

Maria Was Here
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INT. JOEL'S APT. NIGHT

Montage with sound effect:

Two young men fooling around, laughing, and one of them pointing gun at another.

Slow mo of the bullet flying at one of them (David)
(Sound of the gunshot like heard from underwater).

David's face closeup in a slow motion with shock on his face.

End montage.

INT. MARIA'S APT. DAY

She sits on chair motionless and her friend Zoe is hugging her.

ZOE

You need to stay strong, you have to do it for David.

MARIA

I can't, I don't wanna live without him.

She keeps crying.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I have to kill Joel.

ZOE

What are you telling, no Maria, you can't fuck up your life for that bastard, he doesn't deserve that.

MARIA

The only thing that stopps me from doing that is, that I don't wanna go to prison. I'd rather die.

ZOE

No, Maria, you have to live. For your mother, for me, even for David.

INT.MARIA'S APT. NIGHT

Maria is sitting on her bed, watching in front, thoughtfully.

She stands up and walks to window, watches out for a second, then turns her gaze towards the laptop on the desk.

She goes up to the laptop and starts searching smth.

Close up on the display:

VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE**INT.FRED'S OFFICE-MORNING**

Fred is an exentric looking man, he sits with his arms crossed and talks to Maria in front of him.

FRED

Maria, you have to understand that's an..
Yes, I understand you have particular
case, but, well, it's an...

(beat)

experimental technology and, yes we do
guarantee you a virtual reality
experience that is mindblowingly
realistic, but, as you know with great
power comes great responsibility.

MARIA

So?

FRED

We can give you this powerful tool, but
then...it's your resonsibility what you
do in that virtual reality and... even
how you feel after.

MARIA

What do you mean by that, what are the
risks?

FRED

Simply put, you may feel very confused
after that experience, cause it is very,
very realistic.

MARIA

It's exactly what I need.

Fred and Maria stand and shake hands.

FRED

All right, So...see you tomorrow then.

INT. FRED'S LAB - NEXT DAY.

Maria is lying on bed, with here eyes still open, in a brightly illuminated room without any furniture, except for a bed and some electrodes connected to her head. Fred is checking the electrodes and equipment, esuring all goes smooth.

FRED

Maria, so, again, you have to imagine where exactly you want to be, it has to be clear and a very clear idea about who you want to meet. It won't happen immediately but after a few seconds the technology will bring you there. OK?

Maria nods.

FRED (CONT'D)

If something will be particularly disturbing always keep in mind you just have to press this button in your hand.

(Beat)

As for objects you want to have there with you - you just have to imagine, but to help you and to ensure, since it's your first time, take this.

At this point Fred gives her a gun. Maria taks it, holding in on hand the gun, and the control button in the other.

FRED (CONT'D)

You know how to use it?

MARIA

Yes.

FRED

Ok, we start then.

(beat)

Good luck Maria (underwater echo effect)

Maria closes her eyes, falling asleep.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT.DESERTED STREET - MORNING

Maria is walking slowly, looking around, with wonder and shock. She makes steps and holds a gun in her hand. A Detail shot on her hand with a gun. She seems disturbed and confused. turns her head in different directions if if trying to find the way. She closes her eyes. Fading to night.

INT.JOEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joel is smoking and lying on a couch, listening to loud music.

Someone is calling him on the phone, he responds.

JOEL

Ok, cool, waiting for you.

EXT. EMPTY STREET -NIGHT

Maria is looking around, bewildered, is walking slowly, her silhouette in a wide angle shot.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

Maria stoppes by one building and loooks up to the windows, loud music comes of ththese windows.

INT. JOEL'S ROOM-NIGHT

Joel lies on the couch, keeps smoking.

The doorbell rings, Joel ignores it a few seconds.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

I'll open.

INT. HALL-SAME TIME

Maria stands by the door, fast vertical pan from her headshot from behind to her hand holding the gun behind.

Some unknown girl opens the door and looks at Maria with question.

Maria is taken aback.

MARIA

I need Joel.

JOEL (O.S.)

Who's that?!

Fast transition between the extreme closeups of Maria and the Girl.

Gunshots ring out.

The girl falls down in the entrance.

Maria enters the apartment holding the gun pointing out to Joel who has jumped up from couch, still with a cigarette in his mouth.

JOEL (CONT'D)

What the...

Gunshots ring out again.

Joel falls down dead.

Maria stands there for a few seconds watching at Joel, then looking at the girl's body, lying motionless by the entrance door.

INT. FRED'S LAB.-LATER THAT DAY

Maria's face close up, she opens her eyes, disturbing music.

FRED

Welcome back, Maria.

Maria keeps breathing heavily, turning her head distured, watching around the room, as if to confirm she has returned back.

FRED (CONT'D)

You're back, all is fine. Whatever happened there, it will remain there.

INT.MARIA'S APT. DAY

Written on screen: **THE NEXT DAY**

Maria is lying on bed, lying there staring at the ceiling. She has a strange face expression and a blank stare. There's a knock on the door. Maria stands up slowly and heads to the door.

MARIA

Who's there?

ZOE (O.S.)

It's me, Zoe.

Maria opens the door, Zoe enters with a very strange face expression, she seems very disturbed.

MARIA

What's happened?

Zoe turns to Maria and says with a silent voice.

ZOE

Joel has died.

Maria is in shock, her face close up.

MARIA

How?

ZOE

In a car crush. Yesterday.

Maria's face close up.

FADE TO BLACK

