Tied Treatment

The films opens with a middle aged woman, Angela, going through what appears to be a standard end of the day routine. Taking off jewelry, make up, etc. Before any of this is explained, we cut to the title card.

We then move to a modern but messy kitchen in the early evening on a weekday. A middle age man, John, is seen rushing around the room trying to cook a meal whilst conversing on the phone. He’s dressed in a suit and clearly struggling to manage talking on the phone and his domestic responsibility. As he ends his business call a girl, Becky, enters the room. Becky is in her mid-late teens wearing baggy clothes and tied up hair. She looks tired as she walks around the room turning off the hob and tidying up the table ready for her father’s meal. The two sit down for a lackluster meal and the tension between the two is established, it is mentioned how Becky’s Mother no longer lives with the two, though the reasons for why aren’t clear. Their discussion ends as Becky informs her father she is going out that night, before he can respond his phone rings again. Becky leaves the house.

Becky is then seen walking down quiet suburban streets, now wearing a few more layers of clothing. She checks her phone regularly as she rounds a corner onto a playing field. There are runners, dog walkers and families playing. Two teenage boys are kicking a ball around whilst a girl sits and watches. The girl, Claire, sees Becky approaching and welcomes her. She hugs Becky, whilst Becky’s loosely hugs back establishing that Becky perhaps doesn’t know the group too well. Harry, one of the two boys walks over to Becky, kicking the ball across the park as he approaches. Ben, the other boy swears as he chases the ball. The group talk as the sun sets around them, pondering what to do next. Just as they begin to give up hope, Harry suggests visiting a house near him that’s been abandoned, claiming the family hasn’t been seen for months. Initially resisting the idea, the boredom of their small town takes hold and the group decide to go investigate.

They arrive and decide to break in, Harry suggesting they could rob something, a souvenir of sorts. Harry and Ben turn their attention to Becky, putting pressure on her to go in first. Becky turns to Claire for support, but she takes the boys side. Becky, worried about losing her eventually decides to do it and climbs through a half open window into the house.

She quietly explores the rooms admiring the decoration and photos that adorn the affluent building. The house is messy but quiet and dark. Becky eases into the situation, convinced the house is abandoned and aware of the pressure of her waiting friends. Whilst exploring a room upstairs, she hears a thud from another room and begins to panic. Becky slowly leaves the room and sees a door is open with light pouring out. Trapped, Becky decides to dart past the room and out of the house. As she speeds past, she sees the outline of a women, Angela, hanging from a light fixture. She freezes before running into the room and pulling her down. Angela is still alive and surprised at Becky’s intervention. The two argue for a minute in the ensuing chaos before Angela’s mothering instinct kicks in and she realises that Becky has seen something no child should. She begins looking out for Becky, calming her down and talking about what has happened. Angela, wanting to change the topic, gets Becky to open up about her home life and how she’s dealing with life in a new town. Angela gives hints at a lost family. As the two open up, they realise they fulfill the gaps in each others lives.

As Angela leaves to get a drink for Becky, Becky spots Harry climbing through a downstairs window, shocked, she rushes downstairs in an attempt to get him to leave, knowing the vulnerable Angela is still upstairs. Harry gets aggressive to Becky and begins placing Angela’s items into a rucksack. As he places a photo of Angela’s lost family into the bag, Becky snaps and lunges at him, knocking Harry to the floor. He catches his face on the broken photo frame sending blood streaming down his face. He becomes more irate and runs at Becky with a clenched fist before halting his charge. He storms out to grab the rest of the group. Becky, vulnerable and scared storms upstairs to find Angela. Angela embraces Becky before suggesting the pair leave the house and get Becky home. They take a side entrance and briskly walk down an alleyway into a busy street. As they head down the street they appear to be a normal mother and daughter. Becky glances up at Angela as we cut to black.