

TEASER

INT. ZANE WILLACRE'S FLAT, LOUNGE. DAY.

An expensive London flat that has hosted it's fair share of ragers and bears the scars as proof.

The walls are adorned with platinum records and decorative instruments hang everywhere.

On a coke-dusted coffee table, a TABLOID lays open.

The headline: "WHO WILL SAVE ZANE WILLACRE?"

Across the two page spread is a photo montage of ZANE Willacre, (27, a hard-partying Rockstar), partying hard.

The paper has had strips torn off to use as *Rizla* paper and Zane is zonked out on a plush leather sofa.

JANINE Stanton, (30s, a picture perfect druggie), sleeps on the floor in a halo of liquor and drug paraphernalia.

Zane lets out a laboured snore - out cold. He's vulnerable.

The front door opens silently and a masked man, ELLORY Dublin, (40s, stocky, dangerous), enters.

He sneaks towards Janine and looms over her threateningly. Ellory kneels and slowly reaches for Janine's neck, then--

--jabs her collarbone with a finger - *wake up!*

Janine stirs but doesn't wake so he jabs her again, harder, until she groggily opens her eyes.

She doesn't look at all shocked to see Ellory.

ELLORY
(whispered)
It's time.

Janine sits up, the grogginess disappears instantly and she rolls her eyes impatiently.

JANINE
Finally!

Ellory shushes Janine conscious of waking Zane, while she casually lights a cigarette.

JANINE (cont'd)
Calm down, he's out cold.

Ellory instantly relaxes and removes his mask.

Zane let's out another laboured snore, which causes Ellory and Janine to snicker.

Janine gives him an impatient look.

JANINE (cont'd)
Today, maybe.

Ellory nods as he grabs Zane by the feet and drags him onto the floor.

He pulls Zane through the flat and into...

INTERCUT:

INT. ZANE WILLACRE'S FLAT, BATHROOM. DAY - INTERCUT

Ellory drops Zane beside the bathtub and runs the tap.

JANINE (O.S.)
And be quick about it!

Ellory sits on the toilet and watches the bath fill with water for a few moments.

He starts to remove Zane's clothes.

INT. ZANE WILLACRE'S FLAT, LOUNGE. DAY - INTERCUT

Janine eats biscuits and reads the Tabloid disinterestedly as she smokes her cigarette.

She doesn't glance up when there is a splash in the bathroom as Zane is thrown into the bathtub.

While Zane can be heard gargling in the next room, Janine laughs at a funny article as she eats another biscuit.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. COURTROOM. DAY

A stuffy courtroom with a very high-profile plaintiff. An audience filled with gawkers and even they look bored.

A LAWYER (40s, high-powered but hopeless), reads a tabloid as he waits for the session to restart.

The headline reads: "GHOSTHOPPER'S ZANE WILLACRE FOUND DEAD AT 27". Below this, a picture of Zane looking epic.

The defendant, JACK Beatty (32, super-fan with boundary issues), sits beside his lawyer - he looks oddly chipper.

SUPER: "JACK'S STORY"

Jack steals glances at the plaintiff's table where a woman, STEPHANIE Clarence (29, highly strung actress), sits.

Stephanie's agent, CHERYL Marks (50, very much a fair-weather cheerleader), sits beside Stephanie.

It's painfully apparent that Stephanie's lawyers are more expensive than Jack's. All Prada suits and pearls.

JACK (V.O.)

I bet you're thinking, what did that nice young man do to land himself in front of a judge, about to be served a restraining order from Oscar Winning Actress, Stephanie Clarence.

And before you think I'm some pervert who harasses women - I'm not.

She just wasn't a fan of my "overly aggressive style of friendship" - as my lawyer put it.

Have you ever heard something so ridiculous?

Stephanie feels eyes and glances over to see Jack beam at her. His eyes light up and he waves like a lunatic.

Horrified, Stephanie sits back so she is blocked from view by her lawyer.

Jack pouts, *what's her problem?*

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)

If I'd done what I did to anyone else no one would have batted an eyelid but because she's famous it's somehow "a problem".

I don't understand, I spent hours learning what she likes. I made her a cake, bought her flowers, I even sent her a case of her favourite wine and

(MORE)

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)
somehow that all adds up to me
being a psycho!

I only wanted to make her happy.

A Judge enters and sluggishly moves to the bench.

Someone nudges Jack's lawyer and he quickly downs his paper to gives his full attention.

Stephanie and her team also sit to attention, eager.

Jack stares at Stephanie and she purses her lips angrily. Jack scowls distastefully and slumps in his seat.

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)
If I'd known she'd treat me like
this I wouldn't have bothered.

Cheryl whispers to Stephanie and they both scowl at Jack.

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)
She won't even give me a chance.

Stephanie looks expectant as the Judge confers with the Jury.

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)
I don't see why I should have to
cultivate a commercially
successful skill just to get a
look in.

The Judge turns to the room. Jack sits up ready, he is resigned to his fate.

JUDGE
Based on evidence heard today it
is this Court's decision to
grant Ms Clarence her order
against Mr Beatty.

