

## FEMME NOIR

A short film

## SUMMARY

A PI in the suburb Bayside, NY is tasked with finding a missing man by his sister. They interview his wife and his mistress, and starts to uncover the deep connection between the two women.

## GENRE

Slice of life, Neo-noir

## CHARACTERS

KAI - Private Investigator. Empathetic, charming, androgynous.

ELANOR MOON - Wife, elementary school teacher. Wears her emotions on her sleeves. She married Ken early because her family wanted her to do so. Through this story, she's discovering herself again.

DIANE SUN - Mistress, actuary at an investment firm. Athletic. Appears cold at first, but is a hopeless romantic.

KEN ISHIDA - Missing man. Lonely, emotionally manipulative.

## ABOUT THE SCENE

Elanor and Diane puts the body in a contrabass case, and takes it out into the woods to bury it. This scene is about 3/4 into the film, Elanor and Diane have become almost friends by now.

## EXT. DEEP IN THE WOODS - AFTER MIDNIGHT

Sometime between 1-3am. It's a full moon, but still dark. The only light sources visible are Elanor's phone screen glare, and a few soft battery powered LED lamps of different animal shapes. Elanor sits on a large rock, next her is a small tree. Diane is digging a hole; there is a contrabass case next to it. They share a rare few moments of silence before Elanor nervously starts the conversation.

ELANOR  
Do you know there's bears in this park?

DIANE  
You hoping one will come for the body? They aren't scavengers, El.

ELANOR  
Can mask his scent?

DIANE  
You want us to hunt down a bear.  
Can't you divert the search elsewhere, when they talk to you.

A beat.

ELANOR  
Oh yea, I'll be the first one they question.

DIANE  
Yea, you're his wife.

ELANOR  
But I'm suppose to tell them he ran off with you.

DIANE  
(Nods). That should by us some time.

ELANOR  
How long will you be gone?!

DIANE  
Long enough for them to believe we had a fight, and he ran off.

ELANOR  
And how long is that?

DIANE  
I don't know! We never fought!

Diane stabs the ground with her shovel. Elanor walks over to Diane and puts her hand on her shoulder. Diane flinches.

ELANOR  
For us it's just a few days. So...  
come back in a week.

Diane takes a few deep breathes.

ELANOR  
Please, I'll be worried.

DIANE  
This is... it's surreal. I'll be  
living out my fantasy, but alone.

ELANOR  
You dreamt about running away  
together?

Diane looks away to hide her face from Elanor, her head is  
down looking at the hole she dug.

ELANOR  
Make sense. Did you guys plan it?

DIANE  
No. He was ever going to leave  
you. Not for me.

ELANOR  
What makes you so sure?

DIANE  
Because he's was always afraid,  
one day I'll leave him for a  
woman.

ELANOR  
Because he doesn't think he'll be  
enough for you?

Diane finally looks up, her eyes wide and mouth half open.

ELANOR  
He used to say it about me too.  
In middle school, I got pretty  
close with the pastor's daughter.

DIANE  
Oh, you're a moth, huh?

ELANOR  
We didn't know what to call it,  
but we were a little more than  
best friends.

DIANE  
Believed they called it "gal pals"  
back in the day.

ELANOR

One afternoon, her mom walked up to give us snacks.

(Looks up at the moon)

Then suddenly my family was going to another church.

Diane looks at the moon too. A breeze passes through the leaves. Diane looks at the shovel, then to the hole. She turns to the bass case.

DIANE

I guess... guess... your family is rather religious?

ELANOR

Not really. It wasn't *that*.

DIANE

Maybe they didn't want to admit it to themselves...

ELANOR

They never asked if I am... if I like... Mom just said "that girl is a bad influence. Next Sunday we're checking out St. Robert Bellarmine".

Elanor looks up at Diane, shaking her head in disbelief.

DIANE

Isn't your family Baptist?

ELANOR

They are, but church is the only community we had since coming to the States. Our old pastor helped my dad find his first job.

Elanor has tears welling up in her eyes. Diane reaches out to offer a hug, but pulls back.

ELANOR

After that, I swore to not cause my family trouble again.

Elanor buries her face on Diane's shoulders. Diane brings her arms for a hug.