

THE CONNECTING BETRAYAL
PART TWO

SCREENPLAY

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FADE IN:

INT. GREECE - GAY BAR - NIGHT

Hahn Li taps his shot glass on the bar for the bartender's attention.

HAHN LI

(Grinning)

Hey man, where you been? Isn't there someone else working besides you? My glass has been empty. I was going to help myself.

BARTENDER JO JO

(Flustered)

Yeah, yeah, Derrick will be here soon. He better, I can't handle this wild crowd tonight. I'm so tired.

Hahn Li is nearly unrecognizable, blond hair, scruffy, rough around the edges. He goes by "Liam" here.

BARTENDER JO JO (CONT'D)

(Flirtatious)

Did you have a hard day, Liam? I know how we can take our edge off together if you want. You know, quid pro quo, baby.

Bartender Jo Jo pours Liam his third shot of whisky.

HAHN LI

(Laughing)

Oh no, no... you behave now, alright. There will be none of that. You're not my type. I'm okay, just keep it pouring until I tell you to stop.

BARTENDER JO JO

(Smirks)

You're no fun, Liam, I can't help it, you're so sexy. Here, I'll leave you with the bottle, it's a hundred fifty US cash. You can pour it yourself. Make sure you leave me a big tip, okay lover boy.

Hahn takes his usual seat at the dimly lit bar, alone at the far end, his nightly refuge, a hideout to keep near Valerie.

FLASHBACK - HAHN LI'S POV

Valerie and GC Lee are locked in a passionate kiss. Hahn's jaw tightens. Fury and jealousy boil beneath his stillness as his hand clenches hard in his lap.

HAHN LI
(Breathing heavy)
I should have killed you, so no one
can have you, especially that
fucking cop!

INT. GAY BAR - PRESENT - DAY

Hahn blinks back to the moment. A tall, striking blond enters the bar. Heads don't turn, but his does. She sways toward him. He leans into the light. She sees him. He eases back as she settles in close.

BLOND WOMAN
(Seductive tone)
Hello, darling. Is this seat taken?
If not, may I sit and join you?
I'll have whatever you're drinking.

HAHN LI
(Pleased)
Sure, I'd love your company. Make
yourself comfortable.

Hahn reaches behind the bar, snags a shot glass, pours from his bottle. Her eyes drop to his torso, lingering with a quiet, predatory hunger.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - EVENING

Hahn's sweat-slicked body moves against her from behind. She grips the back of the sofa, breath breaking. She reaches back for him, he denies the touch. His gaze fixes on a scarf hanging loose. He takes it in his hand, winding it slowly around her neck, watching, calculating, as her breath falters between moans.

HAHN LI
(Breathing heavily)
Stop touching me. Yeah, just like
that. Stay like that. Beg for it,
come on!

BLOND WOMAN
(Moans)

Ohh, I like that, baby, don't stop,
give it to me... wait, wait, it's
too tight, I can't breathe. What
are you doing? Stop!

Hahn tightens his hold. Her breath weakens, then disappears.
She claws at his hands, struggles to break free, he is
stronger. She goes still. Lifeless.

HAHN LI

(Unhinged)

Ahh, that was great, so good! Was
that good for you too, baby? What,
you can't speak now? Fuck, I can't
help... control it.

Hahn releases his grip. The scarf falls to the floor with the
woman.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Disgusted)

Mercy, mercy me... dammit, come on,
get this shit off me. Argh!

The condom slips free. The faucet runs, he scrubs at himself
with desperate force, then stuffs the mess into the disposal.

INT. SMALL BEDROOM - EVENING

HAHN LI

(Pulls his hair)

Shit, shit, you fucking idiot.
Hahn, what did you do this time?
Don't get messy... she was so
pretty.

Hahn returns to the body, gathers his clothes, dresses
quickly. He lifts her, and carries her into a small bedroom,
gently lays her on the bed, then pulls a blanket over her.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Sad)

I'm sorry, truly I am, that I
wasted your life. You are so
beautiful. Close your eyes now,
sleeping beauty.

Hahn snaps back into reality. He rummages through the house,
yanks a curtain aside, revealing a professional vanity
station, cosmetics carefully arranged, an array of wigs.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Chuckles)

What do we have here, now this has gotten interesting, Hahn. You stupid idiot, you fucked a trans woman. Well, at least a gorgeous one!

Hahn yanks open a drawer, finds a passport, opens it: SYLVESTER THOMAS, "Sylvia," American, Florida. He checks for the cards, counts the cash.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Mocking, sighing)
Sylvester Thomas... wow, that's a mouthful. You certainly did not look like a Sylvester... Sylvia was a really good choice.

Hahn studies the passport photo, an attractive trans woman, dark eyes, chiseled jaw, feminine features. He freezes. That mouth, unmistakable.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
Sylvia, Sylvia, I'm sorry, you were so clever, but perhaps you wouldn't mind if I borrowed your passport for my new identity. I mean, we can continue to live out our dreams... how does that sound?

Hahn rushes back to the bedroom. Sylvia lies stiff. He pulls back the blanket, strips away the remaining clothes, leaves her naked, and studies her body.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Remorseless)
Your body is so perfect... you endured too much pain, Sylvester, from all this, the surgery, the enhancements, but now you can relax. No more pain, no more suffering. Your beauty is preserved.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
When you walked into the bar tonight, Sylvia, all I saw was your beauty, heard your soft voice, your mannerisms, your graceful hands, the way they touched me. It was nice to have this moment with you. I think you could have truly loved me. I wonder if you would have betrayed me, too.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - EVENING

Time passes. Hahn returns to the body. He strips the bedding from beneath Sylvia and rolls her into the sheet. He drags out two large suitcases from under the bed, finds a pair of gold sandals, takes them.

HAHN LI

(Smirking)

I like it, Sylvia. We're going to have so much fun now. My plan this time will work, you'll see.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - EVENING

Hahn, disguised as Sylvia, slips out the back door carrying the corpse and dumps it into the back of the jeep.

HAHN LI

(Whispering)

Time to go for a ride. We are going bye-bye.

EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - EVENING

He drives toward Fira, near Valerie's hotel. Pulls off the road. Stops in a secluded spot. At the passenger side, he removes the wig, undresses, folds everything neatly beside it. Naked in the dark, he stands with a small flashlight.

HAHN LI

(Talking to himself)

Okay... here we are. Ah, I must think. Make sure you do this right this time, without a trace. Not like Ono. Set your alarm.

Hahn walks with a shovel, testing the ground for a soft spot. He digs a grave deep enough to sink below his torso. A timer goes off. He climbs out.

EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - EVENING (CONT'D)

Camouflaged in dirt, Hahn hauls Sylvia's corpse and drops it into the grave. He shovels the earth over her. Back at the jeep, he rinses off, dresses, and drives away.

HAHN LI

(Unhinged)

Phew! That was a great workout, Sylvia. Okay... rest in peace. Bye-bye.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Muttering to himself)
I feel like a clean machine. I am
ready for action. It's time to be
together again, Valerie.

A mile down, Hahn pulls over to the side of the road, and
throws out the shovel.

EXT. FIRA'S LOCAL MARKETS - DAY

Valerie and Lee weave through the local markets, darting in
and out of small shops, sampling traditional delicacies and
window-shopping along the way.

VALERIE
(Smiling)
Mmm, this is so delicious, you
should try it. Here, have a bite,
darling.

GC LEE
(Chuckles)
Oh, okay, wow, that is good. What
is it? I don't usually eat much
sweets.

VALERIE
(Giggles)
Umm... I don't know, it sounded so
good when the sales girl said what
it was.

GC LEE
(Jokes)
Wait a second, what if it was
poison!

Valerie, in a summer white dress, sunglasses, and a matching
hat, shields her face from the sun. They stop at a kiosk
glittering with jewelry.

VALERIE
(Excited)
Look at all these beautiful
bracelets and necklaces, Lee, I
love them! I'm going to try some
on, okay?

GC LEE
(Agreeing)

Of course, we should buy some things for everyone. As many as you want, it's our last day here. Oh, I like this one for you. Come here, let me put it on you.

Lee stands behind Valerie, holding the necklace. She holds her hair up. He clasps the gold necklace in place and pays for the gift.

VALERIE

(Happy)
I love it, thank you. It's really beautiful, a symbol of our time here together.

GC LEE

(Smiles adoringly)
Yes, it is a symbol of our affection, and my heart belongs to you.

EXT. FIRA'S LOCAL MARKET - DAY (CONT'D)

A tall figure moves gracefully in a flowing green dress. She moves through the crowd. Rounded sunglasses hide the eyes, but the walk, the shoulders, are unmistakably Hahn's. He strolls closer to the jewelry cart.

HAHN LI

(Muttering to himself)
This is it, Sylvia. I'm testing us out. One body with two souls, no one will ever know that we are one and we are still in the game of love.

MERCHANT

(Friendly)
Hello, do you want to buy a nice bracelet for yourself, or someone special? I can also show you many other hand-painted pendants.

HAHN LI

(Feminine voice)
No, no, I do not want. I am only looking, please do not mind me.

Hahn gestures as he speaks. Valerie breaks from Lee and turns her back to the merchant, who is speaking with a tall blond woman. Lee hangs back, scrolling on his phone, while Valerie pays for a small painted pendant of Santorini.

VALERIE

(Smiles)
Sorry, here you go... thank you
very much. I hope to buy something
much bigger next time we visit.

MERCHANT

Thank you, come visit again. Bye-
bye.

The merchant turns to Hahn and tries another sale, tapping
his hand.

MERCHANT (CONT'D)

(Pushy)
Now you want to buy something? Look
at the photos, they are beautiful,
like you.

HAHN LI

(Smirks coldly)
I told you, I don't want to buy
anything!

The merchant glares at Hahn while Valerie and Lee walk away.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Agitated)
I said no, and do not touch me!

INT. HOTEL - EVENING

Hahn sits on the floor inside his small room, sweating from
his workout regimen. He rises and heads into the shower.

HAHN LI

(Frustrated)
What to do with you, Miss Valerie,
the liar. How can you let him, that
piece of shit cop, touch you.
You're mine!

He leans against the shower wall, water spills over his head,
lost in the moment. He pleasures himself, a low moan escapes
him as he pounds a fist against the tile.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Satisfied, mutters)
Ahh, I feel good, so much better. I
need to see you, Valerie... I'm
leaving this fucking island, as
soon as possible I'm sick of it.
Need to plan for the travel.

Hahn steps onto the veranda, a glass of red wine in hand. He settles into a chair, eyes fixed on the vast stretch of ocean ahead. He uses Sylvia's credit cards to vanish into Los Angeles.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Exhaling)

I was so lucky to find you, Sylvia.
I mean it, thank you for the loan.

EXT. COBURN HOME - MORNING

Two months after George's passing, Valerie returns home with a new man. A black Lincoln Suburban pulls into Valerie's driveway. GC Lee gets out, helps Valerie unload her luggage, and follows her into the house.

INT. COBURN HOME - DAY

ANDREW

(Elated)

Mom, oh Mom, wow, you look very pretty, your vacation paid off. Look, first off I'm sorry about what happened to you, Mom, but you should have told us, and not through Lee. He's a nice guy and his intentions are good, but I can't help thinking that he left out some important details. He assured us you would be safe with him. Mom, why did you go there? Why Greece, you and Dad traveled and never went there. I don't begrudge your happiness, Mom. I am deeply concerned, and I need to protect our family.

VALERIE

(Shyly smiles)

Oh, Andrew, my sweet son. I know you all want what's best for me. I'm sorry to put you guys through that. Fortunately, I have Lee now. Please, we can talk much more later, just you and I. It's good to be home.

Valerie is suddenly hugged from behind. Cooper steps in for his turn.

