BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

by

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FADE IN:

PANORAMIC VIEW MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - NOON

The sun splashes against the skyscrapers. It’s one of those dazzling early spring days...

2 EXT. GENERAL MOTORS BUILDING. NOON

A beautiful, chicly dressed young woman slides out of a cab and hurries across the plaza. She is CATHERINE CHANDLER, mid-twenties, a lawyer in a high powered, New York law firm. At the moment, she’s late for work, again... but she’s not worried. Her father is the law firm’s founding partner, a prominent corporate attorney in Manhattan. Cathy Chandler has never had to worry too much about anything...

3 INT. LAW OFFICES - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

The elevator doors open. Cathy Chandler steps out, into the offices of Chandler and Coolige. She moves through the reception area...

CATHY
(to receptionist, cheerfully)
Morning...!

RECEPTIONIST
(checking clock - it’s 12:05 PM) Not anymore...

CATHY
(laughs)
Picky, picky...

As Cathy passes, the receptionist shakes her head in disbelief...

4 FOLLOW as Cathy strides down a corridor blithely exchanging greetings... She pokes her head into her father’s office...

5 INT. CHARLES CHANDLER’S OFFICE DAY

Mr. Chandler, a handsome, white-haired country-club type sits in his huge corner office, talking on the phone. He waves his daughter in...

(CONTINUED)
MR. CHANDLER
Catherine...

CATHY
Hi Dad...

MR. CHANDLER
(into phone)
Hal, let me call you back. I
(hangs up, to Cathy) Hal Sherwood’s coming up
from Atlanta tonight. Can you have dinner with us?

CATHY
(shakes her head) Tom’s having a party for the
architects of the new project. Another excuse to wine
and dine the planning commission...

MR. CHANDLER
You can’t miss that

CATHY
That’s what Tom said...

MR. CHANDLER
(joking)
I used to be invited to these functions.
I should’ve thought twice when I handed
you over to our best client...

CATHY
You make it sound like a horse trade...

MR. CHANDLER
(winking)
More like a medieval marriage...

CATHY
You’d love to see me locked up safe
and sound in one of his tall towers.

MR. CHANDLER
(smiles)
You’ll have to admit he’s quite a guy.
You could do a lot worse than Tom
McGrath...

CATHY
And have.

(continued)
They laugh.

MR. CHANDLER

What about dinner tomorrow night?

CATHY
Let me get to my desk, check my calendar...

She goes over and kisses the top of his head.

MR. CHANDLER

You just getting in?

CATHY
Had a late night, had some errands to run...
(shrugs apologetically)
Sue me...

MR. CHANDLER
Too late for that. I should’ve sued you when you were five.

They both chuckle...

MR. CHANDLER
(concerned)
What’s up with you? You’re not enjoying the work? You don’t find it stimulating...?

CATHY
(carefully)
Dad, when I think of corporate law, ‘stimulating’ is not a word that immediately pops into mind.

MR. CHANDLER
But when you get down to work, you’re a fine corporate lawyer.

CATHY
No, I’m the daughter of a fine corporate lawyer...

Cathy smiles at her father as she heads off to her office...

CUT TO:
INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A private party fills the elegant restaurant. An architectural model of a skyscraper and commercial complex is prominently displayed. At the center of the action, working the room, is TOM McGrath, a sleekly attractive man in his early 40’s - a dashing New York real estate titan... People seem to swirl around him, drawn by his power and charm.

FOLLOW Tom as he moves through the restaurant. He FINDS Cathy sitting at a far table, talking to an old COLLEGE FRIEND...

COLLEGE FRIEND
(teary-eyed)
I really thought my life was over. I mean he was my life. He told me to just pretend he was dead...

CATHY
(sympathetic)
Eve, I’m so sorry... Things’ll turn around.

TOM
(leaning over Cathy, kissing her)
How you doing? You all right?

CATHY
Fine. Eve and I haven’t seen each other since college...

COLLEGE FRIEND
(to Tom)
We’re just catching up...

TOM
Good...
(putting an arm around Cathy)
I need to talk to you...

CATHY
(to College Friend)
Excuse us for a minute...

Tom leads her to an alcove...

TOM
(irritated)
What’s with you?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CATHY
What do you mean?

TOM
You’ve been sitting over there listening to her blub-ber, half the evening...

CATHY
She’s going through a rough time. We used to be good friends...

TOM
I know her. She’s a lush. She was married to a lush. She’s a complete loser.

CATHY
Very compassionate...

TOM
Come on now, stick by me, there’s someone I want you to meet...

CATHY
Tom, I’m just not into it tonight, I’m sorry...

TOM
I thought I could count on you...

CATHY
You can...

TOM
Maybe I expect too much...

CATHY
It’s a party. - it’s not brain surgery.

TOM
Look, I don’t have time for this...

CATHY
And frankly, I don’t like being told who I can talk to...

TOM
Then use better judgement!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:  (2)

CATHY
(fuming)
All right, maybe I should call it a night...

TOM
That’s not an option...

CATHY
(moving off)
Oh, it’s not?

Cathy gets her purse and, without turning back, walks out of the restaurant...

CUT TO:

8 EXT. THIRD AVENUE - NIGHT

Cathy comes out of the restaurant and hurries to the corner to hail a cab. A cab drives by.

CATHY
(raising a hand)
Taxi...! I

She’s too late. A couple just ahead of her hops into the cab. Another cab approaches...

CATHY

Taxi...!

The cab switches on its “Off Duty” sign.

CATHY
(muttering)
Great...

Now a STOCKY GUY in a bomber jacket saunters up...

STOCKY GUY
(smiling)
You’re not having much luck. I’ll get you one...
(steps off the curb, raises an arm, whistles loudly)
I’m an expert...

Suddenly a van pulls around the corner, the door slides open.

(CONTINUED)
8 CONTINUED:

The Stocky Guy roughly shoves Cathy to the van door...

STOCKY GUY
Going home alone tonight, Carol?

CATHY
(startled)
Hey...! I

She tries to twist away but a pair of muscular arms reach out from within, grabbing her and violently yanking her into the vehicle. The Stocky Guy jumps in and the van takes off...

9 INT. VAN TRAVELING - NIGHT

As the DRIVER cruises up Third Avenue, Cathy struggles with the Stocky Guy and a heavily tattooed PUNK in the back of the darkened van...

CATHY
(yelling)
No!... Not... Stop!

They slam her against the floor, trying to subdue her...

STOCKY GUY
(to Cathy, hitting her)
Know what happens to little girls with big mouths?...

PUNK
(venomous)
You’re gonna find out...

She kicks the Punk in the chest, scrambles to her feet and pounds on the back window of the van...

CATHY
(screaming through the glass)
Help..!

10 ANGLE THROUGH THE GLASS

A car full of teenagers drives along in the next lane, laughing, grooving to the radio - oblivious...

(CONTINUED)
10 CONTINUED:

CATHY
(pounding on the glass)
Help me!

11 The two attackers drag her back down to the floor and begin to beat her into submission...

DRIVER
(calling back to them)
About done with her?

They have her pinned down...

STOCKY GUY
Just about...
(to Cathy)
Hey Carol, you gotta remember to keep your mouth shut from now on...

CATHY
(gasping)
I’m not...

The Punk hits her again...

STOCKY GUY
You’re gonna remember - every time you look in the mirror...

The Stocky Guy pulls a straight razor out of his pocket. Cathy begins to fight with all her remaining strength...

STOCK GUY
(yelling at Punk)
Grab her hands!

The Punk restrains her hands...

CATHY’S POV - THE RAZOR
As it’s raised over her face...

CUT TO:

12 EXT. CENTRAL PARK . 96TH ST. DRIVE-THROUGH NIGHT

The van is stopped at the side of the road. We see the two attackers dump Cathy’s limp form in a clump of bushes. They run back to the van and it speeds off...
She lies unconscious, near death, sprawled in the bushes. We can’t see her face. Cars whiz by in the distance... And then, seemingly out of nowhere, A SHADOW FALLS ACROSS HER BODY... Now, the BROAD BACK of a patchwork-cloaked figure ENTERS FRAME. Cathy is scooped up, as if she were a child, and carried off, into the mist.

