

TRANSFERENCE

Screen adaptation by

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Based on the book "Transference"
Written by Jimmy Andrews

Made in Highland

1 VOICEOVER (PATIENT C)

2 Let us be real. Shall we? Most
"stories" don't require the
"listener" to actively
"participate" in the storyline.
Not really. (Pause) This one does.
A warning, though... it won't be
easy. Unless you can accept me as
a fucked up, middle-aged woman,
staring back at you in the mirror,
wondering how in the hell WE got
here, and not a clue on what to do
next. And the only "conclusion" I
ask you to keep telling yourself,
over and over, is... **our most
basic need in life is to
"identify" the right person to
transfer our most intimate
feelings.** (Pause) Then comes...
Complete and utter chaos until the
TRANSFERENCE is ended. So... can
you go there with me?

3 FADE TO:

4 **INT. CAR IN A PARKING LOT. BROAD DAYLIGHT**

5 A woman in her mid-60s sits behind the steering wheel of her
car. Her back is positioned against the door. Her eyes are
closed as her head leans back against the window, which is half
way down. Her right knee is raised and her right hand holds on
to the head rest.

6 A younger man sits on his knees in the floor on the passenger
side. He is performing oral sex on the woman.

7 CUT TO:

8 **EXT. PARKING LOT.**

9 VOICEOVER (PATIENT C)

10 They didn't try to hide it. Not
really. I mean, parking away from
the other cars actually made them
stand out more. They didn't even
bother switching days - always on
a Saturday; an hour before lunch.
(Beat) I guess it was lunch.

11 CUT TO:

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INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY

13 A female patient, 35, is relaxed on a couch.
A female therapist, 55, is questioning her.

14 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
15 Talk to me about your relationship
with HIS mother?

16 PATIENT C
17 Oh I never knew his mother.
(Pause)
18 I WAS his mother.

19 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
20 What do you mean, exactly?

21 PATIENT C
22 It was my breast he fed from. My
wetness from which he drank and my
womb where he nested. My hair he
stroked. My underarm where his
nose cuddled to sleep. (Pause)
23 I didn't need to know HER. I only
needed to BE.
24 (Pause)
25 ME!
26 HER!

27 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
28 There are hundreds of case studies
that tell us how, both men AND
women, psychologically attempt to
transfer their love of a parent to
another... "significant adult" in
our lives. You've heard the
saying, 'Every boy wants to marry
his mother and every girl wants to
marry her father.' It's called
"transference." But I have to say,
none of those "role-playing"
relationships end well. It's
simply too much for anyone to live
up to those kinds of expectations.

29 The patient smiles as if to know something the therapist
doesn't.

30 The therapist reacts slightly puzzled at her patient.

31 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
 32 Hope, expectations, and despair
 reside in all of us - lingering on
 from our childhood and then
 becoming activated again in our
 intimate relationships.

33 PATIENT C
 34 You make it sound... sooo bad.
 (Pause)
 35 (Matter of factly) It wasn't!
 Turned out to be the only thing
 that ever mattered.
 36 To HIM.
 37 To ME.
 38 Unquestioned... understanding.
 39 Finality.
 40 Peace.

41 The therapist deeply contemplates the patient's response and
 narrows her questioning.

42 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
 43 And your own mother? How did SHE
 speak to you about your... (uses
 her quote fingers)... arrangement?

44 The patient stares at the therapist... and then looks down...
 and looks away.

45 CUT TO:

46 **EXT. PEACEFUL SETTING. DAYTIME, CONVALESCENT HOME**

47 We see MOM sitting in a swing with a blanket draped across her
 lap. A caretaker approaches.

48 CARETAKER
 49 Ms. C, you have a visitor. Do you
 feel up to it? You want some
 company?

50 Mom looks around and sees the visitor. The caretaker motions
 for him to come over. The man walks over and sits beside MOM.
 He is her son-in-law. She is excited to see him.