(to Jack)

Mr Beatty, from today you are to
remain at least 200 metres from
Ms Clarence and desist from any
further attempts to contact her.
Is that understood?

Jack begrudgingly nods and the Judge bangs the gavel.

JUDGE (cont'd)
Court is adjourned.

Jack sighs sadly, while Stephanie and her team rejoice.

JACK (V.O.)
I guess that's that, then.

People rise from their seats and exit the courtroom.

Jack is oblivious to the uncomfortably, pitying looks directed his way from the crowd.

In fact, he waves graciously, with truly no concept that he might be the bad guy in this situation.

Jack tries to follow after Stephanie, and looks confused when his lawyer blocks him in.

JACK (V.O.)
It's all so unnecessary--

EXT. A TREE OUTSIDE STEPHANIE'S HOUSE. NIGHT

Jack sits in a dark area but it is not yet clear where.

His face is lit only by the screen of his mobile phone as he reads an article about Stephanie.

The headline: "COOL GIRL CLARENCE WORN OUT... HER WELCOME?"

Beneath, a bad no make-up tabloid photo of Stephanie Clarence where she looks stressed and miserable.

Jack scoffs at the headline - *what are they talking about?* and tucks his phone back into his pocket.

JACK (V.O.)
--what am I doing that's so wrong?

Jack is sat in a tree, dressed in black clothes, he lifts binoculars to his face and spies into Stephanie's home.

Stephanie walks into a room with large windows. She is on the phone, none the wiser to Jack's presence.

Jack grins giddily as he watches her.

JACK (V.O.) (cont'd)
If I had a camera and was selling pictures to OK! this would all be fine but because I do it for my own enjoyment I'm "creepy".

Stephanie gestures a lot, agitated by her phone call.

Jack notices something move towards the back of the house.

JACK

What the...?

Jack peers through his binoculars just as a MASKED person climbs into the house through a back window.

He watches as the Masked Person sneaks through the house, they seem hostile and Jack's eyes widen in horror.

Jack springs into action, he hops down from the tree and clumsily climbs over the fence into Stephanie's garden.

INT. STEPHANIE'S HOME, LOUNGE. NIGHT

Stephanie's lavish mansion is a minimalist's dream. All lumpy sculptures and furniture that looks uncomfortable.

Stephanie talks on the phone and seems extremely tense. Too distracted to notice Masked slip into the room behind her.

STEPHANIE

What changed in the last 3 hours?

Cheryl rattles off a long explanation.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

I understand that, Cheryl, but they told me the part was mine. Guaranteed even--

--pause as Stephanie is interrupted by Cheryl again.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

But strong heroine is my niche--

--Stephanie's interrupted again and rolls her eyes. The doorbell RINGS and Stephanie puts a finger in her ear.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Why did they need to go for someone younger? I'm only 29, for God's sake!

The doorbell rings frantically and she glares at the door.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Francizka, did you forget your key?

The doorbell rings and Stephanie moves towards the door.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Sorry, Cheryl, my maid's locked herself out again.

Cheryl tries to end the call.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
No. I'll just be a second. We
still need to discuss--

--Cheryl rings off.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
Cheryl? Hello?

She throws her mobile on a sofa and stomps to the door,
just as Masked barrel rolls into the room behind her.

The doorbell rings continuously.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
Calm down, I'm coming!

Stephanie opens the door and instantly pales to see Jack
stood outside with his finger pressed to the doorbell.

He grins awkwardly.

JACK
Now I know how this looks--

--Stephanie slams the door in Jack's face and cuts him off.

STEPHANIE
What are you doing here, Jack!

Jack knocks on the door urgently. Stephanie rests her
forehead on the door exasperatedly.

JACK (O.S.)
Someone broke into your house!

STEPHANIE
No shit!

JACK (O.S.)
I don't mean me. It's... someone
else.

Stephanie scoffs and shakes her head incredulously.

STEPHANIE
I'm calling the police!

JACK (O.S.)
No! Don't--
(he rethinks)
--wait. Yes! Call the police.
Right now. Then come out here
and wait in full public view.

Stephanie sighs as she walks to pick up her phone.

STEPHANIE
You are a ridiculous person!

Jack gets excited.

JACK (O.S.)
Exactly! You should have me
arrested!

Stephanie picks up her phone.

STEPHANIE
I plan to!

Just then Masked sneaks out and grabs Stephanie from behind. Stephanie screams and drops her phone.

INTERCUT:

EXT. STEPHANIE'S HOME, FRONT GARDEN. NIGHT - INTERCUT

Jack hears a scream and presses himself against the window.

JACK
Stephanie!

Through the window, Stephanie struggles with the Masked.

Petrified, Jack searches for something to break the window, he tries to lift a large stone swan but it's too heavy.

Jack grabs a small stone turtle and frantically uses it to try to break the head off the swan.

It takes him a moment to realise the turtle will do.

Jack rushes back to the window just as Stephanie's legs disappear into a back room.

Jack shields his eyes and whacks the turtle against the window. It does not smash.

Jack moves closer and throws the ornament as hard as he can and shrieks as the window shatters spectacularly.

FREEZE FRAME! THE DAY REWINDS...

END OF ACT ONE