

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - EVENING

A preacher preaches on the TV.

LIBERTY, 52, watches.

In the background an old man, EDWARD, 90, cooks.

Edward comes out of the kitchen carrying two plates of food and hands one to Liberty.

EDWARD

The potatoes are hot.

He sits down in his matching easy chair and they both eat in silence.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - LATER

Plates licked clean Liberty and Edward sit in the same places, Liberty still watching TV, Edward snoring.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM-LATER

Now Liberty sleeps. Edward stands over her and gently shakes her.

EDWARD

Time for bed.

Liberty groggily gets up and lets Edward guide her into the bedroom.

There is one bed.

The door closes behind them.

EXT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - SIDEWALK - MORNING

Edward slowly, and uneasily shovels a snow covered sidewalk.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Liberty gets dressed while listening to a Christian radio station.

EDWARD (O.S.)

You ready yet?

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Edward and Liberty make a production of putting their coats on, along with several other layers.

EXT. SIDEWALK - WINTER DAY

Bundled in three coats Liberty leads the way through the snow as Edward hobbles slowly behind.

LIZ
Come on Dad!

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Liberty and Edward sit next to each other surrounded by piles of coats, scarves, hats, and gloves.

Edward is still trying to catch his breath when a NURSE comes out.

NURSE
Liberty Rossiter?

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

Liberty is being examined by a DOCTOR.

DOCTOR
Good news, you're not dying.

LIBERTY
But my-

DOCTOR
Now, Liberty, I'm going to tell you the same thing that I told you last month, and the month before that, and the month before that: get out of the house! Exercise, volunteer, just get your body moving and you'll feel much better, believe me. All of those vitamins you take aren't going to help if you don't get some sun and fresh air.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - EVENING

Liberty empties a pile of pills into her hands as she sits eating her dinner and watching TV.

LIBERTY
Dad, have you seen my fish oil
pills?

Edward doesn't respond.

She looks over and it appears he has fallen asleep eating.

LIBERTY (CONT'D)
Dad. Dad... You fell asleep. You're
gonna spill your food on your
pants. Dad!

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - MEMORIAL ROOM - DAY

Liberty sits next to her niece DENISE, 15, in silence.

LIBERTY
you ever see this?

Liberty claps her hands together.

LIBERTY (CONT'D)
This is the church.
(sticking up two fingers)
Here is the steeple.
(partying her thumbs)
Open the doors,
(wiggling her fingers)
and see all the people.

Liberty looks expectantly over at a very unimpressed Denise.

DENISE
My mom showed me.

LIBERTY
We used to play that as kids.

DENISE
I know.

An awkward silence resumes. Denise makes to get up when Liberty whips a rosary off from around her neck.

LIBERTY
This is a rosary.

DENISE
I know.

LIBERTY
Would you like to have it when I
die?

Denise is taken aback but polite. She says yes.

DENISE
Uh, OK. Thanks.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - MEMORIAL ROOM - SAME

LORRANE, 45, is having a conversation with a WOMAN.

LORRANE
He left her everything, the house,
all the money. You wouldn't think
it by how those two lived, but Dad
had a lot of money from stocks...
anyways, unless we get he deemed
unfit to care for herself, which
means she'd have to undergo
psychiatric evaluation, which she
never will, we can't do a single
thing about it.

She looks over at Liberty and sees Denise still trapped in
conversation with her.

LORRANE (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

Lorrane heads over to the couch.

A MAN steps in front of her.

MAN
Lorrane. I just wanted to say how
sorry I am. He was a good neighbor,
always took our trash cans in for
us-

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - MEMORIAL ROOM - SAME

Liberty continues to talk to Denise as Lorrane walks up to
the couch.

LIBERTY

So after you say your hail Mary;s
then you-

LORRANE

(to Denise)

There's that kind of punch that you
like over there.

DENISE

What kind of-

LORRANE

The kind with the bubbles in it.

DENISE

Oh... thanks Mom.

Denise gets up and with a quick self-conscious smile to
Liberty hurries away toward the buffet table.

