

THIEF

Written by

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A short movie in the time-honored tradition of Rod Serling's
'TWILIGHT ZONE'

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THIEF

FADE IN:

INT. 'HICKSVILLE' POLICE STATION HALLWAY OUTSIDE
'INTERROGATION ROOM 3' - DAY

We see COP #2(EARL) talking to UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE).

COP #2(EARL)
- so I'm sitting there waiting for
Joyce to get back to me with his
registration details then he goes
and gets out of the fucking car!

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
(laughs, shocked)
No shit?!

COP #2(EARL)
I'm saying! So, this guy just walks
up to my squad car all casual like
we were old school buddies meeting
up for coffee and donuts -

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
You gotta be kidding me?

COP #2(EARL)
So *I* shouted at him "get back in
your fucking car!" - but still he
keeps coming at me.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
Fuck me Earl, what was his problem?
Was he suicidal?

COP #2(EARL)
Nope - English!
(laughs)

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
English?

COP #2(EARL)
Yeah, told me later that back in
England-Land, you have to go to the
cop car when ya get stopped -
probably because the cops don't
wanna get their fancy hats wet in
all that rain!
(laughs)

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
(laughing)
Probably works for them over there
because nobody has guns! I heard
all the cops over there have is a
big stick and a tazer!
(laughs)

COP #2(EARL)
A stick and a tazer!? No wonder we
kicked their limey asses after the
fuckin' tea party!
(laughs)
That sure does explain a lot about
this guy though!
So, whatever his reason, this
fucking Brit didn't stop coming
'till I pointed my gun in his face!

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
You pulled your piece?

COP #2(EARL)
Had to - for all I knew he was
armed and fixin' to take a shot at
me.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE)
He stopped?

COP #2(EARL)
Damn right he stopped - dead in his
God damned tracks!
(pause)
And between you and me Steve, I
think he actually crapped his
pants!
(London-english accent)
Oh no, pardon me guv'nor, I only
think I've gone and shit my
trousers an' all!
(laughs loud)

They both laugh heartily.

FX: Shouting from the interrogation room.

COP #2(EARL) (CONT'D)
What the fuck? Steve, I'll catch ya
later - let's go knock back a few
at Larry's Bar after work, yeah?
(beat) Sounds like Malachi's about
to blow his goddamned stack in
there - the last thing I need right
now is him putting **another** suspect
in the fucking morgue!

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

COP #2(EARL) enters.

The room is dim and smoky, lit by a single bare bulb. There
is a table in the middle of the room, upon it a tape recorder
and a half- drunk bottle of water. We see COP #1(MALACHI)
standing over the small table, his body blocking THE GIRL (we
do not see her) - face to face with her.

She is speaking softly, we do not make out what she is saying because he is shouting.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(shouting)
Quit fucking with me and stop that incessant babble for just one minute and answer my fucking questions! (beat) Jesus H Christ! You're screwing my goddamned head up!

COP #1(MALACHI) raises his fist.

COP #2(EARL)
(calmly)
Everything OK in here Lieutenant?

COP #1(MALACHI)
(calming down)
Yeah, sorry Earl, everything's just fucking peachy in here - I'm just trying to get the suspect to talk some sense, is all.

COP #2(EARL)
Suspect? I wasn't aware that she was suspected of anything Malachi - to my recollection, she just wandered in here - lost.

COP #1(MALACHI)
Yeah, but all she's done since she arrived is spout bullshit and fucking nonsense - there's something not right about this one Earl. She's a wrong 'un - I can feel it in my goddamned piles - she's what my grandmama would call evil; plain and simple, pure, home-cooked fuckin' evil - just look at her!

We see that he is referring to a young, innocent-looking girl.

DISSOLVE TO:

Act One:

Scene I

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

We see THE GIRL sitting at the simple wooden table. She is talking quietly. COP #1(MALACHI) and COP #2(EARL) are standing, talking to each other. A tape machine is recording. A small Handycam is set up on a tripod, pointed at THE GIRL.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(frustrated)
- all she does is sit there and
make shit up! Hour after hour Earl
- I can't even remember how long
I've been in here with her today,
she just goes on and on!

