

INT. CAR - DAY

There's an open city map on the passenger seat with various lines drawn in red ink. The lines form some type of pattern, but it's not clear what it is.

Next to the map, a roll of duct tape, paracord, and an ammo clip.

A man brings a candy bar to his mouth and takes a bite. He's leaning over the steering wheel, looking through the windshield at a house.

HARRY JEROME, early '30s, really enjoys his candy bar. It's almost lewd, the amount of concentration he puts into every bite.

Once he's finished, he crumples the wrapper and tosses it out the window. Checks the rearview mirror. Licks some chocolate from the corner of his mouth.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Harry gets out of the car, puts on some shades. Squints. The street is clear.

Before closing the door, he stuffs a handgun in the waistband of his pants, under his jacket.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Harry rings the doorbell ... Leaves his finger on the button. Spits to the side. He hears footsteps coming from inside.

He lets go of the buzzer as the door opens. EVAN ROTH, early '30s, answers, not pleased.

EVAN

Yes?

Harry reaches inside his jacket and pulls out a notepad. Takes his time finding the right page.

HARRY

Is this the Roth household?

EVAN

Yes, how can I help you?

HARRY  
Did you recently rent the following movies: "Miss O's Apartment" "The Testimony," and "Sassy Girl"?

EVAN  
Excuse me?

HARRY  
The films are "Miss O's Apartment," "The test--

EVAN  
No, I heard you the first time. Look, I'm very busy, could you please--

HARRY  
Don't interrupt me. Do you realize how rude that is? What, you think that because you have a nice house you can be rude like that?

Evan starts to close the door. Harry puts his hand out, stopping him.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
Rude again! What's with you people? You can't have a regular conversation?

EVAN  
Remove your hand from my door.

They stare at one another ... Evan pushes on the door, trying to close it again ... Harry resists, clenching his teeth in a smile.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
If you do not get off my property, I will call the police.

A woman appears behind him, looking concerned. This is CAROL ROTH, early '30s.

CAROL  
Honey, what's going on?

EVAN  
Go back inside. Everything's fine.

HARRY  
Hello Mrs. Roth. You're looking  
very pretty today.

Uncertain, Carol steps forward.

CAROL  
Do I know you?

HARRY  
Your husband was just about to  
introduce us, isn't that right Mr.  
Roth?

Evan glares at Harry.

EVAN  
Carol, call the police. Tell them  
that a man is trespassing on our  
property and making threats.

Evan smugly turns back to Harry.

HARRY  
Please don't do that Mrs. Roth.  
Your husband has been most  
unpleasant towards me, and my  
patience is wearing thin.

CAROL  
Evan ...

EVAN  
Do as I ask!

As Carol starts to back away, Harry pushes his way inside.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Harry pulls out his gun, leveling it at Evan and Carol, who  
are both frozen with shock.

HARRY  
Good, now everyone is nice and  
calm.

He slowly closes the door behind him and locks it. Smiles at  
Carol.

CAROL  
Please ...

HARRY  
Hush now. Into the living room.

When they both remain in place, he motions for them to move with his gun.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

They're sitting together on the sofa, hands clasped in front of them.

Harry is sitting across from them in a rocking chair. He's currently rocking, his eyes closed.

HARRY  
Beautiful house Mrs. Roth. May I call your Carol, since we're all friends now?

Carol is staring at the floor. Harry stops rocking.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
May I call you Carol? I expect an answer.

Carol nods her head "Yes." Satisfied, Harry continues rocking.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
You can be honest with me Carol. I want you to know that I am perhaps the most trustful person you've ever met. I never lie. I'd be hypocrite if I lied, and I can't stand hypocrites. So, I'm going to be completely truthful, and I expect the same from you.

Carol nods her head.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
Now, I'm going to ask a very simple question. It's the same question that I asked your husband only moments ago. He was rude, and look where that got him. I know you won't be rude to me, isn't that right Carol?

CAROL  
Yes. I mean no, I won't be rude to you.

HARRY

Good.

Harry pulls out his notepad again.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Did you recently rent the following films: "Miss O's Apartment" "The Testimony," and "Sassy Girl"?

Carol looks at Evan, uncertain.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Please don't look at your husband Carol. He's not involved in this conversation. He's not a team player. Look at me please.

Carol looks at him.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Thank you. Now please answer the question.

CAROL

I don't understand.

HARRY

It's a simple question Carol. It has a yes or no answer.

Harry leans forward, the gun on his lap, pointed away from Carol.

CAROL

Yes.

HARRY

Excellent. Wasn't that easy?

EVAN

What kind of sick --

Harry stands up, towering over Evan.

HARRY

Did I ask you a question? Did I say you could speak?

Evan looks away, his defiance fading. Harry takes a deep breath and sits down again ... rubs his eyes with his free hand.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
Carol, may I ask you a personal question?

CAROL  
Okay.

HARRY  
Does Evan ever hit you?

Evan glares at Harry, and then Carol when she doesn't answer immediately. She's staring at her hands.

She picks at something on her blouse.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
It's okay Carol, you're safe here.  
Evan won't hurt you.

Evan's hands are claw like, digging into the fabric of his pants.

CAROL  
Evan loves me.

HARRY  
I'm sure he does. Who wouldn't love a beautiful and intelligent woman like you?

CAROL  
I'm not beautiful.

HARRY  
Don't be silly. Of course you are.  
Does Evan tell you that you're not beautiful?

EVAN  
I swear to God--

HARRY  
You swear to God? What do you swear Evan? That you'll hit me like you hit your wife? That you'll kill me? Is that it? You like to make threats, don't you Evan?

EVAN  
I do more than threaten.

HARRY

That's true, isn't it? You've been a bad boy. Does your wife know what you've done?

Carol is watching Evan now, searching his face.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(Looking at Carol)  
Does she know that you've hurt other women?

EVAN

Shut up.

HARRY

(Looking at Carol)  
It's okay if you do it to her. She accepts that as her burden. You don't hurt the kids, so it's okay. She's strong enough. But other women?

EVAN

Shut up.

HARRY

You think of it as your private pain, don't you Carol? You thought you could hide it away and be the martyr. You don't pray for the pain to go away, do you Carol? You pray for the strength to manage it, to suffer gracefully. You never thought that maybe, just maybe, he hurt other people. Does that make you feel guilty Carol? Just a little bit?

Evan leaps out of his chair, toward Harry, yelling ...

EVAN

Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

Harry silences him by hitting him on the side of his head with the gun. He drops like a rock, groaning and breathing strangely.

Carol stares at her unconscious husband, not bothering to get up.

Harry sits down.

HARRY  
Where are the movies?

CAROL  
What?

HARRY  
The movies that you rented. Where are they?

CAROL  
By the TV.

Harry gets up and walks over to the TV. He finds the DVDs stuffed in a corner. He opens each of them, verifying their contents.

HARRY  
Well, everything seems to be in order.

He puts the handgun back in his waistband.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
Thank you for your hospitality, and it was a pleasure meeting both of you.

Carol stares straight ahead. Blank. Harry steps over Evan.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
I'll see myself out.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Carol stands in the doorway, watching as Harry pulls away in his car. She raises her hand to wave, wrist limp.

FADE OUT.