

The Sleeper

By

Tania Gonzalez

Based on Edgar Allan Poe's Poem "The Sleeper"

tg430@live.mdx.ac.uk

INT. BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Inside a dark wooden bedroom, lit primarily by small tungsten light on a rustic desk with a chair, stands the MAN, dark hair, clear eyes, black suit, facing the open window from which the wind & moonlight enters and lights him up. Very dim dust and air particles can be appreciated.

He's holding tightly a bended paper in his hand. He opens it and reads it silently.

He goes over a black sheeted bed, kneels and positions his hands in sign of a prayer.

Harsh moonlight directed towards him, dim fog emerges and surrounds him. Non-diegetic sounds of water drops.

ENTER - Extract from BLUE SCENE - Close ups of water drops falling from a woman's pale forehead, cheek and hand falling to the floor.

BACK TO SCENE 1 - Harsher vapour emerges behind the Man. He doesn't move from his position. Sounds of river flow. PAN TO:

EXT. FOREST/RIVER - CLOUDY MORNING

We see an idyllic, dreamlike forest with IRENE, curly ginger hair with white nightgown and flower (rosemary) headband, sleeping near a river. Lily lolls surrounding her. It's foggy yet her aura detaches brightness.

MAN (V.O)

Lady Bright...

Sounds of birds and nature. A subtle breeze can be heard. Irene remains intact in her sleep.

MAN (V.O)

A conscious slumber you seem to take

Wind on trees, grass, river, her dress.* We focus on the rosemary headband.

MAN (V.O)

And you would not for the world awake

ENTER - Extract from BLUE SCENE - Soaked rosemary headband and flowers on white sheeted bed.

BACK TO FOREST - Dim fog around her emerges.* We focus on her closed eyelids.

INT. BEDROOM - BLUE SCENE

Same focus on Irene's eyelids as Man slowly runs his hand across her face slightly moistened, as well as her hair and dress, no headband, laying on bed with open arms. Bed also slightly soggy. Fog dispersed. Man is sitting next to her on bed, observing her.

MALE

My love... You sleep so fitfully, so
fearfully

Sound of river/water ambience. Whispers emerge. We focus on Man's shadow on the wall. Two other shadows emerge on the wall, they start moving towards the bed.

There are two SPIRITS, tall with white nightgowns, white masks and damped hair, observing Irene sleep in each side of the bed. Man is still sit, unbothered by the Spirits, looking at her.

EXT. FOREST - CLOUDY MORNING

Same composition and distance among the characters in a wide view in the forest. Only Irene is now standing in the middle, flower crown on, still eyelids closed and Man behind her. All characters looking at her.

Track front to Irene, getting Spirits out of frame, Male gets closer from her back until reaching one of her ears.

MALE

Dear... have you no fears?

Wind echoing against trees. Close-ups of Irene's features/complexions with water drops running on them.

Water rapidly running on river.

Close up to Male's mouth.

MALE

What are you dreaming here?

Moment of silence. We get slowly further away from Irene as she stands and suddenly falls backwards. Flower crown falling off her hair.

INT. BEDROOM - BLUE SCENE

Irene falls on bed with wet hair, soaked flowers/nature on

her. Water dripping from bed and fog dispersed in the floor. Male observes her as drops fall from the distance. Spirits are positioned on the opposite side of the bed. They look at him. Man looks at them.

Spirits then look at her. They get slightly closer.

Close up of Male's face tearing up.

MALE
(whispering)
I pray to God...

Spirits looking at her closely. They look at each other between whispers.

SPIRIT 1
(whispering)
Let her sleep

SPIRIT 2
(whispering)
Let her rest

They both nod. One of them walks towards the other side of bed. Male steps back while staring at the scene without blinking.

MALE
I pray to God.. that she may lie
forever

Slow Tracking Close up of Irene's face. Suddenly Spirits' hands choking her. She opens her eyes wide. Sounds of echoing/under water scream.

MALE (V.O)
With unopened eyes.

INT. BEDROOM - DARK (GREY) SCENE

Man in prayer position next to black sheeted bed. Irene, black dress*, all dried, pale, closed pale mouth, in dead position, holding flowers, on bed.

MALE
May your sleep...

Panning through Irene's body to appreciate her pale skin

MALE (V.O)
As it is lasting...

Medium Close up of deceased woman's face.

MALE (V.O)
So be deep.

(Last Shot: Him praying in EMPTY black sheeted
bed)

THE END.