

Teal Optical
by
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ACT I - Setup (The Death of Sister)

EXT. CITY - DAY (TITLE SEQUENCE)

HARD CUT TO:

Open with deep static shots of layers upon layers of metal cars. Material world. Lots of busy, nonsensical movement suggesting congestion, traffic, stress.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY - DAY

Teal, our main character, a young, naturally beautiful, college-aged female, walks along the streets of downtown USA. Camera's POV is always public access (street cams, passerbyers across the street, security cams) suggesting the impersonal.

Teal is obviously wondering, undetermined on a destination. She looks as if she just dropped in from somewhere and doesn't know where exactly to go.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY - DAY

Teal walks up to a young professional male who is waiting on the bus. He is dressed in coat and tie. They make eye contact. Teal walks up to him in disbelief and wonder. She begins to speak.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY

Two middle-aged women are sitting at a table with strewn paper, PDA's, folders, etcetera. They are frantically planning for an 'important' event: one of their daughter's sixth birthday party. Stressed and overly busy (maybe a bit exaggerated),

JANET

Oh, I talked with the caterer-

SALLY'S MOTHER

Betsy's Bakery or the Green Bean?

JANET

Betsy's: a no go. Green Bean
quoted over a hundred.

SALLY'S MOTHER

A hundred? Does that include
buttercream icing or is that extra?

JANET
No, but they can't do assorted mint
sprinkles.

SALLY'S MOTHER
Can they do chocolate sprinkles?

Janet looks down.

JANET
Light or dark?

SALLY'S MOTHER
Dark, of course.

JANET
Well, that's an extra ten. We'll
have to find a cheaper pinata,
or...-

SALLY'S MOTHER
Alright, we'll do half and half and
make up the cost with... (thinking)
The Monogrammed napkins!

Janet computes.

JANET
No. Still too much, we have to get
rid of something else.

Clicking of PDA.

JANET (CONT'D)
We could cut out the donkey.

A beat. Sally's mother quickly looks up with vigor.

SALLY'S MOTHER
We can't cut out the donkey!

Janet looks up... Thinking, "are you serious?"

SALLY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
Sally can't have a party without
it.

A humorous beat.

EXT. STORE FRONT - DAY

Janet is walking with briefcase down sidewalk, talking on the phone. She is stressed out about the donkey with someone on the other end.

Camera tracks as she walks frantically then stops to reveal Teal sitting on the sidewalk as Janet walks out of frame.

Teal is waiting for someone.

A young female walks out of the store behind her. This is Teal's little sister, Kate. Teal stands and takes one of her bags as they walk together back home.

Kate puts one hand in a bag and holds it.

KATE

I got you a surprise. (smiles)

EXT. - CITY - DAY

Shots of traffic, city life, highways, parking lots, etcetera.

Voice over from previous scene: conversation between the sisters.

TEAL

Don't tell me you got that again...
A beat.

KATE (V.O.)

Oh no... no, not that.

TEAL (V.O.)

Then what'd you get me?

KATE (V.O.)

Those organic peas you like.

TEAL (V.O.)

You mean beans?

KATE (V.O.)

What's the difference?

Teal laughs. We hear the bag opening and munching begin.

KATE (V.O.)

What?... They're both green.

TEAL
It's not everyday your little
sister gets you a present.

They chuckle. Teal is still munching on the green beans.

We hear the noise of a car screeching.

TEAL (V.O.)
Kate!!!

We hear someone being hit by a car and a car driving off very fast.

EXT. - MIDTOWN STREET - DAY

Teal is standing in shock. She drops an item. CU of green beans and (pull focus to reveal) Kate's body in background, lays dead on the side of the street. Groceries are strewn all across the street.

We hear the footsteps of Teal running off.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN (TEAL'S HOME) - DAY

Teal is sitting at the breakfast table, while her mom stands nearby cooking breakfast. She is frying something and pestering Teal at the same time about funeral arrangements.

TEAL'S MOTHER
Teal, you can't go to the funeral
wearing that.

Teal is apathetic and obviously not appreciating her mother's annoyingness after her sister just died and the funeral is this afternoon. Teal just stares at the floor, not responding.

TEAL'S MOTHER
Teal! Look at me when I speak.
You've got a dark velvet dress in
the attic that Grandpa Donald wants
to see you in.

Teal just stares.

