

THE BOY IN THE WATER

Written by

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INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

A painting hanging on the wall of a ship on stormy seas.

The waves can be heard getting louder and louder.

Thunder claps-

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN

The waves rock wildly uncovering a body of an 11 year old, floating in the water.

LISA (O.S.)

Aiden?

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Aiden snaps from looking at the painting to his therapist, Lisa, sitting across from him. Blood is running from one of his nostrils. He's breathing heavily.

Lisa is staring at him.

LISA

Your nose is bleeding.

Aiden realises this by dabbing his top lip. Lisa passes him some tissues.

Lisa notices that he was looking at the painting.

LISA (CONT'D)

(getting up)

I'm sorry, it's a new piece. I didn't think it would affect you.

Lisa walks over to the painting and takes it down, placing it on the floor facing the wall.

Aiden finishes wiping his nose. Lisa sits back down and picks her notepad back up again.

LISA (CONT'D)

Are you okay? Do you want to reschedule?

AIDEN
No, no. I'm fine. Please, carry on.

LISA
Okay...

Lisa shuffles her notes.

LISA (CONT'D)
How's the Detective Constable job
suiting you?

AIDEN
It's been good, I think it suits me
quite well. But it's only been a
couple months yet.

LISA
Do you have a partner?

AIDEN
Yeah, they gave me a partner. His
name is Sean.

LISA
What's he like?

AIDEN
He's fine. He's kind of a big deal.

LISA
Oh really?

AIDEN
Yeah he's one of the best.

LISA
And what does Asha think of him?

Pause.

AIDEN
He likes him too, I guess.

LISA
That's good.

Beat.

LISA (CONT'D)
Can I talk to Asha?

Aiden hesitates.

AIDEN
He doesn't want to talk.

LISA
Not at all?

AIDEN
No.

LISA
That's okay. Maybe another time.
How is he?

AIDEN
I don't know really. He talks less
and less these days.

LISA
Do you think that's a good thing?

AIDEN
I don't know. What did you want to
talk to him about?

LISA
Well, something doesn't sit right
with me about your new job. Tell
me, why did you want to be a
Detective Constable?

AIDEN
I just feel like I could do good in
that position.

LISA
You sure it has nothing to do with
your past?

Pause.

AIDEN
What do you mean?

LISA
I mean the branch you're stationed
at was the one handling the
investigation of Asha's murder and
your father's.

AIDEN
It is? I didn't really know that.

LISA
I'm not saying you did.

AIDEN
You think Asha did.

LISA
Yes. Aiden, I don't need to say anything to your chief unless you give me good reason. You...or him.

Aiden nods.

AIDEN
Okay.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The door unlocks and Aiden walks in. He takes off his coat and throws it on the sofa. He then unlocks one of the rooms with his keys and opens it.

We slowly trail behind him into the dark room. He flicks on the light switch and walks over to his desk. He turns on the work lamp on his desk and sets down his keys.

He then turns to face the back wall and folds his arm. We move behind him to reveal...

A huge mind map connected by red strings.

We keep rotating back to show Aiden's face but not quite his. His bottom lip is protruding further and his eyes are a little lazier- Asha's face.

TITLE

INT. SEAN'S CAR - DAY

Aiden is sitting in the passenger seat as Sean is driving.

SEAN
You seem quiet this morning.

AIDEN
Sorry, I'm just tired.

SEAN
Not enough sleep?

AIDEN
I guess so.

Beat.

SEAN

So, I never asked you. Why did you decide to join the police?

AIDEN

Oh. Um...I just felt like I wanted to make a difference.

SEAN

Yeah, but what made you think that? Whether it's personal experience or saw something on the news one day?

AIDEN

I don't really like to talk about it.

SEAN

I see. It's past trauma then I'm guessing.

Aiden doesn't answer.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You and I aren't that different in that case.

AIDEN

What do you mean?

Sean readies himself.

