

A4: Domestic Abuse Scene

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NOTE: For effect, this story is intended not to have dialogue. Lines that are written in the script will be heard vaguely behind ambient music - mainly, the audience must lip-read to interpret them.

## INT. HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Various CLOSE-UP shots of items around the room - a picture of two children swimming in a lake, hung in a gold frame - a straw hat hung on a hook by the door - a walking stick propped in the corner - a glass of water on the end table. The FINAL SHOT LINGERS on the glass of water with the bedroom door in the background, keeping the table and glass IN FOCUS and leaving the background blurry. Ominous, ambient music plays in the background. A distant vibration shakes the table lightly, making ripples in the glass. A second vibration shakes the table harder. The third comes with the door being thrown open, and a small FEMALE figure thrown viciously into the room. A larger MALE figure walks in after her, slamming the door behind him. They remain out of focus with the water still in the foreground. The MALE grabs the FEMALE by the front of the shirt, pulling her up into a punch. She drops back down, and HE punches her again. Then HE walks out of the room. As he slams the door, the glass tips over and spills. A LONG TAKE captures the water spreading over the table.

## EXT. LAKE - DAY

CLOSE UP: A stone is skipped over still water, making ripples. SILHOUETTE SHOT of a BOY and a GIRL, who sit in a canoe resting on the lake's still surface. Calm, somewhat happy music plays in the background. The GIRL holds a fishing line while the BOY lays back and chews tobacco. They wear wide-brimmed hats and farmer's overalls, and together bear a likeness to Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn on a grand adventure. The BOY slyly pulls a stone from his

overalls and lobs it at a pair of geese, who fly away honking. The GIRL laughs and pushes him out of the boat.

BOY

Hey!

The GIRL continues to laugh. The BOY starts laughing too and tips the boat, spilling her into the lake with him. Behind them, a two-story house is visible beyond the lake's edge. QUICK CUT to next scene.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

QUICK CUT to WOMAN and MAN ENTERING house, accompanied by FRIENDS and FAMILY. They are smiling; her head is resting on his shoulder and his head resting on hers. She is pregnant and showing. He wears a naval uniform.

CUT TO :

The small group eats dinner together, talking loudly and laughing. The MAN says something snarky, and the WOMAN responds by launching some food at him from a fork. He fires back with some of his own, and soon they chase each other out of the dining room. The CAMERA PANS off screen, into darkness, and FADES INTO the next scene.

EXT. YARD - DAY

FRONT SHOT: The WOMAN sits on the house's front porch, crying intensely as two MEN in navy uniforms talk to her. From the BACK, their silhouettes are shown against a sunset. A FIGURE WALKS into the foreground of the scene. From the FRONT, it is revealed to be a YOUNG BOY around 15. He is crying, but looks hateful as well.

CUT TO:

A LONG PAN SHOT slides to the left across a room door's opening, showing items - a lamp, then a clock, then a chair - being thrown and smashing against a wall. The WOMAN WALKS from offscreen through the door and into the room, starting to plead with the SON. The room is destroyed - strewn with clothes, personal belongings, and pieces of destroyed furniture. He holds another item, ready to smash it. He drops it instead and starts yelling at his MOTHER. She quickly turns angry and begins shouting back. The SON walks to his desk and grabs a bottle, then throws it at her. SHE AVOIDS it and SLAPS him across the face. HE SHOVES her to the ground and KICKS her in the stomach - twice. The WOMAN rolls over in pain, and her SON stands over her. A SHOT from the SON's FRONT: HE continues to look down at her, breathing heavily, his face filled with hatred. She is FRAMED against the bottom of the screen, while he is CENTERED.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The WOMAN is much older now, showing gray hair and using a walking stick while hiking a trail. A PAN SHOT shows the house emerge from right behind some trees, as SHE TURNS a bend. To the left, the lake shines in sunlight. A group of PEOPLE walks towards the house from some docked canoes on the shore, talking and laughing. SHE APPROACHES, speaking out to say hello. They ignore her and make their way into the house. She shouts at the one trailing in the pack.

WOMAN

David!

He STOPS and TURNS TOWARDS HER. Her SON is in his late twenties now. He gives her a long look, full of resentment. Then he walks inside.

CUT TO:

The WOMAN enters the house, looking towards the dining room. It is surrounded by her SON with his FRIENDS AND FAMILY. STILL SHOT from BEHIND: She doesn't greet them, and walks instead up the stairs.

CUT TO:

The WOMAN sits alone in her room. Outside it is bright, but the room is dark. From her RIGHT SIDE, the CAMERA shows the window TO HER LEFT looking out over the lake. She sits at a small table against the right wall, and eats slowly from a plate.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The SON and his family - a wife and two children - sit at the dining room table. The WOMAN comes down the stairs, looking at them meekly but hopefully.

CUT TO:

She has joined the table, and they talk awkwardly. Everyone wears a serious face, looking uneasy - this is out of the ordinary. The WOMAN makes a joke, and all except her SON laugh. She looks at him, then puts her hand on his. She says something with a smile, and he snaps back poisonously. For a moment all look appalled. Then the WOMAN throws her glass of water into her SON's face. He sits for a moment, then gets up and grabs her by the hair. The music flares up. A TRACKING SHOT shows him drag her out of her chair and from the room. She grabs at his arm and hand, but can't

loosen his grip. He drags her up the stairs and down the upstairs hallway. When he gets to her room, he opens the door and hurls her inside. As he slams the door, the CAMERA CUTS TO BLACK.

FADE IN

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP SHOT of the OLD WOMAN looking through the house window at a lake. She has a black eye and cut lip. CUT to a SHOT FROM THE BACK of her head, to show the lake clearly. A PAN SHOT tracks her as she makes her way to the door. A CLOSE UP shows her turn the handle, but it doesn't budge. The SHOT EMPHASIZES a gold ring on her left hand. In a LONG CUT from behind: she shakes the door, hits it repeatedly, and screams into it. After a moment she slides down and sits against it, looking FORWARD towards but above the camera. A SLOW ZOOM shows her breathing hard - as the CAMERA gets closer, her face becomes more determined. CAMERA CUTS to the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

SHOT from the YARD: The window is opened from outside, and FROM AFAR the WOMAN climbs out onto the sloped roof. She drops slowly to the ground with her walking stick and begins walking away from the house. The LONG TAKE shows one of the children see her from the porch, and run inside. Shortly after the SON emerges, walking quickly after her. She hears him and turns to face him. He looks infuriated. She drops her stick and squares up to him. CUT TO her face, which is fierce and livid. He stops with his hand raised

just short of her, shocked by the look. She doesn't back down.

WOMAN

Coward.

The SON steps back a few paces, then sits on the lawn. The WOMAN turns and leaves. At a dock by the lake, a small canoe is tethered. She gets in and pushes off, paddling into the dark water. A STILL SHOT captures her in the boat, with the house resting behind her. She is alone.