COOPER

(Thrilled)

Hi, my beautiful momma, really happy to see you, Mom. But yeah, don't do that to us again. So a romantic turnout with you and Mr. Special Cop over there, huh? Just take it easy and slow it down, ha, Mom, you're not a teenager, you know, ha ha. I'm glad you're happy, you deserve to be.

VALERIE

(Laughing)

Well, you know... I feel like it, and I am in love.

Margaret moves toward Valerie while her boyfriend Nicholas greets her from a distance.

MARGARET

(Emotional)

Hi, Mommy, welcome home, god it's so good to see you. You are looking beautiful. Hey, Mom, please check in with Dr. Johnson, she asked about you. It's alright, settle in, and I like that you're with Lee, he has a strong suit, you know, he really loves you. I know that might be weird to hear it from me, but I see it. He is genuine, like you.

VALERIE

(Teary eyes)

Thank you, sweetheart. He has been so kind and protective, we're still in the process of getting to know each other better, you know. But honey, I get it, I promise I will check in with Johnson. I oddly kind of miss seeing and talking to her. I would love to catch up, because the last time, I was not in a good place and I cut off our session early.

The joyful moment is interrupted when a small, short-legged Jack Russell, at full speed, tail wagging, races up. Valerie scoops up her adopted dog, DT.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Excited)

DT! Oh, come here boy, come here,
have you been behaving? Yes, yes,
oh, how I've missed you too, little
buddy.

FLASHBACK - INT. HAHN LI'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Animal control carries off the crate, DT whimpering and barking in distress.

VALERIE

(Distraught, angry)

Lee, please tell them to stop,
stop, please don't let them take
the dog. It's incomprehensible that
he would leave that poor dog
behind. I'll take him.

GC LEE

(Disagreeing)

No, no, you have to get to the
hospital and it's a bad idea. But
I'll take him to the safe house,
okay? If it makes you feel better.

VALERIE

(Teary, emotional)

Okay... okay, you're right. Please
don't forget, Lee. I will never
forgive you if something happens to
that poor dog.

GC LEE

(Agreeing)

Alright, let's go. Don't worry, we
will take good care of him. Yes,
yes, I promise, please let's get
going.

INT. COBURN HOME - PRESENT - DAY

Lee glances at his watch, interrupts the family to say
goodbye, and makes his way out.

GC LEE

(Anxious)

Hey guys, I'm going to make my
escape for a while, please enjoy
your time with your mom and each
other. Bye, nice to see you all
again.

Valerie turns, gives Lee her attention, and follows him hand
in hand.

GC LEE (CONT'D)
(Cracks a smile)
I will be back later, please lock
all the doors when the kids leave,
okay. Tanya went home already.

VALERIE
(Deep sighs)
Have you thought more about moving
here? It would be easier for the
both of us, staying close. I can
help you.

GC LEE
(Pleased)
That sounds so good, honey, but you
know we can't just yet. He's still
out there somewhere and I have to
be ready. This case cannot go cold.
I owe it to you and the others. I'm
sorry, it is critically important
that we capture him. I can't be
separated from you any more than
you can from me. I will always tell
you the truth, Val, I love you. See
you soon.

Lee reminds her to lock up after everyone leaves.

VALERIE
(Sighs deeply)
Oh, alright, I understand, and yes,
I won't forget to lock the doors.
You worry too much, now hurry back.
We can order in for dinner and
maybe watch a show?

GC LEE
(Agreeing)
That sounds like a plan, I will
hurry back.

They kiss as chuckles ripple in the background.

EXT. ACROSS THE STREET - COBURN HOUSE - DAY

A dark tinted black Lexus waits silently by the road as Hahn,
in disguise, spies on Valerie's residence.

HAHN LI
(Amused)

Okay... this is good, he's finally leaving. Maybe, just maybe, we could surprise her.

Hahn watches GC Lee emerge, then gets back into the Lincoln. When the SUV approaches, Hahn slumps low and rips off his wig.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Frustrated)
Glad you left, fucker, now it's my turn...

Hahn drives past Valerie's house. He slows down, and glances back to see Valerie with DT in her arms, waving goodbye to her family. DT squirms in Valerie's arms.

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - DAY

He calls Kim Choi and speaks their language.

GC LEE
(Exhaling)
(Korean, subtitled) Hi, yeah, we just got back. I'm going to rest for a bit then go back to her house. There's some surveillance I need to check out.

Lee leans back against the kitchen counter, empties his pockets, and heads barefoot to his office in the living room.

GC LEE (CONT'D)
(Talking to himself)
Hahn Li, where the hell are you...
I bet you were watching us.

He takes off his shirt and hangs it neatly behind a chair. Lee is six feet tall, fit, and a taekwondo expert. He crosses to the living room corner, unpacks his laptop, and opens it.

GC LEE (CONT'D)
(Yawning)
Let's see what we have. Give me something good.

Lee finds an email from a surveillance company in Greece, crucial to his case.

GC LEE (CONT'D)
(Determined)
Well, here goes something, let's see what we can find that will matter.

Across Europe, the American manhunt had become common knowledge, and businesses in Greece quietly joined in, drawn by the reward money.

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - DAY (CONT'D)

Lee scrolls through each video file, scanning intently.

GC LEE

(Agitated)

Oh, come on, give me something
interesting. I'm getting tired.
Hmm, okay, what is this?

Lee opens the last surveillance file, from a gay bar outside Fira. Something catches his attention, he scrolls closer, adjusting for a better angle.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Suspicious)

Hmm, I wonder... where did I see
you? Yes! At the local market...
need to find you. What is your
name, Blondie?

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

GC LEE

(Exhausted)

Oh, shit, it's getting late...
Valerie.

He snaps his laptop shut and heads for the couch.

FLASHBACK - INT. SOUTH KOREA RESTAURANT - DAY - GC LEE YOON'S POV

GC Lee eats alone in a restaurant when a blast shatters the outside, tires screech past, jolting his dinner.

GC LEE

(Shocked)

What the hell was that? Dammit, I
hate having my dinner time
interrupted.

He drops his utensil, covers his hot pot, and rushes for the door, only to be crushed in the middle of fleeing patrons.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

Please, let me through, I'm a
police officer, here, see my badge,
let me through, move aside!

Lee barrels toward the taxi that collided head-on into a cargo truck. Both drivers die on impact.

EXT. STREET - CAR ACCIDENT - DAY

GC LEE

(Shouting)

Help! Help, hey, you, come here!
And you over there, come quick now!
Hurry up, there is a passenger in
the back, hurry! I got to get her
out, she's still moving!

Three men rush over and wrench the door open. They pull the dead driver from the taxi and carry him away. A restaurant worker hurries with tablecloths to cover the victims. They pull out the barely conscious pregnant woman, and GC Lee carries her away to safety.

EXT. STREET - CAR ACCIDENT - DAY (CONT'D)

The street erupts in chaos, the taxi's hood ignites as fire trucks and ambulances arrive.

GC LEE

(Comforting)

What is your name... it's okay,
hang in there, please, you're not
alone, help is here. Please tell me
your name?

GC Lee holds her hand. Her blue eyes, teary, plead for help. She begins to tremble, slipping into shock.

YOUNG WOMAN

(Heavy breathing)

The pain, it hurts so much. I won't
be able to hold on any longer,
aghh, please save my baby... it
hurts so much. Name... Judy.

Lee covers her with his jacket and yells for more tablecloths. Her agonized cries are devastating.

EXT. STREET - CAR ACCIDENT - DAY (CONT'D)

JUDY

(Trembling, weak)

I feel so cold... so cold. My
water, my baby is coming. Please,
take her out.

The ambulance and emergency medical team head toward them.

GC LEE

(Frantic)

Hey! Hey, over here, hurry! I think she said her name is Judy, please help her. She is in labor, the baby is coming. Hurry, I'll hold her if you must cut... Do you have something for pain?

The emergency medical responders hurry to Judy's side.

EXT. STREET - CAR ACCIDENT - DAY (CONT'D)

JUDY

(Screams in agony)

Please, please save my baby. Don't leave me... I have to push, I'm dying.

GC LEE

(Low voice)

She is in shock and in labor, the water broke, the baby is coming. I have no experience in this situation. We need to get the baby out immediately and we can't move her. Do it!

A woman from the crowd volunteers to help. Lee stays by Judy's side, helpless, as the baby cries. The newborn girl is placed against Judy's face. Judy turns to look at her daughter, blinks once, then goes still. As a high-ranking officer, GC Lee Yoon snaps a photo of the baby girl with her mother, moments after her death, the only picture they will ever have together.

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - PRESENT - DAY

GC LEE

(Reminiscing)

Oh, god, thank you for Sydney...

Judy had no family or friends to contact, no ID, no passport. The taxi driver may have been the only individual able to confirm where she'd been picked up. With no Korean records located, investigators considered underground human trafficking. After six months of investigation, GC Lee filed for adoption and won the case. He brought in an older, live-in nanny to help care for Sydney. Lee believed Sydney was his fate, a gift from Buddha. He was a decent man, and in his mind, he deserved a daughter.

Out of his reverie, his phone rings for FaceTime.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Smiles)

Well, hello there, what are you
doing up, honey? Can't you sleep?
Nanny, did she have sweet dessert?

NANNY LYN (O.C.)

(Korean, subtitled) I am sorry to
disturb you, sir, but Sydney
desperately needed to hear your
voice and I felt so sorry for her
and her cries.

GC LEE

(Smiling)

(Korean, subtitled) No, no, of
course not, that's why I answered.
It's good timing. Thank you, what
is going on?

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SYDNEY

(Happy, excited)

Appa! Appa! Is it really you? I
miss you so much, it's boring here
without you, Appa. When are you
coming home from America? I saw it
on the globe, Appa. You're so far
away.

Sydney begins to cry, her sobs rising fast.

GC LEE

(Concerned)

Hey, hey, my sweet little girl,
please don't cry, otherwise you
will make Appa cry too. How's
school, are you happy? Now, what's
this about you having a tantrum?
Please don't give Nanny Lyn a hard
time, okay? She's helping us while
I'm not there, remember what we
talked about? I know right now it's
impossible for you to understand
why I'm so far away. Someday I'll
retire and we can spend every day
together, how does that sound?
Okay, good girl.

SYDNEY

(Defiance)

But Appa, it was a very, very short time that I cried, because I wanted to see you right away. And okay, Appa, I'll be good until you come home. My English school is very good, and Nanny Lyn is teaching me standard speech too.

Sydney grows quiet, her eyes drooping as Lee watches.

GC LEE

(Sweetly smiles)

Aw, sweet baby girl, you must go to bed now, it's very late, no school tomorrow, and you can sleep in a little bit. Then Nanny will take you to a birthday party, alright? Good night baby, I love you so much.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Teary-eyed)

Thank you, please be patient, I just need a little bit more patience, okay? Then I'll be home, baby. I love you, you're in my heart always. And please apologize to your nanny, now go back to sleep. Dream happy thoughts.

INT. GC LEE'S HOME - SOUTH KOREA - MORNING

Sydney apologizes to Nanny Lyn.

SYDNEY

(Sleepy voice)

I'm sorry, Nanny... sorry, okay. I'm not a baby anymore. Bye, Appa, I love you too. Goodnight, Appa.

INT. GC LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

Lee dozes off. His phone vibrates, this time it's Valerie. He jolts up from the sofa and crosses to the sink, splashing his face with cold water. They exchange a flurry of texts.

VALERIE (V.O.)

(Concerned)

Hi, I thought you'd be back by now. I started to worry. Are you alright?

GC LEE

(Apologizing)

I'm sorry, honey. I fell asleep on the couch. I'm on my way, some reports I quickly have to check, okay, then I am all yours.

VALERIE (V.O.)
(Understanding)
Don't worry, I'll be right here.
Can't wait to see you. Bye.

EXT. HAHN LI'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

HAHN LI
(Smirks, glancing)
Those fuckers finally left my home alone... she has DT, my dog.

