

"MIND BREAK"

Screenplay by
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Scene A INT. LIVING ROOM - MIDDLE OF DAY**OPENING: 1ST PERSON POV - WIDE SHOT**

We see the front door, with loud, persistent knocking. Then hear heavy slow female breathing over the loud knocking.

The space feels both familiar and unsettling – overly bright, almost too much so.

The camera is handheld, shifting with a slight, deliberate instability, no still shots.

SLOW PAN OUT**1ST PERSON SHOULDER ANGLE**

In the frame, off-center, we see **MILDRED** (early 30s, disheveled yet still striking; little makeup, dark circles under her eyes, bold, smeared lipstick).

The sound of her heartbeat gradually amplifies.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT - PULL BACK

We see MILDRED from the left, her expression blank and disoriented as she stares at the door.

MILDRED takes a hesitant step forward, her breath shaky and uneven, moving towards the door.

(Heartbeats in the background accelerate, growing louder and more erratic.)

The camera remains handheld.

CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED quickly turns her head to the left, locking eyes with the camera.

(Heartbeat and breathing cut out sharply as her gaze meets the lens.)

The camera lingers on her face, focusing intently on her eyes.

ZOOM IN:

Tight on MILDRED's eye.

The title appears on-screen, staying sharp in focus on her eye.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT**Scene B****INT. KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT**

The camera, handheld, drifts slowly through a dimly lit kitchen. It's off-center, yet still focusing on MILDRED, who is seen doing dishes. Her hair is in a messy bun, light makeup, wearing a black silk nightgown and robe.

The faint sound of "Psycho" by Jack Kittle plays softly in the background.

The camera remains handheld, capturing subtle shifts in her movements. No still images.

CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED's fingers tremble slightly as she grips a plate, her hand wavering with hesitation. There's an eerie stillness. The camera pans over her perfectly manicured fingers, the absence of rings adding a strange sense of emptiness.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

MILDRED mutters softly to herself, barely audible.

MILDRED

(whispering)

"My head... my mind..."

(She repeats this phrase 5x, her voice growing more desperate with each repetition.)

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

1ST PERSON OVER THE SHOULDER ANGLE

Suddenly, a loud thud echoes from another room. MILDRED jumps, startled, and drops the plate. It shatters loudly. The plate breaking is intensely loud.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED stares at the broken plate, then her gaze shifts slowly to the source of the noise. Her breathing becomes shallow and anxious. The camera gets closer and closer to MILDRED, where we focus on her eyes.

NEW LOCATION: INT. HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

1ST PERSON OVER THE SHOULDER ANGLE

We see a dark, empty hallway. The walls are blank, dull – the space feels eerie. The camera is handheld, capturing an unsettling stillness.

ZOOM-IN:

The camera slowly focuses on the empty hallway, the silence pressing in. The sound of anxious breathing intensifies.

Suddenly, a man's voice calls out from off-screen.

JACK (O.C.)

(yelling)

"Doll, are you okay? What was that?"

Silence. The camera holds on the empty hallway, tension building.)

BEAT - 30 seconds of silence, broken only by the sound of heavy breathing.

The door at the end of the hallway creaks open. The hallway floods with blinding light, contrasting sharply with the darkness of the kitchen. No one is visible.

A piercing white noise rings as the door swings open.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

The camera holds on the empty hallway space. The heartbeat sounds return, growing louder before coming to a sharp stop.

CUT TO: PAN OUT:**1ST PERSON OVER THE SHOULDER ANGLE**

JACK enters, dressed sharply in a dark burgundy three-piece suit, his presence both calm and unsettling. As he enters the hallway, he closes the door quickly, and the space returns to darkness.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

MILDRED stands at the end of the sink, staring into the dark space. Her expression is blank.

JACK (O.C.)

(approaching the kitchen, entering the shot as he speaks)

"Sorry, Doll. I checked everywhere - the bathroom--the bedroom..."

His tone is playful, but with an underlying sinister edge. He is seen staring at MILDRED like a she is his prey.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

JACK (cont.)

