

**CRAVEN**

Written by

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1 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING 1

LEO (30s), lays on one side of a double bed.

He looks across to the other side, the sheets are untouched.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK) 2

LEO stands in the middle of a room.

He's frozen, looking down at an unknown object on the floor.

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (BACK TO PRESENT) 3

LEO stands in a sparse and tidy bedroom. Empty walls and counter tops.

In front him is a tall piece of furniture, covered by a plain black sheet.

He places a black tie around his white shirt. He looks down and begins tying it.

SOUND OF A CAR PULLING UP OUTSIDE.

LEO moves towards the window and looks out. He immediately steps back.

He looks back down at his tie. He takes a deep breath, then ties it up.

He grabs a black blazer laying on the bed, puts it on and walks out.

4 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING 4

LEO opens the front door and sees THEODORE (60s), standing outside dressed in a black suit.

They stand in silence.

LEO steps to one side, THEODORE walks in and down the hallway.

LEO closes the door and follows behind him.

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

5

THEODORE walks into the living room, it's dull and bare. He stops and looks around.

LEO walks across the room and sits in an armchair.

THEODORE steps towards to a cabinet with nothing upon it. He turns to LEO.

THEODORE:  
Where's the pictures of her?  
(beat)  
Of you?

LEO looks away from him.

LEO:  
Broken.

THEODORE sighs and rubs his head with his hand. He walks back and sits on a sofa opposite LEO.

There's a coffee table between them.

THEODORE looks down at it. He clenches his fists and grimaces. He puts his head down into his hands.

He lifts his head back up, his eyes are red.

He takes a deep breath, extends his fingers and rubs his hands on his trousers.

He checks his watch.

THEODORE:  
She should be here soon.

LEO looks out of the window.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING (FLASHBACK)

6

LEO walks up the driveway dragging a black bin behind him.

He puts the bin on the edge of the street and walks back towards the house.

He looks up to see a woman, SARAH (30s), stood in the front window.

She smiles.

He smiles back.

CUT TO:

7 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING (BACK TO PRESENT) 7

SOUND OF A CAR ARRIVING OUTSIDE.

THEODORE stands up, walks over to the window and looks out.

He chokes. Putting a fist up to his mouth, he swallows.

He takes a deep breath, then turns around to LEO and nods.

LEO stands and walks towards the front door.

THEODORE follows behind him, placing his hand on LEO'S shoulder.

LEO doesn't react.

CUT TO:

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 8

LEO sits on the sofa with a mobile phone in his hand.

He unlocks the phone, presses on it, then raises it to his ear.

SARAH'S body lays on the floor below him. Her limbs are sprawled out. She's face up with her eyes open.

LEO leans into the phone suddenly.

LEO:

Hello?

(beat)

Yes, hello.

(pause)

Ambulance please.

LEO waits. He doesn't look down.

He suddenly springs up from the sofa and walks down the hallway.

LEO: (CONT'D)  
 Yes hello, my girlfriend, she-  
 (beat)  
 She needs some help.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. CHURCH - MIDDAY (BACK TO PRESENT) 9

A large wooden door opens, LEO steps out and closes it behind him.

He walks down the old cobblestone steps.

He reaches the street, stops and looks around. He watches people as they walk by. Couple's walking hand in hand. Men walking past and staring back.

He looks down and sees a small stone on the path beside him. He kicks it away.

The church doors open.

LEO turns around to see THEODORE stepping out from the church. LEO turns back.

THEODORE reaches the street and stands next to him. He puts his hand on LEO'S shoulder.

LEO looks down the street and sees the stone.

THEODORE:  
 Leo?

THEODORE squeezes his shoulder.

LEO turns to him, forces a smile, then walks back up the steps.

THEODORE follows.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. STREET - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 10

LEO stands alone in the street.

He checks his watch, then turns to look down the street, it's empty.

He sighs and walks down, into the darkness.

He reaches the driveway and looks up towards the house. His eyes widen.

CUT TO:

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 11

LEO and THEODORE sit in silence.

THEODORE is sat on the armchair, LEO is sat on the sofa opposite.