Hahn slips back into his townhouse. He reaches the front door, digs a hidden spare key from a flower bed, and unlocks it, wiping the dirt onto his rugged jeans. Exhausted, he moves into the darkness and collapses onto his old bed, drifting off. Moments later, he stirs awake.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Startled, whispers)
Wake up, stupid, you don't have time to slack off... ah, this bed still smells like you, Valerie.

Hahn smooths the filthy sheets, then heads to the bathroom. Inside, he flicks on the light.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Infuriated)
Those motherfuckers! Look at this place! Fucking disgusting pigs.

He slides the drawers shut, steps over the mess, and heads to the walk-in closet. His expensive watch collection and Armani suits are gone. His home has been violated.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Exasperated)
Thieves! You can have it all, enjoy it! But I bet you assholes didn't find it...

INT. HAHN LI'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

HAHN LI
(Chuckle, smirks)

Surprise, surprise, motherfuckers,
 thought you guys were so smart,
 huh? But I'm smarter and better at
 this than you fuckers will ever be.

(P.O.V.) - HAHN LI

A bogus light switch hides a drilled-out wall behind it, a hidden cavity beneath the plate. Hahn sits on the floor and opens the first envelope, five large diamonds spill out. He opens the second, emeralds and rubies slide free. Last, a sachet reveals a large heart-shaped ruby pendant.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Emotional)

This is for us, to our connection.
 It's for the past, and for the
 future, Valerie.

In the dim light he sits motionless, except for a slow, self-soothing rock, deep in meditation.

FLASHBACK

Hahn was born in South Korea, to Song Jung, his Korean mother, a tall, meek, beautiful, slender woman, who met Zheng Li, a wealthy Singaporean pharmaceutical franchise owner. Zheng Li, an authoritative man of average height, falls hard for Song, the piano-playing hostess at a lounge. Song Jung forces a smile at Zheng Li, though she hates him. Her boss needs her to play along. Zheng Li is a VIP who orders the club's priciest whiskey, champagne, and cognac. The rewards points count as Song's commission.

INT. HOTEL - SEOUL, KOREA - DAY

Several months later, Song is forced to escort Zheng whenever he's in town on business. When she tells him she's pregnant, Zheng refuses to believe her, rejects responsibility, insults Song, and demands a paternity test.

ZHENG LI

(Furious, abusive)

You lying bitch! I am not the only
 one who fucks you! You will get a
 paternity test and prove I am not
 responsible, at once, do you hear
 me? You stupid whore!

Zheng Li slaps Song. She freezes, defenseless, shocked and humiliated by his accusations.

SONG JUNG

(Weeps, holds her face)

In that case, you have to come in with me and have your mouth swabbed! I have never had sex with anyone else but you! I'm your paid whore!

FLASHBACK (CONT'D) - INT. CLUB SPADES PIANO BAR - NIGHT

At the club, Song watches Zheng, who avoids her. She waits until he passes out drunk at his reserved table. With help from the owner and bartender, they get Zheng into a taxi. Song generously pays the taxi driver to help her carry Zheng to his hotel room and toss him onto the bed.

SONG JUNG
(Anxious, disgusted)
Okay, ugly man, here is my proof from your disgusting rape you call making love.

Song enters the bathroom in gloves, searches through the trash, and bags the used dental floss.

INT. ZHENG LI'S HOTEL - NIGHT

Song heads out, then turns back to the passed-out Zheng and yanks out a strand of his hair. She spits at him and slams the door.

ZHENG LI
(Groans in his sleep)
Ugh... ouch!

SONG JUNG
(Satisfied)
Now I have proof that you did this to me, and refused to wear a condom! I can't believe I let you into my body. But this is my baby, and it's my responsibility.

FLASHBACK (CONT'D)

Zheng Li pays Song's parents 200 million won to marry their daughter in a private wedding ceremony, with no reception. Only Song's parents witness it.

SONG JUNG
(Despaired)

Mother, Father, I will never
 forgive either of you for not being
 on my side! I can have my baby
 without that ogre! I know that you
 both feel and think that this is
 the only way to save me from being
 humiliated. But you will see,
 someday I will leave him when my
 baby is grown.

Zheng moved his family to Singapore when his son was four. By middle school, his son was a sullen, handsome boy who preferred martial arts to swimming. In high school, Hahn drifted away from friends and focused on computer engineering. He later attended the Singapore University of Technology and Design, earning a Bachelor of Engineering in Information Systems Technology.

FLASHBACK (CONT'D)

Near campus, Hahn isolated himself, sharpened his skills, and pushed deeper into the dark web. Song was proud of Hahn's achievements. Hahn's hidden talents stayed private from her and Zheng. Zheng rarely acknowledged any of Hahn's accomplishments.

SONG JUNG (CONT'D)

(Delighted, smiles)

I'm very happy and proud of you,
 dear Hahn. It shows how determined
 you are to explore all the
 possibilities that your degree
 brings you. Will you be asking your
 father for work?

Hahn grew up despising his father, and moving back into the family house sent him into a deep depression.

HAHN LI

(Placating)

Alright, Mother, if that is
 something you think I should do.
 However, it's not my idea to work
 for someone I detest.

Hahn goes to his father's office and asks for a job.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Confident)

Father, I think it's time for me to
 learn and work with you. I want to
 help carry your legacy into the
 future. I can be a great asset for
 the companies.

ZHENG LI

(Ridicules)

You want a job in my company? What will you do? You want me to babysit and train you all day, is that it? No, I don't think so, I have no position for you here, and you will not be a good asset. You're not assertive enough to be in my company, you're too spoiled as it is. So the answer is no. And what talents do you have? Go home and play on your computer.

HAHN LI

(Mortified)

You're rejecting your own son? Why, Father? Why do you hate me? I came here because I thought you would be proud, and it would bring you joy to know that your son is willing to learn from you and help with our companies. I guess I was wrong for being hopeful. But I'm not wrong, you're a dead end.

ZHENG LI

(Chuckling)

Yes, you are dead wrong about me. Now you understand. Okay, now get out. Go home to your mother.

Hahn storms out of Zheng's office. In his room, he begins sketching his ideas again, but the rejection hits hard and he weeps.

FLASHBACK (CONT'D) - INT. YOUNG HAHN'S BEDROOM - DAY

The next day, Zheng waits until his son Hahn leaves the house. He slips into Hahn's room and is surprised to find it immaculate, almost sterile. Three high-end computers sit in a row atop a massive desk. Hahn comes back, having forgotten something, and comes back up the stairs. He stops cold at the sight of Zheng rifling through his room.

HAHN LI

(Tone low, furious)

You have no right to come in here.
 I have nothing to hide. What are
 you looking for? I came to you
 offering myself, and asking for a
 job. You denied me without any
 reason, now this? Father, what are
 you looking for, huh?

Zheng, enraged by the mockery in Hahn's voice, swings and
 hits him in the face.

ZHENG LI

(Shouting, enraged)

From this moment on you will not
 get any more allowance or
 inheritance from me! What is all
 this bullshit? Are you doing
 illegal trading, huh? You think
 you're so smart... What is all
 this? I ask again, do you hear me!
 Song, get in here and look at your
 son's room, get in here!

Song rushes in, then stops short. She stays silent, fear
 flickering in her eyes.

SONG JUNG

(Yells)

Zheng, please calm down, please
 don't hit him, enough! Hahn,
 breathe... look at me, not him!
 Breathe, okay, that's good, son.

Hahn's nostrils flare, his fist clenches tight, ready to
 strike. He warns his father.

HAHN LI

(Heaving, furious)

Don't you ever do that again, or
 I'll break your fucking hands, you
 hear me, old man! Get out, get out!

Hahn shoves Zheng out through the bedroom door, then slams it
 shut and collapses to the floor, inconsolable.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Broken, distraught)

Why did you have me with that son
 of a bitch? Why? You deserve
 better. I deserve a good father!
 I'll kill him if he lays a hand on
 you. He never wanted me. I'll kill
 him, Mother.

Song turns to leave, but the pain in her son's eyes stops her. She sinks to the floor and pulls him into her arms.

SONG JUNG (CONT'D)

(Upset, emotional)

No. I have stayed because I love you. I wanted to have my baby, to raise and give you a good home.

Song touches her seventeen-year-old son. Hahn lays his head in her lap, she gently caresses his face and runs her fingers through his hair, humming softly to soothe him.

SONG JUNG (CONT'D)

(Humming)

Shhhh... rest for a moment now, my beautiful little baby boy, my sweet baby. Everything will be fine... I am here.

Hahn's condition has worsened over time, his depression more severe, a disturbing pattern only she recognizes, abnormal, he was born with. Song insists on taking him to a psychiatrist for evaluation, therapy, and medication.

SONG JUNG (CONT'D)

(Whispering softly)

Hey, listen, dear son, do you remember what we talked about? It's time, Hahn dear, to see a doctor, okay? Maybe we can do something about your headaches that you can't control. I will be with you at all times, you're not going to be alone during the evaluation.

HAHN LI

(Agreeing, glazed eyes)

Yes, Mother, I will go with you. I'm a good boy, so they can see inside my head. I think they will find something special, Mother.

SONG JUNG

(Affectionate)

My dear baby, you are so special.

Six months after Hahn's diagnosis, Song tells Zheng he's been seeing a therapist and taking medication for his disorder.

ZHENG LI

(Outraged, explosive)

Do you realize what you have done?
 You stupid woman, he will grow out
 of it! These immature tantrums he's
 had! Stop coddling him! Next thing
 you'll tell me is you're fucking
 him! I will not have my reputation
 judged, him diagnosed with mental
 illness. Besides, he's not my son,
 he looks nothing like me!

Zheng threw a fist at her nose and it bleeds, sending her to
 the floor.

SONG JUNG
 (Shouting, fights back)
 He is yours, and I proved that! You
 idiot, you have abused and
 undervalued Hahn and me for years!
 You're a disgusting, deplorable
 little man. Maybe you gave him this
 bad gene. You will never hit me
 again, or I will kill you now, or
 while you're sleeping!

Song rises from the floor, grabs a vase, and smashes it into
 Zheng's face. He stumbles out of the room, Song yanks
 everything from the closet and throws it over him.

ZHENG LI
 (Furious)
 You whore, you will pay for this!

SONG JUNG
 (Yelling back)
 Oh yeah, what are you going to do,
 you coward! Go ahead, little ugly
 man, I have filed for a divorce for
 spousal and child abuse! I will
 ruin you! Get your shit out of
 here!

INT. HAHN'S SINGAPORE HOUSE - DAY (CONT'D)

Hahn overhears the housekeepers gossiping about his parents'
 fight and his illness. Hahn hacks into Zheng's company
 account and steals 500 million won.

HAHN LI
 (Sinister smile)
 You will soon find out, Zheng, how
 assertive I am. You fucking
 asshole. I will be long gone by
 then.

One year later, at eighteen, Song's divorce is final. The court grants her alimony for defamation and her home. Zheng is punished and ordered into psychiatric therapy. Hahn says goodbye to his mother.

FLASHBACK - INT. HAHN'S LUXURY APARTMENT - SEOUL, KOREA

Hahn moves to Seoul and rents an apartment in an upscale neighborhood. He keeps a low profile and lives quietly off the grid.

FLASHBACK (CONT'D)

At a local bar, Hahn meets Robert Ono, half Norwegian, half Japanese descent. They become friends, and Hahn invites him to live as his roommate. Hahn remains intensely private about his life.

HAHN LI

(Friendly)

Hey, I have another room with its own bathroom that I don't use and I'm looking for a roommate. If you're interested, of course, it's not free, I need a deposit first. If you're okay with my terms then we have a deal.

ROBERT

(Smiles happily)

Thank you so much, man. I can't pay you much right now, but I can let you in on how we can make unbelievable money together, if you're interested. I can teach you, Hahn. It's going to be fun living together. I can move in tomorrow!