TEAL'S MOTHER

You can't act like that at the funeral, dear. Everyone's going to see you.

A beat. She continues frying while Teal does not respond. The frying is picking up as it heats up, getting louder and louder as Teal gets more and more annoyed by her mother.

TEAL'S MOTHER

Shoes! What have you picked out?
Teal, oh god! I forgot about that.
Let's see, the one's we bought last-

Teal abruptly gets up and walks out of the loud kitchen.

INT. TEAL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Teal locks herself in her quiet room and looks out the window. She watches a squirrel run along a tree and play about. She has tears in her eyes.

Suddenly we hear a knock on her bedroom door. Teal turns to look at the door, but does nothing, hoping it goes away. Then we hear her mother's voice.

TEAL'S MOTHER

Teal! Listen, you have to come out now. Have you thought about what you're going to say at the funeral?

Teal walks over to the window and stares at the door, upset.

TEAL'S MOTHER

Grandpa Donald will want you to look nice. We hear another knock and a new voice.

VOICE #1

Teal! It's your grandma. You've got to wear my sapphire ring for everyone to see.

Another knock and a new voice. The tension grows. Teal continues to look at the door and become more afraid and upset.

VOICE #2

Teal! Make sure to mention to everyone that your sister was the favorite of everyone.

More and more knocks and voices are heard and it becomes overwhelming for Teal as well as the viewer.

Teal runs to the door and slams it open, trying to escape.

In the hall are nearly two dozen or more family members and friends shouting out suggesting and asking her to do this and that. They all are over the top and very frightening.

Teal squeezes her way through all of them and makes for the door leading outside as they all fight to suggest and yell out things to Teal.

EXT. STREETS - DUSK > NIGHT

Teal is running down the streets. She is trying to get away from her family, her home, her friends, her world. She is crying and very very upset.

Eventually it becomes very dark as night falls quickly. Teal gradually comes out of her upset state to realize it is dark, night and she has no idea where she is. It becomes so dark that the viewer hardly even sees her or her surrounding.

ACT II - The Forest

EXT. SURREAL FOREST - NIGHT

Teal looks around and can hardly see anything. She slowly walks and eventually discovers she is in some sort of forest. It is very dimly lit with unusual plants and creatures.

She hears something and looks in its direction.

A creature walks up to Teal, resembling a human but clearly from another world. TEAL Stop there! A beat. Teal is afraid.

TEAL

Who- What are you?

The creature approaches and Teal takes a few steps back.

The creature makes a queer, squeaky noise. The creature is scared, but so is Teal. The two stare at each other.

Suddenly Teal hears a noise and another creature approaches to her left. This creature looks similar to the first, but much different in color, hair, clothing, etcetera. But still humanoid. It walks over toward the other one and the two hold hands. It is clear that they are some type of couple.

But then a third walks in from a deep background and holds their hand as well. They all are holding hands and staring at Teal.

TEAL

I'm sorry, I'm not-

An illuminated bug (SFX) flies from behind Teal's head and over into a dark area, illuminating it to reveal a grossly beautiful and aged tree form.

SAEPA (SUBTITLE)

Teal. You are safe here.

Teal looks wide eyed at the creature. It speaks a different language but Teal can somehow understand it.

SAEPA (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)

Have you made funny faces in the mirror of the night? (dog head tilt)

A beat. Teal is confused.

The creature breaks into a funny face and starts hopping around. He then runs off into the dark background.

Teal peaks a smile, but immediately comes back to fear.

TEAL

Take me back. I'm sorry, I didn't know where I was going. I was just-

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

You understand me?

Teal looks around. Does it mean 'understand' its language, or understand its existence?

TEAL

You speak differently, but yeah... (confused) How do I understand you?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

Teal, you are all right-

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

(quick echo) All right.

They both smile at Teal.

TEAL

I'm not sure where I am... How to
get back. (looking around her)

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

All right-

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

All right!

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

Follow us.

The creatures turn and shuffle away humming to themselves.

The forest is gradually becoming more illuminated. Teal
looks around and sees weird, organic trash strewn about in a
unusually natural way.

She spots an illuminated thing/creature/bug spinning in a
covey. She walks towards it and reaches out her hand.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

Stop!

The creature smiles, holding up its arm.

EKOVAUHN (CONT'D)

It might get stuck on you. I've
had it happen to me before. Lots of
purple warts.

TEAL

What?

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

Purple warts... And pitch?

