

Impact

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Like a memory. Sunny. Blue sky.

We see FEMININE hands holding a tiny acorn.

Light comes through the leaves of an old oak tree.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Beautiful, isn't it?

A blanket, a picnic basket.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY TOWN - NIGHT

A CAR travels past a few houses and shops.

A STOP SIGN. The car rolls through a left hand turn.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
A hard shell to protect the
inside...

Up ahead, the entrance to a narrow metal bridge.

The car comes to a stop.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Hands hold the acorn up to the sun.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
And everything it will become.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

On the RADIO, a sad song

OVER

TWO FEMININE HANDS, on the wheel at 10 and 2.

We sees the narrow bridge straight on.

We hear a SIGH.

The car begins to roll forward, then picks up speed.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Despite the time of day, it's very dark. Dark curtains. Dark walls. A sliver of light through heavy curtains. We're in a cave, a womb.

On the bed, DESIREE, a pale beauty, beside TOD, handsome but strangely so. She's dressed for sleep, lying on her side, but on top of a black duvet. Tod's on his back, naked and partially covered. He's fast asleep.

Desiree holds Tod's hand. She smiles.

A wake up alarm -- BEEP!! BEEP!!

Desiree drops Tod's hand. He moves a little. He reaches over and shuts off the alarm on his phone. He throws back the covers and starts to get up.

Desiree props herself up with a pillow.

Tod stretches. He rubs his face a bit. Cracks his neck.

He stares at the floor for a few seconds. He's trying to remember. Something.

TOD

I could have sworn I went to bed alone.

DESIREE

You did.

Tod picks up his phone. Flips through Contacts.

DESIREE

I'm scared.

He stops on a picture of Desiree. Looks at it. There's something wrong.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAWN

Could be a dream, could be reality. Not sure.

A torch is lit on either side of the entrance to the bridge.

Tod is there, near the edge. He looks around, confused.

We see a woman, HECATE, her face mostly hidden in a black cape. She looks out over the railing. Then down.

The water below the bridge is fierce.

Desiree walks up from the far end of the bridge. She stands beside Hecate. She looks pleased.

Tod walks onto the bridge and towards the railing.

He steps to the edge and looks over. He pulls back suddenly. Too far down.

DESIREE
You came for me.

TOD
What?

HECATE
There really are no accidents.

INT. BEDROOM - DAWN

Desiree enters the bedroom. She crawls onto the bed with Tod.

Tod rolls over away from her. She snuggles up behind him and puts her arm around his shoulder.

EXT. BRIDGE - MORNING

Hecate approaches Tod.

TOD
(angrily)
Who are you?

She removes her hood. She's wise, but looks very young. Around her neck, an oak leaf collar.

HECATE
A very old woman.
(gestures towards Desiree)
She called for you.
(beat)
I am a bit surprised you came.

TOD
Who are you?

Hecate puts her hand on Tod's arm.

HECATE
She needed help.
(beat)
I'm just not sure what she sees in
you.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Desiree and Tod have a picnic under an old oak tree. Beer,
food. They --

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Give me a chance.

-- watch the world go by.

EXT. BRIDGE - MORNING

Between Hecate and Desiree we see the railing is destroyed
in one spot. On the road, skid marks.

HECATE
You can't always control the people
that travel across your river.

Tod looks confused. He approaches the broken railing.

HECATE
As much as you'd like to keep them
away from all your mess.

TOD
This isn't real.

HECATE
You try to stop them from feeling
your pain --
(smiles, but sad)
-- but you play games.
(beat)
It all comes out eventually.

TOD
This isn't happening.

HECATE
(laughs)
That's what they always say.

Tod turns to look at Desiree.

HECATE
You still have some time. Not
much.

DESIREE
I'm right here, Tod.

Desiree pulls an acorn from her pocket. She looks at it.

She walks over to Tod, tries to take his hand.

Tod knocks her hand away.

The acorn falls onto the road.

Desiree scrambles to get it. She picks it up. Cleans it
off.

She walks over, grabs his hand again. She pushes the acorn
into his palm, enough to leave an impression.

She closes his fingers around it.

DESIREE
Remember?

FLASHBACK - PICNIC SCENE

Desiree picks up an acorn. Turns it over in her
hand. Looks at every part of it.

DESIREE (V.O)
We talked about potential.

BACK TO SCENE

Tod begins to back up. He tries to pull his hand away.

Desiree won't let go. She pulls him back towards her.

DESIREE
It just needs a place to take root.

TOD
(worried)
Stop.

DESIREE
I need you.

FLASHBACK - PICNIC SCENE

Tod holds his hand out. She gently puts the acorn into it.

DESIREE (V.O)
They break open, but only under
perfect conditions.

BACK TO SCENE

TOD
(angry)
This is not happening.

DESIREE
They grab the ground, with
everything they are and push their
roots down.

Desiree drops his hand and runs toward the gaping hole in
the railing.

DESIREE
I'm not gone yet.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Tod looks at Desiree's picture.

He clicks off his phone.

He stands up, stretches again, and leaves the room.

DESIREE
They don't worry about what they
will become. They are everything,
at every moment.

FADE TO BLACK