

CHIMERICAL

by

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Over BLACK...

ETHAN (V.O.)
Maria, my sole purpose in life is
simply to serve as a warning to
others.

MARIA (V.O.)
Warning or danger?

ETHAN (V.O.)
Warning. To ignore the facts does
not change the facts. Check.

MARIA (V.O.)
Then we'll agree to disagree.

ETHAN (V.O.)
Ah, the phrase to resolve all
conflicts.

FADE IN:

1 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

1

MARIA, late twenties, beautiful, charismatic, smokes an electronic cigarette. ETHAN, late twenties, determined, wears a smoking jacket and cravat, swirls his glass of red wine, tastes. Both sit opposite sides of a chessboard. Ethan is focused; Maria not. Moonlight floods the room from a window.

MARIA
Well we do share common interests,
Ethan - insomnia... and we both had
an imaginary friend.

ETHAN
Yes, and we both still haven't
changed a bit. So out with it then.
Come on...

MARIA
(smiling)
What? Out with what?

ETHAN
You're procrastinating.

Maria looks around - classic decor, open fire, antique furniture. Bowls and lit candles scattered everywhere. Plastic sheets on the floor. Stepladder, paint tin and brush in the corner.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

MARIA

You've been decorating for weeks.

ETHAN

Internal creative difference -
Pharaohs Gold two or Lime Zest
four. Stop stalling. The game and
the question. Your move.

MARIA

Okay. Not that I'm expecting you to
hold anything back, but what did
you really think of William?

ETHAN

At long last. Honesty is an
expensive gift. Never expect it
from someone so cheap. William...
well, William is - how can I put
it... a total fag.

MARIA

What?!

CUT TO:

2 EXT. PARK - DUSK (FLASHBACK)

2

Maria and Ethan sitting on a bench, drinking coffee.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Sorry, have to be politically
correct these days. He's gay.

ETHAN

He's gonna stand you up.

MARIA (V.O.)

Balderdash! Albeit, he is too good
looking to be straight. Why would
you think he's gay?

MARIA

Be nice, Ethan.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Let's just say curious William one
day found what he's been searching
for all along.

ETHAN

The suspense is killing me.

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

MARIA (V.O.)
Oh, and what is that?

MARIA
He's here.

ETHAN (V.O.)
His G-spot. So have you?

ETHAN
At long last...

WILLIAM, late twenties, svelte, wears a fine business suit, approaches them.

MARIA (V.O.)
Have I what?

MARIA
Hiiiiii....

Maria, excited, greets William with a kiss.

ETHAN (V.O.)
You know... met William's G-spot?

WILLIAM
Sorry I'm late. Had to pick up the tickets.

MARIA (V.O.)
You're such a cock, Ethan.

MARIA
That's okay. We haven't been waiting long. I want to introduce you to my friend I told you about... Ethan...

ETHAN (V.O.)
Be that as it may, voluminous and succulent I might add.

WILLIAM
Hi... William.

Ethan forces a smile, rises, offers his hand.

MARIA (V.O.)
Uh, I do recall it being bitsy and bland.

ETHAN
Nice to meet you. Finally...

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED: (2)

2

ETHAN (V.O.)

I thought bitsy and bland was what you named my ballocks. Okay. Okay. In all seriousness, Maria, he seems... delightful.

SLOW MOTION - William and Ethan shaking hands, smiling.

WILLIAM

We're running late. We'd better get going.

MARIA (V.O.)

Is that a hint of sarcasm?

ETHAN (V.O.)

No. Honestly. He's wonderful. *Wunderbar*.

MARIA (V.O.)

I was dubious at first in how you'd react. Obviously the ex meeting the new...

William and Maria walk on ahead. Ethan, jealous, walks behind them, fixated.

MARIA

Have you had a good day? You still haven't told me what it is you do for a living.

WILLIAM

I'm an embalmer.

ETHAN (V.O.)

I'm okay with it. Really. We were always meant to be friends, Maria. At least that's something we both agree on. Besides, I only keep you around to finally conquer you at chess.

William looks back at Ethan, catches his stare.

MARIA

No, you're not. God, you're such a mystery. I bet you're an oil diver, or a sommelier, or an airplane reposessor. Yes, I bet you reposess airplanes to make ends meet. Something involving travelling anyhow. Am I close? William? William...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

MARIA (V.O.)
Well, you do seem happier these
days, Ethan. And I'm sorry to do
this to you, but...

BACK TO:

3 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

3

Maria places her Queen down next to Ethan's King, tips it
over.

MARIA
Checkmate.

Ethan studies the board. Shakes his head, ravaged.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Genius is nothing more than
inflamed enthusiasm.

ETHAN
(determined)
Again.

