

I Object

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FADE IN:

EXT. SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY QUAD--DUSK

It is a beautiful summer night in Syracuse. The quad has been transformed into a candlelit garden with lights and flowers everywhere. GUESTS sit in clothed chairs that face the altar. They chat and laugh as there is a piano melody in the background. *

BEN MONTGOMERY, 24, the quintessential "tall, dark, and handsome" man waits anxiously at the altar. His hands sweat as he takes his written vows out of his jacket for one last read before the ceremony begins. Old friends, KEITH, 24, AND SAM, 24, approach him.

KEITH

Congrats, buddy. Being back on our old stomping grounds reminds me of the good, old days. All we're missing are some ADPI girls.

He nudges Sam, chuckling.

SAM

We always knew you'd be the first to wife up a chick. Love you bro.

They both shake his hand and head back to their seats. Ben puts his vows away and makes eye contact with AN OLDER MAN AND WOMAN in the crowd, smiling. *

The ceremony is about to begin. *

CUT TO:

INT. HENDRICK'S CHAPEL--DUSK

STEPH CARLSON's, 24, face is seen in the reflection of the mirror as her best friend, SIERRA, 24, touches up her makeup. Sierra is a blonde bombshell.

Steph sits down, surrounded by all of her BRIDESMAIDS. She truly looks like a princess with her flawless, sun-kissed skin against her snow white Vera Wang wedding gown. *

SIERRA

What did I do to get the most perfect, beautiful best friend on the planet?! No one deserves this more than you, Steph. Holy shit, you're getting married!!!

The bridesmaids give her hugs. A CATERER sets up for the reception around the girls. The bridesmaids go to the table to grab drinks as they prepare to walk down the aisle. *

Steph takes an older man's picture out of her Michael Kors purse with her freshly manicured hands as she slowly exhales. Steph listens to the music play and runs her fingers over the picture, touching the man's face. She turns to her mother, BETH CARLSON, for support. *

STEPH

I wish dad were here. This day won't be the same without him.

BETH

Your father would be so proud. Ben's everything he would've ever wanted for you. I know daddy would've given his blessing. *

The two share a tight embrace.

BETH

This is a happy day. Don't let your makeup run. *

She kisses Steph's forehead.

BETH

I love you, Stephy. I'll see you out there. *

The girls line up in order in their matching lavender dresses as Steph takes out her hand-written vows. She hears the music playing outside, pinches herself to reaffirm she isn't dreaming, and laughs.

STEPH

I'm getting married today!

The caterer pours a glass of champagne. He takes out a mysterious white pill and watches it disintegrate into the liquid. *

Steph smiles from ear to ear as she picks up her bouquet. The caterer approaches her with the drink.

CATERER

(whispers)

You want a glass of champagne? You can ease those last minute jitters and start the party early. *

STEPH
Thanks so much.

Steph grabs the glass and does a double take. This man looks
oddly familiar. *

STEPH
Do I know you from somewhere? I
feel like we've met.

CATERER
I've got one of those faces I
guess..this happens too often.

Steph chugs the glass of champagne and hands it to the
caterer. The girls squeal as the doors open and they begin
to walk out gracefully, one by one. *

As Steph watches each bridesmaid walk out, she feels
lightheaded and the room spins.

Steph's POV--Her vision is blurry and foggy. She blacks out
and... *

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY QUAD--DUSK

The bridesmaids file out one by one. There are smiles and
tears in the crowd as the girls make their way down the
aisle. The last of the bridesmaids nears the altar as heads
turn for Steph's arrival. The pianoman begins his rendition
of "Here Comes the Bride." Steph does not appear. *

Heads shift back to the altar, looking for answers from the
bridesmaids. They have none. *

The doors of Hendrick's are open with no sign of Steph. The
music takes on a gloomier tone as Ben's facial expression
changes to one of worry and apprehension. *

BEN
(whispers)
There's no way she got cold feet on
me.

Ben's mind races with wild thoughts.

BEN
(whispers to Sierra)
Where is she?

SIERRA
(whispers)
She was right behind me two seconds ago.

Sierra smirks to herself.

There is chatter in the crowd, each making their own assumptions as to where Steph could be. Ben sprints to the stairs of Hendrick's chapel.

EXT. HENDRICK'S CHAPEL PARKING LOT--NIGHT

The caterer carries an unconscious Steph out the back of the chapel. He has zipped her half up in her wedding gown case. He takes out the keys to the catering van and unlocks the door. He places Steph in the backseat, closes the door, and gets in the driver's seat. He speaks to an unconscious Steph.

CATERER
It'll all be better now, Steph.
You'll see it's me and everything
will be okay. It *is* going to be the
best day of your life. We'll have a
better life.

