

Young Adonis

By

John E. Spare

Based On Materials Provided By Fatih Salim & James D. Froio

johnearlspare@gmail.com
(724)712-0937

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

BLACK SCREEN.

A MALE VOICE, matter of fact, monotone, recites his mantra.

ADONIS (VO)

Money's good, same thing with pills
and Molly...but the best currency
of all is knowing someone loves you
absolutely. You lose that...what's
the point?

SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE BLACK.

Adonis Chapter One

Fade In to a CITY STREET. The doorway to an OLD BROWNSTONE opens. ADONIS (17, dark hair, tall and thin, yet strikingly handsome and CLEAN SHAVEN) appears from the building.

He reaches in his pocket retrieving three white pills, one at a time placing them into his mouth as if taking communion.

He swallows hard, looks to sky. Rays of sunlight bathe his face, giving him a godlike appearance.

Lowering his head, he turns, walking gracefully down the sidewalk, ignoring his fellow pedestrians.

Ahead, TWO TEEN GIRLS hover at the entrance of a convenience store, both dressed too classy to be city girls. A wide grin forms on Adonis' face.

NATALIE (19, short black hair) pleading with an OLDER MAN. LIZA (18, FAKE STRAWBERRY BLOND, cute) nervously listens to her friend's conversation from a distance.

NATALIE

Come on...please? I'll be
twenty-one in like literally a
week! It's no big deal.

The man shakes his head, proceeds up the sidewalk with his coffee, passing the smiling Adonis.

Boldly, Adonis walks directly to Natalie.

ADONIS

Your womanly charms aren't working
today?

(CONTINUED)

Along the brick wall, a smile and small laugh escapes from Liza; Natalie turns, staring daggers at her friend.

ADONIS
Whatcha' need?

NATALIE
Fuck off, asshole.

LIZA (OS)
Wine.

Adonis turns his attention to the shy blond.

NATALIE
Liza?

ADONIS
Liza...that is an amazing name.

LIZA
It's my birthday. We wanted to celebrate.

Like a panther stalking his prey, he crosses to the wall.

ADONIS
Well happy birthday Liza. For real, how much celebrating can you do with a bottle of wine? Why would you come all the way down here for that? Don't they have wine in the burbs?

LIZA
They don't have adventure...

NATALIE
Leave her alone, dickhead!

ADONIS
Adventure? Stay right here, OK?

Never taking his eyes from the blond, he back peddles towards the store entrance. Natalie and Liza both stare in disbelief at the retreating Lothario.

LIZA
How old are you?

ADONIS
Seventeen.

Liza turns to look at her friend. Natalie responds with a WTF shrug.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Adonis opens the beverage cooler, grabs three bottles of Aqua Fina with one hand.

THREE PATRONS stand at the register ahead of him. Gracefully, he circumvents the line, lays a ten spot on the counter.

ADONIS

Three waters Khirti, the rest is for you, man.

The INDIAN CLERK smiles without looking up.

INDIAN CLERK

Ah, Adonis, you must learn patience! Be good out there my friend.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Adonis hands each of the girls a water.

NATALIE

I told you he was dick!

He ignores her comments, looks hypnotically into Liza's eyes.

ADONIS

You take the train or you got a car?

LIZA

Natalie drove. What's this?

ADONIS

Water. But it's special. I'll tell you more in the car.

LIZA

Pretty cocky thinking we're just going to let you in our car.

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS
It's confidence, girl. Totally
different.

INT. NATALIE'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

In the rear, Adonis pours white powder into a bottle, passes it to Natalie in the driver's seat, proceeds the ritual with the other two bottles.

NATALIE
OK, look, I've never driven with
Molly before...

ADONIS
It's good, you'll be straight. Here
beautiful.

He passes a bottle forward to Liza in the passenger seat. She smiles at him receiving a pantie-watering, heart stopping stare in response.

Natalie takes a swig from her bottle. Fear crosses her face.

NATALIE
Listen, fucker, I swear, if this is
like cyanide or something I will so
fucking kill you! You look like one
of those sick pricks that would...

CUT TO:

EXT. LIZA'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

With dusk approaching, Natalie's vehicle rests in the driveway. The three Molly participants lay on their backs in the well-manicured, expensive lawn.

