

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

A Treatment

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

A beautiful young girl is lying comatose in a Philadelphia hospital, victim of a mysterious car accident in England which claimed the life of her mother and left her with severe brain damage.

The girl's father, on the advice of British doctors, has returned her to the United States for treatment.

A special medical team is preparing her for a chemo-electrical therapy which, if successful, will restore her to a conscious state.

Experimentation has been performed on frogs, dogs, monkeys etc. It is scientific fact - a major breakthrough in regenerative medicine. Today, medical experts believe it is only a matter of time before damaged brains, severed spinal cords and limbs can be restored through chemo-electrical treatment.

The girl, Gillian Brampton, the first human to be subjected to the treatment, is in the operating room. It is successful and she makes a dramatic recovery. However, she suffers severe headaches, muscle spasms and amnesia.

The doctors advise Gillian's father to take her back to England and expose her to the same surroundings where the accident occurred. It could help her to recover from her amnesiac state.

Gillian and her father return to a small university town, a few miles from London. Gillian's condition improves steadily. Her father commutes to work in London, leaving Gillian in the care of a housekeeper/nurse.

Within a few weeks, Gillian is ready to return to college, a snobby school for the rich. Gillian went to the college prep school, years earlier, and was never really accepted by the other children because her parents weren't in the 'who's-who' of high society.

But that was four years ago. Now her father has become rich through the North Sea oil discovery, while Gillian is a beautiful, charming young lady - popular with her fellow students, and quite socially acceptable.

One evening, a young University girl leaves the student's pub and begins to walk home. It is a typical, English foggy night. As she walks along the cobblestone streets she hears footsteps behind her. She quickens her pace. The footsteps keep up. Suddenly, a form, shrouded by the fog, looms in front of her. The girl is frightened, then relieved when she identifies her school blazer.

She obviously recognizes the person, although we never see who it is. She smiles and begins to speak. Her words are frozen. A look of horror registers as a knife flashes before her eyes and slashes across her throat. The girl crumbles to the street. The attack was so sudden and vicious, she didn't even have time to scream.

That morning, two male students, boyfriends of the murdered girl and obvious rivals for her affections are discussing her disappearance. One is very concerned and distraught. The other isn't too worried. The girl often takes off for London. She is a swinger and very independent. The two begin to argue violently and end up fighting. One is very possessive and jealous. Could he be the girl's killer?

Late in the afternoon like every day since her return home, Gillian visits her mother's grave. She finds it a peaceful, inspirational place. Stimulated by the surroundings her memory is slowly beginning to return. But in weird, kaleidoscope-like flashes. She doesn't understand the significance of some of the images that run through her mind.

A psychologist, in training at the University hospital is helping her sort these images out. The doctor explains that these flashbacks, the operation, the car crash etc. are part of total recall. She must not fight them, no matter how painful they may be, otherwise she will never get her memory back. The doctor is attracted to Gillian. He feels protective toward her. With him, Gillian feels safe and comfortable.

That evening, the gentler of the two boyfriends is working out lifting weights in a barn. The door opens and we are aware of a shadowy figure entering. The boy is annoyed. He doesn't like being disturbed. He walks toward the intruder, his face registering recognition. Suddenly a knife plunges into his chest. The unseen killer has struck again.

Gillian's flashbacks are occurring regularly. Some of her memories are terrifying and painful. The psychologist attempts to comfort her and realizes he's falling in love with her. Memories of the events leading up to her mother's death are beginning to return. Gillian is beginning to piece her life together. But some of the things she's learning about herself are very disturbing.

The disappearance of the second student is noted by the group, and the speculation made that he has met the first missing girl to share a romantic interlude in London.

Late one afternoon at dusk the student with the violent temper sees Gillian in the graveyard. He watches her for a while, making sure he's hidden from sight. He looks around. There is no one around. Just him and Gillian. The look on his face is one of desire. Using tombstones for cover, he begins to move toward her. He has something clutched in his hand.

