

SCENE RABBIT HOLE

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Howie stands in the middle of the room scrolling through his I-Phone applications. He's beside himself. Becca stands in the doorway, scared.

HOWIE

Goddamn it, what did you do to my phone?

BECCA

Jesus, Howie. I thought something had hap--

HOWIE

This morning. When you used it. What did you do to my phone?

BECCA

Nothing. I just got the number for the roof guy.

HOWIE

For christsake!

BECCA

What, you told me to call him.

HOWIE

You deleted Danny's video.

BECCA

(beat)

No, no I didn't. No. I just...you were right there. I just got the number.

HOWIE

Yeah, and you kept pressing the screen.

BECCA

Because I couldn't figure out how to use your phone.

She takes the phone from him and scrolls the screens, trying to find it.

HOWIE

I checked already. It's gone.

BECCA

(still tapping the screen)  
We have a hundred videos of him,  
Howie.

HOWIE  
That's not the point, Becca.

BECCA  
Then you should've put it on your  
computer.

HOWIE  
Right, it's my fault.

BECCA  
(still searching)  
I didn't say that.

HOWIE  
I said it's gone!  
He grabs the phone and hurls it onto the couch.

BECCA  
Jesus, Howie! I didn't do it on  
purpose!

HOWIE  
Are you sure?  
Becca stands staring at him, dumbstruck.

BECCA  
What does that mean?  
(no response)  
You think I deliberately deleted  
his video?

HOWIE  
I don't know.

BECCA  
You don't know?  
She glares, shaken, waiting for some kind of explanation.

HOWIE  
It's like you're trying to get rid  
of him. I'm sorry, but that's how  
it feels. Every day, it's  
something new.

BECCA  
(beat - holds it together)

Really.

HOWIE

Yeah. It's like you're trying to get rid of any evidence he was ever here. You took his paintings off the fridge.

BECCA

Yes, to save them. They are in a box downstairs.

HOWIE

His clothes?

BECCA

We don't need all that stuff.

HOWIE

Your wanting to sell the house.  
Your sending Taz to your mother's.

BECCA

There was a lot going on, Howie.  
The dog got under foot.

HOWIE

Right. And he was a reminder.

BECCA

Yes, he was a reminder, and I wanted one less reminder around here.

HOWIE

And since you never wanted the dog.

BECCA

Oh, for godssake.

HOWIE

Well if I hadn't bought the dog—

BECCA

And if I hadn't run in to get the phone or if I had latched the gate—

HOWIE

I left the gate unlatched!

BECCA

Well I didn't check it! I'm not playing this game again Howie. It was no one's fault.

HOWIE

Not even the dog's. Dogs chase squirrels, boys chase dogs.

BECCA

I know that.

HOWIE

He loved that dog! And you got rid of it!

BECCA

Just like I got rid of the video.

HOWIE

(losing it)

It's not just the video! I'm not talking about the video, Becca!

It's Taz, and the paintings, and the clothes, and it's everything!

You have to stop erasing him! You have to stop it! YOU HAVE TO STOP!

Howie's been reduced to tears. He has to move away from her. Becca takes him in. She seems more confused than affronted.

BECCA

Do you really not know how impossible that would be? To erase him? No matter how many things I box up, do you really think I don't see him every second of every day? Howie looks up at her.

BECCA

The video was an accident, Howie. And believe me, I'll beat myself up about it forever, I'm sure. Just like everything else that I could've prevented.

HOWIE

That's not what I want, Becca.

BECCA

No? Because it feels like it is. It feels like maybe I don't feel badly enough for you.

They stand there, unable to go any further with this.

HOWIE

This isn't... Something has to change here. Because I can't do this...like this. It's too hard. It's too hard. Howie heads for the door, then stops.

HOWIE

And I want that dog back. Your mother's making him fat.

BECCA

Howie—

HOWIE

I miss the dog. I'm sorry, but I miss him. I want him back. They regard each other silently. Howie heads