51 HUSBAND
 52 There she is! Still the most
 gorgeous woman on the planet.

53 MOM
 54 (Giggles) Don't be silly. I look
 horrible. I'm old!

55 HUSBAND
56 You ain't ever too old for me.

57 Her son-in-law pulls his phone out of his pocket and shows her
his screen.

58 HUSBAND (CONT'D)
59 See who that is?

60 MOM
61 Hey! It's ME!

62 HUSBAND
63 I keep you as my screensaver. You
were beautiful, huh?

64 MOM
65 Yes I was. (Laughs)

66 HUSBAND
67 I should have married you.

68 MOM
69 Well, I guess you chose the
younger version, huh?

70 The son-in-law nods his head in agreement and then lowers his
head to reflect on her comment.

71 MOM
72 How is she, anyway?

73 CUT TO:

74 **INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY**

75 PATIENT C
76 I think if he had been born twenty
years earlier or her twenty years
later, they'd probably be
together.

77 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
78 You mean your husband and your
mother?

79 PATIENT C
Yeah.
(MORE)

79

PATIENT C (CONT'D)

I mean... they had more in common with each other than we did. And it was obvious whose side she was on when he and I would argue. I was her daughter, but she never once took my side. (Pauses) I take that back. The day he found out I was having an affair, MOM took up for me. But I could still tell she was walking a tightrope. She knew he was angry enough to hurt me, but she also didn't want to lose him. She was in a tough spot.

81

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

82

Which put YOU in a tough spot. I would imagine you wanted her to choose you over him?

83

PATIENT C

84

You'd think I'd want that, huh? But I'm actually not so sure. (Beat) Telling the truth or telling a lie - they both come with consequences. And in the heat of the moment, do we really care which road we take? We only want it to end... one way or the other.

85

CUT TO:

86

INT. KITCHEN. DAYTIME, TWO YEARS AGO

87

The patient is having a passionate discussion with her mother.

88

MOM

89

I know he was your first true love, but you were 14! You have two grown boys of your own now. This is just a fantasy. You've been married to one man for 28 years and too much is at stake here. Too many years have gone by. May I remind you that HE walked away from YOU all those years ago and left you with no choice but to move on with your life?

90 PATIENT C
91 But I never moved on. He was
always there. He is begging me to
leave, mom. He wants to take care
of me. He loves me for who I am. I
can be myself with him. ONLY him.
I... I... I... I've been somebody
else for twenty years. Hell, maybe
even longer. Growing up, I tried
to be what you and Daddy wanted me
to be! So what do I do? I go and
marry a guy who is a bigger
control freak! He doesn't love ME.
I'm his possession.
92 A puppet.
93 Branded!

94 MOM
95 But I'm afraid of what he will do
to you if you try and leave! Your
father was ALWAYS saying how he
feared for your safety.

96 PATIENT C
97 And that's partly why I waited to
get away. I didn't want daddy to
worry.

98 MOM
99 Well now I'm worried! I've lost
everyone I ever loved and now I
could lose you. I can't go through
that.

100 PATIENT C
101 Don't you want me happy? Finally?
Don't I deserve to be happy?

102 Husband walks in on their conversation.

103 HUSBAND
104 I think you need to leave us alone
now so I can talk some sense into
your daughter's - my wife's -
head. Don't you think?

105 MOM
106 She didn't mean what she said.
She's upset. It was me that made
it worse. It's not her fault.
She's been under a lot of
pressure.

107 HUSBAND
108 I asked you to leave. Now I'm
TELLING you to leave.

109 PATIENT C
110 Hell no! She doesn't have to go
anywhere. Why don't YOU leave?
It's over. It's been over. All we
been doing is just playing house;
you and me. We have been for
years. I don't love YOU. I don't
know that I ever have loved you.

111 The husband grabs his wife by the hair and forces her out the
door. He locks her out and turns to approach the mother.

112 HUSBAND
113 You're right! This is YOUR fault!
YOU stayed in touch with him on
her behalf. Didn't you? Did you
fuck him, too? I always knew there
was something twisted about this
family. FREAKS! ALL OF YOU!