(casual, yet menacing)

"I couldn't find what you were looking for. Are you sure you have it? Maybe your mind's slipping..."

MILDRED (interrupting)

(Sounding anxious, yet annoyed)

"Yes. [Beat] It's okay, I'll find it. Thank you for looking."

She is seen grabbing her neck and earlobes and hugging herself as she is speaking.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

JACK enters the kitchen, each step is calculated, and quite. He is looking MILDRED up and down with a strange intensity. His gaze shifts from playful to something darker.

JACK (cont.)

(voice taking on an almost intimate tone)

"I'm sure you will..."

JACK is smirking at MILDRED, almost mocking her. The atmosphere feels wrong. Tension builds.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

The camera is over JACK's shoulder as he approaches MILDRED, who is visibly uneasy. She fidgets with her hands, her eyes darting nervously.

JACK comes closer, his steps measured. The sound of broken glass crunches underfoot.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

JACK's grin deepens, his movements slow and calculated. He steps over broken pieces of the plate, deliberately crushing them underfoot.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

We see the couple face to face. MILDRED is looking down at the floor, while JACK is staring at MILDRED like prey. JACK is seen taking MILDRED's hands, stopping her from fidgeting.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

JACK's hand moves around MILDRED's waist, reaching up toward her neck. She leans into him, her breath catching as she exhales.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

MILDRED shifts uncomfortably but doesn't pull away. JACK places his hands on her neck, but she seems oddly calm in his presence.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

JACK (whispers in her ear
(his breath just too close—unnaturally close)
(playful, flirtatious)
"Looks like we've got something broken again, huh?"

JACK's whisper is guttural, with a slight growl in his voice to make it uncomfortable. Let it linger for too long, almost as though it's suffocating.

The sound of footsteps on broken glass continues.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED's expression is distant, almost lost. Her breath slows. She closes her eyes as JACK kisses her neck.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

We then see JACK and MILDRED'S left hands. Both have wedding rings on. We see JACK holding MILDRED's hand down on the counter.

MILDRED: (Faint and tired)
Yes-[BEAT] Yes, we do.

FADE TO: WIDE:

From the floor, we see JACK and MILDRED standing amid the broken plate, their figures bathed in dim light. The heartbeat sound pulses once again before cutting to silence. We can see JACK's head pressed into MILDRED's hair. As we hear a deep sigh from him.

The soft strains of "Psycho" by Jack Kittle continue to play in the background.

FADE TO: NEW LOCATION

SCENE C**INT. BATHROOM - LATE NIGHT****PAN IN - WIDE SHOT**

We see MILDRED in a robe, standing in front of the bathroom mirror. The bathroom counter is cluttered – pill bottles, a toothbrush, female hygiene products, makeup, and a hairbrush are scattered around.

CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED begins removing her makeup. She smears her lipstick into a half-smile with her left hand – no jewelry. She wipes it off with a makeup wipe, her expression blank, lifeless.

PAN OVER:

The messy bathroom counter, lingering on the disarray: pill bottles, toothbrushes, hair and makeup brushes, scattered makeup, etc. cover the counter.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED turns on the shower speaker. The first faint notes of "*Crazy*" by Gnarls Barkley drift softly into the background.

CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED's left hand reaches, we see she has on her wedding ring and engagement ring. For the shower knob, her fingers trembling slightly as she grips it. There's hesitation – a deep sense of unease. She turns the water on as she takes a deep breath.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP SHARP CUT:

Water starts pouring from the showerhead. We hear the water's steady flow mixing with the escalating sound of heartbeats in the background.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

Side profile of MILDRED standing in the shower. She stares blankly at the water, slowly closing her eyes tightly as tears silently roll down her face. She is smiling uncomfortably.

The bathroom is silent, saved for the steady rush of the shower.

[BEAT] - 30 SECONDS

Faintly in the background, a baby cries.
Heartbeats begin pulsing softly.

CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED, stops crying, confused, rubs her eyes. The baby crying continues faintly. Her gaze flicks around the shower. She pulls back the curtain, revealing the empty bathroom.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER ANGLE

The bathroom is empty. The crying stops abruptly.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED, standing in the shower, glances around with increasing unease. The camera follows her gaze, showing the empty space around her. The quiet builds tension.

