

THE KNOT

Written by

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GINA an attractive woman in her late 20s is crawling around on weed and grass covered soggy ground patting it at different areas. She looks up at the blood orange colored sky and BREATHES OUT loudly and returns to touching the ground while crawling. She is sweating heavily, beads of sweat roll off her forehead and onto the grass. As the sweat hits the grass, the grass goes limp and turns brown.

She stops crawling as she comes to a rusty paint can lying on its side. She lifts it and looks below, shakes her head then tosses the can to the side. She SUCKS her teeth loudly continues crawling then suddenly stops, she comes to a bald part of the yard where no grass or weed is growing.

Gina looks up at the sky and gets up quickly. As soon as Gina gets up and turns around she is startled by her MOTHER, a short skinny stern-looking woman in her late 50s who is standing behind her holding a shovel. She holds out the shovel to Gina who is staring at her with arms folded. Mother stands holding the shovel outwards with a self satisfied look on her face, as Gina continues staring at her stone-faced. Her mother looks up at the sky which is beginning to fill with patches of gray.

MOTHER
It's getting late.

Gina keeps staring at her mother then shifts her gaze to the sky, looks back at her mother then grabs the shovel from her outstretched hand, turns around and begins digging in the spot where no grass is growing.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
I told you this would happen, you
better hurry before the sun sets or
you will be stuck where you don't
want to be.

Her mother walks away as she digs.

CUT TO BLACK.
CREDIT SEQUENCE

Gina is lying in bed awake, she looks over at a sleeping man GERALD, a skinny guy in his early 30s who is lying next to her. She stares at him for a moment then quietly gets out of bed. She opens a nearby closet and pulls out a small duffle bag from the bottom of it.

2.

On the floor near the bed is a pair of boxers and next to it a pair of shoes with a pair of socks sticking out the top, she takes one sock and the boxers, she gets up and looks at a gold watch lying on the night table. She picks it up briefly, then puts it back down and walks out the bedroom door carrying the bag, sock and boxers.

3

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

3

Gina hurriedly enters the bathroom and closes the door quietly, locks it, then puts on the light. She puts the sock, boxers and small bag on the bathroom counter and unzips the bag, then takes out items one at a time and places them carefully and quietly on the counter.

First a clear glass jar with a metal cover, a pair of tweezers, a ball of white string, a pair of scissors, a box of matches and a small red candle. She places the pair of boxers and sock into the jar and picks up the string, scissors and tweezers. Gina then unlocks and opens the bathroom door slowly, she peeks out then leaves the bathroom.

4

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

4

Gina stands in the doorway of the bedroom staring at the sleeping Gerald. She walks cautiously towards him with string, scissors and tweezers in hand. He shifts slightly on the bed. She stops in her tracks and stares at him with a mixture of fear and curiosity on her face. Gina breathes deeply and continues walking towards him.

She places the tweezers on the bedside table near the bed. She takes the ball of string, places the end of it under his feet and measures his entire body up to the crown of his head then cuts it with the scissors. She puts the ball of string, cut piece of string and scissors on the bedside table then picks up the tweezers.

Gina stares at Gerald for a while, sits at the edge of the bed gingerly then goes to pluck hair from his head. She pulls the hair out, he flinches, opens his eyes slowly and looks at her.

GERALD
(Groggily) hey...

Gina clenches the tweezers tightly into her palm and kisses Gerald on the lips.

GINA
I I I'm going to shower, go back to bed.

He stares at her for a moment, a look of discomfort spreads over Gina's face. He smiles and she breathes out. Gerald rolls over and goes back to sleep. Gina gets up, picking up the string and scissors then leaves the room.

5

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

5

Gina enters the bathroom, places the string and scissors on the counter, closes the door quietly then locks it. She turns on the shower. She opens her clenched hand. The tweezers have given her a small bleeding cut. She lifts two strands of short curly hair from her palm using the same tweezers and places them into the jar along with the socks and underwear, she then places the string into the jar, lights the candle and let's the wax fall all over the contents. She places her hand over the jar and two drops of blood fall from her cut into the contents.

Gina puts the lit candle into a nearby cup then covers the jar with its metal cover. She then takes the candle and lets the wax fall along the edge of the cover. We see two caterpillars moving around inside the jar. She bites down on her bottom lip nervously then blows out the candle.

CUT TO BLACK

6

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - NIGHT

6

Gina, wearing a low cut vest and sweat pants is hunched over in the backyard digging with a shovel with a determined look on her face, illuminated only by the moonlight. The glass jar filled with the various items is on the ground nearby. A light comes on in the old wooden house and a door BANGS, Gina looks back momentarily then returns to what she is doing. Her mother comes and stands behind her arms folded.

MOTHER

Some of us are meant to be
alone...Look how the last one left
you.

Gina stops digging then stoops to place the jar into the freshly dug hole.