NATALIE
You are so fucking hot! Liza,
wouldn't you just like to lick this
sexy mother fucker from six pack to
ball sack?

A small chuckle escapes Liza's mouth. Smiling, Adonis turns his head from the stars to look at her.

ADONIS
Well? Come on girl, your friend
asked you a question.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

I'm going in.

ADONIS

Hold on, you didn't answer yet.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Through a full closet of girl's clothing, a room that once told the tale of a spoiled, feminine girl, now taken over by a disillusioned teen.

Pink walls with matching lamps contrast with dark clothing strewn about. WHIZ KHALIFA smiles through a haze of pot smoke on a wall poster. Moody, Young Adult novels on the floor.

Slowly, rhythmically, passionately, Adonis thrusts in and out on top of Liza. Her reaction to her orgasm is intense, obvious that she has never had this experience with someone else.

ADONIS

Yeah?

LIZA

Uh-huh...

Adonis grabs his jeans, dismounts, making his way to the edge of the bed.

LIZA (CONT.)

Wait..

Over his shoulder, he looks at his conquest.

LIZA (CONT.)

Stay.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZA'S HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

The bathroom door opens. Adonis exits wearing only a towel, now with a FULL, WELL-TRIMMED STYLISH BEARD. As he heads up the hallway, an adjoining bedroom door opens.

Clad in a plush pink bathrobe, LIZA'S MOTHER (40, chubby) appears, bags under her eyes, hair in disarray.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA'S MOTHER
Hey, did you make coffee?

He stops directly in front of her, making sure she gets a close look at his chiseled chest.

ADONIS
Always for you.

LIZA'S MOTHER
Oh, thank God. Wake her up, OK? And tell her that asshole father of her's wants her to call him.

A muffled MALE VOICE growls from another room.

MALE VOICE (OS)
Christ, mom, I'm trying to sleep in here!

Adonis raises his finger to his lips. Liza's mother smiles as she walks past him.

INT. LIZA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Liza, now with a more natural color of MOUSY BROWN HAIR, sits on her bed holding a DIAMOND RING.

She inspects the inscription: TO MY MARIA, MINE 4LIFE. Begrudgingly, she places the ring on her finger.

SEVERAL HOLES, the exact size of an angry fist can be seen on the wall behind her.

The screen goes BLACK.

LIZA (VO)
I'm the only one that can give myself back to myself. It's not supposed to be like this. Never.

SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Liza Chapter Five

EXT. LIZA'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Wearing no make-up, cutoff shorts and pastel blouse, Liza reads a text message, unsure how to respond.

ADONIS: Come on, we've had it planned for so long. Capital Grille at 5, then the Beacon.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA: It's not smart...

ADONIS: Take a chance. What happened to Liza is Myza?

Methodically she types a response, the DIAMOND RING prominent on her finger. She stands and exits the frame.

INT. CAPITOL GRILLE - NIGHT

Wearing a flattering black dress, Liza appears polished, more mature than when we first saw her. Sitting at a table alone, her eyes land on an OLD COUPLE dining across the room.

Utensils in hand, the old woman begins to nod off. Her husband places his fork gently on the table, softly reaching for his wife's hand.

His touch brings his wife back to reality, as their silent conversation continues.

Liza smiles at this show of affection, only to be interrupted by an approaching Adonis who leans in, kissing her cheek.

ADONIS

Myza! Sorry I'm late, baby.

He sits down, eyes wide, sweat beading his brow.

ADONIS (CONT.)

You order?

LIZA

You're rolling.

ADONIS

It's all good, I got some for you.

Reaching into his jacket pocket, he pulls out a plastic bag, quarter filled with Molly. He reaches for Liza's water glass as she puts her hand, DIAMOND RING on the finger, over it.

ADONIS (CONT.)

What's wrong? Too early?

LIZA

I don't want it.

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS
How 'bout some wine?

Adonis signals for the WAITER (40's, immaculate, balding).

ADONIS (CONT.)
We're ready. I'm going to have the
lobster and crab cakes and we're
going to share a bottle of Merlot.
Baby?

WAITER
Yes sir, I will just need to see
your identification please.

ADONIS
Why?

WAITER
For the wine, sir.

ADONIS
OK, forget it. Can I change my
order to Vodka Penne Pasta?

WAITER
Of course, sir.

