

THE AMNESIA GAME

by

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INT. A DARKENED BEDROOM - DAY.

A young man, GARRET, in his late 20s was asleep on the bed a second ago.

His eyes are open but he hasn't moved.

There are voices coming from the other room.

He looks terrified.

He slowly peeks over the blanket and looks around.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - SAME.

A few harmless seeming guys who we will come to know as THOMAS, DARIUS and NATE are playing cards at a table - a few beer bottles ringing the game.

BANG!

The bedroom door flies open and GARRET, the guy from the bed, bursts out of the bedroom and runs for the front door.

Unfazed, they get up to stop him. He tries to bob and weave but DARIUS, the strongest subdues him easily.

GARRET

Get off me! Get off me!

NATHAN

Garret, Garret . . .

GARRET

Who are you?

THOMAS

Don't hurt him.

DARIUS

He's stronger than he looks.

NATHAN

Garret it's okay.

CUT TO:

LATER:

GARRET is seated at the table they were playing cards, tied securely to a chair.

GARRET

What do you want with me?

DARIUS

Will you calm down? Will you calm down?

THOMAS

I have to go to class...

CUT TO:

LATER:

GARRET still tied to the chair, alone with NATE. He looks like he just woke from another nap. NATE has a bowl of soup and feeds him with a spoon.

He gets him to take some, but GARRET spits it out.

NATE smiles patiently and wipes himself off.

CUT TO:

LATER:

INT. A TV. A VIDEO.

GARRET adjusts the camera taping him. In doing so, he looks right into the lens, right at US.

He smiles, it's all he can do not to laugh.

GARRET

Okay.... Listen to me. Relax. Everything is fine. You don't remember anything right now but you're not supposed to. This is a medical experiment we have conducted several times. You have nothing to be afraid of.

GARRET(cont'd)
(He holds up a snapshot.)
Would I lie to you?
(It's a picture of HIM.)

CUT TO:

NATHAN AND GARRET WATCHING THE VIDEO ON TV.

GARRET looks down at his hand. He's holding the picture too.

GARRET on the TV keeps talking.

GARRET
Listen, don't embarrass me. You're a
scientist. You're a doctor.
(He's getting into talking to
himself.)
The gentleman next to you is named Nathan.
He's a doctor too and a friend.

On the screen, NATHAN walks into frame.

Live on the couch GARRET looks up at live NATHAN.

NATHAN
We're not doctors yet.

GARRET
Fuck that. He thinks he's smarter than you,
but don't listen to him. No one's smarter than
you.

GARRET and NATHAN on TV share a laugh.

GARRET
You have temporary retrograde amnesia. You
are going to experience some things for the
first time - again. Remember everything and
take lots of notes. I have left a list of things
with Nate to ask and try and do. You'll always
remember not remembering anything.

GARRET looks up at NATHAN.

The flicker of intelligence is apparent in GARRET despite his present state of confusion.

GARRET

Do I live here?

NATHAN

Yep.

GARRET

Where's here?

NATHAN

Boston, Massachusetts.

GARRET

Why do we do this?

NATHAN

You heard the man. Just an untested procedure on each others brains in the name of blowing off a little steam. You wanted me to tell you that you're on partial scholarship from the American Academy of Neurology and an ANA fellow...

GARRET

ANA?

NATHAN

American Neurological Association.

GARRET seems impressed with himself.

GARRET

You've done this?

NATHAN

So they tell me. I don't remember much. We're still fine tuning finding specific locations of memories.

GARRET

Whole thing sounds foolish.

NATHAN

Darius didn't remember any of the Star Wars movies but could still beat Pac Man.

GARRET

Why'd he beat the pack man?

NATHAN

Pac Man? Video games weren't on your list.

GARRET

What is on my list?

NATHAN smiles. He feels like Santa.

EXT. A STREET IN BOSTON - NIGHT.

It is a few nights later.

The glow from restaurants and stores warm the wet winter night.

INT. A BAR - NIGHT.

A busy college bar.

At a table two couples sit finishing their drinks.

AMBER seems to be with DARIUS and COLLETTE is clearly interested in THOMAS.

DARIUS

Thomas here thinks research is the path to glory or Heaven or something. I tell him he sets his sights too low. It suits him though. Makes him noble.

COLLETTE

You aren't afraid of success are you Thomas?

THOMAS

If I was afraid of success would I be at medical school?

COLLETTE

Maybe.

DARIUS

Don't pick on him. Finding the cure takes passion and commitment.

THOMAS

What cure?

DARIUS

Any cure. Pick one.

THOMAS

What about Darius here? Plastic surgery!
What's your contribution to society going to be? Boobs?

DARIUS

I switched to Pharmacology.

THOMAS

Oh, right... Right...

THOMAS

(Turns to Collette)

I'm sorry... Collette right? What year are you?

COLLETTE

Third year.

THOMAS

How have I never seen you around?

COLLETTE

One of those things I guess.

(finishes her drink.)

Well, Amber, Tom, it was nice to meet you. But I have an eight A.M. Lab tomorrow.

AMBER

I'll stick around for one more.

Pause. THOMAS musters his nerve.

THOMAS

...I was going to go too. I've been up since five.
Can I walk you out?

COLLETTE

(knowing smile)
Yeah...sure.

They are all making eye contact...

THOMAS

Dar... See ya...
(They are all looking at him)
Amber... WHAT?

COLLETTE smiles.

DARIUS

Congratulations man.

THOMAS

Dude!

DARIUS

You just picked up your own girlfriend.

They look at each other.

THOMAS

You mean... Really?
(she nods.)
I knew it! I knew something was up!

DARIUS

It was on your list.

AMBER

And Collette went along with it. That took guts.

DARIUS

You throwing yourself at him was
unsportsmanlike.

AMBER

I was not!

COLLETTE

(To the side. Clearly suddenly
very much in love.)

You were so sure if you met me for the first
time all over again...

DARIUS

You two have been a hot item for a year!
Nicely done. What's his reward I wonder..?

THOMAS takes DARIUS aside.

THOMAS

What did it say on my list exactly?

DARIUS

(looks at paper)

"I want to meet Collette out in public and see if
I try to pick her up."

THOMAS

No more surprises like this okay?

DARIUS

It's what you wanted.

THOMAS

I don't care...

(Pause. Looks at Collette)

This is going to be even better than Sal's
Calzones isn't it?

DARIUS

(considers Collette)

...Even better than Sal's.

EXT. DAY - BOSTON.

The Charles River, The Prudential Building, Fenway. Harvard, M.I.T. - The all
brick, old world city of higher education.

Here's Boston Medical School. Future doctors mill around campus. It is the middle of Spring semester. Everything melting into puddles and fog.

INT. DAY - LECTURE HALL.

Second year medical students stare in rapt attention at PROFESSOR RANKIN. He's your textbook ex hippie professor; in his late fifties, pony tail, elbow patches, whip smart and no nonsense.

He asks a question.

NATHAN raises his hand. Answers brilliantly.

RANKIN points out something flawed.

NATHAN quotes RANKIN back to himself to make a point.

RANKIN smiles, defeated but proud.

DARIUS is seated behind NATHAN, kicks his chair .

DARIUS

Way to show him who's boss.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER.

NATHAN and DARIUS walk through the crowd.

NATHAN

Thomas went for his own lady all over again?

DARIUS

But what does that prove? That's got to be good for some kind of lifetime pass or something.

NATHAN

Yeah, "Get out of your pants free" card.

EXT. CAMPUS. LATER.

DARIUS and NATHAN cross campus. A wide eyed GARRET waits across the street for them.

He takes out a small notebook and writes something, just like he told himself to do.

NATHAN

How you holding up?

GARRET

I got lost. This is very frustrating. I suppose we're life long friends or brothers or something?

DARIUS

We came up with the process together. That hurt; it did. How's it feel?

GARRET

I sense things. It's like a kind of intuition. The video tape is a good idea.

NATHAN

Mine!

GARRET

How many times have you done this?

DARIUS

Three times.

GARRET

I feel like the new kid in school everywhere I go.

NATHAN

Garret here gets to see the ocean for the first time today and I get to drive him.

DARIUS

You grew up on Martha's Vineyard.

GARRET

... I don't know what that is.

They all laugh.

DARIUS

It's an island!

NATHAN

The things you pick for yourself tells a lot about who you are.

DARIUS

Enjoy it buddy it's a gift. Go catch snowflakes on your tongue.

They go their separate ways.

GARRET

...Three times? What's he do every time?

NATHAN

Don't ask. Get in the car. Oh, we should call Vernal, he'd love the Vineyard

GARRET

Who's Vernal?

NATHAN

You don't remember Vernal? You will.

He takes out his cell phone and dials as GARRET gets in the passenger side.

NATHAN

(Into cell phone)

Vernal... It's Nate; Where were you in lecture today? Gimme a call.

He walks around the car and gets in.

Right where they were standing is a campus bulletin board.

There is a flier with a picture of a young black man. It reads:

“HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BOSTON MEDICAL STUDENT? MISSING 2/12.

Anyone with information regarding the student VERNAL JAMES should contact campus police at 617.555.5000” OR CALL 911.”

INT. NATHAN’S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT.

He lives here with his girlfriend ELIZABETH. The place is cluttered and quirky.

He is buttoning his shirt

She calls in from the other room.

ELIZABETH

Where’s my other boot? I can’t find my boot.

NATHAN

Which boot?

ELIZABETH

My red ones... The only boots I own.

She enters carrying one boot. She is attractive - same age as all.

NATHAN

I don’t know sweetheart. I haven’t seen it.

ELIZABETH

This place is a dump.

NATHAN

Well, why don’t we spend more time at your place?

ELIZABETH

Because I have a room mate.

NATHAN

Ah-ha!

(She swats him.)

Wear other shoes.

ELIZABETH

The entire city of Boston is a mud puddle.

NATHAN

You don't want to go, do you?

ELIZABETH

Baby, I love you, but your friends are a little creepy.

NATHAN

What's creepy about watching a guy with self induced amnesia eat sushi for the first time?

ELIZABETH

I forbid you to ever do that again right?

NATHAN

Liz, I promise I won't.

ELIZABETH

You still have nightmares.

NATHAN

Once. I had one nightmare. Look!

He goes to a pile of clothes near the bed, pulls out the missing boot.

NATHAN

See! Your boot!

(taps a temple)

Like a steel trap.

ELIZABETH

Yeah right.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - LATER.

NATHAN is walking through the living room, pulling on his coat.

The TV is still on and he grabs the remote to turn it off, but a news story catches his eye.

The reporter is on campus, right in the quad. Standing next to her is a somber looking lawyer.

REPORTER

Police continue to search for the Boston Medical student reported missing by his family two weeks ago.