SEAN

On the morning of March 20th 1996, a man decided to take a gun on to one of the busiest streets in the city centre and open fire. After he was out of bullets, he took out a pistol and emptied the clip. But he saved the last bullet for himself. I was only 13, walking into school. One of the teachers had pulled me aside and said that my Mum was coming to get me. My Mum comes and...I find out that my Dad was among the people who were shot and killed. And the worst part is, the man was a police officer.

AIDEN

Shit.

SEAN

Yeah. You don't have to tell me your story now. I'm just showing you there's a level of trust between police officers like us.

Silence. Aiden looks out the window.

AIDEN

I was 11. I was at home with my mother. We get a knock on the door. It's the police telling us that my twin brother and father have been killed. They found their bodies washed up in the river by my house. The killer got away. The case went cold.

SEAN

Did you ever think about finding him?

AIDEN

Not really, no. I...left all that behind.

EXT. MARCUS' HOUSE - DAY

Car door slam.

Aiden and Sean walk towards the house.

INT. MARCUS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aiden and Sean enter the house. A police officer is talking to a man sitting on the couch who is clearly in distress.

SEAN

I'll take the witness, why don't you look around.

AIDEN

Alright.

Aiden goes upstairs. Sean walks over to the witness and relieves the police officer.

The witness has a black eye and cuts on over parts of his face. His hands are clasped and his leg is shaking.

SEAN

Hi, I'm Detective Mowery.

Sean flashes him his badge.

MARCUS
Marcus Reeves.

SEAN
And you say your father, Frank
Reeves has been kidnapped?

MARCUS
Yes.

SEAN
Walk me through what happened.

MARCUS
Well, um, I was upstairs when I
heard my Dad answer the door. He
sounded like he knew my Dad. Which
is weird because he wasn't the most
popular. A lot of people hated him.

SEAN
Hmm. Do you know the relationship
he could've had with this guy?

MARCUS
I think he said he was the son of
an old friend or something like
that.

SEAN
Okay.

Sean writes on his notepad as he talks. Aiden comes down the stairs.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(to Aiden)
Find anything?

Marcus tries to look at Aiden but Sean is in the way.

AIDEN
No, I'll check the kitchen.

Aiden walks over to the kitchen. Marcus gets a brief glimpse of him before Aiden walks out.

SEAN
Sorry, you were saying.

MARCUS

Then I hear him shouting at my Dad.
Then my Dad screaming.

SEAN

Do you know what they were arguing
about?

MARCUS

I don't know. I couldn't make out
what he was saying.

SEAN

Go on.

MARCUS

His screaming stopped before I got
down the stairs and my Dad was just
lying there. He had been knocked
out. I couldn't see the guy
anywhere. Then out of nowhere he
pounces on me. We have a little
struggle and he did this to me.

He gestures to his face.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Knocked me out. When I woke up this
morning, he was gone. And so was my
Dad.

Aiden walks in and answers his phone.

AIDEN

Yeah.

Marcus's attention is stolen by Aiden. He gets a clear look
at him as he has a conversation on the phone. His eyes widen
and becomes frightened.

SEAN

Did you get a good look at the guy?

Marcus doesn't answer and carries on staring at Aiden.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Marcus?

Marcus stands up, now close to Sean. Sean is confused.

MARCUS

(whispers)

Can we...um...go some place
private?

Sean realises Marcus is giving Aiden a bad look.

Aiden still speaking on the phone.

SEAN

Okay.

Sean and Aiden walk out the room. Aiden notices them leaving the room.

SEAN (CONT'D)

2 seconds, he's just going to show me something.

AIDEN

Okay.

INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Marcus leads Sean into the kitchen but makes sure nobody is behind them.

MARCUS

Okay, who is that guy?

SEAN

That's my partner, why?

MARCUS

(whispers frantically)
That's him.

SEAN

What?

MARCUS

That's the guy.

Sean is very confused.

SEAN

You're telling me that my partner is the guy who attacked you and kidnapped your father?

MARCUS

Yes.

SEAN

Sir, I highly doubt that.

MARCUS

I am positive that's him.

Sean takes a small flashlight out and shines it over Marcus's eyes.

