

EXT. LEO'S CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The night is quiet. Around the cabin there is nothing else than forest and greenery coated with deep darkness. The only light in the area comes from the living room of the cabin, where four excited human shadows are cast through the thin curtains.

STANLEY (O.S.)

Do you know what's the best thing about the Internet?

EMILIE (O.S.)

Buying stuff on Ebay?

STANLEY (O.S.)

No. Its anonymity.

ROSE (O.S.)

That's the key to its success.

INT. LEO'S CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The interior of the cabin is like an IKEA showroom, furnished with very little furniture and without any decorative extravaganza.

Around a table full of leftovers and empty bottles of wine are LEO LOTH (43), a man with a mysterious intellectual appearance, and ROSE (38), a woman with tones of make up on wearing a tied, flashy and tasteless dress. In front of them are STANLEY (47) and EMILIE (40), both elegantly dressed for a special occasion. In fact, the elegant clothes of the quartet don't match at all with the simplicity of the room.

STANLEY

Internet is the best place to get an objective opinion on any subject.

EMILIE

But people can't just connect to the Internet whenever they want an opinion.

LEO

Why not?

EMILIE

It's much easier to ask a friend or a colleague at work for an opinion.

LEO

It can be easier but it will surely not be honest.

ROSE

What kind of friends do you have if they are not honest with you?

LEO

What kind of concept of honesty do you have if you have to rely on your friends to have an opinion?

There's a short silence. Leo stands up and takes some dishes and cutlery from the table before heading towards the kitchen.

STANLEY

The food was excellent.

EMILIE

It's the best catering I've ever had.

LEO

It's a local company. They are pretty good.

ROSE

I don't understand why the restaurant couldn't keep our table.

INT. LEO'S CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is small and tidy. Leo enters carrying some dishes and cutlery. He leaves them on the work service, opens the dishwasher and puts them inside where there is hardly any space for more dishes. It gives the impression that someone has cooked the dinner.

LEO

They had a last minute surprise party. They promised us a fifty per cent off on our bill next time we go there.

STANLEY (O.S.)

That party should have been for an army! They always have free tables there.

But Leo doesn't respond. He takes a steamy coffee jar and some cups, and puts them on a tray.

EMILIE (O.S.)
If they told us earlier, we'd have had time to book a table in another restaurant.

Before taking the tray, Leo opens a drawer and takes an old, curved and rusty knife from inside.

INT. LEO'S CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Leo comes back from the kitchen holding a tray with smoky coffee and four cups with their saucers.

LEO
I thought you enjoyed the dinner.

ROSE
I did.

STANLEY
Yes, it was delicious.

There is a silence, which Leo uses to examine everybody.

LEO
Do you have your lines ready?

EMILIE
Of course! Well, I do.

ROSE
Me too.

STANLEY
You know me, Leo. I have actor's blood running through my veins.

At this point Rose and Emilie look at each other, as if something was wrong with Stanley's last words.

ROSE
Do you know each other?

LEO
Yes, we have known each other for...

STANLEY
Eleven years.

EMILIE

I thought nobody knew each other?

LEO

Initially we didn't until we met here and found out who was behind those nicknames.

STANLEY

"Othello"... I should have known it was you.

Stanley laughs alone under the uncomfortable gaze of Emilie and Rose.

LEO

Shall we start?

INT. LEO'S CABIN - UNDERGROUND ROOM - NIGHT

The room is in complete darkness. Leo turns the light on and reveals a spacious and well lighted room. On one side of the wall there is a big concrete table and, behind it, there is a door. The door is also made of concrete and there are some damp spots on it.

At the end of the room there is a wooden stage elevated from the floor and, in front of it, there are around thirty empty chairs facing the stage. At the other end, there are some stairs leading up to the first floor.

Stanley, Rose and Emilie walk down the stairs. Leo is the last one and he locks the door without them realizing.

STANLEY

What do you have in here?

LEO

Keep walking and you'll see?

ROSE

Do you organize orgies in here or what?

LEO

Not really. But thanks for the idea.

EMILIE

You've got a stage!

Once the four are on the floor, they walk towards the stage.

LEO
It's for the theater sessions.

ROSE
So, the idea was yours?

Leo nods.

STANLEY
How come you never told me about
this?

LEO
You never asked.

ROSE
This is fantastic!

EMILIE
(to Leo)
Can I ask you something?

LEO
Sure.

EMILIE
Why did you choose a female
character for yourself?

LEO
Men played female characters in
Shakespearean times.

STANLEY
I didn't understand why you chose
this scene. There are more
interesting scenes in King Lear.

LEO
Shakespeare was the greatest even
in his weakest scenes.

ROSE
Did you say Shakespeare? I thought
we all agreed in...

LEO
(interrupting)
Sure we all agree on that. (beat)
Let's have fun now.

INT. LEO'S CABIN - UNDERGROUND ROOM - NIGHT

Emilie, Stanley, Rose and Leo are in the middle of the stage, adopting theatrical postures and exaggerating their gestures when they talk. They all wear seventeen century clothes.

EMILIE

Wherefore to Dover? Let him answer that.

STANLEY

I am tied to the stake, and I must stand the course.

LEO

Wherefore to Dover?

STANLEY

Because I would not see thy cruel nails pluck out his poor old eyes; nor thy fierce sister in his anointed flesh stick boarish fangs. The sea, with such a storm as his bare head in hell-black night endured, would... Would... I forgot the line. Would... Vengeance overtake such children.

