

THE THIN MEMBRANE

Written by

Oliver O'Connor

INT./EXT.

1. A brash-looking business guy is standing on a balcony smoking a cigarette, talking on the phone. His voice is muted but still audible.

BUSINESS GUY

I don't care how, just fucking get it done. I'm leaving this shit hole in a couple of days and when I get back I expect it to be finished, do you understand?

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

2. Alex stands on the sidewalk looking up with a cold stare.  
3. He's looking up at the business guy.  
4. He returns his gaze to a neutral level - he's thinking about something.

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR

5. BING!

Standing in the same position with the same dazed thinking expression, the elevator doors open with a bing, grabbing Alex's attention - he walks out.

INT. CORRIDOR

6. Alex walks down the corridor.  
Someone walks in the other direction.  
Alex smiles warmly.

ALEX  
(smiling)  
Hiya.

INT. LIVING ROOM

7. Alex comes in from work (formal but unkempt clothes). He's looking tired and fragile as he walks to the kitchen.  
A shadowy figure sits on the couch, but Alex pays no heed.

INT. KITCHEN

8. Alex cuts up some vegetables whilst ruminating with dead eyes. He accidentally cuts himself and winces, snapping him into the present. He looks at the blood dripping from his hand.

9. Close up on hand.

SHADOWY FIGURE (O.S.)  
(low, deep, slightly  
distorted)  
Such a thin membrane keeping us  
from spilling out.

9.5 Alex wraps up his hand.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

10. The shadowy figure sits on the couch.

SHADOWY FIGURE  
Tomorrow will be your last chance.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

11...

ALEX  
(casually)  
I was thinking of checking out a  
movie tomorrow. Maybe asking Sarah  
if she wants to join. She smiled at  
me today.

12.

SHADOWY FIGURE  
Yes, sit quietly in the darkness  
staring at someone you could have  
been, someone like him.

13. Alex seems a little annoyed by this comment, but finishes wrapping his hand and goes about his business, cooking in the kitchen.

ALEX  
I think I should just let it go.

SHADOWY FIGURE

And spend rest of your days with  
his footprint on your back, frailty  
streaming from your repulsive timid  
eyes.

Alex pauses, then continues.

14.

SHADOWY FIGURE (CONT'D)

Could you be caught?

15. Alex thinks for a moment.

ALEX

No.

16.

SHADOWY FIGURE

(confrontational)

Then what are you afraid of?

17.

ALEX

I don't know... guilt? After all,  
it would only bring more pain into  
the world.

18. 19. (jumping back and forth between) Zooming into Alex  
face for the following:

SHADOWY FIGURE

Yes. Imagine it: the terror ripping  
through him as he falls; the  
torment searing his mind, unable to  
retaliate against you, unable to  
enact revenge; the agony of his  
bones shattering on the cold  
concrete, piercing through his  
organs. The lamentation of his  
mother, endless wailing for her  
beloved son, now a crumpled pile of  
jagged oozing flesh.

20. Alex shakes his head slightly and resumes... then stops  
again.

21.

ALEX

I was very kind to him... He saw that as weakness.

SHADOWY FIGURE

All your life, the same story, over and over, and forever it will be unless you accept who you truly are.

22.(Close up from above) Beat.

ALEX

Who am I?

23. Overlay of Alex and Shadowy Figure's faces. Blood streams out of the shadowy figure's torn open mouth.

SHADOWY FIGURE

You are **God**. You are God disguised as man. You are God, deluded by the Devil, tricked into thinking you're feeble and powerless. Let this be your redemption. Deliver your wrath upon that scourge. Send him to the rotten core of hell to be torn apart and raped and burned for eternity.

24. BING - the cooker goes off.

25. Alex assembles his food and then takes it from the counter and walks into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Alex walks into the living room with a plate of food - the shadowy figure is no longer there.

He sits where the figure was, in the same position, habitually reaches for the remote beside him but then puts it down and just stares into the air. Then he raises his hand to look at the bloodied bandage around it.

26. He unwraps it and blood pours down his hand.

FADE TO BLOOD  
RED

TITLE CARD: THE THIN MEMBRANE

