

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Screenplay by

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EXT. A HOLIDAY RESORT - BEACH WALL. A SUMMER EVENING

Two ten year old children - JOSH and CLAIRE - wearing swimsuits and T-shirts sit on a seafront wall looking across the beach towards the sea.

Behind them, in the seafront restaurant, a married couple, 30s/40s - SIMON and SARAH are just distinguishable sitting opposite each other at a window table. Both are looking out across the beach towards the sea.

Simon turns to Sarah -

SIMON (OVER)

I wanted you.

Josh turns and looks at Claire. Claire looks at him - she smiles - and in one swift movement he flicks a slap on her arm, jumps up and darts away. Claire jumps up and chases after him -

- as Sarah turns to Simon -

SARAH (OVER)

You had me.

CUT TO

EXT. CLOSER ON THE BEACH RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

SARAH (CONT - OVER)

You had everything.

Simon does not respond.

CUT TO

INT. BEACH RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Simon and Sarah sit before their half-eaten desserts. The table linen is modern, heavy damask; the tableware and glassware are likewise luxurious, heavy and modern.

Simon wears a linen jacket over a lemon yellow open necked tennis shirt. His hair is neatly cut, a touch long, and he is clean shaven, though as it is evening and fifteen hours since he shaved there is a hint of bristle. He wears no jewellery aside from an old, heavy signet ring on his left little finger.

Sarah's hair is fashionably cut and tinted; she wears light but defined make-up, her lips a deep red. She wears an ochre cashmere V-neck cardigan sweater, the top button is undone, an ornate silver crucifix complete with the crucified body of Christ nestles at the top of her cleavage. A heavy silver bangle on one wrist and two ornate silver rings on her fingers; the nails painted a deep red to match her lipstick.

SARAH

Then why ?

Simon scoops a finger of cream from his plate and lifts it to his mouth. As he licks his creamed finger he turns away to the window -

THROUGH THE PANORMIC WINDOW - on the distant beach Josh runs across the beach pursued by Claire - he stops suddenly - she runs past him - he runs towards the sea - Claire runs after him -

Sarah looks at Simon. Simon looks away from the window and his eyes meet Claire's - then his gaze drops to her crucifix -

Josh stops suddenly again - Claire grabs at him as she stops - but he eludes her grip and darts away -

SARAH

You really are a shit

Josh dances out of Claire's reach as he teasingly lets her catch up to him - then darts away again -

A WAITER approaches the table and stands beside Claire - Simon nods - and the waiter starts to remove their dessert plates -

WAITER

Can I get you - ?

SIMON

No.

The waiter leaves.

Josh slips out of Claire's grasp - he taunts her - she chases harder after him - Claire almost catches Josh - but he slaps her grip away -

A tear runs down Sarah's cheek. Simon reaches for her hand - she snatches it away - she opens her handbag and takes out a tissue.

Josh runs out of shot behind Simon.

SARAH
I could kill you.

Claire follows after Josh

A beat -

SIMON
(a nervous smile)
Perhaps you should.

Josh chases Claire into shot -

Simon stands up to go --

Claire spins out of Josh's grasp and trips him up - he falls spread-eagled on the sand-

Sarah remains seated looking up at Simon. Simon looks down at her -

Josh lies on the beach nursing his twisted ankle -

SARAH
No. I will destroy you

Simon turns and goes - she watches him go - Sarah's eyes are full of loathing.

Claire falls on Josh - he lies back on the sand - Claire sits astride him - Josh writhes as Claire snatches up a rock -

Sarah turns and looks towards the beach -

Claire smashes the rock down on Josh's head - again - and again -

Sarah turns away from the window and looks towards the exiting Simon.

- and over and over again Claire smashes Josh's head with the rock. Claire stands up astride the motionless Josh. She looks around.

Sarah looks around the room to see if anyone is watching her - just as an ELDERLY DINER, in his 60's, approaches the table - Sarah looks up at him -

Claire steps back - standing at Josh's feet. She looks down at what she has done -

ELDERLY MAN

Excuse me. But, are you alright ?

Sarah's eyes drive the Man away.

Claire walks around Josh's body. Then she looks up towards the restaurant.

Sarah turns slowly and looks out of the window - her hand touches the crucifix at her breast -

Sarah and Claire's eyes meet -

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END