

The Missing Piece

Screenplay By
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Post Production Script

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FADE IN:

1 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING 1

CLOSE ANGLE

Chess board - pieces in play

Pan up to see, CHARLOTTE "CHARLIE" ELSTER, a vibrant young woman with fiery red hair, as she opens her freezer.

On her freezer door we see collections of newspaper clippings arranged almost like a jigsaw puzzle. There is a photo of Dysis, the headline reads: LOCAL WOMAN MISSING! "Dysis Froy Still Missing!"; "Hope Fades: Dysis Froy Search Called Off!"; etc.

She pulls out a tub of ice cream with the spoon sticking out of the top, and crosses to the kitchen island.

(SOUND: Phone Rings)

Charlie picks up the nearby cordless phone.

CHARLIE

Hello?

2 INT. MARNIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 2

MARNIE, a young attractive woman, is on the other end of the line. She slices vegetables as she talks. (*We cut back and forth between as needed during the phone conversation*).

MARNIE

Hey Charlie...it's Marnie. Turn on channel thirteen!

3 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 3

Charlie looks up to the TV across the room and searches for the remote control.

On the TV we see the three-way split-screen. The title card reads: "BREAKING NEWS"; on the other side of the screen is a photo of Dysis and another title: "DYSIS FROY'S CAR FOUND" with the photo of a yellow sports car somewhat hidden in amongst trees in a dense forest.

A photo of AUSTIN DE WINTER, a young handsome man, appears on the screen. Charlie turns up the volume.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...With the arrival of autumn, mother nature has revealed the dark secrets hidden in the woods."

Video footage cuts to: the crime scene

Charlie moves closer to the TV knocking the chess table. Carefully she resets certain pieces. During this action we see on the TV -

4 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 4

An evidence bag carrying coloured wrapping paper with a puzzle pattern flash across the screen - being passed over the police line. Charlie looks back at the TV as the image cuts to:

5 INT. POLICE BRIEFING ROOM -- DAY 5

A DETECTIVE ARBOGAAST stands behind a podium addressing the camera.

DETECTIVE

At present Dysis Froy's body has not yet been found. However, we do know that Dysis did drive up here to Austin de Winter's cottage on the day she went missing. We discovered a fair amount of blood inside her car and are now treating the case as a homicide.

REPORTER #2 (O.S.)

Is it Miss Froy's blood?

DETECTIVE

We will have to wait for the results from the lab.

REPORTER #3 (O.S.)

So the bloody car was definitely found on Mr. De Winter's property?

DETECTIVE

Yes, it was.

6 EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT -- NIGHT 6

Austin is seen in the back of a police car. Flashes from still cameras illuminate the scene.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Earlier today Austin de Winter was brought in by police for questioning. He was later released.

7 INT. POLICE STATION LOBBY - DAY 7

As Austin and his LAWYER, descend the stairs a barrage of questions are hurled at once. The lawyer address the microphones.

LAWYER

Mr. de Winter has not been charged and is co-operating fully with the
(MORE)

LAWYER (CONT'D)
police investigation of his friend
and colleague and hopes that she is
found safe and sound.

REPORTER #4 (O.S.)
Austin how long have you been
romantically involved with Dysis?

LAWYER
We have no comment at this time.

REPORTER #5 (O.S.)
Why didn't you come forward earlier...

LAWYER
No comment.

The reporters continue to shout question as a police officer
escorts them off.

8 EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT -- MOMENTS LATER 8

A reporter stands out front addressing the camera.

REPORTER
We'll keep you posted of any breaks
in the story. For Channel 13 news
this is Ella B. Jeffries reporting
from sixty-six division...

The camera pans to the missing poster of Dysis.

9 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 9

She turns off the TV.

MARNIE
(from the phone)
Can you believe it? Guess it goes
to show you can work with someone
for years and never know they're a
murderer.

CHARLIE
Dysis could still be alive.

MARNIE
I'm sorry Charlie. I didn't mean to
say...

CHARLIE
I know. I'm just a little unnerved.

MARNIE
Did you know Dysis was seeing Austin?

CHARLIE

(pause)

Yes.