Carrying Cathy over his shoulder, the cloaked figure descends a ladder into a steam tunnel, part of the elaborate network of tunnels and caverns which run deep below Manhattan...

He carries her down a passageway to a lower level of connecting chambers... Steam escapes from the pipes, the walls sweat -- an occasional bare bulb throws eerie shadows down the tunnel... A train thunders overhead...

The cloaked figure moves quickly and surely along a narrow ledge, and then down another ladder... His face is hidden by a hood...

CAMERA PANS the room-size underground chamber -- very strange. Its dimensions and arched ceiling give the feeling of a medieval knight’s quarters -- and yet it is filled with carefully selected cast-off items, the artifacts of our disposable culture. The furnishings -- lamps, table, cabinets -- have been found or ingeniously assembled from salvaged parts. One wall is covered with a mosaic of photos cut out from magazines -- photos of the great people of our time -- Einstein, Stravinsky, Ali, John Lennon. One gets the feeling that this chamber is charged with the spirit of the survivor full of undaunted goodness...

CAMERA HOLDS on Cathy, lying nestled in a bed fashioned of mattresses and blankets. Her head and face are bandaged, her eyes covered.

Sitting at the bedside is her cloaked rescuer. His face remains hidden from us. His name is VINCENT...

She wakes with a start...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

CATHY  
(crying)  
No..! No!

VINCENT’S VOICE  
You’re safe. You’re safe, now...

His voice is the voice of pure emotion, pure heart...

CATHY  
(frightened)  
Where am I?

VINCENT  
No one will hurt you. You’re safe here...

It’s the kindest, gentlest voice she’s ever heard...

CATHY  
Am I in a hospital?

VINCENT  
No, but you’re going to be alright...

CATHY  
Why aren’t I in a hospital?

VINCENT  
You were bleeding, there was no time...

CATHY  
(distraught)  
What did they do? Did they..?  
(feels bandages over her eyes)  
My eyes..?

VINCENT  
Your eyes were not hurt. We made sure... Rest now.

She tries to get out of bed, but sinks back, too weak...

DISSOLVE:
ISA INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER

As Cathy sleeps, we GLIMPSE Vincent’s FATHER, an older man in professorial robes, examining her, checking her pulse... All the while, Vincent, his face still hidden, watches over her...

DISSOLVE:

153 INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER

As Cathy awakens again, Vincent approaches...

CATHY

Who’s here? Who are you?

VINCENT

Vincent...

CATHY

Vincent...?

VINCENT

My father and I treated your injuries. You have broken ribs. You need to be still...

CATHY

(pleading)

Where am I?

VINCENT

Where no one can hurt you...

CATHY

My face -- was it...?

VINCENT

Tell me your name...

CATHY

Catherine...

VINCENT

(softly)

Catherine... Try to rest. If you need anything I’ll be close by. Don’t be afraid. Please, don’t be afraid...

CATHY

I’ll try... I’ll try...

(CONTINUED)
She drifts back to sleep. He draws the covers up around her and moves off, down an adjoining tunnel...

16 INT. STEAM TUNNELS

FOLLOW as Vincent, his face still hidden from us, hurries down a connecting tunnel... Moving with speed and agility, he descends a ladder to a lower platform, then leaps from that platform -- across what appears to be a steam-filled chasm -- to another ladder which he climbs...

17 INT. FATHER’S CHAMBER

Vincent enters a vault-like room, two-stories high. The walls are lined with books, floor to ceiling -- books of every description -- a vast library of the city’s cast-off books. The room is lit by oil lamps. In a far corner, seated in a tattered, over-stuffed chair, we find Vincent’s FATHER, reading a book...

Father’s face and features are long and finely chiseled, and always in shadow -- like a face from El Greco. He has the appearance of a wise, sensitive man who has seen too many terrible things. He wears an Old Giant’s baseball cap...

As Vincent comes in, Father looks extremely upset...

FATHER
(looking up)
Is she awake?

VINCENT
(nods)
She’s very frightened...

FATHER
(hands him a bottle of pills)
Make sure she takes these -- to prevent infection.

VINCENT
I’ll make sure...

FATHER
(reproachfully)
I was saving them for an emergency, if something happened to either of us...

(CONTINUED)
VINCENT
Father, this was an emergency -- she would have died...

FATHER
(angrily)
Do you know what they’d do to you if they caught you up there? Or found you down here? You’ve endangered all of us, but the risk for you is especially great. You’d probably die! How could you bring a stranger here?? To where we live??

VINCENT
How could I have turned my back on her and left her there..?

FATHER
(grudgingly)
Alright... Help her regain her strength. But the moment she’s ready to leave, you must get her out -- and Vincent, don’t tell her anything...

VINCENT
Don’t worry -- it won’t be very long. She’s already beginning to heal...

FATHER
(softening)
You have the soul of a doctor...
(smiles)
When I studied medicine they didn’t admit Negroes or Jews...
(chuckles softly)
Vincent, I wonder what they would’ve done with you. Let’s not even think about it...

CUT TO:

18 OMITTED

19 INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER

Cathy is sitting up in bed, her head and eyes are still swathed in bandages. Vincent is feeding her.

(CONTINUED)
VINCENT
Do you like it?

CATHY
It’s good stew...
(takes another spoonful).
Vincent, tell me .. where are we?
I’m going to keep asking...

VINCENT
Where do you think?

A train RUMBLES overhead...

CATHY
(figuring)
Somewhere there’s an elevated train...
Brooklyn? Queens?

VINCENT
(troubled)
No, not Brooklyn or Queens...

CATHY
(starting to panic)
Am I still in New York?

VINCENT
I can’t tell you...

CATHY
Why not?

VINCENT
I have to keep it as a secret.

CATHY
Why is it a secret?

VINCENT
Because many good people depend on this place for safety.

CATHY
(sincere)
Vincent, I’ll keep your secret...

A beat. He believes her...

(CONTINUED)
We HEAR continuous METALLIC TAPPING SOUNDS in distinct rhythmic patterns. (These SOUNDS are omnipresent in the tunnels)

CATHY
And that tapping. It never stops.

VINCENT
It’s people talking to each other, tapping on the master pipes...

CATHY
(intrigued)
You mean messages?

VINCENT
In code...
(listening)
‘86th and Madison -- food... 34th and Seventh... danger...’ First they give location, then condition -- danger, food, help, emergency. It’s how we communicate...

CATHY
Please, tell me -- where are we?

VINCENT
(easing her fears)
We’re below the city -- below the subways. There’s a whole world of tunnels and chambers that most people don’t even know exist. There are no maps to where we are -- it’s a forgotten place. But it’s warm and it’s safe -- and we have all the room we need...

Cathy is listening intently, her mouth half-open in disbelief...

VINCENT
(continuing)
... So we live here. we try to live as well as we can, and we try to take care of each other. It’s our city, down here...

CATHY
(blown away, a long beat)
You’re kidding... Aren’t you?

(CONTINUED)
VINCENT
(softly)
No -- I’m not.

CATHY
(uncertain)
What are you doing down here? Why are you here?

Vincent takes a deep breath. This is painful...

VINCENT
(haltily)
...I was a baby -- abandoned, left to die... Someone found me and brought me here -- to the man who became my father.
(deep gratitude)
...He took me, he raised me - he taught me everything. He named me Vincent... That’s where I was found, near the hospital -- St. Vincent’s.

CATHY
(overwhelmed)
I - I don’t know what to believe...

VINCENT
(gently)
It’s all true...

She reaches out to touch his hand. Before he can pull it away, her fingers touch his. She feels something gnarled and animal-like. She tries to cover her astonishment...

VINCENT
(drawing back, mortified)
I’ll be back...