ADONIS
No, wait, how about some beer
battered fish? Or that chicken that
gets sauteed in wine? Need to see
my license for that, too?

LIZA
Stop it.

WAITER
Sir?

ADONIS
Why don't you just get me the
fucking wine, OK?

CUT TO:

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Adonis eats a hot dog walking slightly ahead of Liza.

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS

That guy was a fucking cocksucker!
Did you see how he was looking at
me Myza?

LIZA

This isn't a good idea.

He stops, throws the remainder of his hot dog in a trashcan.

ADONIS

Baby, of course it is! You love The
Allmans.

She stares at him silently.

ADONIS (CONT.)

What? It's a great idea.

LIZA

Not the show...this...Ryan still
can't talk right...and my father.

ADONIS

Fuck your brother, and your daddy,
too!

LIZA

What about me?

ADONIS

You are the only thing I care
about. You know that.

Happy with the Molly trip, he hugs her oblivious to her
stoic non-reaction. He takes her hand.

ADONIS (CONT.)

Come on.

INT. BEACON THEATRE - NIGHT

A capacity crowd enjoys the show. Adonis, fueled by
pharmaceuticals, gyrates to the music. Liza notices the
strange stares from those in close proximity.

She leans into his ear.

LIZA

Adonis? I need a drink!

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS

What?

LIZA

I'm going to get a drink!

Adonis pulls her close, tries to give her a passionate kiss. She pulls away, weaving through the crowd as he continues to indulge in his musical, drug fueled experience.

CUT TO:

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Liza exits the theatre, hails a cab.

INT. EXPENSIVE NYC APARTMENT - DAY

Liza sleeps on a very expensive leather sofa. Slowly, her eyes open, staring thoughtfully at a B&W PHOTO of her, an OLDER MAN and a HANDSOME TEEN BOY.

She looks down at the coffee table to her cell phone. She picks it up, the screen reads "42 MISSED CALLS". A loud sigh escapes her lips.

INT. EXPENSIVE NYC APARTMENT BATHROOM - DAY

Sitting on the toilet, Liza listens to her voice mail. Taking the phone away from her ear, she puts her head in her hands.

A TAPPING on the bathroom door.

LIZA

Hold on, Ryan.

Liza grabs a wad of toilet paper, wipes her eyes, then her front, stands, pulls her panties up and flushes the toilet.

She opens the door to reveal RYAN, her older brother from the earlier photo, looking completely different: he leans on a cane, right side of his face swollen and deformed.

RYAN

(slurring)

You gotta hep me tik mi
pa..pa..pa..

(CONTINUED)

LIZA
OK, I'll help you get your pants
off, come on.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - DAY

Liza stands, clutching the ceiling handle as the subway car comes to a halt.

She notices a haggard MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN sitting quietly clutching her purse. She wears a WAITRESS UNIFORM, the name tag reads "MARIA".

The doors open with a HISS. Adonis, ragged and disheveled enters.

Taking Liza by the hand, he leads her to a seat.

ADONIS
Just tell me you love me.

No response.

ADONIS (CONT.)
Everything will be cool, I just
need to hear it.

She looks down at her feet.

ADONIS (CONT.)
Myza?

LIZA
Don't call me that.

ADONIS
Baby, please.

Adonis takes her hand, caressing her finger, dancing around the DIAMOND RING. He stares at her profile, tears in his eyes. She turns to meet his gaze.

Without looking she manipulates his hand around the ring, slowly pulling her finger back. The ring now rests in his hand as the subway screeches to a another stop.

Liza stands, places a consoling hand on Adonis' shoulder, then exits the car.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - DAY

The doors close behind her, where Adonis is seen staring blankly through the windows. She stands facing the platform wall, unmoving as the car comes to life, moving to it's next stop.

Her shoulders straighten, her head rises. It is all behind her now.

INT. LIZA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A BLACK SCREEN

The SQUEAL of hangers scraping across a closet bar.

SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Adonis Chapter Two

Adonis looks through the closet, now half filled with his clothes.

LIZA (OS)

I'm going downstairs, are you coming?

ADONIS

Yeah, in a minute baby.

He selects a snug, classic black shirt, pulls three pills from his pocket, puts them in his mouth and swallows hard.

