

CRIMSON

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FADE IN:

1. EXT. CEMETERY ENTRANCE - DAY

ROSE (47), in her black dress and holding her son's portrait, is walking along the cemetery walls. A few people in black is accompanying her. The world seems to have slowed down around her. She has traces of tears on her cheeks like she has been crying for hours. Her eyes are lost in the distance.

As she turns the corner to enter the cemetery she notices her ex-husband. She tries to ignore him by passing by.

MARC

Rose?

MARC (50), with a black overcoat and a bouquet of lilies and daisies, waves at Rose. Everyone is now inside the cemetery. Rose and Marc are still outside.

MARC

Rose!

ROSE

What the hell do you want?

MARC

Thought you'd be happy to see me. I came for Thomas.

ROSE

See you? Thomas and I haven't seen you since you left. You had all the time to come see me. See us. And only now you decide to visit?

MARC

It's not that easy you know it. He's my son too don't forget that.

ROSE

Oh no. How can I possibly forget that I had a child with you.

MARC

I know you're upset. And I am terribly sorry. I had to deal with my own issues first. Don't you get that? Do you think being gay was easy?

They are interrupted by an old man passing next to them before entering the cemetery.

MARC

Can we talk somewhere else after this?

ROSE

No, no we won't. You had plenty of time to talk to me. You are not coming in with me.

Rose turns around and is about to enter the cemetery. Marc grabs Rose's arm and stops her.

MARC

I'm sorry what?

Rose frees herself from his grasp and pushes him.

ROSE

You are not coming in. How hard is that to understand?

MARC

Rose, I have to pay my respect. You can't shut me out like this.

ROSE

You weren't there for us! And only after he's gone you decide to show up?

MARC

I was suffering and afraid!

ROSE

You could've talked to me! We were in this together. Why didn't you talk to me?

MARC

I thought you, out of everyone, would understand.

ROSE

I clearly did not! You hid it from me! You lied to Thomas. I would've understood and we would have found an agreement. I wanted what's best for all three of us. But oh no. You ran away. You left me to explain it to him. How could he possibly understand what was happening? He was so small. How did you think it was for him growing up?

MARC

I know and I am sorry. But despite my mistake I still need this.

ROSE

Need this? You didn't raise him, I did! Now he's gone!

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

Do you understand? And all you care about is yourself!

MARC

Give me a chance. Let me at least put flowers on his grave.

ROSE

Those flowers? Really? Do you even know your son?

Rose walks away. Marc quickly grabs her.

MARC

Rose wait!

Rose throws his hand away from her.

ROSE

Don't you dare touch me again.

She is about to enter the cemetery but stops halfway in. She breathes heavily. She then turns to Marc.

ROSE

Ok. Come in. But I'm not your wife anymore so stay far away from me and don't ever talk to me again.

They both enter the gate.

CUT TO:

2. INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The front door opens. Rose enters. Sobbing. Her phone buzzes in her pocket. It's Marc. She doesn't answer. She lays her back against the door for a moment and stares in front of her.

There stands THOMAS (23), a greyscale ghost, looking confused to be here and to see his mother. He tries to call for her but no sounds come out of his mouth. Thomas is shocked and puts his hand on his throat. He tries to talk but again no sounds come out.

Rose gets away from the door and walks to the couch. Thomas tries to hug her but an invisible force pushes him slightly to the side as his mother passes by him. He seems even more confused. Looking at his hands then around him then at his mother.

Rose lays on the couch with her son's portrait. Thomas kneels next to her. He tries to comfort her but his hand stops a few centimeters before he could reach her. Something prevents him from touching her.

He's incapable of interacting with the living. Thomas then proceeds to grab a mug left on the coffee table. He tests his grip and delicately puts it back down. He can only touch objects. Tears forming in his eyes. He falls down, defeated, while staring at his mother.

3. INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rose fell asleep on the couch. Thomas slowly pulls over the blanket on her body. He stays there staring at her.

4. EXT. ROSE'S GARDEN - DAY

Thomas is standing on the grass bathing under the sun. He has his eyes closed and taking deep breathes. He listens to the birds chirping and is enjoying the sweet breeze. His moment is suddenly interrupted when he hears his mother dropping something and swearing from the bedroom window. Curious he decides to go check on her.

5. INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bedroom's door is half open. Thomas takes a peep inside and sees his mother in tears on the ground picking up weird shaped pills spilled on the floor. He also notices one of the pills fell next to the door. He discretely grabs it and examines it. After further inspection his eyes widen in terror. He sees next to the bed a small box of rat poison and a glass of water on the night stand.

Suddenly he sees his mother getting ready to swallow the few pills she picked up in one hand while holding the glass in the other hand.

6. INT. ENTRANCE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Thomas rushes downstairs to the entrance door. Not being able to go through walls he hits the door and falls. He quickly stands up, opens it and rings on the door bell trying to distract his mother from poisoning herself.

7. INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Rose was about to bring the pills to her mouth she hears the door bell and for a moment hesitates between ending her life now. She throws the pills to the floor and rushes downstairs wiping her tears off.

8. INT. ENTRANCE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

As soon as Thomas hears her mother coming closer he closes the door and runs past her.

Rose opens but surprised to see no one.

9. INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile Thomas runs to her bedroom and tries to grab all the pills from the floor and the box. As he hears his mother coming back he quickly hides some leftover pills under the rug and runs out of the bedroom to the kitchen throwing everything in the trash.

Rose in shock discovers that the pills and the box has gone. Visibly confused and lost she searches her bedroom. She looks around and under the bed. Not finding anything she sits on her bed. Her head in her hands shaking it from left to right. She stops herself from crying and sighs deeply. With a shaky hand she grabs the glass of water nearly spilling it and drinks. Thomas comes back from the kitchen exhausted and falls to the ground, leaning on the wall in the door opening between the bedroom and the corridor. Relieved, he is breathing heavily from the rush. Tears forming in his eyes.

10. INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Rose is wiping some dishes from the dish washer. After she is done she silently stands there in the kitchen. The sun rays shining through the window creates a halo around her head. Thomas from a distance watches her.

As she finishes wiping a knife Rose starts to breath heavily, tapping her fingers on the the kitchen counter like if she was nervous. Her breathing pattern is irregular. Thomas starts to worry and slowly approaches her.

She suddenly cuts her left wrist above the sink. Thomas in horror screams "NO!". But no sound is coming out of his mouth. Rose can't hear him. Blood starts to flow down in the drain. She drops the knife in the sink. Blood dripping in her right palm.

Thomas in panic quickly looks around searching for something. His attention is drawn to the dish towel. He grabs it and throws it at her back. Rose suddenly turns around. She doesn't see him but notices the towel at her feet. She looks around the kitchen. After a moment of hesitation Rose grabs the towel and wraps it around her wrist. Once again relieved, Thomas falls to the ground in tears. He looks up at his mother. Panting.

11. INT. SAM'S SHOP - DAY

SAM (52), with his gardening apron and gloves, is taking care of some plants. His shop is filled with all kinds of plants and flowers. Standing predominantly in the middle of the shop and near the edge of the table is a vase filled with orchids.

Rose enters the store ringing the bell. She notices the orchids. She continues to look at it while walking towards the counter. Thomas is following behind looking around the shop.

SAM

Good morning Mrs. Vernier. How are you today?

ROSE

As good as it could be. How's today's flowers.

SAM

Well... I... I wanted to call earlier but I do not have your new phone number. I unfortunately do not have roses for you today. We had such high demands. I couldn't...

ROSE

I'm sorry. You don't have roses anymore? The only flower I ask for every week for my son's grave and you don't have.

SAM

I know and I am truly sorry. I could deliver it to you tomorrow maybe.

ROSE

I work until 9 PM every day! Today was the only day I finished earlier before the cemetery closes. I have never missed a single week to see my son. Do you understand?

SAM

I do. Trust me. Why don't I make you another bouquet. I mean for just this week you don't need to have roses.

ROSE

ROSES ARE FOR MY SON! The only flowers he ever wanted. It was my mother's flowers. And those flowers also reminded me of him. I don't want other flowers. I want my son's roses!

SAM

I got it. Calm down. I didn't know all of this. Let me just...

Rose turns around and leaves the store shutting the door. The vase of orchids falls down on the ground and shatters. Sam rushes to save them.

Thomas disoriented by her fury forgets to follow her. Stunned by the scene. He has a moment of hesitation. He notices a pen and a notebook on the counter. He writes down his mother's phone number and address.

As Sam is picking up the shattered pieces and his orchids Thomas gives one last look at him and smiles before leaving the store but Rose suddenly reappears and enters. She notices Sam on the floor. Sam, on his knees, looks up surprised at her. She takes out some cash from her purse.

