

Liz

Story by
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BLACK SCREEN

Fade in : cheering of an audience intensifies as we see
footsteps (heels) walking up to the stage.

Guitar riff and drums intensifies.

The curtain finally opens and we don't see her face but we sense
the anticipation.

Next we see a small cup land on the bar; containing her lipstick
stain. (Foreshadowing).

More guitar riff and drums.

TITLE APPEARS : **Liz**

camera cuts to : Liz in the backstage dressing room, tearful,
trying to put her makeup on and put on a face.

-knock on the door : Man with glasses, knocks on the door.
Loudly, yells, LIZ..IT'S TIME!!

Liz tries to collect herself.
Looks in the mirror one last time, forces a smile, and walks
out.

Audience : "LIZ!" Repeatedly, chanting her name in excitement.
Reporters start surrounding the area.

She waves to the crowd like they're an audience.

But covers her face.
Pushes through the noisy crowd but finally makes it to her
limousine.

As she drives away, the crowd won't stop crowding her, causing
uneasiness and claustrophobia.
The noise of screaming and flashing lights of the cameras makes
her hide her face.

Urges her driver to speed up.
[desperately]
Just go just go...

The desperation in her voice makes her cry but she stifles her
tears as she keeps desperately urging her driver to push through
the crowd.

We finally make it out and make it to a solid, quiet road. It
begins raining.

The cloudy weather and rain symbolizes her true facade behind
her makeup and gorgeous exterior.

Driver (Evan) pulls up to her home.
We're here Liz.

Liz, still sad and desperate
makes it out of the car
Walks to her home and goes inside

Doesn't pay attention to Evan, who worriedly watches her enter
her home.

Locks the door, sinks to the floor.

Dark room due to the rain, symbolizing her true feelings.

She notices her dress, heels, and coat are soaked.

Her makeup is ruined.

Sighs
takes off shoes
begins walking upstairs for a shower.

Cut to : Liz, sitting in shower, crying, naked. Curled up.

Flashback to- Liz first arriving to NYC. This is 2000.

Happy.

Filled with dreams.

At a nice bar in the evening.

Flashback of the start

Grabs a bite to eat in a luxurious restaurant.

Later checks into her room to get settled.

Hears music downstairs which catches her attention. She heads out to see. Evening time now. Sound of violin, gospel folk music and upbeat singing intensifies.

Her energy intensifies, her eyes widen.

She peeks in, we see her eyes before she enters.

Somebody catches her eye, signals her to enter.

Man, middle aged, greets her.

She's caught in the music and the area is so welcoming.

Man urges her to join.

Laughter and joy bursts through the room.

Later, we meet Daniel, who greeted her.

He questions what a young girl like her is doing at such a busy city like this.

[Liz] -
I want to be a singer.

[Daniel]
slightly caught off guard
Oh..you mean a famous singer?
a beat-
you sure about that?

How will you get your start?

[Liz]
What start?

[Daniel]
In music..

[Liz]
I'm not sure what you mean..

[Daniel]
I'm not sure that's the right choice for you..

You shouldn't be in a place like this

[Liz]
and why do you say that
-takes a sip of whiskey shot

[Daniel]
They wouldn't like you being in a place like this..with people
like me.

We're from the Bronx.

They won't like that.

(Liz takes a moment to ponder this).

Takes another sip

Well..I'll be careful.

The mood has slightly decreased but they continue drinking. It's
a relaxing night at the bar.

Liz tries falling asleep but can't stop reveling in the
excitement but can't stop thinking about what Daniel
said..leading to her insomnia.

Her first morning in the city is rough due to her insomnia.

Decides to go shopping for her "look."

Enter :
Small, rustic shop with a red dress catching her eye.

Leave :
The store with the dress on.

On a stage Liz performs.

No dialogue

Visual portrait
No voice
No audio

The weeks go on and word has spread.

We meet a scruffy, middle-aged man, who's with family but hears
the voice on television.

Rest of the family is in love already and going crazy.

[Wife]
Jack, honey, you gotta watch this. You've been out of work for
how long..maybe this can get you back in the game.

[Jack]
Uh maybe..who is that honey

[Wife]
Surprised you haven't heard..her name's Liz. Word on the street
is she just arrived to New York and she wants to be a singer.
Why don't you go and meet her

Jack keeps watching and observing...

[Wife]
She's insatiable...look at that.

[Jack]
(mesmerized)
Yeah she is...
Okay...okay I'll meet her.

Next evening : he heads out and eventually spots her.

She's leaning against the wall, back facing him, having a drink.

He keeps walking to get her attention but she walks away.

He eventually catches up as she takes a seat.

[Jack]

takes a seat, taps her on the shoulder.