114 MOM
115 Like you came around enough to
KNOW her family? You hated coming
over! You sat there on your phone
the whole time. Her family was
important to her and it broke her
heart that you didn't want
anything to do with us. Just give
her time to settle down and you
guys can talk this out.

116 HUSBAND
117 Oh it's time for action. No more
talking. I own this town. No one
is going to believe her OR you.
I'll tell them your little secret
and you'll be run out of the
county with a hot poker.

118 MOM
119 Don't you mean... OUR little
secret?

120 We see the patient re-enter the kitchen from the opposite
direction - having regained entrance. She is charging her
husband.

121 PATIENT C
122 (Shouting) I'm not afraid of you
anymore. I'll kill you mother
fucker!

123 We see blurred struggling and hear commotion.

124 FADES TO BLACK:

125 **INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM.**

126 Patient C is sitting at a table. A detective is sitting across
from her.

127 DETECTIVE
128 When was the last time you saw
him?

129 PATIENT C
130 That would be when he was bathing
my mother.

131 DETECTIVE
132 And where did this bath take
place?

133 PATIENT C
134 In her house. The house where I
grew up. In the main bathroom.

135 DETECTIVE
136 Was he in the bathtub with her?

137 PATIENT C
Yes.

138 DETECTIVE
139 Was this normal? I mean, did it
happen a lot?

140 PATIENT C
It was the only way she would
agree to take a bath. No one else
could get her near the tub. She
would put up a fight with anyone
else and its just wasn't worth it.
The only thing worse was the
stentch of smelling the piss
and... I mean the smell was
everywhere in the house. On the
couch. On the bed. In the air
conditioner.

(MORE)

140 PATIENT C (CONT'D)
So, YEAH, no one cared that he was
the one to do it. No one else
wanted to do it! SHE would not let
anyone else bathe her. Look... you
can't possibly understand unless
you've been in that situation.
It's a very desperate situation.

142 DETECTIVE
143 One that called for a desperate
resolution?

144 The Patient stares at the detective and begins to tap her
fingers on the table.

145 PATIENT C
146 I didn't do it. Okay?

147 CUT TO:

148 **INT. BEDROOM. EARLY MORNING**

149 PATIENT C and the MAN are in bed.

150 She is wearing only a T-shirt. She is rotated on her right side
facing the camera.

151 He is shirtless. The rest of his body is wrapped in the cover
sheet. He is sleeping on his right side between her legs. The
right side of his face rests on her inner thigh, but is turned
away from her vagina.

152 Her right knee is slightly bent and raised to accommodate his
head and acts like a pillow where the side of his face rests.

153 Her left, top leg, is draped over his left shoulder while her
foot weaves its way back under his left arm and side.

154 His left hand is holding on to her calf and knee.
He is... entangled and seemingly trapped between her legs.

155 She is using her right hand to run her fingers through his hair
as if massaging his scalp. Her left hand is under her T-shirt
and is softly squeezing her right breast.

156 A close up shot of the T-shirt reveals the expression of milk
soaking through the cotton top.

157 PATIENT C
158 Is it me? You think about? Or is
it her?

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159 The man opens his eyes and considers her question.

160 MAN
161 The lines blur. They do. They feed
each other. They become one. It's
very much like you are one in the
same. Maybe she is a more... pure
version of you. Not watered down
through genetics and circumstance.
Yet... you are free from the
bondage she was forced to carry;
the unspeakable(s). She is free
through you, and you are -
probably unknowingly - being
guided by HER instincts. (Beat)
Me? I am fueled by both.

162 The couple look at each other and explode into another round of
passionate lovemaking.

163 CUT TO:

164 **INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY**

165 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
166 You had two boys of your own. How
do you think those emotions factor
into this... NEED... to mother
HIM?

