

The Woman Who Knows

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

MEI RAVEN (black, late 20s, pushover) stands in the center of the room in a daze.

On the nightstand is an empty WINE BOTTLE and prescription medications from AMBIEN to KLONOPIN to TRAMADOL to GABAPENTIN.

On the television plays an old black and white film on mute with an ACTOR on one knee as he declares his love to the ACTRESS.

Mei hears noises.

THUD THUD THUD.

Her eyes are glassy. With the tip of her fingers, she touches the hazy colors that surround her.

In the center of the room is a smoky silhouette of the couple from the television, the man on one knee declaring his love to the woman.

Mei rubs her eyes at what she sees.

HUM HUM.

She tries to find the noise under the bed...

Behind the curtain...

Under the nightstand.

HUM HUM.

STATIC.

Mei covers her ears distraught.

She screams.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

MEI barely makes it to the toilet before she hurls.

She lies on her back in a great deal of pain as she massages her arms and legs then cries out.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - BATHROOM - DAY

Mei lies on the floor near the toilet with her eyes closed.

JOSEPH RAVEN (early 30s, w skin, boyish good looks) picks her up in his arms and carries her out the bathroom.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joseph lays Mei down and covers her up with the bed sheets.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAWN

Mei awakens in bed and struggles to sit up. Her hair is disheveled and her pajamas are wrinkled.

On the nightstand is a bottle of water. She opens it, takes each pill, and chugs down the water.

She deeply massages her legs then her arms as she winces from the soreness.

The door opens, and Joseph steps inside.

JOSEPH

How are you feeling?

MEI

Okay. Why?

JOSEPH

Because I found you on the fuckin' bathroom floor again.

Mei chuckles.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

It's not funny, Mei. It's been a week.

MEI

How was filming? You want to go over lines?

JOSEPH

Don't do that.

MEI

Why are you even back?

JOSEPH

We're on break. One of the stuntmen broke his arm.

MEI

Yikes. Well, I have all the meds he needs so send him my way.

Mei chuckles as Joseph scowls.

JOSEPH

I'm calling your doctor. You don't need to be on all this shit.

Joseph picks up his cell phone on the nightstand.

Mei, yanking the phone from his hand, says:

MEI

Will you stop?

The phone vibrates. The screen reads, "MOM".

Mei furrows her brows at the name on the phone.

Joseph jerks her arm and yanks the phone from her hand.

Joseph lets it go to voicemail.

MEI (CONT'D)

Not going to answer the phone for mommy?

Joseph glares at her and tosses the phone onto the nightstand.

JOSEPH

You keep doing the same thing expecting different results.

MEI

What are you trying to call me, Joseph?

JOSEPH

Crazy! I'm trying to call you fuckin' crazy.

MEI

Okay, tell me. What would you do if your whole body felt like it was on fire? Your toes, your legs, your scalp?

JOSEPH
You're not even trying to get
better.

MEI
Fuck you.

Mei turns away from him as she massages her arms and grimaces
in pain.

JOSEPH
Don't turn away from me.

Joseph grabs Mei's arm. She yanks it away and lies down.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
I have to get back to set. I'm
going to tell the hotel to stop
bringing you wine. Can't be mixing
this shit together, Mei.

Joseph leaves the room.

Mei pulls a bottle of white wine out from under the bed.

Then she notices his phone.

MEI
Aww-Joseph!

Mei staggers out of the room.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Mei rushes around the corner when she hears the voice of
Joseph.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
What are you doing here?

She take a peek around the corner.

Joseph approaches VIOLET SPARKS (pale skin, late 30s, pretty)
who is dressed in red with heels.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
You can't keep doing this.

VIOLET
Then answer my calls.

JOSEPH
Get the fuck out of here.

VIOLET
Why are you doing this?

JOSEPH
What is wrong with you? First my
job. Now here? You need to stop.

Violet, as she throws herself onto Joseph, says:

VIOLET
Please, Joseph-

Joseph, repelling Violet back, says:

JOSEPH
Stop!

VIOLET
Please! What did I do?

JOSEPH
Keep your voice down!

VIOLET
I'll tell her. I'll tell her
everything then you'll have nothing
holding you back.

Joseph grabs the woman by the neck and repels her back
against the wall.

JOSEPH
If you go anywhere near my wife...

Violet, digging her nails into Joseph's hands, shouts:

VIOLET
Joseph!

Joseph releases her.

JOSEPH
Stay away from me.

VIOLET
J-Just talk to me. Please.

Mei scrambles back to her room.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei rushes inside and grabs her chest as she struggles to
breathe.

She goes for prescription bottle on the nightstand and takes three pills. She rinses it down with wine.

Mei massages her arms and neck as she hears her phone vibrate. She takes a deep breath and composes herself.

In the chair near the window, she starts a zoom appointment with DR. KUMAR (Indian, mid 50s, easygoing).

Dr. Kumar faces the camera as he types away on his computer.

MEI

Hi, Dr. Kumar.

KUMAR

Hi. What's new since our first session?

MEI

Well, we're in Los Angeles. The husband landed a small role for a new movie.

KUMAR

You're traveling. That's good. Do any sightseeing?

MEI

A little. I'm mostly cooped up in the room though. Everything hurts.

KUMAR

I'm sorry to hear that. How's the drinking?

Mei glances at the glass of wine on the table then bites on her fingernails.

MEI

I haven't been drinking much.

KUMAR

Good. Tell me about the pain. I read your doctor prescribed you tramadol recently. Has that helped?

MEI

Not wearing clothes helps. Not walking helps. Not getting up from bed helps.

KUMAR

I read in your chart that you were diagnosed with fibromyalgia a year ago.

MEI

It was after my car accident.

Kumar types away on his computer and reads the screen.

KUMA

Do you think the car accident had something to do with it?

MEI

I think that whole night had something to do with it. It's only our second session so get ready.

Kumar nods, okay.

MEI (CONT'D)

Joseph and I were on our way home from having dinner with his parents. We had just got back from our honeymoon, and we were already fighting-This time about his mother and her snide remarks. Remind you, she's his adoptive mother, but the way he defends her, you'd think that she had almost died giving birth to him. No one had told me to dress up for the dinner. How was I supposed to know? I remember exactly what she wore too. This short sleeve, silk, black dress. It reminded me of a funeral. She had her hair pinned up with a barrette that had a jewel embedded in it. Everyone dressed up that night, but she especially, and I didn't get the memo. To her, I'm a commoner, and that night I looked the part, and she made sure I knew that.

KUMAR

Does he come from an affluent family?

MEI

No. A white family.

Dr. Kumar nods, okay.

MEI (CONT'D)

The things I was saying...I had never seen Joseph turn red until that night. Suddenly there was a crack in the windshield. My heart stopped beating. I start thinking he was going to hit me too. Then I remember opening my eyes. I was upside down in the Jeep, and I could hear Joseph screaming at me to keep my eyes open, but I couldn't. A warm liquid was pouring down my face into my eyes. A month later, I was diagnosed.

Kumar types away on his computer.

KUMAR

How's the Cymbalta?

MEI

As good as can be.

KUMAR

That's the thing about fibromyalgia. It's a chronic disorder that never goes away. Meds will mask the symptoms, but sadly, they won't cure it.

MEI

What am I supposed to do then?

KUMAR

I think you should start trauma therapy.

Mei, jokingly, says:

MEI

Would I have to talk about my trauma?

KUMAR

Yes.

MEI

That doesn't sound like something I would want to do.

KUMAR

I think it's something that could help.

MEI
I-I don't think I can keep going
like this, Dr. Kumar.

KUMAR
What do you mean when you say that?

Mei shrugs.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Do you still have thoughts about
hurting yourself?

MEI
No. I don't know.

KUMAR
When you have those thoughts, I
want you to continue reaching out
to your therapist or even me or go
to the nearest emergency room.

Mei nods.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
There are ways to make life worth
living again. Right now you're not
living. You're existing. It's okay
to grieve the life you no longer
have, but then you must remember
that you still have one, and we've
got to get you back there.

MEI
Okay. I'll try anything.

KUMAR
I'm here to help you succeed, Mei.
To learn how to cope. To learn how
to adapt.

Mei nods, okay.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Is there anything else you want to
talk about?

Mei goes to open her mouth then closes it. She gazes ahead.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei sits near the window and tosses a fry into her mouth as she scrolls through Joseph's phone, though nothing stands out.

She takes a sip of a glass of wine.

The wallpaper itself is of a grinning Mei being embraced from behind by Joseph.

She scrolls through his FACEBOOK friends, though there is just too many. Onto his messages, though it's just direct messages from friends and herself.

Mei then scrolls through his message requests, and she finds one message from an account with no profile picture.

It reads, "PLEASE TALK TO ME."

She scrolls through his blocked users and finds the photo of the woman that he was arguing with in the hall.

Her name reads, "VIOLET SPARKS", and the profile picture is a photo from a photo shoot she must've done.

Mei clicks on the profile as she bites on her nails and scrolls through the photos.

One picture catches Mei's eye though.

It's a photo of Violet and Joseph at a gathering. Both have a drink in their hand and grin at the camera.

Mei tosses a hand into her disheveled hair.

She stands in front of the full length mirror and gazes at what reflects back.

That's when she takes her hair down and combs it out.

She puts on some blush and eyeliner then tosses on slacks and a sleeveless shirt as she grimaces in pain.

Joseph steps inside, and Mei turns to him. He grins.

Mei nervously rubs on her arms as she glances away.

MEI

Well?

Joseph takes her hand and kisses her forehead. They embrace in silence.

JOSEPH
Let me see you.

Joseph peers into her face.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
You are so beautiful. You know
that, yeah?

MEI
S-Stop it. Where-Where'd you go?

JOSPEH
To set.

MEI
You know you left your phone. I
tried to catch you...