He moves off...

She lies there in a panic, unwilling to even consider the possibilities...

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 INT. MR. CHANDLER’S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Chandler and Tom McGrath appear worried and exhausted...

MR. CHANDLER
I don’t want to think about what could’ve happened...

Mr. Chandler’s intercom buzzes. He moves to answer it.

MR. CHANDLER
(into phone)
Yes...? Send him in...
(to Tom)
John Herman’s here. He’s a first rate police officer --
Captain of Detectives. I asked him to supervise the case.

TOM
I hear he’s a good man...

21 CAPT. JOHN HERMAN, a big ruddy-faced bull of a man strides into
the office...

MR. CHANDLER
Jack! I’m glad to see you... Meet
Tom McGrath...

CAPT. HERMAN
(shaking hands)
Mr. Chandler... Mr. McGrath...

MR. CHANDLER
Jack, I’d like to know who leaked the story to the papers...

CAPT. HERMAN
Hard to keep something like this quiet. A socialite’s missing for a week, her purse is found in the park...

TOM
(indicating newspaper)
We don’t need these kinds of headlines...

(CONTINUED)
insert - new york post: “mcgrath’s girlfriend missing... east side deb vanishes.”

back to scene

mr. chandler

have your men come up with anything...?

capt. herman

(shakes his head)

not, yet...

(looking serious)

i just talked to the lab. i think you should know they found some blood on the purse. it does match your daughter’s...

a beat -- as mr. chandler faces the gravity of the situation.

capt. herman

mr. chandler, mr. mcgrath, i’ll do everything i can’t to find her -- that’s a promise.

cut to:

int. vincent’s chamber

cathy sits in a chair, alone. her face is still bandaged. now she stands, feeling her way around the room. she bumps against a small table, knocks over a stack of books. she feels her way back to the chair, sits back down and begins to weep -- for all that’s happened to her.

reverse angle vincent

he’s standing, very still, in the doorway, watching her. we don’t know for how long. his face is still hidden.

cathy

(choked)

i know you’re there. you can come in.

vincent sits beside her, takes up a book...

vincent

(with compassion)

i’ll read to you...

(continued)
CATHY
It won’t help...

VINCENT
It might. We can finish ‘Great Expectations.’ Do you remember how it ends...?

CATHY
Vincent, I’m worried -- I’m frightened. -.

VINCENT
(empathic)
I can feel it...

CATHY
I can’t stop thinking about what happened -- what they did to me... (restless)
I don’t know what to do...

VINCENT
You’re getting your strength back.

CATHY
I know.

VINCENT
I’ll make you some tea, the herb tea you liked...

CATHY
That sounds good.

He goes off...

She waits until he’s well away -- and then she starts removing the bandages...

CUT TO:

23 INT. TUNNELS

Vincent stands at the fork of two cavernous tunnels talking to a small, tow-headed urchin named KIPPER.

(CONTINUED)
VINCENT  
(pointing down tunnel)  
Take this one three platforms down, then go right up the next tunnel to the first ladder, and start climbing...

KIPPER  
(concentrating)  
And that’ll be Chinatown?

VINCENT  
Unless you take the wrong tunnel.  
If you do, it might be China...

KIPPER  
No way, Vincent...

VINCENT  
Wherever you end up, hurry back with the tea...

KIPPER  
This one’s gonna cost you...

Kipper picks up his "skate sled" -- a wooden sled with roller skates attached. He takes a running start then jumps on and speeds away, clattering down the tunnel...

CUT TO:  

INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER  

Cathy has removed her bandages. (Her face remains hidden from us). She rushes frantically around the room searching for a mirror, something to reflect her face... She can’t seem to find anything suitable. She opens a crate of what appears to be junk, spare parts. She finds an old auto headlight, breaks the glass and holds the reflector up to her face...

CATHY’S POV - HER FACE  

In the distorted reflection, Cathy SEES the jagged slashes which criss-cross her face like a grotesque road map. She gasps in shock. She stares at this tragically disfigured woman in the reflector suddenly realizing it’s herself...

CATHY  
(crying out)  
Oh, God..! No..!

(CONTINUED)
24 CONTINUED: 24

VINCENT (0.5.)
Catherine..? What..?

She turns..

25 REVERSE ANGLE VINCENT

He stands in the doorway, his hood off, staring at us, straight-on. We SEE what can only be described as a beast-like man, a true grotesque, with a snout-like nose and mouth. He is powerfully built and utterly terrifying... But, a CLOSER LOOK reveals EYES full of compassion and embarrassment as he awkwardly tries to cover his face. Now he comes toward her...

VINCENT
(reaching out)
Catherine...

CATHY

She shrinks back in horror. This is beyond any nightmare. As he approaches her, she hurls the reflector at him. It glances off the side of his head, drawing blood. He stands there, frozen. She sinks down on the bed, shaking in shock. When she looks up again, he’s gone. Now she collapses on the bed sobbing...

CUT TO:

26 INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER

Cathy awakens... She’s propped up on the bed. Vincent sits beside her, his face hidden by a make-shift mask. He puts a cool cloth to her head...

VINCENT
(softly)
It’s time for you to go back...

CATHY
(reeling)
But how...? How did...?

VINCENT
I don’t know how it happened. I have ideas... I’ll never know. It happened, an accident, a mistake -- I was born. And I survived...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

She shakes her head -- speechless...

VINCENT

Are you ready to go?

CATHY

No...

VINCENT

It’s time...

CATHY

(distraught)

Not like this... How can I go up there like this?

VINCENT

You must...

CATHY

(breaking down)

Tell me it’s a nightmare. It didn’t happen, it can’t be happening...

VINCENT

(from deep inside)

It’s not a nightmare. It happened -- and you’re alive. Catherine, you survived. And what you endured will make you stronger and better.

She gets up, turns away, shakes her head...

CATHY

(upset)

I don’t have your strength.

(pacing off)

I don’t know how to do it...

She leaves the chamber and moves off into one of the tunnels. Vincent makes no move to stop her...

INT. TUNNELS

Cathy stands at the end of a tunnel, on a platform which juts out over a steam-filled abyss.

She stares into the abyss, full of self-pity, struggling to pull herself together. Now she looks up, as if she senses something, she turns and looks back down the tunnel...

(Continued)
REVERSE ANGLE. VINCENT

He stands some distance down the tunnel, watching over her. He makes no move, either toward her or away... He simply stands there, tall and with nobility...

She now walks to where he stands...

CATHY
I apologize... I was feeling very sorry for myself.

He looks at her, speaking to her soul...

VINCENT
(with conviction)
Catherine, you have the strength -- you do.
(simply)
I know you...

She looks up at him, profoundly touched by his kindness. Carefully, she reaches out and pulls aside the cloth which covers his face. She smiles at him tenderly...

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS

Vincent leads Cathy down a long, cavernous tunnel on their way back up...

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS

Holding her hand, he guides her along a section of pipe that they must "cat-walk" as steam swirls around them....

When they reach the end of the pipe, Vincent picks her up, cradling her in his arms, and leaps into a chasm of billowing steam...

They land on a platform several feet below and begin to make their way through a series of high chambers housing master pipes... Trains THUNDER overhead and, always, we HEAR the TAPPING SOUNDS...
30 AS Vincent and Cathy move through, we GLIMPSE some of  the other inhabitants of the “world below” (The feeling, down below, is of a great expanse of uncharted or forgotten space, allowing the inhabitants freedom and privacy)...

31 On a far platform, we SEE a FAMILY -- a mother, father and two small children, cooking a meal in an open hearth... Some distance away, we SEE a group sewing clothing.

32 Vincent and Cathy cross a wooden bridge over a stretch of “sealed up” subway track. We SEE a group of kids, boys and girls, playing on a homemade hand car...

CUT TO:

33 INT. TUNNELS

Vincent, carrying Cathy, moves surefootedly along a narrow ledge above a wall of cascading water... Still holding Cathy, he leaps from the ledge to a ladder and effortlessly begins to climb...

