

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

PHILLIP, late 20's, stands in the center of a bridge. He sweats, intensely upset, sways lightly with fatigue. He sets his face in a hard stare, squares up.

Phil lunges forward, running full tilt off the bridge belting a primal scream.

PHIL
Ahhhhhhhhh!

Phil runs off the bridge. He appears on the opposite side, running back onto it, still screaming.

PHIL
Ahhhhh! No, god no, no- Ahhhha.

Phil sobs as he loses inertia. By the time he reaches the center again, he collapses.

PHIL
Oh god, please- please god let me
get off this bridge. Please I- What
the hell? What the HELL!

Phil is beside himself in genuine misery. He writhes about, huddled to the ground, smacking his head against the concrete.

He rolls over, reaches in his pocket. He pulls out a CELL PHONE.

He reaches a name in his phone - SARAH. He hesitates. Moves down the list to ANDREW, and dials.

PHIL
Drew, Drew hey man. No- no- she's
fine- she called you? Shit- Okay.
No man it's fine just- I need you
to come to the bridge downtown.
Please- Yes, right now- it's- it's
important. I'm- I'm kinda scared.
Please. Okay. Thanks.

Phil nods, waits a moment, then hangs up the phone. He looks back both ways over the bridge in despair.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Phil paces in the middle of the bridge. A car approaches. Phil heads toward it, madly.

PHIL
No! Stop! Don't get on the bridge!
Wait! Wait!

The car stops feet from the bridge. DREW, 20's, gets out of the car. He walks toward the bridge.

PHIL
About damn time man, it's been 2
hours- where the hell-

Phil stops inches from the threshold of the bridge.

PHIL
Anyway look you're not going to
believe this but I-

Drew stops near the bridge. Phil pauses, realizing that Andrew has not made eye contact with him.

PHIL
Drew? Andrew! Andrew! Hey! Hey!
God ah-

Drew looks around, oblivious to Phil. Phil nearly panics, looks down at a line on the ground, and steps over it. He appears at the opposite side of the bridge.

Phil pulls out his phone, dials as he walks toward Drew again. Drew's phone RINGS.

DREW
Phil this'd better be-

PHIL
Andrew, please man, please- I'm
standing right in front of you!
Please look at me, please-

Phil sobs, but Andrew looks disgusted.

DREW
Man are you drunk already?

PHIL
No! please! Please! I can't- I
can't- I don't- What is this? Can't
you hear me?

DREW
 (with pent-up ire)
 Yeah man I hear you- and you're
 being a shit. A complete- man I
 wish you were here. Sarah told me
 you broke off the engagement,
 and... She deserves better than
 you, you know that?

PHIL
 What? She said that?

DREW
 No- I do. You been engaged how
 long? To break it off now? What
 did you want from her?

PHIL
 This isn't your- fuck you Drew, you
 have no right-

Phil breaks apart.

DREW
 Yeah, whatever. Look man-

PHIL
 Please- Drew. I'm- I'm really on
 the bridge. I'm here- You're-
 you're wearing a- blue shirt, you
 missed a belt-loop.

Drew checks himself, looks around nervously.

DREW
 What is this Phil?

PHIL
 I don't know, please.

DREW
 You're messed up man, you need
 help.

Drew shuts his phone, looks around again, heads back toward
 his car.

Phil grits his teeth, clenches his phone, then hurls it in
 fury off the bridge.

Drew climbs into his car. Another car pulls up behind him.
 Drew gets back out, perturbed, until he sees who it is.

SARAH, 20's, gets out of the other car.

Phil sees Sarah and snaps. He frantically looks about for a way off the bridge. An idea strikes. He runs to the side of the bridge, climbs over the wall, and jumps. He lands back on the bridge and rolls, from the opposite side.

Phil jumps back up, further distressed. His attention is immediately back on Drew and Sarah.

SARAH

Drew? What are you doing here?

DREW

Getting out of here- Phil's lost it.

SARAH

What?

PHIL

What?

Phil reaches for his phone, remembers in agony that it's gone.

PHIL

Sarah- Please!

DREW

We need to get out of here. Do you have anywhere to go other than back to- You can't, keep living together.

SARAH

I know, okay, I can- I'll figure something out.

DREW

Just come with me for now, I have the spare room. But- look, we really should get out of here.

SARAH

Wait- Wait. Where is he?

DREW

He called me to come out here, he didn't show, then he called completely hammered, and- anyway, we should leave.

SARAH

This is where we- I came to- I don't even know. I thought he might be here. Is he okay?

Phil tears up.

PHIL

Sarah- oh god. I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

DREW

Look- I don't know what's wrong with him right now. If he can't see that- If we'd been together half as long as you two were- we'd be married. I mean- Phil doesn't know what he wants, but I do.

Sarah smiles with awkward kindness, trying to appease him.

Phil rages in impotence.

SARAH

Drew. I- Thanks Drew. You're a good friend. I- I guess he'd call if- I hope he's alright.

DREW

He'll be fine. Let's get out of here, meet me at my place okay?

Sarah nods, and Drew returns to his car and leaves. Sarah pauses before getting back in her car, eyes on the bridge. For an instant, her eyes tear as they seem to connect with Phil's. But, seeing nothing, she finally turns away.

Phil turns, unable to watch as Sarah drives off.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Phil sits with his back against the stone wall, head hung. Headlights approach as a WORK TRUCK pulls up by the bridge and stops.

A grizzled old repairman steps out and approaches. His name-tag reads MAX.

As he approaches the bridge, Phil slowly climbs to his feet, alarm growing as he sees Max is about to step onto the bridge.

PHIL
Wait don't!

Max steps right past Phil at the threshold onto the bridge, pulling a mag-light out of his pocket and twisting it on.

MAX
Heard ya been havin' trouble with
this bridge.

Max walks past, Phil watches after, confused.

PHIL
What? Ey- Yeah.

Phil follows after Max, who searches for something on the ground.

MAX
Been stuck awhile?

Phil is astonished at the man's nonchalance.

PHIL
Ah. Yeah. How did you-

Max finds something indistinct.

MAX
Ahhhh, here's somethin'.

He follows an invisible line toward the wall.

PHIL
What?

MAX
You- uh, know how a bridge works
son?

PHIL
You- start on one side, walk across
to the other? That's- what I used
to think.

MAX
That how your feet work, not the
bridge.

PHIL
How does a bridge work?

Max reaches the wall, works up it with the flashlight.

MAX

A lot like a wall. It's all about
what it's in the middle of, 'cept a
bridge got to connect, walls
divide. Connection got broke here.

Max pulls out his hanky, wets it with his tongue.

PHIL

What is it?

MAX

Tears. What else would it be?

Phil is struck by this revelation.

INSERT: PHIL AND SARAH

stand at the wall, Sarah crying, Phil's head hung. It's the
moment when Phil broke off the engagement.

Phil realizes it was Sarah's tears, caused by him, that
trapped him on the Morphius Bridge. Max cleans a spot on
the ledge with the hanky.

MAX

That should do it. Well, come on.

Max cordially turns and leads Phil towards the edge of the
bridge. Phil hesitates at the edge, but Max pushes him over.
They stop at Max's truck.

MAX

Good luck son.

Max winks, gets in the truck. The poorly stenciled lettering
on the side reads PONTIFEX BRIDGE SERVICE. Phil watches him
drive away.

Realizing what he must do, Phil takes a deep breath, and
sprints into the night.