MUSAK

A screenplay
Written by

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Address
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1 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING **1**

A digital alarm clock blasts a piercing tone.

SLIDE TO:

2 SPLITSCREEN - INT. BOTH BEDROOMS - MORNING **2**

Left:

CLARK slams his hand around his bedside table searching for the snooze button. He knocks his half-drank glass of water in the process, spilling it onto the floor. He looks at the time with tired eyes which suddenly widen. He lurches out of bed in a shocked manner. The bed has ruffled sheets and a messy duvet.

Right:

Sebastian gently places his hand down onto the clock and he is lying peacefully in bed, staring at the ceiling, stretching ready for the day. His bed is neat and has a white duvet cover, all four corners are tucked in nicely.

CUT TO:

3 INT. CLARK'S ROOM - MORNING **3**

The alarm clock begins playing the radio as Clark gets ready. It is poor quality audio with lots of distortion. The room is a mess - crowded with papers and stationary, clothes still in a suitcase sit in the middle of the room. His hair is a mess and he is still in the clothes from the night before. As he steps out of bed, his foot squelches and we see the puddle of water he has spilt.

CLARK
(tired and frustrated)
URGH!

CUT TO:

4 INT. SEBASTIAN'S ROOM - MORNING **4**

Piano music begins from Sebastian's alarm clock with great audio quality. The room is tidy and organised. A clothes rail holds a neat array of smart/casual clothes. In the corner of the room, an electric piano keyboard stands with a roughed-up stool. Sheet music lays across the keyboard. Sebastian steps out of bed and stretches again elegantly in front of the morning glow outside.

CUT TO:

5 INTERCUT MONTAGES - MORNING ROUTINES - CONTINUOUS 5

MONTAGE BEGIN

Both characters brushing their teeth.

- *CLARK hastily brushes his teeth, splashing water everywhere.*
- *SEBASTIAN calmly brushes his teeth, everything tidy and orderly.*

Both characters making coffee.

- *CLARK makes a very rushed coffee - spilling milk, burning his hand on the water.*
- *SEBASTIAN prepares an instant coffee, enjoying the aroma.*

Both characters getting dressed.

- *CLARK throws on a suit, struggling with buttons and zippers.*
- *SEBASTIAN smoothly transitions from PJs to casual clothes, choosing a stylish yet comfortable outfit.*

Both characters exiting their rooms.

- Clark grabs his briefcase firmly on his way out
- Sebastian collects his music notes from the table as well as his Sony Walkman

MONTAGE END

CUT TO:

6 EXT. CLARK'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS 6

Clark opens the car door of his car, steps inside, and takes a sigh of relief. He closes his car door and the radio automatically starts playing at full volume, the shock of this causes him to spill his coffee.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SEB'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 7

Sebastian walks out calmly, taking in the morning air. He gets into his vintage car, starts it, and classical music plays softly from the radio. He smiles and drives away with calm, relaxed eyes and a loose grip on the steering wheel.

FADE TO BLACK.

8 EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING 8

A car door slamming, paired with distant street business and the sound of a phone waiting for an answer. Clark hastily walks down a busy city street, he is holding his phone in one hand and his briefcase in the other. As Clark is storming down the street, he is shouting at his phone, trying to get hold of his boss to let them know that he will be late.

CLARK
(Angrily, stressed)
Hello?! no, No N- don't put me on hol-. FUCK!

JUMP CUT TO:

CLARK
(Still very angry)
Yes! Hi sir, just wanted to tell you that I'-. Sorry, street musi-, so loud! hello? Hello? GAH-.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SEBASTIAN'S CAR - MORNING 9

Sebastian drives at a steady pace down an unpopulated road on his way to work. He is tapping the steering wheel and whistling along to the elevator music that he has put on the car aux. His coffee rests patiently in his cup holder.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING 10

Sebastian turns off car engine, grabs his coffee from the cup holder and music sheets from the passenger seat. He locks his car with vintage keys, turning the lock firmly.

He calmly walks on the same street that Clark previously walked down - the same street artist is playing some calm guitar music with an open guitar case populated with little coins and a few buttons.

Sebastian tosses in a £5 note.

SEBASTIAN
(Cheerily)
Hey man! Nice music, keep up the good work.

STREET ARTIST watches him place the tip in the guitar case, looks up in surprise. His previously slumped body language that he held whilst he played his battered guitar swiftly changes. His shoulders straighten, his eyebrows raise, his eyes gain in visibility and the corners of his mouth begin to turn positively...

CUT TO:

11 INT. ELEVATOR BUILDING - MINUTES LATER 11

A hand reaches for a double entrance door that is shiny with polished metal work and clean windows. The sound of cars outside fade as the door swings open.

SPLIT-SCREEN

Clark - LEFT

Sebastian - RIGHT

A mirrored location, The left side of the room is identical to the right, with an elevator in the centre of screen where the two shots meet.