ROSE

Take this. It better be ready for tomorrow morning when I come. And keep the change.

(Looking at the pieces)

For the damage.

As she gives him the cash Sam notices the scar on her wrist. Rose stomps out of the store. This time Thomas follows her. Sam stays there silent.

12. EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rose opens the door and is about to step outside when she notices a bouquet of roses at her doorstep. A little envelope sits on top of it. She opens the letter and finds all the cash she gave to Sam. Her phone buzzes. It's a text from him. It says: *Let me know if you got the bouquet. Again, I am very sorry.*

13. INT. SAM'S SHOP - DAY

The door bell rings as Rose enters the shop. The store is filled with flowers but Sam is nowhere to be seen.

ROSE

Is anyone there? Sam?

Sam suddenly pops his head from behind a big vase of orchids. He is hiding something behind his back.

SAM

Hi. Didn't expect to see you back.

ROSE

Why so?

SAM

You never answered to my texts. Got a bit worried. Thought you were still mad or something.

ROSE

Listen Sam, I wanted to apologize
for what I said last week about...

SAM

Oh it's ok. Don't worry I
understand now.

Sam walks to her. He has one hand on her shoulder. The other
hand still holding something in his back.

SAM

I got you something.

Sam brings out from his back a magnificent bouquet of crimson
red roses with one yellow orchid.

ROSE

Sam... What...

SAM

It's a gift. From the house. The
best roses I could find and a
yellow orchid to represent the
warmth of love. Just a little
touch. Do you think Thomas would
like it?

ROSE

He would definitely. Yes.

Thomas behind her can't stop staring at the bouquet. It's
beauty makes his eyes water up. Sam takes it to the counter
to wrap it up. One rose nearly falls to the ground. Sam
swiftly catches it.

SAM

Oups sorry. Would be a shame to
lose such a beautiful rose.

They both laughs. Thomas smiles at them.

ROSE

I apologize for your vase. If it's
any consolation I could repay you
now.

SAM

Oh no it's fine. Really. I repaired
it.

Sam point his head towards the orchid vase. The cracks are
painted in gold. Once the bouquet is ready Sam hands it over
to Rose.

ROSE

Thank you very much.

SAM

Always my pleasure to see you
around. And if you ever need
anything, even if it's not flower
related, you know how to reach me.

ROSE

I will. Thank you. Have a nice day.

SAM

Bbye.

Rose exits. Thomas follows and before leaving he takes a quick look at Sam one last time.

14. INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rose is ironing her son's clothes. Thomas is standing over the clothes tray. He examines his old clothes and the ones from when he was a baby. The doorbell rings. Rose leaves the iron on the t-shirt. Thomas puts the iron away and unplugs as Rose opens the door. To her surprise she sees Sam with a little bouquet.

SAM

Hi there.

ROSE

Sam? Hi, what a surprise. Today isn't the day I was supposed to come pick up the flowers right?

SAM

Oh no not at all. I wanted to give you this.

She takes the bouquet and smells it. She smiles at the beautiful scent. Thomas is in awe.

SAM

I thought you'd like some flowers for yourself. I know it's been hard lately. And you seemed to like my orchids.

ROSE

Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Please come in. Let me make you a drink.

SAM

Thank you.

Sam enters. Rose guides him towards the dining table then she heads to the kitchen to prepare some tea. Sam and Thomas both sits. Sam looks around the living room. It's dull with lifeless wallpaper.

Curtains are closed but some light shines through it. There are some old dead plants and dust accumulating on furnitures. He notices the iron board and the clothes tray. Rose comes back with two cups of tea.

SAM

Thanks. This is a lovely house.

ROSE

Oh you don't have to lie. I haven't been able to clean anything. It's a mess.

SAM

Why don't I give you a hand? Let me clean.

ROSE

What are you talking about? No, no you're my guest.

SAM

I'm serious. Take care of yourself and let me take care of the house. Where's the broom?

ROSE

Sam really I...

SAM

Where's the broom?

He smiles at her. Rose hesitates for a moment and finally gives up.

ROSE

In the kitchen. First cupboard on your left.

Sam winks at her. He takes a sip of his tea and rushes to the kitchen. Thomas has his elbow on the table and chin on his hands. Like a little kid he has a big smile on his face. Sam comes back with the broom, a shovel, some swabs, a broom brush, a bucket and a few cleaning products. With all of this in his hands it makes him very clumsy. He drops a few things on the floor.