Maria smirks, sucks on her electronic cigarette, blows vapour
into Ethan's face.

Ethan waves the vapour away, moves all the pieces back to
their starting positions.

MARIA
You're such a sore loser, Ethan.

ETHAN
I refuse to give up on myself.

MARIA
It must smart even more losing to a
woman.

Maria sips wine, smiling.

ETHAN
Many would argue your clitoris
could very well pass for a penis.

MARIA
And your penis could very well pass
for a clitoris. God, you're so
powerless, Ethan. In fact, I don't
know if I can play another game. I
just don't feel challenged.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Ethan leans forward, gleaming, offers his hand.

ETHAN

One more game and I promise you
will not have to play me at chess
again.

Maria spits on her hand, shakes Ethan's hand.

Ethan winks at Maria. The blue moonlight is now replaced with
a purple and orange dawn light.

MARIA

Deal. So how is your first novel
coming along? Maybe I can be your
muse.

ETHAN

I've hit the infamous wall. Painted
it in such lovely colours. I
wouldn't call it writer's block -
more write what you know.

MARIA

You don't know?

ETHAN

Since you think of me as the man
who knows everything, you must
remember at the beginning I once
knew nothing.

MARIA

Get to the point, Ethan.

ETHAN

How to commit the perfect murder.
(nods at chess board)
Ready?

Ethan moves his Pawn without looking at the board, swirls his
wine. Maria follows.

MARIA

I'm sure you already know the
answer, Ethan.

ETHAN

A complete stranger is the perfect
victim. That's why prostitutes tend
to be killer's victims. Easy to
lure. Yet in my story, the killer
knows the victim.

Ethan moves his Knight, tastes his wine.

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED: (2)

3

MARIA

Okay. Then how would you kill someone you know and get away with it? Does the killer get away with it?

ETHAN

Possibly.

MARIA

For example, let's say me. How would you kill me and get away with it?

Maria smiles, moves her Knight.

ETHAN

Getting away with murder means not leaving any DNA behind.

MARIA

That's easy. Thick gloves - no fingerprints. Burn all clothes.

Ethan moves his Bishop next to Maria's Knight.

ETHAN

Yes, but anything I use for your murder I would buy out of town. Shop in a large department store. Common brands only. Pay in cash. Destroy any receipts or shopping bags. That's why most killers get caught. They don't trace every step - too much focusing on DNA.

Maria moves her other Knight.

MARIA

But where would you kill me?

ETHAN

Maybe somewhere public so the police have too much DNA. It'll be like looking for a needle in a haystack. However, too risky these days. Video surveillance everywhere.

Ethan moves a Pawn.

MARIA

Well, not in this part of town.

ETHAN

This place.

4 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 4

Ethan placing down plastic sheets...

Ethan pouring baking soda into bowls...

Ethan placing the bowls around the room...

Ethan lighting candles...

ETHAN (V.O.)

Plastic sheets already down to wrap
up your body. Perfect. Then leave
baking soda and burn candles in the
room to cover the stench.

BACK TO:

5 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - DAWN (PRESENT) 5

Maria moves a Pawn.

ETHAN

Plus I've lured you here in the
early hours of the morning when
everyone's asleep.

MARIA

But how would you kill me? Poison?

Ethan moves another Pawn. Maria moves her Bishop, sucks on
her electronic cigarette. Ethan switches his King and Rook.

ETHAN

I've heard of a rat poison that
doesn't stay in a dead body's
system. Maybe I've already laced
your drink with poison?

Maria stares at her glass, then laughs. She moves her Knight.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

No, I could never kill you in that
way. It would have to be something
ingenious to match your character.

Ethan moves his Knight.

MARIA

Food poisoning? The Silver Stripe
Blossop is known to be a deadly
delicacy.

Maria moves a Pawn.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

ETHAN

Possibly.

Ethan takes Maria's Pawn with his Knight.

MARIA

Some sort of blunt instrument with
no trace.

Maria takes Ethan's Knight with her King. Ethan moves his
Bishop back.

ETHAN

Check.

MARIA

What could you use?

A beat. Maria TAPS her fingers on the table, then moves her
King.

ETHAN

(pause; clicks his
fingers)

An icicle!

MARIA

An icicle?

6 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

6

Ethan places an icicle into his freezer...

ETHAN (V.O.)

Just like a knife - however it
melts. Which means... no weapon--

MARIA (V.O.)

No case...

BACK TO:

7 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - DAWN (PRESENT)

7

Ethan moves his Queen.

MARIA

(ecstatic)

Ethan, that's genius. I would never
have thought of that.

Maria moves her Queen.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MARIA (CONT'D)

But, how would you... dispose of
me?

Maria takes Ethan's Queen with her Pawn. Leans forward,
places her hands under her chin, gleaming.