Lorrane sits down next to Liberty who is still fingering her
rosary.

LORRANE

We want you to come back to Utah
with us.

LIBERTY

What do you mean?

LORRANE

We want you to live with us, do you
understand?

LIBERTY

I can't move to Utah.

LORRANE

Why not? Nothing's keeping you here
now that- this would be a good
chance for you to start over.

LIBERTY

Mom died in that house.

LORRANE

Twenty years ago, Lib.

LIBERTY

I promised I'd take care of Dad and
the house-

LORRANE
Come on Lib, just come with us. a
new beginning. What do you say?

I/E. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Liberty stands in her doorway as Lorrane and family stand in
front of her on the porch surrounded by luggage.

LIBERTY
Bye.

LORRANE
Be safe. Remember to change your
underwear everyday-

LIBERTY
I know, I know.

LORRANE
And clean under your fingernails.

LIBERTY
I know.

LORRANE
And get out some more if you can.

LIBERTY
OK.

LORRANE
And not just to doctor's
appointments.

LIBERTY
OK.

LORRANE
Don't just stay locked up in this
house all the time, it's not good
for you.

LIBERTY
I said OK!

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - EDWARD'S BEDROOM - DAY

Liberty sits in the middle of the room surrounded by many
open boxes and half-wrapped items of her father's.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

The kitchen is an absolute mess as Liberty cooks herself what appears to be a six course meal from a large cookbook.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - EDWARD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Half packed boxes sit unattended as the sound of the TV emanates from the living-room.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The sound of the TV echoes off a mass of unwashed pots, pans, and mixing-bowls.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty sits watching an infomercial for the bible on tape: 49 cassettes for only four installments of \$29.99...

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Liberty comes in carrying over eight bags of groceries. She struggles into a house that has deteriorated to the point of pure filth.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - DAY

Liberty follows a narrow pathway, parting a sea of detritus that litters the floor, toward the kitchen.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dropping her bags unceremoniously onto the floor, Liberty takes out a TV diner and puts it in the microwave.

She looks at the box, the directions indicate 5 minutes. She punches in 500 minutes.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - DAY

Liberty sits in front of the TV as the sound of the microwave issues from the kitchen

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Close on the microwave.

Close on the TV preacher preaching.

Food splatters the inside of the microwave.

The preacher waves his Bible.

The microwave catches on fire.

The preacher pronounces that we're all going to hell.

The microwave explodes.

EXT. LIBERTY'S HOUSE - SIDEWALK - EVENING

The sound of a fire truck grows nearer and nearer as the flickering light from the burning house reflects off of Liberty's shocked face.

INT. RED CROSS SHELTER - COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty is on the telephone observing the other occupants of the shelter. Most of them are observing her as well.

LORRANE (V.O.)

What did I tell you?! I can't believe this. We just don't have the money to come down there again, Lib. Not after the funeral expenses, and the cost of a ticket these days... OK, listen very closely to me Liberty: I want you to go to a travel agent tomorrow morning and use the money Dad left you to buy a ticket to Salt Lake City, OK? As soon as you have your ticket you call me and let me know when to meet you at the airport. Can you do that? Lib?

INT. RED CROSS SHELTER - LIBERTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty unlocks a charred, but intact fireproof-safe box.

She rummages through it until she finds a picture of Edward when he was younger. She looks at it wistfully.

INT. RED CROSS SHELTER - LIBERTY'S ROOM - LATER

Surrounded by all of the items in the box, Liberty takes the last item out of the box- a bundle of letters.

She takes a letter and examines it. She runs her thumb over the name TADEOUSH LATINSKI at the top of the return address.

INT. RED CROSS SHELTER - LIBERTY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty sits on her bed. Using the Bible for support, she writes a letter.

INT. RED CROSS SHELTER - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Liberty sits in the shelter common-room eating alone.

A RED CROSS WORKER comes up to her.

RED CROSS WORKER
Can I join you?

