with her.

Mary begins to hurry. She digs her keys out of her purse.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- LATE EVENING

Mary gets the door open and leaps inside. She locks it. Hurrying to the dark living room, she flips on the light and then races up the stairs.
INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL -- LATE EVENING

Mary rushes to a window overlooking the front of the house. She peers out through the curtains.

Down below a FIGURE crosses the garden. It steals up to the house and peers into the living room. Light spills over him.

It's Alistair. He hovers about uncertainly, then backs off into the darkness once again.

Mary shakes her head sadly.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- LATE EVENING

Mary eases open the door. A soundless television illuminates the room, shining off the artifacts her Grandmother has collected on her travels: South Sea carvings; Greek marble; an antique brass telescope mounted by the window.

Mary stares at her sleeping grandmother. Smiles at the sight of Gushi curled up on the bed in a nest of toys and treats. She tiptoes over. Gives the dog a pat and whispers.

MARY
Were you a good girl?

Frederica stirs and smiles.

FREDERICA
I could ask the same of you.

MARY
He was a nice boy. A gentle boy.

FREDERICA
Good.

Mary adjusts her Grandmother's bedcovers. She glances at the prescription pill vial on the bedside table.

MARY
Did you remember your pills?

FREDERICA
Yes, dear.

MARY
Gran...

FREDERICA
Of course you can stay, love.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
FREDERICA (CONT'D)
I already made up the bed in your old room.

Mary smiles. Kisses her Grandmother's forehead.

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - GIFT SHOP/office -- day

Roman is working on the accounts while Mary jams Irene Adler postcards into a swivel caddy.

MARY
What if he thought I was an idiot?

ROMAN
He'll call, Mary.

MARY
I asked him to describe his disease.

ROMAN
Men love that. He'll call.

MARY
I talked about us being connected. I told him about Alistair. I... God...

Roman glances at her. Mary grins impishly.

MARY (CONT'D)
I even told him I worked in this place.

Roman laughs. He turns as a SCRAPPY LITTLE GIRL enters. She's very serious. On a mission.

ROMAN
Can I help you?

GIRL
Miss Mary Jago, please.

MARY
I'm Mary.

The Girl produces a clutch of wild flowers from behind her back.

GIRL
He told me to give these to you.
They're from the park.

Mary takes the flowers. Fishes a small card from between the stems. It has a picture of a slice of chocolate cake on the cover.

(continued)
Roman tips the Girl who scampers out. He turns to Mary. She’s beaming.

MARY
I've been invited to dinner.

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- DAY

Mary is running again. Heading home from work with the clutch of flowers in her hand. She comes across Bean collecting his dogs for their afternoon walk.

MARY
Hello, Bean.

BEAN
I'll be along shortly, Miss.

She dodges around him. Hops over the longest leashes. Bean calls after her.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Provide me with a key, Miss, and you needn't be in such a panic.

Mary simply laughs and races on. Bean scowls. Loops the leashes around a fence post and steps up to the door of the Barker-Pryce house. He sorts through his HEAVY RING of keys.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- DAY

Mary runs along, a bright smile on her face... that dies when she sees who is waiting outside her door: Alistair.

Mary drops her eyes. Moves past him to the door.

MARY
Hello, Alistair.

She unlocks the door and bows to the inevitable:

MARY (CONT'D)
Won't you come in.

He steps past her into the house. Mary follows, closing the door behind her.

INT. BARKER-PRYCE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAY

The lock turns and Bean eases open the door. An aged golden retriever wags his tail expectantly. Bean pads past him. Glances at papers in an open briefcase on the hall chair.

(CONTINUED)
BARKER-PRYCE (O.S.)

Bean!

Bean looks up without a trace of embarrassment. Sees a stout, gruff man of about sixty stomping down the stairs: JAMES BARKER-PRYCE.

BEAN
Afternoon, sir. How are the matters of state--

BARKER-PRYCE
I didn't hear the doorbell.

BEAN
Busy man like yourself sir; all those government affairs: I just thought I'd collect Charlie and go.

Barker-Pryce slams the briefcase shut. His contempt for Bean is obvious.

BARKER-PRYCE
Charlie's behind you.

Bean bristles.

BEAN
There was one other thing, sir.

BARKER-PRYCE
More expenses?

BEAN
Nothing like that--

BARKER-PRYCE
You've been paid.

BEAN
I need a letter of reference. It's for the woman looking after the Blackburn-Norris house.

Barker-Pryce fixes him with a withering look. Bean lets a measure of iron seep into his tone.

BEAN (CONT'D)
I told her you'd do it. Sir.

Barker-Pryce glares for a moment longer. Then--surprisingly--clearly frustrated--he drops his eyes and barks:

(CONTINUED)
Bean smiles.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY

Alistair follows Mary into the kitchen. She hides her awkwardness by searching the cupboards for a flower vase. He tries for a casual tone.

ALISTAIR
I phoned you at your Grandmother's last night.

Mary is silent.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
You're seeing someone, aren't you?

MARY
Of course not.

ALISTAIR
Are you trying to make me jealous?

MARY
I'm not-- It isn't what you think.

ALISTAIR
Am I wrong about those flowers?

MARY
Alistair, please. It wasn't a date. The Harvest Trust put me in touch with the man who received my marrow donation.

The news shocks Alistair.

ALISTAIR
The man who received your donation?

MARY
I just... I wanted to know how he was doing. We met for a cup of tea. I don't see the harm.

ALISTAIR
You don't see the harm? You had the operation without telling me. You deceived me. Then you claim that I'm being unreasonable and move out.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
You know why I moved out.

ALISTAIR
You always bring it back to that. I
told you I was sorry. We all lose
our tempers. Even you.

Mary says nothing. She fills a pitcher with tap water.
Desperately arranges the flowers as Alistair comes up behind
her.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Mary, we've put three years into this
relationship. We're perfect together.
I've missed you. Come home.

Mary takes the flowers and pushes past him, carrying the
arrangement out of the kitchen.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAY

Mary places the pitcher on the hall table. Alistair follows
her in, frustrated.

ALISTAIR
You promised we'd talk.

MARY
Not now, Alistair. Please.

ALISTAIR
Fine. If it's a separation you want,
fine. Just give me back the keys to
my flat and I'll go.

MARY
I still have some things there--

ALISTAIR
You'll have to call first, won't you?

She looks at him, standing there cross and petulant... and
suddenly finds herself able to call his bluff. She jerks
her bag off the table and pulls out her keys.

Surprised, Alistair suddenly waves off his demand.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Never mind. Keep them, keep them.

She stops. Alistair moves past her and opens the door.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR (CONT'D)  
That was thoughtless of me. I don't  
want you to feel like you're not  
welcome back home. I mean, just  
because you want to be on your own  
for a bit--  

MARY  
Alistair--  

He overrides her. Realizes he's pushed too far.  

ALISTAIR  
... don't feel that you have to make  
yourself lonely. All right? All  
right, Mary?  

Hating herself, Mary surrenders to his desperation.  

MARY  
All right. Thank you, Alistair.  

ALISTAIR  
I love you. I'll make this right  
between us. When you do come home I  
promise you'll never leave again.  

He slips out the door. Closes it behind him.  

Mary looks at the keys, clearly feeling miserable that she  
didn't follow through. She tosses them back into her bag.  

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT -- EVENING  
The interior is all cream walls, starched linen, and winking  
silver. Leo fidgets at a table, aware that he looks out of  
place despite the dress shirt and tie he wears under his  
leather jacket.  

He sees the HOSTESS escorting Mary to the table and jumps up  
to meet her. His relief is palpable.  

MARY  
I'm late again.  

LEO  
I'd just given up hope. You look  
wonderful. Worth the wait.  

MARY  
Thank you.  

They sit. Leo fidgets again. Mary aligns cutlery. Finally:  

(continued)
MARY (CONT'D)
This is a very nice restaurant.

LEO
The kind of place you bring a girl from Regent's Park.

Mary looks around the room as if seeing it clearly. She looks suddenly deflated.

MARY
It is, isn't it? Tell me, Leo... where would you take a girl who wasn't from Regent's Park?

EXT. SOHO — NIGHT

Leo leads Mary along. They're sharing an order of chips wrapped in newspaper.

MARY
You're not disappointed we left?

LEO
Nope. I get nervous in expensive restaurants. Too many forks.

He plucks out another chip. Uses it to point to a club across the street.

There is a long line of COLORFUL PEOPLE waiting to get past the velvet ropes. The CLUB HOSTESS—a punked-out woman with a clipboard—moves among them, choosing the ELEGANT and OUTLANDISH for early admission.

Mary shakes her head.

MARY
I couldn't get into that place with a ticket.

LEO
Attitude. It's all in the attitude.

Leo tosses the carton of chips into the trash and pulls off his leather jacket.

LEO (CONT'D)
Put this on.

(CONTINUED)
Mary hands him her purse while she slips on the jacket. She reacts with surprise as Leo opens it and digs through its contents.

He pulls out her money. Shuffles it together with his own to create a thick wad of bills. She notices him placing the biggest notes on top.

**LEO (CONT'D)**

The key to getting inside any club is to pretend it's the last place you want to be.

**MARY**

How do I do that?

**LEO**

Think about your ex naked in bed.

Mary looks repulsed. Leo grins.

**LEO (CONT'D)**

Now hold that look.

**EXT. CLUB — NIGHT**

The Club Hostess selects a GOTH COUPLE from the line. Looking around, she catches sight of...

Leo and Mary stalking towards her. Leo gives the place a bored once-over. Radiates an aura of jaded cool. Mary tries her best to imitate him.

The Hostess is hooked. Leo offers her a disdainful flash of their money and she waves the two past the line and into the club. When SOMEONE ELSE tries to follow, she uses her clipboard like a toll gate.

**CLUB HOSTESS**

Join the queue, mate.

**INT. CLUB — NIGHT**

POUNDING MUSIC. Lights. PEOPLE dancing. Leo and Mary luck into a booth on the edge of the crush. They slip into its comfortable gloom, laughing.

**MARY**

Who taught you how to do that?

**LEO**

My brother Carl. He believes attitude can get you everything.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Are the two of you close?

LEO
He looks out for me. When you're ill, friends fade away. After a while not talking about this thing you live with becomes too much for everyone. It's like being in a bad relationship.

He divides up their money. Doesn't notice Mary's thoughtful expression.

MARY
I imagine when you're sick... or weak... that's all people see.

LEO
And if they treat you that way long enough you start to believe that's all you are.

MARY
Until it becomes true.

LEO
Well not anymore. You and I are going to start fresh.

MARY
No baggage?

LEO
No backgrounds. Think about it. My bones are filled with your marrow--

MARY
Our marrow.

Leo beams.

LEO
Our marrow. That marrow makes the blood that fills my whole body. I'm positively infused with Mary Jago.

MARY
Poor you.

LEO
We're free, Mary.

MARY
To be whoever we want to be.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
To be who we really are.

The idea startles her a little. She's very aware of Leo watching her.

LEO (CONT'D)
I know nothing about Mary Jago except that she likes chocolate cake.

MARY
And I know nothing about Leo Nash except...

And then she flounders. Leo waits expectantly, that gently mocking smile on his face. Mary leans across the table and works loose the knot of his tie.

MARY (CONT'D)
He feels more comfortable without the tie.

She sits back, pulling the tie with her. It slithers from around his neck. Leo smiles.

LATER IN THE EVENING - AT THE BAR

Leo buys two beers. Carries them back through the crowd to the booth. There are several empty glasses already on the table. Mary is pleasantly tipsy.

MARY (CONT'D)
Why can't men ever take the hint that a girl doesn't want to be bothered?

LEO
Uhh... I can sit somewhere else.

MARY
Not you. No, no.

She gestures to a SEXY YOUNG WOMAN in a green dress sitting at a nearby table. She appears to be fending off the advances of a man with a CREWCUT.

MARY (CONT'D)
She's obviously waiting for her boyfriend...

LEO
She is?

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Well... for somebody. You don't come to a place like this alone.

Crewcut departs. Mary looks pleased.

MARY (CONT'D)
Good for her.

LEO
She's a dripper.

MARY
She's... huh?

LEO
A dripper.

He scans the club. Points surreptitiously.

LEO (CONT'D)
You see that guy at the bar? The one with the mobile phone?

Mary looks. Sees a SLICKLY-DRESSED MAN using his mobile phone to punctuate his conversation with a YOUNG BUSINESS-TYPE.

MARY
I hate mobile phones.

LEO
He's the pagerman.

Mary looks blank. Leo grins.

LEO (CONT'D)
People call his pager. He phones back and arranges a meeting to check them out. If they're cool, he sets a price and sends them to the dripper.

As they watch, the Business-Type slips away from Mr. Slick and crosses to the Woman in the green dress. Mary gives Leo a puzzled look.

MARY
I don't--

LEO
Watch their hands.

Mary stares openly at the Woman who once more appears to be warding off a bothersome advance but...

(CONTINUED)
AT THE EDGE OF THE TABLE

There is a fast dance of hands. Folded bills are traded for a vial full of powder. The Business-Type moves off.