(The picture switches to old news footage:)

Vernal James is the grandson of civil rights leader Clarence Titus James who historically ran for senate in the sixties amid death threats before succumbing to health problems. His family and legacy live on and the Clarence Titus James foundation has raised millions.

LAWYER

Vernal James is a fine young man and a bright student. We are asking for the help of the school and the community. If anyone has seen Vernal or knows anything about his whereabouts please help us.

On the screen; a clear if unflattering picture of VERNAL.

The reporter continues:

REPORTER (V.O.)

If you have any information about Vernal James please call 1-800-Crimetip.

NATHAN watches with perplexed interest.

ELIZABETH (O.S.)

Nathan are you coming..?

He turns off the TV and leaves.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT. BAR - NIGHT.

NATHAN and ELIZABETH enter and see DARIUS waiting at the bar.

DARIUS

Nate! Glad you could make it! Lizzie lovely as always.

ELIZABETH

Hi Darius.

Awkward.

DARIUS

We're the first I guess, they won't seat us til we're all here.

ELIZABETH

I'm gonna check my coat.

NATHAN

I'll get it for you -

ELIZABETH

No that's okay.

She leaves them alone.

They turn toward the bar and DARIUS signals for another and one for Nate.

NATHAN glances around...

NATHAN

Where's Vernal?

DARIUS trying to hide a reaction -

DARIUS

What?

NATHAN

The news says he's been missing for two weeks. Why don't I know this? I just saw him.

DARIUS

Well you didn't. He took a powder. He may fail this semester.

NATHAN

Did you even know who his family was?

DARIUS

Where have you been, man?

NATHAN

That's what I'm telling you! I don't remember a thing about it - or him! My brain is - my mind is -

DARIUS

He's on a bender. A lost weekend. Or did you not know he was a speed freak?

NATHAN

Vernal?

COLLETTE and THOMAS appear next to them -

COLLETTE

Has anyone heard anything?

DARIUS

No -

NATHAN

No -

DARIUS

That's what we were just saying.

COLLETTE

I am so worried about him...

The HOSTESS walks up to them.

HOSTESS

Your table is ready.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - LATER.

Dinner's over. They all sit around with a few pots of tea.

THOMAS

I'd say mostly everything's come back.
Parents, childhood, school first ...

ELIZABETH

You could forget your entire education up to
now?

COLLETTE

Take away the memory, take away the
formative information - take away the
personality.

DARIUS

Memory loss causes a regression in age,
experience, knowledge.

ELIZABETH

Which is exactly why I think you should slow
down.

NATHAN

Why honey?

ELIZABETH

What about instinct. A baby deer knows to run
away from a bear...

DARIUS

A question for a geneticist. Yes Lizzie, there's
a danger of altering someones personality,
but we never go anywhere near that.

AMBER

I'd love to forget the stupid year I spent driving
around the country with my stupid ex-boyfriend
on the back of his motorcycle.

ELIZABETH

But would you be who you are today without
that experience?

THOMAS

Everyone has something they'd like to forget.

COLLETTE

And someone in their lives who'd like them to forget it as well.

ELIZABETH

You're the doctors.

DARIUS

(to AMBER)

When are you gonna try it baby?

AMBER

I'm working up my nerve.

ELIZABETH

Not me. No way.

DARIUS

Listen, I've got something I would like to propose here... I think it's time to take this to the next level and start raising a little capital.

THOMAS

What are you talking about?

DARIUS

Scenarios.

NATHAN

Like scavenger hunts?

DARIUS

Adventure games. We draw up a profile of a person. Right? They tell us what they want - what their fantasy is 'Wipe out my memory, stick me on a bus to Mexico with a note, fifty bucks and a hotel room key to someplace I've never been.'

ELIZABETH

Oh Jesus...

THOMAS

It's mostly gonna be sex stuff, you know.

DARIUS

Where's the adventure in life anymore? How many times can you fucken bungee jump?

AMBER

Is this legal?

DARIUS

What's illegal about it?

THOMAS

Someone should follow the person - make sure they don't get into serious trouble.

DARIUS

I see no reason why we couldn't get ten grand for a three day scenario.

NATHAN

Are you serious?

DARIUS

I don't know about you, but I've got loans til I'm ninety.

COLLETTE

Me too.

DARIUS

We do a few freebies, let some word of mouth...

THOMAS

Count me in.

NATHAN

Me too...

He feels ELIZABETH'S eyes on him.

COLLETTE raises a glass.

COLLETTE

The Amnesia Game!

ALL

The Amnesia Game!

INT. A CAR. NIGHT. LATER.

NATHAN and ELIZABETH ride in forbidding silence.

NATHAN

You just don't understand the science.

ELIZABETH

Don't patronize me -

NATHAN

I don't mean...

ELIZABETH

I may be only a physical therapist but I'm not idiot.

NATHAN

I'm just going along with it for now.

ELIZABETH

They don't know what they're doing.

NATHAN

Don't you see where we are? Darius is some kind of a genius, and Garret went to Yale undergrad at fifteen or something like that.

ELIZABETH

Just because you CAN do something, doesn't mean you SHOULD. And don't you dare go under again yourself.

(pause)

Did you hear me?

NATHAN

Yes...

ELIZABETH

I don't want to lose you. I'm supposed to marry a doctor...

They smile at each other.

INT. A LECTURE HALL AT SCHOOL - DAY.

NATE sits in the hall. DARIUS Is nearby. NATE rubs his eyes, his head, he looks like he is trying to stay awake... or stay conscious...

CUT TO:

INT. DAY. A LECTURE HALL AT SCHOOL - A DIFFERENT DAY.

This is NATES hallucination/dream -

He sees these things in fits and starts -

Professor RANKIN is teaching a class. Seated in class are GARRET, DARIUS, NATE, THOMAS, COLLETTE and VERNAL JAMES.

On the board is a diagram of the brain showing the cortices and the hippocampus.

On the board is written:

“Korsakoff’s syndrome” and “Electroconvulsive therapy”

There are several chemical equations as well.

RANKIN

Using the brain tissue as a kind of conductor, would we not then be able to repair the damaged tissue and fuse the broken links to the memories...

GARRET speaks up.

GARRET

Could the same principles be applied to seek out and block certain memories.

RANKIN

Search and destroy those painful prom
memories Mr. White?

(This gets a laugh)

I am afraid we're not there yet.

INT. A BAR - NIGHT.

NATE, THOMAS and VERNAL have an array of cocktail napkins on a large table
amid the beers.

They move them around as they discuss electrical impulses, chemical
compounds and all kinds of things.

GARRET approaches and moves a few around. DARIUS does the same.

VERNAL smiles at NATE .

DARIUS uses all their notes/cocktail napkins to wipe all the drink rings off the
table as if destroying the evidence. He pops it on a passing waitresses tray
who obligingly smiles at him.

CUT TO:

INT. A LECTURE HALL AT SCHOOL - DAY.

NATE moans, sits up and looks around. Darius makes a face as NATE
contemplates him, the dream and what it means.

INT. HALLWAY - CLASSROOM BUILDING.

DARIUS and NATE walk down the hall.

PROFESSOR RANKIN intercepts them.

RANKIN

Darius... Have you got a minute?

DARIUS

What can I do for you?

NATHAN

I'm late. I'll see you later.

(To Rankin:)

Professor...

RANKIN nods and NATE hurries off.

RANKIN

Are you coming by tonight?

DARIUS

Already? Wow, Professor, stocking up for
Spring break?

RANKIN

Just don't worry about it.

DARIUS

I don't have a lot of time to make the stuff you
know.

RANKIN

If you're thinking about raising the price on me
- don't.

DARIUS

I'm not negotiating. I'm very busy. You know-
trying to get one of those degrees in medicine
I hear so much about.

RANKIN

I encouraged you to get into pharmacology in
the first place..

DARIUS

I need to get into the lab tonight then.

RANKIN

I'll leave a key with my assistant.

(Pause)

No news about Vernal James... It's too bad.

DARIUS

It's very strange.

INT. A LAB - DAY.

THOMAS and NATHAN stand amongst several students in lab coats.

There is a body on a table under a sheet. The students talk quietly.

Thomas fully recovered, whispers to NATHAN.

THOMAS

You coming tonight right?

NATHAN

Where?

THOMAS

We're doing it to someone.

NATHAN

What? Who?

THOMAS

Some girl. Friend of Amber's.

NATHAN

Somebody we don't even know?

THOMAS

Apparently she's paying him.

The teacher walks in. Everyone gets quiet.

She reads off a piece of paper.

TEACHER

Nathan Hardy...

NATHAN

...Here..?

TEACHER

I've got a note here. You're to report to the bursars office immediately.

NATHAN

Now?

TEACHER

You're not to stay for class.

Silence.

Everyone looks at him. Nothing left to be said. Nathan leaves.

INT. BURSARS OFFICE - LATER.

NATHAN sits across from a plump cheerful woman, her glasses on strings, desk an organized mess.

She looks on her computer.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Hardy...Hardy...Hardy... Oh yes. Your balance from last semester hasn't been paid.

NATHAN

I know I sent the check. I remember writing it.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

When did you send it?

NATHAN

At least two weeks ago.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Well, we haven't gotten it. You mailed it?

NATHAN

Yes.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

You could call your bank. I'll check with the mail room.

NATHAN

I still have the carbon of the check. My checkbook makes a copy...

(he digs through backpack.)

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Oh, those are a good idea. Handy. My husband George wants us to start banking on line. But I said no way. I don't trust that internet.

(Nate pulls out his checkbook)

People get a hold of your social and they can do whatever they want...

NATE stares in quiet confusion at the check still in his checkbook.

NATHAN

That's weird.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

What?

NATHAN

I must have written it but never sent it.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Oh...

He rips it out.

NATHAN

Yeah. Here it is.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Yes, give it here honey. I'll take care of it.

NATHAN

Thank you. Sorry.

BURSARS OFFICE LADY

Oh, don't worry about it. You've got enough on your mind with medical school. That would be enough to make me forget how to tie my own shoes!

NATHAN

You have no idea.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT.

Thomas and COLLETTE walk through the dark silent night.

COLLETTE

How much is he charging her?

THOMAS

I don't know. I have a lot of questions, frankly.

COLLETTE

Like what happened to Vernal?

THOMAS

We never put him under did we?

COLLETTE

Not while I was there. If he was off wandering around with amnesia...

THOMAS

We need to be smart. How much do we really know these people? Darius is just making up the rules like none of us have any say. And Garret ... Sometimes I catch him looking at me...

COLLETTE

Looking at you how?

THOMAS

Just looking.

COLLETTE

He's too smart for his own good.

THOMAS

He's not that smart.