LIBERTY
(mouth full of food)
Yeah, OK.

RED CROSS WORKER
How are those new clothes fitting?

LIBERTY
Yeah, they're OK.

RED CROSS WORKER
Great. Well, I wanted to let you know that we've found a couple of possible apartments for you.

LIBERTY
Oh.

RED CROSS WORKER
Now you realize that your assets put you above our cut off for free temporary housing, right?

LIBERTY
OK.

RED CROSS WORKER
 OK. Well, then I'm very excited to
 show you a couple of the options
 tomorrow. They're not too
 extravagant, but on the up side,
 they wont stretch your budget.
 Sound good?

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

A well dressed man shows the Red Cross Worker around a very
 small and sterile apartment. Liberty trails behind them.

RED CROSS WORKER
 Perfect.

The Red Cross worker turns to liberty to get her approval.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty sits in a single folding chair watching TV and eating
 Chinese take-out.

The picture of her father rests on top of the TV.

The rest of the room is bare.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Liberty sleeps in bed to the sound of the TV coming from the
 living-room.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty sits in her chair watching TV and eating Chinese take-
 out again.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Liberty lifts the lid off of the garbage can revealing a
 trash-bag full of empty take-out containers. She tries to
 shove another container in, but it wont fit.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Liberty walks along the hallway toward the front door, dragging the trash-bag behind her. The SUPER, a ape-ish looking middle aged man comes out of a door to her left.

SUPER

Hey, 4C!

Liberty stops and looks at him uncertainly.

SUPER (CONT'D)

Yeah, you. Apartment 4C, right?

Liberty nods.

SUPER (CONT'D)

Wait here.

The super disappears into his apartment. Liberty stands with her trash-bag, waiting.

A MAN, 35, comes through the front door. He looks oddly at the woman standing in the middle of the hallway with a large trash bag and hurriedly looks down and scurries around her.

The super emerges with a handful of letters.

SUPER (CONT'D)

Mailman stopped by today. Says there's no more room in your mailbox.

LIBERTY

Mailbox?

The super stares at her in disbelief.

SUPER

You got your keys?

Liberty takes keys tied around her neck, along with the rosary, and holds them out to him.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The super and Liberty stand next to a wall of dented aluminum mailboxes. The super sticks a little key into the mailbox and turns. It doesn't open. He pulls, full force, and the jammed full mailbox yields.

The super puts the keys and string into Liberty's hand.

SUPER
Try to check it every day.

LIBERTY
OK.

SUPER
My name's Henry, if you need
anything.

Liberty nods.

SUPER (CONT'D)
You gonna be OK?

She nods again.

SUPER (CONT'D)
Alright then, I got to go finish
this repair.
(to himself)
Always gotta send me the crazies.

The super retreats back into his apartment, with one last
glance at Liberty.

She yanks the letters and papers out taring at some of them.
She looks through the pile: an advertisement, the Penny
Saver, a bill, more junk-mail, a hand written letter with a
large forwarded stamp on it-

Liberty looks at the letter and sees that it is from Queens,
New York.

Liberty turns and walks back towards her apartment, leaving
her trash-bag in front of an open mailbox.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - LIVING-ROOM - DAY

Liberty walks into the living-room and closes the door behind
her. She locks the door.

She crosses over to the bedroom and enters, also closing that
door.

INT. LIBERTY'S NEW APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Liberty sits on her mattress on the floor and gets under the
covers. She opens the letter and reads it out loud.

LIBERTY

Dear Liberty, what a surprise to hear from you, it has been such a long time. I still think of you at times. I am mechanic now, too boring to tell you I think. I still have picture of you. Tell me more about your life but write to me at address on this letter, I don't live there anymore. You send me your letter from red cross, I hope you are doing fine. Hoping to hear from you again, yours, Tadeoush Latinski.

Liberty hold the letter in trembling hands, then carefully folds it back up and puts it back in the envelope.

SUPER

(faintly through the doors)

Hey, you left your trash bag in the middle of my hallway. Hey, you hear me?