Mary gapes and is suddenly alight.

MARY
Was that a drug deal? Did I just see a drug deal?

LEO
Sshhh. She's only carrying a bit of their stash. Selling it off one "drip" at a time.

MARY
A dripper.

LEO
They'll work this place for a few hours, then move on to another club.

MARY
How do you know all this?

LEO
Carl and I hung out in some pretty rough places while we were growing up.

MARY
Do you think your brother would like me?

Leo looks suddenly uncomfortable.

LEO
He doesn't know we've met.

EXT. SOHO -- NIGHT

The streets have emptied in the late hour. Mary and Leo wander along together. He looks tired but seems to be doing his best to hide it.

LEO
After the transplant, Carl got a bit funny. I used to talk about you... who you might be... what you might be like. Carl was like your ex.

MARY
Jealous? Why?

(CONTINUED)
LEO
You saved me. He couldn't.

The words—so simple and direct—leave Mary at a loss to respond. They walk on.

EXT. PRIVATE GARDEN -- NIGHT

Mary unlocks the gate and swings it open with a CREAK. Leo follows her in. Lowers himself onto the grass. He's a little breathless and looks a lot more tired now.

LEO
I always wondered what these gardens looked like.

MARY
They're private to the local residents.

LEO
Keeping out the peasants.

Then he realizes what he's said and colors.

LEO (CONT'D)
Mary, I'm sorry.

She studies his embarrassment. Comes to a decision.

MARY
Do you think the house on the Crescent is mine?

LEO
That's the address I received from the Harvest Trust.

MARY
Six bedrooms? All that terribly heavy furniture? Does that seem like me?

LEO
How can I know what's inside? It might be all leopard prints and leather.

MARY
Leopard prints and leather?

LEO
Red leather?

She laughs.

(Continued)
MARY
I'm house sitting for an old couple. The Blackburn-Norries. They're travelling all summer. I'm not rich.

She catches sight of the tomb-like entrance of the Nursemaid's Passage and shivers. She walks back and sits on the grass beside Leo. He regards her closely.

LEO
A big empty house... a private garden... perfect for locking yourself away from the world.

MARY
Oh, not the world.

LEO
Your ex? Alistair?

MARY
It was time to leave.

LEO
Why?

MARY
Because keeping secrets from him didn't make me feel guilty anymore. It made me feel strong.

LEO
Like the marrow donation?

She nods and closes her eyes. Leo watches her lay back.

LEO (CONT'D)
Mary?

MARY
Mmmm.

LEO
Where did they take it from?

With her eyes still closed, she takes one of his hands and places it on the curve of her hip.

MARY
Feel that? That ridge of bone? That's the Iliac Crest.

LEO
The Iliac Crest. Is there a scar?

(CONTINUED)
She looks at him now. Her skirt zips up at the side. She slowly pulls down the tab, parting the metal teeth, to reveal the pale unmarked skin of her hip.

Leo moves to touch it, stopping just before he makes contact.

LEO (CONT'D)
Can I?

Mary nods, her eyes aglow. She reacts to the feel of his fingers against the skin. He speaks with soft wonder.

LEO (CONT'D)
No mark. Nothing to remember me by.

MARY
Where did they... where did you receive it?

He breaks contact. Rolls up his shirt sleeve. Mary traces a finger down a line of faint scars on his inner arm.

MARY (CONT'D)
So many.

LEO
Lots of treatments. But that's the one there. That's you. Your donation. I circled it in pen 'til I was sure I'd remember.

He stretches out beside her.

LEO (CONT'D)
The doctors were so cautious but I knew the transplant would work. Even now, when I get tired or bruised up, I know it's nothing.

He speaks with a gently desperate conviction.

LEO (CONT'D)
I'm getting better all the time. I feel it.

Mary only hears the conviction. She shuts her eyes. Leo whispers:

LEO (CONT'D)
It's very late. I should get you home.

Mary keeps her eyes closed.

(CONTINUED)
MARY

Why?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PRIVATE GARDEN -- DAWN

Leo holds a bloody handkerchief pressed to his nose. He watches Mary come slowly awake. She reacts with alarm to the sight of the blood.

MARY

Leo?

LEO

It's nothing. Sometimes my blood doesn't clot that well. I'm fine, really.

Mary takes the handkerchief from him. Gently dabs the blood from around his nose and lips.

MARY

I've been so selfish keeping you out all night.

LEO

I wanted to show you how strong you've made me.

He hears something in the distance. A ghostly sound. A layered CLOPPING.

MARY

You should get home. You should--

LEO

Mary, wait. Let me show you something.

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- DAWN

Leo leads Mary out the gate and back onto the street.

LEO

Listen.

She hears it too. The ghostly CLOPPING. Leo takes back the handkerchief and shoves it away.

LEO (CONT'D)

Come on.

He takes her hand. Leads her around the corner onto...
EXT. PORTLAND PLACE -- DAWN

The street is empty. Leo hurries Mary down to...

EXT. DEVONSHIRE STREET -- DAWN

The CLOPPING is louder now. Leo is grinning. He and Mary run to...

EXT. HARLEY STREET -- DAWN

Leo pulls Mary around the corner. She stops in surprise at the sight of...

HORSES. In rows of three. Marching down the deserted street toward them. Each center horse has a RIDER, hooded in a dark slicker, eyes hidden.

Mary watches in amazement as they come past. Row after row. Like some dream underscored by the CLIP-CLOPPING of hooves.

Leo speaks softly, as if afraid of breaking the moment.

LEO

From the Hyde Park barracks. You never know which street they'll take. They change their route to fox the terrorists.

The horses pass, heading down Harley Street. They disappear from half-light. Mary turns to Leo, her eyes shining. She sees a last, thin streak of blood at the corner of his mouth.

She touches it, smearing it. Fascinated. And then, on impulse, she goes up on tiptoe and kisses him on that same spot.

Leo returns the kiss. The two stand there in the empty street, pressed together, as the sound of the hooves fades...

fades...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAWN

Mary lets herself in. She looks somehow exhausted and energized all at the same time. She kicks off her heels.

The phone RINGS. Mary ignores it. Let's the answering machine take the call.

ALISTAIR (V.O.)

Mary, it's Alistair again.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Oh, for God's sake.

ALISTAIR
I don't know why you're not answering or where you are but, please... call me on my mobile--

MARY
No.

ALISTAIR
... or just come to Middlesex Hospital. I've been trying to reach you all night. Your Grandmother's taken a bad turn.

Mary looks shocked. She dives for the phone. Gets only a DIAL TONE.

She grabs her shoes from the floor. Runs out of the house in her stocking feet.

INT. MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR -- MORNING

A rumpled Alistair is sitting in the waiting area, drinking cold coffee when Mary comes racing down the corridor.

ALISTAIR
Mary. At last.

Mary rushes to him, her eyes panicked.

MARY
Alistair...

ALISTAIR
Where have you been? Dr. Phillips called me when he couldn't reach you--

MARY
What's wrong with my Grandmother?

ALISTAIR
She tried to hang on for you, Mary. She wanted to see you.

MARY
WHERE IS SHE?

ALISTAIR
She died about an hour ago.

(CONTINUED)
Mary stares at him in horror. He tries to hug her. She pulls away and runs up the hall, frantically looking into one room... then another... then another. Searching for her Grandmother.

INT. MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL - OFFICE -- MORNING

Mary sits huddled in a chair. Her eyes are raw and swollen and stunned. Alistair sits beside her as he confers with the elderly DR. PHILLIPS.

ALISTAIR
You said it was an aneurysm?

DR. PHILLIPS
Yes, bleeding in the skull. Her heart medication stopped the blood from clotting.

Mary blinks. Looks like she's coming up from deep water.

MARY
Her medication?

DR. PHILLIPS
She needed the Warfarin to thin the blood for her heart. But an older person's blood vessels are fragile.

MARY
I...
I kept after her to take it.

ALISTAIR
Don't blame yourself, Mary.

DR. PHILLIPS
The Warfarin was a necessary risk.

ALISTAIR

Mary lowers her head and starts to cry in great, ragged sobs. Alistair puts his arms around her. Pulls her to his chest.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARKER-PRYCE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- MORNING

CLOSE ON the front door swinging open. Bean pulls out his key. Kneels to release the golden retriever, Charlie, from the leash.
He hears the sound of a SMACK and a GROAN coming from the depth of the house. Curious, he slips inside. Pads down the front hall to the stairs. He starts up.

INT. BARKER-PRYCE HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR -- MORNING

Bean creeps down the hall to a bedroom door. It's ajar. From within comes the sounds of FISTS STRIKING FLESH and GROANS of pain.

Bean peeks through the crack. What he sees both revolts and fascinates him. He watches for a long moment...

Until Charlie noses the door part way open and trots into the room. A naked Barker-Pryce leaps back from the foot of the bed.

BARKER-PRYCE

Bean!

BEAN

Morning, sir. At it again, are we?

Barker-Pryce fumbles for a robe. Through the partially open door, Bean catches a glimpse of legs and buttocks. A second NAKED MAN is dragging himself up onto the bed.

Then Barker-Pryce is in Bean's face.

BARKER-PRYCE

You bastard. I've told you before--

BEAN

I've come for my letter of reference.

BARKER-PRYCE

What you deserve is a good thrashing.

He looks at Bean. Sweaty rage suddenly turning sly.

BARKER-PRYCE (CONT'D)

How long did you watch us, Bean? Perhaps you'd like to join us?

Bean curls his lip in disgust. Barker-Pryce speaks quietly. Intimately.

BARKER-PRYCE (CONT'D)

You'd like this one. He's very special. He takes a beating almost as hard as the one he gives.

He wipes beads of sweat from his face.

(CONTINUED)
BARKER-PRYCE (CONT’D)

Exquisite.

BEAN

My letter.

Barker-Pryce laughs. Squeezes past Bean and goes out into the hall. Bean glares after him.

INT. CHURCH — DAY

Sunlight streams through the stained glass and down onto black-clad MOURNERS who fan themselves furtively.

Mary sits at the front, her face running with quiet tears. She watches the PRIEST without hearing him. His voice has been eclipsed by the beat of her PULSE in her ears and the sound of Alistair's BREATHING.

He’s sitting next to her. Mary catches him stealing a peek at his watch. She looks away.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

The room is crowded with ELDERTLY PEOPLE drinking sherry. Roman moves around the room with a tray.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Mary sits on her Grandmother’s bed. A travel magazine lies open, face-down on the spread with a pair of reading glasses on top. Mary picks up the magazine and looks at the article her Grandmother was reading: Tahiti Tours.

She sets it aside and notices the prescription Warfarin vial on the night table. Her eyes fill with tears.

She reaches for the bedside phone. Hesitates... then taps buttons. She almost changes her mind while listening to it RING down the far end of the line.

Then it’s too late to hang up.

MARY

Hello... Leo? It's Mary. I... oh, I'm sorry. You sounded like him. Are you... is this Carl?

The line goes dead.

INT. LEO AND CARL’S FLAT -- DAY

CLOSE ON the telephone. A finger has mashed down the cut-off button.

(CONTINUED)
We travel up the hand and arm to the face of the man on the phone. It's Leo. The reason for his evasiveness suddenly becomes obvious.

    CARL (O.S.)
    Who was that?

Leo's dark-haired brother, CARL, is sprawled on the couch in front of the television. He takes a chug of beer. Watches Leo intently.

    LEO
    It was nobody. Some charity asking for a donation.

    CARL
    We've already got one fucking charity case around here, don't we?

Leo forces a smile and sets down the phone. Carl turns back to the television. He notices something on the floor beneath the coffee table.

    CARL (CONT'D)
    What's this?

He stretches to pick up a SNAPSHOT. It shows Carl with his arm around an empty square. It's the other part of the photograph Leo sent Mary. Carl pokes his finger through the hole. Frowns at Leo who shrugs.

    LEO
    Needed a picture for my bus pass.

    CARL
    There's a machine for that at the tube station, you plonker. I liked this picture.

He grumbles and turns back to his show. Leo crosses to the window. Stares out.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Mary still holds the phone in her hands. She hangs up quickly as the bedroom door opens and Alistair thrusts his head in.

    ALISTAIR
    Here you are. Mary, you have to come downstairs. You've a responsibility to your guests. They came to pay their respects to your Grandmother.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Yes. Of course, Alistair.

ALISTAIR
They're all very concerned about you.

He lowers his voice.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Don't worry, they don't know about your disappearing act the night Frederica died.

He waits for a reaction. Mary's head remains lowered. He lifts her chin to see her face is tear-streaked.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
You mustn't feel guilty. There's nothing you could have done... even if you'd been there.

MARY
I could have said goodbye.

ALISTAIR
She would have liked that, I know.

He strokes her cheek gently.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Now go fix your face. Roman's ready to leave and Mr. Edwards wants a word with us.

Mary nods obediently and walks to the adjoining bathroom. Alistair sits in her place. He notices Mary's purse open on the bed beside him.

He reaches in and pulls out the cut-out photo of Leo. His eyes go cold.