JOSPEH
Yeah, sorry....I didn't mean to argue
with you this morning.

Joseph takes her hand and rubs the back of it.

MEI
Is there something you want to tell
me?

JOSEPH
Hm?

MEI
Is there something you want to tell
me?

JOSEPH
Like what?

Mei studies his eyes.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What's going on with you?

Mei sighs.

MEI
Nothing. Being cooped up in this
room is getting to me. I thought it
would be good to get away, but I'm
doing the same thing here that I do
in Indy.

JOSEPH
Give me 'til the end of the week,
yeah? We'll go to the beach if
you're up for it.

MEI
You keep saying that, but-

JOSEPH
You know I have no control over the
hours.

MEI
Hm..

Joseph embraces Mei again.

JOSEPH
I'm still glad you came though. I'm
here because of you.

MEI
I only helped you with the
audition, and you're finally
getting work, but what about the
bills? They're piling up and-

JOSEPH
Mei. Stop. I'm taking care of it.
Just let me take care of you.

Mei separates herself from Joseph and staggers toward the
window. She sits down at her favorite chair.

MEI
Are you going back to set tonight?

JOSEPH
Yeah.

MEI
When?

JOSEPH
Now.

MEI
When can I come to set?

JOSEPH
The director doesn't want us
distracted. Especially new talent.

MEI

Do I distract you, Mr. Raven?

JOSEPH

I can't keep my eyes off you.

MEI

Oh?

Joseph bends down in front of her.

Their fingers intertwine with each others.

Joseph takes her hand and kisses her fingers.

They take in the comfortable silence.

Joseph looks up and pressed his lips against her lips, and they deeply kiss. He kisses her neck. This tickles her, and she chuckles.

Joseph grins, and they gaze at one another.

JOSEPH

I better get back.

Joseph kisses her forehead, and out the door he goes with his phone this time.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Mei sits in her chair by the window as she bites on her fingernails. She's back in her bathrobe.

She goes through the old photos in her phone.

One photo is of a beaming Mei and Joseph as students. They sit at a table in the library with textbooks in front of them.

Another photo is Mei and Joseph in their cap and gown as they hold up their diplomas.

She swipes to another photo. It's of STUDENTS dressed in scrubs at the nurse's station in the hospital. In the center is Mei.

Mei sighs. She rubs on her arms and neck then takes a few pills as she rinses it down with wine.

She picks up a bag of CHIPS on the table and eats what's remaining in the bag. Mei dips her hand inside and finds it's now empty.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei staggers to a vending machine. She sees it doesn't have her favorite chips.

MEI

Of course. Of course.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei opens the stairway door and wobbles toward the vending machine.

Her eyes are glassy. She sees hazy colors.

THUD THUD.

She hears a noise, though she cannot find it.

That's when she hears a woman shouting. Mei goes toward the voices and peeks her head around the corner.

Violet stands there with SCOTT SPARKS (early 40s, burly). He wears a trucker hat and faded, torn jeans.

VIOLET

Get out of here, Scott!

SCOTT

(southern accent)

You want to destroy our marriage,
and for what? Some fling?

VIOLET

I told you I'm here for a photo
shoot.

Scott scoffs.

SCOTT

I know he's here, Violet.

VIOLET

I don't know who you're talking
about.

SCOTT

You think I'm stupid or somethin'?

VIOLET

I'm here for work!

SCOTT
You ain't here for no work!

VIOLET
And besides, we're separated,
remember?

SCOTT
Let me in, Violet!

VIOLET
No one is in here, but I'm not
going to let you in with you
yelling at me like this!

A NEIGHBOR (60s) peeks their head out from their hotel room to see what the commotion is about.

Scott clicks his tongue and backs away from Violet. He nods, okay, and strides off.

Mei watches him go.

Violet closes the door, which hits the frame. She has to slam the door shut for it to close.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph is asleep in bed without a shirt.

Mei takes her sleep medicine and drowns it with a glass of wine. She climbs into bed and closes her eyes.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Mei's flicker open as she lies in bed.

Next to Mei is Joseph asleep.

He wears a shirt now.

Mei looks over him with her glassy eyes. He's been somewhere.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei staggers out of the stairwell and towards Violet's door. She uses the wall to hold herself up.

THUD THUD.

STATIC.

Mei knocks on Violet's door.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei awakens. Next to her is Joseph asleep.

She sits up and yawns then looks down at her bathrobe.

There's a smear of blood on the sleeve.

Mei's heart races. She can hear it within her chest.

Mei leaps out of bed as she rubs on her arms and shoulders from the soreness. She tosses the robe into the trash can and rushes into the bathroom.

INT. HOTEL - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mei closes the door and turns on the faucet. She paces back and forth then rinses her face and gazes at her reflection.

She ponders as if trying to remember something.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei peeks her head out.

She sees that Joseph hasn't stirred.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY

Mei knocks on Violet's door with a quivering hand.

No answer.

KNOCK KNOCK.

She tries to open the door to no avail, then tries to force herself inside.

Mei rushes toward the staircase.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Mia staggers into a rather grand lobby with light that gives off the golden atmosphere.

In the front lobby are SEVERAL WOMEN with signs that read, "WE HEART JOSEPH RAVEN".

One fan named CHRISTY JONES (early 20s, obsessed) struggles to get farther inside, though a SECURITY GUARD repels her back.

She wears cheap, dangling earrings. It's missing a part, unbeknownst to us.

SECURITY GUARD

You ain't gettin' in a second time.

CHRISTY JONES

We just want to see him! Omigod is that his wife? That's his wife!

Mei glances at the woman then jogs up to the front desk, where TIM (early 20s, polite) helps a PATRON.

MEI

Call the police!

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY

Patrons are scattered about due to the commotion.

Mei waits with baited breath as she bites on her fingernails.

PARAMEDICS carry out a sheeted BODY on a stretcher from Violet's room.

A FEW POLICE OFFICERS keep the gasping patrons at bay.

An OFFICER approaches Mei.

MEI

Is-Is that her? How-?

INT. HOTEL - STAIRCASE - DAY

Mei is being questioned by the officer as she rubs on her sore arms and shoulders. She winces at the pain.

The officer writes on a notepad.

MEI

I told you. She wasn't answering so I thought something was wrong. I came to check on her.

OFFICER

But you didn't know she was dead?

MEI

She wouldn't answer the door so I thought something was wrong.

OFFICER

You didn't think she was sleep?

MEI

No one sleeps that soundly. What happened to her?

OFFICER

How do you know the victim?

MEI

We-Um-We both like the pool. What happened to her?

OFFICER

We can't say yet. Did she mention anything that was off putting?

MEI

Like-Like what?

OFFICER

Did she seem frightened? Did she mention that someone was threatening her?

MEI

I...I saw her arguing with her husband, but...

OFFICER

'But'?

Mei fiddles with her thumbs.❖

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei sits near the window deep in thought as she bites on her fingernails.

Joseph comes from the bathroom and grabs his phone and jacket.

JOSEPH

I'll be back late. Don't wait up.

Joseph presses his lips against Mei's forehead.

KNOCK KNOCK.

Mei and Joseph exchange looks.

Joseph opens the door.

TWO DETECTIVES stand in the doorway.

SLOAN

Mr. Raven?

JOSEPH

Y-Yeah?

SLOAN (black, 50s, leader) flashes her badge as POWELL (30s, lanky, follower) flashes his.

SLOAN

I'm Detective Sloan and this is Detective Powell. May we come in and ask you some questions?

JOSEPH

What is this about?

SLOAN

How do you know Violet Sparks?

The blood vanishes from Joseph's face.

Mei nearly tumbles over. She holds herself up using the dresser.

SLOAN (CONT'D)

May we come in now?

Joseph steps to the side, and the detectives step inside. He closes the door behind them.

SLOAN (CONT'D)

Should I ask again?

JOSEPH

Why are you asking me about her?

SLOAN

Because she was found dead in her hotel room this morning.

Joseph's eyes widen in disbelief.

SLOAN (CONT'D)
I assume this is news to you.

Joseph nods, yes.

SLOAN (CONT'D)
Didn't your wife tell you? She's
the one who called it in.

Joseph glances at Mei.

Mei doesn't dare glance back at him.

JOSEPH
So what does this have to do with
me?

SLOAN
We have a witness that says they
saw you arguing and threatening the
victim.

Joseph doesn't dare face Mei.

JOSEPH
There are cameras in the hallways,
yeah? Check them. I had nothing to
do with it.

Sloan and Powell exchange glances.

POWELL
The camera was down. Still down.

SLOAN
Would you like us to ask the
questions here or at the station?

JOSEPH
The station.

MEI
Joseph, just answer them here.

SLOAN
I figured you'd say that. Come on.
Oh. And Mrs, Raven, sit tight.

Sloan puts an arm on Joseph's shoulder, and the two
detectives lead him out.

Mei follows.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Mei peeks her head out.

The two detectives exchange words.

DING.

Powell and Joseph exit into the elevator as Sloan takes the stairs.

Mei stands there dumbfounded.

EXT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Powell leads Joseph outside as his biggest fan awaits his arrival.

CHRISTY JONES
Joseph-! It's Joseph!

She's ready to greet Joseph when she frowns.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)
Hey!

POWELL
Back away.

CHRISTY JONES
Where are you taking him?

POWELL
I said back away before I arrest you.

The woman backs away with her sign.

EXT. HOTEL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mei observes from the window a black Dodge drive off. She tenses.

Down below she sees Christy, who has just watched the Dodge drive off.

Christy glances up at the window of Mei as if she can see her too.

Mei retreats from the window and tosses on sweats and a sweater as she winces from the pain.

She rushes out the door.

In the hall, Sloan approaches Scott as an officer steps away.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY

Scott is in disbelief. His hair is disheveled, his eyes are wet, and his face is blanched.

