

TRIPPING OUT

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A country road where nothing happens. It is autumn and quiet. Leaves fall in the wind. Everything else is still, empty. Then, a car drives across. It breaks the peace.

FADE TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

ALICE and her MOTHER sit in the car.

Sunlight filters through the window and obscures their faces.

CHEERFUL MUSIC blares from the radio and they sing along.

Everything is happy.

Suddenly-

-a BANG-

-The windows crash in.

A scream, followed by darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. ALICE'S BATHROOM - EVENING

Alice is half a face in one mirrored cabinet door. She closes the other and completes her face. She leans in, fills the mirror and looks at herself. New dark circles sit below her eyes.

She steps back. A figure looms in the background of the reflection. She bends over, splashes her face and swallows a pill.

The figure is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S FLAT - NIGHT

A flat full of a jumble of faces, talking, dancing and laughing. Music is a hum underneath the chatter. Alice, wary, walks in and MATT goes to meet her.

MATT

Alice! Hey! I'm so glad you could make it.

ALICE

Me too. Cheers for inviting me.

MATT

It's not a problem

He looks her over, concerned.

MATT (CONT'D)

So how are you doing?

Alice looks to the confusion of people.

MATT (CONT'D)

Alice? Are you okay?

Alice looks back at him. This question is unwelcome.

ALICE

Sorry... I'm doing fine, I'm fine.
I've been better, but I'm fine.

She is babbling now. She looks back to the crowd and spots a face. LEO, six foot tall, towers above the gaggle of girls that surround him. Alice calls out.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Leo! Hey Matt, I'll talk to you later, yeah?

Leo looks up. Alice heads towards him.

LEO

Hey, how are you doing?

ALICE

I'm good.

LEO

You look beautiful tonight, by the way.

ALICE
(through hesitant
laughter)
I look like I've been dragged
through a hedge and mauled by
badgers.

LEO
Well, the badger look is a look you
should wear more often. I like you
natural.

Alice ignores the back-handed compliment. She lowers her
voice.

ALICE
Hey, do you have anything for me?

Leo scoffs. This is not a good idea.

LEO
(Skeptical)
Alice mate, are you fucking sure?

ALICE
Come on Leo, don't give me that.

LEO
I mean, for real Alice, your mum's
only been in her grave for what
like fifteen minutes?

ALICE
Which is exactly why I fucking need
this. Come on Leo, do me a favour,
please?

Leo looks down at her. Her eyes widen. She is desperate.

LEO
Shit. I swear to God Alice, this is
a bad idea.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls a tab from it. He
reluctantly hands it over to Alice, who takes it with glee.

ALICE
You're the actual best Leo, I love
you!

She rushes off. Leo is left bewildered.

LEO (O.S.)
You're welcome.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The crowd of people moves around the sofa. Alice sits alone.
She is perfectly still.

She takes the tab from her pocket,

Opens her mouth

And puts it in.

The movement around her continues.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alice slouches on the sofa. Everything is different. People
are still or move slowly. SMOKE blows from people's mouths
and fills the room. The haze envelopes Alice.

Everything is more colourful. The bass in the music echoes
loudly.

CUT TO:

THE CURTAINS, growing and shrinking. They change colour, from
PURPLE, to GREEN, to YELLOW. The change is slow at first,
then faster. The edges of the curtains are blurred.

CUT TO:

ALICE, sat on the sofa, relaxed. She sinks into it.

Suddenly, THE MUSIC changes. It is familiar.

Alice sits up, alert.

It is the song from the car.

Everything darkens. Alice stands up. People laugh manically
around her.

Then, everything except the song goes quiet.

Alice panics and looks around. Matt appears as she looks to her right.

MATT
Woah, Alice, are you okay?

ALICE
Can you turn the music off please?

MATT
Sure. Sure, hang on.

ALICE
(breathing heavily)
Can you, can you turn it off
please?

Matt pulls his phone from his pocket and presses pause on the music.

The song still plays.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Can you fucking turn it off Matt?

MATT
Hey, hey. It's off. Are you sure
you're okay?

The music stops playing. Everything fades into its normal colour. Background chatter resumes.

ALICE
Yeah, it's all good. Don't worry.
Thank you.

Suddenly, the song starts again. Alice looks at Matt. He begins to morph.

Her MOTHER's face appears where Matt's was. She hums the melody of the song.

Alice turns and runs away.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alice is back on the sofa, but is no longer relaxed. She is on edge. She looks around her warily. Others in the room are faceless, except her MOTHER, who sits in the corner, silent.

Alice rubs her eyes, looks back. Her mother is gone.

The song still plays. The same one line melody echoes on repeat.

ALICE
Hey, can anybody hear that?

She grabs somebody by the arm.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Hey, can you hear the music?

The person smiles, a little too wide. They laugh at her, then walk away.

Then, quiet. The song is still there, but much quieter. Things are becoming safe. Alice sits back a little.

CUT TO:

The large WINDOW. Street lamps outside shine in.

It is still.

Then-

-A CRASH-

The window explodes and falls in.

CUT TO:

THE WINDOW, whole again.

It is still.

CUT TO:

ALICE, on the sofa, blinking. She breathes heavily. She is sweating.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

ALICE sits in a circle with others on the floor. A OUIJIA BOARD lies on the floor in the middle of them. A GIRL speaks in a comically deep voice.

GIRL
Spirits, are you there?

The lights flicker on and off. When on, they make the entire room white. Alice looks up and gasps. Everyone else is unmoved.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S KITCHEN - LATER

The room is dark and empty. Alice walks in, afraid.

CUT TO:

ALICE, at the sink. She is terrified and it shows. Sweat beads on her forehead and she bites her lip.

She moves quickly and deliberately.

She holds a cup under the tap and turns it. A sudden gush, but it isn't water.

It is BLOOD, thick and fresh.

Alice drops the cup in shock.

She vomits into the sink. An unpleasant mixture of vomit and blood forms.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alice is back on the sofa, lying down. She looks up at the ceiling. It swells and shrinks, but barely. Most people are gone.

She turns to the side.

Leo is there.

LEO

Alice! I've barely seen you all night. Have you had a good one?

Something is wrong. His smile is slightly warped. He looks too friendly. The smile is unnaturally wide. He can't be trusted.

He brushes her hair back and leans in. Alice backs away. She has no chance to answer before he speaks again.

LEO (CONT'D)
Hey, could I kiss you right now?

Alice steps back.

ALICE
Yeah, hang on, I got to go to the
bathroom. Can I catch you later?

She leaves. Leo still wears a warped smile. He watches her walk away.

In the corner, Alice's MOTHER sits, waiting. Alice doesn't look at her.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The MIRROR is mounted above the sink. Alice appears in it, half her face at first, then in full. She sticks her head under the tap and gulps water.

CUT TO:

ALICE, mouth red with blood. She wipes her face with her sleeve and looks in the mirror. Behind her, her MOTHER is standing. She puts her hand on her shoulder.

Alice puts her hand on top of her mother's. She smiles and then she remembers. Her eyes widen. She flees the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alice enters the room, dazed. Everything seems normal again. Colours are dull and the room is quiet. People have left.

Everything is still.

Alice heads to the sofa, lies down and shuts her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Alice is back in the car, with her MOTHER to her right. They are singing again, but there is no sound.

It is silent

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Alice lies on the sofa asleep.

Everything around her is a mess. The WINDOW PANE is empty: shattered glass lies on the floor. A OUIJIA BOARD is left, discarded. It is covered in alcohol. CUPS filled with BLOOD litter the ground.

Alone in the corner, Alice's MOTHER sits.

FADE TO BLACK.