

(ISLANDMAN)

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(SPEC)

(FINAL DRAFT)

REVERIE+CINEMA

ON BLACK,

ROSEBLUM (PROLOGUE)

My father used to say that the
Devil's greatest trick was making us
believe he didn't exist.

EXT. CITY STREETS – DAY (BEGIN MONTAGE)

Crowds of people use the crosswalk at an intersection.
Traveling the sidewalk, the crowd passes a corner store.

ROSEBLUM (PROLOGUE)

But we are creatures of logic, aren't
we? And urbanity dictates that we set
aside myths and legends. That we
leave fantasy to our children, that
we let harsh reality negate blind
faith.

Exiting the corner store - SKY (18-20) Medium long hair,
dark slim clothes, wearing headphones. He's carrying a bag
of GROCERIES. He moves down the sidewalk with the crowd.

ROSEBLUM (PROLOGUE)

And so it seems we're all part of
this maelstrom, of this whirlpool
where dreams die and are born just as
quickly. And it is the question that
divides us...

Sky walks through the crowd with his head down. He slows at
the front of an apartment complex and paces up the stairs.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX – DAY

Scaling the stairwell, Sky makes way up the floors of the
apartment complex. He unlocks an apartment door and enters.

ROSEBLUM (PROLOGUE)

Is it blind faith that keeps this
world fast asleep, or is it God that
gives us hope to dream?

ON BLACK, TITLE CARD,

"ISLANDMAN"

INT. NANA'S KITCHEN — DAY (END MONTAGE)

Sky sets the bag of Groceries on the kitchen counter.

SKY

Nana?

Entering kitchen, NANA (70'S) a stout elderly woman with curly, grey hair. Nana approaches Sky carrying her bible.

NANA

Bless you, child. You don't have to keep bringing me groceries, I'm not your Grandmother. Now, let me make you a sandwich.

SKY

I can't stay, Nana.

NANA

Oh, you have plans? Has Garret finally coaxed you into being social?

SKY

Yeah, some party.

NANA

Let me read you something that I used to read to Alexis before she would go out to parties.

(Opens bible on counter)

Ephesians six, verse ten... Put on the full armor of God, so you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

EXT. OUT BACK/TOWN HOUSE — NIGHT

Sky staggers out of the town house, PARTY SOUNDS resonate from inside. He leans against the fence and vomits. GARRET (18-20) Beard and hoodie, exits the house, holding a beer.

GARRET

Shit, Sky. The party just started.

SKY

(Hunching/Breathless)

It's fine. Go back inside.

GARRET

What happened? You had like two drinks.

SKY

I'm going home, Garret. Thank you for the lovely evening.

GARRET

Give it time, man. You'll see. All this will seem like a bad dream.

SKY

What makes you think she'll even wake up?

GARRET

... What makes you think she won't?

INT. KITCHEN/TOWN HOUSE – NIGHT

The kitchen's rampant with partiers. Sky holds a beer next to Garret, who's mingling. Sky gazes down at the floor.

LIVING ROOM/TOWN HOUSE – LATER

Sky walks beside a dancing crowd. They grind on one another as STEREO SPEAKERS BOOM. Sky sits down on a neglected sofa.

He stares at the dancing crowd ahead. The stereo speakers fade to a DEEP HUM. He becomes still... his shoulders loosen.

FLASH – A young woman storms out of Sky's studio upset.

Sky's breath grows heavy. The beer bottle slips from his fingers, spilling to the carpet.

FLASH – The woman lies askew at the bottom of a stairwell.

Sky exhales slowly, he stops breathing. His eyes are lifeless and his body is frozen stiff...

EXT. THE MONOCHROME – DAY

Sky's running rapidly, huffing with vexed energy. He slides to a stop. He stands stunned in a vast, stormy desert.

LITTLE GIRL (8-12) with dark hair rushes past Sky giggling. He turns to her path sharply, but no one is there. FOOTSTEPS are heard nearby. Sky whips around to see...

THE SHADE, black charred flesh, wearing torn and ragged clothes. It staggers across the desert before Sky. It turns to Sky, lurching. It moans a deep and uncanny sound.

INT. LIVING ROOM/TOWN HOUSE – NIGHT

Sky snaps awake on the couch. Garret is shaking him up. A crowd of concerned partiers are huddled behind Garret.

GARRET

Hey, he's awake! Sky? Talk to me, buddy!

SKY

I'm ok-I'm ok! I just fell asleep.

GARRET

Asleep, you call that sleeping?!
(Grabs a smartphone
from a friend nearby)
Here, see for yourself!

Garret opens a video, handing the smartphone to Sky. Sky scans the crowd behind Garret, they stare at him silently. Sky looks to the smartphone as the video begins to play.