FLASH CUT:

EXT. CLUB - FLASHBACK -- NIGHT

Leo and Mary enter the club. The Punked-Out Hostess drops her clipboard in front of someone who tries to follow.

CLUB HOSTESS
Join the queue, mate.

Alistair shoves a roll of cash into her hand.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
I'm with them.

FLASH CUT:

INT. CLUB - FLASHBACK -- NIGHT

Alistair stands at the edge of the crowd watching Mary and Leo in the booth. His face tightens as Mary loosens Leo's tie. She sits back, pulling it with her.

His mobile phone RINGS. Alistair fishes it from his pocket.

ALISTAIR
Alistair Winter.

DR. PHILLIPS (V.O.)
Mr. Winter, this is Dr. Phillips. I need to contact Mary Jago and was given this number to use in an emergency.

ALISTAIR
What's happened?

DR. PHILLIPS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Her Grandmother's been taken to Middlesex Hospital. It's very serious.

Alistair stares at Mary who is laughing at something Leo's said. Dr. Phillips sounds impatient.

DR. PHILLIPS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sir, if you know how to contact Miss Jago--

ALISTAIR
I'll leave messages with everyone I can think of and get over there myself.

He flips shut his mobile phone. Stares at Mary for a moment longer before heading toward the exit.

And we are back to...

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Alistair slips the photo of Leo back into Mary's purse. He sits on the bed, waiting. Wearing a comforting smile.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAY

Mary and Alistair come down the stairs to find Roman preparing to leave. The look he gives Mary is one of genuine concern.

(CONTINUED)
ROMAN
There you are.

She hugs him tightly.

MARY
Thank you for coming.

ROMAN
You're not to come back to the museum until you really want to, okay?

Mary nods. Alistair draws her back. Puts his arm around her.

ALISTAIR
I'll make sure of that.

Roman looks a little uncomfortable with that thought. He pats Mary's hand and leaves.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM — DAY

Alistair opens the door and ushers Mary in. MR. EDWARDS, a wizened little gnome of a solicitor, turns to her.

EDWARDS
Mary, my dear. I'm so terribly sorry. Your Grandmother was one of my first clients. A lovely woman with a careful mind.

Alistair pulls out a chair for Mary and remains standing behind her. Edwards sits opposite. He polishes a pair of reading glasses and slips them on.

EDWARDS (CONT'D)
Your fiance and I both felt it prudent to do this as soon as possible.

He places his hands on the neat stack of documents before him.

EDWARDS (CONT'D)
Her will is simple. In addition to the trusts already in place from your parents, Frederica has left the bulk of her estate to you.

MARY
I know. We discussed it.

EDWARDS
You're aware of its worth?

(CONTINUED)
MARY

I am.

It's clear that Alistair isn't. He clears his throat.

ALISTAIR
Perhaps you could confirm it for us.

EDWARDS
Certainly. The estate is currently valued in the region of ten million pounds.

Alistair blinks. Mary becomes uncomfortably aware of the weight of his hand resting on her shoulder.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- EVENING

Mary and Alistair walk through the park. She's in a fog of memory.

MARY
Gran loved the park.

ALISTAIR
Not the safest place to be wandering after dark.

Mary shoots him a look filled with repugnance. Alistair doesn't notice. He takes her elbow and leads her on.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- EVENING

Mary and Alistair enter. Gushi scurries in and sniffs around Mary's ankles. She picks the dog up and cuddles her. Sees Alistair take off his suit jacket and loop it over a chair.

ALISTAIR
I'll get the kettle on.

MARY
Alistair, I'd like to be alone.

ALISTAIR
Nonsense.

He gives her a smile and heads deeper into the house.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- EVENING

Alistair enters and begins to fill the kettle. Mary steps into the doorway behind him with Gushi in her arms.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Why is Mr. Edwards referring to you as my fiance?

ALISTAIR
I don't know. He's your Grandmother's lawyer.

He sets the kettle on the stove and switches on the element. Mary puts the dog down. Switches the element off.

MARY
Meaning what?

ALISTAIR
Maybe Frederica gave him that impression.

MARY
Gran wouldn't do that.

ALISTAIR
You think I did? You're not saying it's because of the money?

MARY
No. You just did.

ALISTAIR
I do just fine with my job at the bank.

Mary walks out. Insulted, Alistair follows.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR — EVENING
Mary comes up the stairs with Alistair behind her.

ALISTAIR
I may not be "to the manor born" but I was good enough to take care of you while we were together. And I did it without benefit of your trust fund.

MARY
I want you to leave, Alistair.

ALISTAIR
Now that the funeral's been attended to and Frederica's in the ground, I'm dismissed.

He follows her down the hall.

(Continued)
ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
You're in no condition to be alone, Mary. Go lie down and I'll bring you a cup of tea—

MARY
I don't want your sodding cup of tea!

Alistair grabs her wrist and swings her around. Mary tries to pull loose.

MARY (CONT'D)
You're hurting me.

ALISTAIR
You're hysterical. You're looking for someone to lash out at.

MARY
We don't all need punching bags. You have no idea what I need.

His face darkens.

ALISTAIR
Oh, don't I? Your precious bone marrow man. A bloody stranger you just invite into our lives.

MARY
Into my life. My life.

ALISTAIR
Is that where you were the night Frederica died? With him? She was so desperate to say goodbye, Mary.

MARY
Stop--

ALISTAIR
She was crying for you. But you weren't there. What were you doing, Mary? Out all night with Mr. Bone Marrow. Tell me what you were doing!

MARY
I was fucking him!

Alistair SLAPS her. Sends her reeling. He pulls back immediately, furious with himself.

ALISTAIR
Goddamnit.

(CONTINUED)
And then he's furious with her.

    ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
    Happy now, Mary? Got what you wanted? Made me the bad guy again?

Downstairs the doorbell RINGS.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- EVENING

Alistair rips open the door. Leo gives him a friendly smile.

    LEO
    Hi.

    ALISTAIR
    What do you want?

    LEO
    I've come to see Mary.

    ALISTAIR
    You are...

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR -- EVENING

Mary hears the voices coming up from the hall below.

    MARY
    Leo.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- EVENING

Leo studies Alistair.

    LEO
    Tell her it's Leo.

    ALISTAIR
    Leo, right. I'm afraid you've just missed her.

    LEO
    Oh... well--

    ALISTAIR
    I'll tell her you stopped by.

He gives Leo a hard smile and starts to close the door. A window on the second floor opens and Mary leans out.

    MARY
    Leo! It's Alistair! He won't leave!

    (CONTINUED)
Alistair tries to slam the door. Leo throws his shoulder against it, knocking it wide, and enters the house.

PASSERS-BY on the Crescent stop to stare.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- EVENING

Leo shoves past Alistair who screams in outrage.

   Alistair
What the bloody hell are you doing?

   Leo
Got her locked up, mate?

   Alistair
You can't come barging in here.

Leo sees Mary appear at the top of the stairs.

   Leo
Are you all right?

Alistair grabs him by the arm and spins him around.

   Alistair
I'm talking to you.

   Leo
Take your hand off me.

His voice is flat and even. Alistair snatches his hand back. Glares.

   Alistair
I know who you are.

   Leo
Good on you. Mary, do you want this man to leave?

   Mary
Yes.

   Alistair
This is ridiculous.

   Leo
You heard her.

   Alistair
I will not be turned out!

(CONTINUED)
He tries to shove past but Leo blocks his way. They lock eyes. Alistair is fired with rage. Leo is ice. For a moment it looks like it's going to come to blows.

Then Alistair hesitates. And in that instant it's over. Both men know it. Alistair tries to find refuge in a sneer.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
I see through you even if she can't. You're after the money.

LEO
Whatever you say, mate.

ALISTAIR
What's your name? Leo what?

Leo says nothing. Mary comes all the way down the stairs and tosses Alistair his suit jacket. He snatches it out of the air.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
I won't hesitate to involve the police.

MARY

Alistair glares. Whirls and SLAMS out of the house. Mary rushes to lock the door. She turns back to Leo...

Who has gone paper white. He slumps and Mary catches him. His weight pulls them both to the floor.

MARY (CONT'D)
Leo?

LEO
I'm fine... I'm...

He fights a wave of dizziness.

LEO (CONT'D)
... never used to take so much energy... to act hard...

He tries to find a laugh but fails. Mary hugs him tightly.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- EVENING

Alistair storms across the street. The Passers-By who stopped to watch disperse under his glare. All save one. Bean sidles up to Alistair who is glowering at the house.

(CONTINUED)
BEAN
A bad family the young lady's fallen
in with, sir. Of course I don't need
to tell you. A gentleman like yourself--

ALISTAIR
Sod off!

He stomps away down the street. Bean stares after him, lips
curled in anger.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Mary lowers Leo onto her bed. He lies back, exhausted.

LEO
Lovely bloke, your boyfriend. What
money was he talking about?

Mary looks down on him. Pale and—for the moment--helpless.
She ignores his question and unbuttons his shirt.

LEO (CONT'D)
Mary... I'm not... I don't think...

MARY
Sshhh.

She opens his shirt. Goes to work on his belt and trousers.

LEO
You're taking advantage of me.

MARY
Yes.

She moves to the foot of the bed. Takes off his shoes and
socks. She pulls off his trousers. She reacts in shock to
the wine-colored BRUISES on his inner thighs. Leo tries to
hide them.

MARY (CONT'D)
What happened?

LEO
Nothing.

MARY
Leo.

LEO
When my blood isn't clotting right...
it's not just nosebleeds. I bruise
easily. The slightest bump.

(CONTINUED)
She moves back around to him. Gentles his hands away.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. ALISTAIR'S FLAT - BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Alistair RIPS the bandage from Mary's hip. We see his face as shock and betrayal turn to rage. He grabs Mary by the ankle. PUNCHES her in the thigh.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Mary flinches at the memory. She runs her fingers gently along Leo's bruises. Tracing their shapes.

MARY
You're not a bastard, are you Leo?

LEO
I don't have the strength for it.

She begins to undress. Leo watches her strip away her black funeral clothes, exposing her own pale skin. She climbs onto the bed and straddles him. Weaves her fingers in his but uses her weight to keep his hands pinned to the bed.

Leo cranes his head up to kiss her. She pulls just out of reach. He lowers his head back to the pillow.

LEO (CONT'D)
I can't hurt you, Mary.

MARY
My poor, helpless Leo.

LEO
If that's what you want.

Mary bends to kiss him. Lightly. Lightly. She gentles herself down on top of him, covering his body. Pressing him down into the bed.

MARY
My poor helpless boy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- NIGHT

The street is still. The windows of the houses all dark.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary and Leo are spooned together, spent and naked.

(CONTINUED)
MARY

My parents died when I was little. My Grandmother was my family. My whole family.

Her voice breaks.

MARY (CONT'D)

I knew she wasn't well. I should have been checking on her.

LEO

We can't know when the people we care about are going to be taken away. She knew how much you loved her, didn't she?

MARY

I never really--

LEO

But she knew.

Mary begins to sob. Leo holds her tight.

Dissolve to:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- DAWN

The pale light has painted the room in tones of grey. Leo is leaning back against the headboard with Mary's head on his chest. She's lightly stroking a bruise on his ribs.

MARY

I wish she could have met you.

LEO

Would she have liked me?

MARY

It would've been fun watching her pretend not to.

LEO

You could show me where she lived.

Mary is silent for a moment. She finally counters with:

MARY

You could introduce me to Carl.

LEO

That's... not a good idea.

(Continued)
LEO (CONT'D)
Carl always tried to dismiss my interest in you as something unhealthy. Like another symptom of the disease.

MARY
You still haven't told him we've been in touch.

LEO
Things are tense between us.

MARY
Why?

LEO
Some idiot doctor told Carl that being my brother puts him at risk of developing leukemia himself. Because of our genetic similarity. One time he had a nosebleed...

FLASH CUT:

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT -- NIGHT
Carl looks into the mirror. Brings his hand away from his face. He stares at the blood smeared across his fingers.

LEO (V.O.)
He was so scared. So angry.

Carl catches sight of Leo in the mirror. He glares.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- DAWN
Leo closes his eyes against the memory. Sighs.

LEO
Now he checks himself for symptoms. Bruises. Bleeding gums. He doesn't think I notice. It's like I'm this terrible reminder that it could happen to him too.

Mary kisses him. Comforts him. Very gently begins to make love to him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- MORNING
Leo is dozing in a twist of sheets. Mary stares at him, smiling fondly.

(CONTINUED)
She slips out of bed and quietly gathers up her funeral wear. After a moment's hesitation, she also picks up Leo's clothes. She bundles them together and leaves.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- MORNING

Bean stops in front of the house with his squad of dogs. Mary opens the door with the clothes in her arms and allows Gushi out. Bean blinks at her loose robe and tousled hair. At the man's clothes she holds.

BEAN
Day off, Miss?

MARY
I'm sick.

BEAN
Nothing catching, I hope.

MARY
Oh, very contagious.

She slips back inside. Scowling, Bean leads the dogs away.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - LAUNDRY ROOM -- MORNING

Mary sorts the clothes into the washing machine. She empties the pockets of Leo's trousers. Finds his handkerchief tattooed with dry red streaks.

