

BIRDS EYE VIEW: HOWE SOUND - DAY

A bird's eye view of Howe Sound, two ridges of snow peaked mountains dramatically flank a wide body of water. The sound of wings slowly beating against the wind. Down one side a highway snakes, following the coastline, interrupted by small townships. The rest is just forest stretching forever over the valley and mountains.

SADIE (V.O.)

There are close to 250 million acres of forest in British Columbia and over 55 thousand lakes. The one I'm at the bottom of didn't even make the list.

Eris Island gets closer, as the raven descends disappearing into misty forest, flying over cabins, coming into a clearing, over a lake as the Raven descends. The rain is falling heavily.

BOTTOM OF KILLARNEY LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Diving below the surface of the lake, murky water and lake weeds with a few fish swimming by.

SADIE (V.O.)

The night they realized I was missing they organized a search party, it seemed like the whole island turned out with flashlights - a delicate web piercing the inky darkness. Beams of lights revealing tree stumps, rusty appliances, and forgotten shacks in the endless forest. The next morning they dredged the lake, but I am not there. I am still hastily stuffed into a garden shed. I won't be moved till weeks later when the smell of my rotting flesh overpowers the summer blossoms.

There was no reward for information, no picture of me on milk boxes, it was more convenient to think I had run away.....they don't make TV specials about ugly girls.

Bubbles float up, and a skeleton is dislodged quickly amidst swirling water and debris. It is sucked out with the water as the damn breaks.

EXT. ROADSIDE ERIS ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Water rushes across the road. Sadie's skeleton is hung up on tree branches in the ditch. A gust of wind rustles branches.

INT. SCHWARTZ KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

The back door blows open from a gust of wind causing house cleaner SINEAD (27) to jump. She shuts the door.

Sinead's phone is on the counter with a small portable speaker playing Morcheeba's 'Enjoy the Ride'. She watches out the window at the wind in the trees, before snapping a photo and posting it to social media, with storm caption. She returns to mopping the floor half-assedly.

INT. SCHWARTZ LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

House cleaners ELENA (45) and SANDI (50) are cleaning a large, modern and immaculate living room. Fine art decorates the walls. Sandi vacuums, she looks casual in a tunic and leggings, her hair loosely tied back under a head-scarf. ELENA looks shabby, dressed in old jogging pants and a loose T-shirt.

SUSAN (63), sits perched on an accent chair beside the window texting furiously. She occasionally looks up to eye the women working. She is trying hard to be elegant. She wears a sweater set and pants with a string of pearls. Her phone rings. Sandi stops the vacuum, waiting while she answers. She looks at the number, hesitates and answers.

SUSAN

Hello...hold on. (incoherent shouting is just audible) I have to take this. I'll just be on the porch.

Susan leaves the room.

SUSAN (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I told you, I can't do this when I am working.

Her voice disappears and the front door is heard closing.

Elena and Sandi exchange looks.

Elena suddenly strides over and removes 'A Portrait of Jacqueline' from the wall. She pulls white cotton gloves from her pocket and quickly pulls them on.

She deftly separates the canvas from the frame with a knife.

SANDI (50), picks up a vacuum cleaner tube, and slides out a cardboard tube. She pries open the tube and slides out a rolled up canvas.

Elena carefully, but quickly rolls the original painting up.

SANDI
(whispering) come on...

SINEAD (O.C.)
The kitchen is done.

Sandi and Elena exchange nervous glances. Sandi shouts back.

SANDI
Go do the upstairs bathroom.

Sandi slides the original into the tube and slides the tube into a spare vacuum tube. Elena unrolls the other canvas applies double sided tape, she firmly presses along the edges and re-hangs the frame.

Sandi turns on the vacuum and Elena wipes down the coffee table.

Susan (55) the caretaker comes in from the porch, she has been arguing with her boyfriend over the phone.

SUSAN (O.S.)
I said I'm sorry....I have to go....Bye, bye, bye. We can talk later.

She enters the room, covering her embarrassment or vulnerability by assessing the girls working.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Can you make sure you vacuum under the sofa please.

Elena rolls her eyes.

SANDI
...I just did that while you were outside.

SUSAN

...and in the corners under the drapes.

She straightens the painting on the wall. Wipes her finger over the top of the bookshelves. She sees Portrait of Jacqueline is crooked again, she straightens it for a second time. Elena watches her, then quickly returns to dusting. A moment later, she stands.

ELENA

I am going to get this stuff out of your way, we don't need the second vacuum...

She pick up the spare vacuum and leaves. Sandi continues vacuuming, Susan returns to her perch.

EXT. ROADSIDE ERIS ISLAND - LATER

It is raining. Grafton road is taped off. An RCMP officer takes pictures, two more erect a tent over the ditch in the fierce wind. There is an ambulance and paramedics are pulling out a second gurney.

The photographer stands in the ditch and quickly takes pictures as the skeleton sways with the water, debris breaks loose. He manages to catch an arm before it is swept away.

EXT. ROADSIDE ERIS ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Sandi drives the house cleaners to their next job, the car is full of cleaning supplies. The girls are eating, or smoking. They drive by the crime scene at the lake. They all craine their heads, staring. Sandi looks through the rear view. Sinead chokes on the muffin in her suddenly dry mouth.

The crime scene disappears around a bend, rain bounces on the road.