

PIECE BY PIECE

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SCREEN ACADEMY SCOTLAND PRESENTS

SOUND: Sirens, doctors and nurses shouting orders, footsteps rushing down the halls etc.

TITLE CARD: PIECE BY PIECE

CUT TO:

1 INT. EMERGENCY ROOM, HOSPITAL - NIGHT 1

The doors of an ER burst open and a group of doctors and nurses rushes in, pushing a gurney on which lies **LENA** (early 20s). She cries out.

The doctors and nurses surround her field of vision, shouting orders to each other and asking questions. *Blood pressure is dropping. Heart rate? What's the blood type? Call a surgeon now!*

At the same time they are fighting Lena, who is kicking and clawing at them with the little strength left in her, trying to remove her oxygen mask. She SCREAMS--

2 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 2

Lena is asleep on a hospital bed, covered in bandages. She's hooked to monitoring machines and lies still, breathing slowly. Her eyes start to open.

The doors open and two nurses come in: one is **JOANNA** (early 30s), the other is **ALEX** (mid 20s). Joanna removes an IV needle from Lena's arm and puts a new bag on the stand.

There muffled voices start to become more clear to Lena.

JOANNA
(to Alex)
...but we should see if there is
any in the cabinet.

Joanna notices Lena looking at her and smiles politely.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
I'm just gonna change the needle.
Don't worry, it won't hurt much.

Joanna takes her arm but Lena jerks it away.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
It's okay! Don't move it will only
take a second - Alex!

Alex rushes to help her with Lena who is still struggling.
She gently holds down Lena's arm and Joanna slides the needle
in. Lena flinches in pain.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
There that's it done, it will help
you feel better.

Lena grunts like she doesn't care. Joanna tries to move past
it.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Let's not start on the wrong foot,
we're gonna be seeing a lot of each
other. My name is Joanna. (beat)
And you are...?

Lena says nothing. Joanna smiles impatiently and instead
reads her name from her chart.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Marlena?

LENA
Just Lena.

Joanna seems a little surprised that she responded at all.

Joanna places the call button next to her and turns to leave.

JOANNA
If you need anything-

LENA
I know, I've been in a hospital
before.

Joanna stops at the door, about to say something.

ALEX (O.S.)
Joanna!

Alex comes in and speaks softly in Joanna's ear so that Lena
can't hear. Lena watches, picking up that she is the subject
of the conversation.

JOANNA
(moving away from Alex)
Ok.

Joanna takes her pen and scribbles something on the patient sheet. Then, trying to act nonchalantly, she unplugs the call button and takes it away.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Get some rest now. The doctor said you were really lucky considering your accident, hopefully you won't have to be here for long.

Alex comes over with a clear bag full of various items and puts it on the bedside table.

ALEX

Your belongings. They were collected from your car.

Both nurses leave, and Lena stares solemnly at the ceiling.

3 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

3

Lena lies still in her bed, eyes wide open - she can't sleep. She looks at her bedside table and sees the plastic bag full of her things. She slowly - painfully - sits herself up, takes the bag off the table and opens it up.

She takes out her phone and turns it on - no messages.

She takes out headphones, and a book, and puts them to the side. The next item is a compact mirror. She opens it up: it's cracked. She looks at her broken reflection. She stares for a second, looking at the bandages and bruises all over her face. Then she looks into her own eyes.

She shuts it - like she can't look anymore.

Lena lifts herself out of bed, slowly making her way to the window.

She tries to reach up and open it, only to realise it only opens so wide. She tries to climb up onto the window with great difficulty. She grabs onto something to hoist herself up, but her hand slips and she falls backwards.

As this is happening Joanna walks in with a food tray. She sees Lena about to fall, drops the tray and runs to her.

JOANNA

Lena!

Joanna reaches her just in time to break her fall, and the two tumble to the floor.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

Lena screams and moans in pain. Joanna looks down and realises she is holding her too tight, pushing on the wounds. She lets go.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Shit.

Joanna looks up at the window and notices that it's open. She looks at Lena, sceptical.

Lena is crying desperately. Joanna timidly takes her hand, and Lena grabs back like a child.

Alex rushes in.

ALEX
What happened? Is she okay?

Joanna looks at Lena - not sure how to answer.

JOANNA
She tried to walk and fell down.
She's ripped some stitches, go get
the kit.

Lena gives her a look. Joanna lied for her.

4 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

4

Joanna is walking down the hall when she hears something from Lena's room. She moves closer and starts to listen, looking through the slightly open door.

Lena lies in her bed, propped up by her pillows. Her injuries look visibly better.