COP #2(EARL)
Look Malachi, ya need to give the
poor gal a break - she's probably
traumatized or something.

COP #1(MALACHI)
That's just the fucking point Earl!
It's been three days since she
turned up at the front desk and we
don't know shit. Nothing, fucking
squat!

THE GIRL
(voice raised - grizzled
vet')
- it's just like when I was back in
'Nam -

COP #1(MALACHI)
Give me fucking strength! Here we
go again.

THE GIRL
- we had to head North to take out
an encampment of Gooks - yellow
bastards had settled in the middle
of a civilian village - using the
womenfolk and the children as a
human shield -

COP #2(EARL)
What is this bullshit? The fuckin'
Deerhunter?

COP #1(MALACHI) shakes his head.

COP #1(MALACHI)
Nah, I must have seen that movie a
dozen times - and that ain't any
dialogue I ever heard - I've no
fucking idea **what** she's talking
about.

THE GIRL
- well, damned if three of our
company didn't git 'emselves killed
in booby traps before we'd even got
to the goddamned village, that just
left eight men, including me an'
Johnny Ear.
(laughs)
(MORE)

THE GIRL (CONT'D)

We called him that 'cause he'd lost his right ear two months previous - said his gun went off when he was cleaning it - me and the boys reckoned he just wanted a couple 'a weeks off.

(laughs)

Well, he got his two weeks off - managed to get back Stateside for his brother's wedding too - (beat) looked damned stupid with his glasses on after that though, had to tape 'em up to the side o' his stupid head with duck-tape to keep 'em straight.

(laughs)

The Girl laughs heartily, then stops abruptly, face straight, no emotion. Her quiet chatter continues.

COP #1(MALACHI)

See what I mean? She just sits there an' tells stupid stories like she was there - it's driving me fucking crazy!

FX: a knock on the door. DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON) enters the room.

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)

Sorry to interrupt Sir, but we got a strange one at the front desk - I think you should come see him.

COP #2(EARL)

Can't you deal with it Kate? I'm trying to stop Malachi from going postal in here.

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)

I've tried to deal with him Earl, but I really could do with some help right now.

COP #2(EARL)

(laughs)

Don't tell me you're getting soft on us Watson? I've seen you handle pretty much everything in the past three years - there's not a violent drunk in town who's not felt your fist in their face at some time or other!

(laughs)

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)

(smiles nervously)

Yeah, but this one's different - he's just standing quietly at the desk saying he doesn't know who he is.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(irritated)
For Christ's sakes Kate! We're stuck in here trying to find out who **she** is, and you can't deal with a fucking drunk?!

COP #2(EARL)
Can't ya just stick him in the drunk tank with the others 'till he sobers up?

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
(conciliatory)
He's not drunk, and I'm pretty sure he didn't just escape from the Peter Falk Institute for the Confused either - before you throw that one in.
(sighs)
I'd just like one of you to come see this guy - he genuinely can't remember who he is.

COP #2(EARL)
(to COP #1(MALACHI))
Why don't you go Malachi? Give yourself a break - you need it.

COP #1(MALACHI)
I already told you, I'm OK Earl, I don't need a fucking break -

COP #2(EARL)
(snarls)
I wasn't askin' - go take a gander at the front desk with Kate, get yourself some of that strong ass coffee from the machine, smoke a Camel and rest your nerves - you're fucking shot in here!

COP #1(MALACHI)
OK, OK, I'll go - but you watch yourself with this one - she'll wear you down until you want to shut her the fuck up - permanently.

COP #2(EARL)
Thanks for the heads-up Malachi, now please get the hell out of my interrogation room!
(pause)
Oh yeah, on your way back ask Steve if the DNA results came back from the lab.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(sarcastic)
Sure thing boss - you want me to bring you a beer and some chips while I'm at it?

COP #2(EARL)
Nah, another bottle of water will
do me just fine.

