

Screenplay “The Guilty”

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Screenplay

ACT 1 – THE FAMILY

Scene 1- A normal Day

Dining Room

Tuesday: 7 pm

A family of 4 sits at the Dining table (we can only see three because we play the daughter Valeria).

Family. My mum Claire, my dad Frank and my brother Will. We were always a close-knitted family. But I can't remember anything from the past, they said I had a terrible car accident.

Hit my head pretty hard. I couldn't recognize anyone because of amnesia. My family took care of me. Explained everything to me, told me who my friends were, what I studied, and what my dreams were. They felt unfamiliar to me.

It's hard to accept parts of myself I don't remember. Sometimes pieces of memory come back to me at random times. Often rather ordinary stuff: My old cat, what pen I loved to use for my notes or a night out with friends.

Mum

Valeria, I heard you were awake early this morning, a nightmare again?

Valeria

Yeah...

Dad

Did you try the Meditation exercise the doctor gave you? Give it a chance, it might help.

Valeria

I will try next time.

Mum

Don't forget to clean the dishes after dinner, it's your turn.

Valeria

Don't worry, I know!

It's frustrating, my memory is unclear, so are my nightmares. Last night it was the same dream as the night before: I go downstairs, hear a little melody, then continue to go to the living

room and there is nothing but blood. A huge pool of blood. Some ripped off extremities laying on the floor. That's it.

I wake up confused, often trying to distinguish what's memory and what's nightmare. I hope tonight's going to be peaceful.

Scene 2: the Picture

Hallway

Wednesday 3:30 am

I can't fall asleep. I lay awake in my bed for hours. I can hear my brothers snoring next door. The walls are thin in this house.

noise

The noise comes from the hallway.

Noise from the hallway...

Picture fell down

Hang the picture?

A: YES

Valeria tries to press the nail against the wall to fix the picture. The nail falls through the wall. Sound of the nail falling downstairs.

No, the nail went through the wall. It sounds like there are stairs on the other side.

...let's see...

Valeria peeks through the wall. It's an almost dark room, with only some light shining through a little hole near the ceiling.

It's another room! It must have been closed for a while, I don't remember this room....only dust and some old toys...it's cold. It doesn't seem like anyone has been here for ages.

Valeria looks around.

I don't like it here, let's go back to bed.

B: NO

As Valeria turns around to go back, she discovers a Document at the back of the picture.

Wait, what is that? A Bank Account! Why would it be here?
It's under the name Claire van Westen, her mum.
It's mums bank account...let's keep it for now!
Valeria packs the document in her inventory.

Scene 3: Asking Family

the next morning, breakfast

Valeria

Good morning, mum

Mum

Good morning darling, did you sleep well last night?

Valeria

Not really, I couldn't fall asleep.

Dad enters the room

Dad

Morning, you alright?

Valeria

yeah, well, can I ask you something?

Mum

what is it, Valeria?

If A:

Valeria

How long have we been living here?

confusion

Dad

Why are you asking?

Valeria

1: No reason, just curious...

Dad

We built this house about 25 years ago; this was always our home.

Valeria

2. Because I found something yesterday night.....

There is a room behind the picture in the hallway. Did you know?

Short Silence

Dad

Yes, but we never used that room, it's from the family that used to live here. Don't get bothered by it, I already saw the hole in the wall, I will it soon!

If B:

Valeria

Mum, are you missing something?

confusion

Mum

Why are you asking?

Valeria

1: No reason, just curious...

Mum

No, nothing in particular. Is something wrong?

Valeria

No no..... never mind. It's nothing, really.

Valeria

2. Because I found something yesterday night.....

I found this bank statement behind the picture in the hallway.

Short Silence

Dad

Oh, let me see... hmmm must have gotten there by accident. I will put it in the right folder!

Scene 4: Odd Things

Evening

Wednesday 5 pm

Bedroom

To keep me safe, my parents want me to stay at home. Currently I'm not going to school or meeting my friends. The doctor also told me to avoid stressful situations for a while. While my brother is in class and my parents are at work, I have the for house for myself. Not gonna lie, it's boring to have nothing to do.

This house I have been living in my whole life feels familiar to me. I remember the smell of it. A mix of old wood and fresh grass. Our house is in the outskirts, behind the house only field and trees. In my memories the walls were covered in pictures. Family photos and some drawings by me and my brother when we were kids. I guess my parents take now more of a minimalistic approach towards the house decorations, at least for photos. I can't find any family photos in this house.