THEODORE:

Have you got anything to drink?

LEO nods, stands and walks away.

12 INT. BEDROOM - DUSK 12

LEO steps inside the bedroom.

He walks towards a cabinet, close to the bed. He opens the top draw, searches through, then closes it.

He opens the next draw, which is filled with picture frames, all turned upside down. He closes it.

He opens the bottom draw, under a stack of unopened letters is a case of whiskey.

He pulls it out and walks away.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 13

LEO enters, places the whiskey case on the table and two glasses either side.

He sits on the sofa opposite THEODORE.

THEODORE picks up the case.

THEODORE:

Is this the bottle I bought you?

LEO doesn't respond.

THEODORE looks at him.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)

What were you waiting for?

LEO:  
A special occasion.

THEODORE:  
Was that Sarah's idea?

LEO looks down at the table, he nods.

THEODORE opens the case and pulls out the bottle. He opens it and fills both glasses.

THEODORE picks one up, sits back and sips.

LEO leans forwards, grabs the other glass and sits back. He takes a sip and loosens his tie.

THEODORE takes another sip.

They sit in silence.

CUT TO:

14 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

14

LEO stands in front of a tall mirror. He quickly tucks in his shirt and puts on his suit jacket.

LEO:  
Okay, I'm ready.

LEO pulls out his phone and steps back.

SARAH rushes to the mirror in a glittery dress. She puts in a shining earring.

SARAH:  
Book a taxi for us.

LEO:  
I'm trying, but no one's  
responding.

SARAH drops the other earring. She picks it up and quickly puts it in.

SARAH:  
When's the next bus?

LEO swipes through his phone.

LEO:  
10 minutes.

SARAH:  
We can make that.

LEO puts his phone away.

SARAH grabs her coat laying on the bed, puts it on and looks at herself in the mirror.

LEO:  
We can if we leave now.

SARAH continues to look into the mirror.

LEO: (CONT'D)  
Sarah?

SARAH:  
Okay, okay!

Sarah exits.

LEO follows.

CUT TO:

15 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (RETURN TO PRESENT) 15

THEODORE pours more whiskey into his glass, then LEO'S.

He places the bottle back on the table, it's almost empty.

THEODORE grabs his glass and looks up at LEO.

He's sunken into the sofa, staring down at the table.

THEODORE pushes LEO'S glass towards him.

LEO leans forward and takes it. He sits back, drinks and looks back down at the table.

LEO:  
I wasn't there for her.

THEODORE looks at LEO.

LEO: (CONT'D)  
When I should've been.

LEO drinks.

THEODORE:  
Do you know what I was doing the day she was born?

LEO shakes his head.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)

Working.

(pause)

A call came through, someone grabbed me and I raced off.

THEODORE takes a sip.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)

I'm driving, going as fast as I can, praying I get there in time.

(beat)

And every light is red, every single one.

(beat)

Between each one I'm driving faster and faster.

(beat)

But it's making no difference.

THEODORE starts to laugh, he takes another sip.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)

Then some idiot on a bike pulls out across the street and I knocked him off.

(beat)

Luckily he got back up and it wasn't serious. But he started shouting so loud that I barely had chance to say sorry.

(beat)

I just kept going.

THEODORE sips again.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)

I get to the hospital, jump out of the car and run straight in.

(beat)

I get to the room, but it's locked.

(beat)

I'm shouting and banging on the door. Screaming to let me in.

(beat)

Then some nurse comes over to check who I'm looking for.

THEODORE laughs again.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 It wasn't even the right room, or  
 the right floor.  
 (beat)  
 I follow the nurse and finally, I  
 get there.  
 (pause)  
 Turns out she'd been born 15  
 minutes earlier.

THEODORE smile fades, he sips again.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 I never forgave myself for that.  
 (beat)  
 Her mum certainly didn't.  
 (pause)  
 But she did.

THEODORE smiles and takes another sip.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 That's how she was.

LEO looks at the floor.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 I try to be, for her.  
 (pause)  
 But I just can't beat this-

THEODORE circles around his chest with his hand.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 Rage, that's always there.