The caterer starts the car and pulls away.

CUT TO:

INT. HENDRICK'S CHAPEL--DUSK

The back door of Hendrick's shuts as Ben opens the front entrance. He scans the room for any signs of Steph. There is just stillness.

Ben runs up and down the aisles of the chapel and notices a piece of paper. He picks up the sheet to realize they are Steph's vows. He collapses into a seat and sobs. Ben takes out his cellphone and dials.

BEN
I need officers at Syracuse
University right away...My wife is
missing!!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MOUNT AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY--NIGHT

The caterer parks the car and pulls Steph out. He uses a key to unlock the door to Flint Hall and makes sure the coast is clear. He holds the bag carrying Steph and walks in.

INT. FLINT HALL--NIGHT

The caterer presses the elevator button and the door opens. *

INT. FLINT HALL ELEVATOR--NIGHT

The caterer presses the "4" button and a bell rings as the elevator hits each floor.

INT. FLINT HALL FLOOR 4--NIGHT

The elevator door opens to the 4th floor and the caterer unlocks the door to room 411 as Steph's body begins to slightly move. The door unlocks and swings open. *

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411-NIGHT

The caterer sets up a chair for Steph to sit in and she continues to move slowly, showing she is regaining consciousness. He ties her to the chair. Steph opens one eye at a time. *

STEPH

Whaat? Wa Wa Where a am I?

The man takes a deep breath and exhales. His palms sweat as he finishes tying Steph's arms to the back of the dorm room rocking chair. *

Steph's vision becomes clear and she looks around at her new surroundings. She spots the "411" sign in the room and everything suddenly clicks. She takes a look at the man in front of her.

STEPH

(still groggy)

Kie..feer?? *

The man is KIEFER HUMMINGS, 24. He was Ben's roommate freshmen year at Syracuse and this was their room. Steph looks utterly confused and shaken. *

KIEFER

Hi Steph, you were right before. We do know each other. You were always so smart. Remember me?

FLASHBACK:

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

It is freshman year and Ben and Steph are preparing to go out.

BEN

Come on, babe. We're gonna be late
to the pregame.

Steph glances across the room.

STEPH

Coming, coming. Hey, where's your
roommate?

BEN

Oh I don't know..probably studying.
He kinda sucks.

Kiefer walks into the room as Ben is putting away his
alcohol. Kiefer is immediately taken aback by Steph's
beauty. His jaw drops.

Steph chomps on a piece of winterblue 5 gum.

STEPH

Oh hey! You must be Kiefer. I'm
Steph, Ben's girlfriend. Nice to
meet you.

Kiefer is speechless. Steph holds out her hand for Kiefer to
shake. His palms sweat as he shakes her hand. He stumbles
over his words.

KIEFER

III'm Kie--f-err.

Kiefer holds onto Steph's hand tight until she finally yanks
it away. She smiles.

STEPH

Ben, let's go.

Steph spits her gum out into her hand and flicks it into the
garbage. She and Ben exit the room.

As the door closes, Kiefer watches them walk away,
longingly. The door shuts. He does a double take to make
sure no one is around and sticks his hand into the vile
garbage can. He has an unstable twinkle in his eye as he
slowly picks up the freshly spit out gum wad.

Kiefer analyzes the gum and puts it in his mouth. He begins
to chew. He turns off the light in the room.

FADE TO BLACK.

FLASHES BACK.

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--NIGHT

Kiefer studies Steph, attempting to figure out how she feels. Steph's gut reaction is to scream.

STEPH
Help!!!!!! Ben!!!! Somebody
hellllppp me!!!

Kiefer begins to panic. *

KIEFER
Steph, please please be quiet. *
You're only hurting your precious *
voice. We are alone. No one is *
going to find us here. It's just *
you and me, my love. *

STEPH
You're a fucking psycho! You think
that drugging me and kidnapping me
on my wedding day, no less, is
going to get me to love you? Where
is this even coming from? I mean
sure Ben always said you were a
little off, but he never said
psychotic. I always gave you the
benefit of the doubt. Let me go!!!!
Ben!!!

She continues to cry. *

KIEFER
Don't you see? I've done this all *
for you. I'm not going to hurt you. *
I've recreated freshmen year, the *
past. All for you. It should've *
been *me*. You should've loved *me*. *
We can have a great life together, *
and it starts today. Ben doesn't *
treat you the way you deserve to be *
treated, like a princess. *

Kiefer sees that his initial approach is not working. He walks to the corner of the room and picks up a scrapbook from the desk. He brings it over and holds it up to Steph.

STEPH
What is that?

KIEFER
It's ours. I've compiled it over
the years and I think it'll become
a family tradition.

