

SHADOW PUPPETRY

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Dark and cloudy night, wind tapping on windows. A girl stands at the front door. Broken outdoor wall lantern light flashing on and off. It feels like something bother her to open the door.

LINA, 19, college student, arrived home after ten o'clock at night. She was standing outside at the door with violin case in her right hand and keys in her left hand. She was carries a schoolbag on her back.

LINA
I can do this.

LINA holding the handle of violin case tight in her right hand. She opens the door with the keys in her left hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room was dark and lights were out. Moonlight walked through the window without asked any permission. Two big couches located in the living room beside the window. The coffee table between two couches. Remotes, magazines, newspapers, and liquor cans are sitting on the messy coffee table. A drunk and sleepy man laying on a couch.

LINA walks inside the living room, puts the keys in her pocket. As she take off her shoes.

LINA
Dad, I am home...
Hello? Dad? Are you home?

LINA takes off her schoolbag and throws on the couch. The schoolbag lands on the drunk man's back. LINA didn't realizes the man on the couch. She quickly turn around and switch on the light.

TONY, 45, scrawny, drunk, tired, his body was laying face down on the couch. His right hand holding an empty liquor can.

TONY
(Silently)
Ouch.

TONY drops the empty liquor can on the carpet. Suddenly, he looks up and saw LINA reaching to the light.

After the living room's light turn on, LINA turn around to the couch. She quickly steps back from the couch in shock.

LINA

Ah!

LINA raises her violin case with two hands in front of her face.

TONY

Ah!

LINA

Ah.

LINA quickly puts down the violin case.

TONY sits on couch and he moves LINA's schoolbag beside him. He picks up the empty liquor can that dropped on the carpet when he was woken up by LINA. He places the liquor can on the coffee table.

TONY

Alright, Stop right there. What's going on?

LINA

You scared me. The lights were out and you come out from nowhere?

TONY

What do you mean? I was on the couch. It seem like you didn't expected this happened...

TONY thinks and then wonder. He points his index finger at LINA's hands.

TONY (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. What's in your hands? Do you have something in your hands?

LINA quickly hides the violin case in her back. She smiles.

LINA

Nothing.

TONY

Nothing?

LINA nods.

LINA

Yes, I have nothing.

LINA carefully places the violin case on the carpet. It lands between the carpet and the couch.

TONY
I saw something.

LINA
Huh?

TONY
I said I saw something.

LINA
Something what? What is it? What do you think I have in my hands?

LINA shows her hands to TONY. She flips back and forth her hands in the air.

LINA (CONT'D)
See, either in my hands or on my hands.

TONY
So?

LINA
You know what? Too much alcohol dancing inside your brain. You're drunk. You're delusional.

TONY
Well, I'd saw something. A very clear image in my head. Something like a case. Whatever inside the case. I don't know.

LINA
How many times do you want me to said nothing? N—O—T—H—I—N—G, Nothing.

TONY was angry because he know LINA didn't tell him the truth. He raises his voice. He speaks towards to LINA.

TONY
Make it easy. You're going to tell me. Or...Or I'm going to be Mr.Detective. I'll figure out what's going on. It's just matter of time.

LINA
 What?
 (looks down)
 Okay. Fine.

LINA picks up the violin case that landed beside the couch.
 She raises it in front of her chest.

LINA (CONT'D)
 Is this thing you want to see? You
 wanna know about this?

TONY
 Oh, wow! Look like someone ready
 to tell a story tonight. So go
 ahead. I'm listening.

LINA
 It's a violin.

Tony lower his voice.

TONY
 Not enough. More details.

LINA
 What do you want to know—

TONY
 You have more information. Don't
 you? Are you going to tell me or
 not?

LINA puts down the violin case.

LINA
 (sighs)
 I changed my major. I don't like
 chemistry. I hate periodic table.
 I hate compounding stupid
 elements.

TONY
 How long?

LINA
 What?

TONY
 How long did you changed your
 major?

LINA
 Since last semester.

