

THE OTHER THING

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. NOREEN'S APARTMENT (LOS ANGELES) - DAY

Rays of light slice through the blinds of a darkened one-bedroom apartment like golden knives.

Deeper inside the sterile, somber living space... The stunning silhouette of NOREEN (20s) emerges, wearing form-fitting jeans and a T-shirt.

Soft, ambient light finally illuminates her features -- a triumph of feminine beauty with auburn hair and the face of a melancholy angel. An ocean of sadness in her green eyes.

NOREEN (V.O.)
They say there are three essential
ingredients for life...

Noreen eyes an ELECTRIC FAN in the corner. At once, everything is in **SLOW MOTION**. Each individual fan blade is visible as it spins.

NOREEN (V.O.)
Air.

Noreen ambles toward the kitchen. A DROP OF WATER escapes the clutches of a faucet, plummets into the sink below.

NOREEN (V.O.)
Water.

We GLIDE TOWARD a stainless steel FRIDGE.

NOREEN (V.O.)
Food.

Noreen's hand grabs the handle, opens the door. The WHITE LIGHT inside the fridge overwhelms us as we...

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES SKYLINE - DAY

In **HYPERLAPSE**, a RADIANT SUN streaks across a darkening sky then plummets behind buildings, taking us into **REAL TIME**.

NOREEN (V.O.)
But there's one more ingredient we
can't live without...

INT. NOREEN'S APARTMENT - TWILIGHT

Noreen slides her hand down her apartment window like it's prison glass. A non-existent companion on the other side.

NOREEN (V.O.)
Freedom.

L.A.'s city lights dazzle in the reflection of her eyes. The edges of her mouth curl into a demure smile.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DOWNTOWN STREET - TWILIGHT

Noreen beams as she strides along the busy boulevard. Street lights, in resplendent bokeh, bloom around her. The BOOMING MUSIC of an adjacent club bathes her in sound.

NOREEN (V.O.)
The night sings to me. Its
heartbeat and rhythms pulse with
life. Only here, under the cover of
darkness, do I feel free.

She closes her eyes, spins, soaks in the energy of the vibrant people around her. Revels in the night air.

NOREEN (V.O.)
But the night also has its dangers.

Noreen opens her eyes, spots a SECURITY CAMERA above her. Her smile drains as she pulls the hood of her coat over her head.

INT./EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

A dilapidated car prowls the night.

Inside, a HARDENED MAN rakes his steely, determined eyes across the street from sidewalk to sidewalk. Misses nothing.

A POLICE SCANNER SQUAWKS, although this Man is no police officer.

EXT. QUIET STREET - NIGHT

Noreen spots a YOUNG GIRL (8) chasing a ball toward the street -- on a direct collision course with a truck that speeds next to the curb.

In the blink of an eye, Noreen covers 20 feet, zooms to the Young Girl with supernatural speed. Pulls her back from the street -- just in time, as the truck zooms by.

NOREEN
Careful! Let's find your mom.

NOREEN (V.O.)
No, I'm not a superhero.
(beat)
My abilities just make me a target.
Something to be feared.

A liquor store door opens and the Young Girl's MOTHER rushes out. The Young Girl runs to her Mother, crying.

The Mother calls out to Noreen as she turns and walks away:

MOTHER
Hey! What'd you do to her?!
(to Young Girl)
Are you okay, honey?

The Mother pulls out her cell phone, dials.

NOREEN (V.O.)
No good deed goes unpunished.

INT./EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

As Hardened Man drives, scours the streets, an alert comes across the police scanner:

POLICE SCANNER (V.O.)
... possible two-zero-seven-Adam at
Pico and South Grand. Suspect is a
brunette female, wearing a gray
hoodie...

Hardened Man's eyes snap wide as he hammers the gas pedal.

His car rockets along the street.

EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

A handsome SIGN SPINNER works his trade, advertising a new restaurant. He's clumsy with his movements, having a hard time just holding the sign. This is obviously not his calling.

Noreen spies him from the edge of the sidewalk. Smiles at his earnest attempts. *He's cute.*

Sign Spinner makes eye contact with Noreen. The feeling is mutual... and enough of a distraction to send the sign flying out of his hands.

SIGN SPINNER

Dammit.

He hurriedly picks up the sign, returns his gaze back to the edge of the sidewalk --

Noreen's gone.

EXT. DARKENED STREET - NIGHT

She skips along the sidewalk of an adjacent street, laughing to herself for perhaps the first time in months.

NOREEN (V.O.)

He was delish. Maybe I should...

Noreen glances over her shoulder. Hardened Man stalks fifty feet behind her on the sidewalk.

Her lips tighten.

NOREEN (V.O.)

I don't get to have a life. Not as long as this guy wants me dead.

Hardened Man breaks into a sprint after her.

She picks up her pace in kind. One last look backwards as she rounds a corner, out of sight.

We continue to TRACK ALONG the sidewalk as Hardened Man rounds the corner to see --

Nothing. Noreen has disappeared.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - ROOF - NIGHT

A deserted parking garage rooftop, seven storeys up.