167 PATIENT C
168 They don't need me anymore. But I
still need to be needed. (Beat) My
breast knew when it was time to
feed my boys. They ached.
Sometimes the pain was so intense.
The need to expel their milk did
not care what hour it was, or
WHERE we were, or who was in the
room. I couldn't stop it. Every
mother knows this. It's instinct.
It's the invisible thread that
connects us forever. I felt it
again. My hormones awakened. He
sensed them... tasted them...
obsessed over them like a child
himself. HE replaced the boys. Oh
it was so much stronger because we
had no incestual boundaries.

169 We see the therapist cross her legs as if to squeeze her inner
thighs together. She is slightly embarrassed.

170 Patient C lowers her eyes to witness her therapist's struggle
to cover it up.

171 CUT TO:

172 **EXT. WOODED FOREST. DAY**

173 The HUSBAND and the MAN stand in the middle of a forest.

174 HUSBAND
175 It IS a beautiful piece of land.
We can build you a nice place
here. With how slow things are
right now, I can get it done in
about nine months.

176 MAN
177 I only want (man points) that
section clear-cut. The cottage
goes there. Maybe a pool on that
side to catch the morning sun.

178 The two men walk towards the place where the MAN pointed.

179 MAN
180 I want an outdoor shower here. A
big one. So we can fuck out here.
Right in the middle of Mother
Nature.

181 The MAN looks at the HUSBAND. The HUSBAND chuckles and nods to
the MAN

182 MAN
183 Now, the house will be over here.
And right here... the biggest
master bedroom with nothing but
windows. Even from the road you'll
be able to see us making love from
one corner to the other. Nasty.
Hardcore. Sex.

184 HUSBAND
185 Sounds like you have a keeper!

186 MAN
187 Oh yeah! She's the sexiest woman
alive. Knows how to dress. How to
wear her hair. All natural. And
man... she stays so wet (shakes
his head in disbelief)... it just
soaks through her panties and runs
down her legs. It literally
puddles on the seat.

188 HUSBAND
189 Shit! Who wouldn't want that?

190 MAN
191 You've had her.

192 The HUSBAND looks confused. His facial expression turns to
resolve.

193 MAN
194 I mean, I'm not sure she's ever
been like THAT with you. At least
from what she tells me. We've even
given HER a name. You know? (He
points down there in reference to
the private area). She has a mind
all her own - completely in sync
with me. It's amazing! It really
is.

195 HUSBAND
196 I been married to one woman since
high school.

197 MAN
198 Yeah. I know.

199 We see an aerial shot above the trees with the men standing
below. The HUSBAND turns to walk away. His walk turns into a
run.

200 CUT TO:

201 **INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT, 'TWENTY YEARS EARLIER'**

202 Title indicates this scene occurs forty years earlier.
An older man, MOMS father, eases out of his room and walks down
the hall. He quietly opens the door to another bedroom and
enters.

203 CUT TO:

204 **INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY**

205 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
206 How did you learn about your mom
being molested. She doesn't seem
like the kind of woman who reveals
that kind of secret.

207 PATIENT C
208 Oh, she'd NEVER tell me herself.
She told my husband, who then told
me. She'd tell him anything. He
knew more about her than we do. He
knew more about her than my father
did.

209 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
210 Why do you think that is?

211 PATIENT C
212 She trusted him. He had that about
him. People talked to him.
Strangers even.

213 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
214 And how did he get along with your
father?

215 PATIENT C
216 They had that testosterone thing
going in the beginning, but near
the end, my father respected him
more than he did my brother. I'm
not sure if he was real
comfortable with how he and my
mother got along. One one hand, my
husband did the things that my
father refused to do. All the
little things around the house
that mom wanted done was just a
relief to my father because he
didn't have to do them. Still, it
came at the cost of MY husband
being closer to mom than her own
husband.

217 The therapist nods her head in agreement.

218 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
219 Who found your father that day?

220 PATIENT C
221 Mom did, but of course she called
him to come over. He said mom was
just sitting on the couch in
another room. Dad was dead in his
chair. He called 911 and waited
with mom.

222 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
223 Do you know what they talked about
while they waited on the coroner?