INT. THE LAB - NIGHT

Soft light and long shadows. A school building after hours. Nondescript medical equipment and cabinets full of who-knows-what line the walls. At the center of the spacious room is an exam table on an incline.

The wide eyed GARRET who had lost his memory is gone. He is smart and focused.

He addresses THOMAS, COLLETTE, AMBER AND NATHAN.

GARRET

She's in the other room with Darius, he's getting her ready.

(To AMBER:)

Why are you here?

AMBER

She's a friend of a friend okay?

THOMAS

When were you going to tell us all of this?

GARRET

Tell you what?

COLLETTE

We're doing this to some girl he met last night?

AMBER

I know her from back home. She knew about the experiments anyway.

COLLETTE

She wants to go to New York?

GARRET

We're going to follow her. Like Tom suggested. And we're only charging her a grand because we're still experimenting...

NATHAN

She's paying us?

The door opens.

DARIUS enters with NICOLE and it instantly makes sense.

Sorority girl. Try Anything Once written all over her. She smiles nervously like she's getting her belly button pierced.

NICOLE

Hi you guys!

DARIUS smiles. They all exchange knowing looks.

DARIUS

Everybody, this is Nicole.

CUT TO:

LATER:

They're doing it to her.

Nicole sits on the edge of the exam table. She is drinking something out of a cup. DARIUS and GARRET watch her.

DARIUS

This is a compound protein that your brain needs.

She raises a feeble toast and drinks it.

COLLETTE comes behind her with some electrodes.

COLLETTE

Lie back Nicole.

NATHAN connects her to a heart monitor.

NATHAN

This is so we can monitor your vitals, okay?

COLLETTE

These are going to allow us to send gentle electrical impulses to your temporal lobe okay?

DARIUS

That's where your memories are, kiddo.

NATHAN maintains eye contact.

NICOLE

Does it hurt?

NATHAN

You're going to feel like you have an itch inside your head like you want to scratch the back of your eyeballs. Try clenching your teeth.

DARIUS rolls another piece of equipment over to her, over her head.

DARIUS

This is an EEG... That's like an X Ray for your brain. We are able to turn the electrical impulses in your neurons into digital information we can read. We have some formulas for how far back and even specifically what part of your memories we can hide from you for a awhile.

GARRET

Not to over simplify or anything...

DARIUS

Think of it as a digital barium enema. You're not going to remember any of this even though you're going to be conscious for it.

COLLETTE

Are you sure you feel up to this?

NICOLE

Totally!

DARIUS

Totally!

They give her the shot. She closes her eyes. They roll her on her side.

Darius has a much larger needle that he injects into the base of her skull.

They look at each other with varying degrees of reluctance.

They roll the machine over her.

Her brain is displayed on the screen very clearly.

GARRET reads information off another screen- Numbers and algorithms.

GARRET

The microbes in the shot are working perfectly.

DARIUS

Totally clean digital information.

GARRET

My new formula reads the synaptic transmissions as coded memory within the hippocampus.

NATE seems to be staring off for a moment.

NATHAN

SHE WAS A LITTLE WHITE PROM QUEEN
WE'D HAVE SOMETHING TO WORRY
ABOUT!

Everything stops.

DARIUS looks at NATE.

DARIUS

Nate, you okay there pal?

NATHAN

What did I just say?

COLLETTE

Prom queen?

THOMAS

YOU need to get some sleep my friend.

DARIUS

Wait a second...

(he rises)

Nate come here...

They walk off to one side, out of earshot.

DARIUS

Are you fucking with me?

NATHAN

No - What are you talking about?

DARIUS

You trying to be funny?

NATHAN

No!

DARIUS

Do me a favor... You have anymore tourettic outbursts... you come talk to me.

NATHAN

Yeah.

DARIUS

Alright buddy?

NATHAN

Yeah, yeah, alright.

DARIUS

It wasn't pretty when we put you under.
There's still a lot we don't know.

NATHAN

Thanks for reminding me.

They rejoin the group. GARRET is explaining what is happening.

GARRET

They stack chemically if you know what to look for, allowing us to take what we want from where we want.

NATHAN

B.P. is 120 over 80.

GARRET

Welcome back doctor.

THOMAS

How was the prom?

COLLETTE

So, what does she want?

DARIUS

What we all want... To feel like a kid again.

GARRET

Administering Phosphatidylserile ...

INT. RANKIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

It is dark and warmly furnished. Perhaps the furniture is a little worn.

He sits watching TV with the sound off; opera plays in the back ground. He holds a glass of whiskey in a shaky hand.

The doorbell rings.

This stirs him and he gets up and walks to the door and opens it.

A grinning DARIUS stands in the doorway.

RANKIN

Won't you come in?

He does and RANKIN closes the door behind him.

RANKIN goes to a table and takes some bills out of a wallet.

DARIUS digs a bag out of his pocket.

DARIUS
Rigoletto?

RANKIN
Ah, you know it?

DARIUS
My Mom was an opera junkie.

They exchange a look at Darius' choice of words. RANKIN takes the drugs from him.

RANKIN
Thank you.

DARIUS
Listen... This is the last time for a while.

RANKIN
Why?

DARIUS
I'm just too busy.

RANKIN
Is that a fact?

DARIUS
I've got other commitments that need my attention.

He heads to the door.

RANKIN
Pity.

EXT. DAY - A HIGHWAY.

A car speeds up the highway. GARRET and DARIUS in the front, a dozing NICOLE in the back.

EXT.DAY - NEW YORK HARBOR.

The Staten Island Ferry steams toward Manhattan.

NICOLE appears to sleep on the lower passenger deck. GARRET and DARIUS, coffees in hand watch from far across the boat.

She wakes up slowly. She seems fine at first, drowsy.

She starts to panic.

She stands up fast, looks around like there's some alarm only she hears.

She sits back down trying to be calm. Trying to reason things over in her head. What's the last thing..?

Confused, she walks up on deck.

It's a cloudy cold day. She walks right to the bow.

There floating past her is the Statue of Liberty. The skyline of Lower Manhattan looms before her, tall and grey.

She looks around at the few people braving the cold weather.

Some guy smokes and talks on his cell phone.

She searches her pockets.

She finds a slip of paper- It's a confirmation for the Tribeca Grand Hotel.

She digs out a wallet.

GARRET keeps a safe distance. There's nothing in the wallet but a visa card and a metroc card that you swipe to get on subways and busses. And a few hundred bucks in twenties.

In her other pocket she finds a make up compact and a cell phone.

She flips it open and there is a tiny post it note that reads, “Arrow down to video and hit play.”

On the screen is the video she made with Darius. She takes out the compact and looks at her own reflection.

NICOLE ON VIDEO

Hi! What do I say to myself?

DARIUS (O.S.)

Put yourself in the situation... What do you think you are going to need to hear?

NICOLE ON VIDEO

Okay...um. Listen don't be scared. It's just me - I mean you! Sorry...okay. You're playing a game right now Nicole. You're in New York City and we're going to have fun. Here's what I want you to do...

EXT. THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - DAY

EXT. THE TOP OF THE ESB - OBSERVATION DECK - SAME.

Windblown tourists mill around.

NICOLE stands awestruck looking out across the expansive view. A man who has been standing with his family approaches her.

TOURIST DAD

First time?

She looks at him. She doesn't know.

NICOLE

...Yes.

TOURIST DAD

We come every year. It's John Junior's first time though.

NICOLE

It's beautiful.

INT. THE SCHOOL LAB - NIGHT.

RANKIN alone, looking around.

Notices certain things out of place. Flicks a switch off on some piece of equipment.

Goes to a garbage can. There's the paper cup Nicole drank out of. He takes it out and sniffs it. Reacts.

A bin marked "SHARPS" is by the door. He goes over to it and reaches in. Carefully he removes the syringes they stuck Nicole with. This is really odd.

He turns and regards the room like if he stares long enough it will tell him something.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT.

NICOLE stands hypnotized by the blinking lights.

A man walks over to her.

MAN IN STREET

Miss..? Um... I'm supposed to give you this...
(he has a piece of paper.)

NICOLE

Are you part of the game?

MAN IN STREET

I don't know.

NICOLE

Okay.
(looks at paper.)
What's Lotus?

MAN IN STREET

Oh, that's a nightclub. That place is party central.

NICOLE

Why would I want to go there?

MAN IN STREET

Cause you like to dance, get crazy, go out with the girls.

NICOLE

I'm supposed to go to that place.

MAN IN STREET

Do you know how to get there?

NICOLE

No. Will you come with me?

MAN IN STREET

He said not to.

NICOLE

Who?

MAN IN STREET

Look, is everything okay? Is this cool?

NICOLE

I think so, yeah.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOTUS - LATER.

NICOLE is confused as she is pushed through the line through the velvet rope etc.

A security guard grabs her bag and shines a flashlight in it.

She is shoved to a window where people pay to get in. A bunch of loud kids cause a scene right behind her. Someone grabs her hand to stamp it and she flinches.

SECURITY GUARD

I have to stamp your hand.

NICOLE

I just go in there?

SECURITY GUARD

Coat check's upstairs...

NICOLE

They check your...

SECURITY GUARD

NEXT!

INT. NIGHT CLUB - LATER.

Holy shit. It is a throbbing pounding metropolis of light and sound. A dark dungeon of thrashing bodies.

Nicole is awestruck. She slides over to the bar, all the bottles look like candy. A cute boy smiles at her.

CUSTOMER

Vodka Seven!

NICOLE

(mimicking)

Vodka seven!

CUT TO:

LATER:

The apple hasn't fallen to far from the tree. Nicole is dancing euphorically and having the time of her life. She is drunk, sweaty and loving it. A good looking GUY is dancing with her.

She doesn't even remember senior prom and she is tearing it up at New York's hottest night club.

She has begun to attract attention.

DANCING GUY

I'm Jason!

NICOLE

I'm Nicole!

JASON

Hi Nicole!

NICOLE

You look good!

JASON

Thanks, so do you!

JASON can't believe how easy this is going to be.

They start dancing in each others arms, bumping and grinding.

She is starting to have very strong feelings for Jason. Feelings she has never experienced before.

She is virtually humping this guy. She laughs.

People around them give them a little space. She grabs his ass like nobody ever thought of doing that before...

Out of nowhere DARIUS and GARRET appear.

GARRET

Alright Nicole... That's enough. Sorry man.

JASON

Hey...wait...

GARRET

She's my sister. She's on medication. She shouldn't drink.

GARRET(cont'd)
(to Nicole:)
Why do you do this?

DARIUS
We were worried.

NICOLE
What? Cut it out! Leave me alone!

GARRET
NICOLE!

JASON
Hey! She doesn't want to go with you man!

DARIUS
Look, I understand. But she has no idea what she's doing right now. You wouldn't take advantage of that now would you?