Subtle heartbeats begin again, slow and steady.

MILDRED closes the shower curtain, her anxiety mounting as she continues washing her hair. Her fingers tremble slightly as they run through her wet hair.

The crying starts again, louder this time – a baby wailing.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED opens her eyes. The crying stops. The tension spikes. She aggressively rinses her hair, trying to shake the feeling off.

The crying amplifies, turning into a baby's screaming.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED, shaking, turns the water off. The crying stops. Heartbeats continue, a constant pulse beneath the quiet.

STAY ON CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED's hand, bare of jewelry, shakily grips the shower knob once again. She hesitates, breathless, panicked.

With a trembling grip, she turns the water back on.

The baby crying starts again, louder, amplifying the feeling of dread.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED turning the water off again. Her hand shakes uncontrollably as she grips the knob. We see now, she has on her wedding ring.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

MILDRED, shivering, stands motionless in the shower, hugging herself tightly, her eyes fixed on the shower knobs with a fearful expression.

STAY ON WIDE SHOT:

1ST PERSON OVER THE SHOULDER ANGLE

MILDRED stares at the knobs, frozen. The sound of heartbeats grows louder, more frantic.

BEAT: 20 seconds

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP - FADE TO PAN OUT:

MILDRED starts to un-hug herself, moving one hand slowly towards the shower knob. Her grip tightens, almost desperate. Her hand shakes violently as she prepares to turn the water on again. The anxiety is suffocating.

With a final, shaky turn, she blasts the water on – scalding hot.

We hear a scream – and then silence.

The heartbeats amplify, then we hear a loud thud or door slamming somewhere off-screen.

SCENE D - CONTINUATION:

INT. BEDROOM - 12AM (LATE NIGHT)

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT - FLOOR ANGLE:

MILDRED, soaking wet, bursts out of the bathroom and runs into the bedroom.

WIDE SHOT - FLOOR ANGLE:

The scene continues seamlessly from the bathroom. MILDRED enters the bedroom, dripping wet. The sound of the running shower echoes in the background.

In the dimly lit room, we see JACK sitting in bed, reading.

PAN OUT - WIDE VIEW:

The camera shifts into focus as it captures **JACK** sitting shirtless in bed, wearing reading glasses, deeply engrossed in his book. The room is dim, with only a single light illuminating JACK from behind.

The camera follows MILDRED from a slight over-the-shoulder POV, focusing on her dripping wet body.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

The camera flips to the opposite side of the room, revealing MILDRED standing, still soaking wet, staring at JACK in bed. There is no backlight.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

JACK's book title: "No One Cares About Crazy People" by Ron Powers.

PAN TO: WIDE SHOT:**1ST PERSON OVER THE SHOULDER ANGLE**

JACK looks up from his book but doesn't acknowledge the obvious distress on MILDRED's face. Instead, he simply smiles.

JACK

(stated as a command)

"Come to bed, Mildred."

(He pats the bed next to him, his voice sharp but calm.)

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP:

MILDRED nods stiffly, her body language tense, and she slowly starts moving toward the bed.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

As she approaches the bed, MILDRED pauses, bending down to pick up her nightgown from the floor. She pulls it on, sitting on the bed. The room around her is cluttered - a stack of books on the nightstand, multiple empty cups, and pill bottles. The mess is overwhelming.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP - PAN OVER:

Books on the nightstand: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *American Psycho*, *The Bell Jar*, *Never Whistle at Night*, *Hello Beautiful*, *What My Bones Know*, *While You Were Out*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Things We Hide from the Light*.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP - PAN UP:

The cover of JACK's book: "*No One Cares About Crazy People*", his face reflected in a faint, smirking grin.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

In bed, MILDRED stares blankly ahead, her expression distant. The silence is broken as JACK slams his book shut, sighs, and places it on the nightstand next to him. Showing a very neat, untouched nightstand and neat bedside.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

He then smirks and puts up the book with his right hand. Nearest to the nightstand.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

The camera is from JACK's POV. He gently grabs MILDRED's face to make her look at him, brushing the wet strands of hair from her forehead.

