

Clandestine

by

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Forgotten Cowboy Pictures. 2005

OPENING SHOT

A small box sits on a sideboard. A child's hand reaches in and pulls it away. As he does the title is revealed

CLANDESTINE

EXT. GARDEN - MORNING

Two young boys are running round. They are Jean and Pierre. Jean whispers in Pierre's ear, as they stop momentarily. They both smile and proceed to run through the garden

Pierre runs behind a tree, Jean runs 20 yards away and mimes getting in a car. He drives towards Pierre's tree

He gets out and knocks on the tree as if it is a door. Pierre answers with a snooty face. Jean places his hand on Pierre's lips

Pierre falls down

CUT TO:

INT. WINDOW

From the house, a figure watches the boys at play. Jean drags Pierre off

CUT TO:

GARDEN

Jean takes the small box out of his pocket. Pierre opens one eye and spotting the box jumps up and grabs it from Jean. He tries to open it but it cuts his hand. Jean takes a handkerchief out of his pocket. He wraps it round his friends' hand as blood seeps through

He picks up his friend and they jog towards the house. As they approach a man walks past them, it is Melville, he is in his early 50's. He glances at the boys passing him and then looks away and walks towards where the boys were playing

He arrives at the small box and looks at it

He bends down slowly and picks it up. Opening his palm

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Melville stares at the box in his hand, in the passenger seat. His friend Delon is in the drivers' seat. They are staring at a house. Lights are on all over the house

The two men sit and stare

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. WOMAN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Late afternoon sun beams into a bedroom through a gap in the curtains. A woman faces away from the light, the sheet, casually draped over her. Melville sits stroking her leg

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Back in the car. Melville takes a cigarette from his pocket and lights it, he offers one to Delon who declines without moving his gaze from the house. Melville steps out of the car, out of respect

CUT TO:

INT. WOMAN'S APARTMENT

Melville is still perched on the edge of the bed but he is dressed now. He takes the small box out of his pocket. He caresses it gently before kisses the woman's smooth protruding calf

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Melville leans on the car, smoking. Lights downstairs in the house go out. Melville gets in the car

INT. CAR

Melville turns to Delon who turns to him. After a beat they both turn back to looking at the house

EXT. HOUSE

The upstairs light is turned off

INT. CAR

The two men reach over into the backseat and pick up hats and coats

EXT. CAR

They put the hats and coats on and walk to the house

EXT. HOUSE

The two men walk silently and purposefully to the house, Delon knocks on the door

INT. HOUSE

A Butler opens the door

Melville presses his finger against his lips. The Butler falls forward, the two men catch him

EXT. HOUSE

Delon carries him around the front of the house, leaning him against the wall

Melville steps inside the house

INT. HOUSE

Delon enters the house. He closes and bolts the door

They cautiously move up the stairs

At the top of the stairs they turn right and are presented with several doors

Delon walks up to each in turn, closes his eyes and presses his left ear against the wood

At the third door he tries he opens his eyes and beckons Melville over

Melville opens the door

INT. BEDROOM

A man and woman are asleep. The two men approach

Melville removes the sheet from the man, keeping the woman covered

The man shuffles but does not wake, the woman's right arm rests across his waist. Melville approaches the woman, leans over and picks her arm up

Her right arm grabs his left arm and she springs awake. Before she can scream his hand is over her mouth and he is staring deep into her eyes. He holds his hand there. She freezes. Fear haunts her eyes

Delon watches and when convinced Melville has it all under control he approaches the man and rolls him onto his front, placing his arm by his side, slowly and carefully

He reaches into Melville's pocket and removes the small box

As he tries to open it, it slices his hand and he flinches back, dropping it onto the bed

Melville puts his fingers to his lips, warning the woman

Quickly he picks up the box, removes a handkerchief from his pocket and wraps Delon's hand up, moves Delon to the woman, placing his good hand on her mouth.

Melville stands and re-assesses. He opens the box with ease

He places it on the bedside dresser and puts gloves on

It is a solid oil, similar to vaseline. He rubs some on his gloved fingers and places the tin back on the bedside table

He rubs the oil on the man's spine, from the base to the neck. He rubs his hands together and massages the man's back, slowly, from the base to the neck. At the neck he holds his palm open. He looks across at Delon

Whatever they were expecting didn't happen

He tries again. Slower and with a little more force. At the neck he holds his palm open

After a beat

Still nothing

Delon turns to the woman, stares at her, he stares at Melville

All the colour has drained out of Melville's face. He is lost. He slumps into a chair, a broken man

Delon removes his hand from the woman's mouth. She lies frozen still. He walks towards his friend, standing in front of him. They look at each other, no idea of what to do

Suddenly, they hear a short burst of piano, from outside the room. They do not jump up, but wait

Seconds later, they hear the piano again, a different array of nonsensical notes.

The two men walk out

INT. UPPER HALLWAY

The two men walk slowly, shocked and confused. They stop at the top of the stairs and stare down them

CUT TO:

INT. FOOT OF THE STAIRS

A woman stands with a shotgun. A young boy sits at the piano looking at them

The woman sends the young boy out of the front of the house

The woman shoots Delon, who slumps on the stairs. Melville sits next to him

Seconds later the man from the bedroom appears, He stands, shocked. He looks at his wife and the two men on the stairs. He walks towards his wife. Half way down the stairs Melville realises, he glances back towards the bedroom. The wife catches this look and knows her husband has been cheating

She shoots her husband

He falls to the floor

Melville takes the box out of his pocket and looks at it. He places it in Delon's hand and stands, looking at the woman. She seems sad but her gaze fixes on Melville

Melville knows what is coming

She shoots him

BLACK

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