CUT TO:

34 INT. TUNNELS

The tunnel narrows and becomes dark. They hurry along, crouched over... Further down the tunnel is a faint light. As they approach the light we SEE the tunnel ends at an iron grillwork vent. Vincent puts his shoulder to the grill and in an incredible exertion of force, moves it out of its cement casing. Light pours in from above...

VINCENT
(indicating)
This is where you go out...

CATHY
(hesitant)
Where are we?

VINCENT
In the basement of your apartment building.

CATHY
(laughs)
We are?

(CONTINUED)
34 CONTINUED:

Vincent nods...

A beat. A moment where both now realize they are about to go their separate ways -- a torrent of emotions... Sadness, gratitude, concern, even a kind of love...

CATHY

(eyes welling)
Vincent...

Vincent doesn’t speak. He too is choked with emotions.

CATHY

Your secret is safe with me. I’d never betray your trust...

VINCENT

I know -- I knew that from the beginning. When you trusted me... Catherine, I had things to give, and they were meant to be given to you...

She reaches out for him, puts her arms around him and embraces him...

CATHY

What can I say to you..?

The tenderness of her embrace is a feeling he’s never felt before, never even dreamed of. It’s more than he can stand -- it’s breaking his heart...

Suddenly we HEAR FOOTSTEPS through the vent in the basement. They both shrink back into the shadows of the tunnel... When the FOOTSTEPS FADE OFF, Cathy turns to Vincent .. but he’s not there...

CATHY

(calling out)
Vincent... Vincent...!

He’s gone.

We sense her sadness at losing him as she turns and climbs through the steam vent, back to her life...

CUT TO:

35 INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

(CONTINUED)
CLOSE ON CATHY

She’s on the operating table. Her face has been prepped for plastic surgery -- marked with lines and notations. An oxygen mask is placed over her face...

DOCTOR’S VOICE
  Cathy, I want you to start counting from ten, backwards...

CATHY
  (through mask)
  10... 9... 8...

CATHY’S POV - OPERATING TEAM

The doctors and nurses prepare to begin surgery. Everything’s getting FUZZY...

CATHY
  7... 6...

DISSOLVE:

CATHY’S DREAM

The following sequence should incorporate the surreal tone and jarringly subjective elements of the dream-state...

INT. CHARLES CHANDLER’S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy comes into her father’s office, her face horribly scarred, her dress filthy and ragged... Mr. Chandler beams happily at her and, throughout the scene, carries on as if all is wonderful...

MR. CHANDLER
  (buoyant)
  Catherine! we were all guessing where you went. Was it Jamaica? Nassau?

CATHY
  (unable to speak)
  I -- I...

Throughout the dream sequence, she is unable to speak...

(CONTINUED)
MR. CHANDLER
Let’s get some people together, have a party at the club, tonight. Who shall we invite? Make a list...

CATHY
(struggling)
No -- Dad -- I...

MR. CHANDLER
(getting up)
Have to run, I have a board meeting...
(handing her a wad of money)
Buy yourself a new dress...
(giving her more)
Will this be enough? Take some more.
Here...

He reaches into a drawer and starts slapping down bundles of bills.

MR. CHANDLER
(now exiting)
See you later...

He dashes out, leaving her sitting at his big desk all alone...

FOLLOW as she gets up and exits the office, down the corridor...

37 OMITTED

38 EXT. THIRD AVENUE - NIGHT

She’s rushing up Third, trying to get a taxi. A cab pulls up but she can’t open the door, it’s locked. She pounds on the window but the cab driver doesn’t seem to notice. He just sits there... Someone taps her on the shoulder, she turns... It’s the Stocky Guy in the bomber jacket...

STOCKY GUY
(smirking)
Not having much luck...

Cathy tries to scream but nothing comes out... She pounds furiously on the cab window. The cab drives off...

(CONTINUED)
STOCKY GUY

Need some help?

She starts running - into the arms of the Tatooed Punk...

TATOOED PUNK

You aren’t having much luck...

She breaks away and runs -- up Third Avenue. Her attackers come after her, closing in. Nobody on the street seems to notice or care.

As the Tatooed Punk reaches out to grab her from behind, Cathy ducks and dashes through the doors of a restaurant...

INT. Restaurant - Night

A party is in progress. The moment Cathy enters, everything stops. The place is filled with beautiful people. All turn to gape at her, at her scars, at her rags -- in icy silence...

In the center of the room, standing next to a towering architectural model is Tom McGrath. Beside him is a Beautiful woman. They are surrounded by admirers...

AS Cathy approaches Tom, walking the length of the room, the SNICKERING begins... At first very softly...

She reaches Tom, but he refuses to acknowledge her presence. He’s talking to the Beautiful Woman...

TOM

(to Beautiful Woman)
I feel sorry for her. But what can I do? Life goes on...

The Beautiful Woman nods in agreement...

TOM

(continuing)
She was an interesting girl. I thought she had a lot of promise -- but she turned out to be a complete loser...
(to the crowd)
And you know how I feel about losers...

The SNICKERING continues...
CONTINUED:

CATHY
(with great effort)
Tom...!

Tom and the Beautiful Woman glance briefly at her, then move off, smiling conspiratorially. Everyone in the restaurant is now SNICKERING...

The SNICKERING gets LOUDER, until it becomes a chorus of derisive LAUGHTER...

Cathy looks around, desperate -- trapped... Now she spots something through a side window...

ANGLE - OUT THE WINDOW

Standing outside, we SEE what appears to be the figure of a man. He peers into the restaurant, staring at Cathy through the glass. His eyes are filled with feeling, deep with empathy for her. It’s Vincent. As their eyes lock...    DISSOLVE:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

She comes out of the anesthetic, her face, once again, heavily bandaged. The SURGEON, a handsome older man, stands at her bedside.

CATHY
(coming to)
Vincent..?

SURGEON
(reassuring)
Cathy, it’s Dr. Sanderly... It’s all over.

CATHY
(groggy)
... How’d it go?

SURGEON
I think you’ll be pleased.

CATHY
(uncertain)
... Really?

(CONTINUED)
42 CONTINUED:

SURGEON
Cathy, it went very well. Not perfect, but better than expected. Let’s see how it heals...

CATHY
Okay...

SURGEON
(exiting)
If there’s anything I can do, let me know...

CATHY
(a beat, bitter sweet)
Could you read me the last chapter of ‘Great Expectations?’

CUT TO:

43 INT. RESTAURANT POWDER ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON CATHY

Her face appears in the powder room mirror. As she combs her hair we can see that her scars have been virtually removed. When she turns her head we see the one scar that could not be repaired. It runs down the right side of her face, just in front of her ear. With her hair down, it’s almost completely hidden. She exits the powder room...

44 INT. FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT - DAY

FOLLOW as Cathy moves through the elegant dining room to the table where she and her father are having lunch...

MR. CHANDLER
You look terrific. When do you think you’ll be coming back to work?

CATHY
(a beat)
Dad, I’m not coming back. I’ve decided to leave the firm.

MR. CHANDLER
What are you talking about??

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
I was never very good at corporate law, in fact I was a disaster..

MR. CHANDLER
Nonsense!

CATHY
Dad, thing’s have changed...

MR. CHANDLER
How?? What’s changed...?

CATHY
What happened, changed me. You’ve got to accept that...

MR. CHANDLER
How can I? You refuse to tell anybody what happened those days you were missing. Where were you?? Why won’t you tell me?

CATHY
I’m not even sure myself, but that’s not the point...
(takes a deep breath)
Once you become a victim it changes you. You see things differently. You see all the people being hurt and the lives being destroyed. I’ve got the skills to help. I want to be more involved -- maybe work in the D.A.’s office...

MR. CHANDLER
(upset)
Prosecuting criminals?! Catherine, that’s ridiculous!

CATHY
Either help me or don’t -- but don’t call me ridiculous...