HAHN LI

(Chuckles)

Yeah, sure, man. I hope so too. I just have to go over the lease contract with you later. Yeah, tomorrow is good, I'll make your spare keys.

After years of living quietly, Hahn became restless. He learns that Robert is running an illegal sex business, bringing women to his room at random times. Robert is a male prostitute who scams people. Robert was a strikingly handsome man, the kind of presence that drew women to him instinctively. He especially attracted older women from wealthy, elite circles, who were vulnerable, isolated, and easy to manipulate.

ROBERT ONO

(Shouting from his room)

Hey, man, can you come in for a moment? My video camera broke and we need your help.

Hahn buys the act and enters Robert's room. He freezes. A naked, beautiful woman stands in the doorway, both ring fingers glittering with large diamonds. She seduces him with the slow, deliberate language of her body.

WOMAN

(Seductive tone)

Oh, Robert, darling, he is exquisite and fit. I want to touch him. May I?

ROBERT ONO

(Cocky, smiles)

This beautiful lady right here wanted to meet you. She's willing to pay you very well. I don't see why not. I'll leave you to your privacy.

HAHN LI

(Unreadable)

Whoa, what is this? Okay, I'll play, if you want me that badly... can you afford me? I am expensive.

Hahn returns to his room, tosses the money into a drawer, then heads into the shower. Their sex business had gone on for years, based out of their apartment. They were hired at private parties, building their reputation. One night Hahn scrolls online and meets Valerie, who becomes his fantasy lover. Obsessed, he follows her and creates a private platform just for them.

INT. HAHN LI'S TOWNHOUSE - PRESENT - NIGHT

Hahn snaps out of his reverie, the horrible memories still hanging over him. Tears stream down his face as he looks around, noticing his clothes scattered about. He composes himself and rehangs them in the closet.

HAHN LI

(Sobs, emotional)

Don't you understand, Valerie, by now you're the only one I want, and the only woman who deserves to be with me.

INT. COBURN'S HOME - EVENING

DT follows Valerie, trailing her as she moves from room to room.

VALERIE

(Smiles)

Do you want to help me unpack, DT? Come on, boy. I hate unpacking, what's worse is seeing everything in here misaligned. I'll just have to show Tanya again, won't we, boy?

DT wags his tail and barks.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Chuckles)

You understood every word I said, didn't you?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Valerie looks down at her iPhone, sends a text, then calls Lee directly. DT wags his tail mid-step, then stops to growl at something off screen.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Concerned)

Hi, where are you? I thought you would be here by now, I got worried. I'm tired too and hungry. No, no, it's fine, I started unpacking already. Alright, honey, see you soon... DT, come here, you must be hungry, is that it? Gosh, you're impatient. Come on, I'll get your dinner.

Valerie ends the call and steps into the pantry. She grabs DT's bowl, scoops kibble from a bin, then startles at a commotion outside the pantry.

VALERIE

(Shouting)

Alright, just a moment, doggie.
I'll be right out!

She steps out, her happy face turning to terror. The bowl drops from her hands, kibble spilling and scattering across the tiled floor.

HAHN LI

(Chuckling)

I'm sorry, baby, I didn't mean to scare you, but here it goes... surprise! You look like you've seen a ghost. But I'm not, I'm the real deal and not that fucking loser!

Hahn releases his dog, and DT devours the spilled kibble. Hahn stands calm in a white button-down shirt and black trousers, his eyes never leaving her.

VALERIE

(Panics, screaming)

No, no, Luke, please leave me alone! Let me go! Someone please help me! What do you want from me? Please let me go!

Valerie bolts, but Hahn snatches her by the hair and locks both arms around her. He hauls her in, presses his face into her hair and neck, and forces her to the floor.

HAHN LI

(Forceful)

I said stop fighting me, Valerie! Don't you still love me, baby? You smell so good, I want you, my wild bunny, remember when I would make love to you, huh, and you begged me to fuck you harder, huh? Stop fighting me, no one can hear you!

INT. VALERIE'S HOME - EVENING

Hahn clamps a cloth over her mouth. She struggles for a moment then goes limp.

HAHN LI

(Breathing hard)

Ah, shit, Val. I didn't want to do that, just stop fighting me.

Hahn zip-ties her hands, then lifts her off the floor. She is semi-unconscious during the long drive.

VALERIE

(Hazy, drowsy)
Where am I? I feel like throwing
up, ugh, my head. What did you do
to me? I want to go home, please
take me back.

Valerie wakes to find Hahn hovering above her, he bends down to check her vital signs.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - BIG SUR - NIGHT

HAHN LI

(Slight smile)
Hi, come on, baby, I need you to
wake up. Here, let me make you more
comfortable, and, ah, cut this off.
Much better, right? I'm sorry I had
to knock you out, it really was not
my intention, you know.

Valerie tries to rise from the small sofa.

VALERIE

(Disoriented)
Ugh, but you did! You asshole. I
don't understand, what do you want
from me? I thought you were through
with me!

Hahn kneels in front of Valerie, and takes her face and forces a kiss.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Resisting)
Stop it, don't kiss or touch me!
You bastard, why!

Valerie bites down on Hahn's lower lip. It bleeds.

HAHN LI

(Hisses in pain)
Okay, I deserved that... careful,
baby, you don't want to do that
ever again.

Valerie wipes the tears from her eyes and rubs her swollen face. He stares at Valerie with a dark gaze.

VALERIE

(Angry, frustrated)
 You nearly killed me, and you raped me! Are you your father's son after all? Yes, I remember how horrible he was to your mother, you shared that with me. Now you're hurting me, abusing me. This is not love!

Hahn stands up and paces in front of her, avoiding Valerie's recollection.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
 (Irrational)
 That cocksucker Lee is only using you for his own gain, so he can be a hero! You don't know anything about him, tell me, what do you know about GC Lee Yoon? How did he get to you, hmm?

Valerie sees an unbalanced man in front of her. She shifts in her seat, scans the environment, then refocuses on Hahn.

VALERIE
 (Disturbed)
 Where are we? Why did you bring me here, Luke, or should I say Hahn? Isn't that your real name, huh, Luke? You played with me emotionally and lied to me for months!

Hahn stands there in silence.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - BIG SUR - NIGHT

HAHN LI
 (Delusional)
 I am wealthy enough to take care of you. That cop is a loser. Look around, baby, I bought this for you three days ago in cash. You're asking me why did I bring you here? Isn't it obvious how much I love you, and that you belong to me and not him! He doesn't know you like I do! He can't provide for you, or give you the financial stability you need, and what you're used to, like me.

VALERIE
 (Retorts)

I don't want or need anything from you! You need to find someone your age! This is crazy, and you won't and can't get away with this! My family... I know they'll be looking for me.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - NIGHT (CONT'D)

Hahn takes out an ice pack from a small refrigerator, he hands it to Valerie. Valerie slaps his hand away and covers her face.

HAHN LI

(Insists)

Please, don't do that, stop fighting me, otherwise I will tie your hands again. So don't test me. Now be a good girl, and do as I say. Take this ice pack and go in the back and wash up. Everything you need is there. Oh, and baby, leave the door open.

VALERIE

(Defiant)

I'm supposed to say thank you, for abducting me, Hahn? What about my clothes? And my vitamins, medications, my makeup bag...

Valerie stands wobbly. He offers his hand to help, she doesn't take it. He follows her.

HAHN LI

(Sarcastic)

Please, only call me Luke, it's who I am with you, and who I want to be. I'm making sure that you're safe back here, that you have everything for now. I hope I didn't leave anything behind. I took the liberty of packing for you. But you know I had to do it in such a rush, Valerie.

VALERIE

(Gutted, teary eyes)

I'm sorry you had to go through all of this just for a woman... I am not worth your troubles. I can help you heal from all the evil things you have done.

HAHN LI

(Mood darkens)

Valerie, stop it! Say less now and
let me have this time with you. I
want you to be happy with me, I
only want you... now let's see what
we have back here in the bedroom.
Shall we?

Hahn turns around and takes her hand, leading her.

EXT. COBURN HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Lee pulls into the driveway, parks the Cadillac, and gets
out, humming an old tune to himself as he heads for the door.

GC LEE

(Singing)

That's my baby on Broadway, hmm
mmmm.

EXT. COBURN HOME - NIGHT

Lee approaches the entrance and freezes, the door hangs open.
Instinct flares. He slowly draws his pistol from the holster.

GC LEE

(Yells, whistles)

Hey, Valerie, why is the front door
wide open! DT, come here, boy!

He calls out for Valerie and whistles for DT, then slips
inside, moving carefully into the foyer. The silence is
absolute, no one is home. Lee moves deeper inside, gun drawn.

INT. COBURN HOME - NIGHT (CONT'D)

GC LEE

(Calling out)

DT, come here, boy. Hey, Valerie...
ah, shit!

Lee crosses into the kitchen, rounds the marble island, and
finds DT on the tile. He drops to his knees, touches the dog,
gone still, warm, blood and foam at the nostrils. Lee looks
up. Valerie can't be that far.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Angry, regretful)

Ah, shit, I'm sorry, honey. That son of a bitch! He took her, fuck, this is all my fault! I should have gotten here sooner. How did he slip in here? Fuck!

INT. COBURN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The pantry door stands wide open. Dog food is scattered on the floor. A torn strip of Valerie's blouse lies nearby. Lee spots her gold hoop earrings, picks them up, and calls for backup.

INT. COBURN HOME - VALERIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lee stands in Valerie's bedroom scanning the damage. Her personal things are missing, they knew exactly what to take.

DETECTIVE CLYDE HARRIS

(Gruff tone)

Hey, buddy, yeah, it would seem, he's trying to send us a message, that he's not giving her back. Well, in this case it's personal, directed at you, and he wants you to know it.

GC LEE

(Mutters)

Yeah, that's what he thinks, Clyde. I'm smarter than that, man. He won't get away with this, Valerie is very resourceful.

EXT. COBURN HOME - VALERIE'S HOME - NIGHT

Lee steps outside toward the yellow crime tape, where Valerie's adult children are locked in a heated argument with the cops.

GC LEE

(Disgusted)

It's okay, please let them through, they live here, idiots! I got them, this is their home, they grew up here. And Valerie Coburn is their mother, didn't you ask for identification? Never mind.

Lee walks them away from the crowd. Andrew and Cooper fire off questions as Margaret stares ahead in disbelief.

ANDREW

(Frustrated, angry)

Lee, how could this asshole get to our mother again? He had to be watching and following her! He was waiting for us to leave, oh god, we should have stayed until you came back, dammit! That's our mom!

COOPER

(Angry)

Lee, you have to find that asshole and bring him to me so I can kick his fucking ass. Alright, we got to stay positive for Mom's sake. Mom is very smart, and, ah, let's pray.

Margaret steps closer and begins to speak.

MARGARET

(Emotional, whispers)

You know, when we were all leaving Mom yesterday, she walked us out with DT in her arms... and she waved and blew us kisses, like she did when we were children. Do you remember that? I happened to look back, and there was a black car with tinted windows that drove by slowly, and DT was barking relentlessly, and Mom had to rush him back in. So I yelled to ask if they were okay. She said yes, that he was just hungry. But I think DT knew who that person was, driving in that car.

GC LEE

(Stoic face)

Hey, don't cry, you did good, it's alright, Margaret, you're a true detective. Do you remember the make and model?

Lee takes the description and radios it in.

COOPER

(Upset, pleading)

Jesus Christ, this is making me sick. Please, Lee, we got to get Mom back, please.

The three siblings' faces are devastated.

GC LEE

(Scoffs)

I know, I know. I will not sleep until your mother is safe and back with us. I'm sorry, I must go. In the meantime, offer reward money, post it online and wherever.

EXT. COBURN HOME - NIGHT

LAPD SWAT, fire trucks, ambulances, and animal control surround Valerie's home. News vans line the street as a reporter dives into a live shot.

INT. HAHN'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

The SWAT team moves into the townhouse, kicking down the doors. GC Lee and Detective Harris search for clues. GC Lee walks into the bathroom and down the corridor to the walk-in closet. A dummy light switch, unscrewed from the wall, catches their eyes.

DETECTIVE CLYDE

(Chuckles, shouts)

It looks like he went fishing into that hole. How in the hell did no one see this before? Look here, this was tied to something, and he came back to get it. Smart boy, taking a risk sneaking in.

Detective Harris moves in closer, carefully pulls out the red string, and bags it.

DETECTIVE CLYDE (CONT'D)

(Smirks)

Come on, man, there's nothing here that jerk-off cleared out. Whoa, wait a minute... well, would you look at that, he even hung up his clothes! He wants us to know he is in control. He's not coming back here ever.

Detective Clyde taps Lee on the shoulder.

GC LEE

(Dismayed)

You're right, Clyde. I have been standing here analyzing and trying to understand what Hahn's motive is for abducting Valerie. I cannot let something like this happen again. I should have taken more precaution.

Detective Clyde leaves him, then turns back.

DETECTIVE CLYDE

(Gruff voice)

Let's go, Lee, he's fucking with your mind. He's purely obsessed with her. He claimed her before you two got romantic. Now come on, we need to get rested. This is going to be a while. He won't hurt her.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - EVENING

Valerie's mind races through the time and place of the incident. One thought drowns out the rest: how does she get away? She has to escape.

VALERIE

(Whispering to herself)

How can this happen to me? Why me?
I have to get out of here. He won't get away with this. Please help me, Lee.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - NIGHT

Valerie steps out from the small shower space, hears music drifting through the room, and catches the smell of food. Her clothes lie neatly folded on the bed. She takes a quick inventory of the RV. She towel-dries her hair.

HAHN LI

(Friendly)

Hey, beautiful, come out here soon, your food is waiting.

She walks toward the center of the RV. Hahn waits attentively.

VALERIE

(Breathes in)

What are you doing, Luke? Are you trying to make me forget that you took me by force and kidnapped me.

Hahn hands her a glass of white wine.

HAHN LI

(Smiling)

Here you go, Valerie, your French favorite. Come and sit, you must be hungry and exhausted, I am very sorry for everything, baby. I hated being apart from you and for hurting you. Can you forgive me? Ah, Valerie, please don't stand there frozen, come and sit, time to relax now.

Hahn guides Valerie to the candlelit table waiting in the center of the RV.

VALERIE

(Sarcastic)

I'm very hungry, I was about to have dinner and I get kidnapped instead. But I guess this will do.

Valerie hungrily eats the food Hahn prepared.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Thank you for making me a delicious dinner and the wine is perfect!

Hahn leans back watching Valerie's performance with open admiration. Valerie avoids his gaze.

HAHN LI

(Observes)

Enjoy your food, taste the flavor, not just because you're feeding your hunger, so slow down and savor it.

Valerie stops eating, her silverware slips from her hands as she holds Hahn's gaze. Outside the RV an owl hoots.

VALERIE

(Intense look)

You know you won't get away with this, my family will never stop looking, until they find me.

HAHN LI

(Soft voice)

I expected that, your family loves you like I do, we share that in common. On the other hand, that cop you made into a boyfriend is only after me. You are mine, first and last. Remember that. Why did you go to Greece, to look for me perhaps? Or did you feel me there?

They remain silent, locked in each other's gaze, while the owl continues to hoot somewhere outside.

VALERIE

(Sighs, yawning)

I don't really know why... I guess I was running away from all the horrible things in my life and what you put me through. I need to brush my teeth, are my toiletries packed? I can go and get some at a nearby store or something.

HAHN LI

(Chuckles)

No, no. I told you that you have everything you need for this trip, and there is nothing around here. We are secluded, just the way I like it. Just me and you...

Valerie bolts from her chair and heads to the back.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Teasing)

It's all there, take your time, I will clean up here.

(P.O.V.) - VALERIE

Valerie catches her reflection in a small mirror as she brushes her teeth, rinses her face, and finishes her nightly skincare routine. Hahn enters and moves toward her. Valerie stops Hahn from getting any closer, pressing a hand flat against his chest, feeling cornered.

VALERIE

(Breathing hard)

Luke, I don't want you touching me, please. I'm confused, and please, can you give me space. My face, my body is in pain.

HAHN LI

(Feeling bad)

I know, and I'm sorry, Valerie, for hurting you. I never wanted or intended to do any of this... And I want you to feel safe with me again, I'm sorry, baby. I'll go in and take a shower.

Valerie withdraws her hand, motionless, as Hahn strips naked. Valerie turns her head away. Valerie waits for Hahn to return from the shower.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Taken aback)

Why aren't you inside the bed? Are you going to stay standing to sleep? Just choose which side, I don't care.

Hahn, shirtless, undresses Valerie, leaving her in her panties. He tucks her into bed and lies beside her.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - NIGHT (CONT'D)

HAHN LI

(Sweetly)

Ah... this is better. I've always loved when we sleep together.

Hahn holds Valerie in his arms, stares off, distant.

VALERIE

(Sniffles)

Why me, Luke? You could have chosen anyone, why me?

HAHN LI

(In deep thought)

Forgive me for hurting you. I promise I will never do that ever again. Because you are special and you were lonely and suffering from your past. And I've changed that. Now go to sleep. I will take care of you.

Valerie turns and locks eyes with Hahn.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Gentle, caring)

Valerie... can't you sleep? I can't either. Why did you go to Greece, was it because you were hoping you would find me there? I was there watching you, wanting you, needing you. I wanted to hold you but I couldn't, you were not alone. But now we are together and that's all that matters. Come here, baby.

Hahn gently cups Valerie's bruised face and kisses her. She responds, surrendering herself to him, he continues down to her lower body.

VALERIE

(Moans, tears)

Oh, Luke, how could you do this to me, please don't hurt me anymore...
ah, yes, that feels nice. Yes, I wanted you to be there.

Valerie lies still, tears streaming down her cheeks.

HAHN LI

(Softly whispers)

Never. Valerie, I want you, I only want you, baby, don't ever leave me.

Luke strips off his bottoms and continues kissing, working his way down her inner thighs, he faces her. Valerie doesn't reject him, she pulls him closer and kisses him passionately.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Moans)

That's it, baby, it feels good to be inside you, Valerie, ahh. I love you so much, only you.

Valerie had to survive, concealing her true feelings, Hahn's kryptonite, while secretly planning her escape.

INT. NORTH HOLLYWOOD LAPD - PRESENT - DAY

Five days in, Valerie's abduction still has no lead. A \$100,000 reward is posted, the search has gone statewide, and Hahn Li and Valerie Coburn's photos are being circulated on domestic and international flights. Andrew and Cooper secure their mother's assets, freezing bank accounts, credit cards.

DETECTIVE HARRIS

(Assuring)

They all make mistakes soon, then we will smoke him out.

He pats Lee's shoulder and points his hand like a pistol, aiming into the distance with one eye partly closed.

GC LEE

(Jaws tight)

(Korean, subtitled) Yeah, I will smoke you out, man, you cocksucker.

Clyde leaves him alone.

INT. GC LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

Lee sits at his desk, laptop open, he waits for his Zoom call with Leonardo in Nigeria.

GC LEE

(Anxious)
What's taking this kid so long,
come on, Leo.

Without warning the screen flashes to life. Leonardo's face pops into view. Lee locks eyes with him.

LEONARDO

(Wide smile)
Hey, my brother Lee, what's going
on, man, it's been a while. Sorry,
I was delayed, had to drive my
little brother to school.

GC LEE

(Straight face)
Hey, Leo, thanks for taking this
meeting. This is official business,
Leo, there is no room to fuck up. I
need your help finding someone for
me, fast. I need this today. Life
and death situation, Leo. This guy
moves around like a ghost.

LEONARDO, a dark web expert, a professional hacker, buyer in digital mines and Bitcoins. GC Lee looks disheveled, lacking sleep.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Uneasy)
His name is Hahn Li, his alias is
Luke Li. He was born in South
Korea, and during his childhood his
family moved to Singapore until he
was twenty-one, maybe twenty-two,
then he moved back to South Korea.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

He's a fugitive, a wanted criminal,
we followed him in Los Angeles, he
abducted someone I care about, a
woman named Valerie Coburn. I
promised her family I will bring
her home. Can you take this
mission?

LEONARDO
(Pleased, excited)
This sounds like a five-thousand-
US-dollar kind of job, do you have
it?

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NORTH HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT (CONT'D)

GC LEE
(Eager, anxious)
Of course I have it. This is why we
are having this conversation. Hey,
listen, man, this is top priority,
he's a loner, wealthy, and moves
around unnoticed. No trace of
credit cards or bank accounts in
America or overseas. He most likely
pays everything in cash and
Bitcoin. No trace of IP, ID, or
social media accounts. He's using
the satellite, isn't he?

Leonardo adjusts his sunglasses and his headphones.

LEONARDO
(Smiles brightly)
Give me about an hour, or maybe
sooner. Hang tight.

Leo leaves the Zoom meeting.

INT. LEE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (CONT'D)

While he waits for Leo, Lee trains with a kendo stick until
he's completely spent. His laptop dings with a notification.
He crosses to it and joins the meeting.

GC LEE
(Breathing heavily)
What do you have, give me something
good, Leo.

LEONARDO
(Overwhelmed)

Lee, you are right, he is relying on the satellite, it's coming from a remote area outside Los Angeles, 546.1 km, a place called Big Sur. Not sure of his exact location. Very secluded place to hide out, and his computer is secured. He is definitely using a program, a sophisticated device. He engineered it so well that he is shielded with a protective wall! Hard for normal people to break into. This guy you're looking for is selling rough diamonds and looking for buyers, the word is out around the mine. That's how I found it. I'm sorry, I cannot go any closer to him, he will know someone is trailing him.

Lee carefully takes in every word that comes out of Leonardo's mouth.

GC LEE

(Smirks)

I have an idea, Leo, can you be a buyer? Then you would be able to trap his exact location. Set him up. He needs a physical buyer to hand the diamonds over. And that's where we will be waiting for him.

LEONARDO

(Exhaling)

Not easy, brother, the diamonds are worth five hundred thousand to a million US dollars each! He wants proof of assets from anyone who can afford it. You and I, brother, we don't have money like that, and I am in Nigeria. He can destroy me. But a buyer from a place in Sacramento wants the diamonds and he is a potential buyer, paying cash in the black market. He has much money, like your guy.

Lee cringes at the phrase "my guy."

GC LEE

(Smirks, angrily)

Leo, this guy Hahn is a murderer and I want to punish him for his crimes, committed and possibly another kill in Greece. There was a report of a missing person near where Valerie and I stayed. So, no, he is not my guy!

Leonardo is embarrassed for causing Lee's angry face.

LEONARDO

(Little chuckle)

I'm sorry, my brother, I will never say that again, I will say less. Good luck, tell me if you need something else, no charge. Just be careful, brother, that Hahn, the rules don't apply to him.

GC LEE

(Nicer)

It's alright, Leo, I am on edge. I'm sorry for yelling. Thank you, man, I have now more information. Good work for your hard work. Oh, thanks for the no charge, little brother, but now I won't need it. Did you get your payment? Thanks, man.

Leonardo salutes GC Lee, flashes a thumbs up, and beams beneath his sunglasses.

EXT. RIVER BANKS - BIG SUR - DAY

Day seven. Hahn walks Valerie along the riverbanks in broad daylight. She pays attention to the details and landmarks, smiles when Hahn looks at her. She keeps the pace going, whatever it takes to survive the ordeal.

VALERIE

(Smiling)

It's so beautiful and peaceful here. How did you find this place? I like the seclusion and I love that river, it's fresh, maybe there's fish that come from the ocean?

Hahn studies Valerie's demeanor as she squints into the sun. She asks him a question, he offers no response.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Sighs, teases)

Hey, are you listening to me? Do you know how to fish, I can teach you... Luke, what's wrong? Why are you all the way over there, come here, I promise I won't bite!

Valerie flicks a small pebble at him. Hahn advances toward her with a sinister grin, he pulls down his pants and teases her with his erection.

HAHN LI

(Playful)
You better not, and we talked about biting, didn't we? But you can have this... ah, wait, wait, let's save this for later.

Hahn turns to leave, Valerie behind, stranded and speechless. She rushes after him and punches his arm.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - DAY (CONT'D)

Inside the RV, Hahn grabs for Valerie, she slips free, then lures him toward the bedroom, backing slowly onto the bed.

VALERIE

(Giggles)
Baby, come and get me, look who is slow, crawl, baby, hurry!

(P.O.V.) - VALERIE

Valerie's plan is working, Hahn is buying her affection. He satisfies her lust, but never fully lets his guard down. Even when he thinks she isn't looking, she catches his watchful glare. Hahn takes her on long walks along the riverbanks, showing her the paths that lead to the ocean. Contentment settles across her face. At night, they camp out beside the RV. Hahn blasts music and fires up the barbecue. They drink, dance, and seduce each other beneath the moonlight. Valerie plays her part in the charade.

EXT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - CAMPOUT - EVENING

He studies Valerie's face, his fingertips gently tracing its contours.

HAHN LI

(Sweet, tender)

Your bruises are nearly gone. There is no excuse for what I have done. I want to take care of you for the rest of my life. Okay... will you let me do that? I'm committed to you. I have so much to give you, you just have to take that chance. This is our adventure, our journey.

Valerie rests her head against Hahn's chest, absently patting his forearm. Drugged wine dulls her senses as they stare up at the stars.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Yawning)

Alright, time to go in, Valerie. Otherwise we will be a meal for the fucking mosquitos!

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hahn leaves, locks the door behind him. Valerie waits until his truck pulls away. Then she drags herself out of bed, stumbling through the sedation as she fights her way to the bathroom. Valerie forces herself to drink water, then jams two fingers down her throat, gags, and vomits again and again.

VALERIE

(Vomiting, coughs)

Ugh, come on, ugh... shit, this is disgusting, god help me. I need to get out of here.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - BEDROOM - EVENING

Valerie's eyes and mind begin to clear, she purposely leaves the mess. Valerie pushes through her workout until sweat slicks her skin.

VALERIE

(Breathing hard)

One, two, three, come on Valerie, fifty more, you can do this, let's go! You have fifteen more minutes to do this, come on, more!

Valerie strips out of her clothes, leaving her panties on. Hahn's truck pulls in, the engine cuts. Valerie dives back into bed, drenched in water and sweat. Hahn unlocks the bedroom door, then trips over Valerie's clothes strewn across the floor, and moves to the bed.

HAHN LI

(Concerned)
 Hey, baby, wake up, are you sick?
 Come on, wake up, there you go, sit
 up. I'm sorry I left you. I'll be
 right back with a glass of water.
 Wow, it smells in here.

Valerie pretends to struggle and Hahn opens a small window.

VALERIE
 (Groaning, gags)
 I don't want anything, I just need
 to sleep, ow, my head is pounding.
 Do we have medication? And how long
 have we lived here? Oh god, I have
 to go... I'm sorry.

Valerie covers her mouth and pretends to be nauseous. Hahn carries her to the bathroom where she slumps over the filthy toilet.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 (Gagging, cries)
 Oh god, I gotta... I can't do this
 anymore. I'm going to die!

Hahn quickens his steps back to get a new towel.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - BEDROOM - EVENING (CONT'D)

Valerie smiles at her reflection in the water. She grabs the robe and towel hanging nearby. Hahn carries her back to bed.

HAHN LI
 (Whispers, yawns)
 We have to conserve water. We also
 have to do laundry somewhere near,
 tomorrow we'll need to replenish
 the tank. Baby, you can let go, I'm
 right here, get some rest, I'm
 going to clean up. It smells in
 here. Well, I guess I can clean
 tomorrow.

Valerie plays into Hahn's psyche, staying quiet. Hahn lies beside her, drifting off as he gently pats her hand.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - MORNING - DAY

HAHN LI
 (Smiling)

Hey, sleeping beauty, good morning.
Here, drink your coffee and eat
this toast. You look better, you
had a bad stomach bug last night.
Get ready and we will go to the
market, it's three miles down the
road. We need supplies and
groceries for our trip up north.

VALERIE

(Pleasant)

Okay, do they have girl things
there or is it just groceries? I
just need things. Also we need to
go to a laundry place soon, clean
sheets, our clothes... North, I
don't want to go anywhere.

HAHN LI

(Assuring)

You will see for yourself, come on,
get out of bed, but first drink
your coffee and eat that toast. I
can't have you get sick on the
road.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - MORNING

Valerie's expression doesn't change at the news she gets from
Hahn.

VALERIE

(Concerned)

Why are we leaving this spot? I
like it here. San Francisco? Then
Sacramento? It's so far. I don't
want to go, but it is beautiful in
San Francisco. I don't know
anything about Sacramento. It
sounds boring.

Hahn sits at the table preoccupied with his laptop, beyond
him the bedroom stands open.

HAHN LI

(Shouts)

What did you say, baby? Come on,
get ready. Are you still in bed? I
already cleaned back there!

VALERIE

(Walking softly)

I said, I was packing up. So I don't need to do it later. I was spraying perfume too. I made such a mess last night... I'm so sorry. Okay, kid, I'm ready, let's go!

INT. MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - DAY

GC Lee Yoon coordinates with local and state police alongside the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. He points to the map on the board.

GC LEE

(Restless)

Come on, people, we got to get a move on and get closer before it gets dark, we make our approach from here, this direction, and surround the RV. All campgrounds were evacuated quietly this morning before sunrise. One witness said he used his binoculars to see who was having a party, but they were too far to identify the people in a large stainless-steel RV.

EXT. BIG SUR - CAMPGROUND - MANHUNT - DAY

GC LEE

(Smirks)

He's holding her in an Airstream RV, after going through my search. It's the model and color that fits, and what I got from my source is that Hahn is relying on the satellite. This is where we will find them. My gut instinct tells me, this is it, men. Please be careful, he is armed and dangerous.

EXT. BIG SUR - DAY (CONT'D)

GC Lee, in tactical gear with Patrick Neal, moves toward Pfeiffer Beach. He surveys the triage area. Two helicopters idle nearby as K-9 German Shepherds are led in. Ahead, yellow tape seals off the campsite and the highway beyond it. A massive search is underway. GC Lee commands the operation alongside the Monterey County authorities.

EXT. CAMPER'S GENERAL MARKET - BIG SUR - DAY

Valerie and Hahn walk to the market hand in hand.

VALERIE

(Euphoric, giggles)
 It's beautiful here, let's just
 stay another day. We can come back
 when you have more cash. Why can't
 we just stay here? I can give you
 mine and we can buy a small house
 near here? I'll grow old with you.
 I can't believe I said that word.
 Oh, fuck it, let's go inside, I'm
 super hungry for a sandwich.

Valerie walks beside him, girlish optimism and wishful
 innocence. Stockholm syndrome, he thinks. She wears cutoffs,
 a tight T-shirt, and sunglasses. Hahn keeps a lower profile
 in a baseball cap, sunglasses, a white tank top, and loose
 jeans.

INT. CAMPER'S GENERAL MARKET - BIG SUR - DAY (CONT'D)

Valerie heads to the liquor aisle. In the reflection of the
 cold glass door, she spies the aisle behind her. She opens
 the door and selects three bottles of expensive Chardonnay.

VALERIE
 (Charming, smiles)
 Hi, this is such a nice store, are
 you the owner? Do you have any
 French wine here, imported?

SAMUEL MILLER
 (Lights up)
 I am one of the owners, my wife is
 the other, and no, I'm sorry, we
 don't, we only have California. I'm
 sure they're all as good as French
 wine. Oh, how about Italian? It's
 on aisle five, inside the barrels.
 That wine is pretty good. You have
 expensive taste. I'm sure you will
 like it. I'll put them aside here
 for when you're ready.

Store owner SAMUEL MILLER keeps a watchful eye on Valerie. In
 aisle five, Valerie meets Hahn, they kiss, he gives her ass a
 playful squeeze, drawing a giggle from her.

VALERIE
 (Giggles)

What did you get? Did you get more bread, mayo, mustard, lettuce, tomatoes, oh, and sliced cheese. I can make sandwiches for the road? That I can do well. You're a great cook, but I'm the ultimate sandwich queen. I'm almost done, I still need some feminine things, I just found this Italian wine inside a barrel. I'll add it to the Chardonnays.

HAHN LI

(Smiles handsomely)

Lots of vegetables and deli meat to make your sandwich, and more pasta sauce. Take your time, I'm just looking, don't forget your feminine stuff.

(P.O.V.) - HAHN LI

Shopping with the woman he loves almost feels normal. Through his dark sunglasses, the store becomes a grid of reflections, blind corners, and potential threats. Valerie smiles beside him, unaware he never stops watching.

VALERIE

(Soft voice)

I'll go put these up on the counter, it's getting heavy.

Valerie returns to the checkout counter and adds two bottles of Italian wine to the Chardonnay already waiting in front of Samuel. Samuel slides her bottles aside to ring up a TRUCK DRIVER whom Valerie has just cut in front of.

TRUCK DRIVER

(Eyes on Valerie)

That's alright, she can get in front of me anytime, Sam, besides, she's got something nice to look at.

SAMUEL MILLER

(Apologizing)

I just moved your goods to the side for a minute, because this gentleman was before you.

VALERIE

(Giggles)

Oh no, that's alright, and so sorry
for cutting. Bye, Mr. Trucker,
drive safely. My boyfriend is
almost done and he has the money.
I'll be right back with him, he's
got plenty.

Valerie winks at Samuel, then the truck driver. The truck driver leaves, a small folded note drops to the floor. Samuel ignores it. Hahn and Valerie unload their groceries onto the counter. Hahn focuses on the cash in his hands, peeling bills from a thick wad.

INT. CAMPER'S GENERAL MARKET - BIG SUR - DAY (CONT'D)

Samuel watches the couple. Valerie stares him down. His wife Sally arrives and bags their groceries.

SALLY MILLER
(Sweetly smiles)
Let me bag these, Sam, goodness,
you're keeping them from a
beautiful day.

Without a word, Hahn takes the grocery bags and walks ahead. Valerie deliberately drops her sunglasses.

VALERIE
(Clumsy, smirks)
Oh shit, now it's dirty. What am I
supposed to do? I guess I'll just
use my T-shirt.

Valerie hikes up her T-shirt, flashing a black lace bra to wipe off her sunglasses. She gives the clerks a provocative glare, then turns to follow Hahn out. Sally and Samuel stare after them, silent and speechless.

SALLY MILLER
(Bemused)
Sam, what the hell was that about?
I thought she was going to strip in
front of us. That was really
something, she wanted your
attention, husband.

Uncertain, Samuel waves Sally along then gives her a quick smack on the backside.

SAMUEL MILLER
(Chuckles)
Sally, maybe she was getting your
attention. However, you're all the
woman I need!

INT. CAMPER'S GENERAL MARKET - BIG SUR - NIGHT

Sally, mid-sweep, spots a small folded note. She reads it, freezes, mouth agape. The note reads: Help! My name is Valerie Coburn. Hahn Li abducted me. Please help me hurry. Take this note to the authorities!

SALLY MILLER
(Yelling loudly)
Sam! Samuel! Come quick! Hurry up.

SAMUEL MILLER
(Shouting back)
I'll be right there! Oh, alright, I'm here. What is it, I was about to use the toilet. I've locked the front door. I'm hungry, let's get going, stop sweeping. Sally?

Samuel waits for Sally to spit it out.

SALLY MILLER
(Hyperventilating)
You... that wacky, pretty woman earlier with the bra show? Look, that poor thing left us this note! Samuel, read this! Let's go, we have to bring this to the sheriff's.

INT. MONTEREY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Samuel and Sally rush into the sheriff's station, breathless. The receptionist waits as they catch their breath.

SALLY AND SAMUEL
(Exhausted)
We need to speak to whoever is in charge here. We got this note from a customer, a lady with a black bra, who accidentally dropped her sunglasses, no, no, no... Sally, you better explain this. I need to catch my breath some more, go on, honey.

SALLY MILLER
(Losing her patience)
Are you done blundering, Sam, this poor girl has been so patient. Thank you, please call someone here.

Soon a young deputy greets them and Sally hands him the note.

DEPUTY HARRY

(Brightened)

Hi, what can I help you with? Wow,
this is good, please follow me,
hurry now.

Samuel and Sally follow the young deputy into a private room at the back of the station. To their surprise, a conference of authorities is gathered inside.

SHERIFF BRADLY

(Hurries to greet)

Hello, thank you for bringing this
in. It's the vital key to this
operation. You see, Ms. Coburn has
been abducted eight days ago. This
is a photo of her and the guy she
is with, is this him? Do you
recognize them?

They agree, identifying Valerie and Hahn Li in the photographs presented before them.

SAMUEL MILLER

(Chuckles)

The guy was tall and fit, very good
looking, you know, like a fashion
magazine model, they seemed in
love.

Sally glares at her husband, silently disagreeing. The room falls quiet.

SHERIFF BRADLY

(Confused)

What do you mean by that, Mr.
Miller?

SALLY MILLER

(Disagrees)

No, no, they were not, Sam! Sheriff
Bradly, what Sam is trying to say
is that it seemed that way. But Ms.
Coburn was putting on a fake act,
she wanted us to notice her. That's
why she went to extreme measures
and lifted her T-shirt up. We were
her last hope, Samuel. Look at her
note! She was very brave, a class
act, a hero.

SAMUEL MILLER

(Agreeing)

Yes, honey, you're right, she was desperate. She was very smart. So what's next, you men are looking for them? By the way, I did notice a bruise that was healing, hidden by makeup.

SHERIFF BRADLY

(Anxious)

Please wait here, there is another gentleman named GC Lee Yoon from South Korea, he is the commanding officer in charge of this operation. He needs to brief you both, if you don't mind. He is on his way. We really appreciate your quick thinking and bringing this note to us.

INT. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

GC Lee enters, and approaches Sally and Samuel, and introduces himself along with Patrick Neal.

GC LEE

(Composed)

I am very grateful for all your help. Ms. Coburn and her family are friends of mine. She is very special to me. I made a promise to her family that I would bring her home. What was Ms. Coburn's condition? Did she have bruises, or injuries to her face? Anything you can remember. Is this the only day you have seen them in your store?

Sally and Samuel wait patiently for GC Lee to finish his questions.

SALLY MILLER

(Teary eyes)

Oh, Mr. Lee, this is awful. I'm sure her family is deeply concerned. She had no bruises, but an old one that seemed healed, covered with makeup by her mouth. Ms. Coburn is very beautiful, and today is the only day he brought her into our store. I don't think she had bodily injuries, Mr. Lee. She pretended to drop her sunglasses and pulled up her T-shirt to wipe off the glasses, so we saw only her bra and no injuries.

Samuel listens quietly.

SAMUEL MILLER

(Nods to agree)

Our store closes by ten p.m. Myself and another helper usually lock up. That model guy always shops near the closing hour. I guess now we know why he was avoiding the traffic of people.

Chuckles from colleagues in the background pierce the gloom.

SAMUEL MILLER (CONT'D)

(Agitated)

I'm sorry, Mr. Lee, I don't mean any jokes, but it's our thirty-eighth wedding anniversary. We haven't had dinner yet, we were closing early because we were heading to Carmel. Please let her family know Sally and I will keep them in our prayers until you find her.

SAMUEL MILLER (CONT'D)

(Snapping his fingers)

Oh, wait a second, I just remembered something I overheard, Ms. Coburn saying, making a sandwich for their trip, and that she was a sandwich queen. I was following her from nearby, I was in the next aisle listening and dusting.

GC Lee can't help but smile.

GC LEE

(Apprehensive)
 Thank you, and good job on keeping
 your eyes and ears open, Samuel.
 You and your wife are key
 witnesses. There is a reward for
 information and capture. There is a
 protocol to protect you both. My
 assistant will bring you to a
 better location in this building
 and let them know what you want to
 eat, we will have it delivered. And
 again, happy anniversary, and thank
 you for your help.

GC Lee rushes out and everyone follows.

SALLY MILLER

(Shocked)
 Hey, Sam, did he just say a reward?
 I'm going to faint, please hold me.
 How much is it going to be, Sam?
 Oh, just think what we can give our
 grandchildren.

SAMUEL MILLER

(Teary eyes)
 It's okay, honey, I got you. And
 no, I've been standing here the
 whole time, Sally, what did you
 want me to say? How much is the
 reward for doing a good deed?
 Whatever it is, we will thank the
 Lord for giving us the opportunity
 to help that poor woman. We were
 the right people.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - NIGHT

VALERIE

(Anxious)
 Luke, are you coming in soon, the
 shower is yours.

Valerie gets ready for bed.

HAHN LI (O.S.)

Yeah, in a bit. Go to sleep, we got
 to get going by 5 a.m. I still have
 to hitch the truck.

VALERIE

(Whispering to herself)
 Okay, okay, be ready, Valerie, be
 ready. This is it.

Tears stream down Valerie's cheeks. Exhausted and heartbroken, she hasn't slept, too anxious and terrified to make her escape.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Cries)

What am I doing? I'm scared.

Finally Luke lies down beside her and hears her crying.

HAHN LI

(Affectionate)

Hey, baby, are you okay? Are you sad? Please don't be, we will have a better place. Okay? I love you.

An owl hoots outside the RV's window.

INT. AIRSTREAM CLASSIC 33FB - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Valerie keeps her breathing steady. Her dinner wine was not spiked.

HAHN LI

(Whispers, kissing her face)

Stay sleeping, baby, I will be right back. I love you.

Hahn quietly gets up, slips out, he keeps the door unlocked. Valerie hears the truck driving away.

VALERIE

(Emotional, rushing)

Oh, god, please help me. I'm so sorry. Luke, I can't go with you.

Valerie moves fast, changing into black joggers, a black hoodie sweatshirt. She slips into her white tennis shoes, and ties her hair into a ponytail. Then she grabs a screwdriver and small flashlight. She plans her escape, her only chance.

EXT. CAMPER'S MARKET - BIG SUR - NIGHT

HAHN LI

(Staring)

Well, here we go. By tomorrow, Valerie, we will be together forever, but right now we need more cash.

Hahn methodically plans his next crime. Hahn parks in the shadows, retrieves his Glock from beneath the seat, checks the magazine, then tucks it into the back of his jeans. From the glove box he takes a black mask and gloves. Hahn approaches the market in the dark. A closed sign hangs on the front door. Too early to be closed. He starts to walk back to his truck.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Infuriated)

Those fucking people, what if I wanted to buy ice cream for my pregnant wife, ha! It's too early to close!

INT. HAHN'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Hahn jogs back to his truck, and pounds the wheel. He glares at the market then tears off toward the RV.

HAHN LI

(Furious)

That's got to be it! I'm so stupid, Valerie got identified. Argh, shit, fuck!

Tires screech, Hahn swings open the RV door, and rushes inside. The bedroom door stands wide open.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)

(Outraged, emotional)

Valerie! Valerie! No, no, where are you? Who took you from me!

Hahn paces, shattered, he presses the gun to his temple, wailing like a child in unbearable pain, distraught, inconsolable, and consumed by rage.

EXT. BIG SUR RIVER BANKS - ESCAPE - NIGHT

Hahn stands outside the RV screaming her name, it echoes into the night. He takes off after her, disappearing into the darkness, he runs until there's nothing left to see, silence.

HAHN LI

(Breathing hard)

Valerie, Valerie, please come back. Where are you?

Drenched in sweat, he rushes back inside the RV. He frantically packs his computers into a suitcase. Nearby, Hahn sits beside Valerie's belongings, devastated and defeated. He clutches a handful of her clothes to his face and weeps, mourns.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
(Pulls himself together)
This is unforgivable, you betrayed me, Valerie, in the worst possible way, ohh, but you were smart, baby. I lost you, didn't I? You gave me an incredible eight days of happiness. You were the one true love.

Hahn loads his truck with only what matters. He leaves behind her suitcase, where he hid the gems, with Valerie. Then he speeds away from the RV.

EXT. BIG SUR RIVER BANKS - ESCAPE - NIGHT

INTERNAL FLASHBACK

VALERIE
(Whispers)
Oh my god, you cannot let him find you. I have to hide. Is he close behind me, shit, oh god, what do I do, please help me.

Valerie runs blindly through the darkness, heaving with exhaustion, her name echoing behind her, closing in, then she hears it, the running creek nearby. Hahn is only a short distance behind her. Fear takes hold. Valerie trips over a stone and crashes to the ground, she scrambles back up and runs alongside the creek.

HAHN LI
(Yells out)
Valerie! Valerie! Please come back. Please don't leave me like this, please come back, baby. Valerie!

INTERNAL FLASHBACK (CONT'D)

Valerie crawls behind a small bush and presses herself flat against the ground. She pulls her black hood over her head, then buries her white tennis shoes in the dirt. Hahn stops only a few feet away, bent over as he fights for breath. Tears stream down Valerie's face, she clamps a hand over her mouth, terrified to make a sound.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
 (Sobbing heavily)
 Valerie! Valerie, where are you,
 please come back to me... Valerie!

Hahn straightens up, sobbing, he calls out Valerie's name one last time, raw with emotion, then he turns back toward the RV.

EXT. BIG SUR RIVER BANKS - PRESENT - NIGHT

VALERIE
 (Cries silently)
 Luke, Luke, I'm sorry... Luke.

Valerie stays hidden until Hahn's shadow disappears into the darkness. Only then does she move, keeping her eyes fixed in the direction he went. Disoriented, Valerie follows a path away from the RV, her eyes adjust to the darkness as animals rustle nearby, she grips a small flashlight and a screwdriver, her only weapon. Valerie collapses onto a rock, exhausted, and calls out for help.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 (Strained voice)
 Please, someone help me... please,
 somebody out there hear me. Lee,
 please find me.

Valerie jogs farther from the creek. She stumbles and slams face first into the ground, blood trickles from a cut on her left cheek, she pulls herself back up.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 Please help me, please help!
 Someone please hear me! Lee! Help
 me please, I'm hurt.

EXT. BIG SUR RIVER BANKS - ESCAPE - NIGHT

A mile from Valerie's location, heavy boots pound through the ground. GC Lee and his team surge through the secluded terrain and brush. Green laser beams slice between the trees as search troops in military gear and night vision goggles sweep through the trees.

GC LEE
 (Stops to listen)
 Wait, do you guys hear that? It's
 faint... okay, let's get our furry
 friends to go. Now!

The officers release the K-9s, the dogs surge through the thick ground. GC Lee listens to the helicopter pilots on his headset.

GC LEE (CONT'D)
 (Sweats, adrenaline)
 Don't lose him, Hawkeye, stay right
 on top of him! You guys know it's
 him!

EXT. HIGHWAY 101 - DAWN

(P.O.V.) - HAHN LI

The road blurs ahead through his tear-filled eyes. Hahn drives at high speed, police helicopters soaring above him, sirens of CHP now behind him, patrol car commands on loudspeaker: STOP! PULL OVER! STOP THE VEHICLE!