COP #1(MALACHI) (pats the girl on the shoulder as he leaves)
and DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON) leave the room.

CUT TO:

Scene 2

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

COP #2(EARL) and THE GIRL stare at each other. She continues
her mumbled chatter.

COP #2(EARL)
(softly)
So, we still don't know who you
are? (beat) I guess we'll just have
to wait - I'm sure you'll tell us
when you're good and ready?

THE GIRL
(old woman voice)
I know you - you're the guy who T-
boned my Toyota three years ago -
drunk as a skunk and stinking twice
as bad - as I recall!

COP #2(EARL)
I think you're mistaken honey, we
never -

THE GIRL
I never forget a face young man! -
and I mean **never!**
(pause)
You hit me so gosh-darned hard my
prosthetic teeth fell right out of
my head, cost me three hundred
bucks to get 'em fixed up by Dr.
Amajadee - and not one red cent
from you, young man, not one!

COP #2(EARL) sits opposite THE GIRL. She continues mumbling.

COP #2(EARL)
Hey, hey, hey, calm down there
young lady.
(sighs)
I wonder what's going on inside
that pretty little head of yours?
Can you tell Uncle Earl your name?
That would be a good start.
(checks watch)
I'm hoping the DNA results will
tell us something about you - let's
hope someone in your family has a
criminal record! (beat)
(MORE)

COP #2(EARL) (CONT'D)
If any of your relatives has had a
DNA sample taken - at any time -
the System will bring 'em up -
you'd be surprised what we dig up
on folk that they didn't know - or
what they didn't want to know!
(laughs)

THE GIRL
(old man's voice)
Why'dya have go an' die on me like
that Martha?
(upset)
Two years into ma retirement an'
you up and pass on like we didn't
have a whole crap-load o' years
left in us?

COP #2(EARL)
Is this from a TV show? You heard
someone saying this? Is it somebody
you know - your Grandpa maybe?
(sighs)
I know you're trying to tell us
something - damned if I can figure
out what.

THE GIRL
- we was gonna go live in the
mountains like we always planned -
heck, I even bought that parcel o'
land we talked about - I was gonna
surprise ya with it for your
sixtieth birthday -

COP #2(EARL)
Who is that died? Your Mom? Your
Grandmother?

THE GIRL
- but ya upped and left us all
'afore I could do even that.
(sniffles)
Ya always told me life wasn't ever
fair Martha - we lived a good life,
never missed church and raised our
kids right - and The Good Lord sees
fit to take ya to his right hand -
I guess he had some great plans for
ya up there, is all I can think.
(quiet)
I miss ya Martha, I wish the Lord
had taken me too.

THE GIRL goes back to the incoherent babble.

COP #2(EARL)
(talking into the tape
recorder)
(MORE)

COP #2(EARL) (CONT'D)

For the record - the suspect, witness, subject - whatever the Hell she is - appears to be in some kind of trance-like state, she's constantly talking, quietly - not sure if the tape is picking that up and then there's the intermittent outbursts of what seem to be quotes from TV shows or conversations she's overheard.

(pause, looks at the Handycam)

Oh, for Christ's sakes! I forgot we're filming this - now I'm the asshole!

(laughs)

THE GIRL

(young guy's voice)

I'm telling ya guys, she's got a body to die for and a mind that's as dirty as a lumberyard truck!

(laughs)

First and second base were a cinch, and I'm **so** on for third base at the dance tonight - oh yeah!

COP #2(EARL)

Grease? Gotta be Grease. Grease Two? - did **anybody** actually go see that pile of crap?

THE GIRL

No need to wear no rubber neither - coz she's a one hundred percent virgin -

(pause)

- ya gotta help me guys, she's sayin' she's in the family way, and I only did her the once - standing up too - just like ya told me - so there's no way in Hell she's gotten herself pregnant - 'least not with me? Is there?

(cries)

Ma Daddy's gonna kill me, that's unless her Daddy gets to me first - and y'all know how mean that sonofabitch can be!

COP #2(EARL)

Hey, don't go getting yourself all upset - here, have some water - it's a little stale, but it's still wet.