Several police officers and forensics come and go.

Mei stands around the corner and listens in.

SLOAN

Mr. Sparks? I'm Detective Sloan.
May I ask you some questions?

SCOTT

W-What?

SLOAN

First I want to say I'm sorry for
your loss. I can't imagine what
you're feeling right now.

Scott hears, though doesn't listen.

Sloan takes out a notepad from her jacket pocket.

SLOAN (CONT'D)

Can you tell me what you and your
wife were arguing about last night?

Scott, in a daze, returns to reality.

SCOTT

We didn't do no arguing.

SLOAN

Really? We have security footage of
what looks like an argument. We
also have lobby footage of you
returning last night.

Scott tenses.

SLOAN (CONT'D)

We have witnesses saying they
overheard the argument. You were
shouting about an affair. Was she
having an affair?

Scott takes off his hat and tosses a hand into his thinning hair.

SCOTT

Why are you questionin' me? You should be questionin' that bastard.

SLOAN

When did you find out?

SCOTT

Last month.

SLOAN

That must've been pretty hard. To find out your wife was cheating.

SCOTT

Oh, don't fuckin' do that! Don't patronize me!

SLOAN

Where were you between 1am and 2am?

SCOTT

S-Sleepin'.

SLOAN

Can anyone vouch for you?

SCOTT

My wife is dead. How the hell would I have someone who can vouch for me? And why aren't you askin' 'im questions?

SLOAN

Are you staying at this hotel?

SCOTT

No. Down the street at the Monsolem Inn.

SLOAN

Hm. Well, get comfy, Mr. Sparks.

Mei heads back to the stairwell and bumps into JONATHAN SPARKS (late teens, lanky, white).

MEI

I'm sorry. Excuse me.

Mei tries to sidestep him.

JONATHAN
(southern accent)
How's my dad?

Mei comes to a halt.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
You were listenin' in on him,
weren't you?

MEI
That-That's your dad? So that was
your mom?

JONATHAN
Stepmom.

MEI
I am so sorry.

Jonathan shrugs.

MEI (CONT'D)
Why are you standing in the
staircase? Shouldn't you be with
him?

JONATHAN
Can't exactly show my face right
now.

MEI
Why not? Your dad needs you.

JONATHAN
Nah. I wouldn't know what to say.
'Sorry for your gold diggin' wife'?

MEI
Um...You'll figure it out. Just be
there for him.

Jonathan blinks blankly.

MEI (CONT'D)
I-I better go, and again, I'm sorry
for your loss.

JONATHAN
Yeah-I'm Jonathan Sparks.

MEI
Um...Mei Raven.

JONATHAN
Nice to meet ya, Mei Raven.

MEI
You too...

JONATHAN
Maybe I can take ya out sometime.

Mei raises a brow.

MEI
What are you? Seventeen?

JONATHAN
Nineteen.

MEI
Okay, and I'm married.

JONATHAN
Hm...Does he treat you right?

Mei fiddles with her thumbs. How awkward.

MEI
Uh-Have a good day, Jonathan.

JONATHAN
See you around, Mei Raven.

Mei ambles into the stairwell.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei is on a Zoom call with Kumar.

KUMAR (FROM PHONE)
You think you know something?

MEI
If I saw her that night, shouldn't
I?

KUMAR
Have you thought about talking to
the police?

MEI
I can't talk to them.

KUMAR

Do you want to absolve your
husband?

MEI

Yes, but what if...?

Kumar raises a brow.

Mei glances at the trash can where she threw away her robe
with the blood.

Mei shakes her head. Never mind.

MEI (CONT'D)

I need to know what happened that
night.

KUMAR

Okay. You went to her room. You
knocked on her door. Did she open
it?

MEI

I don't know. That's where
everything goes black. I-um...

Mei ponders.

BEGIN FLASHBACK...

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei, in her robe and using the wall to hold herself up,
knocks on the door.

The door cracks open a bit.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei returns to the Zoom call with Kumar.

MEI

The door opened. She opened it.

KUMAR

You remember seeing her?

MEI

I...I did see her. I...

Mei struggles to remember.

KUMAR
Don't beat yourself up. What all
did you take that night?

MEI
I...I took the sleep medication.

KUMAR
While drinking?

Mei nods, yes in disappointment.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
You didn't go straight to sleep
after taking it?

MEI
I woke up, and..

Kumar nods as he types away on his computer.

KUMAR
We'll keep trying to remember what
happened that night.

Mei nods, okay.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - BAR - DAY

Scott gulps down a beer as he sits at the bar. He can barely
keep his head up.

It's empty except for the BARTENDER wiping down the bar. The
bartender heads into a back room.

Mei treads in and heads toward the bar. She sees Scott and
comes to a halt. Mei approaches him.

MEI
Um..

Scott finds Mei beside him.

MEI (CONT'D)
I'm-My name is Mei Raven, and-

SCOTT
'Raven'?

Scott scowls.

MEI

I-I wanted to offer my condolences.
I...I'm sorry for your loss.

Scott sips on his beer and signals for Mei to sit at the stool beside him.

Mei takes him up on his offer and sits beside him.

MEI (CONT'D)

Does the police know what happened?

SCOTT

All they would tell me was that she was stabbed.

MEI

I'm so sorry.

Scott flops his head into his hands.

MEI (CONT'D)

Does the police have any suspects?

SCOTT

I'm the husband. Course they do.

MEI

It's not possible, right? You couldn't have done it.

SCOTT

I would never hurt my wife!

Mei is taken aback.

MEI

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have-

Scott backs down.

SCOTT

It's my fault. I took her from the city. All she wanted was to model. She wasn't meant for the country life. I pushed her away.

Scott, self deprecatingly, chuckles.

MEI

How you're feeling is normal. Self-blame is a common, psychological reaction to a stressful situation.

SCOTT

You a therapist or somethin'?

MEI

Guess I could've been.

Silence overwhelms them.

MEI (CONT'D)

You know more than me. Was it really just a fling?

SCOTT

She was a damn fool to think it was anything else.

Scott clenches his fists.

Mei sees this.

MEI

You-You sound angry.

SCOTT

Why wouldn't I be? My wife was leavin' me.

MEI

She's dead though.

Scott rises to his feet and thrusts himself in front of Mei trapping her in between his arms.

SCOTT

What are you sayin'?

MEI

I-I-Um-

SCOTT

Say it!

Scott clenches his jaw and then his fists.

Mei quivers under his gaze.

MEI

I'm sorry!

Mei hops off the stool and flees.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei takes her phone out with a hand that quivers as she heads back to her room and an image of an airline logo pops up.

On the screen, it reads, "SEARCH FOR FLIGHTS".

Mei clicks on the link and puts the information into the site.

With a finger hovering over the purchase button, she hesitates.

CLICK.

DONE.

On the screen, it reads, "FLIGHT SCHEDULED".

Mei checks the time then takes a deep breath.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Mei strides into the room to find a worried Joseph with red eyes as if he's been crying.

JOSEPH
Where were you?

MEI
Why?

JOSPEH
When I came back, you were gone.

Mei glances around the room.

Joseph has destroyed it. Clothes are tossed everywhere. A smashed bottle was thrown against the wall.

Joseph rushes in to hug her, though she doesn't hug back.

MEI
What happened with the police?

JOSEPH
They asked me some questions.

MEI
About Violet Sparks. Who is she?

Joseph tosses his hands into his hair.

JOSEPH

She's some groupie. She-She would sometimes follow me to sets. Message me. Things like that.

MEI

What? Did you ever go to the police?

JOSEPH

No. I thought I could take care of it myself.

MEI

Did you sleep with her?

JOSEPH

What?

MEI

I'll ask again and hopefully you'll take some time to think about your response. Did you sleep with her?

JOSEPH

No...! Why would you ask me that?

MEI

I'm sorry. I-Joseph, why didn't you tell me?

JOSEPH

I didn't want you to worry.

MEI

I am now beyond worried!

Joseph wipes the sweat from his brow.

JOSEPH

They want me to stay here until they rule me out. You're not going to leave me, are you?

MEI

N-No. Of course not.

They embrace as Joseph gazes forward with a worried expression. He squeezes her hard.

Mei buries her head into his chest.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Mei sits at a circular table in the lobby as she sips on a glass of wine. She deeply massages her shoulders and neck.

She takes out a pill from her pocket and takes it.

Christy with her sign is being escorted out the hotel lobby by the security guard.

CHRISTY JONES

Wait! Is Joseph Raven here right now?

SECURITY GUARD

Don't you have school or something?!

Mei sees this.

Then her stomach growls.

Mei rises and heads to the front desk, where Tim is.

BEATRICE (white, late 60s, gaudy) in cheap black heels and RACHEL SPARKS (mid teens, fragile) dressed in a long-sleeve shirt both step inside the lobby.

Beatrice carries a knock-off designer tote bag and wears thick eyeliner and mascara with bright red lipstick.

Mei ponders. She remembers seeing them at one point.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei deeply massages her limbs and neck as she lies in bed in tears. She's in a lot of pain today as she tosses and turns.

She sits up and takes multiple pills as she drowns them with a glass of wine.

Mei picks up the bottle of wine to pour another glass, though it's empty.

MEI

Ugh!

INT. HOTEL - BAR - DAY

Mei sits at the bar as she sips on a glass of wine. Her head is swirling.

In a booth is Beatrice and Rachel. Multiple empty glasses her on the table. Beatrice can barely keep her head up.

Rachel looks annoyed.

BEATRICE
(southern accent)
Get the bartender, dear.

RACHEL
Grandma, I think you've had enough.
Can we go see mom now?

BEATRICE
Violet isn't goin' nowhere.

Mei's ears perk up.

RACHEL
Grandma...

