

LOGLINE: A prominent doctor in a Maine coastal town harbors a secret that if revealed could tarnish his reputation and that of his infant son.

MUSQUITO HARBOR

FADE IN:

EXT. MUSQUITO HARBOR - AUGUST 1862 - DAY

A view of Frenchman Bay and the outlying three sister islands guarding the entrance to the harbor.

A boat trolls and stops. A man pulls on a line. A woman's body in a scarlet dress appears in the net in the water.

EXT. MUSQUITO HARBOR - SAND COVE - BEACH - DAY

NATHAN FLETCHER, Doctor, thirty, commanding presence, walks the beach scattered with shells and rockweed, stops and looks around.

EXT. SAND COVE - LEDGES - DAY

He steps from one flat ledge to another looking along the water's edge.

EXT. SAND COVE - POINT - DAY

Nathan picks up a seagull wedged between two rocks, its head smashed, goes to the end of the Point, slips it into the water and watches it disappear in the swirling sea.

EXT. SAND COVE - INLET - DAY

Nathan kneels at a small inlet and sees a woman's face in the water.

WOMAN'S REFLECTION

I want to keep my baby.

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE YEAR EARLIER

EXT. MUSQUITO HARBOR - NATHAN FLETCHER'S HOME - NIGHT -  
TO ESTABLISH

A large two-story home at the end of the inner harbor with a cottage for servants and a stable.

INT. NATHAN FLETCHER'S HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

ANN FLETCHER, twenty-seven, self-centered, lies in bed propped up by pillows and watches Nathan remove his pants and shoes.

NATHAN

Did you enjoy tonight's dinner?

Ann stretches and laughs.

ANN

Susan irritates me.

NATHAN

How so?

ANN

The way she hovers over you.

NATHAN

She misses my brother.

Nathan removes his nightshirt and climbs in bed with Ann. She turns and smiles. Nathan leans over and caresses her hair and runs his finger down her neck and breast.

ANN

Nathan...

Nathan rolls on top and reaches under her gown and rhythmically moves back and forth while they kiss. Ann's demeanor freezes. She breaks away and gives Nathan an angry look. She slaps him hard on the cheek.

ANN (CONT'D)

No, Nathan.

NATHAN

What the...

She picks up a book and throws it at him. Nathan ducks.

ANN

Don't touch me.

Nathan covers his genitals with his nightshirt, grabs a pillow and exits the room.

INT. NATHAN FLETCHER'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A small room with a single bed and chair. Nathan throws the pillow on the bed, sits and takes a swig out of a bottle.

INT. NATHAN FLETCHER'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Nathan stands at the bureau mirror dressed, combs his hair, inspects himself and exits the room.

INT. NATHAN FLETCHER'S HOME - FOYER - DAY

Nathan notices a note on the table and picks it up to read.

INSERT - NOTE

"Nathan. I have gone to Southport to visit with my family for a respite. Ann."

Nathan tears the note in two and drops it in the wastebasket.

EXT. SAND COVE - CAPTAIN BREWER'S HOME - DAY - TO ESTABLISH

A large white, two-story house with two chimneys and a verandah, standing high on a hill across from the water.

INT. CAPTAIN BREWER'S HOME - DAY

Nathan stands at the window with a view of the Sand Cove.

NATHAN'S POV - SAND COVE - BEACH

Nathan watches STELLA BREWER, twenty, willful and mischievous, as she dances barefoot in the sand and races into the crashing waves on the shore.

RETURN TO SCENE

A beat. Nathan stares wide-eyed at Stella.

INT. CAPTAIN BREWER'S STUDY - DAY

A paneled room with an oriental rug. CAPTAIN BREWER, forty-five, widowed, worldly and kind, sits opposite Nathan in a leather chair next to the fireplace.

CAPTAIN BREWER

It's time for me to leave for the West Indies. I was hoping you would take Stella to school in Boston for me.

NATHAN

I would, with pleasure.

CAPTAIN BREWER

She speaks often of how kind you were to her when her mother was so sick and I was still away on the high seas.

Nathan, upset, walks to the window and looks at the water. Captain Brewer joins him.

NATHAN

Sometimes I wish I had a carefree sailor's life.

CAPTAIN BREWER

It's a hard life, Nathan.

NATHAN

Freeland, I'm sorry I couldn't save Claire for you and Stella.

The two men embrace.

EXT. MUSQUITO HARBOR - SAND COVE - LEDGES - DAY

Nathan and Stella sit on a blanket on the ledges with a picnic basket between them. Nathan eats a tea sandwich and gulps down his punch.

STELLA

Where is your wife Ann? I haven't seen her.

NATHAN

My wife has gone to Southport to visit her family.

EXT. SAND COVE POINT - THE MARY JANE - DAY

Nathan with Stella at the wheel of a sailboat.

JOHN MORSE, thirty-five, a shady Boston merchant, stands in his Schooner Ironbound and with his spyglass watches Nathan and Stella.

INT. SCHOONER HENRIETTA - FRENCHMAN BAY - DAY

The Schooner Henrietta cuts sharply through the waters. Nathan, his friend GORDON RAND, Esq., thirty-two, smart and loyal, and Stella stand in the stern admiring the receding village.

GORDON

I'll be darn. From here, it does look like a mosquito.

INT. SCHOONER HENRIETTA - NATHAN'S CABIN - DAY

Upscale room with a bed, a chair, and a violin in the corner. Nathan opens the door and they enter. Stella eyes the violin.

STELLA

I just love music and the violin is my favorite. Please play it for me.

Nathan picks up the violin and plays a waltz. Stella sways to the music and goes to Nathan. They dance a few steps. Stella nestles her head on his shoulder.

INT. HENRIETTA - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A storm blows. Nathan is in the walkway when the ship pitches forward. He grabs the overhead hand grip.

INT. NATHAN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Nathan enters. Stella, on the bed, clutches her gown, tear stains on her cheeks. Nathan goes to her and sits on the bed. Stella flings her arms around his neck and holds on tight.

NATHAN

Are you all right?

STELLA

Where have you been? Leaving me here all alone with this God awful banging and rocking and rolling.

NATHAN

You're shivering.

Stella kisses him. Nathan hesitates, then lies down, pulls her close and kisses her neck. Rolling on top of her, his hand slides up her leg and inner thigh.