(smiles)

COP #2(EARL) hands THE GIRL the bottle of water. She takes it, their fingers touch accidentally. THE GIRL ceases her babbling, stares directly at COP #2(EARL). They sit, frozen.

CUT TO:

VIEW FROM HANDYCAM: WE SEE COP #2(EARL) AND THE GIRL, THE FILM JUMPS AND WE SEE STATIC.

CUT TO:

Scene 3

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

The door opens, breaking the moment. COP #1(MALACHI) enters. THE GIRL continues babbling.

COP #1(MALACHI)
Ya should see it out there Earl,
another couple of folks came in
while Kate and me were trying to
get some sense out of the old boy
who couldn't remember who the fuck
he was - and guess what?

COP #2(EARL)
I'm not in the mood for guessing
games Malachi.

COP #1(MALACHI)
They couldn't remember their
goddamn names either! (beat) Or
where they'd come from. (beat) I'd
swear they were all blind drunk,
but couldn't smell it on 'em -
Kate's breathalyzing them anyhow -
the damndest thing - perhaps it's
National Amnesia Week or something!
(laughs)

COP #2(EARL)
Yeah, could be just that Malachi.
Did the DNA results come back from
the lab yet?

COP #1(MALACHI)
(quizzical)
Huh?
(pause)
Oh yeah.
(just thought of it)
You forgot to ask me to pick up the
DNA report - lucky Steve had it on
his desk - just came through from
the lab an hour ago - you're not
gonna like it though.

COP #2(EARL)
(weary sigh)
Don't tell me - they couldn't trace
her DNA?

COP #1(MALACHI)
Yeah, they got nothing Earl,
nothing at all.

COP #2(EARL)
Fuck! I thought we'd at least get something from her familial DNA.

COP #1(MALACHI)
Nah, ya don't get it - according to this report, it's not just that they couldn't get anything from her DNA - Miss Jane Doe here just doesn't have any DNA. Period.

(pause)
And look at this, some smartass at the lab has written here - in green fuckin' crayola - 'subject's cells appear to be a perfect copy of human cells but without DNA - we don't know how ya did it, but well done: signed - the boys at the lab'.
(laughs)

COP #2(EARL)
(perturbed)
What the fuck is going on here Malachi?
(to THE GIRL)
And just who the fuck are you?

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

Act Two:

Scene I

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

We view the scene through the small screen on the Handycam. THE GIRL is expressing the agony of childbirth.

THE GIRL
(looking into the camera)
(shouts)
Get this damned thing out of me!
(screams)
You promised me this would be easy
You bastard! I hate you!
(screams)
Where's my goddamned epidural!
(screams)
I **am** pushing! Quit telling me to push! If I push any harder I'm gonna turn my guts inside out!
(screams)
This is the last freakin' time I'm ever gonna let you near me with your damned -

COP #1(MALACHI) switches off the camera.

COP #1(MALACHI)

It's like she was having the damned baby right then and there - you'd never believe she was as young as we think she is. (beat) Last time I remember hearing anything like that was when Charlene gave birth to the twins - swore right there in front of the obstetrician that she was gonna cut my dick off!

COP #2(EARL)

You think she's had a baby? Is that what she's trying to tell us? She could have had a baby and has left it somewhere. That could explain her amnesia - a traumatic experience like that could cause amnesia.

(pause)

Nah, she can't be no more than thirteen years old - it couldn't be possible.

COP #1(MALACHI)

Anything's possible in these loose times Earl- there's kids poppin' 'em out as young as eleven nowadays - hell, in Mississippi, my wife's got relations that were married to some cousin or other and had a full brood before their sixteenth birthday -

(laughs)

- she still swears blind I was the first fresh genetic material in her family for three generations!

Earl gives him a look, shakes his head. They look at THE GIRL. She is sitting, zoned out, muttering quietly. Faintly - we hear a commotion outside.

COP #2(EARL)

I'm guessing she's been through some kind of trauma though, - that would explain her peculiar behavior - but if I remember psychology 101 well enough, those outbursts of hers could be her brain trying to work through whatever happened to her - possibly even trying to send us a message of sorts.