ON THE PHONE – A video of Sky sitting lifeless and still on the couch. Garret and his friends try to slap him awake.

GARRET (O.S.)

You scared the hell out of me,
man. I almost called 911.

Sky scowls down at the smart-phone as the video continues.

INT. PATIENT ROOM – DAY

A pencil etches across white paper, lining out a detailed illustration of a young woman in a hospital bed.

Sky sits on a hospital bed, holding a sketchpad, drawing a picture of... ALEXIS (18-20) a young woman, pallid and dark haired. She's in bed, hooked to an IV. She's unconscious.

Enter SOLEMN NURSE (Late 20's) over worked, weary, hugging a clipboard. She steps into the patient room.

SKY

Has anything changed?

SOLEMN NURSE

Nothing conclusive, but her vitals are climbing.

SKY

If you didn't think she was gonna wake up, would you tell me?

SOLEMN NURSE

... Alexis has experienced a great deal of neural trauma from the accident. She's recovering... but it's difficult for us determine how long her coma will last.

SKY

So, sooner or later, maybe never.

SOLEMN NURSE

It's only been a month, Sky. These things take time. At the very least, we can hope for sooner.

EXT. OUT FRONT/HOSPITAL – DAY

Sky leaves the hospital, wearing his headphones. He travels the sidewalk. His cell phone rings and he answers.

SKY

Hey.

GARRET (PHONE)

What are you doing?

SKY

Nothing... Leaving the hospital-

GARRET (PHONE)

-Awesome, listen. I know you probably don't wanna talk about last night, but I told my uncle what happened. He's a psychiatric professor... my parents are totally convinced he's crazy. But he said he was interested in meeting you.

SKY

... I don't need a shrink, Garret.

GARRET (PHONE)

Come on, Sky. I get it. We all want Alexis back, but... aren't you just a little curious?

Sky slows to a stop on the sidewalk. He scans pavement.

INT. HALL/UNIVERSITY – DAY

Sky pushes through a doorway, entering a large class hall. He's looking over a yellow sticky note.

GARRET (PHONE/CONT'D)

He teaches at the university.
His name is Dr. Nathan Roseblum.

INT. DARK CLASSROOM – DAY

The slide wheel on a PROJECTOR rotates with a CHICK CHICK. A depiction of a meditating monk is projected on the wall.

Near the projection, ROSEBLUM (LATE 40'S) horn rim glasses, modest suit. Roseblum lectures a class of college students.

ROSEBLUM

Here, in China, we see the Daoist's spirit went into the banquet hall saying, "My lords, here I am again..." and when the officials went in the other room to see, the Daoist's body was snoring like thunder... Next slide.

The Projector rotates. An illustration of a Hindu Buddhist with light shooting from his head is projected on the wall.

ROSEBLUM

Again in India, in yogic tradition, astral travel is considered achievable by reaching heightened emotions through meditated enlightenment. However, in Western studies, out of body experiences are often associated with serious illness, seizures, near death experiences or traumatic events. Next slide.

The Projector rotates. A modern image of a bioluminescent brain nervous system is projected on the wall.

ROSEBLUM

This suggests that these heightened emotions are not induced by enlightenment, but through struggle. Next slide.

INT. HALL/UNIVERSITY – DAY

The college students exit a class up ahead. Sky approaches the door. Roseblum exits last, locking the door.

SKY

Is this Dr. Roseblum's class?

ROSEBLUM

That's right. If you'd like to enroll, you'll have to speak with your student advisor... I'm sorry, but I've got to go.
(Moving away)

SKY

I'm not here for that. I'm Garret's friend.

ROSEBLUM

(Stops/Turning back)
You're the one who had the episode last night?

SKY

(Embarrassed)
I guess... yeah.

ROSEBLUM

(Returns/Shakes hands)

Nice to meet you, Sky. I'm Dr. Roseblum. My nephew's told me a lot about you. I'm sorry to hear about your girlfriend, I imagine you're having trouble adjusting.

SKY

... I heard you wanted to see me?

ROSEBLUM

Yes... I'm conducting this study, are you familiar with the term, Astral Projection?

(Sky shakes his head "no")

I'd like you to come by my out of town office tomorrow morning.

(Hands Sky business card)

I've been looking for a subject to further my research... Perhaps we can benefit from one another.

(Turns moving down hall)

INT. SKY'S STUDIO – NIGHT

The illustration of Alexis in the hospital bed is set up on an easel. Sky finishes up the shading, wearing headphones.

INT. HALLWAY/STAIRWELL – LATER

Sky exits his studio with a hamper of laundry. He stops at the stairwell, glancing down at the bottom of the stairs.

FLASH – Alexis lies askew at the bottom of the stairwell. Sky exhales deeply, becoming still. The stairwell is empty. He drops his laundry down the stairs and his legs give...

