

CONTORTED

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Huge. Lavish with expensive furniture and decor. A costly stereo system stands on a shelf. Someone of wealth lives here.

DINING ROOM

An oak table and chairs capable of seating eight people stands in the center. Through glass patio doors, a large inground pool is visible, concrete surrounding it. Several deck chairs spread out.

O.S. A phone RINGS. The ringing suddenly stops.

DAN (O.S.)
Hello?... Oh, Susan...
(irritated)
I wasn't expecting it to be you...
You haven't called in seven
years... Why should I call you?...

DAN FENNING (40), serious, the kind of good-looking that turns women's heads everywhere he goes, walks into view. He wears a robe. Uses a towel to dry his damp hair while holding a house phone to his ear.

DAN
I've tried to call her many times,
but you won't let me talk to her...
I think you got enough in the
divorce settlement...

Dan grows annoyed. Flings his towel to the table.

DAN
What do you want, Susan?...

Dan's eyes widen in worry.

DAN
I can't. I start my new film next
month... You'll just have to find
someone else to watch her... No,
don't you dare drop her off...

CLICK. Dan stares at his phone for a long moment, then smashes it down on the table.

DAN
Shit.

He composes himself. Swipes the damp towel and storms out of the room.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

An expensive two-story in a fancy neighborhood where houses are fairly close together. The landscaping in the entire area is elaborate. High priced cars are parked in every driveway.

NEXT DOOR

HOLLY RICHARDS (30s), model appearance with her beautiful face, adoring smile and hot body, waters her flowers with a hose.

DAN'S HOUSE

Dan pulls into the detached garage in his Mercedes. He exits, grabs a few shopping bags from the back seat. Heads to the porch.

NEXT DOOR

Holly eyes him with interest.

HOLLY

Dan!

Holly drops the hose and trots to--

DAN'S PORCH

-- where she catches up to Dan. He tries hard not to look at her directly for too long.

DAN

Holly.

HOLLY

Nick's wanting to know when you're coming over for that cookout you keep backing out on.

DAN

I've been busy. The life of a filmmaker.

HOLLY

You're not working at the moment.

Dan goes into flirtatious mode.

DAN
Ah, but I am. That's what people
don't understand about directors.
We're always working, even when
we're not.

Holly's face scrunches in confusion.

HOLLY
Oh.

DAN
(laughs)
That's confusing, isn't it?

HOLLY
A little.

DAN
A director is always looking for
his next script, and when he finds
it, there's a lot that needs to be
done before it can go into
production.

HOLLY
(understanding)
Ah.

Holly notices Dan's shopping bags.

HOLLY
Taking a break from work?

DAN
My daughter's coming to visit for a
few weeks.

Dan pulls out a packaged doll from one of the bags where
several more are visible, along with a few stuffed animals.

DAN
I don't have anything for kids to
play with and I want her to feel at
home.

Holly takes the doll and looks it over through the plastic
with a smile.

HOLLY
I didn't even know you had a
daughter.

DAN

She lives with her mom on the east coast.

HOLLY

You're divorced?

DAN

We were only married two years. She left me soon after our daughter was born.

HOLLY

That's a shame.

Holly hands back the doll to Dan. He tries to return it to the bag, but it won't fit with the other items inside. He continues to try as he talks, dropping bags now and then.

DAN

Not really. I think we're both better off.

HOLLY

Why doesn't your daughter live with you?

DAN

It's hard to live with someone who travels most of the time.

Dan gives up on the doll and shoves it under one arm.

DAN

I really should go. Lots to do before she gets here in the morning.

Dan goes to his door, tries to remove keys from his pocket without dropping the bags. Fails. Contents spill. He opens the door and scoops up the toys awkwardly. Passes Holly a smile.

Holly smiles back.

HOLLY

Hey, maybe we can have our cookout while your daughter's here. Nick loves kids.

DAN

We'll see.

Dropping his items and kicking them along with him, Dan enters his house and closes the door.

Holly continues to smile. She chews her lower lip as she bounces back to her house.

INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan, wearing glasses, is seated on the couch, looking through a script, marking on it with a red pen now and then.

The sounds of SPLASHING and LAUGHING come from the rear of his house.

Dan looks up. Turns to the sounds. Lays down the script and wanders into the dark--

DINING ROOM

He passes through, using the moonlight streaming in through the patio doors to show the way. He looks out. Tenses over what he sees.

EXT. DAN'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The SPLASHING and LAUGHING are much louder. Lots of plants are around the pool, inside a chain link fence. Holly's backyard has plants and chairs, but nothing else.

A light hanging next to the patio doors turns on, providing scant illumination. The doors fly open. Dan charges outside.

Holly and her husband NICK (30s), playful nature, bold and outgoing, horseplay in the pool - nude. Their clothes, along with a couple of beach towels, lie scattered around the edges.

Dan goes to the brim.

DAN

What's going on out here?

Nick and Holly just now notice him. They stop playing, smiles on their faces aimed at Dan.

NICK

Danny Boy. We didn't think you'd mind if we came over for a dip. Today was a hot one.