224 PATIENT C
 225 No. He said it would be better for
 me not to know. It might upset me.
 I'm not sure I wanted to know. It
 wasn't going to change anything if
 I did know. (Pause) I'm glad he
 was there with her. I would not
 have been much comfort to her.
 Besides, she wasn't going to show
 any real emotions with me there.
 She never has.

226 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
 227 So your husband did just about
 everything for your mother. That
 had to bother you, right?

228 PATIENT C
 229 Not always. I guess the apple
 really doesn't fall far from the
 tree. I was just happy my mother
 was being taken care of. I want
 her to be happy. If she couldn't
 be herself around me, then at
 least he was there as her outlet.

230 CUT TO:

231 **EXT. PEACEFUL SETTING. DAYTIME, CONVALESCENT HOME**

232 DETECTIVE
 233 M'am. Do you recognize the person
 in this photo?

234 MOM
 235 That's my husband.

236 DETECTIVE
 237 No m'am. That is your son-in-law.

238 MOM
 239 Don't be silly. I think I know my
 own husband when I see him.

240 DETECTIVE
 241 M'am, your husband has been passed
 away for several years now.

242 MOM
 243 That's really sad. (Pause)
 But he was here yesterday and he
 looked fine to me.
 (MORE)

242 MOM (CONT'D)
I think there's something wrong
with you.

245 The detective looks defeated and sighs.

246 CUT TO:

247 **INT. LEAD PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. DAY**

248 The detective and lead prosecutor discuss the case.

249 PROSECUTOR
250 Alright. I need you to catch me up
on this case. The DA is starting
to push.

251 DETECTIVE
252 Oh it's a mess!

253 He starts drawing on a dry board.

254 DETECTIVE
255 We've got a father who was
poisoned two years ago. We can't
pin it on any of the family
members or anyone else who came
into contact with him. The
toxicologist says rat poison got
transferred into the oatmeal
container that was left open in
the cabinet. Ruled it an accident.
Ironically, the son-in-law ends up
dead from food poisoning six
months ago. It was because of this
we decided to take another look at
the previous case. That's just too
much of a coincidence. In both
cases, the deceased had refused to
go to the doctor when they started
feeling sick. At least that's what
the wife says, who happens to be
the daughter of the older man in
the first case.

256 PROSECUTOR
257 Oh come on. It's always a family
member. You know that.

258 DETECTIVE
Well, the wife has a strong alibi.
(MORE)

258 DETECTIVE (CONT'D)
She was secretly having an affair
with her high school sweetheart
and they were out of the country
for two weeks. Their story checked
out.

260 PROSECUTOR
261 And what about other family
members?

262 DETECTIVE
263 The matriarch of the family is in
assisted living with dementia. She
doesn't know what she had for
breakfast, but there is a strong
rumor she was having an affair
with her son-in-law for years. But
get this, her daughter knew about
and was fine it all.

264 PROSECUTOR
265 Then we are back to the daughter.

266 DETECTIVE
267 Turns out she has been seeing a
psychiatrist and no way will the
therapist talk about her sessions.
I know you'll ask about the
possibility of her hiring someone
to knock off the husband on her
behalf, but because he was so
close with her mother... she
depended on him to take care of
her! He was the only one on the
visitation list at the nursing
home. He went twice a week like
clock work. We just don't have the
evidence to prove anything other
than a freaky coincidence.

268 PROSECUTOR
269 Sounds like a Lifetime movie or
something. You gotta give me more
or else we walk away. What about
the inheritance? Who's getting the
money when the old lady dies?

270 DETECTIVE
271 It's all been spent by her son who
lives in Panama. He hasn't been
home in ten years. No money trail.

272 CUT TO:

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273

INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY

274

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

275

Let's get back to the affair.

276

PATIENT C

277

I LOVE talking about that! Yes,
let's do.

278

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

279

I'm confused as to how your mother
could be okay with that when she
was so crazy about your husband -
her son-in-law!

280

PATIENT C

281

Because it meant more alone time
with him. Plus... she really wants
me happy! She knows I have always
loved this guy. She was there
through the teenage years with me-
crying myself to sleep at night.
She knew I got married to get away
from that heartbreak.