BEATRICE
Fine. Fine.

Beatrice stumbles to her feet with the help of Rachel.

Beatrice staggers to the front desk with Rachel. They approach Tim.

Mei watches from the bar.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)
(southern accent)
What room number is Violet Sparks
in?

TIM
I'm sorry. I'm not allowed to give
out that kind of information.

BEATRICE
Why not? I'm her mother-in-law.

RACHEL
Grandma...

BEATRICE
Call your mother and tell her we're
here.

RACHEL
She's not answering. Maybe she's
sleep.

BEATRICE
Who the hell is still asleep?

RACHEL
Maybe it was a late shoot.

Beatrice chuckles.

Tim glances at Rachel then Beatrice.

TIM
Shall I call her?

BEATRICE
Do that. Tell her Ms. Beatrice is
here with her daughter.

Tim picks up the phone and dials for Violet.

Beatrice takes a flask out of her bag and takes a swig.

TIM
(in phone)
Hi, Mrs. Sparks? A Ms. Beatrice is
here to see you-Um-with your
daughter...Okay.

Tim hangs the phone up as Beatrice returns her flask into her
bag.

TIM (CONT'D)
She's in room 512. Shall I have
someone-

Beatrice staggers toward the elevators with Rachel as her
heels CLICK-CLACK.

Mei gets off the tool and stumbles toward the staircase.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY

Mei peeks her head around the corner to see Beatrice as she
knocks on Violet's door.

The door opens.

Violet raises a brow.

VIOLET
Rachel. Hi.

Violet embraces Rachel, though Rachel doesn't accept the hug.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Beatrice...

BEATRICE
Can you not pick up the phone for
your daughter?

VIOLET
I was sleep.

BEATRICE
You were sleep. Back in my day we
worked twelve hours, came home,
took care of the family, cooked,
clean, washed, and did it all over
again the next day.

VIOLET
Is that why you're divorced?

Beatrice turns red in the face.

Rachel sighs then heads inside the room.

Beatrice scowls then nudges Violet out the way as she strides
inside.

Violet shuts the door.

Mei tip toes toward the door and presses her ear against it.

Behind the door...

BEATRICE (O.S.)
What are you doin' in LA?

VIOLET (O.S.)
I'm here for work.

BEATRICE (O.S.)
You're too old to still be
modelin', darlin'. Besides, Scott
says you're here for somethin'
else. Mind explainin'?

VIOLET (O.S.)
I don't need to explain anything to
you. Matter of fact, what are you
doing in LA?

A HOUSEKEEPER steps into the hall with towels and catches Mei, who nervously chuckles then backs away from the door and rushes to the stairs.

A second passes.

Mei peeks her head out and sees that the housekeeper is gone.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY - LATER

Mei sits against the wall, leaned back when she hears the door open.

Rachel storms to the end of the hall and sits down.

That's when Mei hears...

BEATRICE (O.S.)

You've never been good enough for my son!

VIOLET (O.S.)

How dare you!

BEATRICE (O.S.)

You're just a home-wrecker!

Mei peeks around the corner to see Rachel and ambles up to her.

MEI

Hey, is everything okay? I can hear them all the way from my room.

RACHEL

They're always like this.

MEI

I'm always fighting with my mother-in-law too so I get it.

RACHEL

How did you know that's her mother-in-law?

MEI

Um-Just overhearing the conversation.

RACHEL

They're that loud, huh? It's my fault. We should've never came to LA.

Mei raises an eyebrow. She glances at Rachel's wrists. There are old cuts.

Rachel lowers her sleeves.

MEI
You're visiting?

RACHEL
Long story.

MEI
I have time.

Rachel sizes Mei up and relaxes.

RACHEL
My mom. She's leaving my dad. I thought I could totally stop this divorce, but I think I made things worse.

MEI
It's normal to think something is your fault when something goes wrong. Don't let anyone make you feel like that though.

Rachel scowls.

RACHEL
Is it normal to hate your mother?

MEI
I know a little something about that.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Oh just die already!

BEATRICE (O.S.)
I will not take my last breath until you do!

The door swings open.

Beatrice storms off toward the elevators while Mei hurries to the staircase.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Rachel, lets go!

Rachel follows her grandmother.

Violet rushes into the hall. Her face is flushed.

VIOLET
Rachel! Where are you going?

BING.

The elevator doors open.

BEATRICE
Come now.

Beatrice tugs on Rachel's sleeve, and they board the elevator.

VIOLET
Rachel!

Rachel glares at Violet.

The elevator doors close.

Silence.

Mei peeks her head out into the hall.

Violet blanches at the sight of Mei, whose eyes widen at the sight of Violet.

Mei rushes into the stairwell.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Mei is in line at the front desk.

In the corner of her eye, she finds Beatrice and Rachel behind her.

RACHEL
Why do we have to get her things?
Why can't dad?

BEATRICE
He's at the police station, dear.

RACHEL
This can't be real.

Beatrice wraps her arms around Rachel.

Mei is next in line.

TIM

Mrs. Raven!

Beatrice's ear perk up.

BEATRICE

'Raven'? Don't tell me you're the wife of that son of a bitch Violet was sleepin' with.

MEI

Um...

Rachel furrows her brows.

Beatrice looks Mei up and down.

The OTHER PATRONS exchange looks.

Mei nervously chuckles.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Beatrice scans the space as she steps inside the messy room. She takes a swig from her flask.

Mei closes the door behind her.

Rachel sits at the window in Mei's favorite spot.

BEATRICE

You know, I'm not surprised about any of this.

Beatrice shrugs.

MEI

Do you-Do you think your son did it?

BEATRICE

I think it was your husband.

MEI

He-He didn't do it.

BEATRICE

Now how do you know?

MEI

I just do.

BEATRICE

Hmph. Maybe it was you!

Mei stiffens.

Beatrice chuckles.

MEI

I could say the same thing about you. And don't disrespect us. We had nothing to do with it, and besides, Joseph would never put his career in jeopardy.

BEATRICE

He did his marriage.

Mei scowls as Beatrice takes a sip from her flask.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

All I know is my grandchildren had nothing to do with it.

MEI

Did the police question them?

BEATRICE

We came back here last night so Violet could tell her why her marriage was coming to an end.

Mei furrows her brows.

Beatrice raise a brow.

MEI

How-How did that go?

BEATRICE

How do you think?

Rachel glances down in somber.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Rachel finally stood up to her mother and slapped the shit out of her.

The room is covered in silence then Beatrice bursts into a boisterous laugh.

Rachel wipes away the tears from her cheek.

MEI

Um-Did you see her too?

BEATRICE

Yeah, I did. Rachel came back so upset. Of course I did. Someone had to put her in her place. Piece of shit.

Mei scowls and glances at Rachel, who wipes away the tears.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Honey, you must've not had eyes.

MEI

Excuse me?

BEATRICE

To not have seen what was going on.

Mei nods, yes. She's right.

Beatrice takes a sip from her flask.

MEI

Who would want to hurt her though?

BEATRICE

Who wouldn't want to? She destroyed my son even in death. Ugh. I better go collect her things. Would your husband like any of it?

Beatrice chuckles as she staggers out the room with Rachel behind her as she holds her up.

As they depart, Rachel glances back at Mei.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Mei sits at the window as she sips on a glass of wine. She's deep in thought.

When she hears the keycard being used outside the door, she gulps the wine down and hides the glass and bottle under the bed.

CLICK.

Joseph steps inside the room.

JOSEPH

Hi.

MEI
How was filming?

JOSEPH
Good. How was your day?

MEI
I don't know.

JOSEPH
What do you mean?

MEI
Nothing.

Mei rises to her feet and climbs under the sheets in bed.

JOSEPH
Don't 'nothing' me. What's wrong?

MEI
I-I think I drank too much.

Joseph scowls and places the trash can near the bed like any normal night.

JOSEPH
I'm going to take a shower. Close your eyes, yeah?

MEI
Yeah.

Mei lies down on the pillow and closes her eyes.

MEI (CONT'D)
How was filming?

JOSEPH
You already asked that.

Joseph sits on the edge of the bed and rubs Mei's hip.

MEI
Is that why you never let me go to set with you? Because she was always going to be there? Or is it because I embarrass you?

JOSEPH
Don't start with me.

MEI

Am I not good enough to be shown in public?

JOSEPH

What are you talking about?

MEI

I don't know.

Mei doesn't stir. She falls asleep.

Joseph gazes at her sleeping profile.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph nudges Mei to wake her up.

MEI

Huh?

Mei's eyes flicker open and she sits up as she fully awakens.

She looks at the time. It's only been one minute.

JOSEPH

What the fuck is up with you?

Mei bites her lower lip.

MEI

I-I saw you and Violet talking in the hallway. The day you left your phone.

Joseph tenses.

MEI (CONT'D)

What did she mean?

JOSEPH

I don't know what you're talking about.

MEI

What did she want to tell me?

JOSEPH

She wanted to start trouble. That's all.

MEI

Why would the police question you
if that's all it was? Why wouldn't
you answer their questions here?

Joseph rises to his feet.

MEI (CONT'D)

Want to know where we can start?
Let's start with your relationship
with her! How about that Joseph?

JOSEPH

I don't know what you're talking
about.

MEI

Did you sleep with her?

JOSEPH

I didn't cheat.

Mei scrambles out of bed.

MEI

Why would the police question you
then?

JOSEPH

I don't know! She was following me
to sets, Mei! Maybe I did threaten
her, okay?

MEI

No-No. There's more to it.

JOSEPH

You're insecure. This is what this
is about. Don't put that on me.

Mei is appalled at his words.

Joseph tries to take her hand.

Mei yanks her hand away.

MEI

I know something happened between
you two! Were you not happy with
me? Is that it?

JOSEPH

I love you.

