



GEORGE KILLS THE BOY

In the climax of the film, George has been pushed to his absolute limit by Martha. After being humiliated, attacked and furious with Martha for breaking the “one rule”, George decides to commit the ultimate act of vengeance in order to get even with his wife and to put an end to their little game once and for all. George decides to kill the one thing that Martha truly loves and values above all else in this world...their son. But George does so by simply telling Martha. He tells her that he received a telegram reporting that their boy was in a car accident and killed. But the audience knows this is not true, and that George is making the whole affair up. Yet, Martha is emotionally destroyed by this news. She begs and pleads with George to not “kill” their son and yet George continues with his ruse, with Martha continuing to succumb to devastated grief. As Nick and Honey bare witness their curiosity turns to horror as they realize the truth: there is no son. Martha and George do not have a son. They never did. They are infertile and unable to conceive a child of their own and have known for years. Unable to bear this tragic reality, the couple decided to find some form of solace with each other by creating a fictional son together that they shared the concept of with one another. But George has decided that the game has gone on long enough, and to get his ultimate, definitive revenge against Martha, he declares the boy dead and the game over. Martha is left in utter despair and Nick and Honey finally flee in total shock, with newfound understanding of the real pain and tragedy that has been eating at this couple for years and caused their anger and pain to transform into the hatred for each other. A hatred that now will never be able to heal or mend, and in the end was always condemned to endure forever with no hope at all.