

"Premonition"

Master-scene script

Version: 1.6

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FADE IN:

EXT - DESERTED CITY ALLEY - NIGHT - DREAM

B/W - Hand held camera - DREAMER'S POV. Side alleys lead off in various directions.

SFX: LABOURED BREATHING, HEART BEAT.

The DREAMER moves along the alley looking for something and approaches a lamp post. His right hand extends into view and rests against the post.

SFX: CHURCH CLOCK BELL RINGS

The DREAMER's right hand pushes back his left shirt sleeve to reveal a large watch.

CLOSE ON watch. It's MIDNIGHT on FRIDAY 13TH.

The DREAMER looks up and sees a cloaked female FIGURE disappear around the next corner. The DREAMER pursues. Around the corner the FIGURE is already about to disappear around another corner. It appears impossible for her to have got so far ahead. The same happens around the next corner.

Around the third corner the FIGURE is waiting in the middle of the alley facing the DREAMER who stops suddenly. The FIGURE's face is hidden in the shadow of her hood.

SFX: Irritating BUZZING noise gradually increases. The CHURCH BELL is still ringing.

A MAN comes out of the shadows behind the FIGURE and grabs her with his left arm. His right hand holds a big hunting knife with which he cuts her throat in one swift movement, exactly as the last BELL rings. SILENCE follows. The FIGURE collapses in slow motion and the MAN vanishes.

DREAMER
(slowed down)
No!

DREAMER rushes forward and drops to his knees in front of the FIGURE. POV pans up her body but we never see her face.

INT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON DREAMER's fearful eyes opening from the nightmare. His name is ADRIAN and he is lying on his back, alone, in his bed. He switches on the light. The bedside clock shows 3AM. He sits up and looks at a framed photo of himself and a WOMAN.

CLOSE ON photo. ADRIAN and the WOMAN are not touching.

A second photo shows two children (a boy and a girl) with their mother.

ADRIAN gets up and goes to his desk. On it lies a large note book and a portable computer. He opens the notebook, it is a hand written diary. For everyday for the past week is written "Nightmare!!", "Nightmare again!!", "Friday 13th" circled, etc...

He writes a new entry: "Thursday 12th May. I must do something. I must protect her." He then uses the a computer. He books a flight from London to Geneva for a woman called ABBEY with the same family name as him for later that day, returning the following morning.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - OFFICE AT CERN - MIDDAY

ADRIAN enters his office after the lunch break. He is eating a baguette sandwich. He sits at his computer and looks up "Premonition" on Google.

INSERT - CORRIDOR - The secretary called SOPHIE walks towards ADRIAN's door. She looks nervous and checks her hair before knocking. She is wearing a small silver cross on a silver chain.

ADRIAN jumps in surprise. He glances at the door looking embarrassed and quickly closes the Google window.

ADRIAN
Come in.

SOPHIE opens the door and enters, avoiding eye contact.

SOPHIE
Someone called for you while you were
at lunch.

ADRIAN
Who was it?

SOPHIE
I don't know. She just said she's
delayed two hours. She sounded angry.

ADRIAN
Oh, right, thank you.

SOPHIE goes to the door.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
SOPHIE

SOPHIE
Yes?

ADRIAN
(pause)
Nothing.

SOPHIE looks at him inquisitively, and then
leaves. He thinks for a moment and then returns to
his computer and continues researching with
Google.

INT - SECRETARY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

ADRIAN enters SOPHIE's office timidly. He finds it
hard to make eye contact and so does she.

ADRIAN
Can I ask you a question? It's
nothing to do with work.

SOPHIE
Yes of course.

ADRIAN
Did you ever have a recurring dream?
Like a premonition.

SOPHIE
No. I sometimes have the same dream
of getting lost in the metro, but
it's not like premonition. Why do you
ask?

ADRIAN

I've had the same nightmare every night for a week. I've never had anything like it before. It's really frightening. Do you think premonitions can be real?

SOPHIE

Maybe? The way I see the world, everything happens for a reason.

ADRIAN

Hmmm. Looking around, I don't see much evidence for that.

SOPHIE

(shy pause)

ADRIAN, would you like to meet after work to talk about it?

ADRIAN's mobile phone rings. He jumps slightly and answers it. His whole attention goes on the phone conversation.

ADRIAN

Yes, yes, I've prepared the dataset. I'll send it to you now. It clearly shows the correlation has reduced following the re-analysis.

ADRIAN leaves SOPHIE's office while still talking on the phone.

INT - OFFICE AT CERN - 5PM

ADRIAN is at his computer when ABBEY, his sister, walks in without knocking. She is dragging a small suitcase with wheels. ADRIAN smiles and gets up to greet her. She is not smiling. They embrace quickly and ABBEY looks inquiringly into ADRIAN's face.