Mary studies it. Captivated by the pattern of Leo's blood.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Mary comes back into the room with a tea tray. She's surprised to see the bed empty.

MARY
Leo?

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR -- MORNING

Mary steps back out with the tray. She hears something from a room down the hall and tiptoes toward it. She peers through the partially open door.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING

Leo wanders around the opulent room, naked. Gawks at the furnishings. He finds a silk robe on the back of a chair and shrugs it on. Studies his appearance in a full length mirror.

(CONTINUED)
Mary lowers her voice to sound gruff:

MARY
What do you think you're doing, young man?

Leo spins. Then winces in embarrassment at the sight of Mary strolling in with the tea.

LEO
Mary! I... I just... I couldn't find my clothes.

MARY
I put them in the wash.

LEO
Oh?

It's Mary's turn to look embarrassed. Leo smiles broadly and takes a sip of tea. He looks at her in surprise.

LEO (CONT'D)
How did you know I take sugar?

MARY
That's how I like it.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- MORNING

Mary and Leo, both in robes, have ignored the chairs: they're sitting on top of the ridiculously grand dining room table slurping cold cereal.

Leo looks around in wonder.

LEO
Can you imagine having this much money? You'd never have to work again.

MARY
I like working.

LEO
But you could say no to it if you wanted. That's the real value of money. You can say no. To people. To time.

MARY
You can't buy time.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
You can. When I was really sick,
before the Harvest Trust found you,
Carl discovered that for enough money
you can buy the right kind of marrow
from India or someplace.

He looks around the room with a smile. Then winks at Mary.

LEO (CONT'D)
But we've got it okay, don't we? We
can spend a day tucked away here,
hidden from the world, having fun
pretending to be rich.

MARY
Is that enough for you? Pretending?

LEO
Sure. It has to be, doesn't it?

He gobbles cereal. From the front of the house comes the
sound of the DOOR OPENING. Leo looks around as Gushi comes
trotting in, dragging her leash with her.

LEO (CONT'D)
The lady of the house. Where did you
come from?

MARY
Bean must have brought her back from
her walk.

She slips off the table and unclips the dog's leash. She
doesn't notice Leo's frown.

LEO
Bean?

BEAN (O.S.)
Yes sir.

Leo turns to see Bean in the dining room doorway, studying
him. Mary walks over and offers him the leash.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Sorry, Miss. The little lass got
away from me.

MARY
That's fine. Leo, this is Bean. He
walks Gushi.

(CONTINUED)
LEO

Hello.

BEAN

Mr. Leo. Have we met, sir? You look familiar.

LEO

I'm Carl Nash's brother.

BEAN

Carl Nash. Of course, of course. I heard you'd been sick, sir. Back on your feet?

LEO

Doing okay, thanks.

BEAN

Tell your brother, old Bean says hello.

LEO

I will.

BEAN

Be seeing you around then.

He pats the HEAVY RING of keys on his hip and smiles at Mary.

BEAN (CONT'D)

I'll lock up after myself, Miss.

He touches the brim of his red cap and departs. A moment later, they hear the front door CLOSE and LOCK.

LEO

You gave him a key?

MARY

With my Gran's funeral and all, it seemed... He had references. Do you know him?

LEO

Not really. Carl knows a lot of creeps. You should walk Gushi yourself.

He sets his bowl aside and slips off the table.

LEO (CONT'D)

I have to go.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Back to Carl.

LEO
I've been gone all night. He worries. He's still my brother.

MARY
When will I see you again?

LEO
I don't know. I've lots to do.

MARY
I see.

LEO
Would tomorrow night be too soon?

Mary smiles.

Dissolve to:

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

The light in the hall comes on. Mary steps hesitantly into the room. She looks at the furniture shrouded by ghostly dust covers. The metal grills shut over the inside of the windows. She feels the silence weighing on her.

MARY
Gran?

There is no answer. Fighting her disquiet, Mary moves to a shelf full of framed photographs: travel pictures taken of Frederica in foreign lands.

Mary takes one down. Briefly touches her Gran's laughing face before hurrying from the house.

EXT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Mary unlocks the gate. Pauses at the entrance with the framed photo cradled in her arms. The tunnel stretches before her, long and dark. Light seeping through the far end shows the passage to be empty.

Mary starts along. Traffic RUMBLES overhead: background to her footsteps CLACKING against the concrete floor.

She's more than halfway across when the SILHOUETTE OF A MAN appears at the far end.

(Continued)
Mary hesitates. Glances back the way she came. Then she forges resolutely ahead.

The Silhouette lolls against the wall of the tunnel. As Mary gets close, we see it's Hob, the homeless thug who was shooting heroin under the bridge.

He steps out in front of Mary, blocking her way. Mary tries to duck around him. Hob moves to stop her.

MARY
Excuse me, please.

She's frightened. Hob grins unpleasantly. He's very stoned. Leaning toward her, he begins to BARK like a dog. Mary cringes back.

And then, from behind them, a man's voice ROARS:

ALISTAIR (O.S.)
LEAVE HER ALONE!

Mary turns as Alistair comes charging down the tunnel. He catches Mary up in a protective embrace.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Are you all right?

Hob BARKS at Alistair who snarls.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
For Christ's sake, shut up.

HOB
Give me twenty quid and I'll shut up.

ALISTAIR
Come on, Mary.

He shepherds her around Hob who follows on their heels.

EXT. PRIVATE GARDENS -- NIGHT

Alistair hurries Mary up the overgrown path and through the crescent-shaped garden with Hob screaming at them.

HOB
TWENTY QUID! I WANT MY TWENTY!

They reach the gate. Mary unlocks the door and they escape to the street.
EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- NIGHT

Mary and Alistair reach the front door. She fumbles with her keys. Alistair stares back down the street.

ALISTAIR
Fucking madman. Good thing I came along when I did. I warned you about walking out after dark.

MARY
How is it that you did happen to come along, Alistair?

ALISTAIR
I came by here but you weren't home so I went by your Gran's.

MARY
You followed me from her house.

ALISTAIR
I was working up the courage to apologize.

He notices Hob shuffling down the opposite side of the street.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Uh... Mary, I know I've behaved badly.

HOB
Hey!

Mary stiffens with fear at the sight of Hob. Alistair goes on in a rush.

ALISTAIR
I know I've hurt you. Please, tell me what I can do to make it up.

HOB
Hurry along, mate. Say goodnight and give me my twenty.

ALISTAIR
Will you just fuck off.

HOB
We had a deal. I want my twenty.

Alistair turns back to Mary who gives him a look of utter disgust. She unlocks the door and backs through, leaving him no room to follow. He looks desperate.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
Mary, please. You don't know what you mean to me.

MARY
Yes, I do. Twenty pounds.

She closes the door. Alistair BANGS on it.

ALISTAIR
Mary. For Christ's sake. MARY!

Hob gives a drugged-out laugh. He joins Alistair calling for her.

HOB
Mary! MareEEEEEE!

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- NIGHT

Mary throws the bolt and sets the chain. She backs across the hall and lowers herself to sit on the bottom step as Alistair BANGS on the door and Hob SCREAMS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- MORNING

Mary is gone. Replaced by Gushi waiting patiently. The LOCK turns and the door opens... until the CHAIN stops it.

BEAN (O.S.)
Miss? Miss Jago!

Mary hurries down the hall in her robe. She frees the chain. Bean forces an obsequious smile over his impatience.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Morning, Miss. Another day off?

Mary nods. Bean clips Gushi to the leash.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Seen any more of young Mr. Nash? Shame about his illness.

MARY
He seems to think he's over the worst.

BEAN
That's not what Carl told me.

MARY
What did he say?

(CONTINUED)
BEAN
Just a passing remark. Sounded as if Mr. Leo's not a hundred percent.

MARY
He will be.

BEAN
If you say so, Miss. You've met Carl?

MARY
No, I haven't.

BEAN
Really?

And then he adds casually:

BEAN (CONT'D)
Perhaps Mr. Leo thinks you might not approve.

MARY
Approve?

BEAN
You know, the drugs and... other things.

He makes a show out of leading Gushi to the door, milking the moment. Mary comes to a decision and...

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- MORNING

All six of Bean's dogs are sprawled or sniffing around the kitchen table. Mary strains tea into two mugs. Hands one to Bean.

BEAN
Leaves. Makes all the difference.

MARY
How do you know Carl Nash?

BEAN
From around the neighborhood. Around the park.

MARY
But how did you actually meet?

Bean sips tea. Smiles thinly.

(CONTINUED)
BEAN
Well, if you can be discreet...

Mary nods gravely. Bean pauses for dramatic effect.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Sometimes he works for one of my clients.

MARY
Doing what?

BEAN
Money changes hands. Certain... services are performed.

MARY
Services?

BEAN
Behind closed doors.

Mary stares at Bean in surprise.

MARY
Are you saying...

BEAN
I'm not in there with them, am I? All I know is that it sounds painful.

Mary sits back, trying to process what she's heard. Bean lowers his voice into a conspirator's whisper.

BEAN (CONT'D)
I could ask around. Find out a little more. Wouldn't cost much.

MARY
I don't think that will be necessary, Bean.

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - SITTING ROOM -- EVENING

Mary switches on the light and shows Leo in.

MARY
Irene Adler's living room.

He goes straight to the mantel and opens the secret panel to reveal the photograph of Irene and the King. Mary looks impressed.

(CONTINUED)
MARY (CONT'D)
How did you know that was there?

LEO
Sherlock Holmes pretends to be... what is it? A priest? He gets into Irene's house and finds the photo. But when he comes back the next day, Irene's gone.

MARY
Leaving only a letter to explain that she'd outsmarted him. You like Sherlock Holmes?

LEO
Conan Doyle's a good read.

He studies the image of the woman in the photo.

LEO (CONT'D)
I didn't like that Irene just ran away.

MARY
Sometimes running away is safer.

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - BEDROOM -- EVENING

Leo turns up the faux gas lamps to reveal the lavishly detailed room. A portrait of Irene watches him stroll about.

LEO
A museum for someone who never existed.

He bounces on the bed. Gives Mary a playful leer. She remains in the doorway.

MARY
Leo... is there a reason you don't want me to meet Carl?

LEO
What?

MARY
I've just been thinking... there must be something about him you don't want me to know.

LEO
You've heard something. It was Bean, wasn't it?

(CONTINUED)
Mary says nothing. Leo shakes his head.

LEO (CONT'D)
Mary, can't you see what he's doing? He's sending me a message: I know who you are; I know where you come from.

MARY
Why would he bother?

LEO
Because he's a bitter old man who resents the fact that a guy like me can be inside with you while he's out there with your dog.

MARY
He said horrible things about your brother.

LEO
Carl is no saint.

MARY
He deals drugs, doesn't he?

Leo's face goes tight.

LEO
I've never had the luxury of worrying about where the money comes from.

MARY
Is that all he does? I mean, Bean also hinted...

LEO
Hinted what, Mary?

MARY
Is Carl a prostitute?

Shame flashes in Leo's eyes. Mary looks stricken.

MARY (CONT'D)
You didn't know. Leo, I'm so sorry, I--

LEO
Of course I knew.

He pushes off the bed, looking angry. Sick.

(CONTINUED)
LEO (CONT'D)

What do you think it's like? Knowing your brother hangs around the public toilets? Knowing he visits the oh-so-respectable homes around the park? Selling his arse to rich people. Sweaty old men paying him to act out their fantasies. Paying extra to--

He chokes.

LEO (CONT'D)

... to perform the rough stuff. Getting off on causing pain. On feeling it.

He clenches his hands into fists. Clenches his eyes shut.

FLASH CUT:

INT. PALE ROOM - FLASHBACK -- DAY

Carl lifts his head from a pillow, his face contorted with agony. We see his arms and chest rubied with bruises. Then we are back in...

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo's sways, made dizzy by his own rage.

LEO

Filthy bastards. If they'd experienced real pain... chronic, inescapable pain... they'd think twice about trying to take pleasure from it.

MARY

Leo...

LEO

You didn't need... to know any of this. That's the beauty of what we had.

Mary reacts with shock to the word "had". Leo doesn't appear to notice.

LEO (CONT'D)

The way we came together had nothing to do with our families or with what we've done with our lives. It was just you and me brought together--

(CONTINUED)
MARY
By our blood. But we were bound to
find out each other's secrets.

LEO
I didn't know you'd judge me by them.

MARY
I'm not being judgmental.

Leo stops suddenly. He looks at her.

LEO
I thought... if you knew you'd be
ashamed of me.

MARY
You don't know me very well.

LEO
No.

MARY
Would you like to?

EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Mary and Leo stand before the enormous house. She's still
uneasy. He is awed.

LEO
This is your Grandmother's house?

MARY
Mine now, I suppose.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Mary stands in the entrance, watching Leo move around the
grand room, peeking under dust covers. Marvelling.

LEO
You grew up here?

MARY
Guilty.

LEO
The stuff I said about rich people...
you knew I was joking, right?

MARY
Sounded pretty serious to me.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
No, no, I love the rich. Some of my favorite people are spoiled little... I mean affluent pillars of society.

She gives him a small smile. He becomes aware of her uneasiness. He crosses to her and takes her hands.

LEO (CONT'D)
Introduce me to your Grandmother.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary has photos of her Grandmother spread across the bed. She and Leo sift through images of exotic locations.

MARY
Gran kept telling me to see more of the world. She thought I was terribly unadventurous. She'd been everywhere.

LEO
You never wanted to travel?

MARY
I did. But there was school and later Alistair. I told myself I was lucky to have found what I wanted here with him.

LEO
What was that?

Mary gets up. Moves restlessly around the room touching artifacts brought back from her Grandmother's travels.

MARY
Stability. Safety. I guess to a little girl who has lost her parents, the world seems a dangerous place.

LEO
You're not a little girl anymore.

She sits by the antique telescope. Peers through the eyepiece.

Leo traces images in the photos.

LEO (CONT'D)

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Where?

LEO
I don't know. Someplace exotic. Someplace I could stay for years and years and come back... changed. Not recognized by anyone I'd left behind.

He looks at Mary peering through the telescope.

LEO (CONT'D)
What do you see, Mary?

MARY
Hmm? Oh... nothing. Just--

LEO
What do you see?

She hears him get off the bed. She keeps her eye to the telescope, pretending to search the neighborhood.

MARY
I see... a woman. She's standing at a window.

LEO
In full view of the street? That's not very safe. Is she alone?

MARY
A stranger's just come into the room. I can't make out his face. He's standing behind her. Very close behind her.

Leo crosses to the window and stands behind her. Very close behind her.

LEO
What are they doing now?

MARY
He has his hands on her hips... he's sliding them up under her blouse.

Leo puts his hand on Mary's hips. Slides them up beneath her shirt. Her breathing quickens. She keeps her eye glued to the telescope.

MARY (CONT'D)
He's kissing her... her neck... her ear...

(CONTINUED)
Leo mimics the action.

MARY (CONT'D)
Using his teeth... lightly. One hand
is slipping down... down...

She sucks air softly as Leo reaches between her legs. Arches
her back.

MARY (CONT'D)
Leo...

LEO
Sshhh. Keep looking.

And he gently turns her head back to the eyepiece.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT -- NIGHT

Carl is sprawled on the couch, rolling joints by the glow of
a silent television. He looks up as Leo enters quietly.

LEO
Oh... you're up late.

CARL
Waiting for you.

He watches Leo peg his jacket.

CARL (CONT'D)
Where've you been?

LEO
Out. Around.

CARL
You've been out and around a lot
lately.

Leo shrugs noncommittally. Carl tracks him with his eyes.
Lifts some post-it notes from beside the phone.

CARL (CONT'D)
The hospital called back. I wrote
everything down.

LEO
Christ. Not tonight... okay?

CARL
We've got to talk.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
Not about this.

CARL
Then about money. Treatments cost. We've got to start bringing in some cash.

LEO
"We" this time?

Carl's face hardens.

CARL
Okay, "you". You like that better?

Leo gives him an even look. Carl flushes and glances away. His voice is surly with guilt.

CARL (CONT'D)
It wouldn't kill you to take a turn through the park.

He fires up the joint. Sucks greedily on its smoke then waves it at Leo.

CARL (CONT'D)
Here. Good for what ails you.

LEO
No thanks.

CARL
When did you turn into such a fucking white knight?

Leo shrugs and heads for his bedroom. Carl calls out after him.

CARL (CONT'D)
Hey... you're not holding out on me, are you? We're brothers. We're still there for one another.

LEO
Sure. Always.

He hesitates on the threshold. Turns, marches back, and scoops up the post-it notes. He carries them into his room.

Carl takes another hit off the joint. Stares after Leo. Suspicious.
INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT - LEO'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo closes the door. Turns on a lamp and reads the post-it notes. He sags down onto the bed. Squeezes his eyes shut.

INT. HEALTH FOOD MARKET -- DAY

Mary is shopping. Examining shelves full of powders and potions and vitamin remedies. She gives up. Moves to the vegetable bins.

A SHOP CLERK gives her an approving nod.

SHOP CLERK
Those are very high in anti-oxidants.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- DAY

Mary strolls home with her groceries. She smiles as a flight of KIDS goes rushing past along the grass. Then her smile dies at something she sees.

REVERSE ANGLE - CLOSE ON TWO MEN

Meeting at the crest of a small rise. There is a fast dance of hands as folded bills are exchanged for a bag of heroin. As they move apart we see...

Mary watching from the path.

She stares as the two men go their separate ways. One is Hob. The other—who is disappearing over the rise—is Leo.

Mary stands frozen until she notices Hob ambling toward her. He glowers at her. Mary hurries on with her groceries.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- EVENING

CLOSE ON Leo's leather jacket slung over the back of a chair. Mary is chopping the vegetables she bought at the market. She keeps stealing glances out the door and down the length of the house to...

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- EVENING

Leo is on the phone. Talking quietly. Asking questions. He replaces the receiver. Takes a moment to rally himself before heading back toward the kitchen with a falsely hearty:

LEO
Hey, how's dinner coming?
Leo and Mary are sitting in the chairs this time. Both are quiet. Caught up in their own thoughts.

MARY
I went by the Museum today.

LEO
Yeah?

MARY
I told Roman I'd be coming back to work on Monday.

LEO
That's good. So is dinner.

MARY
Everything's fresh. I picked it up on the way home.

LEO
Mmmm.

MARY
I walked through the park. Leo... we have to talk.

Leo stops eating. He puts down his fork and looks at her.

LEO
Why is it that when people say "we have to talk," what they really mean is "you have to listen".

MARY
I saw you selling drugs.

LEO
I'm helping my brother.

MARY
Carl's making you--

LEO
I'm helping my brother. Christ, Mary, you have no idea what I've cost him.

MARY
If you need money--

(CONTINUED)
LEO
Another donation? More of your charity?

MARY
What I did was never about charity.

LEO
No, it was about a vain young woman trying to punish her boyfriend.

MARY
Leo!

He shoves himself to his feet. Angry. Almost reeling.

LEO
It was about a poor little heiress trying to make a connection.

MARY
Why are you acting like this?

LEO
I'm not helpless, okay? I can still do things for my brother. Can't you understand that?

MARY
Of course I understand. The two of you... you're blood.

Her soft words stop him. She goes on quietly. Firmly. Dreading his reaction.

MARY (CONT'D)
But, Leo... if you're dealing... I can't be with you if you're dealing.

He stares at her for a long moment. Then he turns and leaves the room. Moments later Mary hears the front door SLAM.

She hangs her head and cries.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Mary scrapes the remains of dinner into the garbage. She stacks the plates in the sink. Turns and catches sight of his leather jacket hooked over the chair.

She picks it up. Cradles it. Something falls out of the pocket. One of the post-it notes Carl gave Leo. There's a phone number written on it.
INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- NIGHT

Mary punches the number from the post-it note into the phone. She listens to the distant RINGING.

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)
You've reached the Middlesex Hospital Department of Oncology. If you know the extension of the office--

Mary hangs up. She looks anguished.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- DAY

Mary is walking with a contemplative Roman. She's anxious. Almost flighty.

MARY
He must be ill again. The calls to the hospital. The bruises.

ROMAN
Has he said anything?

MARY
No. He's so proud of how strong he's been getting. But not knowing for sure is just--

ROMAN
Killing you?

MARY
That's not fair.

ROMAN
Neither is leukemia.

Mary falls silent. Roman slings a comforting arm around her shoulders.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Just be there for him, Mary. It really isn't all that complicated.

She leans against him. A few paces later, he casually remarks:

ROMAN (CONT'D)
You know, Alistair keeps calling the Museum.

MARY
Alistair.
The very name seems to exhaust her.

MARY (CONT'D)
I guess dealing with him isn't all that complicated either, is it?

Roman gives her a squeeze. They walk on in a companionable silence.

INT. ALISTAIR'S FLAT - BEDROOM -- EVENING

Alistair stands before a mirror. He applies lipstick. Presses his shirt collar to his mouth, making a perfect lip mark. He smudges it up.

The DOORBELL rings.

INT. ALISTAIR'S FLAT -- EVENING

Alistair exits the bedroom. Grabs a glass from a pair on the coffee table and kisses the rim. He sets it back down, wipes the rest of the lipstick from his mouth and moves to answer the door.

Mary is in the hall.

ALISTAIR
Oh, it's you.

MARY
I told you I was coming.

He walks across the room and gestures to a shopping bag on the coffee table.

ALISTAIR
I got your stuff together. I'm a little busy now, so if you'll just...

Mary takes the bag. Sits on the couch and looks through the contents.

Alistair bristles.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Everything is there.

MARY
Really? There was a lipstick I quite liked. Same shade as your new friend. Seen it?
ALISTAIR
For Christ's sake, Mary. Can't you see what I'm trying to do? I'm in love with you. I want you to come to your senses.

MARY
I did. I left.

ALISTAIR
This Leo is nothing. He's a diversion. A bit of rough. You're using him like you used me.

MARY
What?

ALISTAIR
You remember. Poor little rich girl languishing away in that big house. Friday nights spent playing cribbage with your Grandmother's starchy old friends.

MARY
Stop it.

ALISTAIR
I was good enough for you then, wasn't I? Good enough to help you escape. What a lark it must have been to play grown-up... to play house... and still have someone solid and dependable to cling to.

MARY
And what did you get in return? Someone to parade in front of your bank buddies. I was an accessory. A bit of upper class flash like your good shoes and your credit cards.

ALISTAIR
That's not a problem with your latest plaything, is it?

MARY
This is sick, Alistair. We're done. I'm leaving.

ALISTAIR
That's right. Run away again. Just like you always do. Funny how you never seem to get anywhere.
She tosses his flat keys on the coffee table and rises. Alistair moves to block the door.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Your Grandmother wouldn't have approved of him, you know. She'd have worried herself into that aneurysm. Not that you'd care.

MARY
Let me by.

ALISTAIR
You left her to die with strangers while you drooled all over him. Undressing each other in public. Your Grandmother would have been disgusted.

MARY
What? We never--

ALISTAIR
I saw you! Pulling at his tie. Treating him like a dog at the end of a leash.

Mary looks at him in horror.

MARY
At the club. The night Gran died. You followed us.

ALISTAIR
No, I--

MARY
You knew where I was and you didn't tell me.

ALISTAIR
It wasn't that night. It was... it was...

MARY
You monster. You son of a bitch bastard!

She shoves her way past him.

ALISTAIR
Mary!

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Keep the fuck away from me.

ALISTAIR
You're not in love with this Leo. It's pity. You'll come running back when you get tired of holding his hand during chemo.

She whirls. Appalled. Enraged. Searches for the most cutting thing she can say.

MARY
We're getting married.

She slams out of the flat. Alistair stands there, his face ashen, his fists opening and closing uselessly.

EXT. MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL -- DAY

The automatic doors bump open. Leo steps out carrying a plastic bag emblazoned with the HOSPITAL CREST. His face is drawn with pain. He walks to a public telephone. Feeds in some coins and taps buttons.

LEO
Hello... Mary?

EXT. REGENT'S PARK -- NIGHT

TWO SHADOWS scale an iron gate. Drop to the ground. It's Leo and Mary.

MARY
Don't the police patrol the park at night?

LEO
They can't be everywhere at once.

He falls silent. Leads her through the trees. Mary takes his hand.

MARY
I'm glad you phoned.

LEO
I've been a fool.

They come out of the trees onto the moonlit grass of the central recreational area. Leo takes a deep breath.

LEO (CONT'D)
This is it. I love this place.

(CONTINUED)
He pulls her to the center of the space where he does a slow spin. They seem to be in an endless expanse of silver shadowed grass. The horizon is tinged red by the glow of the surrounding city. Lights from the distant buildings seem a world away.

LEO (CONT'D)
We're hidden right in the middle of the busiest part of London. It's like the eye of a storm.

Mary smiles.

MARY
Alistair says the park is dangerous at night. I went by his place to pick up the last of my things.

LEO
How did it go?

MARY
I thought it went well.

He gives her a look. Mary shakes her head helplessly.

MARY (CONT'D)
It was awful. How did I ever think I loved him? He'll leave me alone now though.

LEO
You sound very sure.

MARY
I told him we were getting married.

Leo goes very still.

LEO
I'd marry you in a second.

MARY
What? Oh, Leo... no. It was—

LEO
A joke? Something hurtful to say to Alistair?

MARY
Leo, stop.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
You gave me a new life, Mary. I want
to spend it with you. Every second
of it that I have left.

MARY
Don't talk like that.

LEO
It would be just the two of us. We
could travel. Disappear together.
Away from your ex.

His voice drops.

LEO (CONT'D)
Away from my brother.

MARY
I'm not asking you--

LEO
No. I'm asking you. I love you. I
want to marry you.

The quiet desperation in his tone breaks Mary's heart. They
stand in the moon-rimed clearing. Finally, Mary manages:

MARY
I'll marry you, Leo.

He hugs her. Rests his head on her shoulder. She tightens
her arms around him. Listens to his whisper.

