

THE PROPOSAL

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY

A couple are walking through the forest underneath the glimmering sun. TRENT, (mid 30s, African American, Nike jacket, blue jeans, Allstar shoes) has ERIN (early 30s, African American, sundress, ballet flats, black leggings) covering her eyes and he leads her up the trail.

ERIN  
(chuckles)  
Trent, where are we even going?

TRENT  
You'll see.

ERIN  
I can't see! Can't wait already!

TRENT  
That's the point.

They both CHUCKLE. He leads her on by holding her hand.

EXT. FOREST ALTAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

After four minutes of walking, the two encounter a small congregation in the woods with benches and an altar.

TRENT  
(Breaths)  
Okay, we're here.

Erin unveils her eyes. Her mouth drops and eyes widen. She looks around and sees themselves standing before the benches.

Trent takes a deep BREATH.

ERIN  
(turns to Trent)  
Isn't this...

TRENT  
Yeah. I saw you here with your track team. And we ended up talking about Entourage. LA. Africa, Japan. I knew then that you were someone special. Someone I could share my life with. More than just a girlfriend.

Erin gets teary-eyed when she sees Trent getting on his knees.

ERIN  
Trent...you...

TRENT  
Erin Hancock.  
(holds her left hand)  
Will you...

Erin's eyes widen more. This was her moment.

She didn't think it would come this soon.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
...forgive me?

Erin snaps back, shimmering her eyes.

ERIN  
F-Forgive you? Why?

Trent SIGHS and narrows his head, soothing her hands. He stands on his feet.

TRENT  
For what I'm about to say.

ERIN  
(Beat)  
I...I don't understand.

TRENT  
Just hear me out. Please.

ERIN  
(taking a breath)  
Okay.

He looks around before facing her. He holds her hands.

TRENT  
(Sighs)  
I've been...seeing someone.

He releases her from him. Erin ponders on his reply and explanation. She tries very hard not to break.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I've  
wanted to tell you. But...

ERIN  
(tears coming down)  
How long?

TRENT  
(beat)  
(ponders)  
Six years.

She couldn't believe it. Any of it. She starts to  
HYPERVENTILATE out of control.

She sits on the nearest bench and starts to CRY. Trent SIGHS  
and tries to comfort her.

She violent rebukes, slapping him across the face.

ERIN  
(tearfully)  
(standing up)  
DON'T FUCKING TOUCH ME! NEVER  
AGAIN!

Trent narrows his head. His eyes gets misty. He tries not to  
break down. He has no chance.

ERIN (CONT'D)  
Why would you take me here...and  
tell me this shit?! WHY!?

Erin couldn't stop CRYING. She's becoming a mess. Trent tries  
again, but she refuses.

ERIN (CONT'D)  
I don't forgive you! I'll never  
forgive you!  
(pushes him)  
I NEVER WANNA SEE YOU AGAIN!

She storms away from him, leaving him alone by his lonesome.  
Trent SIGHS miserably. He sits on the first bench.

He looks around, pondering on something he could've done. He  
suddenly takes out his cellphone.

He dials down a number and calls. The phone RINGS and picks  
up.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(strange monstrous  
vocalizations)

TRENT  
Yeah, I told her.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(More monstrous vocals)

TRENT  
(sighs and nods)  
You're right. You're so  
understanding. She was kinda  
annoying.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(Growling, more vocals)

TRENT  
Yes. You're right. She was always a  
good friend.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(Sad monster noises)

TRENT  
Hey, don't say that! We'll always  
be together. I love you.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(Romantic, flirty monster noise)

TRENT  
(chuckles)  
You bad, bad girl!

Trent stands up and proceeds to leave the outdoor  
congregation.

TRENT (CONT'D)  
Where do you think you wanna eat  
tonight?

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(More noises)

TRENT  
Outback, huh? Never tried it.

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(Various noises)

TRENT  
You're here!? Where?

CREATURE (V.O.)  
(Romantic monstrous noises)

Trent hangs up the phone and goes about his way. He looks back and sees the CREATURE (Feminine, Lovecraftian, ambiguously ghoulish, glowing red eyes).

Trent scoffs and smiles, approaching her.

CUT TO BLACK.