EMILIE

See it shalt you never. Fellows, hold the chair. Upon these eyes of thine I'll set my foot.

STANLEY

He that will think to live till he be old. Give me some help! O cruel! O you gods!

Emilie approaches Stanley and fakes to pull out one of Stanley's eyes.

LEO

(to Emilie)

One side will mock another: the other too.

EMILIE

(to Stanley)

If you see vengeance.

ROSE

Hold your hand, my lord. I have served you ever since I was a child, but better service have I never done you than now to bid you hold.

LEO

How now, you dog!

ROSE

If you did wear a beard upon your chin I'd shake it on this quarrel.
(to Emilie) What do you mean?

EMILIE

My villein!

ROSE

Nay then, come on and take the chance of anger.

Emilie and Rose start to fight with invisible swords.

LEO

(to nobody)

Give me your sword. A peasant stand up thus!

Leo takes the curved, rusty old knife from under his belt and stabs Rose in her chest. She falls down and a puddle of blood suddenly stains the floor. Emilie and Stanley look at Rose and at Leo's bloody knife.

STANLEY

What have you done?

EMILIE

Oh, my God!

Without any hesitation, Leo cuts Stanley's throat and stabs Emilie in her neck. Both fall down on the floor, dead.

EXT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - DAY

Sunlight splashes all over the stoned walls of the Princeton campus. Students, staff and teachers walk around and park their cars in the parking lot area.

BILL COGGINS (37) is driving a Japanese car around the campus and finally parks at the teachers reserved area. He dresses a smart suit and seems a bit nervous.

After some seconds of relaxation inside the car, Bill comes out, takes his brand new briefcase and approaches the entrance of the main building.

INT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - CORRIDORS - DAY

The crowd inside the building is more notorious than outside. Students talk to each other and share their summer-holiday adventures whereas a UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT leads Bill through the main corridor.

Bill looks carefully at all the offices and wall boards on both sides of the corridor. He is dragged to a wall board where the face of Professor Stanley Morgan is pinned above big bold letters: "DISAPPEARED". But Bill keeps walking following the university assistant who gets lost behind a door labelled with a banner: "TEACHERS ONLY". Bill follows her.

INT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - TEACHERS' RESTING ROOM - DAY

A few teachers are seated on two sofas at the back of the room. Other teachers are preparing some coffee and tea with the help of a kettle in an attached little kitchen.

Bill opens the door and gets shyly inside the room following the university assistant.

UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT

There you go.

BILL

Thanks.

The university assistant closes the door and Bill remains still, looking at his new working colleagues. As nobody notices him, he approaches PROFESSOR TAYLOR (57), a mature and charming lady.

BILL

Excuse me, I'm looking for Miss Anne Bullock.

PROFESSOR TAYLOR

Sorry, I can't hear you very well. Did you say you need an ambulance?

BILL

(raising his voice)
I'm looking for Miss Anne Bullock.

At this point, ANNE BULLOCK (60) comes from the little kitchen.

ANNE
I'm Anne Bullock.

BILL
My name is William Coggins. I'm the new...

ANNE
(interrupting)
Professor Coggins! Finally we have the chance to meet.

Anne and Bill shake hands.

ANNE (CONT'D)
You came early. We were not expecting you until... (looking at her watch) Now! I can't believe it's almost nine o'clock. It's so nice meeting you. Please, let me introduce you. This is Miss Taylor. She teaches Classic History.

PROFESSOR TAYLOR
Nice to meet you.

Professor Taylor and Bill shake hands.

BILL
Nice to meet you too.

Anne approaches a group of five teachers who are talking in a little circle: PROFESSOR WELLS (49), PROFESSOR RODDICK (51), PROFESSOR KOWALSKY (59), PROFESSOR NORTON (38), and PROFESSOR SAVIC (60).

ANNE
(to all Professors)
Sorry to interrupt you all but I want to introduce you to Professor Coggins. He's the new English Literature teacher for first year students. (to Bill) This is Professor Wells, Spanish Literature; Professor Roddick, Classic Languages; Professor Kowalsky, Philosophy; Professor Northon, American History; and, Professor Savic, Slavic Languages.

Bill shakes hands to all five teachers.

BILL

It's a pleasure to meet you all.

PROFESSOR SAVIC

You'll love this place.

PROFESSOR KOWALSKY

Even the students are nice.

All laugh.

ANNE

I almost forgot! Here you have
Professor Loth. (to Professor Loth)
Professor Loth! Could you join us
for a second, please?

From the work service of the small kitchen appears Leo
holding a mug of black coffee.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Professor Loth, this is Professor
Coggins, our new English Literature
teacher. (to Bill) Professor
Coggins this is Professor Leo Loth.
His reputation as a Drama teacher
is well known in all the East
Coast.

LEO

Reputation is an idle and most
false imposition, often got without
merit and lost without deserving.

BILL

You have lost no reputation at all
unless you repute yourself such a
loser.

LEO

Excellent! You like "Othello"?

BILL

It's my preferred.

They both shake hands.

LEO

I am sure we'll have long chats
about it.

BILL
It will be a pleasure.

LEO
Welcome to Princeton, Mister
Coggins.

INT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - CORRIDORS - DAY

The corridors are empty now. Bill and Anne are the only
people walking down the corridor.

ANNE
I suppose Mister Greene already
apologized about the short notice.

BILL
Yes, he did. (beat) Am I replacing
Professor Morgan?

Bill points out at the picture of Professor Stanley Morgan
pinned in one of the notice boards. Anne suddenly looks sad
when she looks at the picture.