**Open**

**FADE IN:**

**INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY**

[A couple is moving into a new home. The wife is carrying several small items and the husband is struggling with a bigger box.]

ASHLEY, A young woman that is happy about the new move. She is wearing some overalls with paint on them and a t-shirt underneath. It is easy to tell that she is pregnant.

[She places the boxes on the ground and starts to open them up.]

John, Ashley’s husband. He is wearing some old shorts and t-shirt. He looks as if he’s been working all morning. He just wants to get everything in the house.

**ASHLEY**

Which box is that?

**JOHN**

The heavy one.

**ASHLEY**

Dishes. Kitchen please.

[John heads to the kitchen.]

**JOHN**

There goes my plan to set up dinner in the bathroom.

[Ashley notices a small ornate box in the middle of the living room on the floor.]

**ASHLEY**

It looks like we have our first house warming gift.

[John yelling from the kitchen.]

**JOHN**

Unless it a large cold mug it can wait.

[Ashley starts to pick up the box but a static electric shock zaps between her and the box. She yelps pulls her hand back.]

[John yelling from the kitchen.]

**JOHN**

You OK?

**ASHLEY**

Yeah. Just a little shock.

[She apprehensively reaches out and touches the box again. Nothing happens this time. She tries to open it but cannot. She looks it over to find a way to open it. Giving up she place it on the mantle.]

**ASHLEY**

When is the truck arriving with the other things?

[John comes from the kitchen.]

**JOHN**

Not until eleven. Did you figure out what’s in the box?

**ASHLEY**

It won’t open.

**JOHN**

Let me try.

[It won’t budge for him either. He hands it back to her.]

**JOHN**

It must be one of those trick boxes.

**ASHLEY**

My Hero. I’ll ask Jenn who its from. She had to have left it, she’s the only one that has another key. She is stopping by this afternoon to finish up the final paper work.

I am going to start unpacking in the kitchen. Can you finish unloading the car?

[JOHN comes and hugs her from behind.]

**JOHN**

Sure, and if I hurry, maybe we can finish up in the bedroom.

[He pats her belly and kisses her neck. She pulls away from him.]

**ASHLEY**

Slow down Casanova. We have movers coming, we have no bed set up and you smell like you’ve been moving boxes all morning.

[She heads to the kitchen. He smells his shirt. He shrugs and heads outside.]

[The camera pans to the box and moves towards it. There is a low hum in the background. The camera pans away from the box and towards the kitchen. The hum gets louder and then there is a loud thud.

Ashley from the kitchen.]

**ASHLEY**

You OK? Anything broken?

[Ashely comes from the kitchen.]

**ASHLEY**

Don’t pout. After we set the bed up and you take a shower we…

[She notices the box is back on the floor in the same position where they first found it. She picks it up and places it back on the mantle.]

**ASHLEY**

Very funny.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY**

[The furniture has arrived and some of it is in place. The husband is finishing the curtains. The wife is going through some loose photos.]

**ASHLEY**

If we ever get that box open, it would be a great place to put these.

**JOHN**

If we can’t get it open, a good place for it would be in the fire place.

[John hops down of the couch and slams his foot into the coffee table by accident.]

**JOHN**

Dammit! Crap that hurt.

[He sits back down on the couch and rubs his foot.]

**ASHLEY**

Serves you right for making fun of a gift. Jenn said it may have come from the previous owners.

[Ashley starts putting the pictures back in the moving box.]

**ASHLEY**

Let’s see if we can get most of it done today and we can have a relaxing day tomorrow before the party tomorrow night.

**JOHN**

Can’t I get a little sympathy over here?

**ASHLEY**

Too much to do to stop for a little pain.

[John gets up from the couch.]

**JOHN**

Is this how you are going to be with our children?

[Ashley starts to take the box upstairs.]

**ASHLEY**

If they’re helping us move, you bet.

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT**

[All the boxes are gone and it looks like everything is in it’s place.

Shot of Ashley’s hand from behind holding some cocktail napkins. Camera pans up to over her shoulder. She is staring down at the box that is now sitting on the coffee table. She hears the hum now and has a vacant stare. The hum grows louder, and she starts to hear something else. A whisper. Un-intelligible at first but then is starts to resemble ‘Open’ repeatedly. Far in the distance you hear a door bell ring as if it’s a thousand miles away. You can also hear John as if from a distance.]

**JOHN**

Are you going to get that? Ashley. Hello earth to Ashley someone’s at the door and I’m not ready yet.

[Ashley finally snaps out of it.]

**ASHLEY**

Coming.

[Camera moves back to box. The hum is gone.]

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT**

[Several people are sitting around the living room drinking and eating snacks and enjoying themselves. The conversations vary. John is talking to a group of people in the background. Ashley is talking to some people near the coffee table.]

**FEMALE GUEST 1**

What a beautiful box. Where did you get it?

**ASHLEY**

It was here when we moved in.

**GUEST 2**

Did the previous owners leave it?

**ASHLEY**

We assume so. Strange thing is, it won’t open.

**GUEST 2**

Here let me try.

[Several people try to open it without success.]

**ASHLEY**

Let me show you the new studio I have set up. John says I have no excuse to not paint now.

[The box is put back down on the coffee table and everyone leaves the room. The camera focuses back on the box. The hum is starting again and right before it cuts to the next scene it loos as if it moves a little.]

**CUT TO:**

**INT. BED ROOM – NIGHT**

[Middle of night. Husband is asleep, wife awakes. She looks toward door and sees a red glow. She shakes her husband.]

**ASHLEY**

Something is glowing downstairs. Did we leave the stove on?

[John is only half awake.]

**JOHN**

You probably left a light on. It’s fine.

[He rolls back over and falls asleep.

Ashley gets up and moves towards the door. The glow seems to intensify as she moves closer. The hum is starting again. Even fainter than the hum the voices start again… ‘Open’.

The next shot shows Ashley at the top of the stairs. The red glow covers the stairwell and Ashley. She walks down the steps slowly. The hum is grown louder as are the voices repeating over and over again. ‘Open’. The camera is now behind the box on the table. It is slightly open now and a red glow is coming out of it. The intensity covers everything now. Ashley moves towards the box and stands over it. She kneels next to it and reaches towards it. The hum is overpowering and the words ‘Open’ are loud and running together.

She touches the top of the box and immediately the box shuts, the hum stops, and the voices stop. Ashley has disappeared.]

**DISSOLVE TO:**

**INT. BEDROOM – DAY**

[Camera shot of husband in the bed. He wakes up and rolls onto his back.]

**JOHN**

Morning. How did you sleep? I have a monster headache. Sore muscle and too much beer do not make a good combination for the next day.

[Camera pans over to her. She is on her side facing away from him. She has her eyes closed and a smile on her face.]

**ASHLEY**

I had a great night sleep, one of the best I have ever had.

[She opens eyes and they flash same red as the box glow.]

**Black out**