Ethan smiles.

8 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

8

Maria's dead body in the bathtub...

Ethan performing CPR...

Ethan placing a lighter near Maria's fingers...

Maria's lower back tattoo...

Maria's inner-thigh birthmark...

Ethan lines up his tools on the floor: hammer, saw, pliers...

ETHAN (V.O.)

Ah... now comes the hardest part.
I'd use my bathtub to drain all
your fluids. Make more holes in
your body and perform CPR. Burn off
all fingerprints. You have a tattoo
on your lower back and a birthmark
on your inner-thigh. I would have
to grate them off. Pulverize all
your teeth with a hammer and
disfigure your face. Then remove
your hands, feet and head and put
them in plastic bags with lots of
bleach. And then I'd bury you in
separate locations.

BACK TO:

9 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - DAWN (PRESENT)

9

A beat. Maria and Ethan stare at one another. Then burst into
laughter.

MARIA

God, you're so fucking weird.

(CONTINUED)

9

CONTINUED:

9

ETHAN

Be that as it may, genius is
nothing but a great aptitude for
patience.

Ethan takes Maria's Pawn with his other Bishop, rises.

MARIA

Where are you going?

ETHAN

I think you'll find it's checkmate.
Refill?

Ethan grabs Maria's glass, leaves the room. Maria studies the
chessboard, stunned.

MARIA

No, impossible...

A beat. Maria sucks on her electronic cigarette.

MARIA (CONT'D)

One thing that you haven't thought
through. Every killer has a motive.
What would be your motive in
getting rid of me?

Ethan suddenly returns to the room, conceals something behind
his back.

ETHAN

William.

MARIA

Ah, the classic love triangle
story. If you can't have me, no one
can.

ETHAN

If you say so.

Suddenly, Maria laughs hysterically. Ethan smiles, gently
strokes Maria's hair.

MARIA

Oh my God. Now I get it. The room.
The plastic floor. The candles. And
what's in the bowls?

ETHAN

Baking soda.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

MARIA

To cover the stench of a dead body.
Ethan, you always had a sense of
humour.

Ethan's smile fades.

ETHAN

Except your being here is no
coincidence.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. PARK - DUSK (FLASHBACK)

10

Ethan walking behind William and Maria in the park...

William glancing back...

Ethan noticing, winks...

William smiling, ignoring Maria...

ETHAN (V.O.)

I've been planning tonight since
you introduced me to William.

BACK TO:

11 INT. ETHAN'S FARMHOUSE - DRAWING ROOM - SUNRISE (PRESENT) 11

MARIA

What? What are you talking about?

ETHAN

I'm sorry but I have to do this,
Maria.

MARIA

Ethan, this isn't funny anymore.
You're beginning to scare me. What
have you got behind your back? Show
me.

ETHAN

I know you too well, Maria. You'll
do everything you can to keep us
apart. You've never once wanted me
to be happy.

Ethan turns his back on Maria, walks over to his stereo.
Maria slowly rises, looks to see what Ethan is hiding.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

MARIA
You're crazy, Ethan.

ETHAN
I think the expression is crazy in
love. I love him, Maria. I love
William so much I will not give you
the chance to drive us apart.

MARIA
(hysterical)
Why are you doing this? Ethan, I
want to leave! Ethan...?

Ethan turns the volume UP...

A blinding white sunlight floods the room. He strides to
Maria, icicle raised over his head...

Maria's SOUNDLESS SCREAM for help...

Ethan explodes into Maria, flashing stabs into her chest
again and again...

Ethan stands over Maria's dead body, icicle in his hand,
blood dripping onto the plastic sheet...

Happy, he BREATHES HEAVILY, dances and twirls, flowing with
the music...

CUT TO:

12 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

12

Rear, red lights of a car flood the frame. The head of a
small shovel pats down on some mud.

5 Ethan, wearing gloves, places his King chess piece on top of
the mud.

He walks to his car, climbs inside. William is in the front
passenger seat. Ethan leans across, closes his eyes...
William leans in closer to kiss Ethan... Suddenly, William
DISAPPEARS...!

13 INT. ETHAN'S CAR - NIGHT

13

Ethan opens his eyes, sees William is no longer beside him.
He searches the inside of his car - nothing. He quickly
climbs out of his car.

14 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

14

Ethan scans the forest. Thick fog.

His eyes suddenly lock on his King chess piece tipped over.
Ethan becomes very still. Beat.

MARIA (V.O.)

Well we do share common interests,
Ethan - insomnia... and we both had
an imaginary friend.

Ethan drops to his knees, defeated.

William emerges from a cloud of fog, smiling, then DISAPPEARS
back into the fog...

FADE OUT.

THE END