

SHORT FILM DRAFT 1

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The room is silent. Its walls are covered with paintings and shelves filled with china. A piano, sits against the wall. Everything is perfectly placed and clean.

A woman sits in the corner of the room, although her face is never seen. Shots of her heels are seen, as well as her hands as she places her tea cup down on the table. Her movements are lifeless and almost robotic. The cup clinks loudly compared to the silence in the room. This is LAURA'S MOM.

At this time, a girl walks into the Living Room. This is LAURA. The back of her is seen as she walks towards the piano. Her hair is neatly tied back, and she is wearing a classic black shirt.

She sits down at the bench, creating a loud scraping sound from the wooden floor. She looks surprised by it and nervously sits down.

She sets off a metronome, producing an annoying but steady beat.

She takes a deep breath, and begins cracking her knuckles loudly in rhythm to the metronome. She straightens her back, and hovers her hands over the key board. She finally begins playing.

Laura plays the intro to a classical piece with a strong intense beat, in a minor key. She plays softly and expressively, connecting with the music. She plays for a short while. She messes up, hitting accidental notes that clash with the intended chords.

She stops playing abruptly.

She quickly pulls her hands up over the board, grabbing at her wrists. She peers over at her mom, whose feet have not moved, and remain still. Only the metronome is heard.

Laura gazes back at the piano, and tries to collect herself, taking another deep breath. She is relieved her mother has not shown her disappointment.

Laura begins playing again.

She seems confident, as she repeats her tune. You can hear the volume of her playing rise, as she approaches the part she previously messed up at.

Laura's phone rings as she gets a text.

She nervously looks down at her side, and tries to begin playing.

The phone rings again.

Annoyed, Laura reaches down into her pockets and pulls the phone out.

INSERT PHONE

Previous text JESS: I can't believe you did that.

Incoming text JESS: What's wrong with you??

Laura is visibly frustrated, ready to respond. She hovers her fingers over the phone before she begins typing.

Laura's mom clears her throat, signaling Laura to continue playing.

The girl, once again, straightens her back after hesitantly placing her phone in her pocket. She is frustrated. She hovers her hands above the keys, quickly and angrily. She begins playing once again.

Laura's playing is no longer soft, but instead harsh. She plays the repetitive tune. Approaching the notes, previously messed up, the playing once again becomes more aggressive.

A dog barks from outside the open window next to her.

Unable to control her anger, Laura stops playing and pushes up from her piano bench, scraping the floor again. She reaches her breaking point.

She walks to the window, and throws it down. She takes a deep breath, staring down at the floor, before looking out the window.

Stopped in her tracks, she sees someone at the edge of her lawn, staring back at her. It's more of a figure than a person, as they are unrecognizable. They are dressed in black.

EXT. OUTSIDE LAURA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A shot is shown of the figure closer up. They're feet are tapping the pavement in sync with the metronome, still audible from outside the house.

INT. LAURA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Laura is fixated on the window, looking interested and tempted. She pulls her eyes away from the window, and delicately begins to walk towards her front door, exiting her living room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The back of Laura is shown as she walks slowly through the hallway. Her breath is heard along with her footsteps through the silence. She approaches the door.

Seen from head on, Laura stands in front of the door, contemplating whether or not to open it.

She slowly reaches forward and pulls the handle open, allowing light to leak through the dark hallway. She is briefly blinded by the sun.

EXT. OUTSIDE LAURA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The figure's foot continues tapping to the metronome.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Laura, holds her breath, and starts to take a step out of the door frame and into her yard.

EXT. OUTSIDE LAURA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Before her foot can reach the ground, her mother clears her throat.

Laura's foot immediately stops in its tracks, and hovers above the ground before puling itself back inside.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She closes the door, blocking out any sun which once filled the hallway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She mechanically walks back into her living room and sits back down at her bench. She looks over at her mother, hurt and resentful, waiting for her to say something.

The mom does not respond, and begins tapping her finger along to the beat.

Laura turns to the piano as her hands diving into the keys. Her bites her lips as she is playing. Her playing begins to grow faster and louder along with the beat of the metronome.

While she is heavily concentrated on her playing, her phone begins to ring.

It lights up with incoming texts from Jess.

Laura continues playing.

The dog outside begins barking, but Laura does not stop playing.

The room is filled with chaotic sounds, as her playing is very loud, and barks, ticks, and text sounds layer over the song.

Different shots of her mother's tapping finger and the figure's tapping foot quickly appear, flashing. Flashes of her phone and the metronome also appear.

Laura abruptly stops all of these distractions by hitting the clean note she failed to before. All taps, texts, and music stops. Only the metronome is heard, at its original, slow speed.

Laura slouches over, out of breath. She closes her eyes and sighs heavily, hanging her head over her hands in her lap.

She reaches towards the metronome on top of the piano and turns it off, creating complete silence. She closes the top of the piano, covering the keys. Laura stands up and walks away from the piano. As she passes by the window, we see there is no figure outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE LAURA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The figure's foot is not tapping and has vanished. Silence as a car passes by.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Panning out, there is no one in her mother's chair, but her empty tea cup remains on the table.

Complete silence fills the empty room.