SEAN
You ever taken any drugs.

Marcus stays silent.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Anything I could see on your record?

MARCUS
I have just got out of rehab for...using.

AIDEN
Everything okay?

Aiden is standing in the doorway of the kitchen. Marcus stares at him intently.

SEAN
Yeah, everything's fine. What've you got?

Sean walks out back to the living room with Aiden.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

LISA
How are you doing, Aiden?

AIDEN
I'm doing fine. I went to the doctor's yesterday to find out why I'm having these nose bleeds.

LISA
And what did they say?

AIDEN
I had to take an MRI. I won't get a result until tomorrow.

LISA
Are you worried?

AIDEN
Who wouldn't be?

LISA

True. But if you find yourself feeling anxious then there are a few things you can do to help. You can try and keep yourself busy. Try speaking with some friends.

Aiden nods in agreement.

AIDEN

Okay.

Beat.

LISA

May I talk to Asha?

Aiden looks to the side for a moment. Then back to Lisa.

AIDEN

He's saying no.

LISA

Can you try please?

Aiden looks to the side again. He then looks down. His facial expression changes. Eyes a little lazier. Bottom lip purposely protruding forward.

He looks back up. Lisa knows another face is now looking at her.

LISA (CONT'D)

Hello, Asha.

ASHA

Lisa.

His voice is a little deeper than Aiden's. More calm.

LISA

How are you?

ASHA

I'm fine, thanks.

LISA

You liking your new Detective Constable position?

ASHA

Well, it's not my job, is it? It's Aiden's.

LISA

I just wanted to talk to you about that. Why did you want to be a detective?

ASHA

I didn't, Aiden did.

LISA

Aiden didn't talk to you about it?

ASHA

Sure, he talked about it. But it had nothing to do with me.

LISA

Asha, I told Aiden the same thing. If you give me reasonable concern I am legally obliged to report you and Aiden can be fired. Do you want that?

Pause.

ASHA

What is it you think that I am up to?

LISA

That you are going to try and find the person that murdered you.

Pause.

ASHA

You have nothing to worry about.

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Aiden enters and slides his keys on the counter. He's stumbling, drunk-like. He makes his way to the sofa and crashes down.

His face looks distraught. He raises his hand to his face as he suddenly begins to whimper.

Tears roll down his cheeks. He sniffs.

He calms down.

AIDEN

What're we going to do now, ey?

Aiden waits for a reply.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Nothing?

He waits again.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Do you remember that song that Mum
used to sing to us when Grandma
died?

Aiden smiles.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
(starts singing)
*When you're sad and when you're
lonely, when you haven't got a
friend just remember that death is
not the end.
And all that you held sacred, falls
down and doesn't mend, just
remember that death is not the end.*

Aiden's smile fades as he waits again.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
You're not gonna talk to me?...Hmm?

Another wait. Aiden shakes his head.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Fine. That's fine.

He then rests his head back and slowly falls asleep.

FADE OUT.

Echoes of screams can be heard, Lisa's voice, his voice and
then...

Phone rings.

Aiden wakes up. Still on the sofa. It's daytime.

Aiden answers the phone.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Hello?

SEAN
Aiden, we've got a homicide. I'm on
my way to you.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Aiden and Sean walk through the wooded area.

AIDEN

So what did Marcus say to you the other day?

Sean stops and turns to Aiden.

SEAN

Aiden, I'm going to ask you something and I want you to be honest with me.

AIDEN

Yeah, okay.

SEAN

Where were you the night Frank Reeves was kidnapped?

Aiden is confused.

AIDEN

What has that got to do with anything?

SEAN

Just answer the question, Aiden.

Aiden hesitates to answer.

AIDEN:

I...I was...at therapy?

SEAN

I didn't know you went to therapy.

AIDEN

Yep.

SEAN

And then where did you go?

Aiden stays quiet.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You've been acting weird this morning, quieter than usual. Something's wrong and you have to tell me right now.

Aiden is scared to answer.