Gillian is on her knees beside her mother's grave, moaning, crying, speaking with her dead mother. She is oblivious of the presence stealthily stalking her.

As the student moves up behind her, Gillian turns. Her face is a mask of malevolence. Without warning she plunges a knife into the student's groin. A maniacal smile spreads over her face as she stabs, stabs, stabs. The boy falls, a rose slipping from his grasp.

Now we know the truth. Gillian is insane. A psychopath who's flashbacks turn her into a compulsive killer.

Meanwhile, the headmaster of the school is becoming alarmed. Three students are missing. The local police begin to investigate. They fail to turn up any clues, bodies, or anything that would indicate foul play. They file their report and list the students as missing persons.

Gillian's flashbacks come more often and last longer. During these periods she doesn't remember where she's been, or what she's done.

As Gillian descends into madness, her killing instincts take over.

One night, she dates one of her classmates. He is delighted. He thinks he's onto an easy lay and Gillian teases him and promises an evening of carnal delight. Gillian and the student go to an old abandoned monastery. There, Gillian runs away and hides. The student searches for her. It's a macabre scene, eerie and surrealistic. Gillian appears at the top of a wooden, winding staircase. The student climbs the stairs and as he reaches for her, she lunges furiously at him, toppling him over the stairwell.

Victim follows victim.

Gillian returns to her mother's grave. One flashback stays in her mind. It is a birthday party scene, where Gillian and her mother are alone. No one came. Gillian was snubbed because her parents weren't rich. Her mother, a secret alcoholic, began to drink heavily.

Late night. A strange house. The camera pans up a staircase, along a landing, and into a bathroom. Gillian is sitting beside a tub, in a daze. Suddenly, her eyes flicker open and register horror. There in the tub, is a body. The tub is filled with blood. She gazes at her bloodstained hands. Now Gillian knows. She is a murderer!

Barely hanging on to what sanity she has left, Gillian rushes from the house and goes to her psychologist boyfriend. She tells him about her birthday party flashback and the body in the bathtub. He tells her she's imagining it, nothing happened. She hasn't killed anyone. He will prove it. They will go back to the house together.

When they arrive, the body is gone. The house deserted. The psychologist convinces Gillian the bathtub scene was only in her mind. He explains that she was acting out her hostilities because no one came to her birthday party. Now it's over. The nightmare she's been living with will never bother her again. Gillian is relieved and accepts his explanation. Right now, she feels well, cured.

The psychologist takes Gillian home, promising to come back in the morning.

When he arrives the next day, Gillian is gone. He calls Gillian's father in London. She isn't there. No one knows where she is.

By this time, the entire town is worried. Six students are missing without a trace, seven with Gillian. The police are called out in force. Search parties are arranged. The lake is dragged for bodies. The moor is searched.

Gillian's father arrives and joins the search party. Suddenly, he has an idea. He drives to the graveyard and walks over to his wife's grave. The grave has been dug up, the coffin pried open. He looks inside. Gazing at him with an expression of frozen horror is Gillian's psychologist.

Gillian's father is frantic. If Gillian is in town, there is only one other place where she could possibly be....a cottage where they once lived while she was attending prep school.

He gets into his car and drives to the cottage. As he approaches, he hears music. It's a 'Happy Birthday' song. Gillian's father approaches and enters the door. Inside is a macabre sight. The bodies of Gillian's victims are seated around a table, wearing paper hats. On the table is a cake with candles. At the head of the table is Gillian's mother, a rotting, skeleton-like corpse. Beside her, Gillian is cutting cake and crooning "Happy Birthday to Me, Happy Birthday to Me". All the corpses are staring at her through sightless eyes, gruesome guests at Gillian's birthday party.

Gillian looks up, turns to her father with a look of vacuous insanity. As she does, her blond hair, a wig, falls to the floor. Her head is covered with keloids, scars - a hideous tribute to her operation. Gillian continues singing "Happy Birthday to Me".