

MASKS

Written by

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EXISTENCE-THE FACT OR STATE OF
LIVING OR HAVING OBJECTIVE REALITY.

"We understand how dangerous a mask
can be. We all become what we
pretend to be."
-Patrick Rothfuss

FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO B - DAY/NIGHT

In a dark space rests a small beam of light. In the light
rests a venetian mask.

CHASE (V.O.)
Is it just a character they see? A
mask of an actual existence?

A hand grabs the mask and takes it from the light. It is
placed upon a face hidden beneath the mask.

EXT. SUNLIT FIELD - SUNSET

Reflective student CHASE (20) and beautiful DARCY (20) stand
together in the field. They run after each other, and share
intimate moments.

Darcy and Chase stand close then share a long kiss.

DUSTIN (O.S.)
Cut!

The facade of the beautiful moment vanishes as we find
ourselves on the set of a student film. Chase and Darcy are
simply actors.

Darcy and Chase face the director DUSTIN (20), who approaches
them.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
That was it. How did that one feel?

CHASE
Good. Really good.

DARCY
It was fine. But I think my makeup
is fading.

Chase looks to Darcy in search of something, anything.

DUSTIN
Great work everyone. That's a wrap!

I/E. VARIOUS FILM SETS/APARTMENT/EDITING SUITES - DAY/NIGHT

MONTAGE:

Chase speaks as he engages in various film student activities

CHASE (V.O.)
I'm Chase Ronan and I'm a college
film student. I go through life
like I'm living in a movie. The
line of actuality has ceased to
exist between my film sets and
reality. It's as if I'm always
wearing the mask of a character.

Chase acts in multiple film sets in various locations.

Chase checks a camera and then yells action. He directs
actors.

Chase sits in his apartment writing a screenplay.

Chase sits with other students in the editing suites editing
a film.

We slowly move in to Chase's troubled face as he acts in a
scene.

CUT TO:

TITLE CREDITS

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET

Darcy and another actor CLARK (21) sit side by side. Chase
converses with his cinematographer Dustin.

CHASE
That looks great, just be sure to
keep them framed in the left third.

Chase approaches the actors.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Darcy, when Clark approaches I want to see in your eyes how much he is saving you from this wretched life you are trapped in. Clark, this is the only girl in the world that is right for you. Make sense?

The actors nod.

CHASE (CONT'D)

OK, let's run it.

Chase assumes his position next to Dustin who operates the camera.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Action!

Darcy sits in the field. Clark approaches her and takes her hand. He then kneels down and softly kisses her. Darcy lays down and Clark slowly leans down and kisses her once more.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Cut!

Chase jogs over and takes a seat with the actors.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Excellent. Really felt it. Let's take it again, Darcy this time I want more reluctance when he appears. You don't feel as if you can trust him just yet or that this is his true face.

Chase jogs back to the camera.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Reset to one, let's run it again!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

We follow a steadicam operator as he follows the movement of Chase, who walks across the field toward another actress LAURA (20).

CHASE (V.O.)

Often times I'll approach the situation like I'm in a movie scene.

Chase takes a seat by Laura and they eagerly talk. We can't hear their words. Eventually the conversation stops.

CHASE (V.O.)

I'll intently watch as they talk and then deliver a clever line right on cue. Except nothing has been written for me. There is no more dialogue in this scene.

INT. STUDIO B - DAY/NIGHT

JEN (19) a writer and sound operator, BRIAN (20) the camera operator, Dustin, and a few other off-screen actors stand in the studio.

DUSTIN

This is where the metaphor hits, in this shot right Jen?

JEN

Correct, directly following the big gloom.

Dustin walks off to the side to talk to the actors we can't see. Brian prepares the shot and sets the camera up.

DUSTIN

(To the off-screen actors)
And then you stand forward and deliver it.

Dustin positions himself next to the camera. Jen readies the boom pole.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Lights.

The lights dim. Nothing but a spotlight illuminates the dark space.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Camera.

BRIAN

Rolling.

DUSTIN

Speed.

JEN

Speeding.

DUSTIN

Action!

A cloaked figure enters the spotlight. The FIRST figure dons a venetian mask.

We move in to the FIRST figure as they step forward.

FIRST CLOAKED FIGURE

I can see it playing out before me.
I think I can predict this scene
but I can't. There isn't a script
and these aren't characters. We're
not on a created set but just on
the landscape of the wide world
that has always been before us.
Action was yelled long ago so we
have to keep living to keep our
personas alive, and remove the mask
we've been hiding under.

The SECOND cloaked figure also wears a venetian mask and slowly enters the light and approaches the FIRST figure.

The SECOND figure stands before the FIRST and slowly removes her mask and shakes out her hair. It is Darcy. She reaches up toward the mask from the FIRST figure.

Right as the mask is about to be removed...

CUT TO: BLACK.

VOICE (O.S.)

Cut!

THE END.