INT. LIZA'S HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

The THUMP of bass and happy party revelers echo from the distant basement. Adonis walks down the hall with the swagger of a gigolo.

He stops at the door where previously the young man's voice reprimanded his mother for talking too loud. Boldly he opens the door.

Standing in the doorway he observes the room, a typical, well-lived in classic mess: Posters of Bruce Lee, a young Clint Eastwood and Kayne West surround an unmade bed.

His eyes catch the attention of a set of BLACK BRASS KNUCKLES resting on the dresser. He smiles and enters the room.

INT. LIZA'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

The "rich kid" party is in full swing. Nearly two dozen children of wealthy suburbanites drinking beer, laughing loudly and being obnoxious.

Adonis descends the stairs, taking in this pathetically lame site. From the corner of the room, Natalie sees him, gives a coy smile. He acknowledges her with a nod of his chin.

LIZA (OS)

Hey.

From behind, Liza wraps her arms around his chest.

LIZA

Ryan's looking for you.

Adonis is totally unimpressed.

ADONIS

What for?

BOOMING MALE VOICE (OS)

There's my tenant!

Ryan, at this time vibrant, blue eyed and handsome, shouts from across the room, holding court over a ping pong table with two plastic cups on either end.

ADONIS

Come on, baby, let's go have some Myza time.

RYAN

Get over here!

Liza gives Adonis a passionate kiss, which does not go unnoticed by ROSS (18, crew cut) drinking across the room.

LIZA

Fight nice, OK?

Adonis saunters to the ping pong table. Ryan's crew of friends part to make room for the approaching outsider.

RYAN

You pay my mom any rent yet?

ADONIS

She's doing OK without it. I help her out in other ways.

The crowd MURMURS AND CHUCKLES.

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS (CONT.)

Tell you what, let's throw for it.

RYAN

Throw? Throw up? Throw down?

Adonis takes two ping pong balls from the table.

ADONIS

I got two balls. You get two balls...

LAUGHTER erupts over the BLARING MUSIC.

ADONIS (CONT.)

...one throw. You get more in than me, I'll pay you five hundred.

RYAN

Is that right? You don't got a pot to piss in boy.

Smoothly, Adonis pulls the cash from his pocket. Without looking places it in the tit pocket of a BESPECTACLED BOY.

ADONIS

I sink both of mine you go fuck yourself, cool?

Ross approaches the rapidly increasing crowd surrounding the table. He stands by Liza.

RYAN

Fuck you!

ADONIS

Just what I thought, you're all talk in front of your posse. Nothing but a pussy.

Ryan SLAMS his beer on the table, takes two ping pong balls from a YOUNG FEMALE'S hands, makes his way to the end of the table. Ross taps Liza on the shoulder.

ROSS

Hey, your brother said you're going to Stonybrook, too?

She ignores him, licks her lips in anticipation of the transpiring showdown. Natalie rises from a leather recliner, totally intrigued, she walks towards the crowd10.

Ryan holds one ball high, aims, sinks it directly into the distant cup. The crowd CHEERS.

(CONTINUED)

Adonis makes his way to the opposite end of the table. SILENCE. He aims, throws. The ball clips the top of the plastic, deflects upwards, landing into the cup.

A GASP from the onlookers. Ryan smiles, aims his next shot, releases. The ball ricochets off the side of the cup. No one says a word.

Focused, Adonis bounces his final ball on the table three times. He looks over to LIZA, gives her a wink. Still holding eye contact with her, he effortlessly throws the ball.

Without looking, his ball goes directly into the plastic cup. The group begins to LOUDLY bust Ryan's balls with catcalls and fun-poking insults.

Ryan stares holes into Adonis, who never looks in his direction, simply walks to the bespectacled teen and removes the cash from his chest pocket.

Liza steps away from Ross, throws her arms around her lover. As they embrace to the crowd's DEAFENING COMMENTS, Adonis looks over his shoulder to see Natalie giving a sultry smile.

He returns this, unbeknown to all but Ross and Natalie with a sexy grin of his own.

EXT. LIZA'S FRONT YARD - DAY

LIZA'S FATHER (45, gray hair, polished, the man from the earlier B& W photo) places suitcases into the trunk of his expensive car. Adonis approaches carrying an armful of Liza's clothes on hangers.

ADONIS

This is the last of it, sir.