MEI

I wasn't good enough?

JOSEPH

You're more than I deserve.

MEI

I already hate myself. I hate everything about me, and you've made it so much worse.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry. What do you want me to do? I'll do it. Just tell me.

MEI

Tell me the truth.

JOSEPH

I'm telling you-

MEI

Tell me the truth!

JOSEPH

I'm telling you the truth!

MEI

I'm leaving. I'm not taking anymore of this.

Mei heads to the closet.

Joseph, yanking her arm, says:

JOSEPH

Do not walk away from me.

Mei yanks her arm back in a struggle.

MEI

Then tell me!

Joseph tosses a hand into his hair. He wipes the sweat from his upper lip.

JOSEPH

After the car accident and how sick you were, you isolated yourself. You left me out. You wouldn't talk to me. You wouldn't let me touch you.

MEI

So it's my fault?

JOSEPH

You wouldn't let me in.

MEI

So it is my fault?

Joseph goes to take her hand again, though she yanks it away. She crosses her arms and waits with bated breath for his story to continue.

JOSEPH

I-I was in Miami for that shoot a few months back, and she was there too. We just-It happened.

Mei's shoulders slump. It's like a fist to the gut.

MEI

You were there for two weeks. The whole time?

JOSEPH

It was one time. Just the one time. I swear.

Mei deflates and turns away from him.

Joseph grabs her hand.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Do not turn your back on me.

Mei yanks her hand back.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Okay? I'm sorry. What do you want me to do? I'll do it. Just tell me how to fix this.

MEI

She's dead, Joseph! Do you know how much trouble we could be in?

Joseph blanches.

JOSEPH

I didn't kill her. You believe me, right?

Mei sits on the edge of the bed.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
You believe me. Right?

Mei gazes off into the distance.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Tell me what to do to fix this.
Please.

MEI
A few months ago I was in physical
therapy.

JOSEPH
It was one time.

MEI
I know I'm not perfect. Maybe I do
drink too much. Maybe I over depend
on medication. Maybe I'll never get
better, and I'm broken.

JOSEPH
No. This is on me, Mei.

Joseph gets down on both knees in front of Mei.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What do you want me to do? Just
tell me, and I'll do it. Tell me!

Joseph takes Mei's hand and nearly crushes it. He quivers
under her gaze.

Mei takes her hand back.

Joseph winces. He stands up and goes to the bathroom and
closes the door behind him.

Mei sits in usual seat by the window as she pours herself a
glass of wine. She takes a sip.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Only the moonlight permeates the room.

Mei sleeps in bed. Her eyes flicker open.

Joseph is on his cell phone near the window. He speaks low.
Mei can't make out his words.

Joseph turns to Mei, who closes her eyes right away.

JOSEPH
(in phone)
Make this go away.

Joseph tosses his phone onto the bed then tosses his hands into his hair. He snatches his key card and leaves the room.

Mei opens her eyes and sits up. She grabs his phone and sees that the number he was speaking with reads, "LAWYER".

She scrolls through his emails that are connected with the word "ATTORNEY". One email to his attorney reads, "I WANT HER GONE."

Mei glances at the door.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Mei lies in bed under the sheets beside Joseph.

Her eyes flicker open, and she massages her sore body as she winces in pain.

She picks up her phone from the nightstand and nearly dials, "MOTHER". Mei chuckles self deprecatingly.

Mei changes her mind.

She sits at the edge of the bed and stretches her back as she massages her shoulder.

In her phone, she types in "WOMAN FOUND IN HOTEL DEAD IN LA" and gets a couple results. They all mention Violet by name.

Mei skims one of the pages. She reads, "THE WOMAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS VIOLET SPARKS...STABBED".

Mei glances at the trash can. She takes out the robe and examines the blood on it. Back into the trash can it goes.

She lies back down and gazes at the ceiling and sees hazy colors. Mei reaches out to touch them.

Mei glances at the sleeve of her robe. Her eyes land on the ceiling.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

The room looks like a tornado hit. Clothes are scattered about. Near the trash is empty bags of Mei's favorite chips and bottles of wines.

Prescription bottles are scattered on the nightstand.

Mei lies in bed dressed in her robe. In her hand is an empty glass. She looks under the bed and retrieves an empty bottle of wine.

Her shoulders slump. She's defeated.

Mei sluggishly grabs her cell phone from the nightstand and dials a number. No answer.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Mei approaches the front desk where Tim stands behind the desk. She glances outside and sees Christy Jones.

Christy waves to Mei then faces the security guard in her way. They argue.

EXT. HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Joseph's favorite fan stands outside the hotel with her poster.

She argues with a SECURITY GUARD.

CHRISTY JONES

I have to make sure he's okay! Do you even know what happened?

SECURITY GUARD

How do you keep getting inside?!

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Back to Mei at the front desk.

Tim finishes up with the last of the PATRONS.

TIM

Mrs. Raven!

MEI

Hi, Tim. I've been calling and-

TIM

I'm so sorry. I'm the only one here today.

MEI

No, that's okay! I understand. I just wanted some breakfast.

TIM

It's noon...

MEI

Oh, haha. I still want food.

Mei glances at Christy, who gazes at her in awe.

TIM

What would you like?

Tim places the cafe menu in front of Mei.

She glances over the food items and points to the image of the fries.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei is on her laptop going through Violet's social media pages and her family's.

She is also enjoying her fries.

She lands on Beatrice's Facebook page and scrolls through it.

Beatrice has pictures with Rachel, Jonathan, and Scott, though none with Violet.

Mei scrolls through Beatrice's timeline and sees a post from Beatrice that dates back a year that reads, "SOME THINGS SHOULD BE PUT OUT OF THEIR MISERY."

Outside the hotel door...

KNOCK KNOCK.

MEI

Who is it?

SLOAN (O.S.)

It's Detective Sloan and Detective Powell. May we have a word?

Mei leaps from her seat and goes for her phone.

JOSEPH (FROM PHONE)

Mei? Hi. Is everything-

MEI
 (in phone)
 The police are here!

JOSEPH
 What?

MEI
 The police are here!

JOSEPH
 Stay calm, and answer their
 questions the best you can. I'm on
 my way back.

Mei eyes dart from one side of the room to the next.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
 Do you hear me?

MEI
 Yes!

Mei hangs up and then opens the door.

CLICK.

Outside the door are the detectives.

SLOAN
 Mrs. Raven.

MEI
 Yes?

SLOAN
 Is Mr. Raven here?

MEI
 He is not. Is he in some kind of
 trouble?

Sloan and Powell exchange looks.

SLOAN
 Where is he?

MEI
 He's on his way back.

SLOAN
 May we wait inside?

MEI
It's a little messy.

SLOAN
We've seen it all.

MEI
Um-Okay.

Mei steps aside.

The detectives stride inside and glances around.

Sloan sees the prescription bottles and the empty bottles of wine.

Powell takes out a notepad.

SLOAN
May we ask you some questions while we wait?

MEI
S-Sure.

SLOAN
How do you know Violet Sparks?

MEI
Apparently my husband had an affair with her.

Sloan and Powell exchange looks.

SLOAN
You knew?

Mei nods, yes.

SLOAN (CONT'D)
When did you find out?

Mei bites on her lower lip.

MEI
Y-Yesterday.

SLOAN
Hm...Are you aware that Mr. Raven was sending the victim threatening messages?

Mei shakes her head, no.

MEI

He wouldn't do that.

Sloan takes out her phone and faces it toward Mei.

The screen shows a screenshot of a message from Joseph to Violet, which reads, "I'VE NEVER WANTED ANYONE MORE DEAD."

MEI (CONT'D)

He-He was upset. He can get a little like that. I can see why though. Don't you?

SLOAN

How did you find out about the affair?

MEI

Joseph told me yesterday.

POWELL

You didn't know before that? She was staying at the same hotel. Maybe you saw them together.

Mei wipes the sweat from her brow.

MEI

I-I did see them, but I didn't think anything of it.

SLOAN

You saw them talking and didn't think anything of it?

MEI

He's an actor. He runs into people frequently.

SLOAN

Did you confront her?

MEI

N-No.

Sloan and Powell both raise a brow.

SLOAN

You didn't?

MEI

No.

SLOAN
Did you want to?

MEI
No.

Powell jots down notes.

POWELL
Why not?

MEI
Why would I?

SLOAN
Hm. Did you ever go to the fifth floor?

MEI
I-I don't think so. Maybe. I don't know.

SLOAN
You don't know if you've been to the fifth floor?

POWELL
We have footage of you taking the staircase. Why not just use the elevator if you're not going one floor below you?

Mei goes to open her mouth, though nothing comes out.

Sloan picks up the prescription bottles and carefully reads them. She glances at the empty wine bottles.

SLOAN
Do you drink while taking these?

MEI
It's really none of your business.

Sloan puts the prescription bottles back down.

Powell jots down notes.

POWELL
So you never spoke to the victim?

Mei shakes her head, no, as she fiddles with her fingers.

SLOAN

Your husband and his mistress are staying at the same hotel. They're in contact with each other, and you didn't confront her?

MEI

That's right.

SLOAN

You don't think he would've been intimate with her? He was visiting her room. She was visiting him on set...

MEI

He wouldn't do that.

POWELL

He did it before...

Mei can't deny that.

MEI

I-I don't know. I saw her talking to Joseph and-Where-Where are you getting at? Am I a suspect?

Joseph barges into the room.

JOSEPH

I told you if you needed anything, to ask me! My wife is off limits! She doesn't know anything!

SLOAN

That's for us to decide, Mr. Raven. Were you aware that the victim was pregnant?

Joseph goes as white as a sheet of ice.

Mei clutches her chest.

JOSEPH

It-It couldn't have been mine.

POWELL

Why is that?

JOSEPH

I was careful...

Sloan answers her phone.