ADRIAN

Hi Sis!

ABBEY

Are you alright? What's going on?

ADRIAN

I'm fine. Let's talk at home.

ADRIAN grabs his jacket and satchel and opens the door for ABBEY who looks annoyed.

INT - BUS TO GENEVA - 5:30PM

ABBEY and ADRIAN sit facing each other. ABBEY is looking angry. ADRIAN is looking nervous.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT - LIVING ROOM - 6PM

ADRIAN unlocks his apartment and they enter.

ADRIAN

Would you like a cup of tea?

ABBEY

No! I just want to know what's going on!

ADRIAN

Ok, of course. Did you ever hear about David Booth?

ABBEY

No! Who is he?

ADRIAN

Well, on the 15th of May, 1979 he had a dream, a nightmare, in which he saw a plane crash. Then he had the same dream every night for a week. In the dream he knew that the plane belonged to American Airlines so he rang the airline and told them what he'd seen, but they said there was nothing they could do. Oh, he also knew that the plane had three engines. So, anyway, the next day he called his local airport, which was Cincinnati, and the following day he was interviewed onto tape by officials at the airport. He described what he saw in the dream, but they also said there was nothing they could do. Then the next day, on the 25th of May, a plane crashed taking off from Chicago. It was a DC 10, which has three engines. It belonged to American Airlines, and, here the spooky part, it rolled onto its back before crashing, which was exactly what he'd seen in his dream! Apparently no other plane

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
crash has been recorded that had such
a maneuver.

ABBEY
Er... I'm sorry, I'm not following
this. You get me to FLY to Geneva to
tell me story about a plane crash.

ADRIAN
273 people on board were killed, plus
two on the ground.

ABBEY
So! That was like, 25 years ago! And
big deal! How many dreams don't come
true?! Recorded or not! Jesus! You're
a scientist! What are you talking
about? Why am I here?

ADRIAN looks uncomfortable.

ADRIAN
Can we sit down?

They sit in different chairs facing each other.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
I've had the same dream every night
for a week. Nothing like this has
ever happened to me before.

ABBEY
You've dreamt about a plane crash?

ADRIAN
Oh no, no, nothing like that.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
(pause)
I see you being murdered.

ABBEY
What?!

ADRIAN
You're in a deserted street at night
and I see you get attacked by a man
with a knife. It happens too fast for
me to react.

ABBEY

ADRIAN! You flew me to Geneva because of a nightmare! Come on, grow up! I can't be there to hold your hand for the rest of your life!

ADRIAN

I had to. It's going to happen tonight. There's a bell, I look at my watch just before you get attacked. I see that it's midnight on Friday the 13th.

ABBEY

Ha! Oh Christ! Friday the 13th! Of course! Obviously it has to be on Friday the 13th! Did your famous mega-brain go on holiday? Have you been watching too many horror films?

ADRIAN

I know it sounds like a cliché but that's what I saw. And it's quite possible that a serial killer does watch too many horror films and thinks that Friday the 13th is a great time to go and kill someone.

ABBEY

You've no idea what I had to do to be able to come here today. I was really worried about you, but this is too much.

She looks at her watch.

ABBEY (CONT'D)

I can still catch the last flight home. You've got to get a grip you know, you've gone too far this time.

She gets up to leave and he panics, and grabs her arm.

ADRIAN

ABBEY! No please, stay!

ABBEY

Get off me!

ADRIAN

Sorry. Just stay, please! Just tonight, you're here now, it can't make a difference to your work if you

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
stay. Please! I'll order in food,
I've got some wine. We can play
chess.

She stares at him for several seconds.

ABBEY
Alright.

ABBEY (CONT'D)
(sigh)
I know you mean well.

O.S. ADRIAN calls for takeaway food, speaking in French. Music is playing quietly on the Hi-Fi. We follow ABBEY as she examines his living room. It's very tidy. She shakes her head from time to time as she studies his choice of CDs, books, photos etc...

Just as ADRIAN finishes the phone call ABBEY comes to another photo of them as children with their mother. She frowns and looks sad while looking at it. He comes into the room looking happy until he sees her looking at the photo.

ABBEY (CONT'D)
We were just children, you know there was nothing we could have done. It's time to let go of the guilt. You've got to stop trying to save women.

ADRIAN looks hurt and turns to leave.

ABBEY (CONT'D)
ADRIAN, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that... I'm... I'm just tired and pissed off with you. Don't take it personally.

ADRIAN pauses in the doorway and looks back at ABBEY with a hurt look.

ABBEY (CONT'D)
Come on, let's open the wine.

INT - KITCHEN - 6:40PM

ADRIAN and ABBEY prepare to eat the takeaway food at the table in the kitchen.