OFFICER VOICE
 (Commands)
 Pull over now! Stop your vehicle!

INT. HAHN'S TRUCK - DAWN

Hahn speeds down Highway 101, his face tight, desperate, and calculating.

HAHN LI
 (Desperation, smiles)
 You have to catch me first,
 fuckers! Come and get me! Agh,
 well, this looks like the end of
 the road for us. There are too many
 of them. Shit! Fuck you! I guess I
 only have one way out. I am not
 going to make it. I can't go back
 and let that asshole win! Here we
 go, Hahn, goodbye, baby... Valerie.

Police cars at his tail attempt to enforce the PIT tactic. Hahn's truck skids to a stop, tires screech, smoke curling from the rubber. He brakes hard, eases open the door, then jumps out and opens fire.

HAHN LI (CONT'D)
 (Shouting)
 Come on, motherfuckers! Agh! Agh!
 Fuckers! (Korean, subtitled) Eat
 shit!

Hahn collapses to the ground. He lays still, his right arm reaches toward the sky. A single tear slips down.

EXT. BIG SUR RIVER BANKS - DAWN

GC Lee listens through his headset as helicopters and patrol units pursue Hahn's truck speeding away from the campsite. GC Lee quickens his pace, his troops close behind, a woman's cries for help echo nearby. The German Shepherds bark. Valerie scans the darkness, frantic. The K-9 dogs rush toward her, noses working, then nuzzle against her.

VALERIE

(Screaming loudly)

Help! Help, please help me! Someone please...

Valerie shields her eyes from the blinding lights. GC Lee rushes to her and drops to his knees.

GC LEE

(Shouting)

Valerie! Valerie! I'm here, I'm here, honey. I'm sorry, are you okay, can you stand? Okay, I got you, I'm here.

Lee, without more questions, picks her up in his arms.

VALERIE

(Sobs uncontrollably)

Oh, Lee, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Please get me out of here. My ankle, I think it's broken. I'm so tired... Hahn?

Two EMT vehicles follow the troops at a distance, moving silently over the rough terrain. The EMTs examine Valerie's injuries, treating the cut on her cheek and sprained ankle.

GC LEE

(Aggravated)

I want him captured and apprehended alive! Don't lose him, stay on him.

He walks away while the EMTs care for Valerie inside the ambulance. Lee checks back, his police radio crackles, he stops to listen. Lee's voice goes soft.

GC LEE (CONT'D)

(Disappointed)

Ah, shit, yeah, alright... yeah, shit, fuck! How many fatalities? Okay, okay, thanks. Be there shortly, yeah, thanks, Sheriff.

Valerie overhears the radio.

VALERIE
(Frantic, hysterical)
No! No, please, I'm alright. Please
take this off of me!

Valerie suddenly bolts upright. Before the two EMTs can stop her, she hops from the ambulance. Lee catches the traumatized Valerie as she stumbles out.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
(Distraught, crying)
Lee, Lee, please, you must stop
them. Please don't take him away
yet. Please, I need to see him
first.

EXT. BIG SUR - DAWN

At the triage site, Lee transfers Valerie into his Cadillac. Morning mist lifts off Monterey Bay, the air is cool and fresh, as sunrise breaks over the horizon. Highway 101 remains sealed off, forcing traffic through detours.

GC LEE
(Gentle voice)
Valerie, honey, please drink some
water, okay, you need your
strength... and you're dehydrated.

VALERIE
(Whispers)
I, I don't want anything right now.
I need my things from the RV, I
want them and I need to sell the
RV...

GC LEE
(Faint smile)
I know, Val, we will go and get
your things only, the rest will be
under investigation, his computers,
the truck... we don't need to talk
about this now, Valerie.

They drive in silence. Valerie stares off.

EXT. CRIME SCENE - MORNING

Lee parks. Valerie jumps from the Cadillac, limps toward the yellow police tape, her sprained ankle unable to slow her. The officers at the perimeter grab her and pull her back. Valerie fights them off as Lee races after her.

POLICE OFFICER 1

(Unfriendly)

Hey, lady, what do you think you're doing? Get back away from this yellow tape, before I arrest you.

GC Lee tells the two officers to let her through.

VALERIE

(Hysterical)

Let me through, you fucking idiots! I need to see him, please.

GC Lee calmly addresses the officers.

GC LEE

(Smirks)

This is Valerie Coburn, she has my permission.

He produces his identification. The officers inspect it, then step aside and lift the tape for Valerie.

EXT. HIGHWAY 101 - DAWN (CONT'D)

GC LEE

(Saddened face)

Ok, honey, let's go. It's alright, go see him. I will be right behind you.

Valerie runs toward Hahn.

POLICE OFFICER TWO

(Flustered)

I'm sorry... I wasn't sure who you were. Good job, sir. I'm glad your friend is safe. Can I shake your hand, sir?

GC LEE

(Reserved)

Yeah, sure, thanks. Please make sure there are no paparazzi or reporters sneaking around.

Valerie sinks to the ground beside Hahn's lifeless body. Lee stands over her. With trembling hands, Valerie pulls back the sheet. The full horror of what lies beneath hits her.

VALERIE

(Sobbing in grief)

Oh, Luke... I'm sorry I had to leave you. Please, please forgive me. Please wake up. Get up... get up.

Hahn's eyes stare vacantly at nothing. Valerie reaches out and gently closes them. Blood soaks his body, the red wounds from the bullets stark against his skin. Valerie's hand lingers on him, she cannot tear her eyes away.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(Grieves, sobs)

Why? Lee, why did they have to shoot him? They were supposed to capture him alive! He was very sick, Lee, he was still young and brilliant, and... and he could have had a chance to change, if he had medical treatment.

Valerie gently strokes Hahn's face, then runs her fingers through his hair.

GC LEE

(Shakes his head)

I wanted him alive to face his... I know. I did my best to keep him alive. He was the one who stopped and jumped out of his truck. Valerie, he started firing his gun. It was suicide. We should go, honey, the coroner will take him soon.

Lee gently urges Valerie to leave, she pulls away from his hand, refusing to move.

VALERIE

(Pleads, cries)

Will they clean him... his wounds? Lee, please, let me have a little more time, before his spirit flies.

GC LEE

(Gently smiles)

Val... please don't think of that.
 Yes, after reports are made, then,
 yes, they will clean him.

Lee gives her space, and steps back, closing his eyes to compose himself. Valerie takes Hahn's hand one last time and kisses his forehead. Then she lets go, gently pulling the sheet over his face.

VALERIE
 (Whispering softly)
 Please go in peace now, we had the
 craziest eight days, didn't we? I
 did love you, in my own way.
 Goodnight... Luke.

Valerie rises and walks to Lee, she does not look back.

INT. COBURN HOME - MOVING - DAY

Valerie sells her home and equally gives her children their shares. She gives Margaret her engagement ring from George. George's ring and their wedding bands, she gives to her sons, Andrew and Cooper. Valerie continues with her therapy and treatment, under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Johnson.

INT. COBURN HOME - PRESENT - DAY

GC LEE
 (Furrowed brows)
 It's a good plan and Sydney is
 excited. You will like it there,
 just like I like it here. Andrew
 and Cooper and Marge are excited to
 fly with us, and if, for any
 reason, you want to come back here,
 we will. Sydney can see America.
 But I will fight hard for you to
 stay a little longer before we
 decide. We have so much paperwork
 to do.

(P.O.V.) - GC LEE YOON

They never discussed her abduction. Still, Lee wonders what Valerie had to go through during her eight days with Hahn. He fights hard not to feel the jealousy, but only thinks of her freedom, she was able to escape Hahn's grip, and survived. And they are together, he does not see Valerie as a victim. Lee sees a beautiful, remarkable, courageous woman. A survivor.

INT. COBURN HOME - MOVING - DAY

VALERIE

(Excited, smiles)

I'm very happy, Lee, and to be a mom again to Sydney. Do you think she will like me? And your friends, and family? A different culture. I love that. Oh, don't worry about the paperwork. You're a super cop, remember? And I love you, General Commissioner Lee.

GC LEE

(Smiles)

You know, it's really nice that Andrew, Cooper, and Margaret are coming with us, to see you off and to make sure I have a good home for you. We will have a good time. I promise, honey.

FLASHBACK

The doorbell rings. A tall black man identifies himself from a private messenger company.

MESSENGER

(Smiling politely)

Hello, are you Miss Coburn? If you are... I will need an ID and a signature here after. Thank you in advance.

VALERIE

(Smiles back)

Yes, I am she... wait here, alright, two seconds.

Valerie closes the door, then turns back, and presents her identification. She signs the form. And the man hands her an oversized padded manila envelope.

INT. COBURN HOME - DAY (CONT'D)

Valerie enters her living room, settles into her favorite sofa, and opens the envelope, addressed to Valerie Coburn. Hahn's body was flown back to South Korea, waiting for a family member to claim him.

VALERIE

(Deeply sighs)

Why me, Luke, haven't you put me through hell already?

HAHN LI (V.O.)

Dear Valerie, I apologize for all my wrongdoings. I nearly destroyed your life and you don't deserve that cruelty. I know that I was insufferable and I was sick. Valerie, I starved for love and respect all my life. You were the one that made me whole. I will never forget you, wherever my soul takes me. My illness made me into a monster. You were the good in my life. This is my final request for your help.

HAHN LI

I, Hahn Li, bequeath and appoint Valerie Coburn to carry out my final wishes and instructions. I wish and request that my body be cremated. My ashes are to be returned to my loving mother, Song Li, she lives in Singapore. Please contact my mother. Thank you for all your kindness. I will always love you. Please always take your time and savor your food. Also, did you find the treasures in your suitcase yet? If you had not, please look again, it is hidden very well into the seams. This is my gift that I designed and had made especially for you one year ago. Thank you, baby, I will miss you, now I'm at peace and I've stepped over the rainbows.

Valerie stares at Hahn's mother's contact information and a letter addressed only to her. Her tears blur her vision.

VALERIE

(Emotional)

Oh... Luke, you stupid idiot, you should be alive. You could have just surrendered. Well, it's too late now, and yeah, okay, alright, I will do my best. What did you leave me in my suitcase, when did you do that? When you fled?

Valerie's tears spill uncontrollably, she steadies herself, regains her composure, and continues to read. She opens the last envelope, a flawless five-carat heart-shaped ruby necklace slips into her lap.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 (Gasps in surprise)
 How is it possible that you had
 this made for me? Thank you, Luke.

INT. COBURN HOME - BEDROOM - PRESENT

The ruby necklace rests in her hands. Valerie rises and retrieves her empty suitcase from the closet, the one she unpacked the night Lee brought her home. She refused to let Margaret wash her clothes. It was the last thing she had that still carried Luke's scent. Her fingers trace the lining. Something feels wrong. She grabs a pair of scissors and slices open a seam. Inside: five rare diamonds along with several emeralds and rubies, the gems Luke was taking to Sacramento.

VALERIE
 (Shock, whispering)
 What the hell, Luke.

Valerie sits beside her torn suitcase, the gems clenched in her hands. The letter lies discarded on the floor. Emotionally spent, she curls up beside the bed and closes her eyes. Luke's warm hands glide over Valerie's back. He kisses her tenderly, then tighter, more possessive. Valerie squirms, fighting to pull away. But Luke won't let her go.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
 (Breathes hard, cries)
 No! Stop it, please, let me go,
 Luke, I can't go with you... no,
 please, go now.

VALERIE'S (P.O.V.) - HAHN LI

Hahn was born with a serious mental health condition. As he grew older, his untreated illness deepened, leaving him emotionally volatile, dangerous, and increasingly detached from reality. Without consistent support, Hahn's episodes became more severe, his thoughts fractured, his behavior unpredictable. Perhaps, somewhere inside, he sensed his life would be cut short. A surreal, cruel twist of fate. A tragic end.

FADE OUT.

THE END