Shadows in the snow

short meter

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The original script

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1. INT. ANTON'S APARTMENT BEDROOM – DAY

The room is decorated in dark gray tones, cracks are visible on the walls.

There's a box on the floor. It contains personal items: photos with colleagues, a watch with the hands stopped, and office supplies. Next to the resume marked "REFUSAL", a postal notice with the inscription "... OVERDUE LOANS".

There's a cracked mirror on the wall. It reflects ANTON (29 years old, wearing a battered sweater, shadows under his eyes). He's sitting on the edge of the bed, holding a full bottle of sleeping pills in one hand. His gaze is fixed on the laptop screen.

There are many tabs open on the laptop: "Ways to leave without pain", "How to write a suicide note", "Why am I still alive?".

ANTON

(in a whisper, looking at the screen)

Google knows everything except how to plug this damn void...

On one of the tabs is the number of the psychological help hotline. He dials the number and makes a call.

THE VOICE ON THE PHONE

(without emotion)

Wait for the operator's response… Your call is important to us.

The music is on hold. Anton hangs up the phone and punches the wall. A bloody abrasion remains on his arm.

anton

(looking at the smartphone)

Have you ever answered while someone was still breathing?!

Having said that, he opens a bottle of sleeping pills.

There are 7 unread emails on the laptop screen. A dating site notification pops up on top of them, flickering pink with text: You have mutual sympathy.

Anton puts a bottle of pills on the bed and clicks on the notification.

A girl named TANYA (36, attractive) reciprocated. On her status: I love life.

Anton smiles, but at that moment there is a knock on the door, which scares him a lot. Suddenly, all the pills fall to the floor when he stands up abruptly.

anton

Damn!

2. INT. ANTON'S APARTMENT IS AN ENTRANCE HALL - DAY

Anton cautiously approaches the door, trying not to make any noise.

A MAN'S VOICE

(knocking on the door)

Is anyone home?

Then a call rings on Anton's smartphone. He grabs the phone as if in fright, not even looking at who is calling him.

MOM

(by phone)

Hey, goofball, are you home?

ANTON

(quietly)

Yes, yes, Mom.

MOM

(on the phone, screaming)

So, the courier delivered the order, maybe you can pick it up from him?

anton

Ah-ah-ah-ah. Damn, I told you, you don't have to order anything for me. I have money, that's enough.

MOM

(by phone)

Stop whining. Yes, there are only vegetables and fruits.

Anton opens the door and sees a COURIER (migrant) with two bulky bags full of groceries.

MOM

(by phone)

My father won't know. Take care of yourself, you idiot.

My Father's voice is heard on the phone.

FATHER

(on the phone, screaming)

Mother, is that Anton calling? Anton, are you in debt again? It's a disgrace!

The courier can hear, as can Anton. An awkward pause.

anton

(picking up the packages to the Courier)

Thank you!

3. INT. ANTON'S APARTMENT KITCHEN – DAY

A Mother and Father can be heard swearing on the phone (unintelligible speech).

Anton fills the refrigerator without emotion, pulling everything out of the bags.

IMAGINATION.

Suddenly, the parents' swearing disappears.

Anton opens the window and rushes down from his floor.

A still shot of an open kitchen window.

The screams of people are coming from the street. Walking and running.

PERSON one

(shouting, male voice)

He's still alive. Does anyone have a phone? We need to call an ambulance.

PERSON TWO

(elderly voice)

My leg and head are broken… What kind of moron would rush from the third floor of a house?

person THREE

(female voice)

Probably to receive a disability pension.

Laughter on his face.

THE END OF IMAGINATION.

Anton closes the refrigerator door. The parents' voices can still be heard on the phone. He holds it to his ear.

MOM

(on the phone, screaming like crazy)

It's all your fault, you freak!

FATHER

(on the phone, interrupting)

He's a copy of you! Weak emotional, stupid…

ANTON

(hangs up, silence in the kitchen)

Sometimes the only way out is suicide!

4. INT. ANTON'S APARTMENT BATHROOM – DAY

Anton fills the tub. There are razor blades in his hand.

ANTON

(voice-over)

Clear. Quickly… The neighbor won't see the blood…

IMAGINATION

Anton enters the bathroom naked. Opens the faucet and removes the plug in the tub.

