THE ENGAGEMENT

Written by

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1 EXT. BEACH HOUSE - EVENING 1

The angular roof and darkened windows of the beach house loom in the darkness over the quiet stretch of private beach.

2 INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING 2

CHAMPAGNE pours into a CRYSTAL FLUTE.

CANDLE LIGHT, CHECKERED TABLECLOTH, SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS.

ZACH (30s), nerdy and self-assured, sets the champagne down and surveys the spread. Locks eyes with--

DANICA (30s) across the table. Beautiful yet wholly disinterested. She stares out the window.

They both wear identical SMART WATCHES.

Zach smiles with a huff.

ZACH
Bon appetite!

He winks and then shoves pasta in his mouth, absorbed in his meal.

Danica turns to him, her expression blank. Not like he's a stranger, but like she's not sure why they're doing this.

Her eyes wander around the unfamiliar dinning room of the AirBNB. A small SUITCASE sits on the floor near a couch in the distance.

She steadies her eyes on FLOWERS and a BOX OF CHOCOLATES on the kitchen counter top.

Zach glances up with a mouthful of food.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Go on. Don't want it getting cold.

She slowly turns to him, then spears a meatball with her FORK. Forces a small bite.

Zach watches intently, then digs back into this own plate.

Chomping on a meatball, he looks back up-

A single tear runs down Danica's face, her grip on her fork makes her knuckles turn white.

Zach tenses up, reaching for the champagne bottle.

ZACH (CONT'D)
(clears throat)
More champagne?

But her flute is already full. Foam spills out of the rim. He sets the bottle down, another sigh.

ZACH (CONT'D)
You're still mad at me.

Danica's jaw tightens.

Her lip quivers, working to get something out.

DANICA
B-Brad...

Zach holds a smile. A beat too long.

He folds his napkin neatly. Gently places it on the table.

ZACH
All I wanted was to have a nice weekend together. Was that too much to ask?

His smart watch interrupts with a BEEP, he quickly silences it.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I should have done this sooner. Why don't you...
(beat)
Just close your eyes for a second.

She doesn't. Another tear escapes down her cheek.

ZACH (CONT'D)
I said close your eyes.

This time she obeys, almost instantly. Everything goes black.

A beat passes. He fumbles around with something.

ZACH (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Open.

Danica's eyes snap open.

Zach kneels beside her, holding out a modest DIAMOND RING.

Danica's face quivers as an unnatural smile forms on her face, tears streaming.

Her smart watch beeps.

3 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

Danica lays in bed, her tear-streaked face now staring at the light on the ceiling. Her smart watch pulsing RED. Beeping.

Meanwhile, Zach thrusts into her, wearing nothing but his smart watch, as it too pulses RED. Beeping.

He finally comes.

Satisfied, Zach dismounts and curls up beside Danica. He nuzzles her neck, then yawns - his eyes growing heavy.

ZACH
I'm the luckiest man on Earth.

Zach closes his eyes.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Was it everything you ever dreamed of?

Danica stares at the ceiling still as a rock-- silent, but her eyes screaming through the tears.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Me, too... me, too...

His breathing slows down, and he drifts to sleep.

A beat of silence, then...Zach startles awake! He glances at his smart watch. Pulsing RED. 'Battery Low'

Zach takes it off and plugs it into the NIGHTSTAND CHARGER, then turns back into bed. As he settles back to sleep he shifts his pillow and it knocks the smart watch off the nightstand.

It dangles from it's charging cord...

Danica's teary red eyes glaze in the pale blue moonlight. Her mouth is slightly open, like she wants to scream but can't.

After one final tear runs down her face, she closes her eyes.

The watch, dangling from the nightstand...finally detaches and drops to the floor. It blinks in the darkness.

'BATTERY LOW. BATTERY LOW. BATTERY LOW.'

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 4

Moonlight slices the empty living room into harsh shadows.

5 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 5

The flowers and chocolates lie still on the counter top. Unopened.