MARNIE

Why didn't you tell anyone?

CHARLIE

I didn't think it was important. I didn't know she went up that weekend.

MARNIE

I thought she told you everything.

CHARLIE

(hesitates)

We had a fight...

MARNIE

You and Dysis. That's hard to believe.

CHARLIE

It was just before I left for L.A. It was really stupid and petty and I told her that I never wanted to see her again.

MARNIE

Oh Charlie...I'm so sorry... but it wasn't...

CHARLIE

I know. Look, do you mind if we talk about something else?

Charlie gets up and starts to walk back towards her ice cream.

MARNIE

Um... You wouldn't happen to have the file on the Sindalovsky Ad. Campaign would you?

CHARLIE

Yes, I think I grabbed it with some other files.

Charlie crosses from the kitchen into the dining room area.

10 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

10

On the dining room table are several portfolios, mock-ups of different Ad. And a stack of file folders. On a nearby chair is a large attaché case.

CHARLIE (CONT'D.)

Hold on I have it here...

She looks into the attaché case.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What the hell?

MARNIE
It's not there.

CHARLIE
No it's here.

Charlie pulls out a box wrapped in the same brightly coloured wrapping paper with a puzzle pattern from the crime scene.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
But someone stashed a gift in my
attaché case.

MARNIE
Is it your birthday?

CHARLIE
No... actually yes it is, but I
haven't told anybody.

MARNIE
Well, why don't we meet at the Octopus
Lounge tonight? Celebrate your
birthday and toast life.

Charlie glances at the newspaper clippings on the fridge.

CHARLIE
Maybe you're right... Maybe I should
get out of the house.

11 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

11

Charlie crosses back into the kitchen and sets the gift on the counter.

NEW ANGLE

The gift is in the foreground. Charlie is in the b.g.

She puts the ice cream (with the spoon still stuck in it) back into the freezer.

MARNIE
Okay. Let's meet at there around
eight...

CHARLIE
See ya then.

MARNIE
Bye.

CHARLIE
Bye.

Charlie clicks off the phone, looks at the gift for a moment, and then leaves the kitchen. The package sits... waiting...

Charlie marches back in, picks up the package and eagerly unwraps it as quickly as she can.

It is a reflective puzzle box with a gold jigsaw puzzle piece logo with 500 Pieces labeled on it.

Charlie sets down the puzzle and it picks up the reflection of Dysis from the nearby photo.

Suddenly the reflection of 'Dysis' turns and watches Charlie leave.

12 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS 12

Charlie places the cordless phone back in the cradle on the front hall table. She turns towards the kitchen.

From her POV she sees the reflection of Dysis looking at her from the reflective surface of the Puzzle box.

13 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- LATER 13

RAPID CUTAWAYS:

Coffee pot set to brew...

The puzzle mat unrolled on the island...

Pouring the coffee...

Charlie cuts open the bag and pours the puzzle pieces onto the mat and begins to sort. Separating the pieces by colour.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

14 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- LATER 14

Charlie is efficiently sorting the pieces, turning each one image side up. She groups the yellow pieces together. The yellow matches the yellow of her kitchen walls.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

The entire frame of the puzzle is complete. Charlie is puzzle-building machine as she methodically pieces sections together that seem to fit.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

15 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- LATER 15

Charlie continues to piece sections together, almost in a hypnotic trance. She pieces together a coffee cup.

Charlie takes a swig from her mug which is identical.

16 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- LATER

16

Charlie pieces together a section that shows a blue puzzle clock with the time 8:05 on it.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The same clock is behind Charlie with the time 2:35 on it.

DISSOLVE TO:

The time on the clock changes to 3:25.

Charlie places some pieces into the puzzle.

CLOSE ON SECTION:

In the puzzle we see the mirror on the wall. In the reflection is the front door which appears to be open. As the pieces are set we hear:

(SOUND: Door creaking)

ANGLE ON MIRROR

In the same mirror behind Charlie we see the reflection of the door closed. It suddenly opens on its own.

CHARLIE

(stops)

Hello?

She gets up and walks into the front hall.

17 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

17

The front door is slightly ajar. She looks outside and seeing no one, she carefully closes the door.

