

Equinox

written by

Mario Lovatt Garcia

Salisbury, UK

FINAL SCRIPT

07936368603
mlovattgarcia@gmail.com

OPENING MONTAGE:

1. INT. STEPHANIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Weary from a long day, STEPHANIE walks past an empty picture frame resting against the wall to place her shoes neatly next to the stairs. She hangs her keys on their colour-coded hook, and hangs her coat. Above the Perch is a sticky label reading: RAINCOAT.

2. INT. STEPHANIE'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

She eats at the kitchen table, annotating one of the many identical photos surrounding her. They all depict the same view, but each photo has a notable imperfection. Some are scribbled out in their entirety.

3. EXT - FOREST PATH - MORNING

Stephanie stands at the fork of two paths in a forest, tracing her route onto a printed out section of a map. Satisfied, she leaves a strip of yellow tape on a tree beside the lesser taken path

4. EXT - HILLTOP CLEARING - AFTERNOON

Stephanie surveys the wide expanse of nature before her, compact digital camera in hand She looks through the viewfinder for a long time. She pockets the camera, leaving an 'X' in yellow tape on the ground.

5. INT. STEPHANIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

STEPHANIE crosses off the day on the calendar. Down the line the 21st of September is circled in red.

This process repeats again and again and again until the last day before the equinox is crossed off.

Below the calendar, on the shelf, is a worn photograph of a young woman on the hilltop clearing.

END MONTAGE

6. EXT. STEPHANIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Stephanie stands in front of her front door. At her feet, her backpack and tripod sit packed and ready.

(CONTINUED)

She tightens the strap on the backpack that holds the water bottle before pulling out a notepad from her pocket.

STEPHANIE

Camera, yep! Backpack, yep! Tripod,
yep! Water bottle, yep!

She sets off with a satisfied hum.

7. EXT. - CITY OUTSKIRTS- DAY

Stephanie cuts between suburban roads. She barely slows as she approaches the entrance to a country footpath. She peels off a piece of yellow tape that is stuck underneath the sign

8. EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY

Stephanie walks on a small path, surrounded by trees. She checks her watch, keeping up her brisk pace.

She crosses a bridge, peeling off a strip of yellow tape left on the post. Glancing up towards the sky, Stephanie continues her brisk pace, checking her watch yet again.

Her pace falters as she tackles a hillside path. Tripod hanging by her side, she braces her hands on her knees on a plateau to recover her breath. She finds herself looking at her watch. With a huff she continues.

She's nearing the top of the hill when the trees begin to become more sparse. SUDDENLY, WE HEAR -

WOMAN'S VOICE

(Shouting)

Is there someone there? Can you
help me?

MAYA, a jogger, lies crumpled, cradling her ankle. Her phone lies out of her reach down the slope.

MAYA

Please help me, I think I've broken
my ankle

Stephanie shuffles carefully down the slope. She picks up the phone, dusting off soil before passing it back.

STEPHANIE

Here you go. Must have been quite
the fall

Stephanie turns back uphill, stalking away.

(CONTINUED)

MAYA

Aren't you going to help me out?

Stephanie reluctantly offers out a hand, pulling her up to her feet. The sun's rays shine between the leaves, shifting. Stephanie checks her watch again, looking up the slope.

STEPHANIE

You think we can make it back up the hill?

MAYA

You're joking

Stephanie's still looking up the hill, determined.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ, you're not even joking! Why on god's green-

STEPHANIE

Look, you have no idea how inconvenient this is for me, I've been planning this day for-

MAYA

Inconvenient? Well allow me to just fix my ankle with the tap of a magic wand!

Stephanie clenches her fists. She takes a deep breath in, and drags both hands down her face with a defeated sigh

STEPHANIE

(miffed)

Shall we going then?

Stephanie awkwardly shuffles them so that they're side by side, Maya's weight leaning on her.

MAYA

You want me to carry the tripod for you?

STEPHANIE

Thanks

They shuffle slowly back the way Stephanie came.

9. EXT - FOREST PATH - DAY

The pair sluggishly traverse the forest, Stephanie looking around perplexed.

(CONTINUED)

MAYA

You have no idea where we're going
do you?

Stephanie stammers, embarrassed.

STEPHANIE

(huffy)

Well I've only walked one way
through here, it looks all
different, and I took down the tape
I put-

MAYA

(Amused)

Breathe ok? If we keep the sun
behind us we're bound to hit the
river at some point

Stephanie smiles sheepishly, looking down. Only after a long
stretch of hobbling does she speak again.

MAYA (CONT'D)

We never introduced ourselves
properly. What's your name?

STEPHANIE

Stephanie, or, well Steph if you
want

Maya hums in recognition.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

And yours?

MAYA

Maya

When she hears no response, she looks over at Stephanie

MAYA (CONT'D)

Aren't you gonna say it's nice to
meet me?

STEPHANIE

Err...

She notices Maya draw in a sharp breath

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, yeah it's a pleasure to meet
you. I think I see the stream up
ahead. Wanna stop there for a
drink?

(CONTINUED)

Maya nods gratefully, exhaling in a long, shaky breath.

10. EXT. RIVERSIDE PATH - GOLDEN HOUR

Stephanie drinks from her water bottle, leaning against a tree. Maya sits on a nearby tree stump, watching the water flow down the stream. Stephanie watches her, taking her camera out her case

STEPHANIE

Hey, feel free to say no, but can I take a photo of you?

Maya looks over at Stephanie, slightly stunned. she shifts, unsure before meeting Stephanie's gaze with a wry smile.

MAYA

All right, what do you want me to do?

Stephanie barely hesitates

STEPHANIE

Just how you were looking at the water earlier was perfect

Maya blushes, turning back to the water. Stephanie looks at her through the viewfinder, letting out a slow breath. All of the noise around her ceases for a moment, save for the snap of the shutter. She lets the camera hang by her side

MAYA

How does it look?

Maya chews on her lip self-consciously, her hands gripping the edges of the tree stump tightly.

STEPHANIE

Gorgeous

MAYA

You didn't even look at it!

They laugh together, enjoying their calm moment in nature. The moment is interrupted with a strange alarm tone ringing from Stephanie's phone.

11. EXT. HILLTOP CLEARING - GOLDEN HOUR

The alarm tone rings, and the hilltop is vacant. The light shifts, and the moment passes.

12. EXT. RIVERSIDE PATH - GOLDEN HOUR

MAYA

What's the alarm for?

Stephanie's turns her phone off, shaking her head.

STEPHANIE

Nothing important

Stephanie puts her camera back in its case, puts her backpack on and dusts off her trousers. She drags the tripod over to where Maya is sat and offers her hand.

Maya's able to walk independently, albeit with a pronounced limp. Neither of them lets go of their grip on the other's hand.

FIN