JACK (smirking)
"My Doll."

He kisses her forehead, then hands her his book. He rolls over, turns off the light, and falls asleep.

MILDRED, still staring into space, remains motionless. The sound of the bathroom shower still runs in the background.

SCENE E CONTINUED:

INT. Bedroom - 3AM (Late Night)

The room is dark, lit only by a faint glow. MILDRED is lying in bed, staring at the ceiling. She looks over at JACK, asleep beside her, then lies completely still on her back.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT (ABOVE)

MILDRED lying in bed, her eyes wide open as she stares at the ceiling.

FADE TO:
ZOOM IN: MILDRED'S EYE

Heartbeat sounds in the background.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT
1ST PERSON POV:

We see a tall, dark figure in the corner of the room, an overwhelming sense of unease fills the air. The heartbeat intensifies.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED's POV: She looks over at JACK, who is peacefully asleep.

**CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:
1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER**

The figure is getting closer to the bed.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED is paralyzed with fear, her eyes wide. Her mouth tries to open, but she cannot scream or move. The figure's hand inches closer to her leg.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT (ABOVE)

MILDRED is motionless, staring at the figure. The hand now rests on her leg. MILDRED hyperventilates, the heartbeat grows louder.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

The figure's hand continues its slow ascent up MILDRED's leg. She lies still, frozen in terror. The figure crawls onto the bed, looming over her.

**CUT TO: WIDE SHOT
1ST PERSON POV:**

JACK remains asleep, oblivious to MILDRED's distress.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED tries to speak but no sound comes out. Tears begin to fall as she turns her head, seeking help from JACK, but her fear is palpable. The heartbeat grows deafening.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT (FRONT OF BED)

Suddenly, MILDRED bolts upright, crying out and screaming.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

The room is calm. Both MILDRED and JACK are peacefully asleep. The sound of MILDRED gasping for air is heard.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

JACK is awake, staring at MILDRED with an intense, unreadable expression. His book, the one he had been reading, rests on MILDRED's chest.

**CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:
1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER**

MILDRED is lying back down, and a dark shadow hovers next to her on the bed.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED wakes up suddenly, crying. JACK, now fully awake, reaches for the light, comforting her. The figure has disappeared.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

JACK (*calmly, almost lovingly*)
"Shh... What's wrong, Doll?"
He takes the book from her hands, moving closer to comfort her.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED
(*crying, frantic*)
"Jack—someone was in here! Someone was here!"
She points to the edge of the bed.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

JACK
(*softly, soothing*)
"Shh, it's okay, Doll. It's just your beautiful mind. A nightmare... a dream... nothing more."
He gently cradles her face, a smile playing on his lips. His movements feel calculated and rigid.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED grabs JACK's left hand, nervously fiddling with his wedding ring. We see that she's not wearing hers.

JACK
(*a little frustrated*)
"Nothing to fear, Doll. I'm here. I'm here. Don't worry that pretty mind"

MILDRED tries to look around the room, but JACK holds her face gently, preventing her from looking anywhere else.

JACK

(annoyed)

"I said [PASUE] nothing to fear, MILDRED."

He says this more aggressively and then his face and gaze soften while looking at MILDRED.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

We hear slow heartbreaks fading to white noise

MILDRED relaxes in JACK's arms and falls asleep. JACK is seen holding MILDRED staring deeply into the camera with a small smirk building into a smile. He begins looking through narrow eyes directly at the camera. The room's light flickers and eventually turns off by itself.

SCENE F CONTINUED:

INT. Bedroom - Morning

FADE IN:

The camera moves slowly through a brightly lit bedroom. The space feels familiar but unsettling. A warm glow emanates from a small lamp by the bedside table.

PULL BACK:

We now see MILDRED waking up in bed, her eyes blinking open slowly. Her expression is blank and disoriented. She reaches out for JACK, but he is gone. Panic starts to creep in.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED checks her phone, and it's late afternoon, almost evening. She finds a message from Mr. Jack Terrere, stating he was called into work early and reminding MILDRED about the dinner party later.