GARRET
We're going home... To New Jersey!

JASON
This is bullshit!

NICOLE
Jason!

They hustle NICOLE off the dance floor.

EXT. THE NIGHTCLUB. SAME.

NICOLE
Who the fuck are you guys?

GARRET
We're part of the game. Tonight's task is over.

DARIUS
We have to get you to the hotel. We should drive her.

GARRET

Yeah.

NICOLE

That place was wicked!

DARIUS

Yes it was.

She suddenly throws up on the street.

GARRET

Now aren't you glad Jason wasn't here to see that?

She starts to cry.

NICOLE

Yes... Oh god - I love him!

They make their way to the car.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME.

NICOLE slumps on the bed, unconscious before she hits the sheet. They watch her.

GARRET

Good night Nicole.

DARIUS

You know, in Nicole's case, this may be just another Saturday night.

EXT. BOSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS - DAY.

A town car idles at the curb. From out of it, steps Vernal's mother, CORRINA JAMES. She is somberly escorted into a building by her LAWYER. On their way in they are met by a burly older man, DETECTIVE STEWART.

INT. PROFESSOR RANKINS OFFICE - DAY.

RANKIN opens the door to this trio.

RANKIN

May I help you?

STEWART

Professor Rankin, I'm detective Stewart,
Boston Police. This is Corrina James.

RANKIN

Nice to meet you. Your father was a hero of
mine.

MRS. JAMES

Thank you.

RANKIN

So sorry to meet under these circumstances.
Won't you come in?

INT. RANKIN'S OFFICE. - LATER.

STEWART

We're asking faculty questions that may help
us shed some light on Vernal's whereabouts.

RANKIN

He's a fine young man and he's going to
make a very good doctor.

STEWART

Doctor, is there anything you can tell us about
who is friends might have been?

Pause.

RANKIN

Is it possible Vernal may have wanted to
disappear for a while?

LAWYER

Excuse me?

MRS. JAMES

I can't imagine what you mean by that doctor.

RANKIN

I didn't mean anything I assure you. However, "Once you have eliminated the impossible; whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

MRS. JAMES

What is he talking about?

STEWART

It's Sherlock Holmes.

RANKIN

Very good. It means if he is not where he should be, then he may be somewhere he shouldn't be.

MRS. JAMES

My son was an A student and was accepted to Boston medical school, early admission. And he is a Princeton scholar. What exactly are you trying to say?

RANKIN

... I am quite sure he will turn up at any moment.

STEWART is unsure how to proceed or what to make of Rankin.

STEWART

Thank you very much for your time Doctor. You have my card, please call me if you think of anything.

INT. DARIUS' APARTMENT - DAY.

NATE, GARRET, DARIUS, THOMAS, COLLETTE and AMBER sit around a refreshed looking NICOLE,

DARIUS raises a beer.

DARIUS

A complete success!

NICOLE

You Guys! I was so scared! I like, had to trust my instincts to survive...

NATHAN

Her vitals are perfectly normal and her acetylcholine levels are fine.

AMBER

You know what? This would make the ultimate reality show!

NICOLE

Oh my God I would totally watch that!

THOMAS

That's actually not a bad idea.

GARRET

I think we've had enough distractions for a while...

NICOLE

Um... I want to have it done to my boyfriend. I want to be his first time.

DARIUS

How did it feel to be almost deflowered on the dance floor?

NICOLE

You guys totally saved me. I didn't know what was going on I just want to eat that guy alive...

GARRET

You were emotionally pre adolescent in an
ovulating woman's body

NICOLE

(clueless)

Right?

DARIUS

Listen Nicole. I want you to sign this. It's just a
confidentiality agreement. This is research
and the property of Boston Medical School.
Blah, blah, blah, you can't talk to anyone about
it.

The rest look around at each other - this is the first they have heard about the
confidentiality agreement.

NICOLE

Yeah sure. Will Doug have to sign one of
these too?

DARIUS

Yes he will.

She signs the paper. Gathers her bag and gets ready to leave.

NICOLE

Well, Bye you guys. Thanks...

ALL

Bye Nicole...(etc)

She is gone.

GARRET

How long do you give her til she tells
someone about it?

DARIUS

I'm counting on it. She is going to start the
buzz about the supersecret-trippy-good-time
you can have if you know who to ask.

COLLETTE

You want her to talk about it?

THOMAS

This is an untested invasive medical procedure. We're not just handing out acid to underclassmen

GARRET

No one's going to care how we refined a ground breaking medical procedure. One day people around the world will be using what we've done here! Why don't you both just relax and enjoy the ride!

That was a bit awkward...

DARIUS

I feel like celebrating!

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. DAY - LATER.

ELIZABETH and NATE are in the kitchen. Elizabeth is drying some dishes and putting them away.

ELIZABETH

They did what?

NATHAN

It was voluntary and safe. And and very cool from a research stand point.

ELIZABETH

... It isn't my place. I'm not going to say anything.

NATE rubs his eyes.

NATHAN

What? Just say it.

ELIZABETH

You know what you're doing. I don't understand the science right?

NATHAN

Come on...
(closes eyes.)

ELIZABETH

You have another headache?

NATHAN

It's fine. Lizzie, this could be... I mean what if this is the ground floor of something that becomes a significant process? As a research tool or therapy as well as The Amnesia Game. They even mentioned a reality show.

ELIZABETH

Oh Jesus...

NATHAN

I know how ridiculous that just sounded, but these days, what is too ridiculous, seriously?

ELIZABETH

I think the FDA might want a word with you first.

NATHAN

Well, of course.

ELIZABETH

You have no way of knowing the long term effects of this.

NATHAN

I'm not just along for the ride. I have an equal stake in this. We're onto something big. And dangerous - but... It could be the next big...

ELIZABETH

What? Game show?

NATHAN

No!

ELIZABETH

Everyday I see people in physical therapy who would love to forget! Forget how they ended up with no legs or that only they survived the crash that landed them there. Our memories shape our reality. You don't get to pick and choose.

He holds his hurting head.

INT. A CLASSROOM BUILDING - DAY.

Darius walks along. Professor Rankin lingers outside a lab. He is as always, a little off balance.

RANKIN

Doctor Cutter... I'd like a word.

DARIUS

Yes Doctor?

RANKIN

We have a whole new arrangement. I've been stepped over enough times in my life by people like you and I have learned my lessons.

DARIUS

What are you talking...

RANKIN

Why don't you step inside...

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - SAME.

RANKIN

What happened to Vernal James?

DARIUS

Excuse me?

RANKIN

You were all working on something before he disappeared. Now you're covering for him. He figured something out and now he's taken off...

DARIUS

Oh shit Doctor. I wish, you know...

RANKIN

You've discovered something... No, you have! And it has to do with memory function. And you are playing with fire. You may be needing my discretion before long...

DARIUS

I need your discretion?

RANKIN holds up a plastic bag with the needle he found in it.

RANKIN

This has spinal fluid on it. You want to tell me what you were doing and who you were doing it to? I didn't think so. Anything you discover, it's on my watch and I will whet my beak.

DARIUS

I don't know what you are talking about.

RANKIN

You use my logarithms?

DARIUS

You're a crazy pill popping old drunk.

RANKIN

... Nevertheless. Vernal's mother and her lawyer were here today. And a cop. They want to know if I know who Vernal James' friends are. What should I tell them?

Long pause.

DARIUS

No questions.

RANKIN

I expect there's quite a bit I don't want to know.

DARIUS

You expect right.

RANKIN

AND... We're back in business. I'll take a hundred more pills. Mrs. James drained me.

INT. A LUNCHROOM - DAY.

Collette sits eating and reading.

A young woman approaches

WOMAN

Collette right?

COLLETTE

Yes?

WOMAN

I'm Tonya. I think we have pathogenic microbiology together.

COLLETTE

Hi Tonya.

TONYA

Can I sit down?

COLLETTE

Please do.

TONYA

So... Is it true?

COLLETTE

What?

TONYA

There's been rumors. You give people amnesia.

COLLETTE

What?

TONYA

I heard some of you take turns giving each other amnesia and scaring the crap out of each other.

COLLETTE

Well, it isn't true.

TONYA

Please...

COLLETTE

What? Why do you think...

TONYA

I have money.

COLLETTE

You shouldn't believe everything you hear.

TONYA

I heard you can forget selective things. "Lacunar amnesia," right?

COLLETTE

Well, that's what it's ...

TONYA

Please, just listen to me. Last year I was visiting friends at Bennington. We'd been drinking at a bar with some friends of hers and got invited back to this house. We went, and we drank some more. I don't usually act like that.

TONYA(cont'd)

I must have passed out, and when I woke up two guys I'd never seen before were fucking me. I was naked and they held me down. They did it to me again and again. I identified them and they were caught and prosecuted. I had my day in court, and I stood up and pointed them out and they're both in jail. But I can't move past that moment. I'm afraid I'm never going to be able to... you know.. be normal - with men. I need to move on. I don't care if I forget a whole year. I want that night of hell out of my mind.

COLLETTE looks at her, clearly moved.

INT. RANKIN'S OFFICE - DAY.

There is a knock on the door. Rankin looks up. STEWART is poking his head in.

STEWART

This isn't a bad time is it doctor?

RANKIN

What can I do for you officer?

STEWART

May I sit?

RANKIN

By all means.

He sits.

STEWART

The other day - when I was in here with Mrs. James..

RANKIN

I scared her off a bit, I think.

STEWART

Well, you scared me a little too.

RANKIN

Oh?

STEWART

Maybe I'm just a plain old cop and you've got all those degrees on your wall and what not. Boston Medical School and all of that. But something went on here. And it went on right under your nose, maybe. I need your cooperation. And if I don't have it, then I need to know that too.

RANKIN

I have something for you.

He produces a sheet of paper, crisp and clean.

RANKIN

Vernal James' classmates from this semester. I have starred the few I know to be his friends. And I am sorry about the other day. I like Vernal and I look forward to his swift return. Do you have any leads?

STEWART

None at the moment.

RANKIN

Do you have any reason to suspect anything... grim?

STEWART

His car's in it's space in one of the garages and his credit and bank cards haven't been used for two weeks.

INT. THE LAB - DAY.

DARIUS and GARRET are hastily cleaning up a few things, packing up the lab in general.

NATHAN walks in. He carries some books and looks pretty damn freaked out.

NATHAN

Hey...

DARIUS

Nathan!

GARRET

Where have you been?

NATHAN

What do you mean?

NATHAN

... When was the last time I went under?

PAUSE.

GARRET and DARIUS' demeanor changes, they seem to circle him.

DARIUS

Shit Nate, Um... I dunno. You tell me. You only did it once.

NATHAN

You sure?

DARIUS

What's the matter?

