

Screenplay

By

KAL VICTORS

SILENT VOICES - RAHMAH

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BLACK SCREEN.

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ORIGINAL

An off camera female voice from the narrator of the story.
Narrated words appearing on the black screen.

NARRATOR (O.C)

Her life was perfect until her
hormones directed her to her
boyfriend's place - on a wrong day.
Time has passed, but the
consequences of what happened on
that day still follow her.

DISSOLVE

INT. LIVING ROOM

As we dip-in, a young lady draws-in, in sensitive croaking,
walking away to the opposite end of the room as her back is
all we see.

SCARLET

(Complaining)

It called for more than my tears to
come up with a better plan to
forget him, what makes everyone
think my all story is a lie?

(BEAT)

She turns around revealing her face.

(Wondering)

Why would i be lying about my life?

(BEAT)

Proceeds to the front.

I meet a man, my friends warn me
over him, I choose to drive a love
life ahead - without minding their
reasons, he rapes me, I cry...

(BEAT)

(Emotional)

Oh, (Sighs), I cry.

(BEAT)

I get wasted, I recover after a
while, I move on - ah.., I get this
new boy friend, he seems not bad -
so far, I like him..., Yeah, i like

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCARLET (cont'd)
him, I really do - and he likes me
too.

(BEAT)
It's all what a girl needs.(Sighs)

(BEAT)
But why is there - no one to
believe me when i say, i have a new
someone I'm seeing? Are they
assuming - I'm to die a loner -
because of my ugly past?
(Giggles)...

(BEAT)
I moved on. Yeah, it was too fast -
but i truly did. And I'm seeing
someone, so... beautiful.

With her eyes tightly close on focus, an off camera sound
from the next room interrupts.

(O.C)

(Electric kettle boiling)

SCARLET
(Triggered)
Oh...

She moves fast to the next room, it is a kitchen with
boiling water in an electric kettle.

INT. KITCHEN

She switches off the kettle and grabs it off its heater,
pours some water in the cup with sugar and tea leave, she
makes tea. Opening a drawer, she picks a loaf of bread and
picks a few toasts from it to take tea. On her first bite of
the toasts, her phone vibrates.

(O.C)

(Phone vibrating)

She grabs it out of her back pocket. On seeing the caller
name, she ignores the call - putting the phone to silent
mode (it is her ex-boyfriend calling - Tonnie).

SCARLET
(Sighs), oh Tonnie, this bastard
never stops calling.

She takes another bite of the bread, takes tea - and leaves
the kitchen back to the living room with her bread and tea
accompanied with croaking words.

INT. LIVING ROOM

SCARLET

It's now two months, he turned my life into a living hell. I lost every inch of trust in men because of him.

(BEAT)

I'm trying to learn trusting this new boyfriend, maybe. Oh Tonnie...

As she seats herself in the close chair. On taking her next sip of tea, a sudden stomach ache occurs within her.

SCARLET

(Paining Scream)

Ah, ah...

She rushes out of the seat.

INT. TOILET

To the toilet, she vomits. This looks to be serious and she looks not shocked with the experience. It's weird.

She seats herself on the toilet floor with a deep paining breath.

SCARLET

(Strong Breathing)

She starts consoling herself.

SCARLET

I can do this, yes - i can...

(BEAT)

She busts into teas.

(Crying), you wasted my life
Tonnie, you wasted me. (Sobbing),
No one should know about this, no
one.

As she rubs tears off her eyes, she busts back into deeper teas. She raps her legs into her hands and folds herself against the sink. She now looks scared and bothered.

A while after, she reseats herself upright, wipes off the tears, bravens-up herself, steps off the toilet floor, moves back to the living room, seats herself on the chair and solids into self-counseling.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLET

This can't be kept a secret any longer, someone will definitely find out before my planned time.

(BEAT)

I'm telling them.

(BEAT)

Everything. (Sobbing)

She holds the cap, takes one sip of tea, draws the cap back to the table and lets her hand off it.

As camera pans from the cap to the near edge of the table, a hand written letter on a white piece of paper covers the screen as Scarlet's voice-over follows the writings. A female hand holds the letter at its edge.

SCARLET (V.O)

Even with strong knowledge of how this will shock you, i can no longer hold it beneath myself. It is a secret i have kept from you for now two months and i am truly sorry. I couldn't own enough courage to face you over it, so i wrote it here.

Holding the letter in her hands is a lady seeming to be a responsible parent. Sitting in the same exact seat Scarlet was sitting.

Mother, I am pregnant. Forgive me for not sharing this with you for this long, but now it's time to engage you. I am so confused and scared. (Crying). I'm sorry. Your loving daughter, Scarlet.

The lady lands into shock after reading the letter. She looks too speechless.

INT. LIVING ROOM

In speechless shock, she moves herself backwards and leans. She looks deeply blown. Fewer seconds past, she admits the facts in her daughter's letter.

BRENDA

(Sighs), oh Scarlet...

(BEAT)

What weight of shame have you brought me!

(BEAT)

How am I to explain this to your father...! (Puffs).

In obvious disappointment, she steps out of the seat and moves off to her bedroom - where she grabs a tin of diazepam pills. She truly needs a depressant.

INT. BEDROOM

She swallows two pills and rests the tin back on the table.

BRENDA
(Sighs)

She moves off to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

It is a messy kitchen with dirty utensils awaiting wash, she tasks herself the cleaning as she self-speaks.

BRENDA
So you went to this boy's place, he raped you - "as you said," we chose to charge him... (Sighs), your father was ready to do all possibles and impossibles to see him pay for the act - but you instead defended him. Spared him...!