There is a MAN (40s-50s) sitting opposite her. He looks official, smartly dressed with a lanyard around his neck - a **POLICEMAN**.

POLICEMAN
Can you tell me what you remember
from the accident?

LENA
I don't remember much.

POLICEMAN

Anything can help, its important to know any details. Was there anyone else on the road?

LENA

No.

Lena looks stressed, almost sickly. Joanna finds this slightly odd.

The Policeman goes down his notepad, clearly just reading all of the questions from there.

POLICEMAN

Can you tell me your emotional state that night?

Lena looks like she might be sick. Joanna intervenes and enters the room.

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Excuse me, can we have the room please?

JOANNA

I'm sorry, she's scheduled for an MRI scan now. You can come back another time. She's not going anywhere for a while.

POLICEMAN

(a little reluctant)

Alright. (turns to Lena) Get better soon, we can continue this another time.

The second he leave Lena looks more relaxed. She sits herself up.

LENA

What's the scan for?

Joanna gestures in the direction the Policeman left in.

JOANNA

To get rid of unwanted stress. Get some rest.

Joanna leaves. Lena can't help but smile a little.

5 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

5

Lena is lying on her bed, looking anxious. Her injuries have healed even more. She sits up and takes the book from her bedside.

The cover and the first half of the pages are ripped and stained all over from the crash, and a shard of glass is stuck in it. She picks at it, removing it and throwing it away.

She places her hand on the cover, brushing it with her fingers. She looks miserable, verging on tears.

She looks out the window.

6 EXT. HOSPITAL ROOFTOP - DAY

6

Joanna walks out onto the rooftop, a coat covering her scrubs and a pack of cigarettes in her hand. She stands at the rail puts cigarette in her mouth and lights it. As she inhales she turns to her right - and freezes: Lena stands a few feet away from her, looking out at the city.

JOANNA

What are you doing here?

Lena doesn't reply. Unseen by her, Joanna starts inching closer to Lena, ready to pounce.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

You're not supposed to be out of bed.

LENA

I was just looking for a nice view of the city. Like the one I used to get from the top, up there.

She points at Arthur's Seat, in the distance.

JOANNA

Are you a hiker?

Lena shrugs. Joanna is still discreetly moving closer.

LENA

Used to go up there all the time with my mum. When I was a kid.

Lena turns around to see Joanna clumsily inching closer. Joanna stops right in her track, caught, uncertain on what to say.

LENA (CONT'D)
I'm not here to jump.

Joanna relaxes, but eyes her suspiciously.

JOANNA
You're not supposed to be-

LENA
-out of bed. You said that already.
I needed some air, I'm sorry.

Joanna brings her cigarette back to her mouth and takes a puff. She has decided to cut Lena some slack.

LENA (CONT'D)
Can I have one?

Joanna follows her gaze to the cigarettes, and frowns.

LENA (CONT'D)
Come on, where's your charitable nature?

Joanna sighs, takes one out and hands it to her, along with the lighter. A small but sad smile crosses Lena's face as she lights the cigarette and inhales.

LENA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Joanna smiles, and they both fall silent, looking out at the city.

JOANNA
Smoking kills you know.

LENA
Then quit.

They smile at each other.

7

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

7

Lena is sat up in bed eating lunch. She looks much healthier, her bruises almost gone.

Joanna is at her bedside checking her monitors and vitals.

Lena pokes at the grey mush on her tray with a fork.

LENA
What is this?

JOANNA
I want to say mince.

Lena screws her face up and put the fork down.

LENA
You're not getting any better as a
cook.

Joanna smiles, surprised. Lena's joking with her.

JOANNA
I don't make it. But you're right,
I once gave everyone in my class
food poisoning.

Lena looks up surprised and intrigued.

LENA
How did you do that?

Joanna smiles but doesn't answer.

JOANNA
Eat.

Lena smiles and try more of her food.

Joanna notices the book on the bedside table. She mindlessly flicks the cover open, and notices a handwritten message. The message reads: "my love, my life, keep this with you always, Mum".

Joanna smiles and closes the book.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
You have any visitors today?

LENA
No.

Something occurs to her.

JOANNA
Have you had any visitors at all?

LENA
No, I don't want to see anyone.

Joanna looks confused and glances at the book, she opens her mouth to say something but Lena changes her tune.

LENA (CONT'D)
 (sarcastic)
 Who needs visitors anyway when I
 have you.

JOANNA
 (sarcastic)
 I'm touched.

Joanna decided not to revert back to the conversation, and gets back to her job.

8 INT. NURSES STATION, HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

8

Alex is sitting at the desk filling out paper work. Joanna walks past, on her way to another ward. She stops at the desk, something on her mind.