AIDEN
I'm not well...I went to see a
doctor. Yesterday I got the
results.

SEAN
And?

Aiden takes a deep breath.

AIDEN
I have a brain tumor.

SEAN
Shit.

AIDEN
Yeah.

Sean takes a deep breath, guilty for questioning him.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
What did he say to you?

SEAN
He told me that you were the guy
who attacked him.

Aiden is confused beyond belief.

AIDEN
Me?

Sean puts his hand on Aiden's shoulder.

SEAN
Just forget about it, You're a good
kid. Marcus was a former drug
abuser. His mind might not be a
stable one.

That gives Aiden a thought. Sean walks off.

They walk to the edge of the tree line. Police tape has been
tied to the trees blocking the way. Seth goes under.

Aiden stops. He can hear it. The sound of the rushing water.

Seth carries on walking to where the ground descends. Aiden
hesitates and then ducks under the tape.

He follows Seth and finds a river at the edge of the park.
Seth walks over to a body, covered with a white cloth at the
side of the river.

Aiden is frightened but gathers the courage to carry on with the investigation.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Body was found the in the river,
wrapped in black bags.

Sean kneels down at the victims head and inspects it under the cover.

Aiden gets out his notepad.

AIDEN
What do you see?

SEAN
A blow to the head, on the right
side of the forehead. Brushing on
the neck.

Sean moves to the side and lifts the cover again.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Ligature marks around the wrists.

AIDEN
Someone tied him up?

SEAN
Yep. More marks around the ankles.
Body looks like it's been in the
river for days.

Sean gets up and exhales.

SEAN (CONT'D)
So what do you think?

AIDEN
Well...he was jumped, kidnapped and
thrown in the river.

SEAN
So you think he drowned?

AIDEN
Yeah because he was tied up, he
couldn't do anything once he was
thrown in.

Aiden then realises...

AIDEN (CONT'D)
If he was tied up where are the ropes?

SEAN
Exactly. Keep going.

AIDEN
He was killed before he was thrown in.

He looks at his notes again. It hits him.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Strangled. Duh.

SEAN
Very good. Why kill him before when he could've tied him up and thrown him in?

AIDEN
Done him a kindness?

SEAN
Not if he was jumped some random street thug. My guess is...

Sean looks at Aiden.

SEAN (CONT'D)
...he needed something from him.

Sean looks back down at the body.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Question is: what?

Suddenly, Aiden is overcome with the sound of the river. He slowly turns around to the start of the river, where the water is flowing from.

Something can be seen. An object floating down. As it gets closer, Aiden can see it is another body.

The boy's body, again, flowing aimlessly and lonely down the river. It passes him.

Aiden's anxiety builds more and more.

A voice can be heard, getting louder and louder...

SEAN (CONT'D)
Aiden!

Aiden snaps out of it, breathing heavily. His nose is bleeding again.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(pointing to his nose)
You're bleeding.

Aiden doesn't answer and gets a tissue out his pocket. As he wipes his nose, he gets up and walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Aiden is by the car, still calming himself. Sean walks up to him.

SEAN
What was that, man?

AIDEN
I'm sorry. I...I have something called Aquaphobia. It means I have a fear of water.

SEAN
Oh, man.

AIDEN
It's only large bodies of water that I can't be around.

SEAN
And the nose bleed?

AIDEN
I've have them from time to time. I'm sorry I left you back there, I just had to get away.

SEAN
It's okay, man. C'mon, let's go.

Sean walks around the other side of the car.

INT. POLICE OFFICE - NIGHT

Aiden is sitting a desk in the middle of the room with a laptop open in front of him. Sean stands leaning on the desk listening to Aiden.

AIDEN

So we know that the victim found in the river was Robert Cahill. And he lives in Tamworth. His body though was found in Sutton but the river itself flows down from Tamworth, where Frank Reeves' lives and was kidnapped. So the body most likely was dumped in Tamworth. And now I find out that Robert Cahill was one of Marcus Reeves' closest friends which makes me believe that the suspect was targeting them.