EXT. THE MONOCHROME – DAY

Sky falls to the desert floor. He nods up to... Little Girl, she's standing over him. Sky rises to his feet beside her.

LITTLE GIRL

Do I know you, mister?

SKY

What are you doing out here?

Little Girl shrugs. Her eyes shift aside. She shrieks. Sky turns to see... The Shade, it moans, rushing after them.

INT. HALLWAY/STAIRWELL – NIGHT

Sky wakes up sharply. He's lying at the top of the stairs. His phone is ringing. He sits up bewildered and answers.

NANA (PHONE)

Sky! Where have you been? Alexis had a seizure, get down here!

Scrambling to his feet, Sky barrels down the stairs.

INT. PATIENT ROOM – NIGHT

Alexis rests in bed. Her heart monitor beeps slowly. Sky sits beside Nana near the bed. Solemn Nurse stands aside.

SOLEMN NURSE

I don't know how this happened. Her recovery was going so smoothly. She shouldn't be having aneurisms at this stage.

SKY

What am I supposed to do?

SOLEMN NURSE

She's stable. We're putting her on 24-hour watch. But at this rate she won't survive another seizure... It's strange, it's like something's pulling her.

Nana touches Sky's shoulders. Solemn Nurse exits the room.

NANA

She's out of our reach. All we can do now is pray.

SKY

(Rises for the door)

I can't just sit here!

NANA

Alexis is my grandchild. There's nothing I wouldn't do for her.

SKY

She's not out of my reach.

NANA

... There is very little on this earth that cannot be taken away. Our lives are a blink of an eye. We have but a few brief moments... So when did we start believing that we didn't need God? You're only human, Sky. You cannot do this alone. Put yourself in the hands of the Almighty.

Sky looks at Nana for a moment. He exits the patient room.

INT. HALLWAY/HOSPITAL – CONT'D

Sky marches down the hall with his phone against his ear.

GARRET (PHONE)

What's up, Sky?

SKY

Garret, I hate to ask. But could you give me a ride in the morning?

GARRET (PHONE)

You got it. Where are we going?

EXT. HILLSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD – MORNING

Garret's car scales the windy roads of the hillside houses.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)

In my travels I have had to cast aside much of my practice. My experiences forced me to accept possibilities outside of the realm of science.

Garret parks at the house. Sky exits scaling the driveway.

INT. ROSEBLUM'S OFFICE – CONT'D

Roseblum and Sky are sitting in leather chairs in an office cluttered with various technical gear. They're facing each other beside a window that overlooks the city.

ROSEBLUM (CONT'D)

I believe there is a world beyond our own, an astral plane where the souls of the dead wander in fury, seeking life to covet. My theories brought me to the Far East, where I studied the mysteries of Astral Projection... I think that these out of body experiences you're having are a result of your recent trauma. That invoking these heightened emotions force a separation of your soul from your body... and when the veil of the physical world is pulled back... your spirit can travel the after life.

SKY

... And you think Alexis is there?

ROSEBLUM

A lot about the comatose state is still undetermined in modern science. It's possible a coma is a biological repercussion of a body that has temporarily lost it's soul.

LATER

Sky watches awkwardly as Roseblum hooks him up to a heart monitor and attaches a black device to his neck.

SKY

What's is that?

ROSEBLUM

A device of my design. In theory, it is meant to act as a two-way communicator... A transmission between this life and the next.

Roseblum sits at his desk. He switches on a BLACK RECEIVER.

ROSEBLUM

If we are going to do this, you must believe that it's possible.

SKY

You're talking about blind faith.

ROSEBLUM

...I'm talking about choosing to believe in something.

(Sky lowers his eyes)

No man is an island, Sky. But to separate yourself from your body, you must forget your loved ones and focus on what disturbs you.

SKY

... What if I can't do that?

ROSEBLUM

(Smirks/Hits record on a TAPE PLAYER)

Let's begin. Sky, tell me about the night of the accident.

Sky pauses hesitantly. He leans over, reading the carpet.

SKY

It was late. When she came home I was busy with one of my projects.

INT. SKY'S STUDIO – FLASHBACK

Sky is drawing at his easel wearing headphones. Alexis enters the studio distressed.

SKY (V.O.)

She said she had a hard day at school. She wanted to talk.

Sky listens to Alexis. He keeps turning back to his work.

SKY (V.O.)

As usual, I was somewhere else...

Alexis grabs Sky's easel throwing paper in the air. Sky rips off his headphones, shouting. Alexis exits the studio upset.

SKY (V.O.)

We had a fight. She got upset. She left in too big of a hurry...

BACK TO SCENE

ROSEBLUM
What happened next?