JOANNA
 Alex, did you ever contact
 Marlena's next of kin?

Alex looks up from the sheets.

ALEX
 I tried. Looked for the first few
 days she was here when she was
 still under anaesthetic. Only
 person on record was her mother,
 but she died ten months ago.

Joanna takes this in. She is starting to put the pieces together.

JOANNA
 Did you ask her?

ALEX
 Yeah, but she said there was no one
 to call.

Joanna looks thoughtful. She walks away from the desk in a rush.

9 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

9

Lena is sat up in bed reading the book.

Joanna comes in with a jumper on and a carrier bag.

Lena looks up from her book.

LENA
I thought your shift finished at
11?

JOANNA
It did. Thought you might want some
company. And...

Joanna takes a wine bottle out of her purse.

LENA
Seriously??

JOANNA
No, this is for me. You're a piece
of work. Besides, you can't drink
alcohol with the amount of pain
medication you're on. BUT-

She takes a pizza box out of her carrier bag.

JOANNA
You get pizza!

Lena's face drops and her eyes widen at the sight of the
pizza.

10

LATER:

10

The two of them sit on the bed opposite from each other, the
pizza box between them.

LENA
How much trouble would you get in
if they found out about this?

Joanna shrugs.

JOANNA
I'm off duty. Technically I'm a
visitor.

LENA
(sarcastic)
Wow, such a rebel.

Joanna laughs.

JOANNA
It wouldn't be one of the most
stupid things I've ever done.

LENA
 (intrigued)
 Like?

Joanna thinks for a moment and smirks.

JOANNA
 I stole cigarettes from my brother
 when I was 14.

LENA
 We all did that. Give me a better
 one.

JOANNA
 In uni I got caught with a guy in
 the girls toilets.

Lena laughs.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 I'm surprised they let me graduate.

LENA
 I was wrong, you are a rebel.

Joanna, smiling, thinks for a moment. As Lena bites into her
 pizza, Joanna falls silent, then serious. A beat. Then:

JOANNA
 When I was younger, my dad used to
 collect whiskey, like really fancy,
 expensive kinds. He was obsessed,
 wouldn't let any of us go near
 them. Anyway, one day when I was on
 the bus home from school, and I saw
 him kissing some woman.

Lena listens intently, her grin starting to fade.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 I was really angry. So I got my
 brother's baseball bat, went into
 his special room with all the
 whiskey, and...

A tense beat. Joanna is reliving it as she speaks.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 -I smashed them all to pieces. All
 of them. (beat) He was so mad. But
 so was I. (beat) My mum had only
 died just four months before.

Lena's smile is completely gone. She stares at Joanna.
 Joanna notices her expression and smirks sadly.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 Don't look at me like that. You
 telling me you haven't ever done
 anything reckless?

BEAT.

Lena's serious look grows sad. She looks at the cuts on her
 arms.

LENA
 Yes. I have.

Lena and Joanna fall silent, taking in their confessions.

Tears start to fall from Lena's eyes, and she quickly wipes
 them away with her hands.

LENA (CONT'D)
 Sorry.

JOANNA
 (softly)
 Its okay.

11 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 11

Lena is standing at her hospital bed, packing up her stuff.
 Joanna comes in.

JOANNA
 Packing up?

Lena raises the white plastic bag and shakes it
 sarcastically. Joanna hands her a clipboard with a form on,
 and a pen.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 Well its about time. Time to sign
 your soul away.

Lena smiles and signs the form.

LENA
 I'll miss you too.

Joanna smiles, and the two embrace.

JOANNA
 (more serious)
 I don't want to see you back here.

Lena smiles.

LENA
 Okay.

They break apart and Lena picks up her stuff and leaves, leaving Joanna in her now empty room.

12 EXT. HOSPITAL - LATER

12

Lena is sitting on a bench, smoking a cigarette, just out the front of the hospital. She is enjoying the gloomy day, watching the people and cars pass.

Joanna comes out of the building behind her and see her on the bench. She smiles and approaches.

JOANNA
 Hey sexy, watcha doin'?

Lena smiles.

LENA
 Just... waiting for a friend to pick me up.

JOANNA
 Bullshit. You don't have an friends.

Lena smirks.

LENA
 Well, its a nice day. I can walk.

JOANNA
 Barely.

Her smile grows bigger.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 Come on, I'll give you a lift.

LENA
 Thanks.

Joanna walks to her car, Lena watches as she goes.

JOANNA (O.S.)
Move your arse girl! I don't have
all day!

Lena grins.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.