SEAN

Remember what Marcus said. He said the suspect was the "son of an old friend". Does Robert have any kids.

AIDEN

No, he doesn't.

SEAN

Okay, are there anymore associates that we can talk to or possibly warn?

AIDEN

Haven't found any yet, no. From what I've found, people did not like these guys. Something about being corrupt police.

SEAN

Wow. Okay, so what next?

AIDEN

Well I was thinking of different places we can check out where the suspect might have dumped the body. Bridges, canals, etc.

Sean's phone rings. He answers it.

SEAN

Yeah.

Aiden waits.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Oh, okay. I'll be right over.

Sean gets up as he hangs up the phone.

SEAN (CONT'D)

(to Aiden)

I've gotta go. Um, but you go and see what you can find.

AIDEN

Okay.

Sean walks out. Aiden types into the computer: bridges in Tamworth. Aiden browses the map in Satellite view.

He looks at different bridges and notes them down. Then he looks closer on the map and notes down why each bridge would not be a smart place to dump a body from.

He narrows it down until he finds one he doesn't see a problem with.

Aiden circles it.

EXT. BRIDGE - THE NEXT DAY

Footsteps walk slowly across the bridge. Aiden is struggling with the large body of water that is the river below him.

He gets to the centre of the bridge. His breathing gets heavier. He walks over the edge.

He peaks over slowly to find- the boy, floating, stationary in the water. Aiden reels back in distress. Leaning on his knees, he catches his breath.

After he has calmed himself he looks around at anything that might help him. And then he finds it: CCTV cameras.

INT. CCTV OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A man lets Aiden into the office.

MAN

What's this for anyway?

AIDEN

A police investigation, I'm not allowed to disclose any information.

MAN

Alright, well the cameras are there. Let me know when you're done.

AIDEN

Thank you.

The man closes the door, leaving Aiden alone.

Aiden walks over to the computer screen currently with a live feed from the camera outside.

He opens a file explorer window and finds the videos created from that day. The files are named by date and time.

He opens a folder from the day Robert Cahill was estimated to have been thrown in the river.

He fast forwards until someone is seen walking along the bridge carrying a large, black package, presumably the body. Aiden now knows this is the suspect.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

(whispers to himself)

I got you.

Aiden focuses further on the suspect. He is wearing a black coat.

The suspect throws the body over the edge but waits to watch it.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

C'mon. Turn around.

The suspect puts his hands in his pockets. Still standing there.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

(getting aggravated)

Turn around. Turn around.

The suspect finally turns around and Aiden finds- himself.

Aiden is shocked. He slowly reels back. To his left, he slowly turns to look at the mirror as he comes to a realisation.

Aiden then springs back to the computer. He selects random files and folders and deletes them. He also empties the trash.

He then leaves.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Aiden takes his keys out to unlock the door. His neighbour, Russell, catches him.

RUSSELL
Hey, Aiden.

AIDEN
Oh, hey, Russell.

RUSSELL
(playfully)
Who's apartment are we in tonight?

Aiden looks at him in confusion.

AIDEN
I'm sorry?

RUSSELL
Just wondering which apartment you
gonna spend the night in tonight?
Yours or your buddy's?

AIDEN
What buddy? What are you talking
about?

RUSSELL
The one behind you.

Aiden looks behind him at the apartment opposite his. He looks back at Russell in even more confusion.

AIDEN
I don't- I don't know that guy. Is
someone renting that place out?

RUSSELL
I don't know you tell me. I'm
always seeing you go in there. A
girl, maybe?

Russell laughs to himself.

AIDEN
Russell, when's the last time you
saw me go in there?

RUSSELL
Um, yesterday.

Aiden comes to a realisation.

AIDEN
Um, yeah. Sorry. I tried to keep it
a secret...

RUSSELL
So...?

Aiden does a sleezy nod to him.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
Get in, man!

They both laugh.

AIDEN
You have a good night, Russell.

RUSSELL
You too, my friend, you too.

Russell walks down the hallway. Aiden waits until he is gone.