Her father's only response is a sneer, as he points to the back seat.

ADONIS (CONT.)

I just wanted to say, I agree with you.

SLAMMING the trunk closed, her father tilts his head, staring skeptically at his daughter's boyfriend.

ADONIS (CONT.)

She needs this. I'll be going to school at this time next year, too. Maybe at Stonybrook even.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA'S FATHER

No, you won't.

He walks to the passenger side of the car directly in front of Adonis.

LIZA'S FATHER (CONT.)

People like you don't make it to college. In fact, people like you don't make it at all.

Liza appears behind her father.

LIZA

Daddy, I just need a minute, OK?

Her father crosses around to the front of the car, gets into the driver's seat.

LIZA (CONT.)

I don't want to do this.

Adonis places his hands on her shoulders.

ADONIS

Myza, it's all good baby. I'll come see you, we'll talk every night, OK?

LIZA

I don't need this, I need to be with you.

She wraps her arms around him as tears begin to pour down her cheeks. From inside the car, her father watches the embrace from the rear view mirror.

ADONIS

Hey, hey, my senior year starts next week, I'm gonna work real hard so I can make it up there with you next fall. My dad's all excited for me to move back in, I promised him I'm going to graduate, make him proud, go to college, just like my Myza.

HONK! The car horn resonates, breaking the embrace.

ADONIS (CONT.)

You just be good up there, OK?

A small laugh escapes her mouth.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA
You be good!

She gives him a passionate kiss. The horn HONKS again. Liza softly pulls her lips from his, looks him in the eye, opens her mouth to speak. He puts his finger to her lips.

ADONIS
I know. I love you more. Go, before
your dad shits himself.

They both LAUGH OUT LOUD.

INT. TRANSIT BUS - DAY

Adonis looks out the window as the city passes by.

ADONIS (VO)
She's thinking 'bout me.

The bus stops in Spanish Harlem. He exits.

ADONIS (VO) (CONT.)
She's mine...that's good, another
one that's got me living in her
heart. I'm rich with currency.

Adonis walks into an apartment building and up the stairs. Softly, he knocks on a well-worn door.

An ATTRACTIVE PUERTO RICAN WOMAN (mid-20's) opens the door and smiles. She wears the DIAMOND RING we've seen earlier on Liza's finger.

ADONIS (VO) (CONT.)
But just like cash, it's not
enough...never is.

INT. LIZA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A BLACK SCREEN

The SOUND OF A YOUNG GIRL WAILING IN EMOTIONAL PAIN

SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Liza Chapter Four

Wearing just her bra, panties and the DIAMOND RING, Liza sits on the edge of her bed weeping hysterically.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA
I'm sorry!!

Adonis paces, fully clothed along the side of her bedroom, stopping only to punch SEVERAL HOLES in the drywall.

ADONIS
How the fuck could you do this? I could fucking kill you!

LIZA
Please! I can't explain it! I love you!

Quickly, he snatches his BLACK LEATHER JACKET from the floor, puts it on roughly.

ADONIS
The hell you do! You're nothing but a whore! You sucked his cock, too, didn't you?

She stands, races towards him, in one fell swoop he shoves her on the bed. A BANGING on the door.

RYAN (OS)
Liza, open this fucking door!

LIZA
God, please! I'm sorry!

Adonis opens the door, shoves past Ryan.

RYAN
I'll fucking kill you man!

The only response given as Adonis storms down the hall is a MIDDLE FINGER SALUTE as Liza continues to HOWL.

CUT TO:

INT. LIZA'S KITCHEN - DAY

A ragged Liza, eyes bloodshot from crying, sits sullenly at the breakfast nook. Her mother enters, glancing briefly at her daughter before pouring a cup of coffee.

As her mother exits she gives her parting commentary:

LIZA'S MOTHER
You look like shit.

(CONTINUED)

Liza hangs her head. Suddenly, her cellphone begins to CHIRP multiple times with text messages. Excited, she fumbles for the device.

The small amount of hope appearing in her eyes is suddenly replaced with horror as several photos begin to populate her phone, all from Adonis.

Each photo is worse than the next: Selfies of Adonis kissing ATTRACTIVE UNKNOWN GIRLS. Point of view images of the top of various heads orally servicing him.