TONY
(Angrily)
This is a fucking joke! You
changed your major past six months
ago!? And I'm fucking know nothing
about it!

LINA stands still behind the couch. Then she puts her hands
on the couch.

LINA
Listen, if I'm tell you right now
that I'm going to change my major.
Are you going to let me or not?

LINA takes a deep breath.

LINA (CONT'D)
No, you won't. Won't care what I
love, what I want, and all other
things!

TONY
Yes, I do care! If I don't care
about you! I won't put so much
efforts on you!

LINA
You put so much efforts on me
because of mom. Mom like
chemistry. You want me to acts
like mom. Everything from me like
mom!

TONY
No. Not exactly.

LINA cries.

LINA
I'm horrible terrible in
chemistry. I'm sick at chemistry.
But I've do whatever you want me
to. Don't You know why?

TONY
What's wrong with chemistry? At
least chemistry better than this
violin things. You might achieve a
Nobel Prize in the future if you
studies chemistry. What can you do
with violin?

LINA
Fuck Chemistry! Fuck Nobel Prize!
Fuck everything!

LINA wipes her tears. She walks up to the coffee table.
Cleans up the messy table.

Then she walks to the kitchen. Opens the refrigerator and
take out whole milk. LINA pours the milk into a cup. She
walks back to the living room. Places the cup of milk on
the table in front of TONY. LINA finally sits down on the
couch.

LINA (CONT'D)
Fine. Let's have a serious
conversation about chemistry.

TONY
Why not?

LINA
If you stop drinking C_2H_5OH , then
I'm going to major chemistry. If
not, then I continuing on violin.

TONY
What—the—fuck—is— C_2H_5OH ? Why I
need to stop this shit?

LINA
You don't even know what I am
talking about!

TONY
Two things right here. Your major
have nothing to do with this
 C_2H_5OH or whatever this shitty
thing.

LINA
No! If I am going to study
chemistry. Do you want me to use
some sort of compound elements in
our conversation?

TONY yawns.

TONY
Oh, I understand. you are going to
said that you'll play the violin
or maybe sings when we talk?

LINA stands up.

LINA
Enough of this! Cut the strings
from me.

TONY
What?

TONY searches around.

TONY (CONT'D)
I didn't see any strings attached
you. What are you talking about?

LINA
I am serious.

TONY
Do I look like playing around!?
Joking?

LINA
Yes, you are. Drunk man. Drink
that milk?

TONY
Oh, yeah? What if I don't?

LINA
Enough!

LINA (CONT'D)
Let go of me. Give me my freedom.
I don't want this anymore. I'm not
a shadow puppet. You're not a
puppeteer. You can't control me
forever.

TONY angers. He speaks loudly.

TONY
I'm your father! I'm the
puppeteer! I was the only one
protecting you!

LINA laughs.

LINA
Really? You said you were
protecting me? How?

TONY
Like a puppeteer's duties.

LINA
What duties?

LINA stop laughing. She sits down on the couch.

LINA (CONT'D)

What's shadow puppeteer's
missions? Keep me away from fire?
Don't let strangers hurts me? Or
make sure I am not getting any bad
damages?

TONY

Something like that.

LINA

That's bullshit. You didn't
protecting me. You jailed me. You
take away my freedom. You take
everything from me.

TONY

I didn't jailed you. You still can
go whatever you want to go. Do
whatever you want.

LINA

Yes, you did. I am a inside cage
bird. I can't reach out to the
world because I have no way to
make my own decisions!

TONY

This is protecting you. It wasn't
jailed you. I don't want you to
make any wrong decisions.

LINA

Bullshit again.

TONY

I did what I have to do. To give
you a future. I am already a
failure in my life. I don't want
you to be someone like me.

LINA

A future with somethings I don't
like? A future you think you were
right about? You're a failure
doesn't mean I'm going to be a
failure.

TONY

Believe me. I know the difference
between successful person like
your mother and a failure like me.
So let me help you.