COP #1(MALACHI)

Yeah, but nothing she says makes any sense - everything she's said so far has been totally random - I don't know if it's scenes from old movies, TV shows or stuff she's overheard - it's all scrambled up in that head of hers.

(pause)

What the fuck *is* all that noise?

COP #2 (EARL) opens the door.

COP #2(EARL)
(shouts)
Officer Watson!?
(pause)
Kate!? What the hell is going on
out there? Sounds like Grand
Central Station!

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON) walks towards him.

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
Sorry Malachi, it's going crazy out
here - you know we had that couple
and the old guy in here earlier?

COP #1(MALACHI)
The folk from Amnesia Town,
Missouri?
(laughs)

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
Yeah, that's them - well, we just
had a whole bunch of new walk-ins -
I'd say fourteen, fifteen of 'em -
I've not finished processing 'em
yet - and get this -
(pause)
- not one of 'em knows who they
are, where they've come from or
what they're doing here - although
there's this one lunatic who says
he's gotta come back here and see
you guys.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(weary)
For Chrissakes Kate, just tell him
to go to Hell! (beat) what the fuck
is going on today?

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
I'm damned if I know Lieutenant -
it's gettin' too much like a
freakin' Alzheimer's convention out
here!

COP #2(EARL)
Could be that mass hysteria they
keep talking about on CNN, or
something in the water - perhaps
our mystery girl in here has been
exposed to the same damned thing -

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
(worried, slight panic)
- oh crap, and she could be
carrying it! What if it's some
killer disease or biological
warfare or whatnot?

COP #2(EARL)

Nah, we'd have caught whatever it was if it was transmittable - I reckon it's more likely the Chemical Plant's spilled some crap into the water supply again - remember what happened last time?

THE GIRL O/S

(excited voice, little girl)

Momma, Momma! All the water's turned bright orange and they sent us home from school - ain't that just perfect!
(laughs)

COP #2(EARL)

What the - ?

COP #1(MALACHI) and COP #2(EARL) turn to THE GIRL.

THE GIRL

- Jimmy Spatts Junior drank some and got sick - he got blood coming out of his nose and his eyes - so Miss Jones reckoned we'd all be best off coming home.

(laughs)

Can I go to the movies with Lindy and Miss Shannon Momma? (beat) They're playing the new Back To The Future - it's the second one - and ya know how I love Michael J Fox!
(beat) Please?

COP #1(MALACHI)

Hey! She remembered something - something that actually happened! I remember hearing about the chemical spill - ya think she's finally remembering stuff?

COP #2(EARL)

(sighs)

Malachi, the chemical spill was twenty-three years ago - I was around her age when it happened and you were still crapping your diapers - I remember going to Jimmy Spatt's funeral - had to have a closed coffin 'cause of the mess the chemicals made of him - a bunch of older kids spread the rumor that they daren't cremate him in case he exploded and took the whole damned town with him.

(pause)

So, unless Jane Doe is the world's best preserved thirty-six year old, all we're hearing is more crap she's picked up - probably from her parents or something.

COP #1(MALACHI)
Yeah, but doesn't that tell us something?
At least we know now that her family's from someplace around here - they'd have to be if they remember The Great Spill of '89.

COP #2(EARL)
(pensive)
You could be on to something with that, could be they moved away which is why we don't recognise her - either that or they just came back, or they're visiting folk they know here.
(pause)
(to THE GIRL)
Let's see if we can find your folks Missy - you sure you can't at least remember your name?

THE GIRL sits, stares, babbles quietly.

FADE TO:

Scene 2:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

We hear voices and noises from outside.

COP #2(EARL)
We should go help Kate and Steve out there. If there's some kinda crisis happening, we really should be there.

COP #1(MALACHI)
If there's a crisis, and they need our help, I'm sure we'll be the first to find out - in the meantime, we have Little Miss Enigma here to deal with.
(to THE GIRL)
What are we gonna do with you?
(beat) Have you remembered anything yet? Anything at all?

