

ROOTED OBSESSION

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MONTAGE BEGINS:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

STEVIE(18) is sitting in class focused on the teacher lecturing. Two random classmates sit next to her taking notes.

Stevie's phone begins to ring. She offers a quiet apology as she fumbles to silence her phone. When she looks at the screen she sees her mother's name. She ignores the call and puts her phone in her pocket.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Stevie wanders down an aisle examining the books as she walks. Just as she's about to pull a book from the shelf, her phone begins to ring again.

Stevie hesitates looking at her mothers name on the screen. Her finger hovers over the answer button, but then hits the decline button. She takes the book off the shelf and opens it.

EXT. EATING LOUNGE - DAY

Stevie arrives at an empty table and chair outside. She places her food down and her phone flat on the table in front of her as she sits.

She takes in her surroundings for a moment, admiring the trees and the open field. It is quiet and peaceful. No one is around.

Stevie smiles as she opens up her food tray. Just as she's about to start eating her phone begins to ring. She stops and stares at the faced down phone intensely until the ringing finally stops. All goes quiet again.

Stevie slowly closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. Seconds later her phone begins to buzz/ring again interrupting her silence.

Annoyed, Stevie quickly stands up, grabs her food and leaves the area.

Montage Ends:

INT. DORM ROOM - MID DAY

Stevie enters her room without turning on the lights and plops herself down at her desk. She looks at her phone to see 10 missed calls and voicemails from her mother. She begins to listen to them one by one stopping them each half way.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Stevie why don't you call me or talk to me anymore? You know I'm not doing well and I-

MOTHER (V.O.)

Stevie please come home to me. I miss my sweet little girl. You know I'll do anything for you-

As Stevie listens to the voicemails she begins to drum her fingers on the desk. With each voicemail the drumming gets louder and louder.

We see Stevie from a bunch of close up angles as her anxiety begins to kick in. Her eyes are glossy as the light from her phone illuminates her face. Her hand shakes slightly as it runs roughly through her hair massaging her scalp. She bites her lip nervously, drawing a bit of blood.

MOTHER (V.O.)

I'm all alone here and the holidays are coming. I got you a present. I can't wait for you to see-

MOTHER (V.O.)

Stevie. Stevieeeeeee. Come on. Answer the phone. I just want to hear your voice.

Just then Stevie's phone begins to ring again. She takes a moment and then answers the phone. Almost immediately we hear the MOTHER's(40) voice.

MOTHER (O.S.)

(scolding)

Stevie where have you been?

STEVIE

Hi, mom...

The camera tilts down and fades into darkness.

We fade into a montage of Stevie cleaning her room as we hear her conversation with her mother..

MOTHER (O.S.)  
I've been calling and calling, ever  
since you left me here all alone...

We see Stevie with a bunch of papers in her hand as she  
throws them away.

STEVIE (O.S.)  
I'm sorry mom... have you been  
taking your medicine?

MOTHER (O.S.)  
No, it's been making me worse.

Stevie picks up a shirt off the ground, holds it up and then  
smells it.

STEVIE (O.S.)  
Mom...you know the doctor says you  
have to take it.

This time Stevie is in another corner of the room picking up  
a pile of dirty clothes in her hands.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
Fuck the doctor. No one takes good  
care of me like you do. When are  
you coming home.

STEVIE (O.S.)  
About that mom...I'm not coming  
home.

Stevie throws the clothes into the hamper covering the  
camera.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
Stevie you can't be serious. I need  
you...

STEVIE (O.S.)  
I have a lot to focus on and get  
done...

Stevie grabs the detergent bottles and closes the door behind  
her.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

MOTHER (O.S.)  
This is absurd. You are so selfish!

STEVIE (O.S.)  
 Mom please don't be that way.

We see Stevie's keys lock the room door.

The laundry basket wheels roll down the hallway. Stevie aggressively drags the basket down the stairs.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
 What way exactly? You just picked up and left me. Just like your father! You didn't care about me and my health or my feelings. After everything I've done for you too...

STEVIE (O.S.)  
 Mom...

MOTHER (O.S.)  
 I brought you into this world. I've watched over you. I protected you. You're my little girl. You're MY responsibility. You are all mine.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie arrives at the laundry room. She throws her clothes into the washing machine.

MOTHER CONT.(O.S.)  
 And this is how I get treated in return, tossed to the side like dirty laundry...

Stevie doesn't respond.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
 You think you're all grown up now? You don't need me anymore, right?

Stevie slams the washing machine door. She turns the knob to the right settings. Then pushes the button to start the machine. Stevie sets a timer on her phone then stands next to the machine in quiet thought.

STEVIE (O.S.)  
 I'm just getting older mom. I need to start doing things on my own...

MOTHER (O.S.)  
 You're a stupid ungrateful child. But you know what, it's okay. I'll always be there for you.  
 (MORE)

MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

As long as my blood runs through  
your veins, you can't get rid of  
me.