282

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

283

So... why didn't you get divorced,
let your mother be with your ex
husband and you marry your long-
time sweetheart? That's a scenario
where everybody wins.

284

PATIENT C

285

Because no way would my husband
allow me to be with my first love.
He hated him. He lived all those
years knowing HE was the rebound.
He knew I never forgot this boy.
Even though he loved nothing more
than fucking my mother, he could
not deal with me being with
someone else. No way.

286

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

287

But now, you are free to do
whatever you want and to be with
this guy. Why aren't you?

288

The PATIENT just stares at the therapist.

289

CUT TO:

290 **INT. BEDROOM. EARLY MORNING**

291 The PATIENT and the MAN lay entangled in the sheets.

292 PATIENT C
293 Mama is very proud of you. The way
you take care of me is
unbelievable.294 MAN
295 I take care of you, Mama, because
you take care of me.296 PATIENT C
297 You realize no one would
understand our relationship. We'd
be run out of town and stoned on
the outskirts.298 MAN
299 For what? We haven't done anything
wrong. I wouldn't be the first man
who wanted to marry his mother.
This way, I get the best of both
worlds.300 PATIENT C
301 And I get to have my boy in a way
I couldn't be with my... other
boys. (long pause)
302 Still, I think it's best to keep
how we are with each other a
secret between us. No one needs to
know.303 MAN
304 But I like sharing how different
and deep this is. Everyone needs
to find a love like this - one
that is so strong... only a fine
line separates us from the kind of
love a parent and child share.
It's not taboo. We turned it into
one centuries ago.

305 CUT TO:

306 **INT. PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S OFFICE. DAY**307 PATIENT C
308 Thanks for seeing me on such short
notice. I was REALLY falling apart
today.

309 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
310 Well, I had a cancelation, so that
helped. And I heard the anxiety in
your voice message. So tell me.
What brought this on?

311 PATIENT C
312 I finally went to see my mother
last week. I guess it had been
almost a year. One minute she knew
me (shakes her head)... then she
thought I was HER mother... then
she proceeded to tell me how she
never wanted kids... how she had
become HER mother, who apparently
never wanted to have children
either. Everybody needs taking
care of. Meanwhile, the one taking
care of everybody gets left out.

313 They sit in silence.

314 PATIENT C
315 She died the next day. So here I
am. Needing to... transfer some
shit. But, I can't tell anyone,
for real - except you. And you get
paid to listen. Which doesn't help
'cause you are obligated too. I
think maybe I need to stop coming.
I mean, no offense. But maybe
coming here isn't going to solve
anything. You said yourself, I
need to learn to deal with how I
got here in the first place. You
know?

316 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
317 So you needed an urgent meeting
just to end our sessions? I'm not
sure... (interrupted)

318 PATIENT C
I'm dependent on you, now. You've
been more of a mother to me than
she was. I've told you EVERYTHING.
It was like a drug. I couldn't
wait to see you. To tell you all
the dirty stuff. To watch your
reaction and know you'd be
thinking about it when you go to
sleep at night.
(MORE)

318 PATIENT C (CONT'D)
I wanted it to excite you... to
know I had that kind of control
over a man that had nursed on me.

320 We can see the therapist getting nervous.

321 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
322 Before we go to far, I think...
(interrupted again)

323 PATIENT C
324 NO! I won't allow you to take this
from me. Not like her. I won't!

325 The PATIENT runs out of the office.

326 CUT TO:

327 **EXT. ON THE STREET OUTSIDE OF A TAVERN. NIGHT**

328 The Therapist approaches a tavern and notices the PATIENT drunk
and stumbling near the door. She recognizes her.

329 A bouncer is threatening to call the police on her.

330 BOUNCER
331 You can't hang around outside like
this lady. You need to go home and
sober up.

332 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
333 Wait! Sir? I know this woman. I'll
see she gets home.

334 BOUNCER
335 I don't think so. She needs a damn
straight jacket. She tried to cut
me with a broken glass and
(interrupted)

336 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
337 I'm her mother. It's ok. We've
been dealing with some shit. I've
got it, really.