SKY
(Eyes watering)
When I heard the crash outside, I
already knew... and it was my fault.

INT. HALL/STAIRWELL – FLASHBACK

Exiting the studio, Sky rushes to the wake of the stairwell...
Alexis lies askew at the bottom of the stairs.

BACK TO SCENE

ROSEBLUM
What did you see, Sky? ... Sky?

Sky stares down emotionless. His breathing becomes heavy.
Exhaling a last breath, Sky grows still with lifeless eyes...

EXT. THE MONOCHROME – DAY

Sky takes a breath, looking around, standing in the desert.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)
Sky? Can you hear me?

SKY
I hear you, Roseblum.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)
I don't believe it!
(Chuckles)
Tell me what you see!

Little Girl brushes past Sky, giggling. Sky turns sharply.

SKY
There's a little girl!

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)
... Follow the little girl.

Sky takes off running. He's looking around. He chases after
GIGGLING. He slows as the GIGGLING fades away.

SKY

I think I lost her.

Little Girl tugs on Sky's leg. She's staring ahead timidly.. Sky nods up to the Shade. It's lurching several paces away. Little Girl hides behind Sky. The Shade drags toward them.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)

Sky? Is everything alright?

SKY

... What am I supposed to do?

Sky stands hesitant as the Shade draws near..

FLASH – Sky recalls a conversation with Garret.

SKY

What makes you think she'll even wake up?

GARRET

... What makes you think she won't?

FLASH – Sky recalls a conversation with Roseblum.

SKY

You're talking about blind faith.

ROSEBLUM

...I'm talking about choosing to believe in something... No man is an island, Sky.

FLASH – Sky recalls a conversation with Nana.

SKY

She's not out of my reach.

NANA

You're only human, Sky. You cannot do this alone..

Little Girl screams as the Shade etches closer. Sky steps up fearfully.. He falls to his knees and closes his eyes.

SKY

... Help me... Please, help me.

A sword falls from mid air piercing the ground before Sky. He looks to it astonished. Sky rises, looking to the shade. As the Shade closes in, Sky draws the sword from the earth..

Sky looks at himself in awe. He's wearing a helmet and a suit of armor with a shield. Little Girl's eyes widen. The Shade slows, looking at Sky. It moans deeply, charging in.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)

Sky? What's happening?! Sky!

With a shout, Sky rushes to meet the Shade. Sky and the Shade collide into combat. The Shade takes the upper hand, swinging its massive arms as Sky defends with his shield.

INT. ROSEBLUM'S OFFICE – CONT'D

INTENSE FIGHTING SOUNDS omit from the speaker of Roseblum's Black Receiver. Roseblum hovers over the Receiver, tense.

BACK TO SCENE

The Shade beats against Sky's shield. Sky swings his sword and slices the Shade. It howls and Sky advances, slashing wildly. Sky forces the Shade away from Little Girl.

The Shade falls to the sand. Sky lifts his sword to strike. He hesitates, looking to the cowering Shade. Scrambling up, the Shade escapes. Sky removes his helmet watching it flee.

SKY

(Turns to little girl)

Roseblum, I don't think that's just a little girl.

Sky approaches Little Girl, kneeling down to her.

ROSEBLUM (V.O.)

You've got to make her remember.

LITTLE GIRL

Do I know you, mister?

Sky recovers a folded up paper, handing it to Little Girl. She goes to open it, her head turns aside and Sky looks up..

Sky and Little Girl are surrounded by a mob of Shades. She watches them afraid. Sky tips her chin, smiling warmly.

Little Girl opens the paper as the Shades draw near. It's the illustration of Alexis in the hospital bed... ALEXIS nods up to Sky holding the drawing. She slowly recognizes him.

Alexis embraces Sky, kissing him deeply... Sky draws back. Alexis is gone. He smiles at the illustration of Alexis in the sand. The Shades enclose around Sky... He shuts his eyes.

INT. ROSEBLUM'S OFFICE — CONT'D

Sky jolts awake. Roseblum turns from his desk empowered.

ROSEBLUM

Not bad for our first session.
So, what happened?

SKY

She's awake.

ROSEBLUM

... How do you know?

Sky peers out the window overlooking the city... he smiles.

ROSEBLUM (EPILOGUE)

So we depart from the maelstrom,
eluding the commonplace and our
beliefs are strengthened in the
getaway.

Roseblum smirks, he hits stop on the Tape Player.

INT. PATIENT ROOM — DAY

Sky sits by Alexis. Nana, Garret and Solemn Nurse are near them.

ROSEBLUM (EPILOGUE)

It is our detachment that makes us
free, that gives us the prowess to
carry out such feats... no man is an
island...

Alexis rests her head on Sky's shoulder.

ROSEBLUM (EPILOGUE)

But together we are continents.

END.