(SOUND: glass breaking)

She turns back to her empty house. Nobody there.

The stairway leading up looks ominous, as does the hallway leading back to the kitchen.

She strains to listen for any other movement.

(SOUND: Phone Rings)

Charlie nearly jumps out of her skin.

CHARLIE

(answering the phone)

Hello?

AUSTIN

Hey Charlie.

CHARLIE
(coldly)
Mr. de Winter.

18 INT. AUSTIN'S OFFICE -- DAY

18

Austin sits at his desk in his office. A stack of mail sits in front of him. *(As before we cut back during the conversation as needed).*

AUSTIN
I guess you've seen the news.

CHARLIE
Did Dysis come up to your cottage on the long weekend?

AUSTIN
Yes. But when she left she was very much alive.

CHARLIE
Why didn't you tell the police?

AUSTIN
I just figured she'd turn up. Then after some time passed it was harder to come forward without...listen, you gotta believe I had nothing to do with her disappearance... you know how I felt about her.

CHARLIE
I do.

AUSTIN
Thanks! It's nice to know someone doesn't think I'm a "psycho". Which is actually why I called. Can I stop by tonight? Around eight?

CHARLIE
Tonight?

AUSTIN
I hate to dump work on you on a Saturday but I need you to take over the Hastings & Speck pitch for Monday.

CHARLIE
You're afraid we'll lose the account.

AUSTIN
Well... they won't want their family friendly products represented by Jack the Ripper.

Opens an envelope with his finger - reacts to a paper cut.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Ow...Shhi...

CHARLIE

What?

AUSTIN

It's nothing... just a paper cut.
Can I stop by tonight? Around eight?
Give you a quick run down. You're
the only one I can trust.

(SOUND: Call Waiting beep)

19 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

19

CHARLIE

Hold on I have another call.
(clicks over)
Hello?

MARNIE

(from the phone)

Hey Charlie, don't forget to bring
the Sindalovsky file tonight.

Charlie starts to walk into the dining room.

CHARLIE

Damn... I'm going to be late. Austin's
on the other line, he wants me to
take over the Hastings & Speck
account.

20 INT. MARNIE'S HOME OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

20

Diploma's decorate the blood red wall behind her.

MARNIE

That's not fair. You're already
overworked from taking over the all
the client's that Dysis had. Wait...
You're inviting a murderer into your
house?

CHARLIE

Austin would never hurt Dysis.

MARNIE

Who else could it be? Who else knew
she was going up there? Remember
how Austin always brags there's no
one else for miles around...

CHARLIE

Ok. If you're trying to scare me -
it's working.

21 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

21

MARNIE

I don't think it's safe. Why don't you get him to meet you at the pub where it's public.

CHARLIE

Then he's going to think I don't trust him.

Charlie crosses to the front hall to set down the file by the door.

MARNIE

Better than being dead.

CHARLIE

I'll try to get him to join us.
(clicks over)
Sorry about that Austin...

AUSTIN

(from the phone)
I have to take another call. I'll be by at eight p.m. sharp. Thanks Charlie.

CHARLIE

But...

(SOUND DIAL TONE - phone clicks over)

MARNIE

(from phone)
Hello?

CHARLIE

Hello?

MARNIE

Hello?

Charlie crosses to the kitchen.

CHARLIE

I'm going to be late.

22 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

22

MARNIE

Why? What happened? What did he say?

CHARLIE

He's coming here at eight...

Charlie stops as she notices some puzzle pieces forming a clock face reading: Five after eight.

MARNIE

How did that happen?

She looks up at her own clock in the kitchen: it's the same clock except the time is half-past three.

She looks at the window and then back to the puzzle it's the same.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

Charlie?

Charlie is no longer aware of the phone to her ear as she groups puzzle pieces forming a bloody dagger with an ornate handle sticking out of a female chest.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

Charlie? Charlie are you still there?

CHARLIE

Can I call you back later?

MARNIE

Okay but if I don't hear from you by nine - I'm calling 911.

CHARLIE

(not listening)

Sounds great!

MARNIE

Bye!

Marnie hangs up the phone.