MR. CHANDLER
You’re having some kind of reaction to what happened. You need more time...

CATHY
I know what I need -- I know what I’m doing...

(CONTINUED)
MR. CHANDLER
I’m not so sure, anymore...

CATHY
(from the heart)
Dad, I can’t go back to the way it was.
(beat)
I need your encouragement...

MR. CHANDLER
(sadly musing)
You were always going to work with me -- you were always going to work at the firm. That wasn’t a fantasy, was it?

CATHY
(smiles sympathetically)
No, Dad...
(quietly)
But things are different now...

CUT TO:

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE - DAY

JOHN MORENO, New York’s streetwise D.A., sits in his office conferring with a DEPUTY D.A. His desk is piled high with legal briefs and transcripts. The atmosphere in the office is harried. Through a glass window we can SEE the central work area of the D.A.’s office - a beehive of glass partitioned cubicles buzzing with deputy prosecutors and clerks moving at a frantic pace. Just outside this window we SEE Cathy Chandler waiting for her job interview...

D.A. MORENO
(reading Cathy’s resume)
Her credentials are excellent - Radcliffe, Columbia Law School. She really wants a job?

DEPUTY
She says so. Who knows?
(snide)
She’s a rich guy’s daughter, looking for something ‘meaningful...’ You remember, the one who disappeared for ten days -- McGrath’s girlfriend...

(CONTINUED)
33.

CONTINUED:

D.A. Z'IORENO
(hurriedly)
...Look, it’s a pair of hands... it’s a brain. We could use the help...

DEPUTY
(nods)
Where do you want to put her?

D.A. MORENO
Out in the field -- research, investigation, give her all the legwork. Throw everything at her. If she’s any good we’ll find out...

DEPUTY
Right...

The Deputy D.A. now goes to the office door, opens it and leans out, grinning at Cathy...

DEPUTY
(to Cathy)
Ms. Chandler -- District Attorney Moreno will see you now. Come on in...

CUT TO:

OMITTED

EXT. TALL BUILDING - NIGHT

Vincent swiftly, gracefully, climbs the tower of a tall building... There he sits, perched, gazing out at the lights of the city surrounding him, the city he can never be a part of -- the city of the woman he can never know. He bows his head and looks utterly isolated, forlorn...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

48A EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOTS OF MANHATTAN

As the sun rises and the city awakens.

49 INT. ISAAC STUBBS’ ACADEMY OF STREETFIGHTING • DAY

Cathy stands in a shabby loft in a rundown old building on the lower east side. The floor is covered with mats. Various punching bags and practice dummies hang from the ceiling on chains. Nobody else appears to be around...

CATHY
(calling out)
Hello..!

No answer.

CATHY
(calling)
Anybody here..?

VOICE
(softly, from behind)
We know You are..

She jumps, spins around and finds ISAAC STUBBS standing inches behind her. He is a black man in his fifties, built like a fireplug with arms of coiled steel and a loveable smile...

ISAAC
(smiling)
Always know what’s comin’ up behind you. This time it’s good news...
(holds out his hand)
I’m Isaac, Isaac Stubbs...

CATHY
Catherine Chandler...

ISAAC
And you want to learn to take care of yourself...

CATHY
That’s right...

(CONTINUED)
ISAAC
(knowing)
Because something bad happened...

She nods.

ISAAC
And you don’t want anything like that to ever happen again...

CATHY
(resolved)
Never.

ISAAC
I believe you. But you still have to prove it to me.

CATHY
I will.

ISAAC
I don’t teach none of that oriental stuff -- no Kung Foo, no egg foo yung. I’m from New York City, and what I teach is New York City streetfighting, mean and dirty. Only philosophy around here is, do whatever you have to come out alive...

(reaches down, deftly takes Cathy’s shoe)
You can beat a man to death with a shoe...

He whips Cathy’s shoe across the head of a dummy, then drives the heel into its temple...

ISAAC
It’s not fancy, but it works -- if you got the stomach.

CATHY
(determined)
When do we start?

ISAAC
(laughs)
What do you think we’re doin’?

CUT TO:
Cathy moves through the N.Y.P.D. Data Center. She stops at a computer terminal where EDIE, a stylish young Puerto Rican operator is “interfacing” with the master data bank...

CATHY
Edie -- do you have those addresses, yet?

EDIE
(irritable)
Yeah, yeah, I got ‘em.
(handing her a printout)
Take ‘em...

CATHY
Thanks, I appreciate it...

EDIE
(needling)
You should appreciate it. I’m doin’ all your work.

CATHY
Sorry, but the D.A.’s really got me running. They’re testing me...

EDIE
Who you kidding?! I know the way you uptown girls operate. You swing in here, you shed a few tears for humanity, and then you go shopping.

CATHY
That’s not true...

EDIE
It’s not, huh?
(looking at Cathy’s security pass)
Catherine Chandler..?

CATHY
Most people call me Cathy...

Edie starts punching computer keys...

EDIE
Let’s check you out...
37.

51 INSERT - THE TERMINAL DISPLAY SCREEN
Cathy’s name and vital statistics appear on the screen...

Next, a summary of a police report under the heading, VICTIM - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT...

And then, a gruesome full face photo of Cathy and her scars taken before surgery...

52 BACK TO SCENE

EDIE
(stunned)
My God... Cathy, I’m sorry...

CATHY
Don’t be...
(with a smile) *
That’s an old picture..

Cathy moves off...

CUT TO:

53 INT. TUNNELS - VINCENT’S CHAMBER

Vincent sits in a corner, illuminated by the light of a candle. He looks tormented, alone, as he stares into the darkness... Now he looks down at something in his hands. MOVING IN, we SEE it’s a book -- “Great Expectations.”

CUT TO:

54 INT. CATHY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She sits at her dressing table -- her hair pulled back; her face washed clean. She stares into the mirror, looking very faraway -- she thinking, she’s wondering about Vincent...

CATHY
(whispers)
Vincent... Be well...

CUT TO:
55 INT. VINCENT’S CHAMBER

Vincent looks up -- as if he’s heard her. Her WHISPER ECHOES through the darkness... His back straightens, he comes alive.

CUT TO:

56 INT. ISAAC STUBBS’ STUDIO • DAY

CAMERA FOLLOWS Cathy and Isaac as they move about the loft.

ISAAC

(moves to a dummy, demonstrates)
You do whatever you have to do.. You kick - you bite -- you gouge. You want to discourage a man? Bite his ear off, or his nose... Use what you got...
(moving to a table, picking up various articles, demonstrating)
If you don’t have a knife, use a bottle, or a glass -- a rolled-up magazine, anything...
(now moving toward her)
Go ahead! What you gonna do? Huh?
What you gonna do..?

She dashes around to the opposite side of the table, using is as a barrier between them. Then, as Isaac leaps over the table, Cathy tips it on its side, momentarily tripping him.

CATHY
(excited)
Gotcha!

ISAAC
(approving)
Alright...!
(suddenly bringing her down by the throat)
But don’t be standing around patting yourself on the back. Finish the job ... or pump foot out of there...

CATHY
(from the floor)
You got a point there, Isaac...

(CONTINUED)
ISAAC
(helping her up)
Nice move, though...

Cathy smiles, pleased...

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS - FATHER’S CHAMBER

Vincent, looking anguished, moves about his Father’s book lined chamber...

FATHER
(firm)
She’s in her world, now.

VINCENT
(frustrated)
And I’m in mine.

FATHER

And now you must forget her.

VINCENT
(angrily)
No! I won’t forget her!

FATHER
(admonishing)
Every time you go above, you risk our world being taken from us. One glimpse of you and they’ll stop at nothing to find you and destroy all of us...

VINCENT
I would never endanger the rest.

FATHER
Vincent, nothing I’ve taught you could prepare you for the world ‘up there’ -- the cruelty, the inhumanity, all the petty outrages...

VINCENT
None of that is Catherine...

FATHER
It can only bring you unhappiness...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

VINCENT
(adamant)
Then I’ll be unhappy -- but I can’t forget her. We’re still connected...

