

The Mother

(After Joelle Taylor)

Scene One

INTERIOR: A bedroom in a small end-terrace / The red curtains are closed / A man lies in a queen-sized bed / A mother wearing a Victorian nightdress, black tape masking sections of her face, is on a step-ladder / She holds a feather duster / Beside the bed is a Moses basket, a baby asleep inside it / A pair of pliers rests on a book of poetry

ZOOM TO: A clock on the wall running backwards, ticking loudly

LX1: Light falls in silver scars on a red pile carpet / The mother stretches to worry a cobweb / Her nightdress rides up to reveal thin skin beneath which her heart is visible

FXI: Birdsong / Snarfling / Full-throated crying / The mother picks up the baby / The duster in her other hand / She sings a made-up lullaby / In bed, she removes a breast / The baby latches on / The mother makes a noise like walking on bleeding feet / The man sits bolt upright / He takes up the pliers

LX2: The lights flicker / *Please take our baby* the mother says / *After the rewiring* the man replies

PULL FOCUS: The man kneels on the bed / The baby is still feeding, eyes closing / With the pliers, the man pulls a milky-blue cord from the woman's head, leaving a ragged hole / The cord stretches to the floor / Into the hole, he feeds red cord / *Things will work better from now on* he says / The baby wakes and wolf-howls / The man tosses him like a coin in the air and catches him

LX3: The spatial contours of the characters blur

FX2: The baby is sirening / *Take him out in the pram* the man says, yawning *The movement helps him sleep* / The mother leaves with the baby, tripping over the milky-blue cord / She winds it up and throws it away / The man snores

CUT

Scene Two

INTERIOR: The mother kisses her baby then passes him to a faceless woman / She puts on a pair of trainers / Picks up a notebook / There is a stopwatch on her forehead / She walks out of the room but does not leave it

CUT

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LX – Lighting Direction; signifies a change in lighting
FX – Sound Direction; signifies a change in sound