If A:

Valeria goes back to the secret room

*Sound of steps going down the stairs

It's so dark here. I should get the flashlight out.

*Waiting for the reader to get the flashlight out of the inventory

while waiting: The flashlight is in my pocket....

I should take it out and use it before searching the room!

Note to reader: Open the inventory and click on the flashlight

So much dust!

*Sound of blowing away the dust

Old plushies everywhere

*Character soundtrack: choir and cello bass with slow-paced music box sound. Violins?

Valeria goes around the room, only lighting some objects with her flashlight.

There are drawings on the wall...

Even a bed, why is there a bed?

Shit, this is getting way too creepy, I want to go back upstairs.

Valeria runs upstairs and climbs through the small hole in the wall.

Let's put up the painting, so it won't be so scary to see the room through the hole in the wall.

If B:

I know my family is well off, but we used to never talk about money. It wasn't something to discuss during dinners, at least not that I remember of.

At the dinner table

Dad

Valeria, do you know how much you have on your bank account?

Valeria

Dad, don't you remember, you guys never wanted me to spend much money, so you gave me my allowance in cash every month. I don't have access to my bank account. Only you have.

Dad

Ah right, I must be getting old, I forgot, yes of course, in cash. But in case of emergency, you know where to get it, right?

Valeria

Yeah, in your office, you showed me when I turned 16. Don't worry, why would there be an emergency?

Mum

You never know. Just to make sure, why don't you show us? Like a little training session for emergencies?

Valeria

Ok....sure I guess

We see the dad's office, it's quite a mess, papers everywhere.

Mum

Honey, look at the mess! You should at least try to keep it tidy!

Valeria

So, if for any reason I need money and you guys aren't around, I'm allowed to open the safe in the couch.

Dad

Go on, do you remember the code?

Valeria

....I don't. I've forgotten. Sorry. What was it again?

Mum

Don't worry, you don't need to know now. We will tell you when you are ready, and your mind isn't as cluttered as it is now. Let's go step by step. Right, honey?

Dad

Yes, yes, you are right! No pressure, Valeria!

Thursday morning

The doorbell rings

Neighbor

Hello Sweetheart, how are you doing? Everything is good? Yeah? Listen, I am in bit of a hurry. Tell me, why did your family not show up at the annual BBQ party at my house, huh? Have I done something wrong? Is your mum angry with me? If it's still about that stupid salad bowl argument, tell her I'm sorry. But I always thought your mum wouldn't mind stuff like that! You guys could have at least told me that you weren't coming this year! People were missing your baked goods! Anyways, hope you guys aren't mad or somethin'. See ya and talk to you soon! Oh, and sweetheart, try to stay at home, this city isn't as safe as it used to be, ok? Bye bye!

Valeria

...bye

She talks so much; I couldn't even say something.... But it's true, the neighborhoods BBQ Party is every year around September. Why didn't we go? Mum would never forget...

I noticed some things about mum I never noticed before. She is way more talkative than she used to be and keeps forgetting stuff. Maybe it's because I'm sick, but she isn't herself these days. Is she stressed? Hmmm

Valeria moves to the living room

I'm bored. Should I turn on the radio today?

*radio in the background. The user has about 30 seconds time to click on the radio to turn it on. -> special scene

This house is so big. It's so lonely here...

Mum and Dad will come back at 6 pm, my brother probably a bit earlier...

Should I listen to some music?

Special Scene: Radio-Interaction

If A:

News

... a few weeks ago, a whole family was murdered in Maple Street. The police did not give us an official statement yet, but one family member is still missing!

*Option to change the channel

[if not changed: unclear radio noise]

News

A high school senior has been missing for a couple of months says a local high school

*radio turn off

If B:

News

More and more violent robberies and murders are happening in this country, people are asked to make sure to lock all doors and windows at any time!

*Option to change the channel

[if not changed: unclear radio noise]

Documentation

The secret rich of Marple street. Apparently the rich of the rich keep their private lives on small Marple street. Having their own society in this country, they all meet again in the same neighborhood. More after the commercial break!

*radio turn off

Scene 5- suspicion

Valeria is in the hallway, looking into the half-open room where her mum and brother talk

Thursday 11 pm

Mum

What do you mean?

Brother

I think she knows something! She's behaving oddly!

mum

No, don't worry, you must be imagining it. She has no clue. She doesn't remember!

Brother

You think?

Listen, she might not remember stuff, but we have to be more careful!

Wait...

The brother looks to the door.

I should go!

Friday 2 am

Valeria is in her bedroom; you can hear her brother snoring in the next room

I know what...? Should I know something?... What are they hiding?

*Snoring

*It stops

he's awake

*Steps along the hallway

*Valeria breathing loudly, the steps stop

* The door opens

brother whispering in her ear

You little piece of shit.

Are you just pretending, huh?

pretend to be asleep

Brother

yeah, yeah, keep on dreaming, let's wait until your memories come back. You won't be able to sleep then. Sweet dreams

Waking up

Valeria

What do you mean? Pretending what? I heard you talking to mum. What is wrong with you

Brother

oh hoo, you are really good at acting, huh?

Valeria

Well, aren't you the one acting weird? Are YOU just pretending? What is it I don't know?

Brother

Don't worry sister, you will know soon enough.

Scene 6- knife

Saturday

Dining room, mum, and Valeria

5 pm

Preparing Dinner

Valeria

I couldn't sleep last night; I am so confused about what is happening... Everyone behaves like always, am I imagining things?

Mum

Darling, could you please cut the vegetables?

Valeria

Yes, but all knives are in the dishwasher, where can I find one?

Mum

There are still some old ones in the bottom drawer!

Valeria gets a knife; her vision gets blurry.

*change of background: dark space, she holds the bloody knife

What...? Is happening? Is this another episode? Mum, omg I think I can see mum! Mum!! ...That's my mum, but she looks different, like before. Like in my childhood!

I remember now...my head hurts...arghhh

back to reality

Mum

Valeria! Are you ok? What's happening?

My memories came back. She is not my mum. That woman is not my real mother, neither is the boy my brother or the man my dad. They are not my family. Who are these people? Where is my family?? Ok, lets not panic, lets breath!

Valeria

Sorry, everything is fine. Don't worry, trust me.

Scene 7-Panic

Monday 6 pm

black screen

it's been 2 days...and I am panicking. They are not my family, but where else can I go. Who are there? Where is my real family? Are they dangerous? I should go! I should leave, now! Before they find out! They aren't home yet!

Outside in front of the house

Quick, it's getting dark already.

Sound of a car

Shit...they are back! Ok, stay calm!

Dad

Valeria, what are you doing out here? You should stay inside!

Mum

Darling, where are you going? Let's go back inside.

They don't seem to suspect me. It will be dangerous to run away now...who knows what they might do to me.... let's go back with them...just for now.

ACT 2 – THE MURDER

A

Scene 8- going back

Tuesday 3 pm

Dining room, everyone

They all stayed at home today. They are watching. When I asked them, why they are not going to work or school, they told me it's because they are worried.... worried about what though? I'm acting like everything is ok, but I'm not sure if they are also acting, or if they really don't know that I found out that they are not my family. I need to wait until I am back alone. I need to find out who they are!

One week later

Tuesday 9 am

Hallway

They finally left. I'm alone again. This morning I saw how they drove away. That room...in the basement...I should go back in there.

Valeria removes the painting and enters the room

still creepy in here... but this time it's not as dark as before.

Oh...there is another door in the back wall.

Valeria tries to open it

It's locked. How many secret rooms does this house have?

Where could the keys be?

Scene 9.1

Mom's purse

Valeria goes to the living room.

No, nothing in her purse.

Maybe dad has the keys.

Valeria goes to the dads' office.

Sound of the car coming back home!

Why are they back already? [10.1]

Scene 9.2

Dads study

Valeria goes to her dads' study

so many places it could be hidden...

Sound of opening drawers and boxes

Why is it so messy...? I will never find the keys. What would be a logical spot to hide the keys? Inside some drawers, on the shelves... oh wait, I think they should be in here!

We see an old box opened.

Yes! That's the key!

The key is now in the inventory. [10.2]

Scene 9.3

Brothers Car

Valeria goes to her brothers' car.

Good thing dad gave my brother a ride to work today. Let's look inside.

...he should really throw away some empty bottles....ewe are those some old fries?

Sound of opening departments

is that a search warrant? What?

Sound of steps

Brother

What do you think you're doing, sister? Snooping around in my car while I'm gone?

Valeria

What is that? I know you are not my brother, so who are you?

*Her voice is shaking

Brother

Listen, your family was found dead, here in this house, in the room down in the basement. What do you know about it?

Valeria

What? They are all dead?

Brother

There was a girl found in the basement. She was abused and held captive. She had long red hair, green shining eyes and was really....

Arghh my head

*Her ears are ringing

thin...Valeria...

Valeria passes out

Scene 10.1- confronting

Wednesday 6 pm

Dining room

Valeria

What room is next to the basement room?

Mum

You know, don't you? You know what's inside that room?

Valeria

I don't...

Mum

yells

Liar! Do not lie to me. You should know! I will show you, come with me.

Mum and Valeria go downstairs, Dad placed his hand on Valeria's neck, so she doesn't run away

Dad's hand...on my neck...I can't move

*sound of keys opening the door

They open the secret side room. It's dark small room.

Gosh, it's so dark again...

Dad

Do you remember?

Valeria

Remember what?

Mum

This is where your family was killed. All stabbed by a knife,
multiple times

Valeria

her voice shaking

Who are you, people? What have you done?

Mum

They found a girl in the basement. You...

black screen

Scene 10.2 - trying Key

Valeria goes to the locked door

ok, let's try the key. It's in my pocket.

Waiting for the player to get the key from the inventory

If the player doesn't react:

I should try the key, it's in my pocket!

You can get the key in the inventory.

**clack, the door is open*

Omg, it's another room. Very tiny.

I remember this room. Somehow. I recognize it...?

What...is..argh! My head!

Valeria's eyes are ringing, her vision gets blurry.

It hurts...so...much.

Heathy breathing.

Blackout

Scene 11- Valeria

Investigation Room

Person in the dark, head turned to the back.

Brother, policeman

Valeria

The person turns her head. For the first time, we see Valeria.

Brother, policeman

We found you in the basement. It was traumatic, the murder, wasn't it? You couldn't remember. So, we played your family. I was your brother, just so you can recall some memories. Did it help?

Valeria starts laughing

Brother, policeman

So it did help.

Valeria

Why did you kill them?

END 1

Scene 12-End 2

Office

Valeria

Those documents...I think they are kind of important for them. They took them away that day. They probably keep them here, in between all those other documents.

Valeria goes through all the files

*paper being moved and looked through

Ah!

Here it is!

There is a phone number on it of the bank.

*dialing the phone number

Bank

Hello?

Valeria

Hello, my name is Valeria van Westen. I am calling to check a document.

Bank lady

Van Westen? Are you the daughter?

Valeria

Yes!

Bank lady

Your father called not long ago to asked about a bank account. Is everything alright with him? He acted a bit odd, as if we didn't know each other.

Valeria

You know my father?

Bank lady

Of course, I do! We used to go to high school together!

Valeria

I see...

Bank lady

But how can I help you?

Valeria

Ah... I found a document and it even has my name on it. So, I was wondering what it was about.

Bank lady

What number?

Valeria

919356

Bank lady

One moment... Ah yes! This is your bank account. Your parents have been putting money in it ever since you were a baby.

Valeria

So now only my dad can access it?

Bank lady

Oh no no no, you can. I thought he knew...

Valeria

But I can just go and pick it up then? The money?

Bank lady

It's more than just some change. Your parents are giving you almost everything...they didn't tell you? Also, you need to type in the security code.

Valeria

I don't know the code...

Bank lady

But your parents know!

*steps someone enters the room

Mum

Who are you calling?

Valeria

...

Mum

You know? I had my doubts! Ach, hang up the phone!

*phone beep

Mum

So how do we get the money? Hmm? I have a gun and will use it. Stop wasting my time!

*she puts a gun at the table

Valeria

A code...security code.

Mum

What's the code?

Valeria

I don't know.

Mum

What do you mean you don't know? You should know!

Valeria

Only my parents know. Who are you? And where are my parents? And my real brother?

Mum

SO many questions...short version, we wanted to get your parents money cause they are damn rich and I've got bills to pay. I don't

know why, but you kinda blacked out and forgot the whole murder thingy.

Valeria

Murder thingy?!?!

Mum

Ah they dead. It was kind of an accident. Really. But they kept lying to us, so yeah, they had to say goodbye. Sorry

Valeria

What? Why?

Mum

Focus! The code! We turned the house up side down and no code to be found. So what is it?

Valeria

I really don't know!

Mum

Ah come on! I did not just waste my time and theater lessons on you! We put in a lot of effort! Playing the perfect family! Give me something!

Valeria

I really don't know. I don't even remember anything that happen before I came back from the hospital

Mum

I will ask one last time! Just at least a place where the code be! What is the code?

Valeria

I don't know.

Mum

Ok, then I guess I'm out and you are too. I have no use for you anymore and I need to leave soon. Goodbye Valeria

*She fires off the gun

End 2