SLOAN
(in phone)
This is Sloan.

She glances at Joseph.

SLOAN (CONT'D)
(in phone)
Okay. Thanks.

She puts her phone away.

SLOAN (CONT'D)
Joseph Raven, you're under arrest
for the murder of Violet Sparks.

JOSEPH
What?

Powell takes out the handcuffs and arrests Joseph.

MEI
Wait-

POWELL
You have the right to remain
silent-

JOSEPH
I didn't do anything! Mei, I didn't
do it!

Sloan and Powell leave the room as they propel Joseph out
with his hands handcuffed behind him.

The detectives propel Joseph out the room as he yells for
Mei.

The door slams shut.

Silence.

Mei stands there as she quivers in fear.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Mei sits across from Joseph's attorney, PAUL (mid 50s,
grayish black hair, professional), who is dressed in a black
suit with a navy blue tie.

He taps his fingers on the desk.

PAUL

Mrs. Raven, I can't really tell you much at this time.

MEI

You know you're my attorney too, right? What is going to happen? How much trouble is he in?

PAUL

I don't know much, but not only do they have witnesses that say they overheard him threatening her, they found his skin cells underneath her fingernails, but that's it. They need more than that to hold him.

Paul tries to gauge how much Mei knows.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Um...How much has Joseph told you?

MEI

About?

PAUL

...the victim...

MEI

I know about the affair, Paul.

Paul nervously loosens his tie and nods, okay.

MEI (CONT'D)

(to herself)

God. Why would he threaten her?

PAUL

Even when he made it clear that the affair was over, She continued to pursue him. She'd follow him to his shoots, showed up on sets and threatened to air everything out.

MEI

He should've told me.

PAUL

He was scared. I would even go out of my way to say terrified.

Mei glances down as Paul gives her a minute.

MEI

Are there any other suspects?

PAUL

From what I got out of the police, Joseph, Mrs. Sparks's husband, the stepson, and her mother-in-law. All have had trouble with the law too. I even heard that the daughter may be questioned. Mrs. Raven, I'm telling you. They have nothing.

MEI

Rachel? No, I know it couldn't have been her.

PAUL

You never wanted to hurt your mother?

Mei glances away.

PAUL (CONT'D)

They all visited her that night. The husband doesn't have an airtight alibi, and his motive is just as strong.

MEI

He didn't do it.

Paul leans back in his seat.

MEI (CONT'D)

I'm not a suspect?

PAUL

No...

Mei fiddles with her thumbs.

Paul furrows his brows.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Mrs. Raven.

MEI

Y-Yes?

Paul clears his throat.

PAUL

Did you do it?

MEI
I-I-I don't know.

Paul raises a brow.

Mei takes a deep breath.

MEI (CONT'D)
Between client and attorney?

Paul nods, yes.

MEI (CONT'D)
I-I remember going to see her that night, but everything gets fuzzy. I know I knocked on the door, but everything goes black after that. I just-I just had a bad feeling. Something was wrong.

Paul nods, okay.

MEI (CONT'D)
God!

Mei lowers her head as she fiddles with her thumbs.

MEI (CONT'D)
Did you know he put me through college?

Paul shakes his head, no.

MEI (CONT'D)
I wasn't going to graduate on time. I didn't have the money, and my mother-She...He worked two jobs to make sure I graduated on time with him. The agreement was that once we graduated, he could pursue his acting career. I worked while he took on more acting jobs.

Mei sighs.

MEI (CONT'D)
When he wasn't pulling in any jobs, I'd complain and complain and complain, but when I was in school, he didn't. Not once.

PAUL
What did you study?

MEI
Sociology and nursing. I wanted to understand people and learn why we do the things we do.

Mei's shoulders slump.

MEI (CONT'D)
What do we do now?

PAUL
We tell him what you told me.

Mei bites on her fingernails.

MEI
Tell them it was me.

PAUL
Mrs. Raven, you don't even know-

MEI
Just tell them. Get him out. Okay?

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei sits at the window deep in thought.

The phone vibrates. She answers.

MEI
(in phone)
Yes?

PAUL (FROM PHONE)
Joseph said to sit tight. He said do not say anything to anyone.

MEI
What? But...?

PAUL
Please listen to him, Mrs. Raven.

Mei nods, yes as if he can see her.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei lies in bed with a face stained with tears as she massages her sore limbs and cries out.

She sees her favorite bag of chips on the floor.

Mei, picking up the bag of chips, says:

MEI

At least you won't let me down.

She finds that the bag is nearly empty.

MEI (CONT'D)

All right then.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Mei sees that her favorite bag of chips aren't in the vending machine.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - DAY

Mei staggers from the staircase and sees that her bag of chips are available on this floor.

As she puts in the coins...

...Scott appears and slams both hands against the vending machine. He traps her.

Mei's heart leaps out of her chest.

SCOTT

Whose is it? Was it his kid?

MEI

I-I-I don't know! Please move!

Mei struggles to get free.

SCOTT

I'll kill 'em. I'll cut 'em open and feed him to my dogs. Ya hear me?

MEI

Yes! Loud and Clear! Please move!

SCOTT

They have my son in custody! Tell that son of a bitch to come clean!

MEI

He didn't do it!

SCOTT
What did you say?

Christy turns the corner.

CHRISTY JONES
Hey!

SCOTT
I better not run into 'em. Ya make
sure to tell 'em that.

Scott slams his fist against the vending machine then storms
off into the stairwell.

Mei slides down to the floor and holds herself as she calms
her racing heart.

CHRISTY JONES
Are you okay?

MEI
Y-Yes, t-thank you.

Mei peers up and squints her eyes. She recognizes the woman.

CHRISTY JONES
Thank goodness. Wouldn't want
anything to happen to thee wife of
Joseph Raven.

MEI
Wait-Do I know you?

CHRISTY JONES
I think I'd remember meeting Joseph
Raven's wife.

MEI
Are you staying at this hotel?

CHRISTY JONES
It's the only way I could get in!
I'm hoping to meet Joseph.

MEI
Why?

CHRISTY JONES
I don't know. I've always wanted to
meet him. He inspires me.

MEI
Does he now?

CHRISTY JONES

Yeah. I always wanted to be an actress for the stage, and I see him doing it for film and, I don't know, he inspires me.

MEI

Hm...

CHRISTY JONES

I understand why you're skeptical.

MEI

Excuse me?

CHRISTY JONES

I think her name was Violet?

MEI

How do you know about her?

CHRISTY JONES

Twitter. Since she isn't high profile, we're not getting the gossip, but I know why Joseph would be a suspect. I'm so sorry.

Mei tilts her head.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

The affair?

Ah.

The fan shakes her head in disapproval.

MEI

How would you-

CHRISTY JONES

I would have never thought of him to do it, but he is an upcoming actor. I just know he would lose it if he ever lost you though. I read that in a blog once.

MEI

Right.

Mei rises to her feet.

MEI (CONT'D)

I'm going back to my room now.

CHRISTY JONES
Okie Dokie. See you later.

Mei staggers toward the staircase, glances back at Christy.

MEI
You're missing part of your earring
by the way.

Christy with the tip of her fingers feels on her earring.

Off Mei goes.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei staggers inside and closes the door behind her. She collapses onto the ground.

MEI
Ugh!

Mei wipes away the tears and takes a deep breath.

She takes out her phone and her finger hovers over "CALL MOTHER", though she decides against it.

Mei brushes her hair behind her ears and throws on some sweats as she winces from the pain.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mei strolls into the police station.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Mei peeks her head in.

Sloan appears from around the corner.

SLOAN
Mrs. Raven?

MEI
Is it true that you have Violet's
stepson in custody?

SLOAN
I don't know how you know that, but
we brought him in for questioning.

MEI

And when are you letting my husband go?

SLOAN

We'll see. Unless you have something you want to tell us.

MEI

I don't know what you mean.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mei sits at the top of the staircase as POLICE OFFICERS come and go.

She rises to her feet when she sees Jonathan amble out of the police station.

He perks up when he sees Mei.

JONATHAN

Well-Well. If it ain't Mei Raven. Come to see me off?

MEI

Why did the police have you in custody?

Jonathan shrugs.

MEI (CONT'D)

You saw her that night, didn't you? Does your dad know?

Jonathan steps into Mei's personal space.

JONATHAN

Aren't there some things you're keepin' from your husband?

Mei takes a step back.

Jonathan hurls a wad of spit into the grass.

MEI

Why did you go see her?

Jonathan shrugs.

JONATHAN

I was okay with them gettin' divorced, but it was killin' my dad. Went to reason with the woman. If he's happy then whatever.

MEI

You seem like you didn't have a good relationship with her.

JONATHAN

I despised the bitch. You think your home is the only one she broke? My mom died alone. It wasn't the cancer that killed her. Can't tell me different.

MEI

I'm-I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said anything.

JONATHAN

Why? You didn't know.

MEI

Yeah, but...You saw her. How did that go?

JONATHAN

Better than expected. She told me to fuck off.

MEI

I'm sorry.

JONATHAN

For what?

MEI

That you didn't have a mother.

Jonathan is taken aback at the sentiment. He glances at the ground beneath his feet.

MEI (CONT'D)

Bye, Jonathan.

Mei steps aside to leave, though Jonathan steps in front of her.

MEI (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

JONATHAN

Let me take you out for a bite to eat. I know this place with some mean barbecue that you'd especially like.

MEI

Um...You're two, and I'm married. And Especially?

JONATHAN

They have a good selection of white wine. Who says friends can't share a meal?

MEI

How do you know I like white wine? And we're suddenly friends?

He twirls a strand of her hair.

Mei slaps his hand away.

MEI (CONT'D)

How do you know I like white wine?

JONATHAN

Your facebook is interestin'. It's like you live two different lives.

MEI

Hm..