NATHAN

Did we ever do Vernal?

GARRET

(to Darius.)

What's the date today?

NATHAN

What?

DARIUS

The twenty third.

GARRET

Right.

NATHAN

I think... I think I did something to Vernal.

DARIUS

Now Nate, why would you think that? You barely knew him.

GARRET

(To DARIUS)

Why do you do this every time?

NATHAN

Do what? Look...

(Opens notebook he is holding.)

What the hell is this then?

Several pages have written "Where's Vernal?" OVER AND OVER again...

NATHAN

I wrote that! Who does something like that?

DARIUS

You don't know a thing about Vernal ...

GARRET

Stop trying to hypnotize the guy, Darius. We just have to do it.

NATHAN

Do what?

DARIUS

Think, Nate, what do you remember?

CUT TO:

INT. A TV - A VIDEO.

Looking right into the lens, looking right at US is Vernal.

VERNAL

Is it goin'?' ...Zit on?

CUT BACK TO:

INT. THE LAB - DAY.

DARIUS

I always hope that one of these times he is going to see the big picture here and not lose his mind every time he comes out of it...

NATHAN

What's he talking about?

GARRET

Why don't we sit down and talk this out.

NATHAN

No, I'll stand.

GARRET

Nathan please. I doesn't have to go like this.

NATE looks at both of them.

He puts it together.

He suddenly seems small and outnumbered.

He drops the notebook and runs for it.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DUSK.

NATE runs like hell through campus.

A good way behind him GARRET and DARIUS follow him and split up.

LATER:

NATE hides running from place to place.

INT. NATES APARTMENT - DAY.

Elizabeth, ponders the apartment, looking around she's not sure for what.

She looks through some books on a shelf, notebooks on a desk.

One of the notebooks catches her eye - she doesn't recognize the handwriting. She takes it and pages through it. Something makes her look up at the open closet door...

She opens the door. Looks through the clothes hanging there.

Then she notices, on the inside of the closet door, scratched with a knife maybe or a ballpoint pen, big and messy and scary, the words:

“WHERE’S VERNAL?”

She stuffs the notebook in her bag and rushes out.

EXT. CAMPUS - LATER.

GARRET walks along, looking around for him. He takes out his phone and dials...

INT. CAR - SAME.

DARIUS driving slow, searching, picks up.

DARIUS

Anything?

GARRET

No.

DARIUS

He's been getting worse.

GARRET

It's coming back faster each time... We can't keep doing this.

DARIUS

One goddamn thing at a time. Meet me at his house.

GARRET

He tells anybody and we're going to be real busy tonight.

He hangs up.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN DOOR - NIGHT.

Nate sneaks in the back door of his own home. Carefully turns on a light.

NATHAN

Lizzie..?

No one's home.

Car headlights sweep past and he ducks down.

A flashback seizes him -

CUT TO:

INT. THE LAB - NIGHT.

In a fuzzy flash -

VERNAL JAMES' innocent smile -

NATHAN

If you... If you have a bad feeling or anything you don't have to do this.

BACK IN KITCHEN:

Squatting on the floor he pulls out a phone.

POV: NATHAN'S PHONE.

He finds LIZ's number.

He types a text message:

Meet me at the Brew House - I'm in trouble. 9pm tell no one

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

DARIUS drives up in his car with the headlights off. He takes something off the front seat.

It is a needle, he prepares it.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

The TV and entertainment center is in a large cabinet or wardrobe, with doors on it.

Nate is leaning into the television strangely, like he's whispering.

Darius has snuck in and comes up behind NATE.

He whips around.

DARIUS
WHO YOU TALKING TO?

NATHAN
Darius listen...

Darius viciously grabs Nate and injects him with something that makes him go limp.

He drags Nates body out of the room.

What he didn't see was that what Nate was talking to was a small camcorder had set up, it now records the empty room.

INT. A BASEMENT - NIGHT.

In a finished basement - low ceilings, panelling and air hockey - is a makeshift version of the other lab.

GARRET is watching his monitor.

GARRET

... Microbes working beautifully...

DARIUS monitors a portable cat scan type screen.

DARIUS

Transferring synapse data...

Thomas with the heart machine: He seems belligerent and rather reluctant.

THOMAS

Pulse/ox is ninety one percent.

COLLETTE is there also.

She is holding the hand of TONYA, the rape victim. She and Darius exchange a look.

GARRET

According to the logarithm we should be approaching target strand.

DARIUS

(to Collette)

Feels good to do good doesn't it?

Thomas looks around at all of them.

THOMAS

Where's Nate tonight?

DARIUS

... I called him.

GARRET

I think Elizabeth is tightening the reins.

DARIUS

Must be it.

INT. A BEDROOM - SAME.

Nate lies still unconscious in a back bedroom.

INT. THE BREW HOUSE - NIGHT.

ELIZABETH sits alone at a table.

Worried, she checks the time on her phone, it says ten PM. She reads Nates message again.

She slides out of the booth and leaves.

INT. A BASEMENT - LATER.

TONYA sleeps on an old sofa. The rest wrap up quietly or stand vigil.

THOMAS breaks the silence.

THOMAS

The police want to talk to me.

Everybody stops.

COLLETTE

What?

DARIUS

Why didn't you say something?

THOMAS

I am saying something.

COLLETTE

They contacted me too.

GARRET

Jesus.

COLLETTE

It's about Vernal.

GARRET

Well of course it's about Vernal. They don't know anything. They're desperate.

COLLETTE

I don't know what to tell them.

GARRET

You tell them nothing.

COLLETTE

Why would I lie?

DARIUS

No one's telling you to lie.

THOMAS

Who put you two in charge anyway by the way?

GARRET

Do you know where Vernal is?

THOMAS

No.

GARRET

Then tell them that. And you put me in charge the last time you went under.

THOMAS

I did what?

COLLETTE

Garret!

THOMAS

Vernal was screwing around with the hippocampus logarithms, and now he's missing. Nate's never been the same since he went under and I think we're being kept in the dark here and now C'lette ...

He stops, he's remembering something.

He looks at GARRET and at COLLETTE - shocked and wounded.

He backs away from them both slowly, shocked and hurt and heads out the door.

COLLETTE

Tom...

INT. NATHAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

It's later. Nate wakes up on his bed feeling like he overslept after a long afternoon nap.

He hears a knock at the door.

CUT TO:

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

The front door opens.

Elizabeth stands there.

ELIZABETH

Honey?

NATHAN

What?

ELIZABETH

What's going on?

NATHAN

Nothing. What time is it?

ELIZABETH

It's almost eleven.

She stomps in.

NATHAN

I'm sorry, I've got a headache. I think I have a fever. How was your day? Did you eat?

Putting it together, she looks at him horrified.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, I ate.

Her eyes roam him, the apartment...

NATHAN

Lizzie, what is it?

She holds out her phone to him. He reads his own text message to her.

He pats himself down til he finds his phone in a pocket. He slowly pulls it out.

ELIZABETH

Get your things.

EXT. LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION SITE. NEW HAMPSHIRE - DAY

Earth moving equipment sits in the morning sun as men in hard hats read plans and bark orders. A sign at an entrance - a temporary chain link fence reads "Future sight - Waste To Energy Incineration plant."

Around the sight, several protesters circle, their signs read: "Incinerators = Acid Rain" "Mercury is killing our lakes and fishes!" "Tougher regulations for billionaire contractors!" "Stick your smokestack up your ass!"

Inside the site, a middle aged man, FLETCH holds a coffee and ponders the protesters. Mr. CLIFFORD approaches him.

CLIFFORD

Fletcher!

FLETCH

Look at these fucken morons. Do they have jobs, these people?

CLIFFORD

Their job is shutting us down and they've done it.

FLETCH

What?

CLIFFORD

State appeals court just ruled against Viverito Industries.

FLETCH

What do we do?

CLIFFORD nods toward a HUGE pile of garbage on a barge like belt, slated to roll into the incinerator.

CLIFFORD

Put that shit back in the fucken hole.

FLETCH

You gotta be fucken kidding me over here.

CLIFFORD

Sorry Fletch. Least you get another couple days O.T. out of it. Til the suits work it out.

FLETCH

Yeah.

(Calls:)

Alright fellas ... Listen up...

EXT. LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION SITE - LATER.

A back hoe dumps garbage and filth into the back of a dump truck. Other dump trucks just like it form lines coming and going.

Out of the back hoe, the limp, rubbery body of a VERNAL falls into the back of the truck. The BACK HOE DRIVER sees it and stands, stunned.

BACK HOE DRIVER

WHOOOOAAA!!! Shit . . .

He jumps down from his vehicle and runs to tell someone.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY.

It is a bright sunny morning.

It's early, people haven't even begun to head out to class yet.

There's a figure in the distance - looks frightened, sneaking from place to place trying to hide...

Behind a sign, behind a mailbox...

Is it a girl... In just a bathrobe and slippers? Or less?

It's AMBER . . . she looks lost, hysterical - She's trying to cover herself up, to hide from who she is not sure.

Some young women JOGGERS, see her and approach her.

JOGGER

Excuse me... Hey... Are you okay?

AMBER

What? I don't know.

JOGGER

What happened to you?

AMBER

I don't know. Where am I?

JOGGER

... You're at Boston Medical School.

AMBER

(softly...)

... What's my name?

JOGGER # 2

... Oh God. Honey I think you've been hurt.

Amber starts to cry.

JOGGER # 2

We should bring her to...

JOGGER

Yeah.

They put a consoling arm and maybe a sweatshirt around her and lead her off.

IN THE DISTANCE:

Darius comes tearing around the corner, looking for AMBER. He sees that she has been discovered by the two joggers and hangs back at a safe distance.

EXT. A ROADSIDE MOTEL - DAY.

ELIZABETH'S car is one of few in the lot. A highway buzzes in the background.

INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL ROOM - DUSK.

It is not exactly dingy, but no more than practical. Nate sleeps on top of the covers with the TV on and the sound off.

ELIZABETH sits at a table near the window, the curtains drawn. Reading from the notebook she found.

CUT TO:

EXT. LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION SITE - MORNING.

Crime scene tape and a throng of cops surrounds the dump truck. Seagulls hover morbidly.

In the back of the truck, a body lies under a sheet.

Guys with rubber gloves look for evidence and take pictures of everything.

STEWART hops down into the back of the truck over to a New Hampshire cop, Officer DUNCAN.

DUNCAN

Sir...

STEWART

How are you Thomas?

DUNCAN

Better'n you I expect, you've got a homicide on your hands.

STEWART

You sure he's our kid?

DUNCAN

Have a look.

He pulls aside the sheet.

STEWART

Jesus Christ...

DUNCAN

You have these environmentalists to thank.