The washing machine starts and the water starts to pour.

The mother gets into a coughing fit then hangs up the phone.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie returns to the dorm room to drop off the detergent  
bottles. Her roommate MADISON(18) walks in.

MADISON

Hey, sorry to barge in. I'm just  
grabbing my stuff my parents will  
be here any minute.

STEVIE

Aww okay. Do you need any help?

MADISON

No, I'll be okay thank you though.  
We have a flight to catch in the  
morning so its just a lot of  
running around. I'm really excited  
though! We are visiting some family  
in China from my mom's side.

STEVIE

That sounds nice.

MADISON

What about you? Got any plans? When  
will your mom get here?

STEVIE

Um...She'll probably be here soon.  
I still have a lot of laundry to  
sort through and pack.

MADISON

Wow you're still packing? My mom  
would kill me if I wasn't ready. At  
this rate you'll be the last one to  
leave. I'm pretty sure everyone on  
our floor is gone already.

STEVIE

(chuckles)  
Yeah...by the way! Before I forget-

Stevie opens her drawer and pulls out a little gift bag for her roommate.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I got this for you.

Madison looks at the card that reads "Friends are the family you choose".

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I just wanted to say thank you for being a good roommate.

MADISON

Stevie, this is so nice. Thank you, you didn't have to get me anything.

STEVIE

I know but I wanted to.

Madison's phone rings. She quickly looks at her phone.

MADISON

That's them, I have to go.

She gives Stevie a hug and grabs her bag. Just as Madison is about to close the door she looks back at Stevie standing in the lowly lit room.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas.

Madison leaves the room. The air goes quiet as Stevie is once again left alone.

We begin to hear the mother's voice off screen. "Stevie. Stevieeeee. I miss my sweet little girl. You are so selfish! Ungrateful Child!"

Stevie pulls out her phone and begins calling her mother. Each dial is long drawing out suspense as Stevie waits for her mother to answer. She stares long and hard at the mini Christmas tree in her room. After a few seconds we hear "Please leave your message-".

Stevie attempts to call her mother again. It continues to dial without connecting. "Please leave your message for-"

Stevie turns off her phone. She reaches out to touch the Christmas tree when suddenly her alarm goes off. She jumps back a bit in surprise. She turns off the alarm and throws her phone on her bed, leaving the room.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie opens the washing machine door. She begins taking out one piece of clothing at a time examining it and shaking it off.

She gathers a couple of clothes in her arms and brings it over to the dryer. As she passes the laundry room door, we see a womanly figure walk into a dark room at the end of the hall behind her. Stevie doesn't notice as she walks back and fourth from the washer to the dryer carrying clothes.

Suddenly we hear Stevie's phone ringing in the distance. Stevie checks her pockets looking for her phone. When she realizes it's not on her she cautiously follows the ringing out of the laundry room.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Stevie walks out into the hallway passing by empty rooms.

STEVIE

Hello? Is someone still down here?

There is no reply and the phone continues to ring.

When she reaches the doorway we see Stevie's phone on the floor. The screen is the only thing illuminated, dialing Stevie's mother.

Stevie bends down to pick up the phone, confused. When she finally looks up, she sees a woman huddled in the corner of the room with her back turned. She is in a long white night gown unmoving.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Mom?

We see the bottom half of the woman's face begin to smile as a nasty black substance drips out of her mouth.

A loud bang coming from the laundry room draws Stevie's attention away from the woman. When Stevie looks back, the woman has disappeared.

She fast walks back to the laundry room area.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

The overhead lights are now off in the laundry room. Each washing machine glows an unusual orange casting an eerie light.



Stevie's clothes are sprawled out all over the floor at her feet. A little white gift box with a red bow sits on top.

She bends down to pick it. She examines the gift finding a note that says "Merry Christmas" in distorted red letters.

Stevie opens the box, dropping it almost immediately in fear and disgust. The actual gift is not seen. But a red liquid oozes out of the corner on the floor.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
(whisper)  
Stevie.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Stevie is stopped short in her tracks when she sees a woman figure behind the glass door near the exit. Her dark black hair covers the majority of her pale crooked face.

The woman bangs excessively on the door over and over forcing Stevie to run in the opposite direction.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
What's the matter you don't like my  
gift?

Stevie runs back towards the dark room at the end of the hallway. She glances over her shoulder to see if she is being followed.

MOTHER (V.O.)  
I love you Stevie.

Stevie reaches the room at the end of the basement hallway. She closes the door behind her to block out her mother's taunting calls.

She backs away from the door further into the darkness.

All is quiet for a moment except for Stevie's shaky breathing.

The door suddenly starts to creep open.

Stevie softly begins to whimper, her eyes watery with tears.

STEVIE  
No, no, no. Please go away. Please-

MOTHER (V.O.)  
We'll be together forever darling,  
don't you worry.

The stream of light reveals two dead looking hands closing in behind Stevie's neck.

CUT TO BLACK.