ABBEY
Where's the soy sauce?

ADRIAN
Um, good question. Still in the supermarket where I forgot to buy it probably.

ABBEY
Hmmm... You need a girlfriend to sort you out!

ADRIAN
Probably. Easier said than done. You can't buy them in the supermarket.

ABBEY
Maybe not. But what's going on with your secretary?

ADRIAN
SOPHIE? Nothing. She only started last month, we've hardly talked. Why do you ask?

ABBEY
I just got the impression that she's interested in you.

ADRIAN
How could you possibly know that?

ABBEY
By the way she reacted to me when I asked her where you were. Call it female intuition.

ADRIAN
Really? Oh.

ADRIAN looks intrigued and perplexed.

INT - LIVING ROOM - 11PM

ADRIAN and ABBEY play chess. Music is playing on the Hi-Fi.

ADRIAN
Maybe we can see the future sometimes.

ABBEY

Of course. I can see that I'm going to win this game. Come on. Where's the evidence? Seeing the future would be so profitable that if it were possible, we'd have noticed by now. How many people live in America?

ADRIAN

About 300 million.

ABBEY

Which means that an event with a probability of one in a million happens to 300 people per day. Extremely unlikely things have to happen, because there are so many people. Premonitions don't happen, there are just coincidences.

ADRIAN

Maybe, I hope you're right.

MONTAGE showing the evolution of the evening including:

1. Chess game in progress
2. Wine glasses emptying and being refilled - ABBEY clearly drinks more than ADRIAN.
3. Clock showing the time passing
4. ABBEY winning several chess games.

As midnight approaches, ADRIAN is looking worried, glancing at the time. ABBEY is still concentrating on the chess game.

The music changes tempo and creates an atmosphere of tension. A breeze disturbs the curtains in front of an open window. ADRIAN closes the window.

SFX: The BUZZING sound returns

Just after midnight ABBEY appears to be attacked by an invisible assailant while still lying on the floor next to the chess board. ADRIAN is completely terrified and doesn't know what to do to protect her from an attacker that he cannot see. After a brief struggle ABBEY falls still lying on her back. Blood appears at the side of her mouth, her eyes close.

After a moment ABBEY suddenly opens her eyes wide startling ADRIAN who is completely terrified and stressed. She spits out a plastic ketchup packet that she bit to create the blood effect and starts laughing. It's clear that she is a bit drunk.

ADRIAN is speechless and appears unable to move.

ABBEY
(laughing and wiping her mouth)
Yuk! Your face is such a picture!
Hello? I'm okay, it was a joke.

ADRIAN
I can't believe you did that! You're so mean.

ABBEY
Oh come on, lighten up. I just needed to have some fun in return for the prank you played on me to get me to visit.

ADRIAN
It wasn't a prank!

ABBEY
Yeah, yeah. I'm tired now.

ABBEY (CONT'D)
(rubbing her eyes)
My contacts are clearly telling me it's time for bed. Of course, if I were in London it would only be 11pm, but I'm not going to wait another hour to see if your attacker is on British time. If you want to stay up to protect me, that's your privilege.

ABBEY leaves the living room and goes to the guest bedroom. ADRIAN sits down and looks in shock and unable to decide what to do next. He looks at the clock and then appears to settle in the chair as if he intends to wait until 1am.

The clock shows 1am. ADRIAN gets up and goes to the guest bedroom door and looks in on ABBEY for a few seconds. He then goes to his room looking a bit happier.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - BUS TO THE AIRPORT - MORNING

ADRIAN and ABBEY get on a number 10 bus to the airport.

SERIES OF SHOTS of bus travelling through Geneva to the airport.

They both get off at the airport and embrace. ADRIAN gets back on the bus and waves. The bus pulls away. ABBEY shakes her head, looks bemused and heads for the terminal.

INT - OUTSIDE SECRETARY'S OFFICE - MIDDAY

ADRIAN arrives outside SOPHIE's office door smiling. The door is still locked. ADRIAN looks puzzled. A colleague is passing at the time.

ADRIAN
Have you seen SOPHIE?

COLLEAGUE
Nope, not today.

SFX: The BUZZING sound returns

A look of fear and horror gradually spreads across ADRIAN's face.

SOPHIE (V.O.
FLASHBACK)
Would you like to meet after work to talk about it?

ADRIAN starts banging his fists against his temples.

INSERT - FLASHBACK TO THE END OF THE DREAM. DREAMER's POV. We see the murdered woman's body and pan up just a bit further, still without seeing her face, and see a small silver cross on a chain around her neck.

CLOSE ON ADRIAN's face as he starts to believe that he saved the wrong woman.

FADE TO CREDITS: