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Screenplay

# ACT 1 – THE FAMILY

Scene 1: A regular 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).

*Meet my family: my mum Claire, my dad Frank, and my older 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:

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.

-> Hallway: dark, some light from the open room on the side illuminates the hallway. A picture lays on the ground (Iris in a Vase by Marie Bracquemond in 1886)

**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.

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.

*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…*

Valeria packs the document in her inventory.

# Scene 3

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 will repair the wall 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. Did you know?

Short Silence

Dad

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

# Scene 4

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, the empty walls in the living room feels almost cold.*

\*Showing the difference in the background

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 must 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 lightning some objects with her flashlight.

*There are paintings on the wall...*

\*Similar motives as shown in the flashback of the living room wall

*Even a bed, why is there a bed? Is there a night light next to it? I think so, let's try it!*

\*Screen: Switch: turn on the light

*Ahhh wow, the room is bigger than I thought. But wait on the floor..., I didn’t see that before.*

Ankle cuffs are connected to a metal pipe.

*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 salat 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 watch TV today?*

\*TV in the background. The user has about 30 seconds time to click on the TV 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 watch a movie?*

# Special Scene: TV-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 TV noise]

News

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

\*TV 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 TV 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!

\*TV turn off

# Scene 5

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

Saturday

Dining room, mum, and Valeria

5 pm

Preparing Dinner

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??*

Valeria

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

# Scene 7

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

*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, I bought some take-out food, your favorite: Burgers and fries!

*That's not my favorite, not at all, but nice try, lady. 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

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 him a ride 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

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 a crime scene.

*Gosh, a crime scene... blood on the ground, tape, a knife...*

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. She was abused and held captive. She had long red hair and was really thin. Shining green eyes.

Valeria starts sobbing and laughing

Valeria

Can I leave?

black screen

# Scene 10.2

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 a crime scene. Blood on the floor...a knife.*

*I remember this room. This is the room where my family was. I recognize it...no...oh please no...why are they dead in my memory?*

Valeria picks up a picture, it shows a girl with red hair, green eyes.

*Who...is..argh!*

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

*It hurts...so...much.*

Heathy breathing.

Blackout

# Scene 11

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. Her green eyes and red hair. Thin.

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**