Father shakes his head sadly...

VINCENT
She’s part of me. I can feel what she’s feeling, I know what she’s thinking -- when she’s frightened, when she’s happy or sad...

FATHER
Vincent, your senses -- your empathic powers are extraordinary. It’s your gift. And these powers have been ignited by the love you feel. But don’t let your act of kindness destroy you...

VINCENT
Maybe, I have no choice...

CUT TO:

EXT. MADISON AVE. - EVENING

CLOSE ON CATHY

As she’s waiting to cross the street, she turns, looks around -- as if someone was standing beside her. But no-one’s there...

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS

Vincent stands at the end of a long tunnel gazing up into a sliver of light...
59 INT. N.Y.P.D. COMPUTER DATA CENTER • DAY

Cathy comes over to Edie’s computer terminal...

EDIE
(looking up)
What are you doin’ here at six A.M.? You should be just gittin’ home from the discos...

CATHY
Sorry to disappoint you, Edie. I can’t remember the last time I was in a disco.

EDIE
Tell me about it...
(patting terminal)
You know Biff here is the longest relationship I’ve had since sixth grade. Biff understands me...

CATHY
(chuckles)
It could be the wave of the future... Listen, I need some help it’s a little tricky. A woman was attacked by mistake -- by three men. I want to find out if these men ever went after their intended victim, the woman they were out to get...

EDIE
Got the date of the mistaken attack?

CATHY
(without hesitating)
Last April 12...

Edie looks at her, knowing this is something special, something personal...

ED I E
... Aggravated Assault?

CATHY
(nods)
Aggravated Assault...

ED I E
(punching in the date)
I’ll punch in for a list of all aggravated assaults -- against a woman -- by three men -- after April 12...
60 INSERT - TERMINAL SCREEN

A long list of pending cases starts appearing on the screen -- well over a hundred...

EDIE (O.S.)
A lotta guys hittin’ on a lotta women out there...

61 BACK TO SCENE

EDIE
(turning to Cathy)
Got anything that could narrow it down -- the make of a car -- the intended victim’s name...?

Cathy stiffens...

62 FLASHBACK - CATHY’S ATTACK

The Stocky Guy and the Tatooed Punk have her pinned down...

STOCKY GUY
...Hey Carol, you gotta remember to keep your mouth shut from now on...

63 BACK TO SCENE

Edie watches Cathy struggling with the memory...

CATHY
(shaken)
Try Carol...

Edie punches in the additional data...

64 INSERT - TERMINAL SCREEN

The computer factors in the new data, searches the list of cases and locates three cases of aggravated assault with victims named Carol...

EDIE (0.5.)
Okay, here are the ‘Carols’...
(punching keys)
Now I’ll punch into the files...

The statistics of the first case appear on the screen...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
No, this Carol’s 63. It’s got to be a woman in her 20’s or 30’s...

Edie brings up the next case file... The vital statistics appear -- and then a picture of the victim: a young black woman with a swollen jaw...

CATHY
Nope -- let’s try the next...

The statistics of the next case appear: VICTIM - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT: CAROL STABLER

CATHY (O.S.)
Close -- right age, right location...

Now Carol Stabler’s picture appears on the screen. She’s been badly beaten about the face. Despite her bruises and lacerations the resemblance to Cathy is striking.

BACK TO SCENE

Edie keeps looking from the picture on the screen to Cathy.

CATHY
(energized)
This may be it. Let’s pull the file...

CUT TO:

EXT. CATHY’S APARTMENT BUILDING FIFTH AVE. - NIGHT

Cathy climbs out of a limo in front of her building. Tom McGrath starts to climb out of the limo...

TOM
(to Cathy)
I’ll walk you up...

CATHY
No, that’s alright.

TOM
No. I’ll walk you up.

(CONTINUED)
You didn’t hear anything I said tonight...

What? That your work’s important to you? I can understand that. My work’s important to me. That doesn’t mean we can’t see each other.

Tom, things change...

I think your carrying this new seriousness a little too far.

(smiling)
Now you miss the old flake...

Listen, we’re not going to just be friends. That won’t work, it’s not enough.

It’ll have to be.

Cathy, knock it off. You’re working too hard. Let’s go to Paris this weekend -- on the Concord.

Night, Tom...

She kisses his cheek. He holds on to her momentarily...

I’m not going to let you slip away.
I won’t let that happen...

Good night...

She heads toward the building entrance. He climbs back into the limo and it pulls away...

As she is about to enter her building she suddenly stops, turns, looks around -- feeling a strange but familiar presence nearby... She shakes it off and moves on, into the building...
69 ANGLE • THE PARK, ACROSS THE STREET

MOVING IN on an area of dense foliage we DISTINGUISH VINCENT, hidden among the leaves, watching CATHY AND TOM, his heart in his throat...

CUT TO:

70 INT. ISAAC STUBBS’ STUDIO DAY

This scene is a “free-for-all”. CAMERA MOVES with Cathy and Isaac Stubbs as they grapple with each other -- kicking and clawing their way over the mats, careening off the walls... Isaac wears heavy pads and headgear. His objective is to subdue Cathy. Cathy may use all available means to stop him from doing so. She kicks, punches, claws and uses an assortment of impromptu weapons to prevent Isaac from getting a death grip on her. Isaac keeps coming at her, taunting her, pushing her to the limit and then beyond -- to the point where it becomes pure animal survival...

ISAAC

Alright, that’s it...

She doesn’t stop, she keeps tearing away at him, pumping adrenalin.

ISAAC

That’s enough!

She stops. She stands there, panting, with a startled look, shocked that she was capable of going that far over the edge, with such ferocity...

ISAAC

(smiling)

Was that you? Did you do that??

Cathy, gasping for breath, can only nod... And then she starts to laugh in exhilaration...

CUT TO:

71 INT. TUNNELS • NIGHT

Vincent, on all fours, moves down a low, narrow passageway... At the end of the passage is a small steel door...
Vincent puts his shoulder to the door and shoves it open. He scrambles through into a larger space strung with cables and wires. He looks up...

VINCENT’S POV - ELEVATOR SHAFT

An elevator comes hurtling down the 20-story shaft -- stopping four feet from Vincent’s head...

Vincent now quickly climbs a cable to a spot above the elevator car. As the car begins to rise, Vincent leaps onto its root and ascends with it...

CUT TO:

EXT. BUILDING - ROOFTOP NIGHT

Vincent emerges from the elevator shed on the roof of the building. The lights of Manhattan twinkle below... He walks along the parapet, at the edge of the roof. Then, reaching a spot, he leaps over the edge, disappearing...

CUT TO:

EXT. CAROL STABLER’S APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Cathy walks into the rundown apartment house.

CUT TO:

INT. CAROL STABLER’S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - EVENING

Cathy stands in the musty hallway of a shabby Chelsea apartment house. She knocks on a door -- waits -- then knocks again...

VOICE
(through the door)
Who is it?

CATHY
Carol...

VOICE
What do you want?

CATHY
My name’s Cathy Chandler. I’d like to talk to you...

(CONTINUED)
The door partially opens, still chain locked. Two frightened eyes stare out at Cathy. Through the space in the door we can see Carol Stabler’s face. She bears a strong resemblance to Cathy. Carol, apparently, was not slashed, but one side of her face seems dead, as if she suffered nerve damage from her beating.

CAROL
What’s this about? You a cop?

CATHY
I’m with the District Attorney’s office...

She hands Carol a card, through the door...

CAROL
(upset)
I told you people to leave me alone!
You caused me enough trouble...

CATHY
This isn’t official business...

CAROL
(angry)
Whatever it is, I got nothin’ to say.
You can put me in jail, I don’t care...

CATHY
(calmly)
Can I come in?

CAROL
No!

CATHY
Carol, you’re not the only one they hurt...

CAROL
What are you talkin’ about?

CATHY
They got you and me mixed up...