It states "pitch" as if a question, looking up. Teal looks
confused at it.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

(with an unnaturally high
pitch) Purples- (slowly,
almost forcing a note
from a song)

It looks back down and quickly
laughs once. It turns around and
begins to leave.

TEAL

Wait!

The creature turns and looks at Teal over its shoulder, waiting for her to say something. She doesn't.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

Just follow me of course.

It shuffles away through a mass of suspended vines made of coils and unnatural wires or chords. Teal hesitates, looks around, but then eventually follows.

EXT. - SURREAL FOREST - NIGHT

She maneuvers through the vines. It is longer than she expects but then abruptly pops out into a more illuminated area where there are several more creatures all sitting about. The area is very unusual, like a surreal jungle made of part nature, part industrial and technological waste.

The look up at her curiously, but all smiling.

A younger creature runs up to Teal and grabs her hand. This is Tikwid. It pulls her over to a place on the ground and makes her sit down. Tikwid shows Teal some interesting liquid on the ground that is naturally welling up (or coming down a stream).

TIKWID (SUBTITLE)

Rub it in your eyes... Like this!

The young creature rubs the colored liquid in its eyes and looks around. It smiles vibrantly and is excited. Then it makes Teal rub it in her eyes.

From Teal's POV we see a very colorized and altered scene of the area they are sitting in.

A new, elder and more intelligent creature, Eldemas, walks over and wipes it off of Teal's eyes. (reveal clean scene - wiping - from Teal's POV)

ELDEMAS (SUBTITLE)

Lo! ciento... Tikwid is a child.
She plays too often.

All the creatures break out into an unusual laughter.

But then they all hear sounds off in the distance. It resembles muffled music, but very unusual music.

About half of them quickly get up and start to walk out through more vines. They are seeking the source of the music. They exit excitedly. TEAL Where are they going?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

It's a holiday today. There is
much joy in land.

TEAL

You mean 'in your country?' What
country is that?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

No. 'In land.' We celebrate the
land today.

A beat. The creature turns to walk off as well, but then
turns back over its shoulder and adds,

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

We celebrate it everyday. (A beat)
Come.

TEAL

But that isn't music.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

It isn't music?

Ekovauhn stares at Teal with a goofy look on its face. Then
laughs once and turns to follow the others with Hollinndagain
shortly behind him.

Teal follows Hollinndagain and Ekovauhn, while waving goodbye
to the few left in the area. Including the young, Tikwid.
But as she walks through and is surrounded by the vines,
Tikwid runs after her and hands her a jar filled with the
colored liquid.

TIKWID (SUBTITLE)

Anytime you need it... It is
yours!

They smile at each other. Teal turns to continue through the
vines, carrying the jar.

EXT. - SURREAL FOREST - NIGHT

As she continues through the vines she looks around at all
the interesting shapes and elements that surround her. She
is amazed and entertained.

There are several particular things that spark her interest
and she pauses momentarily to look at them or touch them. She
is confused, but smiles and is amazed by their peculiarity.

EXT. - SURREAL FOREST - NIGHT

The sounds have been growing louder and clearer and even into more of music with certain melody and eventually reaches normal level as Teal comes out through the vines into another smaller, more narrow, clearing.

But as she enters the space it dissipates and is gone very suddenly. There she finds only two creatures: Hollinndagain and Ekovauhn.

TEAL

What happened to the music?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

Oh, it is elsewhere. We have to keep searching.

TEAL

But, it was just here. I heard it. You are lying.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

(laughing) Lying!

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

No, Teal. We do not lie. It is here. We just have to find it.

Teal looks down and notices something unusual on the ground not to far from her. She peers closer and observes.

(Insert stop-frame animation of small dolls/figures moving around in a circle inside of a small, cleared out area on the ground. They are doing nothing but moving around and around, very repetitively.) Teal smiles, laughs and points.

TEAL

What are they doing?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

They are Mujahs. Do not take them seriously. In fact, take them funny.

A beat. Ekovauhn bends down and blows on them. The Mujahs stop moving and then multiply and spread out over the area. They are tiny, acorn-sized shapes now. They rock back and forth, nearly vibrating, and make a very unusual noise.

All laugh.

TEAL

Can I take some with me?

EKOVAUHN

Of course. Give me some.