Now I heard you on TV, and it's not everyday we meet a girl like you.

[Liz]

is caught off guard.

Uh I'm afraid I'm not sure what you mean.

Hesitant, confused.

[Jack]

Well the entire town is talkin' about ya and I'm looking to give a girl like you her start.

[Liz]

Ah I see...

perhaps today's my lucky day

(she raises a glass).

They laugh

[Jack]

now..you're going to meet a lot of people, producers, managers, other singers..so.. are you ready to fight?

[Liz]

I'm ready..

ready to fight

and fly..

[Jack]

Well I like that.

[Liz]

So what do we do now?

[Jack]
takes a final sip
gets up to leave
Here- that's my card.
Call me tomorrow.

Liz is in shock, doesn't say anything as he leaves.

[Daniel]
Well I was not expecting that...

[Liz]
Yeah..me neither.

[Daniel]
You really gonna do this?
They normally wouldn't do anything that fast. There's gotta be
another reason or somethin'

[Liz]
I don't know...

Liz can't go to sleep that night.

Keeps flipping the card in making a decision.

Liz sighs and we transition to the next morning.

The card is still in her hand.

She calls him.

[Liz]
I'm ready. Where can we meet?

No dialogue, Jack excitedly provides the contracts, she briefly
reads, and signs the papers.

Jack has a malicious smile.

Liz doesn't see it.

The audience grows

The pressure increases

Her mental health worsens

She wears sunglasses and fakes a smile in her dressing room.

Repeatedly.

[Jack]

It's what you signed up to do, and you must do it.

We continue flashing through her tour but she gradually grows worse.

The press always in her face.

The flashing lights are overwhelming.

Multiple men, reporters, mouths gaping wider and wider, wanting to touch her.

Constantly wanting to capture shots of her dress and underneath.

Her dress goes up with the breeze but she pushes it down.

No dialogue with that just a visual portrait.

The lights in her face makes her cover her face as she tries to push through and leave.

Security arrives.

"HEY! GET OUT OF THE WAY!"

Liz grabs ahold of his arm.

Liz nearly blacks out.

They make it out.

Liz is shoved into a random car.

Blacks out.

A few weeks later :

[Liz]

I can't keep touring.

I want to go home.

[Jack]
(irritated)
You're not listening.

[Liz]

Don't wake me tomorrow.

Just fucking cancel the tour okay I don't know what to tell you.

[Jack]

(Still irritated)

walks away

Next morning :

Liz refuses to wake up, but two men break in, dragging her out.

[Liz]

What are you doing?

She's dragged down the hallway.

her feet barely touching the floor.

She has no strength.

The screen turns black and white.

She's shoved into a car.

[man]

Wear this.

(hands her a dress).

just following orders.

drives off.

[Liz]

shakily puts on the dress,

begins crying.

Eventually arrive to theater where she's supposed to perform.

Covers her face

Spots Jack the first step in.

Stare of resentment cross their eyes.

No dialogue between them.

Liz heads to the dressing room to prepare.

[Liz]

State of despair

Applies makeup but continues the crying.

A few moments later..

We hear the crowd entering and cheering

Forces a smile in the mirror.

We see her reflection laughing back at her.

Liz steps out on stage with excessive makeup and large smile,
waving.

Performs well but spots Jack in the audience.

Liz grows angry.

The crowd takes notice.

The lights, the cheering, confusion, anger, and sadness broils
inside of her.

Her ears are ringing. Unfocused. Incoherent.

She is blasted from the audience with defiance, with catcalls,
whistles, boos.

Liz is enraged. She screams.

We hear the audience gasp and the camera goes black.

A MONTH LATER :

She has returned.

Liz enters without a word, upset.

Daniel spots her.

Pulls out a cigarette

[Daniel]

Hey.

How are you?

Liz can't respond. She sighs.

He holds her hand for a few seconds and leaves.

Liz is surprised by that gesture.

They nearly kiss but he pulls away and walks out.

A few moments later...

Jack walks in.

Liz spots him.

She doesn't say a word.

[Jack]

Uh one shot of whiskey please.

Thank you.

Liz is ready to leave but Jack interjects—

I was wrong about you.

I am sorry.

Liz is taken aback and hesitates.

Sits back in her chair.

Ponders this for a moment.

[Liz]

Uh

You mean that

You know for business it may only be right if we went our
separate ways

a slight pause...

[Jack]

I do.

I do mean that...

I am sorry.

[Liz]

Then I want another tour.

But I can't have that happening again.

I want to make my own choices.

Is that a deal?

Jack chuckles.

I can drink to that.

Liz smiles.

Alright. Deal.

Tour begins but media begins circulating.

Newspaper and tabloids read : Liz is back after fallout on
stage?! The scream heard around the world.