Steph gives a "creeped out" look as she is handed the book.

FLASHBACK:

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--FEBRUARY 11, 2008

Kiefer sits on his bed, stalking Steph's Facebook and photoshopping Ben out of her pictures. He replaces Ben's body with his own.

On the other side of the room, Steph and Ben lay in bed, cuddling and talking about vacations and life. Kiefer eavesdrops.

STEPH

Why won't you take me to Disney World? It's the happiest place on earth.

BEN

Maybe because I'm not 5 years old. Or Danny Tanner. Come on, babe. Grow up.

STEPH

Sorry, it was just a thought.

Kiefer shakes his head in disgust from across the room as he continues to construct photographs of he and Steph on his computer. He mutters under his breath.

KIEFER

I would take you to Disney World. You deserve the whole world.

Kiefer shuts his computer angrily and puts it on his desk. He gets under his covers to go to sleep.

Kiefer's POV--He shuts his eyes and..

FADE TO BLACK.

FLASHES BACK.

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--NIGHT

Steph looks through the scrapbook filled with photoshopped images of her and Kiefer. She is extremely freaked out and terrified. She doesn't let it show.

Steph cracks a forced smile.

STEPH

Wow, this is incredible. You really put in a lot of effort. I appreciate it. You must really care about me.

Kiefer's face lights up.

KIEFER

I'm glad you like it.

STEPH

I do. It's great...But you cut my fiancée about of the pictures. That upsets me. You don't want me to be upset, do you?

Steph hands the scrapbook back to Kiefer and he places it on the desk. He begins to sweat and becomes angry when he hears Steph utter Ben's name.

KIEFER

No, no, never. That's the last thing I want. But I just wanted to show you how much more amazing we would be together.

Steph tries to get through to Kiefer.

STEPH

I love my fiancée. I know we have our moments, but all couples fight. We've been through so much and he loves me and wants what's best for me despite it all.

Hearing all of this is like nails on a chalkboard to Kiefer's ears. His eyes twitch. He can't control himself anymore and grabs Steph. He shakes her shoulders to get through to her.

KIEFER

Ben has cheated on you.

He breathes a huge sigh of relief.

KIEFER

There, I said it. It feels good. I wanted to tell you this whole time but didn't want to make your beautiful face frown. I thought you would choose me and didn't want it to come to this but clearly, it has.

Steph tries to shrug this off.

STEPH
(shakily)
No. I don't believe you. He
wouldn't.

KIEFER
Steph, unlike Ben, I would never
lie to you. I'll explain.

*

FLASHBACK:

INT. FLINT HALL FLOOR 4--MARCH 6, 2008

Kiefer steps out of the elevator onto the 4th floor, coming back from his Robotics Club meeting. He walks down the hall and struggles to find his key. He finds it and turns the knob.

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--NIGHT

Kiefer stumbles into the room, turns the lights on, and is greeted with a loud shriek.

Ben scrambles to cover up his naked body and tries to hide the girl he is with. Kiefer realizes that it is not Steph.

The girl sits up and it is revealed that it is SIERRA, Steph's bridesmaid and best friend.

SIERRA
Oh my god. You said he wasn't
coming back.

She looks at Kiefer.

SIERRA
I was never here.

She quickly gathers her clothes to leave but not before planting Ben with a goodbye kiss. She puts on an oversized white Hanes tee and slams the door shut on her way out.

Ben is clearly drunk.

BEN
Dude, sorry you had to see that man. I'm so fucked up right now, I have no clue what's going on. It was a fucked up mistake and Steph can never know. We're boys, right? You won't tell her? It won't happen again bro.

Kiefer gives Ben a glaring death stare, says nothing, and goes to his side of the room. Ben sits on his bed, nervous.

Kiefer changes into his pajamas, grabs his toothbrush, and goes to the door. He slams the door and..

FADE TO BLACK.

FLASHES BACK.

INT. FLINT HALL ROOM 411--NIGHT

Steph stares into space as Kiefer wraps up the story. He sounds so genuine, and she is torn. However, her number one goal right now is to escape. She has a plan.

KIEFER

I'm sorry it had to come out like this, but you needed to know that Ben isn't the prince you believe him to be.

Steph puts on a fake cry.

STEPH

How could he do this to me?! And with Sierra?!? They were the two people I trusted most in this world. I gave him everything. You're right, Kiefer. You're my prince. You did this all for my well-being.

KIEFER

He wouldn't even take you to Disney World. We can go to Disney World.

He pauses.

KIEFER

In fact, let's go. Right now.

STEPH

Now?

KIEFER

Yeah. You know the truth now. What else is left? We belong together and it starts tonight.

Steph puts on a smile.