JONATHAN

Let me now ask you somethin'. Are you happy knowin' she's out of the way?

Mei furrows her brows.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

You know, you have really beautiful eyes. You should let a gentleman buy ya dinner. When was the last time he did that for ya?

Mei fiddles with the wedding ring on her finger.

Jonathan brushes a finger against her hand. She allows it.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Seems the only thing he's done for ya recently is make ya a stepmom.

Mei returns to reality. She pulls away from him and ambles off.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Left a little something in your
messages if ya change ya mind!

Mei glances behind her as she seemingly flees.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Mei paces back and forth in the center of the hotel room.

Joseph steps inside defeated. He tosses his phone onto the bed.

The two take in the sight of each other, and they embrace.

MEI
So?

JOSPEH
They have nothing. Don't worry
about it.

WHEN...

SLAP.

Mei slaps Joseph. Hard. She's just as shocked as Joseph is as he holds a palm to his cheek.

The silence is deafening.

MEI
Is it yours?

JOSEPH
What?

MEI
The baby, Joseph!

JOSEPH
No.

Mei sits at the edge of the bed. Her body quivers.

MEI
What are we going to do?

JOSEPH

Nothing. Paul says we just sit and wait.

Mei gazes off into the distance.

MEI

What if they do a paternity test and you're the father? That's motive.

Joseph tenses.

JOSEPH

It's not mine...You don't think I did it, do you?

MEI

I can't do this.

Joseph goes to open his mouth.

Mei rises to her feet and staggers to the closet.

JOSEPH

What are you doing?

MEI

I'm going home!

JOSEPH

Don't do this.

Mei packs her luggage.

Joseph seizes Mei by the arms as she struggles to get free.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Will you just talk to me?

MEI

They're going to do a paternity test, and if it's yours-

The blood vanishes from Joseph's face.

Mei slips from Joseph's fingers and tosses clothes into her luggage.

Joseph grabs the luggage and tosses it against the wall. It knocks over the lamp.

CRASH.

JOSEPH
 Fuck, Mei! Will you stop?

Joseph embraces Mei as she struggles to push him off her.

MEI
 I hate you! I hate you! I hate you!

JOSEPH
 I know.

MEI
 I hate you!

Joseph shoves Mei against the wall and holds her there.

MEI (CONT'D)
 Let me go.

Joseph forces his lips onto Mei's. She tries to evade the kiss, but his grip is too tight.

His hand crawls into her robe. Mei pushes it away, though with just one hand, he grips both of hers.

Joseph slides his free hand into her slacks and fondles her.

Mei struggles to stop him.

MEI (CONT'D)
 Joseph-

He forces her to be quiet with just his lips and unzips his pants. He turns her around and yanks her robe up.

MEI (CONT'D)
 Wait-

Joseph forces his lips on her then yanks her pants down and then her panties. He thrusts.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei lies in bed alone as she gazes at the ceiling.

Bags are underneath her eyes. Her face is pale. Hair is disheveled.

Her phone alarm goes off.

BING. BING.

Mei grabs her phone and staggers to the seat near the window.

She faces the phone's screen toward her, and her Zoom appointment begins.

Kumar appears on the screen.

MEI
Hi, Dr. Kumar.

KUMAR (FROM PHONE)
Hi. How are things?

MEI
Violet was pregnant.

Kumar raises a brow.

MEI (CONT'D)
What if it was Joseph's?

KUMAR
It's better to wait for the results than to speculate. You'll stress yourself out more.

MEI
I can't do this anymore.

KUMAR
Do what?

MEI
This! I can't!

KUMAR
Breathe, okay? Just breathe.

Mei nods, okay. She takes a deep breath.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Have you remembered anything else from that night?

Mei shakes her head, no.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Let's do an exercise. Put your phone down and lie back.

Mei places the phone on the arm of the chair and leans back.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Take a deep breath.

Mei takes a deep breath.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Now close your eyes.

Mei closes her eyes.

KUMAR (CONT'D)
Now think about that night. What's
something that you do remember?

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei staggers toward Violet's hotel room.

KNOCK KNOCK.

MEI (V.O.)
Wait.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei shakes her head, no.

MEI
That's not what happened.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei staggers toward Violet's door. It isn't closed all the way.

She hears STATIC.

THUD THUD.

She sees hazy colors.

Mei knocks on Violet's door. No reply.

She pushes it open and steps inside.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mei glances around the room and sees the sandwich and the knife on table.

STATIC.

Violet's belongings are scattered throughout on the floor.

Mei hears Violet shouting a distance away.

VIOLET (O.S.)
You don't know anything!

The voice sounds near.

Mei panics and glances around the room. She hides in the closet, though leaves it cracked open as she peeks out of it.

Violet steps inside and struggles to slam the door shut as it hits the frame. Eventually it slams shut.

She leans against it with downcast eyes.

Mei goes to open the closet door, though stops herself...

WHEN...

KNOCK KNOCK.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Who is it? If it's you, Beatrice, I
have nothing more to say to you!

Violet opens the door, though Mei isn't able to see who stands in the doorway.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
What do you want?

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei lies back in her chair as she is deep in thought.

MEI
I never confronted Violet. I hid in
the closet. There was someone else
there.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

BLACK SCREEN.

VIOLET (V.O.)
What are you doing?

Mei can hear the door slam shut.

THUD.

VIOLET (V.O.) (CONT'D)
What are you-

Mei hears a struggle between people.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Mei's eyes flicker open.

MEI
I never confronted her.

KUMAR (FROM PHONE)
What happened when you hid in the closet?

Mei ponders then shakes her head.

MEI
I can't remember.

KUMAR
It sounds like you saw or heard a struggle.

Mei bites on her fingernails deep in thought.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DUSK

Mei sits near the window.

She rubs on her shoulders and neck then takes a few pills from her prescription bottle. Mei decides to take just one and returns the others.

With a cup of water, she rinses it down.

Joseph steps inside the room from the bathroom. He's defeated.

JOSEPH
I'll be back late.

MEI
You're going to set?

JOSEPH
I can't lose this part. I just
can't.

MEI
Joseph, I'll get it, but it's just
a matter of time before they find
out.

Joseph lowers his eyes, and Mei leaps up from her seat and
takes his hand.

MEI (CONT'D)
I know that you didn't do it, and
the police will realize that too.

Joseph nods and kisses her forehead.

He picks up the keycard and his phone and leaves the room.

Mei opens her bathrobe and throws on sweats.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Mei steps out of the stairwell and approaches Violet's old
hotel room. Police tape surrounds the door.

There is also a sign on the door that reads, "REPLACE DOOR".

She knocks.

No answer.

Mei tears off the tape then notices the door isn't completely
shut. It's still broken.

She steps inside the room.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mei is inside Violet's gloomy hotel room. Only the moon gives
it light.

The hotel door doesn't shut all the way as it hits the frame.

The room is clean. Not a speck of blood on the carpet is seen. The bed is made. Nothing out of the ordinary to see.

Mei glances around the room then faces the closet. She ponders.

She steps into the empty closet and closes its doors.

She peeks out the closet doors.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Inside Violet's room, Violet leans against the door with downcast eyes.

KNOCK KNOCK.

VIOLET

Who is it? If it's you, Beatrice, I have nothing more to say to you!

Violet opens the door.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

What do you want?

Scott forces himself inside the room.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

MEI (V.O.)

No. No. It wasn't Scott.

REWIND.

Jonathan forces himself inside the room.

VIOLET

What are you doing?

MEI (V.O.)

No. No.

Beatrice forces herself inside the room.

MEI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Maybe. It had to be.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - CLOSET - NIGHT

Mei stands in the closet and ponders.

WHEN...

..The hotel door opens.

Mei cracks the closet door open.

Someone stands outside the door.

Mei can clearly see the foot of someone about to step inside the room.

Mei waits with bated breath.

WHEN...

..Christy steps inside.

CHRISTY JONES

Hello?

The woman closes the door behind her.

Mei tilts her head in confusion.

That's when she remembers it all.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mei hides in the closet as she peeks out.

She sees Violet step inside and close the door.

Violet leans against the door with downcast eyes.

KNOCK KNOCK.

VIOLET

Who is it? If it's you, Beatrice, I
have nothing more to say to you!

Violet opens the door.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Who the hell are you?

Christy barges in.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

What the hell-

CHRISTY JONES

Joseph doesn't want you so back off! You're ruining things!

VIOLET

What are you-Get out of my room!

CHRISTY JONES

Not until you leave him alone! Or I'll leak this.

Christy holds up her phone and reveals a picture of Violet and Joseph kissing in a parked car.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

I'll leak this to your husband.
I'll leak this to your stepson.
I'll leak this to your daughter.

Violet quivers under the threat.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

I'll post this all over social media, and you'll be known as the model harlot while his career skyrockets. Now leave Joseph and his wife alone!

VIOLET

He doesn't want her! He wants me!

CHRISTY JONES

You are not going to ruin this for him.

VIOLET

I would never hurt him.

CHRISTY JONES

You're hurting him now!

VIOLET

Delete that picture.

CHRISTY JONES

I could.

The woman shrugs.

Violet then struggles to get the fan's phone, and the two struggle for it.

Part of Christy's earring comes loose from her ear and gets swept up under the bed.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

Leave Joseph alone!

Christy slaps Violet in the face.

Violet slaps her back.

The phone drops to the ground.

Violet struggles to go after the phone.

The fan tackles Violet and wraps her hands around her neck.

Violet gasps for air and struggles to thrust the woman off of her.

Violet's hand finds the phone and slams it against the woman's head.

WACK.

Christy takes out a pocket knife...

WHEN...

...she stabs Violet in the chest.

Mei's body stiffens. Her eyes water. She covers her mouth.

Violet glances down at the knife in her chest.

