

BURNED

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EXT. SCENIC ROAD - MORNING

Seagulls fly over the desolate road that wraps around a rocky hillside. Waves CRASH on jagged rocks 500 feet below.

The ZOOM of a car engine quickly approaches.

A red convertible zips by. It hugs the corners as its occupants MARK (30's), dark eyes, dark hair and goatee, and MELANIE (30's), perfect and blonde, resembles a Barbie doll, laugh as their hair blows in the wind.

Melanie tenderly strokes the nape of Mark's neck. He blows her a kiss and smiles adoringly.

Suddenly his smile turns to a grimace. He lets go of the steering wheel and grabs his stomach in agony.

Terrified, Melanie grabs the wheel. She steadies the car as Mark attempts to regain his composure.

He takes a few deep breaths then takes the wheel back and nods, reassuring her that he's okay. She strokes his cheek, he smiles. She watches him intently.

Immense pain strikes him again, this time he grabs his eyes. Melanie grabs the wheel but Mark's pain causes his body to tense and the car accelerates.

She loses control. The speeding car scrapes along the metal barricade, sparks fly. A tire pops causing the car to spin out of control.

It flips over the barricade and violently tumbles over and over, down the rocky hillside. It finally lands, top down, on the jagged rocks below.

Seconds later the car EXPLODES. The sound of crashing waves is now muted by the ROAR of a fire.

SUPER: ONE DAY EARLIER

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - NIGHT

A bonfire crackles and waves lap on the shore. A full moon shines overhead.

A BLACK WOMAN, tribal markings on her face, dances next to the fire as she CHANTS some kind of gibberish.

On the other side of the fire, a figure in a black hooded cloak sits hunched over, rocking back and forth.

An elderly BLACK MAN exits a small hut. In his hands a long metal skewer and a bottle of Rum.

The Black Woman sees him coming and ends her ritual. She speaks with a thick Jamaican accent.

BLACK WOMAN

It is time.

As if on cue, the cloaked figure stands. The cloak falls to the ground revealing SARAH (30's), a lily white beauty.

The fire casts an eerie glow on Sarah's naked body and illuminates an object she holds in her hand. It's a handmade doll, with dark eyes, dark hair and a goatee.

The Black Man approaches Sarah and hands her the skewer. He then brings the Rum over to the Black Woman. She opens the jug and takes a swig.

BLACK WOMAN

Sarah! Release your magic on he  
who hurt you!

Sarah holds up the doll and stares at it a moment. The fire reflects in her blue eyes turning them red.

She thrusts the skewer into the doll's stomach.

BLACK WOMAN

Feel the demon leave your soul!

Sarah pulls the skewer from the dolls stomach and looks at it maniacally.

The Black Woman and Man watch as Sarah then repeatedly stabs the doll in the eyes.

BLACK WOMAN

Now let him go Sarah! Into the fire!

Sarah has stabbed the eyes right off the doll. She drops the skewer, holds up the doll and throws it into the fire.

The Black Woman takes one more swig of rum then pours the rest into the fire causing it to explode.

Tears stream down Sarah's face.

SUPER: THREE DAYS EARLIER

INT. MELANIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah quietly stands in the hallway, just outside a partially open door.

MOANS of pleasure come from inside the bedroom.

With pain in her eyes she secretly watches Melanie and Mark make love.

SUPER: HOURS EARLIER

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah, holding a phone to her ear, bounces excitedly around the bedroom. She pulls a shirt out of a dresser and places it in an open suitcase on the bed.

SARAH

(on phone)

Please Mel. I only have one decent bikini. Come on, it's my honeymoon.

(beat)

Really?! I love the pink one!

Sarah picks up a travel brochure and puts it in the suitcase. It says "YOUR JAMAICAN HONEYMOON".

SARAH

Perfect. Mark is working late tonight. I'll stop by around eight. See you later.

Sarah clicks off the phone and returns it to the cradle on the dresser.

On the dresser is a framed photo of Sarah and Mark. He has his arm around her, they both look very happy.

SUPER: TWO DAYS EARLIER

INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

A bridal party is seated at a long banquet table that faces a crowd of wedding guests.

The groom, Mark, sits with his arm around his bride, Sarah.

Everyone's attention is on the lovely Maid of Honor, Melanie, as she stands and makes a toast.

MELANIE

I'm truly happy for you Sarah.

Melanie looks directly at Mark causing him to shift uncomfortably in his seat.

MELANIE

You found the love of your life in Mark. He's a wonderful man. So kind, smart, so very handsome. . .

Sarah doesn't notice Melanie's inappropriate tribute to her new husband. She just looks adoringly at Mark. This obviously annoys Melanie.

MELANIE

At least now I don't have to worry about Sarah stealing anymore of my boyfriends.

The guests laugh.

MELANIE

Like Billy Hartnett, Danny White, Shawn Reynolds, Kevin Mitchell. . .

Melanie's tone changes, becomes a bit dark.

MELANIE

Steven Burns, Craig Newman. . .

Sarah's smile begins to fade. The guests become uncomfortable.

MELANIE

Oh yeah, let's not forget Johnny  
Tomaino. I cried over him for two  
months.

One of the bridesmaids tugs on Melanie's dress in an attempt to stop her. It works, she snaps out of it.

Melanie raises her glass.

MELANIE

I wish my sister Sarah all the  
happiness she deserves.

With a devilish smile she sips her champagne.

FADE OUT