STEPH

You're right, let's do it!! Untie me and we'll go. It'll start our new adventure together.

Kiefer grins from ear to ear. He begins to untie Steph. Steph is finally free and stands up. She scans the room and notices an old cable box and the scrapbook. They turn to leave.

STEPH

Wait! You can't forget the scrapbook. It symbolizes our relationship.

KIEFER

How could I forget?

Kiefer turns to grab the scrapbook from the desk. As he does this, Steph quickly grabs the cable box. Just as Kiefer turns around, Steph knocks him out with the box. Kiefer lets out a moan and falls to the ground.

BLACK.

EXT. SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY QUAD--MIDNIGHT

The skies are completely black, with only the light of the moon and the lights surrounding the quad giving us illumination.

Half of the guests have disappeared. Some attendees still remain in the chairs, chatting.

GUEST #1

I think she ran off. She was never into it.

GUEST #2

Steph isn't that type of girl. There's an explanation and I fear it's not a happy one.

Ben is collapsed at the altar, trying to make sense of all this. He is on the phone with the search team and describes Steph's appearance.

BEN

Yes, she's about 5'4, brunette, brown eyes..She wouldn't have run off. Someone has her. You HAVE to find her. I don't care what you have to do.

Sierra eavesdrops on the conversation and chimes in, clearly with an ulterior motive.

SIERRA

I mean, you never know. She could have gotten last minute cold feet.

She flashes Ben a seductive look.

BEN

(whispering to Sierra)

I told you we were done a month ago.

Suddenly, a LOUD SCREAM is heard by everyone on the quad. Steph appears, sprinting and out of breath. Ben sees that it's her and doesn't know whether this is real life.

Steph reaches the altar and is immediately attacked with hugs and kisses from her family and friends.

SUSAN

Honey, where have you been?! We were all worried to death.

Steph leans over with her hands on her knees to catch her breath.

STEPH

(heavy breathing)

Ben's. roommate.

She is about to reveal her story when KIEFER appears on the quad. We see that he has a newly formed bruise on the top of his head from the cablebox hit.

He gasps for air. The crowd stares at him and whispers, speculating who this man is and why he is there.

KIEFER

(short of breath)

Steph, how could you do that to me? You know I'm here for you and everything I've done is all for YOU.

Ben steps off the altar and inches closer and closer to Kiefer. He has a bewildered look on his face.

BEN

Kiefer?! I've barely seen you since freshman year. Wait. You had something to do with this? You took my wife?? What the fuck?!?

He gives Kiefer a glance of death.

BEN
I'm gonna kill you.

KIEFER
She's not your wife.

This statement causes Ben to completely lose it and he lunges at Kiefer. The two start attacking each other and fighting, completely ruining the decorations and scene of the ceremony.

Punches are thrown, clothes are teared, blood is shed. Guests try breaking it up, but there is no stopping them.

Steph suddenly intervenes. She needs to know the truth. *

STEPH
Let him go, Ben!

The guests become silent. No one was expecting her to say this. This is Steph's kidnapper!

Ben pays no attention and lays his fist into Kiefer's nose.

STEPH
I said let him go! He's not the one who cheated.

Steph flashes Sierra a stare, who is taken aback by the statement. Sierra quickly avoids the gaze, unable to make eye contact with Steph.

THE POLICE arrive at the scene and pull the two men off of each other.

POLICE OFFICER #1
What's the story here, gentlemen?

BEN
I found my wife's kidnapper, sir.
Get this psychopath the fuck out of my face.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Steph, is this the man who kidnapped you?

STEPH
Yes..bu--

The police officer cuts her off.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Sir, anything you say...

*

The rest of the Miranda Rights speech fades in the background as Kiefer pleads with Steph.

KIEFER
You can't let them take me! I love you. We belong together. You know that.

Steph takes the second police officer aside.

STEPH
He doesn't need a jail. He needs to be taken to a psychiatric facility. He's not violent, just unstable.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Whatever charges you want to press ma'am. Boomer, take him out.

The police officers lead Kiefer out of the quad as he tries to fight back and cries. They place him in the squad car parked on the street.

The car drives away.

The crowd is filled with unbelieving and speechless expressions over what just occurred.

Ben walks up close to Steph, looking directly into her hazel eyes.

BEN
Babe, you don't believe that bullshit, do you?

Without waiting for a response, he continues..

BEN
(to crowd)
Stick around everyone. We've got a wedding to have.

Steph scans the crowd, trying to make sense of it all. She glances back at Sierra again, who still cannot look her in the eye. Sierra looks flustered, like she has something to hide.

Steph looks back at Ben.

STEPH

I don't think there's going to be a
wedding today.

BLACK.

END.