338 The therapist waves for a taxi. She is doing everything she can
to hold the PATIENT up.

339 CUT TO:

340 **INT. BATHROOM. NIGHT**

The therapist is holding the PATIENT up under the shower trying to sober her up.

342 PATIENT C
343 (Slurred words) He left me. He
didn't need a mama anymore. He
said.

344 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
345 No, honey. Don't talk. Just let
the water run over you and wash it
all away. It's gonna be okay. I
promise you. Let's get you cleaned
up and get a bandaid on that knee.

346 FADE TO:

347 **INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT**

348 The therapist is holding the patient in bed.

349 PATIENT C
350 Is what we say to each other still
confidential?

351 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
352 We are no longer bound by the
rules of therapy since we aren't
in the office. Not to mention the
fact that I am in bed with a
client - which could send me to
jail and ruin my future. But sure,
I would never tell anyone what
you've shared with me.

353 PATIENT C
354 My father came into my room one
night. I knew he and mom had not
been sexual with each other since
she went through menopause. He was
always a horny old bastard,
anyway. I'm not going to take you
through the details. Besides, I
blocked that shit out years ago.
There wasn't much to it. I guess
it was the... sadness of it all.

355 The therapist stretches her neck and head around to try and
look at the Patient.

356 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
357 Why didn't you tell someone? Make
him pay?

358 PATIENT C
359 Who was I going to punish? Him?
Mom? My family? So they could
never go into town again and hold
their heads up? Mom lose her
church? NO! It was much easier to
deal with the reasoning behind it
than expose further pain and
suffering. My father in jail for
the rest of his life? What good
would that do?

360 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
361 So how did that affect the way you
felt when he died?

362 PATIENT C
363 It hurt worse! He went to his
grave knowing. I didn't want that.
I loved him.

364 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
365 So you rationalized his behavior?

366 PATIENT C
367 It WAS rational. He couldn't go to
her for what he needed, so he went
to the next closest thing. There's
no whore house in our town or a
call girl for a 60-year-old man
who goes to church every Sunday.
You know, it can be wrong...
completely fucked up... AND
rational.

368 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
369 And more common than anyone wants
to admit.

370 We see a tight shot of the therapist's face. She is recalling
her own experiences without letting on. She is listening to the
Patient's explanation while recalling her own sadness.

371 PATIENT C
372 Is it really the worse thing that
could happen to us? To be loved
and to love back - the people we
love the most?

373 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
374 That's why you had no problem with
your ex... "loving" your mother.

375 PATIENT C
376 She deserved love, too.

377 The therapist suddenly realizes she, too, must confess.

378 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
379 We all do. Deserve it. (Pause) I
had an identical twin sister. Even
our menstrual cycle were the same.
After her son was born, I
developed breast milk, too. (Beat)
She married a narcissistic control
freak who took her away from her
family. She isn't innocent in
allowing it to happen, but we lost
her forever. And I knew damn well
when she went missing that he had
done something to her. His story
was air-tight. He got away with
it. Ten years now, I keep waiting
for a phone call from her, asking
me to come pick her up. It's the
only time I've considered killing
someone, but I admit... I AM
capable of it. I think we all are,
under the right circumstances and
for the right person. I lost half
of my soul when I lost her. I'm
pretty sure I became a therapist
to fill that void with other women
- to help protect them because I
could not protect my sister.

380 The Patient turns slowly towards the Therapist and then opens
the Therapist's shirt. The Patient begins to nurse on her
breast.

381 This sexual play goes on for a few minutes before the Patient
stops and climbs her way up to the Therapist's ear. She
whispers in her ear.

382 PATIENT C
383 Where do the lines get blurry?
Where do the boundaries become
taboo? Why do the animals not have
any?

384 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
385 When was the last time a lion
needed a therapist?