Cathy pulls back her hair, showing the scar along the side of her face...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
(indicating)
... Carol, I think this was meant for you.

Carol stands in the doorway, trembling, speechless...

CAROL
(shakes her head, starts to cry)
Go away...

Carol closes the door. We can HEAR her sobbing on the other side.

CATHY
(talking to her, through the door)
If you want to talk to somebody who knows how you feel -- call me. My home number’s on the back of the card...

Cathy stands there at the door, hearing the other woman weep, fighting back her own tears...

CUT TO:

75INT. CATHY’S APARTMENT NIGHT

Cathy comes into the bedroom in a nightgown. On her bed is a pile of legal briefs and case books. She slips under the covers, picks up a trial transcript and begins to read... She HEARS a strange sound. She looks around trying to identify it -- then, after a few beats, returns to her reading... She HEARS the sound again -- a CREAKING just outside her bedroom window...

She immediately turns off the light and gets a gun from the nightstand... Silently slipping out of bed, she edges along the wall to the window...

Just as she reaches the window, she spots a shadow moving outside on the fire escape. She throws open the window and takes aim...

CATHY
(yelling)
Hold it!
Hidden in the shadows, crouched in a corner of the creaky old fire escape, we see a large form and two burning eyes.

CATHY
Don’t move!!

Now she finds something resting on the window sill. It’s an old book -- it’s “Great Expectations.”

CATHY
Vincent...!

She rushes out on the fire escape and embraces him.

CATHY
(weeping for joy)
It’s really you...!

VINCENT
I didn’t mean to frighten you. I’m sorry... -

CATHY
No, no, I’m so happy to see you...

VINCENT
(looking at her)
Your face... (torn)
They fixed it...

CATHY
(awkward)
Yes... Come in...

VINCENT
(holding back)
No, I have to go, now...

CATHY
No, not yet...

VINCENT
I shouldn’t have come here...

CATHY
(overwhelmed)
I’m glad you did.

VINCENT
I wanted to see you. There are things I wanted to tell you...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
Me too. There are so many things I wanted to tell you...

VINCENT
I know...

CATHY
It’s been hard, Vincent...

VINCENT
Yes...

CATHY
I’m learning to be strong...

VINCENT
I know -- Catherine, I feel the things you’re feeling, when you do.

CATHY
(unsure)
I don’t know what...

VINCENT
You don’t have to say anything. Just know it’s true -- and that your pain is my pain. Sometimes almost as if we’re one...

She looks at him in wonder...

VINCENT
(painfully)
...But now, I have to begin to forget...

CATHY
...Forget me?

VINCENT
No... I’ll never forget you. But I must forget the dream of being part of you.

CATHY
(choked)
Vincent...

(CONTINUED)
VINCENT
I came here because I wanted to know that you were well -- and to see you one last time.

CATHY
I won’t see you again...

VINCENT
(quietly)
I’ve seen your world. There’s no place for me in it... I know what I am. Your world is filled with frightened people. And I remind them of what they’re most afraid of...

CATHY
(nods)
Their own ignorance...

VINCENT
(shakes his head)
...Their aloneness.

CATHY
(a long beat)
...Yes.

Silence...

VINCENT
The man -- your friend...

CATHY
Tom...?

VINCENT
(hesitant)
Do you love him?

CATHY
No -- I don’t love him.

VINCENT
(loving)
...Find someone to be part of, Catherine... Be happy... (backing away) Good-bye...

He starts to go...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

CATHY
(reaching out)
Wait... Not yet... There’s still time, it’s still dark... Don’t leave...

He turns back and looks at her, his firey beast-eyes full of tears...

CUT TO:

EXT. CATHY’S BUILDING - FIRE ESCAPE - TWILIGHT LONG SHOT

As night begins to fade and the sky goes purple, we SEE the silhouettes of two figures huddled on the fire escape. As we HEAR...

CATHY (V.O.)
(reading to Vincent)
‘... And as the morning mists had risen long ago when I first left the forge, so the evening mists were rising now, and in all the broad expanse of tranquil light they showed me, I saw no shadow of another parting from her.’

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy enters the central work area. As she moves to her cubicle she’s intercepted by a CLERK...

CLERK
Somebody’s waiting for you...

CATHY
Who?

CLERK
(shrugs)
Wouldn’t give her name.

Cathy approaches her cubicle and SEES Carol Stabler through the glass partition...

INT. CATHY’S CUBICLE

Cathy enters... Carol looks haggard and nervous. She sips coffee from a plastic cup...

CATHY
Carol... I sure didn’t expect to see you here.

CAROL
(awkward)
I couldn’t stop thinking about what they did to you. I couldn’t sleep... I think maybe I can help.

CATHY
That’s great! Tell me what happened...

CAROL
(taking a swallow)
... I was working for this escort service, it’s called Mayfair. They had a pretty good clientele. You know, businessmen from out of town...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
(carefully)
You’d go out with them.

CAROL
Yeah, to dinner or a play. Whatever happened after that is between you and him...

CATHY
Right...

CAROL
But Mayfair is run by this guy, Marty Belmont, who’s a real bad character, scary. He started using the service to shake down the businessmen. Sometimes the girls would carry tape recorders; sometimes Marty’d take, you know, embarrassing pictures...

CATHY
So it was blackmail, extortion...

CAROL
(nods)
...That’s what it was.

CATHY
How did you get into trouble?

CAROL
(tense)
They wanted me to set this guy up. I wouldn’t go for it. He was a sweet guy. I wouldn’t play along...
Belmont got it into his head that I was going to spill everything to the cops. He’s still worried... I’m just trying to get enough money to split New York...

CATHY
The men who attacked you, and me -- they were Belmont’s men?

CAROL
Had to be.

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
Let’s go through the mug shots. We’ll see if we can pool what we remember and pick out the guys who attacked us.

CUT TO:

CATHY
Let’s go through the mug shots. We’ll see if we can pool what we remember and pick out the guys who attacked us.

CUT TO:

INT. N.Y.P.D. COMPUTER DATA CENTER - DAY

Cathy and Carol sit with Edie at the computer terminal going through mug shots on the display screen.

INSERT . MUG SHOT OF MARTIN BELMONT
He’s a dark wiry man in his late 30’s.

CAROL
That’s Belmont. He’s a real sleaze...

CATHY
(to Edie)
Alright, let’s start looking for the stocky guy...

Edie starts punching in information...

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER DATA CENTER - LATER

They’ve been looking for the stocky guy and are getting fatigued and a bit punchy...

INSERT - MUG SHOT OF A SCAREY GUY

CATHY
No, no...

CAROL
Much too fat...

EDIE
Too fat... Okay...

She punches in the adjustments.
CATHY
He wasn’t bald...

CAROL
He had sort of short, fine hair.

Edie punches in more data...

CAROL
Holy Moly! What a weird lookin’ guy...

EDIE
(giggling)
This is starting to remind me of all my blind dates...

The women start to crack up. People at other terminals turn to see what’s going on...

CATHY
Come on girls, let’s pull it together...

EDIE
Yeah, we got a lot more mugs to face...

She punches up another series of mug shots.

CATHY
(a beat)
... That’s him!

CAROL
Yeah, it is. That’s him...

EDIE
Bingo...

CUT TO:

INT. D.A.’S OFFICE  CATHY’S CUBICLE • EARLY EVENING

Cathy’s talking on the phone. Through the glass partition we can see Carol Stabler waiting in the reception area, looking pensive...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
(into phone)
I want to set wheels in motion for an arrest and search warrant to be issued tomorrow morning...
(pause)
Martin Belmont — Mayfair Escort Service, 232 West 52nd...
(pause)
Fraud, extortion, aggravated assault -- for starters... (pause)
I’ve got the affidavit of a witness...
(pause)
Thanks Joel...

She hangs up.

FOLLOW as she walks out to Carol in the reception area.

CATHY
(approaching)
It’s all set. You’re not going back to your apartment...

CAROL
Where am I going?