SCENE G:

INT. Bedroom / Living Room - Early Evening

CUT TO: BLACK

All we hear is a room filled with people

Loud Male Laughing (O.C.):

Obnoxious Laughing

Unknown Female Voice (V.O.):
(whispering) (Unclear words.)

Unknown Male Voice (V.O.):
 "They know."

FADE OUT: WIDE SHOT

A large group is gathered around a table in the living room. There is one wine glass and one plate. The room is softly lit, but the lighting begins to fade into darkness.

PAN OUT:

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER:

The room is filled with guests, talking, laughing, and moving around. There's an unsettling whispering among them.

Unknown Female Voice (V.O.):
(whispering) (Unclear words.)

Unknown Male Voice (V.O.):
 "They know."

"Hey Doll Face"

Unknown Female Voice (V.O.):
 "They know."

The tension builds as the room starts spinning, distorting reality.

Loud Male Laughing (O.C.):
Obnoxious Laughing

The room stops spinning.

CUT TO:

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER:

MILDRED is seen wearing all white dress, with a lace head veil on, sitting in the middle of the group, visibly uncomfortable. JACK is absent. MILDRED holds a wine glass in one hand and nervously clasps her neck with the other. She's blinking rapidly.

Everyone talks over each other, but the conversations are unintelligible.

CUT TO:

MILDRED's POV: People in the room are rummaging through her things, laughing. She is looking around the room. The camera is

rapid movement, handheld following from face to face. We see some people are masked, while others are not.

CUT TO:

A young female **FRIEND** grabs MILDRED's hands, pulling her from her thoughts.

Unknown Voices (V.O.):
"MILDRED!! MILDRED!!"

CUT TO:

MILDRED zones out, staring into the distance, overwhelmed.

FRIEND:
(softly, worried)
"MILDRED, are you okay?"

MILDRED snaps back to reality, startled.

MILDRED:
(anxious, smiling faintly)
"Yes! Of course. Sorry... I think I had too much to drink. I haven't been sleeping well. I- "

MILDRED:
(anxious, smiling)
"I, think I'm losing my mind."
MILDRED says this as a joke.

We then hear the room bursting into loud laughter.

CUT TO:

The two sit on the couch. Everyone around them continues to laugh.

Unknown Voices (V.O.):
"LIAR!!"
(shouted angrily)

FRIEND starts laughing loudly and MILDRED joins to laugh together nervously, trying to deflect the mounting tension.

Unknown Voices (V.O.):
"MILDRED!! MILDRED!!"

Unknown Voices (V.O.):
(shouted angrily)
Doll Face, Doll Face.

Female Voice:
(aggressive)
"Shh"

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED looks around the room, increasingly frantic. She doesn't recognize the people around her. The camera swings wildly, focusing face after face.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

FRIEND:
(playfully)
"Huh? Oh, I said 'okay.'"

The FRIEND is speaking to someone else. Then looks at MILDRED relieved, but MILDRED's anxiety deepens.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

We see MILDRED nervously take a sip of wine using her left hand. She is seen wearing an engagement ring and wedding band. Her veil is seen slipping further back off her head

CUT TO: PAN OVER

The group continues laughing louder. MILDRED breathes heavily, her distress is increasing.

People around her continue to dig through her things. Being careless and wild.

MILDRED:
"Hey! Please don't! Please..."

MILDRED:
"Stop!" (shouted angrily)

FRIEND (interrupting):
"Lighten up, MILDRED. You're acting crazy."

People around MILDRED continue and start to get close and in her personal space. Grabbing her veil, pulling it down to her shoulders. They start to smell her hair, touch her face and body. One male grabs her left hand and smiles at the rings.

Camera handheld capturing frantic movements.

CUT TO: PAN OVER

The group starts to throw her things to one another and continue to go through her things. Being careless and wild. Getting closer to breaking her personal items.

Unknown Female Voice (LOUDER):
(whispering, unclear)

Unknown Male:
 "They know."