SAM

I saw you had all of this too so I thought why not use everything.

They both laugh. Sam starts to clean. Rose joins him.

SAM

Here let's put some music.

Sam picks Rebel Rebel by David Bowie. Sam is cleaning the floor while Rose wipes dust off of some furnitures.

Rose opens the curtains. She is blinded by the light. Sam looks at her while getting rid of the dead plants. She turns around and notices him watching and smiling at her. Sam quickly turns his head away. Rose smiles too.

15. INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rose opens the door and let Sam in bringing flowers. She helps him by grabbing some but accidentally touches his hand. For a moment they stare at each other before carrying on their tasks. Rose puts them in different places all over the house with all kinds of containers from big cups and glasses to plastic bottles. From a distance, Thomas observes them while smelling the flowers one by one.

Sam and Rose are cleaning the bathroom. Sam proceeds to direct the shower head towards Rose and spray her. Teasing her. She lets out a little scream before laughing. She then tries to grab it. They both play in the bathroom laughing.

They dance along with the music in their aprons. They both have a towel wrapped around their heads like maids. Sam is holding both Rose's hands. He makes her spin around herself. They sing along. Thomas near them dances too.

They are all three in the garden. Sam shows how to make a flower crown to Rose. Rose picks a flower and tucks on Sam's ear. Thomas tries to follow along but it falls apart on him. He looks disappointed. Sam takes Rose's hands and guides her through the steps of making a flower crown. She is distracted by his eyes. They both slowly lean towards each other ready to kiss but stops. Embarrassed. Thomas in the background has been staring at them. He has a smirk.

Sam leaves the house. Rose closes the door and leans her back on it before sighing deeply and smiling in love. Thomas is smiling too while shaking his head.

16. EXT. STREET - EVENING

Rose exits the cemetery. She walks down a quite street. Thomas follows her closely. A loud noise echoes behind her. Two young men are playing with a beer can on the floor. She ignores them.

Another loud noise but this time she sees the beer can rolling down the street before her. She follows it with her eyes then ignores it. Thomas turns around and tries to scream to warn his mother. But too late, one of the men grabs her and puts his hand on her mouth. She tries to scream. Here eyes is wide open in panic. The other man tries to grab her purse but Rose hold onto it strongly. Thomas wants to help but an invisible force prevents him from getting close.

She deeply bites the man's palm. He bleeds. She violently slaps the other guy trying to steal her purse.

As soon as she is free she starts to run. Her heels echoes in the street as they hit the pavement. Thomas is running too. Suddenly a rock hits her head and she falls. Bleeding and motionless.

The two men runs to her. They start emptying her pockets and purse. Thomas in shock doesn't know what to do. His hands on his head looking nervously around him. He suddenly notices the name of the street on a building's wall and starts running down the street. They are close by to Sam's shop.

17. EXT. SAM'S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Sam is closing the door of his shop. Thomas appears from the corner of the street. Breathing heavily. He quickly thinks of a way to guide Sam to his mother. He sees some dirt on the floor and draws an arrow on it and writing with his finger: *HELP ROSE*. Sam notices the writing on the floor. Thomas starts to panic even more. Thomas suddenly sees the beer can next to him. He kicks it in the direction of Rose up the street. Sam, surprised to see a can rolling up a street on its own, follows it. Curious about the message.

Halfway up the street Sam notices the two men robbing Rose on the ground from a distance. He shouts at them. The two men flee dropping the half empty purse and running away. Sam reaches Rose. He kneels down trying to get a response from her. She mumbles something. Here eyes are half closed. Sam proceeds to immediately call the ambulance.

18. INT. ROSE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sam and Rose enter the house. Sam is holding her hand while guiding her in. She has a hospital tag on her wrist. They both sit on the couch. Rose eyes wide open as she recognizes her living room. It is now filled with hundreds of flowers, the room is brighter and colorful. Light shines through the window. She takes a deep breath to catch all the smells. She then turns to Sam and they stare at each other arms in arm.

Thomas is standing behind them. Looking and smiling. He takes a rose and an orchid out of a vase. Sam is wearing a white polo and a beige jacket while Rose is in a burgundy red jumper. They are the orchid and the rose. The front door opens. Soft smoke spills into the room on the floor. A bright light shines through. He gives one last glance at the couple. He has finally fulfilled his promise. His mother will not be alone anymore. He can finally rest in peace.

19. THE END.

FADE TO BLACK