Teal hands Ekovauhn a handful and he quickly throws them down his throat, enjoying them very much as he eats them. The Mujahs make unusual, muffled noises as they go down Ekovauhn's throat and into his stomach.

Teal is surprised but laughs at the same time. She puts a handful in her pocket and they silence in the darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. SURREAL FOREST - NIGHT

Teal, Hollinndagain, and Ekovauhn come out into a clearing and discover more creatures sitting around a grouping of television sets. There are three stacked on top of each other at different angles so that all creatures in the circle surrounding it can see a screen.

Teal turns to Hollinndagain and Ekovauhn.

TEAL

What are they doing?

Hollinndagain looks at Teal, then Ekovauhn. Ekovauhn smiles and he briskly walks over to a television set and presses his hand against the screen. The screen glows and Ekovauhn takes his hand off and everyone on the circle, including Teal now, watches the screen as it dances with interesting light patterns and abstractions.

The area gets brighter and it is nearly day again now. Teal observes the shift in lighting. She also observes the music again in a distance.

This time Teal turns to Hollinndagain and Ekovauhn, who are watching the screens with contentment and pulls them with her.

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

What did I do?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

You're adorable!

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

Adorable? Me?

HOLLINNDAGAIN (SUBTITLE)

Of course not.

Ekovauhn looks disappointed, but not too much. They both follow behind Teal now as they go through more dense forest with vine-like hangings.

EXT. SURREAL FOREST - DAY

The three pop out into a large area now, but the music has ceased.

TEAL

I promise I heard it right here!
Just now. What is going on?

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

I've got an answer.

Hollinndagain and Teal look expectantly at Ekovauhn as he simply stands there with a dumb but eager look on his face.

TEAL

Well...

EKOVAUHN (SUBTITLE)

Right.

Ekovauhn walks over to an unusual looking instrument that was hidden in some brush. He picks it up and starts playing it. It is similar to the sounds that Teal heard.

Teal looks confused and amazed at Hollinndagain. Hollinndagain shrugs as if he had no idea. But smiles, walks over and picks up another curious little instrument that he beats and plays the music too.

They start whistling or shouting out with an unusual sound.

Teal laughs and sits down.

She then observes several other creatures have come in from around and start joining in.

Dancing begins and now even more creatures have come about and are dancing and playing.

The music is grand and Teal gets up to dance. As she stands, she takes off her jacket and the Mujahs fall out. They begin to chirp in their unusual way, but somehow pleasing, where it matches the music pleasantly.

The jar of colored liquid that Tikwid gave her falls out as well. Teal bends down and picks it up. She opens it and spreads the paint on her eyes and turns to see the scene in a lovely array of colors and alterations. She runs around and spreads the liquid on others face as well as they all begin dancing.

The light is even brighter now and Teal dances around with paint on her eyes.

The light becomes brighter and brighter until we can hardly see anything but white and Teal dancing every now and then.

WHITE DISSOLVE
TO:

ACT III - Close (It's All The Same)

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY - DAY

Teal comes out of the white light to find herself on the streets of the city. She walks around, confused and not sure where to go or how she ended up here. Camera is mostly from Teal's POV, as well as close shots of her, suggesting the personal.

Teal is obviously wondering, undetermined on a destination. She looks as if she just dropped in from a foreign land and doesn't know where exactly to go.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY - DAY

Teal walks up to a young professional male who is waiting on the bus. He is dressed in coat and tie.

They make eye contact. Teal walks up to him in disbelief and wonder. She realizes it is Hollinndagain as a human.

TEAL
Can't we go back?

A beat. There is much movement, traffic, and pedestrians around them. Hollinndagain just looks at Teal. He is relatively expressionless.

TEAL
Let's go back. I want to go back.
(A beat.) Please!

Hollinndagain then smiles slightly. Content.

HOLLINNDAGAIN (IN ENGLISH)
It is no different. (A beat) It is
all the same place.

They look at each other intently. Teal is confused, but not
angry much anymore.

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY'S BACKYARD - DAY

In a generic, suburban backyard. We watch as lots of kids
are playing with balloons and cake and presents. It is the
birthday party mentioned in Scene 4. Track over to reveal
the two mothers. They are sipping a cool drink and remark
about how it all turned out so smoothly, "Janet, I feel like
we made this way too complicated. I mean look at the girl."
Cut to show a lovely little girl playing with other friends.
She is playing with some of the toys/dolls/instruments that
were from Act II.