CORONERS AGENT

Looks like his neck is broken.

STEWART

How long you figure he's been dead?

CORONERS AGENT

Couple weeks....

STEWART

Listen to me. I don't want any press. Any at all, until I get back and his parents ID him. You got that?

DUNCAN

Do my best.

STEWART

Do better than that.

Stewart looks off across the field of garbage.

INT. A DINER - DAY.

DARIUS and GARRET in a booth.

GARRET

What the hell were you thinking?

DARIUS

Don't worry about it.

GARRET

Campus security picked up your girlfriend running across campus buck naked, doesn't remember her own name...

DARIUS

She's not my girlfriend.

GARRET

This isn't funny. Have you seen Nathan since we put him under? Because I haven't. What if it didn't work last time?

DARIUS

The Amber 'incident' will be gossip by tomorrow and an urban legend by next week. And Nate ... Has more to fear from me than I do from him.

GARRET

Why don't you have to talk to the cops? Rankin get you out of detention?

DARIUS

I have kept this situation under control. We have done for Nathan what few would have and continue to...

NICOLE and DOUG approach. DOUG is a big oaf.

NICOLE

Hi! Hi you guys! This is Doug. Doug these are the guys...

DARIUS

Yeah, um , we're gonna have to put you on hold for a while.

NICOLE

What?

GARRET

Refine the process...

NICOLE

Aw... Man.

DARIUS

Can't be too careful.

NICOLE

It's no big deal... I'm fine.

GARRET

You don't really remember it. It's a little more complicated than a bong hit.

NICOLE and DOUG look a little offended.

DARIUS

We'll call you when we're ready. Thanks.

NICOLE and DOUG leave.

INT. THOMAS' APARTMENT. KITCHEN - DAY.

He pours them coffee; a stand off in hurt silence.

COLLETTE

You said you wanted to forget.

THOMAS

You lied to me.

COLLETTE

You lied to you.

THOMAS

Do I just trust you now, is that it?

COLLETTE

God, I can't go through this again! It was once back when we started dating.

THOMAS

Why'd it have to be Garret?

COLLETTE

Who would you have rather?

THOMAS

What else don't I remember?

COLLETTE

Nothing!

THOMAS

What if you have a memory blocked and don't even know it, Collette?

COLLETTE

That's why this is all so fucking dangerous!

THOMAS

Then why did we do it?

COLLETTE

You said you wanted to forget. To move on. I was supposed to never to tell, but I've felt like I was lying to you everyday and I was going to tell you anyway.

THOMAS

Fucking Garret. Fucking smiling at me like I don't know. And what was that about him being in charge?

COLLETTE

Did he erase your memory of how much of the process is not just his? Who knows what he's capable of.

(pause)

I love you Tom. And I want this over with.

He looks at the floor. She moves next to him. She wants to touch him, but doesn't yet.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY.

RANKIN is heading to his car when he sees DARIUS.

He charges over to him. DARIUS freezes at the sight of the crazed RANKIN.

RANKIN

Tell me it was an accident... At least tell me it
was an accident!

RANKIN pushes DARIUS hard against the car. He's pretty tough for an older
guy...

DARIUS

What...?

RANKIN

Did you think you'd get away with it?

DARIUS

What are you talking about?

They found him, Rankin. They found
him, because they always do. And
now they're going to come looking
and they're going to find you aren't
they? And I've been protecting you!

Get off me! What are you talking
about? You crazy old... Let go of me!
People are staring...

RANKIN

Did you think you'd get away with it?

DARIUS

How do you think this looks?

He starts to walk away.

RANKIN

What else do you do in that lab Cutter..?
(To Darius' back.)
"First do no harm!" Doctor!

INT. THE LAB - NIGHT

This is a flashback/dream -

VERNAL, GARRET, DARIUS and NATE stand around each other in the darkened lab.

One at a time, painfully slowly, they draw straws.

Vernal draws the short one.

VERNAL

Okay, that's cool...

INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL ROOM. NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

A sweaty Nate sits up fast from that dream...

ELIZABETH

You okay?

NATHAN

Yeah. I guess.

ELIZABETH

You have Vernal James' journal. It was in your house. Did you know that? Listen to what he wrote - "Won't it be interesting to forget, even for a little while who I am? To be unburdened of this social pedigree and just be me."

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Collette and Thomas sit in a parked car.

THOMAS

His car is here.

COLLETTE

It doesn't look like he's home.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - SAME.

Standing there in the dark, in front of the television holding the remote is DARIUS, his arms folded in deadly concentration.

Suddenly the doorbell rings.

He whips around. Thinks. He shuts off the video. Some TV show pops up in it's place.

DARIUS looks out the window, sees THOMAS and COLLETTE standing on the porch.

He walks over to the front door.

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT.

They stand there for a moment longer, but no one is coming. They look at each other and wordlessly begin to leave when the door opens...

DARIUS

Hey you guys.

COLLETTE

Darius.

THOMAS

What's going on?

DARIUS

I was looking for Nate.

COLLETTE

He's not here?

DARIUS

No. Have you seen him?

COLLETTE

Why are you looking for Nate?

DARIUS

Come inside.

CUT TO:

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS.

They step in and he closes the door.

THOMAS

So no one's home?

DARIUS

No.

THOMAS

How did you get in?

DARIUS

The cops found Vernal this morning. He's dead.

THOMAS

What?

COLLETTE

Oh my God.

DARIUS

I came to tell to Nate because Nate might have been one of the last ones to see him alive. But he's not here.

COLLETTE

Why do you say that like that?

DARIUS

Like what?

COLLETTE

Like he had something to do with...

DARIUS

Well, I haven't seen him all day have you?

THOMAS

No.

COLLETTE

I saw Nate this afternoon.

Thomas reacts to her brave lie.

DARIUS tries not to pounce.

DARIUS

Oh? ... Well, that settles that then.

COLLETTE

Yeah.

DARIUS

Where was he? What were you doing?

COLLETTE

I just bumped into him at Starbucks. He seemed fine.

DARIUS

I don't think he's fine, do you? We're all hanging out here in Nathan's house - and the only one not here ... Is Nathan!

THOMAS

We didn't break into his house and watch television...

DARIUS

It was on when I got here...

(to COLLETTE)

Was his girlfriend with him in Starbucks too? Think fast! No? Yes? I'm looking out for him. Let's not all get caught up, okay? It's not everyday your friend is found murdered.

THOMAS

Let's get out of here.

COLLETTE

Are you staying, Darius?

DARIUS

I was just leaving too.

He opens the front door and they file out.

He looks behind him, sees the TV on and remembers that he is still holding the remote.

He points it at the TV, clicks it off and tosses the remote onto a chair.

INT. PROFESSOR RANKINS OFFICE - DAY.

GARRET sits obediently.

DETECTIVE STEWART is talking to him. Rankin listens from behind his desk with a great deal of interest.

STEWART

Do you know why you're here?

GARRET

Because I knew Vernal.

STEWART

You are a known acquaintances of Vernal James who was considered a missing person since twelve February of this year and was found dead yesterday.

GARRET

And I am here voluntarily without any legal counsel.

STEWART

Why would you need a lawyer Mr. White?

GARRET

This is America.

(pause.)

May I ask, who compiled this list of known acquaintances of Vernal James?

STEWART

His parents... And Doctor Rankin here.

GARRET

Is this right professor?

RANKIN

Yes.

GARRET

I'm happy to tell you what I know. But I have no idea where he went or why.

STEWART

Can you tell me where you were Saturday the twelfth?

GARRET

I was in the library most of the day .

STEWART

Do you know when you last saw the deceased?

GARRET

Guess it would have been that Friday, the day before.

STEWART

Did you try to contact Vernal after you noticed he was not around?

GARRET

We called him... I called him. Went by his house. We didn't really know him that well.

STEWART

I see.

GARRET

I mean; to pry like that. Someone takes off for a few days. Could be anything. Then once it got serious. Once it looked serious; What could we do?

STEWART

You might contact the authorities.

GARRET

By that point the alarm had been sounded. Don't mistake my candor for apathy, but medical school is very stressful. A lot of people can't cut it. Just snap. Last year... Rob Hammond, just bugged out- quit school and was never seen again.

STEWART

Vernal James didn't bug out . He died of a massive stroke and someone drove him two hours and tossed him in a landfill. Now if you can think of anyone who might have a reason to do that, now would be the time to say so.

GARRET

... Nathan Hardy.

RANKIN raises an eyebrow.

STEWART

Nathan Hardy?

GARRET

I'm not saying he did anything, but he and Vernal were working on something. I only bring it up because he has been acting strange and, I hate to even say this - But I haven't seen him since yesterday, since we all found out about Vernal.

STEWART

What, he just took off?

GARRET

No I'm just saying I haven't seen him. He and Darius were close with Vernal.

RANKIN tries to be cool.

STEWART looks at some notes.

STEWART

Darius...

GARRET

...Cutter. He's not on your list?

STEWART

Professor? Did you give me a Darius Cutter?

RANKIN

I thought I did. We can certainly arrange to have him brought around if Mr. White feels it would behoove us to do so.

GARRET

He's the cop.

STEWART

Yes he is. Thank you for your time.

GARRET leaves giving RANKIN an extra grin. When he is gone:

STEWART

(into his phone)

Stewart. Nathan Hardy. Put him at the top of the list.

(Hangs up.)

Who is Darius Cutter?

RANKIN

One of our brightest...

EXT. BROOKFIELD AUDITORIUM - DAY.

On the campus of Boston Medical, news crews circle the old building, cables run along the ground as everything melts in the late winter sun.

On a makeshift stage, several somber looking officials stand on either side of a middle aged Asian man. He is Doctor CHANG, the dean of Boston Medical.

Everyone in the crowd, listens in shock, some wipe away tears as Chang speaks.

CHANG

Boston Medical is a small school by some standards. And that was one of the reasons I came to teach here so many years ago. Because we are not just a university. We are a family. And today our little family has been shattered. As many of you now know, second year student, Vernal James was reported missing by his advisor, Miss O'Neill three weeks ago. Yesterday Vernal James' body was found in a landfill just outside of Bow, New Hampshire.

(murmurs)

There will be a nondenominational service for the James family and anyone else who wishes to attend on Friday at eleven am. There will be no classes that day. Detective Stewart...

Detective STEWART steps up to the mike.

IN THE CROWD:

THOMAS and COLLETTE - looking like they have hardly slept.

COLLETTE looks around. She spots DARIUS standing in the back. They make eye contact but she cannot read him...

GARRET sits in a parked car a small distance away.

STEWART

(he's not a very good public speaker)

Thank you doctor... Good morning, um ...
 Anyone with any information should contact
 the hotline we've set up. If you saw anything...
 Know anything - It's completely anonymous. I
 do believe there is a reward being set up as
 well. We will be releasing more information
 once it becomes available to us.

