

“RADIO MARY” SYNOPSIS  
Screenplay by Gary Walkow, adapted from his novel.

Mary lives alone. She is waiting for something to happen in her life. Riding the elevator to work, a strange man, Hayward, grabs her shoulder and speaks to her telepathically. “Do you believe in magic?”

This triggers a nervous breakdown. After a visit to the emergency room, Mary goes to stay at her sister’s house, and goes into therapy.

Mary can now hear people’s thoughts, and she starts hearing music that seems to be broadcast from her mind.

Hayward reappears. “What did you do to me?” Mary asks. Hayward telepathically explains that just by touching a person he can infect their mind with a mental virus. “It’s a virus and you get infected just from getting touched. And there’s no protection from this virus – there are no brain condoms.” Hayward tells Mary that she is special, “a natural.”

Hayward leads Mary out into the night in her nightgown and bare feet. Hayward seems supernatural, and when he kills a psychedelic orgy of aura lights spill from his victim’s bodies. Mary hopes these night trips are just bad dreams, but in the morning there is dirt on her bare feet, so these dreamlike horrific event seem to really be happening.

Mary feels stable enough to go return to her apartment and her job. While having lunch her first day back at work, Mary sees auras around pedestrians and

Hayward appears in the sky. Mary hears Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Hayward explains that the music is coming from her head.

That night Hayward forcibly takes Mary to the house of her casual boyfriend, Rand. Mary lets Rand start making love. Hayward joins them and squeezes the life out of Rand, releasing his aura in an orgasm of aura light.

Hayward leaves Mary behind at the scene of the crime, where the police find her. Mary is questioned by Detective Tom Reese, and then put in a hospital for overnight observation.

Hayward visits Mary's hospital room in the night.

In the morning Tom Reese questions Mary. There is a deeply empathetic bond between Mary and Tom. From the forensic evidence, Tom believes that someone stronger than Mary killed Rand. Mary is released from the hospital and placed under police surveillance.

When Tom, who is heading up the investigation, stops by Mary's apartment, Mary tries to confide to Tom about what really happened, but her story is contradictory and convoluted. "He takes me, and I let him." Mary tells Tom that she feels safer with him and asks him to stay. He agrees.

Tom continues the surveillance from his car. Mary goes out to talk to Tom but can't bring herself to confess all that has happened with Hayward. When she goes back inside her apartment, Hayward is there. Mary takes her first move against Hayward, stabbing him, and he is pleased. "Sweetheart, you care."

Tom hears Mary's voice in his head, pleading for help, and when Tom enters her apartment with gun drawn he finds only a trail of blood – which leads past his dead partner's body – an into an industrial park.

Tom finds Mary and Hayward squared off against each other, both with drawn knives. Hayward lunges at Mary and toward Tom. Tom shoots Hayward and he collapses. Tom disarms Mary and approaches Hayward's prone body. When Tom feels for a pulse, Hayward grabs Tom's arm. Mary is horrified. "He touched you! He touched me! Bad things happen when he touches you!"

Hayward's aura flares and dies out. Is he dead?

Tom rushes over to Mary. Only now does he sees that she has been stabbed. Mary's aura flares up and then goes dark as she dies. Tom collapses on the ground beside her, devastated.

Police arrive. Tom imagines for a moment that Mary comes back to life. He feels disoriented. "I'm infected." Tom looks up in the sky at Hayward smiling down at him. Hayward asks Tom, "Do you believe in magic?"