LEO
It'll be just us, Mary. Just us. I
promise.

EXT. PRIMROSE HILL BRIDGE -- MORNING

Bean marches along with his squad of dogs. Slows at the
sight of a man obviously waiting for him. It's Alistair.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK CAFE - PATIO -- MORNING

Alistair and Bean sit at one of the tables.

BEAN
The Harvest Trust, you say, sir?
Bone marrow transplants? Doesn't
sound natural, does it?

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
You said Miss Jago had fallen in with a bad family.

BEAN
Just rumours, sir. Bone marrow isn't all they inject, if you take my meaning.

ALISTAIR
What more can you find out?

BEAN
Spy for you, sir?

Bean makes a show of looking shocked. Alistair snaps:

ALISTAIR
Cut the crap. I can make it worth your while.

BEAN
Gentleman like yourself? I never doubted it.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- DAY

Mary strolls home from work. She pulls out her keys and unlocks the door.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAY

Mary steps inside. She bends to recover the afternoon mail fanned out beneath the door slot when...

TWO LARGE DOGS charge her. Mary shrieks in surprise as they lick and paw playfully at her. She staggers to her feet. Recognizes the dogs from Bean's pack.

MARY
Bean.

No answer. Mary hears a FAINT THUMP from upstairs.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR -- DAY

Mary reaches the top of the stairs. Eyes the gloomy hallway.

MARY
Bean?

Still no answer. A little nervous now, Mary starts toward the half-open door to the master bedroom. She passes her room...

(CONTINUED)
And Bean steps out with a wiggling terrier in his hands. Mary jumps and shouts.

**BEAN**

Sorry, Miss.

**MARY**

What are you doing up here?

**BEAN**

Little blighter gave me the slip. I think he's taken too much of a liking to Miss Gushi.

**MARY**

I was calling you.

**BEAN**

My hearing's not what it used to be.

He carries the dog to the stairs. Mary follows him. Watches him start down.

**MARY**

I don't want you up here again.

**BEAN**

Pardon, Miss?

**MARY**

You heard me.

He gives her a knowing little leer and continues down the stairs. She hears him gathering up the other dogs.

Mary shivers.

**EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Leo and Mary are tangled together on the sheet-shrouded couch. They've just finished making love.

**LEO**

Take the key back. Fire him. Both you and Gushi will be better off.

**MARY**

Leo...

**LEO**

Why do you think Bean walks dogs, Mary? Not exactly an animal lover, is he?

(Continued)
He absently plays with a corner of the sheet as he talks.

    LEO (CONT'D)
    He does it so he can get inside
    people's homes.

FLASH CUT:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL - FLASHBACK -- DAY

Bean paws through the letters fanned out on the floor beneath
the mail slot.

    LEO (V.O.)
    They give him a key because it's
    convenient.

FLASH CUT:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK -- DAY

Bean keeps the terrier ducked under one arm as he slides a
hand under the mattress. Sifts through Mary's lingerie
drawer. Holds up a nightdress.

    LEO (V.O.)
    They don't think about him sniffing
    around. Prying into their lives.

EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Leo drops the corner of the sheet over Mary's face. He
smoothes it out, gently feeling the shape of her features
through the cloth.

    LEO
    Looking for whatever's been safely
    hidden away.

    MARY
    You're scaring me.

He kisses her through the cloth. Feels her arch her body
against him.

    LEO
    I'll talk to Bean. Besides...

EXT. GLOBE PUB -- NIGHT

Bean steps from the shadows as Alistair's car pulls into the
lot. He hands Alistair a letter in exchange for a wad of
bills as we hear Leo:

(CONTINUED)
LEO (V.O.)
There's nothing for him to discover.

Alistair looks at what he's been given. An envelope emblazoned with the Harvest Trust logo.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - SITTING ROOM -- NIGHT

Mary addresses an unusually large group of TOURISTS. Her delivery is cheerfully confident. Relaxed.

MARY
Even by today's standards, Irene's independence can be thought of as thoroughly modern.

She pops open the secret panel over the fireplace. Inside, leaning against the photograph is something else: an ENVELOPE.

Mary looks surprised. Covers quickly.

MARY (CONT'D)
She left a picture... and a letter... explaining to Holmes that she'd seen through his deception.

She takes out the envelope. It's been opened. Mary sees the Harvest Trust logo. Sees her name and address.

She steps aside as the Tourists move forward to see the photo of Irene. One Tourist holds his place near the door.

It's Alistair. He smiles at Mary.

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - GIFT SHOP/OFFICE -- DAY

Mary storms in with a smug Alistair following behind. She holds up the Harvest Trust letter.

MARY
What is this?

ALISTAIR
Consider it a wedding present.

MARY
Is this going to tell me Leo's sick again? Do you think I'd desert him because of that? Leo is everything I've ever wanted.

(CONTINUED)
She RIPS UP the letter. Let's the pieces flutter to the floor. Alistair smiles thinly.

ALISTAIR
Ignorance is bliss, I suppose.

He strolls to the door. Pauses for effect.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
You're right, Mary. You don't need to see what that letter said. I'm sure Leo's been honest with you about his health.

She glares at him. Alistair smiles.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Brave, selfless Mary.

He exits. Mary's gaze drifts to the pieces of letter. She hesitates...

And then stoops to gather them up.

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT - BATHROOM ~ DAY

Leo packs his shaving kit. He glances nervously through the open door, checking out the rest of the flat.

It's empty. He can see the couch: unoccupied for once but still bearing signs of Carl's recent occupation: dented cushions; a picket of beer bottles; drug gear scattered across the coffee table.

Leo finishes packing his kit. He catches sight of his reflection in the mirror. He's pale and there are dark circles under his eyes.

As he leaves, we see the waste basket full of blood-dotted tissues.

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT -- DAY

Leo hurriedly shoves his shaving kit into a duffel bag. Jams the plastic bag with the HOSPITAL CREST in beside it and shrugs on his leather jacket.

With a last, sad glance at the couch, he shoulders the duffel and--after carefully checking the hall--slips from the flat.

He doesn't even bother to close the door.
INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo's duffel is an incongruous lump in the middle of the ornate room. Mary steps over it to get into bed. She watches Leo getting undressed.

He notices the photo she took from her Grandmother's closet on the nightstand. Tucked into the corner of the frame is the cut-out picture of him.

LEO
You kept it.

MARY
Of course.

He sits on the bed and pulls the picture loose. Stares at it with sad eyes.

FLASH CUT:

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT - FLASHBACK -- DAY

CLOSE ON the entire photograph. Carl and Leo grinning. Their arms around one another.

The BLADE of a knife is dragged between them, then turned and dragged sideway across Leo's chest. FINGERS push Leo's image out of the photograph, leaving a mutilated shot of Carl embracing an empty square.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary watches Leo slip his picture back into the frame.

MARY
You looked much happier then.

LEO
It was before the illness.

He pulls off his shirt. Mary reaches out. Strokes his side just beneath his ribs.

MARY
You have more bruises.

LEO
It's nothing.

She begins kissing the swollen marks.

MARY
You've been calling the hospital.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
Just to check in. I won't have to do it anymore.

MARY
Leo, if there's something--

LEO
There's nothing. Nothing.

He pulls back the covers and rolls into bed. Mary kisses the bruises on his chest. Follows their path down... across his stomach... down further...

DISOLVE TO:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- LATE NIGHT

Mary wakes to a soft sound. She looks across the pillow to Leo. His head is turned toward her, eyes closed in sleep. The moonlight is bright enough to reveal TEARS running down his face.

Mary reaches over and lets the back of her knuckles brush the glistening wetness of his cheek. She looks scared.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BATH -- LATE NIGHT

Mary enters with her handbag. She carefully closes the door before turning on the light. Sitting on the edge of the tub, she opens her bag and takes out the pieces of the Harvest Trust envelope.

She pulls out the torn inner letter. Shuffles the sections and begins to arrange them on the closed toilet lid. We read:

"SAD DUTY TO INFORM YOU..."

The breath catches in Mary's throat. She puts down another piece.

"HIGH FAILURE RATE..."

Then another.

"PROLONGED STRUGGLE..."

Her hands struggle as she sifts through the remaining pieces.

MARY
Oh, Leo...

She finds the key piece.

(CONTINUED)
"THE DEATH OF LEO NASH ON THURSDAY THE 7TH OF AUGUST."

We hold on this last phrase, CREEPING IN on "The death of Leo Nash". Mary brings her hand to her mouth, stunned.

MARY (CONT'D)
Leo... dead.

A SUDDEN KNOCi at the door makes her come close to screaming.

LEO (O.S.)
Mary?

She can’t answer. Leo KNOCKS again.

LEO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Mary, are you all right?

She sees the door knob begin to turn.

MARY
Yes! I... I’ll be right out.

The knob stops turning. Mary takes the pieces of letter back into her bag and shoves the bag in the sink cabinet.

She flushes the toilet. Splashes water on her face. Taking a nervous breath, she opens the bathroom door.

Leo stands there, a concerned look on his face.

LEO
Are you okay?

MARY
Of course. Are you, Leo?

He smiles gently, touched by her concern.

LEO
I’m fine. You worry about me so.

She slips past him. Leo gives the bathroom a quick once-over before turning out the light.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT
d
Mary crawls back into. Feels Leo snuggle up beside her. His arms wrap tightly around her, keeping her close.

She lays there. Stiff and afraid. Staring into the dark.
INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING

Leo comes awake. Finds himself alone in the bed.

LEO

Mary?

No answer. She's gone.

Leo flops back down on the pillow. We PUSH past him to the framed photo of Frederica. The cut-out picture of Leo that was tucked into the corner is gone.

INT. SEEDY STAIRWELL -- MORNING

A sleepy-eyed LANDLORD leads Mary up the stairs.

LANDLORD

They skipped out and left a bunch of shit. Don't know if any of it's worth collecting.

MARY

We take all sorts of things. Not just clothes.

LANDLORD

Well, the flat rents furnished so the kitchen stuff stays.

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT -- MORNING

The Landlord unlocks the door. Mary steps past him. Makes a slow turn to take in the squalid surroundings.

MARY

How do you know they skipped?

LANDLORD

They owe back rent. I came by last night to collect. Door's open, the flat's empty. You figure it out.

She walks to Leo's bedroom.

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT - LEO'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Mary steps inside the small room. Sees the unmade bed. The empty hangers in the open closet. A collection of books and papers on a shelf catch her eye.

She crosses to them. Some are letters bearing the Harvest Trust logo. One informs Mr. Leo Nash that his bone marrow donor has requested he contact her.

(CONTINUED)
It provides Mary's name and address on Park Crescent. Paper clipped to it is Mary's invitation to meet her at the cafe.

Mary sets the letters aside. Finds a brand new paperback of Sherlock Holmes stories. Under it is a copy of the Social Register. She flips to a page marked by a folded newspaper clipping. It's the section on Frederica Jago.

Portions have been underlined. Passages about Frederica's prominent charity work. A lavish description of her home. Her travels. Words like "WEALTHY" and "PHILANTHROPIC" and "AFFLUENT" leap out. Underlined at the bottom are the words "GRANDDAUGHTER, MARY JAGO".

Mary unfolds the newspaper clipping. It's her Grandmother's obituary.

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT -- MORNING

Mary slams out of the bedroom, startling the Landlord.

   LANDLORD
   You done?

   MARY
   Yes.

Then she notices something on the coffee table. The mutilated photograph. She picks it up. Stares at the young man we've come to know as Carl. His arm around an empty square.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- MORNING

Leo is making himself a cup of tea when Gushi suddenly starts barking and wagging her tail. Leo looks around.

Finds Bean in the doorway, swinging the key in his hand, and smiling.

   BEAN
   Good morning, Mr. Leo.

Leo stares at him sourly.

   LEO
   Save it. She's not here.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LOBBY -- MORNING

Mary enters. Scans the building directory until she finds the suite number for THE HARVEST TRUST.
INT. HARVEST TRUST - DR. KIRKE'S OFFICE -- MORNING

DR. KIRKE, a sternly handsome middle-aged woman, leads Mary into the room.

KIRKE
Frankly, I don't know what more I can tell you, Miss Jago. Leo's relapse was quite sudden. His death caught us all by surprise.

She waves Mary to a chair and takes the seat behind her desk.

KIRKE (CONT'D)
His brother Carl insisted he be the one to break the news to you. He said he wanted to thank you personally.

MARY
I suppose he changed his mind.

KIRKE
It happens. That's why we always follow up with a letter.

MARY
I never actually met either of them. I mean... we spoke on the phone and Leo sent me a photo...

She opens her handbag and removes the small photo of Leo and the larger picture from which it was originally cut. She fits the two pieces together.

MARY (CONT'D)
I wanted to cut out Leo's picture... to put in my wallet... but I think I misunderstood...

She laughs queerly at the sound of the last word. Dr. Kirke frowns.

MARY (CONT'D)
... I think I cut out his brother's picture by mistake.

KIRKE
Yes. That's Carl you've cut out. Leo's on the left.