Loud Male Laughing (O.C.):
Obnoxious Laughing

A deep belly laugh fills the room
 The room spins again, faster.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED stands alone in the middle of the room, disoriented.

CUT TO:
1ST PERSON POV:

JACK enters the screen, dressed in his three-piece suit. He closes the front door, bidding for the friend's goodbye.

JACK:
(saying laughing and happily)
 "Goodnight, everyone. Thank you for coming! See you soon!"

Unknown Female Voice (O.S.):
(flirty)
 "Bye, Jack!"

Unknown Male Voice (O.S.):
 "Thanks for having us, Jack!"

The crowd continues to bid farewell.

SCENE H - Living Room - NIGHT

NEW SCENE: Continuation

The crowd's voices are faint, gradually fading as the door shuts. *Hostage by Billie Eilish* plays softly in the background, adding to the tension.

JACK
(turning to look at MILDRED)
"That was fun, huh?"

MILDRED
(interrupts, voice sharp)
"Yes—"

[Beat]

JACK watches her, his concern shifting into subtle suspicion. He steps toward her.

JACK
(gently, but worried)
"You okay, doll? You seemed off tonight... You always like MY friends. What's going on? Don't I make you cringe now?"

There's a LONG PAUSE.

JACK (cont.) (smirking)
"Did they do something? (PAUSE) Did I?"
(His eyes narrow, his tone sharp, predatory looking.)
MILDRED quickly cuts him off, her tone defensive.

MILDRED
"I'm fine, JACK."

Her voice is sharper. She quivers as she glances at him, but her attempt at reassurance is weak.

MILDRED (cont.)
"Sorry, I—I didn't sleep well. You know this."
JACK softens at her explanation, stepping closer to her.

JACK
(His eyes narrow again. his tone seductive)
"I know, doll. But look at me. I'm here for you."
He gently grabs her wrists, pulling her into him. He smiles, but there's something unsettling about it.

MILDRED (faint, exhausted)
"JACK, no. Please. Not now. I just want to sleep."
(She pushes him away, visibly distressed.)

JACK (cont.)

"No, doll." (he sighs heavily)

His voice is soft but insistent, his body close again. He stops, eyeing his hands before looking back at her.

JACK (cont.)

Talk to me." (His tone changes to demanding).

He his staring at MILDRED with hate in his eyes. He looks murderous.

JACK (cont.)

"I can feel you pulling away. You don't look at me like you used to. A doll-seen but never heard."

(His words are almost too intimate; and sad)

MILDRED (frantic)

"JACK, I'm fine. I'm just tired. Listen to me, I love you. I just--"

JACK (interrupts, furious)

"Dammit, MILDRED. You're lying!"

Suddenly, UNKNOWN VOICES — both male and female, yelling:

VOICES (V.O.)

"Liar."

MILDRED is visibly shaking, her lips trembling.

The room is spinning

MILDRED (whispers, voice cracking)

"No... No, I'm not, JACK...I, I --"

[BEAT]

**CUT TO:CLOSE UP
1ST PERSON POV:**

MILDRED's face coming in and out of focus.

CUT TO: WIDE

She freezes as JACK grabs her face, staring at her forehead and then her eyes, his tears silently streaming down. We hear only sobs coming from JACK.

JACK (whispering, almost reverently)
"You're so beautiful, MILDRED. You're MY doll. Such a face...
and such a beautiful mind. Blind and lost to right in front of
you, only seen by many."

He says this as he is stroking her face loving and endearing,
but something seems off when this is captured.

We start to hear faint anxious breathing and heartbeats

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

JACK pulls her into a tight embrace, softly sobbing as he holds
her. The music plays in the background, but the scene feels
weighed with dark emotions.

MILDRED (quiet, defeated)
"I'm just tired."

JACK (whispering)
"I know, doll. I know."

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

JACK holds her head, leaning in to kiss her on the forehead.
MILDRED, expressionless, remains lifeless in his embrace as the
haunting melody of *Hostage* by *Billie Eilish* plays on.