(SOUND: Dial tone)

CHARLIE

Bye.

She sets the phone down on the table as she glances back down at the puzzle pieces. She compares the chess board to her own - the same. She looks back down at the puzzle. Suddenly-

She grabs a piece and looks at it for a moment. She looks around for another and connects it to the first. She quickly searches for another and finds something. Her hand trembles as she connects them together.

CLOSE UP:

Several puzzle pieces connected together has formed Charlie's own face staring back at her with horror.

In the puzzle pieces, a hand is resting on Charlie's shoulder - suddenly in the puzzle the hand squeezes her shoulder.

Charlie recoils as if she felt it, she shrieks as she spins around to find - nothing there. Just the poster of Dysis. She turns her attention back to the puzzle. She is about to fold the mat in half.

VOICE

(whispers)

No.

Charlie stops. Then continues the movement. A single piece drops to the floor.

23 INT. CHARLIE'S GARAGE -- LATER

23

The puzzle box is now in a clear plastic bag with the puzzle wrapping paper. She opens the lid of the garbage can and throws it in.

In the rear-view mirror we see someone's eyes watching Charlie (they're in the driver's seat)

(SOUND: There is a faint knocking sound coming from the can)

Charlie reacts to the sound.

Charlie feeling that someone's watching her looks at her car. It's empty.

(SOUND: There is still a faint knocking sound coming from the can)

24 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

24

She reenters from the garage and walks to the kitchen.

FLASH INSERT:

The puzzle pieces of the kitchen then of the chess board pieces.

The chess pieces are not in the same place. Charlie moves a chess piece... she looks up. The front door is open again.

25 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

25

Charlie locks the front door.

(SOUND: The Phone Rings)

CHARLIE

(answering)

Hello?

(SOUND: There is a faint knocking sound coming from the receiver - like someone in a metal can)

Charlie glances back towards the kitchen and then quickly hangs the phone up. She stares at it for a moment.

(SOUND: The Phone Rings)

Charlie pulls the phone cord out of the wall jack.

26 INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

26

Charlie emerges from the bathroom, wearing a large towel. She walks slowly to the mirrored cabinet, and stops to see the glass trophy has fallen onto the rug. A piece has broken off of it.

She picks it up the broken piece and places it on the shelf next to a photo of her and Dysis Froy wearing T-Shirts that read "Jigsaw Puzzle Champions" and they are both proudly holding up a crystal puzzle trophy.

Charlie turns and notices her mini-photo album on the floor. She picks it up and starts to flip through it.

ANGLE ON PHOTO

It is of Dysis and Charlie as kids, then photos of the two of them at a party.

Then another in Charlie's kitchen, and Dysis is holding the coffee mug.

FLASH INSERT:

Puzzle pieces with the coffee mug.

Charlie tries to shake off the image as she looks at the next picture.

FLASH INSERT:

Puzzle pieces of her with the hand on her shoulder.

Charlie stops and glances at the pictures of her and Dysis; then to the framed photo of the two of them. In each one, Dysis is resting her hand on Charlie's shoulder.

Suddenly Charlie freezes. She nervously examines photo. It is of Dysis and Austin taken at the Octopus Lounge. Austin is posing with a letter opener with an ornate handle.

FLASH INSERT:

Puzzle pieces of the dagger with the ornate handle sticking out of a female chest.

The next picture is of Dysis and Austin clowning for the camera as Austin mocks that he's about stab Dysis.

Charlie looks up at the mirror. She sees Dysis in the reflection; she's standing behind Charlie, her hand about to rest on her shoulder and Dysis has the letter opener embedded in her chest!

Charlie turns to look behind her. There is no one there.
She grabs a negligee off the bed.

FADE OUT:

27 INT. CHARLIE'S GARAGE -- LATER 27

BLACKNESS - Light spills into frame as the lid is lifted off. (*We are in the garbage can*). Charlie reaches in and her hands takes us to black.

CUT TO:

28 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- LATER 28

From inside the puzzle box we spill out of darkness with the rest of the puzzle pieces.

The jigsaw mat is unrolled and the pieces are scattered all around the table with the phone nearby. All papers and portfolios have been cleared away.