Mary takes the photo back. Stares at the two brothers.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
I just assumed that the blonde hair...
I mean he... Carl... he looks so much more like me.

KIRKE
It doesn't work like that, Mary.

MARY
We were such a good match.

KIRKE
Having the same tissue type doesn't mean you'll have any other similarities.

Mary looks up. Her eyes are bright with unspilled tears.

MARY
No. Of course not. Silly of me.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - DINING HALL — MORNING

Bean strolls in. Picks and pokes at the rich keepsakes. He glances at Leo.

BEAN
Do you have my money?

LEO
Give me time. We're not married yet.

BEAN
You're an enterprising young fellow. You'll come up with it.

He gives Leo a look of mock sadness.

BEAN (CONT'D)
Miss Jago has heard some dreadful things about Carl. Be a shame if she found out which Nash brother she was engaged to.

LEO
Mary Jago is the best thing that ever happened to me, Bean.

BEAN
Hard to find a trusting one nowadays, isn't it.
INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FREDERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Mary sits on her Grandmother's bed, surrounded by the pictures and relics of the woman's life. She looks dazed and defeated. Her tears, when they come, are hot and sharp as glass.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- EVENING

Mary stands across the street from the Blackburn-Norris house. She's studying it like she would something coiled and dangerous.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- EVENING

Mary opens the door. Peers nervously into the gloom.

MARY

Leo?

There is no answer. She steps in. Closes the door quickly and quietly.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Mary opens the suitcase on the floor of the wardrobe. Begins jamming clothes and shoes into it.

A sound makes her freeze. She quickly shuts the wardrobe.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - UPPER FLOOR -- EVENING

Mary steps into the dark hall. Creeps down to the master bedroom. She peeks through the partially open door.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- EVENING

Leo is sitting on the bed, wearing the silk robe. The contents of the bag with the HOSPITAL CREST are scattered on the spread before him: a few articles of clothing, a wallet.

Leo is weeping. Anguished. Looking at the cards in the wallet. At the photos of his brother. He runs his finger along the raised letters of the man's name: LEO DAVID NASH.

Mary studies him and the fear in her eyes is gradually eroded by his sobs. She sees him shut the wallet and sweep the things back into the bag. He carries it over to his duffel and hides it among the clothes within.

He wipes at his eyes and nose. Then gingerly touches his mouth. He crosses to the room's full length mirror.

(CONTINUED)
Stands there, running a finger over his gums, checking for
tell-tale signs of blood. He squeezes the flesh of his arms
and waits anxiously to see if the marks left by his fingers
fade.

Mary makes a soft sound and pushes the door all the way open.
She walks across the room to him. Leo turns to look at her
for a space of heartbeats.

Mary shakes her head wearily and surrenders to something
inside her.

MARY
My poor, helpless boy.

She pulls his head to her chest. Cradles him. Comforts
him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GLOBE PUB — DAY

An incredulous Alistair glares across the table at Bean.

ALISTAIR
What do you mean they're still living
together? It's been days.

BEAN
Mr. Leo told me they're getting
married.

Alistair rubs his forehead as if trying to push back a
migraine. Bean shrugs and takes a sip of ale.

BEAN (CONT'D)
She must want to take care of him.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE — DINING ROOM — EVENING

Leo puts his fork down. Mary watches him push back his dinner
plate.

MARY
Full?

LEO
No appetite today. But it was good.
You're a good cook.

MARY
And you're pale. You shouldn't be so
pale.

(CONTINUED)
LEO
You worry about me too much.

She rises.

MARY
I'll make us both a cup of tea. You try to eat a little more.

Leo obediently forks up another bite. Mary leaves the room.

And Leo sets down the fork. He frowns a little, troubled by his lack of hunger.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo is stretched out in bed, wide awake, listening to the rhythm of Mary's breathing. Satisfied that she is asleep, he gently climbs out of bed and, naked, steals across the floor to the bathroom door.

Mary opens her eyes, clearly having feigned sleep.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BATH -- NIGHT

Leo closes the door and turns on the light. He sits on the toilet. Makes a fist with one protruding knuckle.

He BEATS on his legs. Hard. Clenching his teeth. Wincing with each blow. Silent.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING

Mary is awake. Head resting on Leo's chest. She is staring at the line of faint white puncture scars on his inner elbow.

Leo stirs. Stretches. Comes awake without opening his eyes.

MARY
You're bruising again.

LEO

He strokes her hair. Mary slips from the bed, pulling the covers with her. Leo blinks and sits up. Gives her a sunny smile.

Then he notices his thighs. They are BLACK with unnaturally dark bruises.

LEO (CONT'D)

Fuck!

(CONTINUED)
MARY
It's bad, isn't it?

He feels the welts, horrified. Mary is genuinely moved by his fear.

INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE -- DAY

Leo sits in a plastic chair. Waiting restlessly. He skins back a shirt sleeve to check his arm. Looks anguished by the sight of dark bruises.

GOVERNMENT CLERK
Number Seventeen.

Leo jerks. Rolls down his sleeve and walks to a wicket marked PASSPORTS. He pushes the application form and two headshots across to the Clerk.

GOVERNMENT CLERK (CONT'D)
Identification, please.

Leo pulls out a birth certificate and driver's license. Hands them to the Clerk who scans the name: LEO DAVID NASH.

EXT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM -- AFTERNOON

Mary locks up and starts away along the sidewalk.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK - ENTRANCE GATE -- AFTERNOON

Mary heads toward the park entrance. She hears a car door SLAM. A moment later Alistair seizes her arm.

ALISTAIR
Why haven't you called me? You read the letter. I know you read the letter.

MARY
Leave me alone, Alistair.

ALISTAIR
Your precious little Leo isn't who you thought he was.

MARY
So what? Neither were you.

She tries to walk away from him. Alistair wrenches her back. Mary rounds on him, flaring.

(CONTINUED)
MARY (CONT'D)
He's dying, Alistair. He thinks he's developed leukemia.

ALISTAIR
He's faking it.

MARY
I've seen the symptoms. They're real this time. He's terrified.

ALISTAIR
He's after your money, Mary. Why else would he bother with you?

MARY
Is that why you bother with me?

ALISTAIR
You'd rather be with some shitty con man--

MARY
Than with you? My God, yes.

Alistair goes white. Somehow manages to control his temper.

ALISTAIR
I'm taking you home where you'll be safe. We'll call the police.

Mary sees a POLICE CONSTABLE come strolling out of the park.

MARY
Why wait?

She yanks free of Alistair and runs to the man. Alistair sees her talking rapidly. Gesturing back at him. Shaking with frustration, he hurries back to his car.

Mary watches him drive off. She looks sick. Exhausted. The Constable pulls out his notebook and pen. Dutifully makes a report.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - KITCHEN -- EVENING

Mary is cooking when she hears the front door open. A moment later, Leo enters with the afternoon mail. He looks pale and exhausted.

LEO
You have a postcard from the Blackburn-Norrises.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
I saw. They'll be home day after tomorrow.

LEO
I guess we'll have to decide where to elope to.

MARY
Tahiti. They have lovely hotels built over the water.

Leo manages a smile. Mary takes a spoon full of sauce and offers him a taste.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary and Leo are in bed. He rolls close to her. Begins kissing her throat.

MARY
Leo...

LEO
We haven't in days.

MARY
I'm very tired.

She pulls away from him. We see confusion in his eyes. After a moment, he rolls away. Mary stares up at the ceiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- MORNING

The street is quiet. Deceptively peaceful. We CLOSE on the Terrace House.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BATH -- MORNING

Leo is brushing his teeth. He spits into the sink. Sees BLOOD in the white foam.

He lifts his lip, squeezing his gum. Blood seeps from the gum line, running into the spaces between his teeth.

Leo looks frightened. He notices Mary standing behind him, watching him in the mirror.

MARY
Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)
LEO
No. No, I'm not. Can't you see what's happening?

MARY
Is this how it happened before?

FLASH CUT:

INT. LEO AND CARL'S FLAT - FLASBACK -- NIGHT
Leo watches, horrified, as Carl (the real Leo) stands before a mirror examining his own bleeding gums.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BATH -- NIGHT
Leo turns to Mary. He looks sick with fear.

LEO
This is exactly how it happened before. And I know where it leads.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT
Leo exits the bathroom, troubled, and drops down on the bed. Mary follows. Sits beside him.

MARY
We'll both be away from here after tomorrow. Everything will be better then.

She rubs his shoulders comfortingly.

MARY (CONT'D)
You're about to marry an heiress.

LEO
What good is money if I'm...

He trails off. Mary's hands find their way to his bruises.

MARY
You faced this before with your brother. Now you'll face it with me.

LEO
Just the two of us?

Mary hesitates. He turns and looks at her imploringly. She gives a small nod.

MARY
Together.

(CONTINUED)
He hugs her. Mary rocks him gently.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- MORNING

Mary exits the house. She hears the approaching YAP of dogs. She sees Bean's red cap bobbing down the sidewalk.

She hurries across the street to avoid meeting him.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- MORNING

We hear the sound of Bean's KEY in the lock. The door is opened from inside by Leo. Bean regards him warily.

BEAN
Not feeling well, are we?

LEO
I have your money.

BEAN
Congratulations. Be sure to kiss the blushing bride for me.

LEO
Meet me tonight. Ten o'clock at the Nursemaid's Passage.

He gently toes Gushi out the door. Closes it on Bean.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- MORNING

Bean stares at the closed door for a long moment before bending to catch Gushi's collar. His expression is wary. Almost frightened.

INT. IRENE ADLER MUSEUM - SITTING ROOM -- DAY

Mary is alone in the room. Staring at the picture of Irene Adler in the secret compartment above the mantel. Her eyes are unreadable.

After a long moment, she firmly closes the compartment door. Seals the photo up in darkness.

EXT. REGENT'S PARK - BANDSTAND -- DAY

There is a field of striped deck chairs arrayed on the grass. Hob is slumped in one. He's pale and sweating. His clotted jacket pulled tight about him.

He rouses himself as Leo slips into the chair next to him.

(CONTINUED)
HOB
Christ, mate, you look like shit.

LEO
You're one to talk.

HOB
I'll be okay once you fix me up.

LEO
Got the money?

HOB
You'll hafta carry me this one--

Leo starts to get up. Allows Hob pull him back down.

HOB (CONT'D)
C'mon! C'mon! Maybe you know somebody... needs a job done.

LEO
Maybe. Maybe me. Tonight.

He slips something from his pocket. Palms it to Hob who gives it a quick glance.

HOB
That's not gonna last me.

LEO
That's to get you straight.

He slides a larger packet into Hob's jacket.

LEO (CONT'D)
That's for after. Fuck this up and you're cut off for life.

HOB
You just name the place.

INT. GLOBE PUB -- DAY

Alistair frowns at Bean.

ALISTAIR
Nursemad's Passage?

Bean takes a sip of brown ale. Nods sagely.

BEAN
He wants to meet you.

(CONTINUED)
ALISTAIR
He's got a shot at ten million pounds.
What does he think I can offer him?

BEAN
I know his type, sir. Common shit.
He's cooped up in that big house
without his drugs or his other vices.
Pretending to be a good boy. It's
too much work. You offer him a quick
payday and he'll vanish.

Alistair churns the idea around. Bean pitches his voice
low.

BEAN (CONT'D)
It's sad, of course. His leaving
sudden like that is sure to break
Miss Jago's heart. Someone will need
to be there to comfort her.

ALISTAIR
You really think he'll just go?

BEAN
You trust old Bean, sir. The mean
little bastards always go for the
short money.

EXT. ROYAL LAWN CEMETERY -- DAY

CLOSE ON a fresh plot of earth. There is no headstone or
plaque yet: just the raw dirt rising from the manicured grass.

Mary stares down at the grave. She's frowning slightly, as
if trying to work out how she should feel.

Finally she kneels and places a simple clutch of flowers on
the grave. Caught in the stems is the mutilated photo of
the man we knew as Carl. His arm embracing emptiness.

Mary straightens and walks away from him. And from the mound
we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The bed covers are mounded up over Mary and Leo. We see him
kissing her throat. Working his way down her shoulders.
She looks stiff and anxious.
INT. ALISTAIR'S FLAT - BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Alistair finishes dressing in dark clothes. He checks his appearance in the vanity mirror. He strikes a tough look. Grins savagely before leaving the room.

INT. BEAN'S BEDSIT -- NIGHT

Bean is watching television in the cramped room. He checks the time on the clock radio. He rises. Puts on his jacket and red cap.

EXT. PRIMROSE BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Hob is hunkered down beneath the bridge. He is shooting up. Injecting himself in the foot.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo kisses his way down Mary's belly. Moves to her hip. The Iliac Crest. Kissing.

MARY
Leo...

LEO
Sshhh.

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- NIGHT

Alistair parks down the block from the Terrace House. He gets out. Stares at the upper windows as if willing himself to see inside.

A HISS catches his attention. Bean materializes from the dark. Waves to Alistair to follow.

EXT. PRIVATE GARDEN -- NIGHT

Hob grabs the spikes of the iron fence and hauls himself over. He lands clumsily. Lumbers away, giggling slightly.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary trembles. Struggles against the way she is responding to Leo attentions. Her body begins to shake with restrained passion.