[Liz]

I shouldn't have done that.

[Jack]

Don't read that.

(snatches the newspaper).

[Liz]

How much longer is this going to go on?

[Jack]
Now when we first met you said to me that you are ready to
fight.

Is that still true?

[Liz]
Of course.

Cut to:

Jack is seen negotiating terms with another man.

2 million?
No. Go higher
\$5 million
Written on a napkin.

Half-nude picture of Liz is circulating around the media.

She is topless. Nude.

She sees this when she wakes up.

Volcanic rage.

She drives away.

Begins speeding.

Happy families and people along the route she's driving and she
begins crying.

She is lonely.

[flashback of Daniel and Jack and signing the contract]

She screams.

Crashes into a pole and breaks the front windshield.

The same two men pull her out and drag her to her room.

She vomits.

[man 1]
Oh Jesus
grab her

[man 2]
Yeah I got her

Weak and powerless, Liz doesn't fight back

Is nearly unconscious.

The phone rings.

[Daniel]
May I speak to Liz

[Jack]
I promise you she's safe.
I promise to let her know you called.
(hangs up).

Liz is still asleep.

Liz finally wakes up. Sore, tired muscles.

Hears chatter outside her room.

[Jack]
One of her little friends keeps calling.

[mumbling, indistinct voices]

[Jack]
No I'm not going to let her talk...no no no.
Liz knows it was Daniel who's been calling.

Chatter continues...

[Liz]
I want to speak to him.

Please.

[man]
Glances at Jack, who nods yes reluctantly.

[Man]
Make it fast then.

They leave.

[LIZ]
I'm going to continue touring.

I'm sorry.

(pause)

I miss you too.
Goodnight.

[man]
That's enough for now.

Snatches the phone, pushes her.

Cut to : Daniel overhearing this on phone.

Wait Liz!

Hangs up

I'll go on with the tour.

Screen fades to black

Reporters call her the new "pop and sex sensation."

One day she's outside.

Overhears this by a man reading the papers.

She's just a stupid whore. A sex pot.

She appears to ignore it but is seen crying in a mirror at
night.

Practices her laugh and smile afterwards in the mirror.

The tour continues, but the drugs continue.

Opioids and heavy smoking.

Liz is high one day, a few male, middle-aged men spot her and try taking her to a private area without anyone noticing.

The three men try taking a chance and after 3 attempts, sneak her away, dragging her down a hallway. They open the door to a random room.

Liz eventually wakes up and is confused.

Sees three men with their clothes off.

One is nearly on top of her.

Liz is topless except for a white collar shirt.
Pant-less.

She tries to get up. In a dark hotel room. Evening time. But she can't leave. One man tries pinning her down and begins assaulting her again. Two men are in the background. One man is fully nude. He tries choking her while he's on top of her. She lets out a scream but he covers her mouth.

"You slut!"

She punches him and is finally able to run out and leave.

She rushes and opens the door, quickly runs out, frantically.

She reaches a restroom and pukes.
Somehow she makes it back to her house.

Nobody is around that late at night.

She fully undresses, fully nude, her body is covered in bruises.

Emptiness fills the room, she is all alone.

Liz lays down and once again, tries falling asleep.

The phone rings.

Liz is exasperated but answers.

[Liz]

Hello?

[Jack]

The president has asked to see you and he wants you to sing for him! How's that sound?

Liz can't process this.

I'm sorry, what?

[Jack]

Well the President of the United States has asked to see you and he wants you to sing for him on his birthday next week. Isn't that neat?

[Liz]

Oh..yes that's great. I'm honored.

[Jack]

Congratulations!

[Liz]

(begins tearing up)

-a pause

Thanks.

(hangs up)

Grabs a bottle of champagne and pours it into the wine glass.

Sits by her bedside pondering what just happened.

Gulps it down.

throws it down, glass shattering all over the floor.

Swallows multiple pills at once.

Breaks her posters on her wall in anger.

Next we see her sitting down, defeated, next to the broken glass.

On the floor.

She consumes more sleeping pills to fall asleep.

Cut to : Next week

Liz is on stage about to sing "Happy birthday."

Wearing excessive clothes

Heavy makeup

(takes a breath)

Happy birthday..to you
happy birthday to you...
Happy birthday...Mr. President
Happy birthday to you...

The orchestra and band joins in and the audience begins
cheering.

Liz motions at the musicians to make more noise, more
excitement.

Liz is putting on a show and wants to impress him.

The orchestra and band continue.

Next : Liz and the president sit down for dinner, jazz music in
the background.

(indistinct chatter throughout)

[Liz]
This all looks great

Chuckles nervously.

[President]
Pleasures all mine.

She smiles but retreats.

Hollow eyes.