Both characters walk towards the elevator, their walks however are different, Clark walks with a slant forwards and his head down, whilst Sebastian walks briskly, his head held high as he whistles his calming elevator music.

NOTE:

- As we see the two characters move closer towards the elevator on the two sides of the split screen, the camera tracks them, following their movement and subtly merging the two screens so that they appear to be still separated but it is revealed when Clark reaches over the his 'half' of the screen into Sebastian's 'half' to hit the button

As the two characters meet, both their arms reach out to click the button. Clark gets there first, clicks it repeatedly whilst checking the clock placed above the elevator.

CLARK

(under breath)
C’mon C’mon C’moooon. I’m late,
hurry up you damn
Machine!

END SPLIT SCREEN

Sebastian takes no notice of Clark's words, instead he calmly and patiently waits, tapping his fingers against his almost empty coffee cup.

DING

ELEVATOR VOICE OVER
(Mechanically)
Doors opening.

Clark squeezes in rapidly as soon as the doors open as if it will make the process faster. Sebastian steps in after him, with a slight upward curve to his lips.

ELEVATOR VOICE OVER
(Mechanically)
Doors closing.

Clark clicks his button to go up with force. Sebastian gently presses his floor - unfazed by Clark.

ELEVATOR VOICE OVER
Going Up.

A few seconds pass before the lights begin to flicker, the elevator shudders to a grinding halt and a large BOOM can be heard from within the structure. Seb and Clark stay in darkness for a few awkward seconds.

ELEVATOR VOICE OVER
(losing power)
Power offli-

Suddenly, the noise of old speakers plays in the corners of the room and the lights flicker on dimly. The backup power has come on. The music playing is stereotypical elevator music in the MUZAK genre. This music creates two different reactions in the room:

From Sebastian's perspective the music causes his eyes to lift. His face relaxes and his eyes look up longingly to the speakers. He closes his eyes and enjoys the serenity of the tune.

In contrast, Clark gains in frustration - his head flops to point towards the floor, his fists clenched. Clark's briefcase has been placed on the floor and he is lent towards the walls of the elevator, he looks up towards the speakers through furious, squinted eyes.

Clark taps his feet impatiently. His shiny black shoes glinting in the dark. Meanwhile, Sebastian begins to whistle slightly, quietly - enjoying the music and letting it calm him. Clark reacts to this. He is at the peak of his patience. His face boils to a radish-red tint, and his fists clench harder than before, his knuckles turning white.

CLARK
(At the peak of his temper)
SHUT THE HEL-

Sebastian looks deep into Clark's angered eyes. Clark halters while Sebastian quickly holds his hands slightly outstretched from his position and starts moving his fingers in time with the piano keys played in the music of the elevator. Clark is forced to stop and watch in confusion as Sebastian negates the anger that Clark had blanketed the elevator with.

A few awkward seconds pass.

FADE TO BLACK.

Audio Continues (overlapping):

Lights flickering fades into an electronic whir as the power of the elevator comes back online.

The doors can be heard opening with a mechanical pull

DING from the speakers.

The elevator piano music fades to a almost unnoticeable volume, but remains.

12 INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 12

Footsteps can be heard as they subtly fade in and papers rustle.

A few seconds of this go by

A door is opened, and all other noise is muted.

The footsteps return, but quieter, at a slower pace.

The footsteps stop as a chair gets scraped across the floor with an awful metallic sound. The clicks of a briefcase can be heard almost instantly after this.

FADE FROM BLACK:

Clark is sat on a cheep conference chair around a long table. He stares straight ahead, through the audience into a place behind us. A frosted glass panel backs him and other business workers are hastily walking around with papers in their hand.

The noise of shouting fades in and we hear Clark's boss shouting from within the room.

BOSS
(with tight lips and gritted teeth)
Are you EVEN listening?!

Clark looks up from his trance and looks towards the source of the shouting. He keeps an expressionless stare - his eyes remain relaxed, his lips straight and his eyebrows with a neutral slant. Clark looks to his briefcase that he had placed on the table and reaches inside. He pulls out a wad of paper that has clearly written on the front:

- RESIGNATION

He places it back down on the desk, clasps his briefcase, closing it calmly. Clark stands, ignoring the shouting that has yet again been muffled. At this point, all sounds are muffled except Clark's footsteps as he walks out the office. A Sony Walkman clearly rests on his belt as he walks out the room, down the corridor and towards the elevator. Clark reaches for the Walkman, places the headphones on and clicks play. As he does so, the sound of elevator piano music fades in.

FADE TO BLACK.

Piano music continues...

13 INT. SEBASTIAN'S ROOM - SAME TIME 13

Piano music becomes diagetic once more

Sebastian is sat at his piano placed in the corner of his bedroom. A single light emits from a metallic lampshade from behind the piano. Sebastian is playing the same music heard from the previous screen. His hands float elegantly over the keys as though he has played this a thousand times before.

FADE TO BLACK.

WORD COUNT - 1794