

FIRST DRAFT

"ELZBIETA"

Central Script

by

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FADE IN:

Black Screen.

The sound of camera flashes going off over the background noise of photographers jostling and calling out to an unseen subject for the best shot.

ELZBIETA
(v/o)
We're all celebrities now...

The white light of camera flashes illuminate the screen.

INT. ISTAM'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

The flashes become yellow street lights streaking past the car window. The sound of jostling replaced by the car engine.

ELZBIETA
(v/o)
... using our money to buy
cosmetic love and cosmic
acceptance...

EXT. SHAFTESBURY AVENUE - NIGHT

Istam's car passes through the Theatre District.

ELZBIETA AND AGNIESZKA
(v/o)
...Sex sells, prison cells...

INT. ISTAM'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

The bright lights of various theatre signs are seen through the black square of the sunroof, their shows framed by typical lightbulbs.

EXT. MONTAGE OF CELEBRITY RED CARPET IMAGES.

Various celebrities are arriving for a premiere. The sound of applause.

ELZBIETA AND AGNIESZKA AND ISTAM
(v/o)
...to be desired, to be respected...

INT. ISTAM'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

The blurry yellow street lights zip past faster as the applause increases. Fingers change the frequency on a car radio. The applause fades into the "SMOKE & CANDLELIGHT" theme song.

ELZBIETA AND AGNIESZKA AND ISTAM
AND TOM

(v/o)
...to belong.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

A blurred row of pearl lightbulbs set round a large dressing-room mirror mimic the blurred streetlights.

A trail of thick cigarette smoke blows across the surface of one of the lightbulbs.

The smoke curls up and along the white edge of a lily.

A bunch of lilies lean against a large table mirror.

Framed in the mirror is ELZBIETA (24) her black hair tied up as she applies her make-up. An unopened letter rests against the base of the bouquet of lilies. She applies mascara, casting quick glances down at the letter. Over her shoulder in the mirror's reflection can be seen a silver backless dress on a hanger, surrounded by poster's of previous theatre productions.

She reaches for a silver letter opener.

In close, her smiling face is reflected in the shiny blade.

She opens the letter and begins to read in Polish.

ELZBIETA
Our darling Elzbieta, my
"Lilybet", I am so proud of you...

The theme music stops replaced by the sound of a ringing phone which she ignores.

EXT. MONTAGE OF CELEBRITY RED CARPET IMAGES.

MOTHER
(v/o)
Our darling daughter, my
"Lilybet", I am so proud of you,
following your dream. How is the
quote..? "My father was a warrior,
so I could be a farmer, so my son...

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elzbieta reveals a family photograph behind the letter. She stands in a garden with her mother and her kid sister, AGNIEZKA.

MOTHER
(V.O.)
-- my daughter could be a poet?

AGNIESZKA

(V.O.)

Mother are you writing to
Lillybet? Ask her who will be at
the premier! Ask her who she's
going with...

Agnieszka is heard screaming with delight as her mother
laughs.

There's a bang at the door.

Behind her reflection, a dark shadow appears against the
back wall, causing the silver dress to lose its sparkle.
She touches the photo with her red nail-varnished finger,
still obscuring the unseen man's face in the picture.

In the mirror reflection, surrounded by the bright
lightbulbs, she picks up the bouquet of lilies and exits
the room.

EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE - NIGHT

ISTAM (32) lurks in a dark doorway scanning the crowd.
Revelers jostle around the square amidst the usual
luminous-jacketed police presence.

Istam watches Elzbieta walk round the square holding the
lilies.

She notices a LITTLE GIRL with her PARENTS passing.

She smiles seeing how much the girl resembles herself as
a child.

Elzbieta stands with the little girl as her parents take
a photograph.

Elzbieta hands the girl a lily from her bunch.

The little girl smiles up at Elzbieta.

Smiling back, Elzbieta knows there is a sadness in her own
eyes.

The family moves off past Istam as he approaches angrily.

ISTAM

You have it? What the fuck,
Elzbieta? You have it?

ELZBIETA

You know I have it.

Istam looks at her pocket-less outfit.

ISTAM

Where you have it?

Elzbieta hands him the bouquet.

ELZBIETA
You said use my imagination,
bring to you safely...

ISTAM
What the fuck I want with these,
bitch?

ELZBIETA
Is safe!

Istam looks inside the bouquet. He quickly slaps Elzbieta in the face.

ISTAM
Stupid fucking bitch. You want
police to get me?

Elzbieta looks at him through watering eyes.

ISTAM
This is game to you? Flowers...
Red carpet. Red with your blood,
bitch.

He grabs her by the wrist and leads her into:

EXT. SOHO ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Istam throws Elzbieta against the wall, her face half in shadow.

He reaches into the bunch of flowers and pulls out a cellophane bag of pills.

Istam shoves the pills into his pocket and pulls out a knife as his free hand pins her by the throat against the wall.

He holds the blade to Elzbieta's eye.

She sees her frightened face reflected in the steel blade.

ISTAM
So your sister wants move to
London? Yeah, I read you Mother's
letter. She will work better for
me than you perhaps? More brains.
More...

He kisses her viciously on the lips. Then slaps her.

TOM (55) approaches Istam. He wears a security guard's jumper and holds a Burger King drink which doesn't add to his power.

TOM

Oi. Mate. You can't do that.
She's a woman.

Elzbieta's face remains in shadow, unseen.

Istam looks up at the portly security guard.

He opens his jacket to casually reveal his knife.

ISTAM

Fuck off fatty.

Tom sees the knife and quickly retreats.

Istam throws Elzbieta's lilies into the gutter where they mix with old rain water.

ISTAM

You work for me tonight. That is
why I don't cut you now.

ELZBIETA

You break my legs then ask me to
dance?

He raises the knife again but the sound of a police siren makes him think twice.

He straightens himself up with a pimp's spider-sense and walks off down the alley cursing to himself.

"SMOKE & CANDLELIGHT" theme fades in.

Elzbieta's looks down at the crushed, soiled Lilies. Stooping to pick up the least mangled one she walks off.

EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE. NIGHT.

A CCTV Camera watches the crowd.

Elzbieta leans against the wall, chewing gum and pretending nothing is nothing.

Tom walks past staring at her meaningfully.

ELZBIETA

You want to make a party?

TOM

Yes.

ELZBIETA

What you want?

TOM

I want to watch you.

Elzbieta holds out her hand.

ELZBIETA

Show me...

Tom looks up at the CCTV camera and changes his angle. Putting his back to it.

Tom opens his wallet and shows her the bank notes.

ELZBIETA

Not here. Jesus! Come.

INT. SECURITY ROOM. LEICESTER SQUARE DIVISION. NIGHT.

In a tight shot of the CCTV monitor, Elzbieta and Tom are seen walking off, arm in arm.

EXT. CELEBRITIES ON THE RED CARPET. LEICESTER SQUARE. EVENING.

A limousine door opens and a celebrity steps out.

EXT. ALLEYWAY. SOHO. NIGHT.

The lid of a commercial waste bin slams shut.

Tom's hand presses against the green lid for support.

Elzbieta gasps, face mashed to the wall as a Tom thrusts into her from behind.

ELZBIETA

(v/o)

Like all celebrities we're all
selling something...

EXT. RED CARPET

Grinning into the camera, the actress proudly holds up her award.

EXT. ALLEY WAY. SOHO. NIGHT.

Elzbieta grips the wad of cash in her hand as Tom thrusts harder from behind. She moans, eyes wide.

ELZBIETA

(v/o)

Even if it's our self...

Agnieszka is heard screaming with delight as her mother laughs.

The lily falls from Elzbieta's open hand.

AGNIESZKA

(v/o)

I want to go. I want to go!