Aiden then faces the door opposite him.

He walks slowly towards it. He knocks.

No answer.

He looks at the door knob as his hand slowly embraces it. He attempts to turn it. It's locked.

Aiden then backs away from it and retreats back to his own door.

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aiden enters his apartment and blindly slides his keys on the counter without noticing the other key already there, identical to his.

He stands there deep in thought.

He then decides to take his keys again and walk back out.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks out the building to his car.

INT./EXT. AIDEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Aiden gets in the car and thinks of what he can do. Then it occurs to him: the sat nav.

Aiden puts his keys in and turns the car on. He then goes to the car's sat nav.

AIDEN
Where did you go?

He navigates to the recent destinations and clicks one that he doesn't remember going to. The course is charted. The sat nav speaks the directions.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
I got you.

EXT. ABANDONED ROAD - NIGHT

Arjun's car pulls up on the side of the road where the sat nav's navigation ends. Outside he can't see anything except the lonely road and plain dirt landscape around it.

Arjun exits the car and turns on his flashlight. Before walking anywhere he looks the road. He finds the tyre tracks from where Asha came the first time.

He follows them until he finds footsteps in the dirt. He carries on following them until they end.

Aiden looks around to see if anyone else is there.

The car boot opens and Aiden grabs the shovel. He closes the boot and walks back over to where he was. The headlights of his car are now pointed towards it.

Aiden starts to dig.

More and more, getting deeper and deeper. Finally he finds something peculiar. Doesn't look like a rock.

Aiden kneels down and uses his hands to disperse the dirt around it.

He uncovers a major portion to find- a hand.

Aiden jolts back, as if it jumped out at him. He stays there panting. Then he gets up and walks towards the car.

He stops and closes his eyes, taking a deep breath. He opens them again. He puts his hands on his hips.

AIDEN
Asha...who is that?

Aiden waits for a reply.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Asha...was that...was that Frank
Reeves?

Aiden gets no answer. He then wipes his nose.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Oh, for God's sake.

He stands dabbing his nose.

LISA (O.S)
I imagine that news came as a bit
of a shock.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Lisa is sitting across from Asha.

ASHA
It was. But I don't want to talk
about it really.

LISA
That's okay. We can talk about
something else.

Beat.

LISA (CONT'D)
I've never asked about your mother.

ASHA
What do you want to know about my
mother?

LISA
What do you remember about her?

Asha thinks.

ASHA
From the time we spent with our Mum
we could tell that all she ever
wanted was to have children. She
was happiest when she was with us.
But there were times where I'd
catch her crying.

LISA
Why would she cry? Do you know?

Asha looks at her.

ASHA
What has Aiden told you about our
father?

LISA
He told me that he was always
working.

Beat.

ASHA
He...was a drunk. He'd come home
and bossed our Mum around and beat
her if she refused. He'd dish some
out to Aiden and me too. It's only
a shame that-

Asha looks down.

LISA
What's a shame?

Asha looks back up at her.

ASHA
That he died before I could kill
him myself.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Aiden walks to his door, finding his keys. He looks up to see Russell unlocking his apartment. They both have an exchange before Russell enters his apartment.

INT. AIDEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aiden enters and slides his keys on the counter. He then stops as he notices another key.

He walks over to it and picks it up.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Aiden opens his door and then peaks his head out to see if anyone is there. He then walks over to the door across from him.

He hesitantly slides the key into the lock. It fits.

Slowly he turns it until he hears it unlock.

Aiden's breathing gets heavier.

His shaking hand turns the door knob and the door swings open.

INT. ASHA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He walks in slowly. The apartment is identical to his but completely empty.

On the counter, he finds the black coat Asha was wearing in the CCTV footage.

He tries to go into the bedroom but it's locked. He walks over to the coat on the sofa and searches it to find another key.

He unlocks the door and it swings open.

He flicks on the light to find Asha's mind map on the wall.

Aiden is shocked. He moves closer. On the side, he finds that Asha has taken the case file of his murder.