Liberty looks at the new address and holds the letter to her heart.

INT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

Liberty walks through the station draped in plastic bags holding most of her remaining belongings. She walks up to a gate and out into the night air.

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

Liberty walks up to a then BUS DRIVER, a large black man and thrusts out her ticket.

He takes her ticket and examines her with an amused expression.

BUS DRIVER

You can't bring all that in with you in there. Two bags only inside the coach.

LIBERTY

But-

BUS DRIVER

The rest'll have to go underneath.

He punches her ticket.

Liberty stands to the side and sorts through her stuff, putting on all the clothes she owns and condensing the rest of her belongings and food into two bags. She comes back to the driver. He chuckles and shakes his head motioning her to get on.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

The bus is filled with sleeping passengers, every seat is taken but the one next to the bathroom in the back, and the one next to Liberty. She alone seems to be awake, looking eagerly out her window at the night lights of New York City.

EXT. QUEENS NEW YORK - STREET - EARLY MORNING

Still wearing her ridiculous number of layers and carrying two bursting shopping bags Liberty stops in front of a dirty vinyl sided house with a statue of the Virgin Mary in the front yard and a bright red 'Beware of Dogs' sign on a chain-linked fence.

She puts down a bag and takes an envelop out of her coat pocket. She confirms the address.

Liberty looks for dogs in the yard but there is no sign that the doghouse is occupied. She walks up the pathway to the front door and rings the doorbell.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

The sound of barking dogs erupts from the house followed by some loud cursing. Liberty waits unsure of what to do. Finally the door cracks open.

The face of a middle aged man, thin and harsh looks through the crack at her.

TADEOUSH

It's seven in the fuckin' morning,
what the hell do you want?

LIBERTY

It's me.

TADEOUSH
I'm supposed to know you?

LIBERTY
I'm liberty.

TADEOUSH
Lib- oh.

A younger Hispanic looking woman, FIFI, 40, comes to the door, plump but pretty.

FIFI
You're letting all the cold air in.

She shoves her way in front of him to examine Liberty.

FIFI (CONT'D)
And you are?

The two women stare each other down.

TADEOUSH
She's old acquaintance.

FIFI
Invite her in then. Heat ain't
cheep these days you know.

INT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - MORNING

They sit in silence in the living-room as two boys watch morning cartoons.

FIFI
So how do you all know each other?

LIBERTY	TADEOUSH
We were engaged.	Acquaintance from work.

Fifi stares at Liberty with disgust.

FIFI (CONT'D)
Really?

TADEOUSH
We worked together, long time ago.
She was very younger.

FIFI
So what happened? How come this
great romance didn't work out?

TADEOUSH

Well-

FIFI

(to Liberty)

You tell me.

LIBERTY

My mother died. She told me to take care of Dad and the house. Dad died too.

FIFI

Jesus!

(to Tadeoush)

I'm gonna make some coffee. Why don't you wrap it up.

(whispering)

She's stinking up the couch.

Fifi leaves the room.

Beat.

TADEOUSH

I have to take shower before work, so-

LIBERTY

You work?

TADEOUSH

I am mechanic now, just at end of street, so this is good.

Tadeoush gets up. Liberty stays seated. She starts to watch cartoons with the kids.

TADEOUSH (CONT'D)

I wish you best of luck, but now you go please.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Tadeoush closes the front door behind Liberty, leaving her alone on the doorstep.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Liberty enters her hotel room carrying a large number of shopping bags.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Wet clothes hang all over every surface.

Liberty dyes her hair.

She puts on make-up, and much too much perfume.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Liberty watches the front door from across the street.

The door opens and Tadeoush comes out.

EXT. BRONX STREET - MORNING

Liberty follows Tadeoush to the mechanic shop.

INT. MECHANIC'S SHOP - LATE MORNING

Liberty enters the mechanic shop. Tadeoush sees her and quickly runs over to her before any of his colleagues can take notice.

TADEOUSH
(whispering)
What are you doing here?