Charlie pieces the outer frame. The colour is no longer yellow but deep rose pink as found on the walls of the dining room.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

29 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- LATER 29

Charlie quickly and methodically pieces sections together. The puzzle-grandfather clock is visible - the clock reading: Five after eight. Charlie turns to look at the same clock: Six o'clock.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

30 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- NIGHT 30

It is dark outside the window as she pieces another section together. It is of Charlie, in her negligee. Charlie notices this, takes a deep breath and continues to sort pieces.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE:

31 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- LATER 31

The puzzle is almost complete - save for one piece. In the puzzle the window behind her is incomplete. She glances around for the missing piece. She rises and goes to the kitchen.

32 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS 32

She looks around and finds the stray piece on the floor. She looks at the piece - it is solid black.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CHARLIE'S DINING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

33

PUZZLE'S POV - Charlie holds the missing piece in frame.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Charlie sets the last piece into the 'window' section of the puzzle. It changes colour to match the puzzle.

(SOUND: The chimes)

It's 8:00.

Suddenly something moves window behind her. Charlie glances to the window - too late. She faces front and sees the empty window in front of her.

Charlie glances back to the puzzle.

There, in the puzzle, is reflective puzzle-box on the corner of the table. The box reflects the front hall door. In the puzzle a silhouette of a figure appears behind the stained glass. Charlie looks up.

CHARLIE'S POV

Through the front window she sees the silhouette of a figure standing in front of the house.

Charlie reaches for the phone. Charlie dials and listens then looks back at her phone. It's dead.

Then she looks at the front hall to see the phone line still pulled out of the jack.

CHARLIE

Crap!

She looks down at the puzzle. The handle in the door starts to jiggle. Charlie quickly rolls up the puzzle mat and darts with it to the front hall racing for the phone jack.

34 INT. CHARLIE'S FRONT HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

34

(SOUND: knock on the door)

Charlie freezes - a silhouette of a figure is behind the glass of the front door. The real handle on the front door starts to jiggle violently.

Charlie backs up the stairs, drops the phone and dashes up to the master bedroom.

35 INT. CHARLIE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

35

Charlie sets the puzzle mat onto the bed as she reaches for the phone on the far night stand. The clock reads 8:01.

The mat unrolls itself as Charlie dials '9-1-1'.

911 OPERATOR
(from the phone)
9-1-1. What is the emergency?

CHARLIE
(into the phone)
I need help right away! Someone is
trying to break into my house! I
live at 1760 Spilsbury Lane -

Charlie notices the puzzle on the bed changes from the dining room to the bedroom looking down at the front door. In the puzzle, the front door opens.

911 OPERATOR
(from the phone)
Ma'am is the intruder in the house?

CHARLIE
He will be...any minute.

She drops the phone receiver as she races for the bedroom's double doors.

911 OPERATOR
Hello? Ma'am? Are you still on the
line?

Charlie looks down the stairs. The front door is unlocking.

Charlie turns back and scans the room and notices the broken crystal puzzle trophy on the shelf. She rushes to pick up the small knife-like piece.

(SOUND: Footsteps coming up the stairs)

Charlie positions herself behind the corner - next to the TV cabinet. She hears the footsteps stop at the stair.

The door handle turns. Charlie positions herself ready to strike the intruder... It's Marnie.

MARNIE
Charlie?!

CHARLIE
Holy crap! Am I glad to see you...I
was getting freaked out about this...

DYSIS' VOICE
(whispers)
No.

Charlie looks down at the puzzle. The image is the same as it is in real life. Charlie next to the bed, and Marnie standing close by. However, in the puzzle Dysis is visible in the cabinet mirror next to the door.

MARNIE

I was worried about you. Where's Austin?

CHARLIE

How did you get in here?

MARNIE

You gave me a key to check your mail, water your plants while you were in L.A. Remember?

Charlie looks over at the real mirror and sees Dysis there with the dagger in her chest. She looks over to where Dysis should be standing...no one there. She looks back at the mirror. The letter opener is sticking out of her purse. Marnie takes a step forward. Charlie raises the trophy again.

