

Telephone

By

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INT. CHRIS AND MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHRIS and DANNY, two out of shape and graying guys in their 40's sit on Chris' couch watching football.

DANNY

Damn, there's no way we're gonna make it this year. The season's already half over.

CHRIS

It's okay, man. We'll pull through. we always do. Just gotta have faith.

DANNY

Yeah...

Danny gets a text and pulls out his PHONE.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh, man! Check it out, Nick just sent me that pic from last night of you with that crazy chick. Dude, the timing is perfect!

Danny shows the picture on his phone of what looks like Chris at a bar holding up his own phone for a selfie while simultaneously being kissed by a stranger.

It looks like the picture was taken at the perfect time before Chris reacted to the stranger and so it appears like Chris is enjoying this moment taking a picture with this girl when really he was just oblivious to what was happening in that perfectly timed second.

CHRIS

Oh, shit, you're right! That's hilarious. What was her deal? She just came out of nowhere and kissed my face and ran off. I was like what the fuck?

DANNY

I don't know, man, but talk about right place right time. I gotta show this to Chelsea.

CHRIS

For sure.

The two resume watching the television while Danny texts his wife.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

CHELSEA, Danny's laid-back wife, and her uptight friend JESS are eating lunch at an outside patio. Chelsea receives Danny's picture message with text under it that says "Chris' selfie ruined by some drunk ass photobomber!"

CHELSEA

Ha!

JESS

What?

CHELSEA

Hm? Oh, nothing. Just the boys at the bar being idiots.

JESS

Ya know, I heard Michelle doesn't like when Chris goes out anymore. She says she doesn't trust him anymore and he always acts weird when he comes home.

CHELSEA

Well yea, he's always super drunk.

JESS

I wouldn't be surprised if he's cheating.

CHELSEA

Chris? Seriously? He's obsessed with Michelle, why would he do that?

JESS

(shrugs)

I dunno, he's just secretive. Michelle's right to be suspicious.

CHELSEA

(rolling her eyes)

You guys are ridiculous. Chris is like the nicest guy ever.

JESS

If you say so.

CHELSEA

Whatever. I gotta piss.

(CONTINUED)

JESS  
You're so gross.

CHELSEA  
(sticks out her tongue)

Chelsea walks off to the restroom and leaves her phone on the table.

A moment later Jess looks to make sure Chelsea is gone then picks her phone up and open the messages.

She sees the picture of Chris and the drunk girl and looks surprised but also partially betrayed by Chelsea, who she now assumes lied to her.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Chelsea returns to the table to see Jess on the phone.

JESS  
(whispering in the phone)  
I gotta go. She's back. I don't know what to even say. Okay. Okay, bye.

CHELSEA  
What's up? You ready to order?

JESS  
Oh, um, no. Actually, work just called, I have go in for a little while.

CHELSEA  
Oh, shit. That sucks.

JESS  
Yea, so, ya know, I gotta go I guess.

Jess quickly gathers her things and gets up to leave.

CHELSEA  
Okay...talk to you later?

JESS  
(dismissively)  
Sure.

Chelsea looks like she doesn't quite believe her.

(CONTINUED)

CHELSEA

Bye?

Jess just walks away.

INT. RAY'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

SOPHIE, a hip 20-something, sits in the passenger's seat of her stoner friend RAY's car as they drive down a busy street. Ray is vaping.

Sophie puts down her phone on which she was just taking to Jess.

SOPHIE

Oh, my god! That asshole!

RAY

What is it?

SOPHIE

Fucking Chris! I told Michelle not to trust him. Jess just sent me a picture off of Chelsea's phone of Chris and some chick pretty much making out at the bar.

RAY

For real?

SOPHIE

Look!

Sophie holds her phone over for Ray to see the picture.

Ray can barely see the picture through her vape clouds.

RAY

(exhaling vape steam)

Oh shit, man, damn. Woooow.

SOPHIE

I know, right? And Chelsea's like covering for him or something? Jess said she lied about it and wouldn't even show her the picture. She had to take a picture of her phone when she went to the bathroom.

RAY

Damn, dude. That's fucked up. After everything with Jacob too? How could he do that?

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIE

I know. If Beth knows and didn't  
tell me I'm going to kill her.

Sophie texts BETH, Michelle's best friend.

EXT. BETH'S BACKYARD - DAY

Beth, a cute brunette, is in her backyard sun-bathing. Her phone buzzes and she opens up a slew of messages from Sophia, including the picture of Chris and the drunk girl.

The messages all say things like "DID YOU KNOW?", "CHRIS IS CHEATING.", "WTF ASSHOLE.", etc.

Beth takes her sunglasses off and makes a phone call.

BETH

(on the phone)

Hey. What's up? Hey, are you home  
right now?

INT. CHRIS AND MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - DAY

MICHELLE, an attractive woman in her mid-40's, graying hair but pulling it off, has her hand over her mouth and tears in her eyes with her other hand holding her phone up to her ear.

She looks at the picture of Chris and the drunk girl that Beth just sent her. Her hands are shaking. Beth is still talking on the otehr line.

BETH (V.O)

I fucking knew it. Fuck him, honey.  
You deserve so much-

Michelle hangs up the phone. She looks over to her family photos on the refrigerator of her with Chris and their 4-year-old son, JACOB.

Next to the refrigerator on the wall is an area that resembles a shrine dedicated to photos of Jacob with candles and crosses. Under the main photo of him are the dates 2014-2018.

Michelle looks away from the wall and her watery eyes land on the kitchen knife block where her gaze rests for a moment. She turns around and looks into the living room where Chris and Danny still sit.

INT. CHRIS AND MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chris and Danny are still watching football. Their game isn't going well.

DANNY  
Fuck! I told you, man!

CHRIS  
Shit.

DANNY  
Fuck this. We're trash this year.

CHRIS  
(laughing)  
I'm startin' to think you might be right.

DANNY  
Whatever. I gotta take a leak. Oh hey, Shell.

Danny gets up to go to the bathroom. Michelle is now standing behind Chris holding a knife behind her back.

Danny closes the bathroom door. Chris is now looking at his phone.

CHRIS  
(distractedly)  
Hey, baby.

Michelle says nothing but is shaking with anger.

Chris turns around.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Hey, have you- oh shit, baby, what's wro-

Michelle stabs Chris in the neck. Blood splatters all over the couch, floor and Michelle's face.

INT. CHRIS AND MICHELLE'S BATHROOM - AT SAME TIME

Danny finishing going to the bathroom, checks himself out in the mirror, rinses and dries his hands and opens the door.

INT. CHRIS AND MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - A SECOND LATER

As Danny steps out of the bathroom he sees Chris' bloody body slumped over on the couch and Michelle laying on the floor with her wrists slit and one arm holding a picture of Jacob.

Danny stumbles back in speechless disbelief. His hands shake as he gets his phone out of his pocket to call an ambulance.