Taking a deep breath, Anton takes a blade and cuts both his arms just below the elbow. Blood gushes out in a crimson stream, filling the tub, but because of the open plug, the water quickly drains away.

An expression of happiness appears on Anton's face, and he closes his eyes.

Suddenly, the door opens abruptly, and Anton's NEIGHBOR (skuf) rushes into the bathroom. When he sees the lifeless body, he screams incessantly for ten seconds.

neighbour

(he calms down)

That's the mattress…

Having said that, he closes the door.

THE END OF IMAGINATION

Anton touches the tub, which is almost filled to the brim, with his fingers.

ANTON

(coming to himself, in a whisper)

Damn him! I don't want to see his grins before he dies...

5. INT. THE ATTIC OF MY PARENTS' HOUSE – DAY

Anton ties a rope to a beam and tries on a noose around his neck. His hands are shaking.

ANTON

(voice-over)

My grandfather hung up his enemies, my father hung up his underwear, and I hung up the last Nikolayev. A family tradition!

IMAGINATION

Mom climbs the stairs to the roof and sees Anton's lifeless body hanging motionless. She screams loudly and, losing consciousness, falls backwards down. She can be heard hitting the stairs and breaking her neck and arms.

THE END OF IMAGINATION

Anton slips, the chair tilts, but the rope does not hold and breaks. Anton falls to the floor and coughs loudly.

ANTON

(coughing, whispering)

Apparently, even the loop hates me.

6. INT. METRO PLATFORM – DAY

Anton stands at the edge of the platform. The noise of an approaching train is heard. In a crowd of people, a GIRL (10 years old) holding a doll pulls her Mother after her.

ANTON

(behind the scenes)

Instantly. No chance at all… One step, and I'm free.

IMAGINATION

The train comes out of the tunnel, Anton jumps. Darkness. Screams of people are heard, the train slows down sharply. It's hard to distinguish the crying of a little girl.

THE END OF IMAGINATION

The girl, looking at Anton, pulls the doll towards him. He stumbles back, stumbles, and almost falls onto the tracks. But he manages to keep his balance, and he abruptly moves away from the edge of the platform and quickly heads for the exit.

7. NAT. FOREST – EVENING

Anton is digging a grave. Next to him are a hunting knife, trash bags and a bottle of water.

anton

(tired, panting)

Damn. How difficult it is...

(looks at his hands)

The earth is resisting.

He digs out a sufficient amount, lies down on the garbage bags already laid on the bottom.

He holds the knife with both hands, puts the blade to his bare chest.

anton

(he worries a lot)

Silence… No one will find it… Even if he finds it, there's a note.

A close—up of the note lying in the file along with five hundred dollars. It says: "Bury me, and this money will be yours!"

IMAGINATION

The seasons change, but no one buries him. His body naturally decomposes, and many animals sniff and walk away from him. There were only bones left in the grave.

THE END OF IMAGINATION

The sudden cry of birds and the barking of dogs frighten Anton, and he drops the knife. Fortunately, the blade only grazes the skin on the chest.

anton

(shouting)

What are you doing? I'm writing a monologue here, and you're like the audience at the premiere!

8. NAT. building – NIGHT

Anton is standing over a pit with still liquid concrete. The wind is whistling through the pipes. He touches his chest with pain on his face.

ANTON

(behind the scenes)

Become a part of the construction site… Maybe they'll appreciate me here at least. Look at how smooth the seam of the corpse is!

IMAGINATION

Anton jumps onto the fresh concrete and slowly sinks into it, but not completely. He tries to get out, but in vain.

Morning comes, and the workers stare in horror at Anton's dead body, half hidden under the frozen concrete. They are trying to break the dried concrete with shovels, but to no avail.

THE END OF IMAGINATION

A flash of light. Someone is pointing a flashlight in Anton's direction.

GUARD

(in broken English)

Who is it? Who are you?

Anton runs away, leaving a trail on the concrete that has not yet dried.

9. NAT. BRIDGE – EVENING

Anton stands on the railing of the bridge from the outside. Dark water splashes below him. A cold wind blows through his lungs. His backpack is on the inside of the railing.