GINA

(Stuttering) wwell this one
staying. Ahhhh I'm not going to end
up like you.

Gina piles dirt on top of it, beads of sweat slide down her neck, over her breasts and drop in the dirt.

A small green leaf sprouts. Gina stands up and shrugs her shoulders and turns to look at her mother.

GINA (CONT'D)
And it worked for a a a Aunty
Fortuna.

MOTHER
You see the outside of the house,
you don't know what's happening
inside. It didn't work for me it
will not work for you.

Gina waves her hand dismissively and begins to walk away.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
You need to mark the spot.

Her mother picks up a nearby paint can and places it on the fresh mound.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
You don't know if one day you will
have to throw it in the sea.

Gina stops, looks back, shakes her head and SUCKS her teeth loudly.

GINA
You a miserable woman. Your misery
stronger than all mm magic.

Gina walks off into the night, leaving her mother staring after her. Dawn is slowly starting to break and the sky slowly turns pink.

FADE OUT.

Gina is laying asleep in bed next to Gerald, early morning sun is coming through the curtains and bathing them and the bed gently in morning light. Gerald wakes up and stares at Gina sleeping. He tenderly brushes back some hair that is on her face.

There is a red orchid in a flower pot on the window sill. The flowers start multiplying in the background and begin growing vine like along the wall of the bedroom.

Gina slowly opens her eyes, Gerald smiles at her, she moves in and kisses him, then turns her back and fits snugly into his body.

He gently kisses her bare shoulder as she smiles with her eyes closed. Gerald stares out into space looking pensive almost scared as he holds Gina tighter, she kisses his hand with her eyes still closed.

GINA
I'm hungry...

Gerald's gaze breaks as he comes back to reality.

GINA (CONT'D)
(Stuttering) Ahhhh I'll make us breakfast.

GERALD
Stay...

He pulls her closer. Gina turns around to plant a quick kiss on Gerald's neck. Then gets out of bed and puts on a large t-shirt over her naked body. She leans back on the bed and kisses Gerald one more time. Gerald grabs her hand.

GERALD (CONT'D)
We're good right?

Gina frowns.

GINA
Yea...why?

GERALD
You seem a little secretive lately...

GINA
Secretive? Just working a lot...

GERALD
Hmm Ok...

They stare at each other, Gerald is frowning, Gina looks nervous.

GERALD (CONT'D)
I don't want to lose you like my last...

GINA
We will never lose each other.

Gina gives a small smile, releases herself from his grip and walks towards the bedroom door.

Gerald keeps staring at her till she disappears from view then he stares out of the window with a pensive, far off look on his face, he picks up his gold watch on the nearby bed side table, looks at the time then puts it on. An orchid vine slithers up the bed and wraps around his ankle.

SLOW FADE OUT.

Time-lapse: Gina and Gerald are on the bed making out naked, the walls, floor and bed are covered with red orchids, as time passes Gina and Gerald move physically apart in the room and the light, drapes and bedsheets change. They move apart till Gina is alone in the room, then the room is empty with light streaming through the window falling onto the bed. The sunlight recedes from the bed up wall and so do the flowers until there are just two wilted orchids in the flower pot on the window sill, the room gets dim.

CUT TO BLACK

8

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

8

Gina walks into the bedroom visibly irritated followed by Gerald who walks in slowly. They are dressed formally, Gina is wearing a tight fitting red dress and Gerald is wearing a suit and tie. Gina goes to sit at the edge of the bed and removes her shoes, Gerald stands nearby and loosens his tie, he looks over at Gina shakes his head, then walks into the bathroom of their en suite.

9

INT. EN SUITE BATHROOM - NIGHT

9

Gerald is standing at the toilet urinating, Gina walks in and stands for a moment staring in the mirror above the sink, then begins removing her earrings. Gerald zips up his pants then moves to stand next to Gina, she glances over at him then turns back to look in the mirror.

GERALD

I want to wash my hands.

Gina moves to the side as Gerald washes his hands, she stands looking at him then folds her arms. Gerald dries his hands in a nearby towel and looks at her.

GERALD (CONT'D)

What?

GINA
Wwwwat? You know what!

Gina picks up a tube of toothpaste and throws it in his direction. Gerald looks at her confused.

GINA (CONT'D)
Before we left, yyyou brushed
before me or after me?

GERALD
After, why?

GINA
Yyyou're not tired of hearing me
say squeeze from the fucking bottom
not the middle!

Gina SUCKS her teeth loudly then storms out of the bathroom.

10 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

10

Gina is removing her tight fitting dress. Gerald walks in and removes his watch placing it on the nearby bed side table.

GERALD
What's your problem?

Gina does not answer.

GERALD (CONT'D)
You want to get mad for toothpaste
but you were all over my boss
tonight.

Gina looks at him with a sneer on her face.

GINA
Aaaat least he gave me attention
you still act like you ashamed of
me.