(BEAT)

You are now two months pregnant - and you are letting me know of it now, after two months, - "through a letter" - like it is so big for me to understand when talk to me. Ah...!

(BEAT)

Okay, okay...

She wipes the last cap dry, her hands too, confirms the kitchen clear from mess, and heads out back to the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Entering the bedroom, she moves to an old bag in one of the bedroom corners, opens it and checks through the inside stuff. The bag carries a pile of stale material including documents. In the process, she lands on a diary, relief wares her face. This must be what she was looking for.

She grabs the diary out of the bag, moves and seats on the bed - opens through the pages of diary with under-breathe talking.

(CONTINUED)

BRENDA
(Thoughty)
Richard..., Ri-chard...

She lands on a page with writings reading "Richard Batte - Lawyer."

BRENDA
(Relieved)
Yeah.

The page has feeds and details about a man called Richard. She copies the phone contact to her phone and calls.

PHONE (V.O)
(Dialing)

On being picked, she speaks.

BRENDA
Ah..., Richard Batte - right?
(BEAT)
I'm Brenda, wife to Bobby Kasozi.
(BEAT)
No, no, it's not about him. It's,
something to do with my...
daughter. You remember scarlet?
(BEAT)
Yeah, she's indeed different now -
with a lot changing along. She's
kind of going through a rough
experience which will need a man of
law. I had no one in mind except
you - my husband's lawyer. Sorry,
former lawyer.
(BEAT)
Sure, i will. In fact, tomorrow
is... really a good day. I will not
be late.
(BEAT)
Okay, okay. Thank you.

She lets the phone off her ear, rests it on the bed and sighs with an ambitious look. She's obviously traumatized.

She lands in rest on the bed as she follows with a deep breath.

BRENDA
(Breathes). Okay Scarlet, you
opened up to me coz you needed
mother's support.
(BEAT)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRENDA (cont'd)
Here comes what you called for.

Camera smoothly pans accompanied with a soundtrack, towards the house corridor, elevated voices cover space. It is obviously a fight.

INT. CORRIDOR

Brenda outside a room in a loud argument with a girl inside. The two are completely not to any understanding at all.

BRENDA
(Angry)
If it wasn't bad as you say then why did you keep it a secret? You would have said it straight to your father's eyes when he asked you for the reason you were against his arrest.

SCARLET (V.O)
It's my life, nothing to concern you.

BRENDA
Yes, it is your life - and i am part of this stupid life of yours. You are coming out and doing as i wish and say.

After the asserts, the room door opens. Scarlet steps out, with a furious look.

SCARLET
(Furious)
Fine mother, what do you wish and say?

DISSOLVE

INT. LIVING ROOM

Brenda guiding Scarlet through the pregnancy handling plan. Both seated in opposite seats.

BRENDA
If you are not aborting - then you are making that so called new boyfriend of your the father, tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLET

Mother, you might have not gotten the story clear. The child is Tonnie's... He's the father.

BRENDA

And you think that slipped off my understanding! Who do you think i expected to be the father? And why would i ask for an abortion if i didn't know the kind of father in the picture?

(BEAT)

You have two options Scarlet, no other.

In an eyes-crossing silent moment for the two, Scarlet reasons her mother's options for the case.

SCARLET

(Mocky)

So..., I follow you to a criminal doctor, he washes out an innocent child from my belly and all is normal again - like never been pregnant...!

(BEAT)

Or, I take some good rest today, think of how to ask a man "i have never met" to accept be a father to a child of a girl he has never met. (Giggles), sounds like comedy.

(BEAT)

Or, I go against both and keep the child. And if I make knowledge to the father - Tonnie... You are placing restrictions on him - through your lawyer! Oh sorry, he will be forbidden from meeting the child - so the child will be fatherless. And... (Laughs).

BRENDA

Good, you heard me well. I'm not changing a line. You are smart. Take your time to decide.

She steps out of the seat to leave. Before she exits, Scarlet blows the condition for her.

SCARLET

Is this how i came to be a daughter in the Kasozi family?

(CONTINUED)

Brenda looks back at her in shock.

Ah..., I am just wondering if these are the same exact ideas grandma shared with you before you served me here.

(BEAT)

You and i know that i am not Bobby's child.

BRENDA

Shut up, don't you open your mouth over that issue or...

SCARLET

Or what, you will beat me...?
(Sighs)

Scarlet leaves her seat too and proceeds off to leave the room as Brenda follows her with asserts.

BRENDA

Are you angry with me or you're still in love with him? I'm doing this for you, not to hurt you - but to help you. Don't you ever question me about your father in this house again. Bobby is your only father and never has ever been another. Keep that in your brains Scarlet.

Scarlet gets triggered with the words, she turns back to Brenda with a serious face and asserts.

SCARLET

Scarlet might have been your dream daughter with this family, but she never came to exist. It's me that lives. Much as i own a name of this family, we will both forever know the truth - i don't belong here, and Scarlet is not the name. Rahmah. Rahmah, is my name. I don't need to remind you that. And as you drive me into the same dark decisions you made when you realized you were pregnant of me, keep that in your brains mother.

CAMERA SMOOTHLY PANS AWAY TO ONE OF THE CHAIRS AS HE NARRATOR SPEAKS.

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR (O.C)
It's true. She's one hard
uncontrollable daughter now -

Narrator's face syncs on focus.

ELIZ
but she also has a point.

As a therapist, i don't judge, i
listen.

MOVIE TITLE. CLOSING CREDITS.