THE GIRL babbles quietly.

Suddenly, the door bursts open. CRAZY GUY enters, DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON) behind him, trying to pull him back.

COP #1(MALACHI) (CONT'D)
What the - ?

COP #2(EARL)
Jesus Christ Kate!

CRAZY GUY
(shouting)
It's her! She's here!

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)
You're not supposed to be back here
Sir - I told you -
(to COP #2(EARL))
- I tried to stop him Earl, he just
ran right past me while I was
distracted, there's so many of 'em
out there now.

CRAZY GUY
(shouting hysterically)
Beware the Thief! She'll steal
everything - she'll take it all!

COP #2(EARL)
(to CRAZY GUY)
You know this girl?
(pause)
Sir? I asked you if you know this
girl?

CRAZY GUY
Of course I know her! We all know,
everybody knows what she is!
(screams)
Thief!

CRAZY GUY Lunges at THE GIRL, grabs her arm. THE GIRL sits
passively. The guys to pull CRAZY GUY away.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(angry)
Kate, put this psycho in the cells -
and make sure he fucking cools off
before you let him out!
(to CRAZY GUY)
Who the hell are you? I'm only
gonna ask you once, do you know
this girl?

THE GIRL
(sad voice)
I'm sorry honey, I guess he's just
not coming, ya should have listened
to me - that Bobby Travers is just
no damned good - just like the rest
of his god-forsaken family.

CRAZY GUY
(scary)
Stop it! Stop it you bitch! That's
mine! That's mine!

CRAZY GUY struggles to break free to get to THE GIRL.

THE GIRL

- if ya'd paid heed to me in the first place - you'd have more to show for today than this fancy white dress that I pawned Granpappy's watch for - that, and a broken heart.

(pause)

(crying)

- oh no, oh my God, no. I am so sorry sweetpea, I never meant for ya to go join your Momma up in heaven with Baby Jesus -

THE GIRL actions cradling a head.

CRAZY GUY

(hysterical, struggling)

Stop her! For Christ's sake stop her! You thieving bitch! You stole that! Leave my fucking memories alone!

(pause)

She'll take yours too! One by one! She'll steal them right out of your fucking head it's what she does!

(hysterical ranting)

It's what she fucking does! She -

THE GIRL

(crazy rant)

- took the thoughts right out of my head!

(laughs)

At first it was the bad'uns which was kinda nice 'cause we all want to forget the bad stuff don't we? - but then she starts on with the good'uns - she wants 'em all - all of them! (beat)

(conspiratorial, whispering)

It's how she feeds - she eats our memories, the good, the bad, all of 'em - you'd be best advised to stay away from that Devil - as far away as ya can get -

COP #2(EARL)

(to DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON))

Get this asshole out of my interrogation room - and if you let anyone else back here, I'll have your fucking badge!

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON)

Yes sir, I'm sorry -

COP #2(EARL)

Now!

DESK SGT (OFR KATE WATSON) takes CRAZY GUY away as he continues to struggle.

CUT TO:

Scene 3

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

COP #1(MALACHI)
What the hell was that all about?
He seemed pretty sure the girl was
doing something inside his head.

COP #2(EARL)
Suicide reenactments don't make him
any less crazy Malachi - but it's
possible he knows this young lady -
perhaps when - if - he sobers up
and calms down we'll get more sense
out of him.

COP #1(MALACHI)
What was it he reckoned the girl
was stealing from her? His brain?

COP #2(EARL)
Damned if I know Malachi, my guess
is that crazy guy is one step away
from wearing an aluminum foil hat
and screaming about aliens probing
our asses.

(laughs)
I have no idea what's going on
here, but what I do know is, it's
our duty to protect **anyone** in our
custody from lunatics like that.
(to THE GIRL)
You'll be OK now honey - we're not
gonna let anyone else in here - I
can assure you that you are safe
with us.