LINA

I don't want anything from you and
I don't need your help. I'm older
enough to take care myself.

TONY

No, you're not. You are still a
child. You don't know what is good
and bad before steps into the
society.

LINA

A child? You never treated me like
a child. More like a shadow
puppet. All you did was casts me
into the scene.

LINA sighs.

LINA (CONT'D)

What audiences sees on the screen
was my shadow and my moves
controlled by you. They don't know
anythings about me behind the
curtains.

Doorbell rings. LINA looks at the window. TONY speaks to
LINA.

TONY

Open the door.

LINA

What?

Doorbell rings again. Then a voice comes from outside.

BOY

Hello? Anyone?

TONY

Go open the door.

LINA

No, I am not going to open the
door. Open it yourself. I am not
doing it for you.

TONY angrily and yells.

TONY

Go open the fucking door!

LINA

Fine. I'll open the fucking door.

LINA walks to the door. She opens the door and saw a boy stands still.

Boy, 21, pizza delivery, innocent, patiently waiting. The boy carries a pizza box in his hands waiting the door to open.

When the door open halfway.

BOY
Hi, Pizza—

LINA
Fuck off.

LINA quickly shuts the door.

BOY
Delivery...

LINA walks to the living room.

TONY
Who's out there?

LINA
Pizza delivery.

TONY
That's it?

LINA
You didn't say anything. You told me to open the fucking door. And I just did.

TONY
Okay, then bring in the fucking pizza.

LINA
I'll bring in your fucking pizza.

The pizza boy at the door reads out the name and address on the receipt for confirmation.

BOY
Tony October. 9999 NightNine St...

Lina walks to the door. The mumbling voice comes from outside of the house. LINA opens the door and responses to the boy.

LINA
It's November.

BOY
Huh? Oh, Sorry. It's said Tony
October on the receipt.

LINA
He's dead.

BOY
What?

LINA
You won't able to see him. He's
gone a while ago.

BOY
But...

A voice comes from inside the house.

TONY
No. I am not!

LINA
Do you have something for me?

BOY
Oh, yes. Here you go.

BOY passes the pizza box and the receipt to LINA. He
smiles. Then LINA smiles, too.

LINA
Anything else?

BOY
Not really...

BOY puts his left hand inside his pocket. His right hand
thumb rubs repeatedly over the tip of index and middle
finger.

LINA
Oh, yeah. I almost forgot. Can I
ask you three questions?

BOY
Um...sure. Why not?

LINA
First question. If you get paid
more as a waiter. Are you going to
quit the job you have right now?

BOY
Yeah. Definitely.

LINA

Okay, second question. Money or dream?

BOY

What?

LINA

What's your desire? Between money and dream.

BOY

Well, can it be both? I mean...I always dreamed about money.

LINA

This is not the question I'm asking.

TONY quickly replies from inside the house.

TONY

She's asking you to make a decision between a path that already planned for you and a path that you walk yourself out.

BOY

What's money and dream have to do with decision making?

TONY

let me be more specific. Are you going to listen to your parent or make your own decision.

BOY

So decision made by parents refer as money. Decision made by myself refer as dream, right?

TONY

Yes.

BOY

I'm more prefer to dream than money. However, dream can't make me wealthy. It might cost a lot debts to achieve my dream. So I would go for money. Did I answer your question?

LINA smiles

LINA
Last question. Do you remember
what I said when I open the door?

BOY
Not really...It's November?

LINA
No, before that.

BOY
Um...You want me to say it?

LINA
Yeah, go ahead.

BOY
Fuck—

Lina quickly shuts the door.

BOY (CONT'D)
Off...

The boy turns around and walks down the stair. He sighs.

BOY (CONT'D)
I just wanna get paid extra.

LINA walks to the living room. She puts down the pizza box
on the coffee table.

LINA
You can control my shadow. But not
my soul.

LINA exits the scene. TONY opens the pizza box and look
down at the pizza.

TONY
(quietly)
Your favorite.

FADE OUT.

THE END