CHARLIE

Don't take another step.

MARNIE

What?! What are you doing?

CHARLIE

Marnie, drop the knife.

MARNIE

Knife?

CHARLIE

The knife that you're carrying in your purse!

MARNIE

(reveals the knife)

Oh this... *it's just something that I carry around to make me feel safer...*

She pulls her purse and pulls out an ornate letter opener.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

...with all that's going on. When you didn't answer the door I thought...

CHARLIE

(sudden realization)

That's Austin's letter open...Oh my god! You killed Dysis.

MARNIE

What?!

CHARLIE

The puzzle...it's.. You are the killer.

Marnie slowly moves towards Charlie.

MARNIE
Charlie. You sound crazy.

CHARLIE
Don't come any closer.

MARNIE
Look I'll put the knife down here on
the bed. Very calmly...very slowly...

She turns the knife in a non-threatening way and starts to set the knife down on the bed.

DYSIS' VOICE
Liar!

MARNIE
What did you say?

DYSIS' VOICE
Liar!

The second time, Marnie realizes that Charlie is not talking. Marnie looks down at the puzzle in front of her.

The puzzle is an exact representation of the scene and where Charlie and Marnie are standing in relation to each other.

Marnie recoils in shock. In the puzzle the ghostly image of Dysis is visible in the mirror behind her.

MARNIE
What the hell is this?! What are
you trying to pull here? Is this
something you've cooked up to blame
me?

CHARLIE
What!

MARNIE
Or is this your sad little attempt
to try to steal Austin away for
yourself?

CHARLIE
What are you talking about?

MARNIE
What did you think airbrushing this
little puzzle would accomplish?

Charlie finds herself backed into the corner.

CHARLIE
I didn't do anything.

MARNIE

Sure you didn't! You flutter in with
Dysis and flaunt your looks

Marnie unsheathes the knife.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

And take my accounts...

CHARLIE

What?

MARNIE

Don't play innocent with me. Look
at what you're wearing. That's not
the appropriate dress code to discuss
business with the boss.

CHARLIE

I just grabbed the first thing...

MARNIE

Shut up! I'm sick of your lies! I
won't let you steal my man again.

CHARLIE

Your man?

MARNIE

Austin was interested in me before
you and Annabella appeared.

CHARLIE

Who's Annabella?

MARNIE

(reacting)

I said Dysis. You're trying to
confuse me.

Marnie lunges towards Charlie. Charlie escapes by jumping
onto the bed. Marnie grabs her ankles Charlie falls onto the
bed. Marnie grabs Charlie's hair and places the knife at
Charlie's face.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

...you're very pretty. But you know
that don't you. I hate your face!

Marnie prepares to plunge the knife into Charlie.

ANNABELLA (O.S.)

Marnie!

Marnie looks where the voice came from and sees the puzzle.
Now ANNABELLA, another dead girl in a prom dress, is visible
in the puzzle.

MARNIE

Annabella?

Dysis suddenly appears in the puzzle next to Annabella - holding the puzzle trophy. Marnie looks to area and finds no one but the crystal trophy on the carpet - broken piece up.

Charlie takes this moment to throw Marnie off balance. Marnie tries to stab Charlie, who rolls out of the way and uses her foot to kick Marnie backwards off of the bed.

The broken trophy sits waiting behind her.

RAPID SHOTS

Marnie stumbles backwards, falling out of frame, pulling the puzzle mat off of the bed.

Blood hits the wall.

Puzzle pieces hit the carpet.

The clock changes to 8:05.

Charlie recoils in horror as she sees what happened to Marnie.

Marnie's hand tries to grip the knife...the puzzle pieces next to her hand shows Marnie's face as she dies. Her hand goes limp.

The phone receiver listens...

The image of Marnie's dead face on puzzle pieces fade away to solid black pieces.

(SOUND: Police sirens approaching)

FADE TO BLACK:

36 INT. MARNIE'S HOME OFFICE -- DAY

36

Black

Suddenly a part of the black is pulled away and we see the Detective Arbogaast looking down at us.

We hear in the background:

POLICE 2

Where's Forensics?