As the crowd begins to disperse, RANKIN materializes next to DARIUS.

RANKIN

He wants to see you.

DARIUS

Who?

RANKIN

Him. The cop.

DARIUS

Why?

RANKIN

Ask your colleague Mr. White.

DARIUS

Oh?

RANKIN

Dropped your name like a hot rock. And
 what's he got against Nathan Hardy?

They walk clear of others.

DARIUS

I thought you didn't want to know.

RANKIN

We're all going to find out soon enough.

DARIUS

Garret invented something called the
Amnesia Game... And since then - a lot of
people's memory has been a little fuzzy.

RANKIN

Including Nathan.

DARIUS

Especially Nathan.

RANKIN

I had to tell the police about you.

DARIUS

Did you tell them I sell you my own designer
version of Oxy Codon?

RANKIN

That has nothing to do with any of this. And I
don't see why you would mention it.

(pause)

You're in real trouble aren't you?

DARIUS

Don't talk to me anymore.

EXT. CAMPUS - SAME.

Collette walks across the street.

A CAR:

ELIZABETH watches COLLETTE cross the street.

Suddenly GARRET pops into the window.

GARRET

Hey Lizzie, where's Nate?

ELIZABETH

Oh. I haven't seen him.

GARRET

Me neither. Tell him to call me.

Collette has seen them and walks over.

ELIZABETH

Hi Collette

GARRET

Hey Coco.

COLLETTE

Hi...

ELIZABETH

So...

GARRET

So yeah.

COLLETTE

Terrible.

ELIZABETH

Yeah.

COLLETTE

So where's Nate? I missed him yesterday.

ELIZABETH

I almost did too...

COLLETTE

What?

ELIZABETH

Nothing. He's just a little under the weather.

(feels lucky)

He's upset about Vernal. They were close.

COLLETTE

Yeah...

GARRET

What'd he say?

ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

GARRET

I mean - is he okay?

ELIZABETH

Yeah. He's fine.

GARRET

Have him call us. Tell him.

GARRET walks off,

ELIZABETH

(to Collette)

Can I give you a ride?

COLLETTE

Where you headed?

ELIZABETH

Wherever.

Her look prompts COLLETTE to wordlessly walk around the car and get in.

INT. ELIZABETH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS.

They sit there in the weird quiet of the front seat.

COLLETTE

We've been worried.

ELIZABETH

Why?

COLLETTE

Well...

ELIZABETH

... They ever put you under this amnesia thing?

COLLETTE

No. I hate needles. Like, I really hate needles.

ELIZABETH raises a surprised eyebrow.

COLLETTE

I know, a doctor right? I can stick them in other people, but no thanks.

They share a cautious chuckle.

ELIZABETH

Don't they say doctors make the worst patients?

COLLETTE

What about Nate? Is he a good patient?

PAUSE. She starts the car.

CUT TO:

INT. ELIZABETH'S CAR - LATER.

In the car. They are stopped in Boston Traffic.

COLLETTE

What?

ELIZABETH

Nathan's playing the Amnesia Game and he doesn't even know it...

COLLETTE

"Where's Vernal?" He wrote that?

ELIZABETH

On the walls. He has no recollection of it.

COLLETTE

Where is he?

ELIZABETH

He's in a hotel near the toll in Newtown. I don't want them near him...

COLLETTE

I know what we have to do.

(MORE)

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER.

Nate, bored and worried watches movies on the bed.

Something makes him sit up like a shot.

He looks around, runs to the window and peers out of the curtain.

No one there.

He goes to his coat and rifles through the pockets - looks around confused.

He runs into the bathroom and closes the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY.

A COP at his desk has been at his computer. He prints something and walks across the station house.

CUT TO:

Detective Stewart at his desk he is on the phone. The COP knocks on the door frame...

STEWART

... Hang on a second honey.

COP

Got a minute?

STEWART

(into phone)

Can I call you back?

STEWART(cont'd)
 (hangs up)
 What is it Brown?

BROWN
 Found something. Been checking out
 university online chatter . This keeps coming
 up...

He hands him the pages.

STEWART
 ... Amnesia game?

BROWN
 Some say they've done it. Most say they have
 heard of someone doing it...

STEWART
 What's "it?"

BROWN
 A lot of gossip. Supposedly, and here's where
 it gets interesting... If you know who to ask in
 the medical school - you can get yourself a
 temporary case of amnesia. It's supposed to
 be fun, like a prank.

STEWART
 Campus security picked up a slightly naked
 coed running around campus - doesn't
 remember her name or where she is...

BROWN
 One of the causes of amnesia - is stroke. One
 of the leading causes.

STEWART
 Is that right?

BROWN
 Says it right there.

STEWART
 Good work.

Brown leaves.

Stewart dials the phone.

STEWART
Professor Rankin's office please...

EXT. A ROADSIDE HOTEL - DAY.

ELIZABETH'S car pulls into a spot.

THOMAS, COLLETTE and ELIZABETH get out.

EXT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME.

Elizabeth keys open the door but the chain is on it.

ELIZABETH
Nate... It's me.

NATHAN (O.S.)
Are you alone?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME.

NATE, coat on, ready to run for it.

ELIZABETH
I have Tom and Collette with me.

NATHAN
No, uh-uh , sorry.

THOMAS
Nate - bro - what's goin' on?

NATHAN
That's what I'd like to know.

ELIZABETH
Nate it's okay. These guys don't know what's going on either. We're here to help you.

COLLETTE

Nathan we have to get you your memory back.

NATHAN

Oh, yeah?

ELIZABETH

Nate, let us in...

NATHAN

What if they're all in on it?

THOMAS

I don't blame you. I would feel the same way if
I found out what you found out..

Silence.

NATHAN

I think you should all go.

ELIZABETH

Will you at least let me in?

After a moment, the door opens. ELIZABETH slips in.

THOMAS and COLLETTE exchange a look.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME.

She sees that he is dressed to leave.

ELIZABETH

Where are you going?

NATHAN

Back to the lab.

ELIZABETH

What if they're looking for you?

NATHAN

Why did you bring them here?

ELIZABETH

I needed their help. We can trust them they're not like the rest.

NATHAN

What do we really know about any of them? I don't even know if I'm one of the good guys or one of the bad -

He grabs his head in pain.

ELIZABETH

Are you okay?

A car horn honks.

They look out the window and see a cab idling.

NATHAN

(grabbing door.)

Don't follow me!

ELIZABETH

What are you gonna do?

He opens the door and pushes past the Thomas and Collette waiting outside.

NATHAN

Just stay away from me! DON'T FOLLOW ME!

He dashes toward the cab, holding one side of his head as they watch him in stunned silence.

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

A snowy, slushy night. DARIUS pulls up to the house, flipping off the lights.

He sits there in the dark thinking.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT.

DETECTIVE STEWART sits facing COLLETTE and Thomas.

Silence.

STEWART

So you guys are what? Boyfriend, girlfriend or what?

THOMAS

...Yes.

COLLETTE reacts.

STEWART

Glad you could come in so late.

COLLETTE

Not a problem.

STEWART is looking through some notes.

STEWART

So, which one of you is going to tell me about “The Amnesia Game?”

They both react.

THOMAS

Oh...

COLLETTE

I guess we both could.

THOMAS

Um...

COLLETTE

Yeah, It’s really nothing. Some of us found that you could...

STEWART

Temporarily blank out your memory. Why would you do that?

THOMAS

Research.

STEWART

You call it a game though. That doesn't sound like research, that sounds like fun. Is it research when people pay you to do that to them? Like this is some new drug - some new craze.

THOMAS

It was never supposed to be like that.

COLLETTE

That's not it's real purpose.

STEWART

Did you know Vernal well?

THOMAS

Yes.

STEWART

Did he help you come up with this Amnesia Game?

COLLETTE

Yes.

STEWART rises an eyebrow and makes a note.

STEWART

Know who killed him?

COLLETTE

NO!

STEWART

Any ideas?

COLLETTE

...No.

THOMAS

No.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - NIGHT.

ELIZABETH slips in the back door.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Elizabeth goes through desk drawers, cabinets.

Feeling like she has looked everywhere, she sits on the sofa. She notices the cabinet with the television in it. She goes over to it, opens it and notices the camcorder on top of the television.

Warily, she examines the camera, turns it on. Rewinds it. She looks around as if for a second she feels like she is being watched.

The video blinks abruptly to life on the TV startling her.

ON THE VIDEO:

The camera settles on a terrified NATE from the other day, the day DARIUS and GARRET were chasing him. This is the video he made right before Darius caught him.

NATHAN ON VIDEO

“They keep putting you under! You’ve got amnesia all the time and you don’t even know it! Vernal’s dead! I don’t know where they put him...”

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. PORCH - SAME.

P.O.V.

Someone watching LIZ watch the TV.

The video now affords a obscured view of Darius walking up to Nate.

NATHAN ON VIDEO

“Darius listen...”

On Camera, Darius viciously grabs Nate and injects him with something that makes him go limp. He drags Nate's body away, leaving a shot of the empty room.

Elizabeth rips the camera out of the tv and runs toward the front door..

And is stopped dead in her tracks by DARIUS!
(MORE)

Holds up camera as she whispers/hisses:

ELIZABETH

Get away from me!

DARIUS

You saw the tape.

ELIZABETH

You knew!

DARIUS

Don't say another word.

ELIZABETH

You keep giving him amnesia you sick bastard! He didn't even know!

DARIUS

Listen to me! This is a bad time!

ELIZABETH

You made him sick to cover your own ass!
You really do think you're god don't you?

DARIUS

Every time he remembers he flips out - he gets suicidal. We've been trying to figure out what to do.

ELIZABETH

I can't find him. I think he is going to try to remember everything.

ELIZABETH(cont'd)
What would he do if he was gonna do that?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE LAB - NIGHT

NATE parks and runs inside.

GARRET pulls up right behind him.

INT. CLASSROOM BUILDING - SAME.

NATE approaches some lockers, sees DARIUS' and pops it open. After digging around, he finds what he is looking for.

INT. THE LAB - SAME.

NATE is quietly looking through some of the things they have left behind. Finds more of what he needs.

He sits on the table and prepares a needle. He injects himself with it.

Almost relieved he slumps back.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT.

STEWART, COLLETTE and Thomas continue...

STEWART

Vernal James - You do the amnesia thing to him?

THOMAS

I never did.

COLLETTE

Me neither.

STEWART

Who else does this... Who else invented this with you.

THOMAS

Probably everybody on your list there.

STEWART

My list here...

THOMAS

Garret White. Darius...

STEWART

Yeah, and how about Nathan Hardy?