CATHY
(handing her a slip of paper)
A friend of mine is renovating a brownstone in the Village. There’s not much in it, but it’ll be a lot safer. Someone’ll meet you with a key...

CAROL
What about all my stuff?

CATHY
We’ll pick up your things, tomorrow. I’ll bring whatever you need for tonight.

CAROL
(uncertain)
Okay...

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
(indicating Clerk)
Larry’ll give you a ride over. Call me as soon as you get there.

CAROL
-- I guess there’s no turning back, huh?

CATHY
(serious)
Carol, you’re sure you understand what the risks are? Don’t do it for me... Don’t do anything that doesn’t feel right.

CAROL
I’m doing it for me. I can’t live like this anymore. It’s the first time I’ve felt good about myself in a long time...

Cathy embraces her and the clerk escorts Carol to the elevator.

CUT TO:

INT. CRIMINAL JUSTICE BUILDING - LOBBY - LATE AFTERNOON

As Carol and the Clerk move through the lobby of the building, CAMERA HOLDS on a guy hanging around the newsstand. As he tosses away his heavy metal magazine, we SEE that his arm is covered with tatoos. It’s the Tatooed Punk... He follows Carol and the Clerk out of the building.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

EXT. TOWNHOUSE . GREENWICH VILLAGE - NIGHT

Cathy climbs out of a cab, her arms full of groceries. She ’hurries up the front steps of the townhouse which is under renovation. She rings the bell, gets no answer... She uses her key to open the door.
98 INT. TOWNHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Cathy enters the dark, empty townhouse. Upstairs, she can HEAR the sound of the T.V... She starts to call out, then stops herself. Everything is very still -- it doesn’t feel right. FOLLOW as she climbs the stairs...

99 INT. STEAM TUNNELS . FATHER’S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Vincent sits playing chess with his father. Suddenly his body stiffens...

CUT TO:

100 INT. TOWNHOUSE - SECOND FLOOR

She reaches the second floor landing and moves toward the bedroom...

THROUGH THE BEDROOM DOOR we can SEE the T.V. playing... MOVING CLOSER, by the light of the T.V., we can now SEE Carol Stabler -- sprawled on the floor, dead.

101 INT. BEDROOM

Cathy comes into the bedroom, kneels beside Carol’s body...

CATHY
(shaking her)
Carol...?
(listening for a heart beat)
Carol...

STOCKY GUY’S VOICE (O.S.)
Don’t bother, she’s dead...

Cathy looks up...

102 ANGLE - THE MEN

Standing in the shadows, against the bedroom wall, we FIND the Stocky Guy and Marty Belmont...

Now, blocking the doorway, we SEE the Tatooed Punk and the Driver...

MARTY BELMONT
...And so are you.

(CONTINUED)
60.

102 CONTINUED:

As they move on her, Cathy, still in a crouch grabs the base of a pole lamp, yanks the cord and throws the room into semi-darkness. She swings the pole at the legs of the guys blocking the bedroom door, catching them across the knees. She then dives through their legs, rolling into the hallway. --

CUT TO:

103 VINCENT

He’s dashing down a tunnel with incredible speed... -

CUT TO:

104 INT. TOWNHOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

Cathy crouches in an empty room on the second floor. Her attackers have her trapped, cut off from the stairs. We can HEAR their VOICES and FOOTSTEPS in the hallway, just outside the door...

DRIVER’S VOICE (O.S.)
(moaning)
My leg...

STOCKY GUY’S VOICE (O.S.)
Shut up...

She scans the room for a weapon -- picks up a piece of two-by-four... As she returns to her spot by the door she finds a steam pipe running up one corner of the room. In frustration and desperation she bangs on the pipe with the two-by-four...

CUT TO:

105 VINCENT

He’s at a fork in the tunnels. He hesitates -- and the BANGING starts ECHOING through one of the tunnels...

Vincent turns down the tunnel and reaches a place where it dead ends in a barricade of wood and concrete blocks. He madly tears into the barricade with the strength of ten men...
INT. TOWNHOUSE

Cathy remains trapped in the room on the second floor, the attackers just outside the door. She looks around for a route of escape. She moves to check the window... Suddenly we SEE the Tatooed Punk appear on the window ledge. He kicks in the window and jumps into the room. Before he can reach her, Cathy picks up a tarp and throws it over him. She smashes him with the two-by-four, staggering him -- and then shoves him out the window. The men in the hall are now breaking the door down...

CUT TO:

VINCENT

He lies on his stomach, gripping the roof of a subway car AS IT HURTLES THROUGH THE DARKNESS...

CUT TO:

CATHY

As the men break the door down, she climbs out on the window ledge and makes her way to the window of the adjoining bedroom. The room is empty. FOLLOW as she jumps into the bedroom and rushes through, into the hallway. The Stocky Guy and Belmont now come out of the next room and go after her...

CUT TO:

VINCENT

He’s on all fours, violently clawing his way through a narrow passage filled with debris...

CUT TO:

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM

As the Stocky Guy and Belmont move to corner her, she grabs a bottle of wine from the grocery bag. She brandishes it like a club, warding them off with animal intensity...

(CONTINUED)
As Belmont pulls his gun, Cathy hurls the bottle at him, striking him in the face. As Belmont reels, the Stocky Guy comes down on Cathy...

**ANGLE - ENTRY HALL**

The door to the basement suddenly bursts open in a shower of splinters, and Vincent comes crashing through, a wild, snarling, terrifying beast...

**REACTION SHOTS**

As the Stocky Guy and Belmont face their living nightmare... Cathy gasps, beside herself...

**VINCENT**

rips into Cathy’s attackers, tearing them to shreds, mauling them like rag dolls. His ferocity is something awesome and frightening. He doesn’t stop until there’s nothing left.

When it’s over, he looks up at Cathy -- it’s a look of exquisite vulnerability, almost shame...

**VINCENT**

(softly)

Come with me... Hurry...

He leads her to the basement...

**INT. BASEMENT**

The wall of the basement appears to have been broken through as if by a battering ram... Vincent leads her through this hole in the wall, into a passageway. -- and they disappear...

**CUT TO:**

**INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM • NIGHT**

Captain John Herman stands with several of his PATROLMEN, surveying the devastation in the townhouse...

**PATROLMAN**

Got any ideas?

(Continued)
CAPT. HERMAN
(shakes his head)
No...
(looks down at remains of Stocky Guy and Belmont)
These two look like they were mauled by a lion...

FOLLOW as Herman and his men MOVE THROUGH the splintered basement door, down the stairs...

CAPT. HERMAN
There are some pretty strange things going on in this city...

Herman now discovers the hole in the basement wall and the passageway...

CAPT. HERMAN
And, I hear, even stranger things going on underneath it...
(examining hole in wall)
I don’t know what happened here, but I’m going to find out.

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS

Vincent and Cathy stand in a cavernous chamber, at the foot of a long ladder. Light streams in from above...

CATHY
I owe you everything -- everything...

VINCENT
You owe me nothing -- I’m part of you, Catherine. Just as you’re part of me... Wherever you go, wherever I am... I’m with you...

Cathy gazes at him lovingly, this beautiful, noble beast-man...

VINCENT
(gently)
Good-bye...

(CONTINUED)
116 CONTINUED:

She puts her arms around him and rests her head on his chest...

    CATHY
    For now...

She then starts up the ladder... Half-way up she looks back to SEE...

    VINCENT
He disappears down the tunnel .. back into the darkness...

    CATHY
She turns now, looking up, and continues her climb .~ into the light...

    FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

    THE END
1st, it has 162.6K monthly views. Alternative. Beauty and the Beasts Comics. Author(s). Webnovel Comics. As a first-rate girl from the modern world (she’s even a quarter Russian) Bai Jingjing finds herself sitting at the center of a harem filled with beautiful men at the very peak of existence. Beauty and the Beasts Comics Status in COO : N/A Chapters (Completed) If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible. Thanks! Show more.