THE GIRL
(jokey voice)
- so I'm sitting there waiting for
Joyce to get back to me with his
registration details and then he
gets out of the fucking car!
(laughs)
(pause)
- I'm saying! So, this guy just
walks up to my squad car all casual
like we were old school buddies
meeting up for coffee and donuts -

COP #1(MALACHI)
(startled)
Jesus shit Earl! - that's your
story!

COP #2(EARL)
What you talking about Malachi?

COP #1(MALACHI)
(slowly)
That's your story -
(pause)
- the one where the English guy
gets out of his car? Back when you
were on Traffic detail?

COP #2(EARL)
What the fuck are you babbling
about Malachi? - I never met an
English guy in my entire life - ya
don't get many of 'em here in
Backwater USA!

COP #1(MALACHI)
But you tell that story to
everybody - hell, you'll tell it to
people who've heard it a thousand
times before! (beat) For fuck's
sake, I heard you telling it to
Steve earlier!

COP #2(EARL)
Well, there ya go Malachi! If you
heard it, then she must have. Must
be one of Steve's tall stories
though - not ringing any bells with
me.

COP #1(MALACHI)
No Earl, it's definitely one of
yours.

COP #2(EARL)
(quizzical)
I think ya got me mixed up with
someone else buddy - it's probably
something she picked up on a TV
show.

COP #1(MALACHI)
(frightened)
Jeez Earl, what if that crazy guy
was right? What if *she* -
((indicates THE GIRL))
- **is** stealing our memories? What if
she stole that one right out of
your head, what if -

COP #2(EARL)
(shouts)
OK Malachi! That's enough!
(pause)
Listen to yourself, for God's sake!
(MORE)

COP #2(EARL) (CONT'D)
All this crazy shit has gotten to
you, or perhaps you drank the water
or breathed in whatever it is
that's causing all of this - but
just listen to how fucking crazy
you're sounding right now!

COP #1(MALACHI)
I may be sounding crazy - but I
think we should get this one into
the cells until we know what we're
dealing with -

COP #2(EARL)
She's staying here Malachi, the
cells are no place for a young girl
-

COP #1(MALACHI) grabs THE GIRL'S arm, COP #2(EARL) grabs her
other arm.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

Act 3

VIEWED THROUGH THE HANDYCAM. STATIC, JUMPING IMAGE THAT
CLEARS TO SHOW -

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM 3 - DAY

We see COP #1(MALACHI) and COP #2(EARL) sitting opposite THE
GIRL. The cops are staring blankly at her, each one holding
one of her hands. We hear voices and people noises outside.

THE GIRL
(manly voice, rambling)
- she's stealing our memories Earl -
we know she's stealing them but
what's she doing with them? Is she
eating them? Yeah, that's it, she's
eating them -
(pause)
- I know it sounds crazy! For all
we know, we know who she is, we
could have seen her every day
walking to the schoolhouse across
the street!
(pause)
Hell, we could have had her in here
for weeks, months, years? Only
we've forgotten because she's
stolen those memories from us!
(pause)
I'm not getting hysterical! Think
about it!
(MORE)

THE GIRL (CONT'D)

She's stolen the memories of your
childhood, your first bike ride,
losing your virginity, joining the
Force, every arrest and promotion,
meeting your wife - your kids - for
Christ's sakes Earl, she's taken
the memories of your damned kids!

THE GIRL turns to face the Handycam.

THE GIRL (CONT'D)

And you. (beat) How many times have
you watched this recording?

(pause)

Only once?

Can you be sure of that?

(beat)

Can you be really sure?

(pause)

THE GIRL makes a quick move (with SFX) towards the camera, it
jostles and all we see is static.

END CREDITS

CAST:

COP #1 (MALACHI)..... CHRIS WILSON
COP #2 (EARL)..... JON-MICHAEL FOSHEE
THE GIRL..... KATELYN MERRICKS
DESK SGT (KATE WATSON)..... LYNDIE WARREN
UNIFORMED OFFICER (STEVE).... MICHAEL PULASKI
CRAZY GUY..... EVAN KING

SETS:

HALLWAY OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM #3
INTERROGATION ROOM #3