SCENE I - Bedroom - Late Night

CUT TO: INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

JACK is asleep in bed, a book resting across his chest. MILDRED
reaches to place it on the nightstand when a loud knock at the
front door cuts through the silence. She is seen with her rings
on.

The knocking intensifies—louder, more aggressive.

MILDRED tries to wake JACK, shaking him gently, but the knocking
continues to escalate.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED, now fully awake, gets out of bed. As she walks toward
the front door, the knocking turns into banging, rattling the
house.

MILDRED (panicked, to herself)
"Who's there? What do you want?"

The sound of the banging is deafening now.

As MILDRED approaches the door, a dark figure appears behind her, lurking just out of view. The figure slowly steps forward, reaching to grab her shoulder.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED spins around, but nothing is there. The figure vanishes just before it can touch her.

The banging returns; Louder.

MILDRED (frantic, almost pleading)
"Who is it?!"

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED's hand reaches for the door handle, no jewelry on her hands. But just as she touches it, the figure grabs her from behind, covering her mouth with a cold hand.

The camera whips around to show her fast asleep in bed.

SCENE J - Kitchen - NEXT MORNING

CUT TO: INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

MILDRED walks into the kitchen, disheveled, exhausted looking, to find JACK drinking coffee, reading one of her books. JACK is properly dressed, seemingly unaffected by the events of the night.

CUT TO: STOVE CLOCK

The time reads late afternoon.

MILDRED (off-screen, weary)
"It happened again last night..."

JACK (smirking)
"Oh? Did I sweep you off your feet?"

MILDRED (irritated, barely holding it together)

"Jack, this isn't funny. I'm exhausted."

(She opens a pill bottle, popping a pill as she walks over to grab JACK's coffee, drinking it in one motion.)

JACK (dismissive, carefree)

"Well, I slept great." *(smirks)*

MILDRED gives him a tired, exasperated eye roll.

JACK (cont.)

"Hmm... I know, doll. Look at me." *(He stands up, his voice softening, but still unsettling.)*

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

MILDRED glances over at him, her gaze distant.

JACK (cont.)

"Aww, yes. Still a perfect face. Such a doll."

(he smiles- pauses, sighing deeply)

"I'm here for you, Doll. You know? You know - you're mine. Your lips, your stress, your mind." *(Pause)* your words.

His eyes linger on her forehead, his smile predatory.

JACK (cont.)

"Your dreams... they are mine."

(His tone sharpens as he pulls her toward him.)

"You need sleep, doll. Everything you want is here."

He is seen rubbing MILDRED's forehead.

TO CUT TO: CLOSE UP

They begin to walk toward the bedroom. Both wear wedding rings, the symbolism of the rings contrasting with the tense, almost suffocating atmosphere.

SCENE K - Bedroom

CUT TO: INT. BEDROOM

JACK stands over MILDRED as she stands by the bed, She is looking up at him, then down at her hands.

CUT TO

MILDRED fidgeting with her rings. With freshly manicured hands.

She is looking small and fragile in his presence. He leans in close to her, his voice demanding.

PAN OUT: WIDE SHOT

JACK (cont.)

"You know what to do."

MILDRED looks up at him, the tension is high. She nods slowly, almost robotic. She then climbs onto the bed.

JACK (cont.)

"My doll, with no cracks."

He looks over to her side of the bed. Looking at her books. Runs his hand on them. Then turns to look at MILDRED.
(He brushes her hair gently, his words laced with a strange calm.)

JACK (cont.)

"Why don't I finish here? You go back to sleep, hmm? You're seen and never heard. These eyes... they see what I envision. There's always tomorrow my doll."

He smiles before kissing her wedding ring, then bringing his hand to MILDRED'S mouth. She kisses his rings softly. He then puts his hand on MILDRED'S eyes. Leaving her with the haunting image of his words and knocks on the door as leaving.

JACK (o.c)

Good night, my Doll.