Christy's turns white. She rises to her feet with legs that quiver.

That's when she yanks the knife from Violet's chest and doesn't forget her phone.

With her sleeve, she opens the door and darts out.

Violet coughs up blood.

Mei staggers out of the closet.

Violet sees Mei.

VIOLET

H-Help...me. Please.

MEI

This isn't real. This isn't real.
This isn't real.

Mei gazes at Violet then staggers out of the room.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Mei steps into her room and collapses in bed. She closes her eyes.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Back to Mei in the closet...

Mei watches as the woman turns over the room and searches under every crack and corner she can find.

Christy gets near the closet, though only searches the outside of it.

As Christy gets down on all four near the closet...

...Mei swings the door open hard and nearly cracks open Christy's skull.

Mei wobbles out of the closet then gets on all fours. She feels for the earring under the bed.

The fan is disoriented, though recognizes Mei.

CHRISTY JONES

Mrs. Raven?

Mei finds the earring. She holds it up for the woman to see.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

You're confused, Mrs. Raven.

MEI

We'll let the police decide that.

Mei rushes toward the door.

The fan tackles Mei to the ground then slaps her. Hard.

Mei struggles to get the woman off her.

CHRISTY JONES

I'm so sorry about your wife,
Joseph. So very sorry.

Christy opens the window and takes out her pocketknife. She cuts the screen out of the window.

Mei lunges at the fan as...

...the woman thrusts the knife into Mei's abdomen.

Then again.

Mei cries out then head butts her.

Both are disoriented.

Mei glances down. Her robe is soaked in blood.

CHRISTY JONES (CONT'D)

I won't let you ruin Joseph's life
anymore. Just kill yourself
already!

Christy rushes to push Mei out the window...

WHEN...

Mei side steps.

The two try to push the other out the window.

That's when Mei shoves her fingers into the woman's eyes.

The woman shrieks.

WHEN...

...Mei shoves her out the window.

Christy falls to her death as she shrieks and lands on the pavement in between a COUPLE OF PATRONS, who look up in shock.

Mei can hear SCREAMS from below.

Mei sits down near the window as if in her own hotel room and closes her eyes.

Her hand goes limp.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mei is asleep in a hospital bed all bandaged up. Next to her on the table are a dozen white roses with a card.

Joseph sleeps in the chair beside her.

Her eyes flicker open, and she takes in the room. She stirs, which causes Joseph to stir. His eyes are red as if he has cried.

He leaps to his feet.

JOSEPH

Thank God.

MEI

Hospital?

JOSEPH

Hospital. How do you feel?

MEI

Sore. Everything hurts more than usual.

Joseph grabs her hand.

JOSEPH

My God. I really thought...I thought...

Joseph squeezes her hand and deeply sighs.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

They said if the bellboy hadn't found you...Jesus.

MEI

I'm okay.
(referring to the roses)
Those for me?

Joseph hands her the roses and card. His hand quivers as it reaches for Mei's hand.

Mei reads the card from the bouquet of roses as Joseph watches for a reaction. She puts it down.

MEI (CONT'D)

I know.

Joseph presses his lips against Mei's forehead and then he tries for her lips. She allows him to kiss her.

JOSEPH

I'm willing to do whatever to make this right. Whatever. Please. Just tell me. How do I make this right?

Mei opens her mouth.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I'll drop out of the movie. Is that what you want?

MEI

I don't want anything.

JOSEPH

Please, Mei. I'm really trying here.

MEI

I know you are.

JOSEPH

Then what? Please.

Mei glances at the card then at Joseph. She smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - LATER

Mei is being entertained with a movie. It's the same old black and white movie from the hotel room. She recites the dialogue along with the actress and actor of the scene.

Her phone vibrates. It reads, "MOTHER".

Mei grips the phone. She answers.

MEI

(in phone)

H-Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - LATER

Mei puts the phone down beside her.

KNOCK KNOCK.

Detective Sloan and Powell peek their heads inside. They step in once they see that she's up.

SLOAN

Welcome back.

MEI

Thank you.

SLOAN

We thought we lost you.

MEI

I'm here.

SLOAN

I hate to do this now, but can we ask you a few questions about what happened?

Powell takes out a pen and notepad.

MEI

Um...

Joseph strides in with a glass of orange juice and Mei's favorite bag of chips.

JOSEPH

Not this shit. Can she rest first?

SLOAN

We'll only be a few minutes. We also have the DNA results back on Violet Sparks's unborn child.

Joseph's ears perk up.

SLOAN (CONT'D)

Turns out you are not the father, Mr. Raven.

Mei lets out a sigh.

JOSEPH

Yeah, I know.

MEI

Joseph...

POWELL

Bet you're relieved, Raven.

Joseph scowls.

SLOAN

Anyway, it's still an ongoing investigation, but the woman who attacked you—Her name is Christy Jones, and she's been a fan of yours since your first professional acting credit.

POWELL

Looks like she's been following you around to every shoot.

JOSEPH

Jesus...

SLOAN

You can say that again.

POWELL

The weapon that was used on you is a match to the one that was used on the victim.

SLOAN

That's why we need you to remember everything carefully, Mei. You can't leave anything out.

MEI

I mean—I can try, but—

SLOAN

That's all we're asking.

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei packs her clothes into a suitcase. As she stretches, she winces from her injury. She glances at the labels of her prescription meds and packs them into her purse.

INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Mei steps toward the vending machine and before she can make a purchase, she sees Rachel leave a room as she carries luggage.

She approaches Rachel.

MEI

I wanted to say I'm sorry. For your mom. I never really got a chance to say that.

RACHEL

Thank you. I'm sorry for what she did.

MEI

That's not something for you to apologize for.

RACHEL

Yeah.

Rachel tears up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

They say everything happens for a reason, but I don't believe that anymore.

MEI

I don't either. I hate it when people say that. Bad things happen to good people. How do you justify that?

Rachel nods in agreement.

Beatrice steps out of the same room Rachel did with her own luggage.

BEATRICE

Lets go, Rachel.

MEI

Be good to yourself.

RACHEL

You too.

Rachel strolls down the hall toward Beatrice, and they head toward the elevators.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The airplane is fully occupied.

Mei is next to Joseph. She leans back in her seat, takes a deep breath, then closes her eyes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Mei is on a zoom call with Kumar. She clutches her abdomen where she was stabbed.

KUMAR (FROM PHONE)
What? Are you okay?

MEI
Yeah. She didn't hit anything.

KUMAR
You could've been killed.

MEI
It was an eye opener. I need to take my life back. I can't sit around feeling sorry for myself anymore.

KUMAR
It's good to hear you say that.

MEI
Thank you. But-Um-Dr. Kumar, I'm calling today because I feel like I'm missing something. Something just doesn't feel right.

CUT TO:

Mei awakens in bed and sees that there are specks of blood on the sleeve of her robe.

CUT TO:

Back to Mei speaking with Dr. Kumar.

KUMAR (FROM PHONE)
Well, you have been through a lot. Your mind and body are trying to make out what happened and settle down. Let it do that.

MEI
Maybe-Maybe you're right.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Mei's eyes shoot open.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - VIOLET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Violet and Christy struggle for the phone like in the previous scene.

Mei watches with bated breath in the closet. She tries to climb out, though is frozen in place.

Christy plunges the knife into Violet's chest.

Mei quivers. Her eyes water.

Violet glances down at the knife in her chest.

Christy blanches.

That's when she pulls out the knife from Violet's chest and makes sure to grab her phone. With her sleeve, she opens the hotel room door and sprints out.

Mei staggers out of the closet.

Violet catches sight of Mei.

This time, Mei ambles toward Violet.

Violet cries out as her blouse soaks in red.

VIOLET
Help-Help me...Please.

Mei stands over Violet with glassy eyes. She glances at the hotel phone as bites on her fingernails.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Please. Please help me.

Mei picks up the phone. She hears the dial tone and glances at Violet. That's when she places the phone back down on the receiver.

Mei bends down to Violet and covers her mouth to keep her from screaming.

A drop of blood smears on the sleeve of Mei's robe.

Finally, Violet goes limp from blood loss as her blouse is soaked in red.

Mei uncovers Violet's mouth and rises to her feet.

MEI

This isn't real. This isn't real.
This isn't real.

Mei staggers out of the room.

INT. HOTEL - FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Mei staggers to the staircase as she holds herself up using the walls.

MEI

This isn't real. This isn't real.

She vanishes into the stairwell.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The blood vanishes from Mei's face. She rushes into her tote bag to take out a prescription bottle then clutches it. She tosses it back into her bag.

Her breathing becomes shallow.

JOSEPH

Hey, you all right?

Mei rise to her feet and rushes to the back of the airplane, tote bag in hand.

INT. AIRPLANE - RESTROOM - DAY

Mei gazes into the mirror as she takes big breaths. She then paces and bites on her fingernails as she massages her arms and shoulders.

She winces in pain.

KNOCK KNOCK.

JOSEPH (O.S.)

Mei! Are you okay?

Mei opens a prescription bottle and takes out four pills, though decides to return three.

JOSEPH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mei?

MEI
I'm fine! I'm fine.

Mei faces the mirror.

She gazes at the prescription bottle of anti anxiety medicine then takes a deep breath. Mei takes the one pill.

Mei gazes into mirror.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Mei and Joseph are back in their seats.

Mei gazes out the window. Her face is blanched.

JOSEPH
Are you sure you're okay?

Mei takes in the question, ponders, and then nods.

MEI
Yeah. Yeah, I am.

Joseph takes Mei's hand, and she accepts it. He squeezes it.

A stewardess approaches the couple with a cart of liquor, soda, and snacks.

STEWARDESS
Hi. Would you like any crackers or something to drink? We have beer, wine and we have-

MEI
Um-Do you have water?

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.

THE END.