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- NIGHT

Bean unlocks the gate and swings it open. The metal hinges SCREEEE, breaking the silence. Bean leads Alistair into the moonlit garden.

(CONTINUED)
BEAN

Here...

He pulls off his red cap and sets it on Alistair's head.

BEAN (CONT'D)

Keep him off balance. Let him think it's me coming. Maybe you've turned his offer down.

Alistair stuffs some bills into Bean's hand. Marches off toward the tunnel.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary forces back a cry. On the edge of climax. He whispers:

LEO

I need you, Mary.

EXT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Alistair pauses for a moment before stepping into the black mouth of the tunnel. The only light is the faint moonlight at the far end...

Where a FIGURE crouches against the wall.

A look of anger flashes across Alistair's face. He pulls the cap lower. Keeping his face down, he marches forward.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary closes her eyes, surrendering herself as Leo begins to thrust against her. He seems desperate to lose himself in the physical passion.

A DROP OF BLOOD beads up at the end of his nose. Trembles with Leo's every push.

EXT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Alistair sees the Figure rise up as he approaches. It speaks in a low voice.

HOB

Hey, doggie-dog man. Carl doesn't like you sniffing around.

ALISTAIR

Is that your real name? Carl? I'll be sure to tell the police.

(CONTINUED)
The Figure shuffles toward him, giggling. Stoned. Alistair hesitates. He's suddenly unsure.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Who are you?

A FAST GLEAM of reflected light blurs past Alistair's face. A dark red GASH suddenly stretches from his chin to his cheek.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The drop of blood from Leo's nose falls and SPLATTERS onto Mary's pale cheek. It's followed by several more. Mary opens her eyes. Reacts in horror.

MARY
No no no no, stop.

INT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Alistair screams. Raises his hand to his face. There is a second steely BLUR and a gash opens in his wrist. Alistair scrambles back toward the end of the Passage.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary scrambles back against the headboard. Leo sees the blood on her skin. He touches his nose.

LEO
Oh Christ!

EXT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Alistair is grabbed from behind and SLAMMED into the tunnel wall. He slumps to the ground, head and shoulders out in the yellow light of the lamps around the Crescent.

Bean watches from hiding as Alistair is grabbed from behind and dragged back into the darkness.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Leo swipes at the blood on his face, trying to staunch the flow. He smears it over his lips and cheek.

LEO
It's not clotting.

Mary makes a sound of revulsion. Rolls off the bed and snatches up her robe. Leo looks devastated.

LEO (CONT'D)
Mary... you can't catch it.

(CONTINUED)
He holds is hand out to her, terrified. Mary backs away.

LEO (CONT'D)
Please, Mary... don't back away from me--

MARY
Like Carl did?

He looks at her. Shocked. Hurt.

LEO
I'm sick. Please. I might be dying.

MARY
I'll donate marrow again.

Her words jar him.

LEO
You just say the magic words and I'm healed?

MARY
Second-time transplants have a good success rate apparently.

He watches her use a tissue to clean her face.

LEO
You really believe this has all been some fairy tale, don't you? Some way of connecting the princess to the peasant boy.

MARY
What should I believe?

LEO
Didn't they tell you about "graft-versus-host disorder"? The patient's body attacks the transplanted marrow like a poison.

FLASH CUT:

INT. PALE ROOM -- DAY

Carl (the real Leo) is stretched out in bed, writhing in agony. His brother sits at his side, holding his hand, tears running down his cheeks. We see for the first time that the pale room is actually a hospital room.

(CONTINUED)
LEO (V.O.)
You can't imagine the pain your charity caused.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary shrugs but her voice grows tight.

MARY
You still went ahead with it.

LEO
Your marrow was a four out of six antigen match. That's enough if you're desperate. But it's harder on the recipient. Carl's marrow would have been perfect.

Mary laughs helplessly.

MARY
Oh yes, Carl. Perfect Carl. A junkie who deserted his sick brother.

LEO
Stop it!

MARY
And where is Carl now, huh? Fuck Carl.

LEO
I can't help how it was. It doesn't give you the right to stand there and talk about another transplant like it's easy. Like you've got the power of life and death. It was agony.

MARY
Is that why you haven't asked me to donate again? Or is there some other reason? Because that pain... it was worth it, wasn't it?

Leo stares at her, unable to find the words.

FLASH CUT:

INT. MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR -- DAY

Leo looks down at Carl (the real Leo) stretched out on a gurney. Carl's eyes are closed. He's dead.

(CONTINUED)
A NURSE hands Leo a plastic bag emblazoned with the HOSPITAL CREST. Inside are his brother's clothes and personal effects. Leo pulls out the wallet.

MARY (V.O.)
You're still here. Even if Carl did abandon you.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- NIGHT
Leo sinks down on the bed, exhausted. Broken.

LEO
Carl's a fool.
He looks down at his blood-smeared fingers.

LEO (CONT'D)
You're all I have left, Mary. I can't lose you.
He blinks back tears. Agonized.

LEO (CONT'D)
There's something I have to tell you--

MARY
No.
He's surprised by her decisive tone.

LEO
Mary--

MARY
You're talking because you're scared and desperate.
She takes another tissue from a box. Crosses to him and methodically begins to wipe the blood from his face.

MARY (CONT'D)
I'll call Dr. Phillips. He'll see you tomorrow morning before we leave. When you know for certain if there's something wrong with you, I'll listen to anything you have to say.

LEO
I love you. I want you to understand... you knew the real me.
He tries again to explain.

(CONTINUED)
LEO (CONT'D)
You knew who I really was and--

MARY
Tell me the rest tomorrow. If you still want to.

He manages a confused nod and drops back on the bed. Wet-eyed. Emotionally wrung out.

Mary looks at the stained tissue in her hand. Drops it into the waste basket as...

EXT. NURSEMAID'S PASSAGE -- NIGHT

Sharp bursts of icy light--CAMERA FLASHES--illuminate splashes of red: bloodstained walls; the crumpled red cap; Alistair's corpse.

An INSPECTOR turns to his PARTNER.

INSPECTOR
Who reported it?

INSPECTOR 2
The old man there heard the screams.

He gestures to Bean who stands a few paces away. The Inspector checks Alistair's wallet.

INSPECTOR
Alistair Winter. No cash. No credit cards.

He calls over to Bean.

INSPECTOR (CONT'D)
Do you recognize this man, sir?

BEAN
I've seen him creeping about in the last few weeks.

INSPECTOR 2
We have a report of him in the neighborhood harassing an ex-girlfriend.

INSPECTOR
Stupid bugger.

A CONSTABLE approaches with his radio.

(CONTINUED)
CONSTABLE
Inspector. We've got something you should see.

EXT. PRIMROSE BRIDGE -- NIGHT

The two Inspectors pick their way along by the beam of a CONSTABLE'S flashlight. It swivels to illuminate the space under the bridge.

Hob is there, stretched out on his back, the syringe still stuck in his bare foot. His dead eyes staring at the brickwork above.

Next to Hob is a gory knife. One of the Inspectors fishes something out of Hob's pocket. A blood-dewed credit card.

INSPECTOR
Well well well.

He shows the card to his partner. CLOSE ON the name: Alistair Winter.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PARK CRESCENT -- MORNING

The white houses look pale and ghostly. Alistair's car is still parked at the curb. Beaded with dew.

The door to the Terrace House opens. Leo steps out. He checks an address on a slip of paper and heads down the street.

Mary watches him from the upper floor window. She looks like a ghost herself: a pallid figure barely real behind the glass.

The PULSING SOUND from the opening scenes begins again as...

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- MORNING

Leo is shown into the room and left to wait. He looks around nervously.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Mary walks to the wardrobe and takes out her suitcase.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- MORNING

Leo, now naked, sits on the examination table while Dr. Phillips pokes and prods his bruises.
INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM -- MORNING

Mary finishes making up the room. She takes the framed photo of her Grandmother and leaves.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- MORNING

Dr. Phillips swabs Leo's inner elbow with alcohol. Fixes Leo with a stern look at the sight of the old puncture marks. He places the tip of hypodermic needle against Leo's skin.

INT. TERRACE HOUSE - MARY'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Mary's suitcases are packed and sitting on the bed. Mary finishes dressing. Eyes herself in the mirror above the vanity.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- MORNING

FOAMY BLOOD is drawn into the syringe. The PULSING SOUND fades... fades...

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Leo leafs through a magazine. He's anxious. The door to the examination room opens and Dr. Phillips waves him in.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM -- DAY

Dr. Phillips motions Leo to a chair. He consults a file.

DR. PHILLIPS
Well, we've got some interesting results. Your blood hasn't been clotting properly.

LEO
I bloody know that.

DR. PHILLIPS
Calm down. It's not leukemia. It's a temporary condition brought on by the presence of something in your system. A substance called Warfarin.

LEO
Warfarin?

DR. PHILLIPS
Yes. It's found in rat poison. But it's mainly used as a blood-thinning medication for elderly heart patients.

(CONTINUED)
Leo exhales sharply.

EXT. TERRACE HOUSE -- DAY

Leo races up to the door. Grabs at the knob. Locked. He tries to shove his key in the hole but it won't fit.

He blinks at the bright new hardware. The lock has been changed.

LEO

Mary!

Snarling, he punches the door.

EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Leo stands in front of Frederica's house. Staring at the neglected garden. The metal grills pulled shut inside the windows.

He approaches the door. Peers through the side window. Then he crouches and pushes open the mail slot to squint inside.

The door opens under his hands.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL -- DAY

Leo eases the door open and steps inside. He sees something on the floor near the entrance to the living room. His duffel bag. Packed and waiting.

Suddenly furious, Leo kicks it aside.

INT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Leo steps into the room. Takes in the sheet-covered furniture. Then he notices something on the mantel.

A pill vial.

He walks over and snatches it up. Reads the label: "JAGO, FREDERICA: WARFARIN. TWICE DAILY AS DIRECTED."

Leo flings it aside. It rolls to the entrance. Coming to a stop near Mary's feet.

She picks it up. Straightens to meet his look of surprise.

LEO

You're here.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
I'm home. Did you think I'd run away?

She gestures to his bag.

MARY (CONT'D)
Your things are all there.

He's confused by her calm. Her confidence. He lets tears well up in his eyes.

LEO
Do you know what you did to me? Do you have any idea?

Mary is unmoved.

LEO (CONT'D)
You poisoned me.

MARY
I obliged you. You wanted to be my Leo.

Leo blinks away the useless tears, his expression suddenly fired with rage. He advances on her as if to strike her.

Mary meets his gaze...

MARY (CONT'D)
You still could be.

She gives the vial a gentle shake, RATTLING the remaining pills together.

Leo stares. She meets his gaze evenly. For a long moment, neither one moves.

Then Leo drops his eyes. He moves carefully past her. Picks up his duffel bag and walks out.

The front door CLOSES a moment later.

MARY (CONT'D)
No mark. No scar. Nothing to remember you by.

She stands there for a moment longer. Then she walks around the room and begins pulling the dust covers off the furniture.

DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. FREDERICA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Weeks later and the garden is lush and bright and well-maintained. The trim freshly painted. Roman carries Mary's suitcases to the taxi at the curb.

ROMAN
Did the police investigation turn up anything else?

MARY
No. It was just another mugging. Some drug addict. Case closed.

ROMAN
Poor Alistair.

Mary's brief look of sadness flits across her face.

MARY
He always said the park was dangerous after dark.

She glances back at the house.

MARY (CONT'D)
You'll check on the place occasionally? Water the garden?

ROMAN
You could have hired a housesitter.

Mary hides a small smile. Roman puts her suitcases in the taxi.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
The Museum won't be the same without you.

MARY
Holmes survived without his Irene. Besides, I've been told a woman should travel.

He hands her a stack of Irene Adler postcards. Mary laughs and hugs him tightly. She climbs into the cab. Roman closes the door. Waves as it pulls away.

INT. TAXI -- DAY

Mary sits, gently rocked by the motion of the car. She slips the postcards into her purse.

Beside the vial of Warfarin.

(CONTINUED)
She pulls out something else. The square photo of a smiling Leo.

She stares at the image for a long moment. Then she cracks the window and offers the picture to the gap. The wind catches it.

Gone.

Mary leans back, temple to the window glass. She watches the neighbourhood houses BLUR past.

After a moment, she closes her eyes.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

The wind carries Leo's photo to the sidewalk where it disappears beneath the scrabble of furry legs. Bean is passing by with his squad of dogs.

He stops outside a house. Loops the leashes around a fence post and walks to the door.

He knocks.

There is no answer. Bean takes a key off the HEAVY RING at his waist. Unlocks the door.

BEAN

Hello? Mrs. Goldsworthy?

Still no answer. With a crafty smile, Bean slips inside and closes the door.

We HOLD on the blank door for a moment. Then begin to PULL BACK. Past the huddle and scratch of the dogs. Past the curb and street. BACK until we see a whole sweep of the street. And from that succession of blank doors and empty windows we...

FADE OUT.