Gerald laughs then shakes his head.

GERALD
You acted like a real slut. I
suppose I'm not man enough for a
woman like you!

GINA
Yes and you think I'm not good
enough for you!

GERALD

Whatever, keep trying to turn it around on me. I should have really listened to my friends when they warned me about you.

GINA

And I should have listened to myself and got a real man to fffffuck me properly.

Gerald starts to snicker then laughs loudly.

GERALD

And you a stupid bitch, go back to school and learn to speak. If I can't "fffffuck" you properly? I'm sure you have plenty men for that. I remember all your sneaking around not too long ago! Dumb and a slut.

Gina slaps Gerald hard across his face. He looks at Gina shaking his head as she quickly runs towards the bedroom door, wiping away tears.

GINA

I thought you were different.

GERALD

This is not for me...

Gerald sits at the edge of the bed as A door SLAMS loudly.

FADE TO BLACK.

11

INT. OFFICE LUNCH ROOM - DAY

11

An older MAN in his early 50s with a slightly stocky build, in a long-sleeved shirt and tie is sitting eating a sandwich and listening to a small transistor radio. There is audible CRICKET COMMENTARY on. He is listening intently.

Gerald walks in dressed in the same colored shirt and tie as the man holding a fast food bag and soda cup. The man looks up and gives him a small smile and a nod. Gerald sits opposite him, looks over his shoulder at the closed door and puts down the fast food bag in front of the man. The man looks at the bag, then up at Gerald, dusts his hands then turns his radio off.

MAN
You want me to do the same? Another girl?

The Man chuckles. Gerald breathes out deeply and shakes his head. The two of them stare at each other for a few beats as Gerald keeps shaking his head.

MAN (CONT'D)
Oh... I see. Well I told you this might happen.

GERALD
I know. So just tell me what to do now.

The man stares at Gerald for a moment, looking deeply into his eyes, picks up his sandwich and takes a bite, chews slowly.

MAN
You will have to give up something you value, more than this money...

The man touches the fast food bag.

MAN (CONT'D)
...something you treasure, throw it far and deep into the sea, as a penance and what you did will be undone, just like that. True love is not easy.

GERALD
I don't want it to be easy, I want it to be over.

The man shrugs his shoulders.

MAN
Then do what you have to do.

The man puts on his transistor radio and we hear the CRICKET COMMENTARY. He returns to eating his sandwich as Gerald stands up, momentarily looks at the man, who is no longer watching him, then walks out the door.

CUT TO BLACK

12 EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE BACKYARD - EVENING 12

Gina is digging in the backyard then stops as the metal top of a jar begins to show, she bends down and digs out the rest of it by hand. She gets up and walks out the backyard.

13 EXT. DESERTED ROAD - DAY 13

Gina is walking quickly on a small unpaved road that has tall blades of grass growing on either side of it. She is holding the jar tightly. The wind is blowing very strong and she is swaying as she walks. Gina keeps looking up at the sky, it's turning from orange to dark gray. She walks until she comes to the base of a cliff.

14 EXT. CLIFF - EVENING 14

Gina begins climbing up the side of the cliff which has a small foot path with tall blades of grass growing to one side while the other side plunges into a rough ocean. There are waves crashing hard against the rocks below and the wind is still blowing strong.

She is walking quickly up the side of the cliff till she gets to a small landing at the top. She stoops down for a while and catches her breath resting the jar on the ground. The jar starts rolling towards the edge, she gets on her knees and grabs it quickly.

Gina is on her knees and begins trying to remove the top of the jar, it is hard and she is having difficulty opening it. Gerald is walking up the side of the cliff towards Gina, she spots him, looks at him briefly then continues trying to open the jar, hitting it hard on the ground. Every time she hits the jar against the ground the earth shakes violently. Gerald stops to catch his balance for a while then continues towards Gina. He gets to her and stands looking at her for a moment, then outstretches his hand.

Gina looks at him momentarily then hands the jar to him and stands up. Gerald gives the jar a hard twist then hands it back over to Gina without removing the top. The wind slowly dies down, She removes the top and a flurry of yellow butterflies fly out and disappear over the ocean. They both stare out in the direction of the butterflies.

Gina begins removing the items one at a time and tosses each one out over the edge into the sea then tosses the jar. She keeps looking straight ahead. Gerald keeps looking straight ahead then looks at his gold watch on his wrist. He removes the watch looks at it for a moment then tosses it far out over the edge.

They both stand still for a moment as thunder CRASHES above and they both look up, the wind picks up again. The entire sky turns dark gray. Gerald looks over at Gina.

GERALD
A storm is coming...

Gina turns to look at him.

GINA
I know...

Thunder CRASHES loudly and it begins to rain, Gerald extends his hand towards Gina, she takes it and they walk down the path slowly as the rain comes down heavier soaking them.

FADE TO BLACK.