Aiden turns his attention back to the wall. Studies it.

He can see pictures and names of the deceased victims from his investigation. Frank Reeves and Robert Cahill. There's also a map of where the murder took place.

Aiden leans on the wall and looks down in despair.

AIDEN

My God, Asha. What have you done?

ASHA

What have we done?

Asha's voice didn't come from his head. Aiden looks up.

He slowly, fearfully, turns to his right to see-

Asha is standing next him. The same pose, looking at the wall. He is drenched in water. His skin is pale. He has a bleeding cut on the left side of his temple.

He slowly turns to Aiden.

ASHA (CONT'D)
What have we done?

Asha turns around and walks to his desk. Aiden, still in shock, doesn't take his eyes off him. Was this real?

AIDEN
You killed these people, not me.

Asha leans on the desk.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Why?

ASHA
They are accomplices to my murder.
When we got the news about the
tumor, I realised we were running
out time.

AIDEN
No, Asha, this has to stop.

ASHA
And it will, once I've found him.

AIDEN
How many more PEOPLE ARE GONNA DIE
UNTIL YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT!?

ASHA
Just one.

Pause.

AIDEN
You found him?

ASHA
I have.

AIDEN
Asha, listen to me. Killing him
will not do anything for you.
Revenge won't heal your pain. I knew
this a long time ago.

ASHA
Aiden... Do you know what it's like
to die...only to live on
remembering it?

Aiden looks at him fiercely.

AIDEN

My brother is dead. You...aren't even real. You're just in my head.

ASHA

Real enough to commit murder. Real enough to find the person who murdered me. That's Lisa talking not you.

Asha walks closer to Aiden.

ASHA (CONT'D)

No matter how much you want to run away from this, I know, deep down, that you want to avenge your brother and your father too.

AIDEN

That's not true.

ASHA

You have a phobia of water. Why? Because I drowned in the river. If I am just another personality as your therapist says living in your head, then...subconsciously, you want revenge too, right?

Asha is now face to face with Aiden.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Aiden...I'm the reason you're dying. You're mind can't handle both of us anymore. I need to be set free. I am going to find him...and I'm going to kill him. Face him...with me.

After a moment of silence, Aiden looks up at him.

AIDEN

Who is he?

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Daylight...moving over the greenery of the countryside.

EXT. SETH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks up to the front door and knocks.

Nobody comes.

He knocks again.

AIDEN
Mr. Warren?

No answer.

INT. SETH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aiden finds that the door is unlocked and opens it. He slowly walks inside.

AIDEN
Hello?

Aiden carries on walking.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
Mr Warren?

Aiden walks down the hallway looking in to every room. He finally walks past the living room to find-

Seth sitting in an armchair, facing the window.

INT. SETH'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aiden walks in.

AIDEN
Mr. Warren?

He doesn't answer.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
I'm Detective-

SETH
I know who you are.

Aiden stops. He can see the breathing tubes wrapping around his head.

SETH (CONT'D)
I knew you'd come for me one day.

AIDEN
You know who I am?

SETH

I don't care *who* you are. I just know you're the last face I'm going to see.

Aiden sits down on the sofa behind him.

SETH (CONT'D)

My time has finally come. I can be put to rest.

Aiden, now Asha, looks up at him, menacingly.

ASHA

Not if I have anything to say about it. You won't get off that easily.

Seth chuckles.

SETH

I must've done something to you, huh? Maybe you're the one that killed Frank and Robert. I've done so many terrible things. Things I couldn't even stop myself from doing. I was only in control of the regret.

Asha is confused.

ASHA

What are you talking about?

Beat.

SETH

There's something...something that crawls...beneath my skull, through the cracks and crevices of my brain. It made me do things, tugging on the strings. I was never in control. Even when I did the unimaginable.

Asha listens intently while getting up and moving slowly towards him.

ASHA

What did you do?

SETH

I beat my family. My wife. My kids. All because I never sought help.

(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)
I thought it was beneath me. And
then...one day...

Seth begins to whimper.