SCENE L

BEDROOM: NIGHT

CUT TO: INT. BEDROOM: LATE NIGHT

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

We hear loud knocks coming from off screen. MILDRED is seen bursting up awake crying and screaming. MILDRED is kicking and screaming. Knocking stops.
MILDRED looks around the room.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP

JACK'S side of the bed. No one is there

CUT TO : WIDE SHOT

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER ANGLE

We see the door

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

We see MILDRED lying in the middle of the bed. JACK's book seen laid across MILDRED's body. And JACK is nowhere near.

MILDRED

(frantic & screaming)

No! No! This isn't happening! JACK! JACK, where are you?

We hear loud knocks and heartbeats.

MILDRED

(breathless, panicked)

I... but- NO! The pieces are falling apart.

While MILDRED is speaking, we see she pulling her hair. Smashing her head with her hands.

We hear knocks, cracking glass and heartbeats.

Then silence

[LONG BEAT]

MILDRED then looks at her hands and sees she does not have a wedding ring or engagement ring.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP:

On MILDRED's hands. She then throws the books on the bedside table. She starts to scream. Is Shaking and hugging herself.

MILDRED (cont.)

(frantic, panicked)

No! No! NO!!

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT:

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER ANGLE

The camera, handheld, MILDRED gets up from the bed. We hear loud crashes of broken glass in another room. She moves through the bedroom frantic. She pulls the sheets off the bed.

The camera is shaky, capturing the frenzy and disintegration of her once peaceful home.

Suddenly, MILDRED notices something on the floor. JACK's ring.
(The Camera is still, and not handheld.)

CUT TO: PAN OUT

JACK's ring

CUT TO: PAN OUT

WIDE SHOT

MILDRED drops to the floor.

CUT TO:

We then see broken pieces of glass everywhere. We then see JACK's shoes step on the ring.

CUT TO:

MILDRED crawls slowly and nervous toward JACK.

CUT TO: PAN OUT

WIDE SHOT

We see JACK staring down at MILDRED. Smiling through his eyes. His eyes are narrow. JACK moves his foot to reveal his ring once again.

CUT TO: PAN DOWN

WIDE SHOT CUT TO:

And we see his ring comes into focus next to his shoes. He bends over to pick it up. He puts it on, then we see his hand reaching down towards MILDRED, as if signaling to come over to him.

CUT TO: PAN OUT

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER ANGLE: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED stares at up JACK. She looks up JACK standing off to the side of the bedroom.

CUT TO: WIDE

1ST PERSON OVER SHOULDER ANGLE

We see MILDRED on the floor crawling towards JACK. When she is about two feet from JACK she stands up AND slowly starts to walk towards JACK.

CUT TO: CLOSE UP

JACK

(breathless, panicked)

My beautiful mind, blind doll. Lost in what is real in front of you--

As MILDRED gets closer to JACK, we see it is a mirror

(cut off by MILDRED saying the same line: JACK's voices fade out)

MILDRED

(breathless, endearing)

My beautiful mind, blind doll. Lost in what is real in front of you.

MILDRED starts to uncontrollably laugh.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED is seen looking at herself in the mirror, crying, laughing, and talking to herself
NO SOUND is heard. All we hear is white noise. Then rapid heartbeats start.
HOLD on MILDRED in mirror and heartbeats racing.

Then we hear nothing

CUT TO: WHITE

SCENE 1 - Living Room - Final Scene

CUT TO: FADE IN INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We transition back to the opening scene with a 1st person POV of the front door, the pounding of knocks and heavy breathing filling the room. It's bright, but the atmosphere feels oppressive, suffocating.

MILDRED appears in frame, disheveled, her face blank, her breathing rapid and shallow. She stares at the door, eyes wide with fear.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP

Her head whips to the side, direct eye contact with the camera. The knocking stops. She looks back, at the door. We hear loud heartbeats as the knocking continues.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT

MILDRED, barefoot, walks across broken glass towards the door. Her left hand is no longer wearing rings. The door opens to reveal no one standing there.

CUT TO: STILL SHOT

White noise fills the space, with a loud continuous ringing. MILDRED stands in the doorway, staring blankly into the distance with JACK standing behind her, bringing her back inside and closing the door.

Emotions by Brenda Lee fade out

FADE OUT TO BLACK.