THEODORE looks at the floor. He chokes up.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
 If I ever find who did-  
 (beat)  
 That-  
 (beat)  
 To her-

THEODORE stops himself, he takes a large sip from the glass.

LEO:  
 It's my fault.

THEODORE looks up.

THEODORE:

Leo-  
(beat)  
You can't blame yourself.

LEO looks up at him.

LEO:

I was there.

THEODORE leans forward.

LEO stares at him.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

16

LEO stands on the edge of the driveway. His eyes are wide open.

SARAH is stood in the window. She runs for the door but is thrown back.

She picks up a lamp and waves it around in front of her.

An UNKNOWN MAN, wearing dark hooded clothes, steps forward towards her.

He hits the lamp out of her hand.

She runs away from the window.

He runs after her.

A MUFFLED SCREAM.

LEO loses his footing.

He balances himself, then slowly approaches the house. Carefully taking each step, his eyes stay focused on the window.

A LOUD SCREAM.

LEO drops to his knees, trembling.

Another SCREAM. Then a LOUD BANG.

LEO jolts away from the house. He crawls on his hands and knees towards the garden bushes.

Another SCREAM.

LEO crawls inside of the bush, forcing his way in.

More SCREAMING.

LEO drops to his stomach.

SARAH:

Help me!

(beat)

Someone help me!

LEO stays flat inside the bush.

He looks up at the window, the bright light beams into the darkness.

The SCREAMING continues. BANGING follows.

SARAH: (CONT'D)

Please!

(beat)

No! Please!

LEO looks down at his hands, buried in the dirt.

He notices a large stone beside him. He stares at it.

He unearths his hand and reaches out towards it. He grips it tightly and holds it up.

He leans forward.

SARAH: (CONT'D)

Leo!

He drops the stone and snaps his hand back.

SCREAMING.

SARAH: (CONT'D)

No no no please! Please don't!

LEO places his hands over his ears and closes his eyes.

The SCREAMING gets louder.

SARAH: (CONT'D)

Please don't do this!

LEO buries his head down into the soil.

SCREAMING.

SARAH: (CONT'D)  
Please! No!

BANGING.

Silence.

LEO takes his hands away from his ears and slowly raises his head. He waits.

He looks up at the window, nothing.

He places both hands out in front of him and leans forward.

The front door opens.

LEO scuttles back, placing his hands back over his ears and looks down.

He slowly looks back up.

The UNKNOWN MAN rushes around in the doorway. He drops a bag and items fall out. He quickly stuffs them inside, zips it shut and puts it on his back.

He closes the door, then takes off his gloves and pulls down his hood.

The light from the window makes his face visible. He looks ordinary.

He leans down and breathes heavily.

LEO watches him.

The man quickly puts up his hood and rushes down the driveway.

He reaches the street, turns and runs away into the night.

LEO slowly pulls himself out from the bush, wipes away the dirt from his suit and stumbles over to the doorway.

He puts his hand on the door handle.

An object shines on the floor.

LEO reaches down and picks up one of SARAH'S earrings.

He opens the door.

17 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 17

LEO walks into the house. His eyes are wide and darting around ahead of him.

He slowly steps forward down the hallway.

18 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 18

LEO enters the living room.

He sees SARAH laid on the floor. Her glittery dress shines in the light. Her eyes are wide open and looking straight at him.

Her neck is red. Both of her earrings are gone.

He puts his hand over his mouth, but doesn't look away from her eyes.

He snaps his eyes shut, walks forward and sits on the sofa.

He opens his eyes and looks down at her. He looks at her eyes looking past him. He follows them across the room till he reaches the entrance to the hallway.

CUT TO:

19 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT) 19

THEODORE stares through LEO.

THEODORE throws the table to one side, rushes forward and hits him repeatedly.

LEO falls further into the sofa with each hit.

THEODORE screams.

He stops hitting LEO and steps away, panting.

He looks back down at LEO and hits him again.

THEODORE stumbles back holding his hand, grimacing, trying to extend his fingers.

LEO raises himself up. One side of his face is cut and bleeding.

THEODORE:  
All this time!

He looks down at LEO.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
He's still out there-

THEODORE takes a breath.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
And you know what he looks like!

LEO doesn't move.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
Why?

LEO stays still.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
Look at me.

LEO looks at the floor.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
Look at me!

LEO looks up.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
Why?

LEO:  
Because I was scared.  
(beat)  
So scared that-  
(beat)  
I couldn't control it.  
(pause)  
I thought I was going to die.

THEODORE leans down with his hands on his knees. He moans and breathes heavily.

LEO looks at the floor.

THEODORE:  
What was she saying?

THEODORE looks at LEO.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
When it was happening.

LEO looks at him.

LEO:  
She called out for me.

Tears form in THEODORE'S eyes, he quickly wipes them away.  
THEODORE leans up and points at LEO, his finger is shaking.

THEODORE:  
You're gonna go to the police.  
(pause)  
Tell them, everything.

He stands up straight.

THEODORE: (CONT'D)  
And I'm never going to see your  
face again.

LEO nods slightly.

THEODORE walks out. The front door opens, then slams shut.

LEO touches his face and flinches. Blood drips out of his  
nose onto his shirt.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 20

LEO and SARAH quickly leave the house in their fancy clothes.

LEO rushes ahead.

SARAH quickly locks the door, then catches up to him.

21 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 21

LEO and SARAH walk hand in hand down the street.

Their pace quickens.

SARAH stops and their hands separate.

SARAH:  
Shit!  
(beat)  
I forgot my purse.

LEO keeps walking.

LEO:  
Just leave it.

SARAH steps back.

SARAH:  
No, I'll be back in a second.

LEO:  
We'll miss the bus.

SARAH starts to walk back to the house, she turns as she walks.

SARAH:  
No it's okay.  
(beat)  
We'll make it.

She turns back and walks off into the darkness.

LEO watches her figure fade away.

CUT TO:

22 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (RETURN TO PRESENT) 22

LEO stares at the entrance to the hallway.

He leans up and pushes himself off the sofa. As he stands, he holds his head and moans.

23 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 23

LEO walks up to the cabinet.

He opens the second draw. He reaches in, pulls out one of the picture frames and turns it around.

It's a picture of SARAH, smiling.

Blood drips from LEO'S nose onto SARAH'S face. LEO panics.

He puts the picture frame on top of the cabinet, then uses his tie to hold his nose to stop the blood.

He takes the tie away from his nose, the bleeding has stopped. He takes off the tie and drops it onto the floor.

He picks up the picture and takes it out from the frame.

He looks at SARAH'S face, there's no blood on her. He smiles and puts the picture in his pocket

He walks over to the mirror and pulls away the black sheet.

He looks at himself, turning his face to see his cuts.

He pulls out his phone and presses on it.

He then lays on the bed and waits.

CUT TO:

24 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) 24

LEO and SARAH lay close together on the sofa.

LEO has his arm around her neck.

Their eyes are closed.

SARAH:

We should get ready soon.

LEO:

Not yet.

SARAH smiles.

SARAH:

You'll regret that once we're late.

SARAH opens her eyes and attempts to lean up.

LEO pulls her back

LEO:

Stay.

(beat)

Just a little longer.

SARAH smiles, then closes her eyes and rests her head back.

LEO smiles and leans into her.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (RETURN TO PRESENT) 25

SOUND OF A CAR PARKING OUTSIDE.

LEO'S phone lights up. He leans up from the bed and checks it.

He stands up and puts the phone in his pocket.

He exits the room.

26 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT 26

LEO steps out of the house, shuts the door and locks it.

He walks up the driveway and turns around to look at the house.

The front window is empty, there's no light coming from it.

LEO turns back around, a car is parked waiting for him.

He opens the back door and gets in.

27 INT. CAR - NIGHT 27

LEO sits in the backseat, closes the door behind him and buckles in his seatbelt.

The driver turns around to LEO.

LEO:  
Police station.

The driver turns back.

The car pulls away from the house and down the street.

LEO leans his head against the window and watches everything pass by.

He smiles, tears drop from his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

28 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (FLASHBACK) 28

SARAH lays asleep in bed.

She wakes up, looks at LEO and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**