SETH (CONT'D)
I got so angry...and I hit him too
hard...I killed him.

ASHA
Who did you kill?

Seth cries.

ASHA (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Say it.

SETH
I killed my son...my boy...I faked
my own death....and I ran. I
thought if I stayed, I'd kill
someone else.

Asha is confounded, re-thinking his motivation for his
journey here. He then comes to an understanding.

ASHA
You were wrong.

Seth's cries dwindle.

ASHA (CONT'D)
I was still alive, when you threw
me into the river.

Seth slowly turns to Asha, revealing his face. Pale and
withered with a breathing tube under his nose.

SETH
Asha?

Asha stares at him sympathetically. He walks over to him and
crouches down next to him.

Seth is shocked.

SETH (CONT'D)
You survived?

ASHA
In a way...yes.

SETH
I can't believe it.

Seth studies his face.

SETH (CONT'D)
How did you find me?

ASHA
I'm...I'm a Detective now. And...so
is Aiden.

Seth smiles to hear the name.

SETH
Aiden...my boys. I'm so sorry...for
what I did. For who I was.

Seth looks out the window.

SETH (CONT'D)
I can never find peace for it.

Asha looks out the window in thought. Then back at Seth.

ASHA
I forgive you.

Seth looks at him in shock. Asha nods back and puts his hand
on his.

ASHA (CONT'D)
We both do.

Seth's shock slowly turns into a peaceful smile. He then
takes off the breathing tube and slouches in his chair,
looking out the window.

Asha watches as Seth's eyes close and his breathing ends.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - SUNSET

Asha stands at the shore of the lake.

AIDEN
You knew it was Dad the whole time.
Why didn't you tell me?

ASHA
For your own protection. This had
scarred you enough.
(MORE)

ASHA (CONT'D)

You know...all these years I was on a path for revenge. But I realize that it was ultimately just a path to find peace.

Asha takes a deep breath.

ASHA (CONT'D)

This where we say goodbye, Aiden.

AIDEN

I love you, Asha.

Asha smiles.

ASHA

I love you too, Aiden.

Beat.

ASHA (CONT'D)

(starts singing)

*When you're sad and when you're
lonely, when you haven't got a
friend just remember that death is
not the end.*

Aiden joins in.

AIDEN AND ASHA:

*And all that you held sacred, falls
down and doesn't mend, just
remember that death is not the end.*

Asha begins to walk into the water.

He fights the fear of the water as he descends. He sinks deeper and deeper. He closes his eyes just before he is completely consumed by the water.

The water settles. It's quiet.

Then out of the water, Aiden ascends. He catches his breath, wipes his face. He is no longer in fear, he is confident.

CUT TO BLACK.

LISA (O.S.)

Just like that?

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Aiden and Lisa are sitting across from each other. Aiden smiles at her.

AIDEN
Just like that. My tumour is gone.

LISA
Along with Asha?

AIDEN
I don't know what to say. I just woke up and...he was gone.

LISA
He didn't say anything to you?

AIDEN
No. He just disappeared. I can't hear him, I can't feel him. He's just...gone.

LISA
And how do you feel about that?

AIDEN
I feel...free. The best way I can describe it is...my mind feels...comfortable.

Beat.

LISA
Okay, then. We'll come back to that later. How goes the big case?

AIDEN
You know I can't discuss open cases. Or what's now a cold case.

LISA
I see.

AIDEN
You know...

Lisa stops taking notes and focuses on Aiden. Aiden is looking at something on the floor, out of view.

AIDEN (CONT'D)
...I don't think he was just in my head. I think...I think he was real...

LISA
What do you mean?

AIDEN
Asha...I think it was really him.

LISA
What makes you say that?

Now we see what Aiden was looking at: the painting that Lisa took down.

Aiden gets up out of his chair and walks over to it. He picks it up and hangs it back up on the wall.

He studies it while giving an appreciative smile.

LISA (CONT'D)
What is it?

Aiden studies it more for another moment.

AIDEN
Nothing...it's...it's beautiful.