Like a circus performer shot from a canon, Noreen flies up the side of the building, lands gently on the wall at the upper level's edge. She looks down solemnly at where she has just jumped up from. Hops to the carpark roof, marches off.

INT. NOREEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

In the shadows, Noreen rocks back and forth on a sofa, clutching her knees, wracked by uncontrollable sobbing.

NOREEN (V.O.)
 I feel so alone sometimes. Like the
 last chicken at a slaughterhouse.

EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Sign Spinner whirls and twirls his restaurant sign. He's getting better at it. Marginally --

The sign flies out of his hands, almost hits a pedestrian.

SIGN SPINNER
 Sorry!

As we LIFT ABOVE his head and ZOOM INTO the parking garage across the street, Noreen can be seen on an upper level.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Noreen chews gum, watches Sign Spinner with amusement.

His earnest efforts to do his job well are endearing.

NOREEN
 (affectionately)
 Stupid.

A familiar dilapidated sedan catches Noreen's attention as it cruises along the street below. *The Hardened Man*.

She zips off in the blink of an eye.

INT./EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

POLICE SCANNER CHIRPING, seat belt unbuckled, Hardened Man spots Noreen -- who turns down an empty street.

He steers his wheel, follows her.

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Head down, a somber Noreen ambles along the sidewalk. Seems oblivious to the old sedan shadowing her some 75 feet back.

She crosses the street.

INT./EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Hardened Man's eyes blaze with opportunity.

He flattens the accelerator.

His car races straight at

NOREEN

She turns -- shocked or feigning it well -- as the headlights grow brighter, zeroing in on her.

In **SUPER SLOW MOTION**, Noreen leaps in the air like a gymnast, gracefully aerials over the car.

BACK TO REAL TIME -- a loud crash as Noreen lands safely on the pavement.

EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

The dilapidated sedan belches smoke -- its front end smashed against a barrier wall.

Noreen peers through the driver's side window. A bloodied Hardened Man slumps in his seat, his neck broken.

NOREEN (V.O.)

This world can be so violent...

A solemn moment as Noreen shuffles off. She removes the gum from her mouth, places it in a SMALL SLIP OF PAPER... crumples, tosses it.

NOREEN (V.O.)

... And uncaring.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Sign Spinner heads to his car after a long night of work.

He suddenly perks up, smiles ear-to-ear...

As the CAMERA SLIDES BEHIND Sign Spinner, we glimpse a beaming Noreen approaching him.

NOREEN (V.O.)

But life must go on. We all need
the freedom to be ourselves.

Sign Spinner's smile abruptly dissolves. His face alarmed.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. NOREEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

We GLIDE TOWARD a stainless steel FRIDGE.

NOREEN (V.O.)

Food.

Noreen's hand grabs the handle, opens the door. Inside is a half-empty BLOOD BAG.

EXT. QUIET STREET - NIGHT

Noreen stealthily watches as the Young Girl's Mother tells her daughter to...

MOTHER

Stay put. I'll be right back.

The Mother enters an adjacent liquor store.

Noreen pulls a ball from her pocket. Bounces it towards the Young Girl.

The Young Girl bounces it back with a grin.

This time, Noreen throws the ball with some backspin.

The Young Girl chases the ball toward the street -- on a direct collision course with a truck. Noreen zips to the Young Girl, pulls her back from the street just in time.

NOREEN

Careful! Let's find your mom.

Noreen shepherds the stunned Young Girl in the opposite direction of the store.

She glances down at the Young Girl -- spies a silver cross dangling from her neck. It stops Noreen cold. She hisses at the Young Girl -- who runs crying toward her concerned Mother.

INT./EXT. HARDENED MAN'S CAR - NIGHT

After the crash, a busted-up Hardened Man groans. Reaches toward the passenger seat. There's a Bible, a gun, something that looks like a sharpened broom pole, and a SMALL SLIP OF PAPER --

It's a PHOTO of Hardened Man in happier times. He and his young daughter smile at us. He grabs the photo.

Noreen approaches his driver's side window like a wraith.

HARDENED MAN

I swear to God, you will pay for--

Quicker than a cobra strike, Noreen reaches into the car, breaks his neck with practiced efficiency.

NOREEN (V.O.)

This world can be so cruel...

As Hardened Man slumps in his seat, she snatches the small photo from his hand.

She stares at the picture a moment, then thrusts her sticky gum into the smiling faces... crumples, tosses it.

NOREEN (V.O.)

... And uncaring.

BACK TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

As the CAMERA once again SLIDES BEHIND Sign Spinner, we spot a beaming Noreen approaching him.

Sign Spinner's smile abruptly dissolves. His face alarmed.

NOREEN (V.O.)

No, I'm not a superhero...

We complete the SLIDE PAST Sign Spinner's head to reveal Noreen -- now with her eyes wild, lips curled, FANGS BARED. An angel of death.

In an instant she's at his neck, mouth stretched unnaturally wide, her hands seizing Sign Spinner like a vice.

NOREEN (V.O.)

... I'm the other thing.

She bites down as we...

SLAM TO BLACK.