

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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TEASER

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

A variety of radiant flowering plants and pine trees fill the garden which surround an antique, two-story house. The landscaping is more elaborate than a Japanese-style garden, but it's just as meticulously cared for and gives off the same sanctuary-like atmosphere.

A YOUNG MAN'S two gloved hands push an empty, squeaking wheelbarrow. A slender WOMAN, dark hair, walks beside him. We don't see either of their faces.

WOMAN

This is your second semester in college, right?

She has an Italian accent.

YOUNG MAN

Yes.

WOMAN

So what made you decide to change your major from business to English?

YOUNG MAN

I didn't even wanna major in business. My parents pressured me into it. They want me to be like a stock broker or accountant like my dad. They know I hate math.

WOMAN

They probably just want to make sure you get a degree that you can do something with.

A beat.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Not that you can't do anything with an degree in English.

YOUNG MAN

I know, but I took a basic economics class last semester and I just couldn't stand it.

They slow down and stop. The Young Man legs go of the wheelbarrow and they work together to LIFT something HEAVY off the ground into it.

WOMAN

Well, it's good that you're in a program of study that you're actually interested in. You don't want to force yourself to do something that you're naturally adverse to.

As they go along we SEE signs of damage to the landscape: divots in otherwise pristine land and ruffled flower beds.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

But then again you don't want to graduate and find yourself asking, "What do I do now?"

They stop again and lift something else into the wheelbarrow. Based on their coordination and the strain it takes, it's the same kind of thing.

The Young Man pushes the wheelbarrow at a slower pace now.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Is it too heavy?

YOUNG MAN

It's okay.

WOMAN

Let's go to the basement.

We pass by a rose bush and three roses worth of petals are splattered below it.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Sorry, that came off a little harsh.

YOUNG MAN

No, it's okay.

They come up to a pair of cellar doors elevated at a slight angle off the ground. The Woman opens them both. Inside is a incline which leads to another door. She heads down and he follows her with the wheelbarrow.

WOMAN

English is a wonderful field of study.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I spent 10 years of my life studying it before becoming a English professor and I don't regret it. It is, fundamentally, the study of the human condition, and you walk away with a more enlightened world view.

She opens the second door and they go in.

INT. BASEMENT

The visceral SOUNDS of cleavers CHOPPING through flesh fill the room. The Woman and Young Man come in and we SEE them in full view. They're MONA VIOLA and SCOTT FIELDS.

SCOTT is 19, average height and build, okay looking but with not much style.

Also in full view is the wheelbarrow's contents: Two human corpses dressed in black, covert clothing.

We only get quick glimpses of what's going on but it's enough:

Bodies, some whole, some in pieces on butchers tables with blood dripping off the edges.

Workers wearing safety goggles and scrubs, each with a cleaver, chopping through the bone and sinew.

Scott watches wide-eyed, but composed.

Two WORKERS approach the wheelbarrow and take the bodies out.

MONA

(in Italian)

You're checking them first, right?

She's petite but with wiry strength and an indefatigable will in her eyes.

WORKERS

(in Italian)

Yes.

They heave the bodies on top of an empty table and begin stripping them.

Mona speaks to the whole room. Everyone immediately stops work.

WOMAN

(in Italian)

Make sure you check everywhere  
before dismembering them. They may  
have trackers lodged deep in their  
anal cavity.

A pair of workers at a table stare at the body they're  
working on then at each other, daunted by the implication.

Everyone begins to work again once she and Scott turn to  
leave.

EXT. GARDEN

Viola closes the basement's exterior doors.

VIOLA

You seem to handle carnage well.  
I'm impressed.

SCOTT

Thanks.

She takes the lead as Scott follows with the wheel barrow.

END TEASER