386 The Patient rolls away from the Therapist and lays on her back
looking up at the ceiling.

387 The Therapist turns on her side to face the Patient.

388
389

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

The way you think is not common. It is rare. The patients I see, the stories I hear everyday, are told by these characters in a play called "Life." And it's not a very well written play. Each actor is interchangeable. They come into therapy with names - "names" that are irrelevant. Their "actions" are irrelevant. Yet, they all share one common trait. They seek "acceptance" from the "audience" by trying to justify their actions. Their actions are, without any doubt, fueled by the secrets no one else will let them tell. That's my job; to unravel their secret and remove the embarrassment they covered it all up with. If we get hung up on where the boundaries are, where the lines are drawn, and what people think about the weird shit we do, we can never embrace WHY we do what we do. What we DO is only taboo because the audience can't handle it. When we finally find someone who accepts us as we are, we are then given permission to follow our most basic animal instincts.

390

As if given her freedom, the Patient throws the Therapist onto her back and straddles her. The Patient takes the Therapist's hands and presses them into the bed above her head. With the Therapist's arms raised, the Patient uses her free hand to begin kissing her roughly.

391

FADES TO:

392

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM.

393

A detective sits at a table across from the therapist and questions her.

394

DETECTIVE

395

How did she? Talk you into it?

396

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

397

What do you mean, exactly?

398 DETECTIVE
399 Were you in love with your
patient?

400 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
401 I think I was more like her mother
- Sister? In her head anyway.
Maybe, mine, too. (Pause) We call
it... transference... a nagging,
uncontrollable need to transfer
our feelings from someone in our
childhood past onto a present-day
relationship.

402 DETECTIVE
403 Is it strong enough to kill for?

404 The therapist contemplates her response.

405 PSYCHOTHERAPIST
406 Yes.

407 The therapist takes a long pause. The two exchange direct eye
contact to a point of being uncomfortable.

408 PSYCHOTHERAPIST (CONT'D)
409 But I didn't do it. I considered
it. It wasn't going to bring my
sister back. It sure as hell
wouldn't fix my patient... my
lover. I'd lose my license and my
livelihood. You're reaching
detective. If you had something on
me you would have arrested me by
now. You got nothing. This is
simply one of those times when
there are no answers... no one to
blame... no right or wrong... Just
human nature taking its natural
course when people can't be honest
with each other or themselves.
That's when bad things happen.

410 FADE TO:

411 **EXT. PEACEFUL SETTING. DAYTIME, CONVALESCENT HOME**

412 (TITLE)
ONE YEAR LATER

413 MOM is sitting in a chair with a blanket covering her. She
stares off in the distance.

Made in Highland

414 One of the healthcare workers is eating a box lunch and sitting
next to MOM.

415 CARETAKER
416 I just realized, I've been looking
after you for over a year and
you've never told me what you did
for a living.

417 MOM's eyes squint, then widen, and slowly close.

418 MOM
419 I'd like to think I helped people.

420 CARETAKER
421 With what?

422 MOM
423 Their problems. Their secret
desires. Their sexuality. Their
demons.

424 CARETAKER
425 You mean like a sex therapist?

426 MOM
427 Something like that.

428 CARETAKER
429 That must have been both rewarding
AND a burden.

430 MOM
431 It's more like... Transference.

432 CARETAKER
433 Where people transfer their
feelings onto others? I've heard
of that. And wasn't it Freud that
thought all human emotions were
rooted in our sexual behavior? Did
you practice that same theory?

434 MOM
435 The true purpose of sex is to
identify the right person to
transfer our most deep seated
feelings.

436 CARETAKER
437 Hmmmm. Interesting. Then how do we
know when we've found the right
person to transfer our deepest
feelings to?

MOM turns to look the caretaker in the eyes.

439
440

MOM

When you are willing to kill for
them.

441
442

PATIENT C (V.O.)

If we are extremely lucky... life
will be HARD and our relationships
will cause us PAIN. Only then
shall we begin to understand the
true meaning of love... and to
know the difference. Only then
shall we dare to expose our ugly
scars... and rejoice in their
transfer... from past to
present... from shame to
salvation... from one to another.

443

THE END