He feels the pockets where he put the stones to make himself heavier. Even holding onto the railing with his hands, he barely manages to keep his balance.

anton

(he's cold)

If I fall into cold water, that's it. Even if I don't drown, the cold will kill me. I just hate him.

(behind the scenes)

Freedom…

Anton stands on the edge of the bridge, hands at his sides, peering into the distance. There's not a soul in sight. He takes a step forward, and at that moment, smartphone notifications sound in his pockets. Anton tries to grab the railing, but his hand slips. At the last moment, he manages to grab onto an old brick that serves as a support for the bridge, and holds on to the very edge.

anton

(out of fear and excitement)

What a mess! Damn, it's just a nightmare!

With his other hand, he pulls rocks out of his pockets and throws them into the river.

Anton slowly slides to the ground and lies exhausted on the bridge, indulging in sobs.

PASSERBY

(from afar)

Man, what are you doing?

anton

(in tears)

I'm practicing the role of an angel. I just forgot the wings. And the desire to live.

The rest of the people passing by don't pay attention to him and hurry about their business.

anton

(in tears, in a whisper)

I couldn't even do that... really, a complete loser and a mattress. Damn it!

His smartphone beeps a notification again.

The camera zooms in on the smartphone screen. This is a message from a dating site.

tanya

(message)

It's cold outside…

(smiley face with sad face)

A smile appears on Anton's face. He wants to answer her, but the smartphone turns off, showing zero percent charge.

anton

What the hell!

He gets up, goes to his backpack, takes out a charger with a cable and connects his smartphone.

10. NAT. bus stop - EVENING

Snowfall. Anton is sitting at the bus stop and charging his smartphone.

anton

(Tanya's messages)

That's not the word. I hate the cold.

He draws attention to the scratch on his left arm, which he obviously got when he fell.

Taking wet wipes, he gently wipes the blood from his hand. At this moment, a message arrives.

tanya

(message)

I love snow.… It hides the dirt… Just like people.

anton

(message)

I would add, "And suicides are like snowflakes. They're unique, but they all fall down."

tanya

(message)

It's a pity, epigrams don't save.

anton

(message)

But they keep you warm. For example: "Life is like a bad TV show. You can't wait for the end, but it's a pity to quit."

tanya

(message)

Laughing smiley face…

anton

(message)

What are you doing?

11. NAT. COFFEE SHOP AT THE ENTRANCE – EVENING

Anton is worried and walks in a circle at the entrance. He notices how people are constantly coming in and out of the building.

tanya

(from the back)

Hi!

ANTON

(startled)

Hi!

He looks at her with interest. She is wearing a grey jacket with a hood on her head.

tanya

Did you think I'd come in a dress?

anton

I thought... you wouldn't come at all.

tanya

I can leave as if I wasn't there.

Anton laughs heartily. This makes Tanya a little confused, but then he smiles a little too.

12. INT. COFFEE SHOP AT THE TABLE – EVENING

They are sitting at a table, and each has an average cup of coffee in their hands. Tanya draws attention to the fresh scars on Anton's left arm.

tanya

Where did you walk?

(pointing to the scar in his hand)

anton

To be honest, there are a lot of places today… Why did you write to me all of a sudden?

tanya

It was boring. And you're probably the only one who hasn't posted or posted his dick when he visits my page.

(she laughed)

anton

(laughing)

So, it's true that the members' photos are being sent.

tanya

Every second... sometimes, to be honest, not everyone is like that. There are times when they…

ANTON

(interrupting)

Let's not go into details, so that my imagination doesn't take me into the world of dicks.

TANYA

(smiling)

So, where have you been?

anton

On the bridge. Don't ask me why, please, or I'll have to lie.

TANYA

Hmm...

(after taking a couple of sips of coffee)

Did my message interfere with your business?

ANTON

Is not. On the contrary, it saved me.

Tanya runs her finger imperceptibly over the scar on her wrist, while Anton drinks coffee and looks with peace at the snow falling outside.

Tanya gets up and puts on her hood.

tanya

Come on, it's too hot in here.

anton

Yes, because I was already starting to melt. Like my hopes for an easy death.

tanya

(laughing)

You're a humorist. Let's go for a walk before the snow melts.

They're coming out. The camera slowly moves away, focusing on the two abandoned cups of coffee.

end