6 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 6

The smart watch on Danica's wrist pulses RED... RED... RED... RED... RED... RED...and suddenly...BLUE.

Her eyes snap open! She gasps, eyes flicking left-to-right.

She sits up, struggling to catch her breath.

Confused and disoriented, she scans the room... and discovers Zach lying beside her. She opens her mouth to scream but quickly puts a hand over her mouth.

Flashes of him thrusting over her cross her mind, and she falls out of the bed. She remains still for a beat, careful not to wake him.

Zach coughs, and turns over.

Keeping one hand over her mouth, she notices the engagement ring on her finger. She slowly stands.

A dark silhouette against the moonlit window, she rips off the engagement ring and throws it on the bed.

7 INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT 7

Danica's shadow emerges from a doorway, into the dark hallway, one arm bracing a wall and she creeps along.

She passes a COAT RACK next to the window and quickly starts digging through pockets until she finds something...

A WALLET and NAME TAG.

She opens the wallet to a DRIVER'S LICENSE - ZACH BOWERS beside Zach's faded, unsmiling photo. Then she turns to the name tag: MERIDIEN SCIENCE ENGINEER, ZACH.

8 INT. THE VOID - ANY 8

Danica spotlighted in the dark void of her memory.

ZACH (O.S)
Ok, your watch is ready. Danica?

Another spotlight illuminates Zach, in a BLACK TURTLE NECK and MERIDIEN NAME TAG.

A quick, practiced smile. He holds it out to her.

Confused, Danica draws closer to him.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Sorry it took so long. We're backed up. Our last update bricked some of our clients devices. They can be real, *sensitive*. Too sensitive, sometimes.

DANICA
Oh, uh... thanks--Brad?

Her eyes dart to his name tag, no recollection of who he is.

ZACH
(frustrated)
It's Zach. Remember? I've been servicing your device for the past month.

Danica cautiously extends her arm, he wraps the watch around her wrist.

She notices he is wearing one also.

DANICA
You have one, too?

ZACH
Of course. But mine's...custom.

He clasps the smart watch onto Danica with a CLICK.

Both WATCH SCREENS light up RED immediately. Danica's head snaps back violently.

A devilish smile across Zach's face, bathed in a red glow.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Can you feel me yet?

Danica glitches out! An unseen force pulls her back into the darkness.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 9

Danica’s eyes snap open.

Breathing hard, her face contorts with fear, trauma, and pain as the memories flood back... and finally, RAGE.

She glances up to a KEYCHAIN dangling from a coat rack hook and snatches it.

10 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 10

The bouquet of flowers rests on the counter top. Danica slowly approaches them.

She gazes down at the bouquet. Her hand reaches out ...

But pulls a CHEF'S KNIFE from a nearby BUTCHER BLOCK.

11 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 11

Zach snores on his back, a blissful smile on his face.

He turns to his side and reaches an arm out to wrap around Danica, but lands on empty mattress...

His eyes snap open, staring at the pillow, rumpled sheets, the engagement ring.

He turns to the nightstand in a panic. His watch is missing.

ZACH
Shit!

Zach hops out of bed, quickly scanning the floor. He kneels down but can't find his watch.

ZACH (CONT’D)
No, no, no...

He stands back up and turns to leave--

And comes face-to-face with a chef's knife!

Danica is holding the knife within an inch of his eyeball. Zach trembles. With her other hand she hold up his watch.

DANICA
Missing something?

Zach swallows the lump in his throat.

DANICA (CONT'D)
Put it on.

She tosses it on the bed.

He hesitates. She presses the knife against his cheek.

DANICA (CONT'D)
Put the fucking watch on!

Zach starts crying as he pathetically fastens the watch to his wrist.

A red light glows from the watch and his eyes lock onto Danica.

DANICA (CONT'D)
Can you feel me yet?

Zach nods, a tear running down his face.

Danica turns the knife around and shows him the handle.

DANICA (CONT'D)
Good. Now cut your dick off.

CUT TO BLACK

12 THE END. 12