POLICE 1

Done. Dusted and the ID Tech photographed everything.

POLICE 2

Where's Arbogasst?

POLICE 1

In Marine's office. Examining her..."hobby." Doesn't want to be disturbed.

Arbogaast looks at dozens of surveillance photos of Austin spread all over Marine's desk.

POLICE 3

Found this in the recycling... I'm going to take it to the lab for processing...

POLICE 1

Can we get something for comparison?

RADIO VOICE

We got a confirmation that Mr. De Winter called a tow truck because of a flat tire. We're taking a forensic team to examine the slashes in the tires.

POLICE 1

Copy. I'll let Arbogaast know.

During the conversation Arbogaast pulls back the missing poster of Dysis and finds another missing poster of another girl - Annabella Smith.

Arbogaast clears away the photos and finds faded newspaper clippings about Annabella Smith's disappearance.

On many of the newspaper clippings are pictures Annabella and DRAKE a young teenage boy. "Prom Queen Missing. Prom King a Suspect"

On one clipping is a photo of a young Marine with the headline reading "Student comes forward to testify."

There are other faded yellowing newspapers with the same photos of Annabella and Drake. "Murder! Prom King Kills Queen!"; "Drake Balestrero: Too Drunk To Remember"; "Guilty! Twenty-Five Years!"

Close up on the graduation photo of Drake under the "Guilty" headline. The face begins to age.

37 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- DAY

37

CLOSE UP:

Photo of Drake 15 years later. The headline reads "Wrong Man Finally Free! 15 years for a crime he didn't commit"

Charlie is sitting at the island looking at the headline. Austin is seated next to her. The detective stands across from them.

MARNIE (V.O.)
(echoed from the past)
Guess it goes to show you can work
with someone for years and never
know they're a murderer.

DETECTIVE
(to Charlie)
Forensics confirmed she used the
letter opener to puncture the tire
on Mr. de Winter's car and most likely
came here with the intention killing
you.

AUSTIN
And I would have been blamed for
that too. Now, what happens to
Charlie?

DETECTIVE
Nothing. The medical examiner
confirmed that Marnie's death was
accidental.

The Detective rises to leave.

CHARLIE
You said on the phone that you found
out how Marnie knew that Dysis was
going to be at Austin's cottage.

The Detective reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out an
"Evidence Bag" with a letter inside.

DETECTIVE
We found this letter in Marnie's
home office. We I.D.'ed it as Miss
Froy's handwriting. Marnie must
have intercepted it while you were
in L.A.

Charlie takes the bag and stares at it for a moment.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)
(to Austin)
Mr. de Winter, I'd like to get a
statement from you. Can we go to
the next room while...?

AUSTIN
(understanding)
Yes...of course.

The two men walk into the next room. Charlie opens the
letter.

DYSIS (V.O.)

"Hey Charlie, Just wanted to drop a line before I took off for the long weekend.

DISSOLVE IN:

38 INT. DYSIS'S LOFT -- CONTINUOUS

38

The image of Dysis in her loft writing the letter to Charlie. On her counter is the box with the multicoloured puzzle wrapping paper as well as similar photos as what Charlie had and a picture of her and Austin.

DYSIS (V.O.)

I'm sorry I over reacted. You know I didn't mean to say those things about Marnie. I know she's your friend too and I respect that. Anyhow, we've been friends for too long to let these petty arguments get in the way.

Dysis glances up a photo of the two of them on her coffee mug. We dissolve to a series of photos of the two of them.

DYSIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Call my cell when you get this letter, I'll be staying with Austin at his cottage this week; we can have one of our famous all-night chats or I can drive back early and we finally finish that chess game. I just wanted you to know that no matter what happens - I will always be there for you. Your friend forever, Dysis"

Dysis looks up as she finishes her line...

In the slow dissolve it is as if she's looking right at Charlie.

39 INT. CHARLIE'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

39

Charlie looks up, an illusion of a momentary eye contact as Dysis fades.

Charlie breaks down we see the unfinished chess game in the foreground...a framed photo of Dysis is placed at the one end... the pieces are still waiting for the next move.

FADE TO BLACK

END CREDITS ROLL