[POTUS]
So how'd you get your start?

[Liz]

Everybody asks me that
(chuckles dryly)

I guess I was discovered...

Liz takes a breath.

What people see on the stage isn't the real me.

[POTUS]
So who are you then?

Liz smiles.
No answer.

silence.

The screen fades.

A week later :

[reporter]
Liz has announced she is taking a break from music and will return to New York for a year. Although the reasons are unknown the media and her fans suspect this is due to the underlying pressure of living up to her name.

Liz is finally reunited with Daniel at the bar.

Dream sequence : Liz is outside one day, sunny but Liz's state of mind is cloudy. She is sitting on a rooftop one day where her fans and manager can see her. Many smiling faces. Cheering her name. Except Liz. She is in despair and is desperate. Desperate for help, teary eyed, mouths the words, "HELP ME!!!"

But nobody notices.

She is trapped. She is alone.

A year later : Liz appears better and is back writing new songs.

No contact with Jack whatsoever.

Liz is writing her own music.

Performs later and the media is loud. "LIZ MAKES COMEBACK AS
INDEPENDENT SINGER. IS SHE FINALLY FREE FROM HORRIBLE
TREATMENT?"

NEWSPAPERS SPREAD.

Back on stage.

Fresh and clean.

"LIZ IS BACK WITH A FRESH NEW ALBUM, ENTIRELY WRITTEN BY LIZ
HERSELF."

Reunites with Daniel.

She takes a seat.

[Liz]
Who are you?

[Daniel]
Well..while you were away...

[Fiance]
We're engaged! I'm his fiancé.
She laughs to alleviate the tension

Liz can't handle this and leaves.

Liz runs out and sinks to the floor breaking down with
flashbacks of their happy moments together and when he held her
hand.

*Play Chemtrails Over The Country Club, Lana Del Rey.

She eventually gets up and leaves.

Sobs in the bathroom before taking more pills to fall asleep.

Falls on her bed in tears

Tour is coming to an end.

[Daniel]

I told you what would happen. You didn't listen. They're killing you cause you're letting 'em. You never fucking listened to me.
To anyone. I don't know what to tell you.

[Liz]
I can't do this...

Liz slams the telephone, throws it across the floor.

"FUCK!!!"

Breaks down sobbing. Again.

Inaudible

Instrumental score is symbolic.

We see her breaking down but no dialogue.

Only the music as sound specifically in this.

Flashbacks of the rape, being kidnapped and forced to perform.

It replays over and over.

Her drug abuse and alcoholic behavior returns in her home, this time more excessively.

Entire bottle of champagne. Gone.

Misusing pills.

Closes her eyes, imagines herself sinking into water, perhaps a bathtub, contemplating suicide.

She has lost ALL contact with Daniel but he tries calling one last time, with a conflicted attitude but of course no answer.

She unplugged the telephone.

She overhears Jack outside her bedroom window.

She opens the window and sees him walking with another young woman and hears they are discussing music.

[indistinct chatter]

She gasps and begins sobbing.

She walks away from the window.

She lets out a scream. A painful, frustrated scream. We don't see her face. The camera focuses on the window.

She lets out another scream.

Later she writes a note.

She grabs a bottle of pills, pours the entire bottle in her hand.

Sips it with alcohol.

Leaves a suicide note on her beside table.

She closes her eyes.

Pictures herself in the bathtub, contemplating suicide.
And sinking underwater.

She lays on the bed, trying to make one last phone call.
Telephone by her side in her hand but she is fading away.

The ceiling fades.

Her vision fades.

Her body goes stiff.

She stops moving.

She's frozen on the bed.

The camera zooms out. We see her entire body on the bed.

Unconscious.

The next morning:

Daniel is awake at the bar. He is thinking about Liz.

The two men are outside by her home. Liz is not answering the phone. The phone ringing echoes in her home by her bed. She is laying unconscious.

The door opens and the two men walk in.

Where is she?

One spots her on the bed. She is on her back unconscious. Some vomit on her mouth.

[man 1]

Oh Jesus. Call an ambulance.

Man 2 runs over. The audio cuts out. Ears are ringing. Slow motion. Their panic sets in. They frantically run and call the ambulance with the telephone she has near the bed.

Siren lights are flashing after. Daniel runs outside. Liz is in a gurney, intubated. They are in a panic.

The two men and Daniel follow the ambulance.

Liz is still unconscious at the hospital but doctors are performing CPR and resuscitation.

After 10 minutes, she has a pulse.

Later:

Liz is still unconscious but she is alive. Weak pulse.

She has a breathing tube.

They are standing outside the door watching her.

The camera then focuses on her face slowly.

We hear a breath.

She opens her eyes.

She is awake.

THE END.