EXT. THE LAB - LATER.

NATE exits the building to find GARRET waiting for him next to his car.

GARRET

We've been worried about you. Where you been?

NATHAN

I been right here.

GARRET

I was afraid you were upset about Vernal.

NATE is looking past him for DARIUS maybe...

NATHAN

Why would I be upset about Vernal?

GARRET

...Oh. You're allowed to know that they found Vernal dead - you'd remember that . . . What you can't seem to deal with unfortunately, is how he got that way.

NATHAN

I remember everything.

GARRET

Lets get in the car.

NATHAN

Now's not a good time.

GARRET

If you remember everything, why are you afraid to get in a car with me?

GARRET walks around the passenger side. NATE gets in.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - SAME.

GARRET

What were you just doing in there?
acetylcholine? In a hurry to remember?

NATHAN

What is there to remember?

GARRET pulls a small gun out of his coat.

NATHAN

Garret..

GARRET

Just drive...

NATHAN

Garret, you're not going to shoot me.

GARRET

You don't know anything about me.

NATHAN

You killed Vernal.

GARRET

Nathan, you are not smarter than me, Stop working so hard. DRIVE!

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CAMPUS GATE - SAME.

ELIZABETH's car racing, looking for NATE, with ELIZABETH and DARIUS inside. Her headlights sweep across the car with NATE and GARRET in the front seat.

ELIZABETH

There he is.

DARIUS

That's Garret...

She makes a U-turn.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - SAME.

NATHAN

Who's in on it? Darius? All of them?

GARRET

When will you come down off your moral pedestal and dwell amongst us mortals?

NATHAN

Did you ever give me a choice?

GARRET

Every time.

NATHAN

Darius too?

GARRET

Darius killed him...

They exchange a look...

NATHAN

My god...

GARRET

Will you say that? Will you tell that to the police? That Darius killed Vernal?

NATHAN

Is it true?

CUT TO:

NATE'S FLASHBACK:

INT. THE LAB. DAY.

VERNAL and NATE are off to one side.

DARIUS and GARRET are visible in the background. VERNAL hands him his notebook.

VERNAL

Listen, there's just some personal thoughts and shit in here. Nothing too interesting, but if anything should happen...

NATHAN

What? Nothing's going to happen.

VERNAL

Just in case...

NATHAN

Shut up and keep your little notebook. You hear me?

VERNAL

Just...humor me, okay?

NATHAN

Hey, Vern, if you... If you have a bad feeling or anything you don't have to do this.

VERNAL

No man, we drew straws.

DARIUS approaches.

DARIUS

Let's do this.

Discreetly, VERNAL hands him the notebook.

CUT TO:

Back in the car...

Which almost just swerved off the road -

GARRET

NATE! Are you alright?

NATHAN

Whoa. . . When it comes back, I can't control it.
And it's faster every time too.

GARRET looks concerned for a second, should he be driving?

INT. ELIZABETH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS.

They drive in tense silence.

DARIUS

You have to speed up. We're losing them.

ELIZABETH

I will not lose them.

Pause.

ELIZABETH

You're scared of Garret aren't you?

DARIUS

Garret is scared and that's what scares me.
The night Vernal died, I saw in his eyes...

ELIZABETH

I don't want to know.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT.

THOMAS and COLLETTE walk down the long hall away from STEWART'S office. He stands in the doorway watching them.

Eventually he puts his arm around her, as much for himself as for her.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - SAME.

NATE and GARRET drive. Suddenly, NATE gets a sharp pain in his head... He grabs it...

GARRET

What?

It is too bad for him to even talk.

CUT TO:

INT. LAB - NIGHT.

FLASHBACK:

Vernal makes his video.

VERNAL

Is it on? 'Zit going?

GARRET, DARIUS and NATE stand around the running video camera... Vernal talks right into it.

VERNAL

So, okay. You my friend are probably a little confused right now.

CUT TO:

BACK IN THE CAR:

NATE freaking out, eyes bugging, squeezing the wheel, speeding up...

GARRET

Slow down!

INT. RANKINS APARTMENT - NIGHT.

At the same time as all of this, RANKIN lays alone on his couch, high as a kite, an empty bottle of Bordeaux on the table near him, staring up at the ceiling.

He sloppily reaches for his phone... Dials.

INT. ELIZABETH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS.

Their eyes hungrily scan the dark road ahead.

ELIZABETH

Where did they go?

DARIUS' phone rings.

He digs it out of his pocket, sees 'RANKIN' on the screen, shakes his head in disgust.

ELIZABETH

Who is it?

DARIUS

Nobody...

POV: from Elizabeth's car:

They come around a bend in the road - there, smashed against a tree, is NATHAN'S car.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god. Oh god.

DARIUS

Okay, slow down.

EXT. THE BEND IN THE ROAD - NIGHT.

They approach the scene and it looks worse every foot closer they get.

There's a huge hole in the passenger side windshield. GARRET is slumped upside down against the tree they hit, his head unnaturally to the side on the steaming hood of the car, obviously having just flown through the windshield.

NATE, is semi conscious in the driver's seat, a grisly red splotch on the steering wheel. ELIZABETH and DARIUS rush over to them.

ELIZABETH opens NATE'S door, DARIUS checks on GARRET, first and foremost, a doctor .

ELIZABETH

NATE! Baby! Baby, I'm right here... Can you hear me?

He moans slightly.

ELIZABETH

Okay... Don't move.. You've had an accident...

She looks over at DARIUS who is checking on GARRET.

DARIUS shakes his head from side to side. GARRET is dead.

NATHAN

...vernal...

ELIZABETH

Shhhh ...

INT. LAB - NIGHT.

NATE'S FLASHBACK:

Choppy, fuzzy. . .

Vernal gets the familiar injection in the back of the head. The conspirators grin at each other nervously.

VERNAL is hooked with the electrodes and the image of his brain is on the screen.

GARRET

It's not responding.

DARIUS

Give him more juice.

NATHAN

I don't know what part of the Medial Lobe this is...

DARIUS

How are we going to find out?

NATHAN

The electrodes could...

GARRET

Just do it dude.

He flips a switch.

NATHAN

I'm getting a reading. Wait... No.

DARIUS

Hit it again.

NATHAN

Maybe the shot didn't work. It's not the right conductor ...

VERNAL starts to convulse. Blood runs out of his nose.

NATHAN

He's seizing!

GARRET

SHIT!

DARIUS

How much compound did you give him?

NATHAN

All of it!

DARIUS

ALL OF IT!?

GARRET
YOU GAVE HIM ALL OF IT ! ?

NATHAN
What? Oh my God, what did I do!?

EXT. THE BEND IN THE ROAD - LATER.

Ambulances and cops have arrived. The usual activity ensuing, DARIUS talking to a cop. ELIZABETH not letting go of NATE'S hand as he is loaded onto the ambulance.

ELIZABETH
Hang in there baby! You're gonna be okay!

She hops up into the ambulance with him.

STEWART arrives having gotten word of the identities of the people in this crash.

He watches the ambulance pull away. The activity winding down. The wreck is being towed away. DARIUS finds himself just standing there. STEWART approaches him.

STEWART
You Darius?

DARIUS
Yep.

STEWART
What happened here?

DARIUS
Looks like Nate was driving and he started to seize.

STEWART
What would have caused that?
(Off his silence:)
I want to know why so many of Boston Medical's brightest young students are ending up dead.

Nods towards GARRET'S body.

DARIUS

Ask him.

STEWART

So it's your word against a dead man's.

DARIUS

I guess so.

STEWART

I'll want a statement from you.

DARIUS

You know where to find me.

DARIUS gets in ELIZABETH'S car.

STEWART watches him drive off.

INT. THE AMBULANCE - NIGHT.

ELIZABETH clutches the semiconscious NATE. He is tripping.

CUT TO:

INT. THE LAB.

THE NIGHT VERNAL DIED:

Mayhem.

GARRET

He's had a stroke! He's had a massive
fucking stroke!

DARIUS

Shit! God! Fuck!

NATHAN
(still doing CPR)
COME ON!

GARRET
He is gone Nathan!

NATHAN
WHAT DID I DO!?

GARRET
You killed him.

They have to restrain him for a few moments then they finally calm him down.
There is silence for a minute.

Vernal there like a human car wreck.

NATHAN
... I'll call 9-1-1.

GARRET
No you won't.

DARIUS
This can't happen like this.

NATHAN
What are you saying? He's dead!

DARIUS
How about your career Nathan!? You want it to
end tonight?

GARRET
Alright... Okay, so he had a stroke...

DARIUS
No...

NATHAN
We come clean now we might get lucky...

DARIUS

Might get lucky is not going to cut it for me
Nathan.

GARRET

I can't risk everything because of this.

INT. THE AMBULANCE - SAME.

A heartsick ELIZABETH watches NATE as the seizures and the memories tear
at him.

A paramedic injects him with a sedative.

ELIZABETH

It's going to be okay honey. It's not your fault.
None of it's your fault.

NATE sits up suddenly and looks at her, a last moment of clarity.

His eyes begging her for something. Then they look sadly confused at what is
happening.

CUT TO:

THE NIGHT VERNAL DIED:

NATHAN is trying to reason with GARRET. DARIUS has gone off to one side...

NATHAN

People get caught man. We know this. DNA,
fibers; all that shit! We confess, tell the truth;

GARRET

No! Fuck that! They love to bring guys like us
down ...

NATHAN

Any coroner will figure out how he died.

GARRET

Look, I'm sorry, but he's black and that really works in our favor right now. The media gives cursory notice, at best to the death and disappearance of black and brown people as a matter of policy. Vernal here was a little white prom queen, we'd have something to worry about .

DARIUS has snuck up behind NATHAN and given him the injection that renders him unconscious.

They look at each other, acknowledging what they have set off.

DARIUS

Get him up on the table.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AMBULANCE - SAME.

The familiar sound of NATE "flat lining" fills the vehicle.

The medics look at each other - they have lost him.

ELIZABETH sobs silently.

EXT. BOSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS - DAY.

The sun rises on a quiet Spring day.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY.

THOMAS, COLLETTE and a few others awkwardly mingle in the living room. They have just come from a funeral for NATE.

ELIZABETH walks away from some people she is talking to. DARIUS, standing off to the side, follows her with his eyes.

She gets something out of a closet, and goes out onto the back porch. DARIUS follows her.

She has the camcorder.

After a moment she takes the camera and turns it on. She watches a few moments of Nate's taped scene. She hits rewind. She takes the camera out to the back porch.

EXT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS.

She sets it on the railing, facing a bird feeder. She hits record. Through the viewfinder, a happy little blue jay is visible.

She turns and sees DARIUS watching her, realizing the decision they are making.

Fade out.