LIBERTY
I came to see you.

A couple of the other workers start to look up.

TADEOUSH
Listen, I have lunch in 20 minutes.
We talk there, OK?

LIBERTY
OK.

She stands waiting.

TADEOUSH
Never mind, I take it now.
(to other workers)
I take my lunch early today. I'll
be back soon.

INT. CORNER DINER - DAY

Liberty and Tadeoush sit at a booth together.

TADEOUSH

OK, I get to the point. It was good to see you, but I have other life now, family, you know. We can't be friends.

Liberty takes the letters that he had written her from his purse.

LIBERTY

You asked me to marry you. If my mother wasn't sick-

TADEOUSH

Libby, I been married two times since then. I needed green card, I moved on. You move on now too. I have to go back.

Tadeoush throws some money on the table and leaves.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Liberty watches the house from across the street.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Liberty wakes up from the curb where she had fallen asleep to the sound of Tadeoush's door opening and closing.

Tadeoush walks out of the house and down the street.

Liberty waits.

FiFi exits the house with the two boys.

INT. SUBWAY - MORNING

Liberty sits at the end of the car watching FiFi and her two fighting boys at the other.

When they get off, she gets off.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Liberty watches Fifi drop the boys off at school.

EXT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Liberty waits for Fifi to exit the salon.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Liberty follows her in the supermarket.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Liberty watches FiFi pick up the boys.

Suddenly Fifi looks in her direction and notices Liberty watching from across the street.

She rushes the children home.

INT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

Fifi parts the curtain to see Liberty hiding behind a tree across the street.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Liberty watches from across the street.

Tadeoush comes out of the house and walks directly over to her.

Liberty starts to smile until he grabs her by the shoulders and begins to shake her violently.

TADEOUSH

Stay away from my family or I call
the cops! I not asking you again!

Tadeoush storms back inside leaving Liberty alone and shaken.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Liberty sits at the same diner that Tadeoush took her to.

People stare at her, and she notices.

INT. DINER - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Liberty stares herself down in the mirror. She sees for the first time what other people see.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Liberty takes her stake knife and slips it in her coat pocket.

INT. LIBERTY'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Liberty lies in bed under the covers and sobs.

EXT. TADEOUSH'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Liberty knocks on the door. Fifi opens.

FIFI
I'm calling the police.

LIBERTY
No, please-

FIFI
My husband told you to fuck off.
What part of fuck off don't you understand?

LIBERTY
I'm moving to Utah. My sister lives there. I just wanted to apologize.

FIFI
Fine, I forgive you, now go away.

LIBERTY
I'd like to talk to Tadeoush.

FIFI
Well Tadzo ain't here.

One of the boys runs up to his mom.

BOY
Julio changed the channel and he won't change it back!

FIFI
 Calla te mi hijo!
 (to Liberty)
 I gotta go now. I'll tell him you
 stopped by.

Liberty eyes the boy.

She is holding the steak knife behind her back.

INT. JFK AIRPORT - MORNING

Liberty hands over a ticket as she gets on a plane to Utah.

INT. LORRANE'S HOUSE - LIBERTY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lorranne and Denise show Liberty her new room.

LORRANE
 This is your home now.

INT. LORRANE'S HOUSE - LIBERTY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Liberty pushes her fire-proof box under her bed.

Lorranne sticks her head in without knocking.

LORRANE
 It's time to go.

INT. MORMON CHURCH - MORNING

In an otherwise packed church Liberty sits in a pew alone.

PREACHER
 I'd like to end with a very special
 prayer that should remind us that
 we carry Jesus' holy house with us
 wherever we go. My grandson just
 taught me this.

The preacher claps his hands together.

Liberty follows suit.

PASTOR
 This is the church.
 (sticking up two fingers)
 (MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Here is the steeple.
(parting his thumbs)

LIBERTY
Open the doors,
(wiggling her fingers)
and see all the people.

There is caked blood under her nails.

LIBERTY (CONT'D)
Amen.

Sirens sound outside the church.