In one, the DIAMOND RING clutching his manhood. All of these photos proceed to rip out her soul, yet the final image induces unbridled rage:

Natalie and Adonis sharing an intimate FRENCH KISS.

EXT. LIZA'S BACK YARD - DAY

A chilly, windswept day. Ryan and Liza sit at the expensive patio table. She looks solemnly, vengefully to her brother as she brushes her FAKE STRAWBERRY HAIR away from her face.

He nods. She dials her cell phone using Facetime.

The unique RING of the video calling service begins. Liza nearly gives up on an answer, placing the phone down.

RYAN

No.

Finally, a response.

ADONIS (OS)

Myza?

Her eyes are stone cold dead as she stares at the video screen, where Adonis is sitting on the curb of a city street, huddled in his BLACK LEATHER JACKET.

ADONIS

That was wrong. We were both wrong,
baby. I missed you, that's
all...and you missed me--

Liza calmly, yet authoritative, interrupts his disjointed apology.

LIZA

Stop it.

(CONTINUED)

ADONIS

Myza, baby, we just need to start over, that's all, we've learned from this--

LIZA

I said shut up.

Ryan smiles as his little sister takes control.

LIZA (CONT.)

All of your shit...I'm throwing it out.

ADONIS

Myza, no, girl. The ring--

LIZA

Don't fucking call me that...ever again.

Adonis cranes his neck to see if she still wears the RING.

ADONIS

Liza, the ring...you know what it means to us.

Ryan appears in view of the camera. He takes Liza's hand out from under the table revealing to them both she does in fact still wear the DIAMOND RING.

RYAN

Fuck's sake, Liza!

Ryan takes the ring off, holds it front of the cell phone.

RYAN

This you fucking prick? You're worried about this stolen piece of shit you got from a pawn shop?

ADONIS (OS)

It ain't a pawned ring, man!

RYAN

Stolen then, from some Mexican whore? Which one was Maria, anyway? She's probably all warted up! Dude, if you gave my sister warts I'm going to kill you!

He throws the DIAMOND RING as far as he can into the treeline surrounding the back yard. A small gasp escapes from Liza's throat.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN (CONT.)

Tell him, go on, finish this
bullshit.

LIZA

All of your stuff is going to be
outside, if it's still there
tomorrow we're burning it.

ADONIS

Come on, Myza, you don't mean that.

Ryan disconnects the call. Turns to walk into the house.
Liza looks at her finger, then stares off into the trees.

INT. BARRIO APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

A BLACK SCREEN

The sensual GROANING of a female accompanied by a WET
SLURPING.

SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Adonis Chapter Three

Bare chested, Adonis receives oral from Maria, the Puerto
Rican woman. He grimaces. She looks up from her servicing.

MARIA

What's wrong, Papi? I'm watching my
teeth.

ADONIS

That ring, Baby, it hurts.

She leans up on her elbows, takes the DIAMOND RING off and
places it on the nightstand. In another room a BABY CRIES.

MARIA

He'll never know I took it off
sitting in Rikers.

She laughs, Adonis pushes her head back down as he looks at
the DIAMOND RING resting on the table. In another room, the
baby continues CRYING. Maria looks up.

MARIA (CONT.)

I've got to check on her. Stay
hard, I'll be right back.

(CONTINUED)

She climbs up to kiss him on the lips, as he turns to present his cheek. Insulted, she quietly gets up and exits the room. Adonis takes the DIAMOND RING from the nightstand.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - DAY

Liza opens the door to see a grinning Adonis. They embrace.

CUT TO:

Windows open, an AUTUMN breeze ruffles the pages of an open notebook resting on a desk. Liza rides Adonis on her bed, collapsing as they both reach orgasm.

She nuzzles up to him.

ADONIS

You love me, Myza?

LIZA

Uh-huh...

He reaches over to his jeans, laying in a crumpled ball on the edge of the bed. He pulls the DIAMOND RING out of the pocket, places it on her finger.

ADONIS

You can't ever take this off, OK?
You do, it's bad for us, what we
have. It's like a symbol, you know?

Amazed, Liza stares at the DIAMOND, it fits her finger perfectly. She leans up to seal the deal with a PASSIONATE KISS.

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

A harsh, WINTER morning

Adonis exits the same brownstone as in the first scene wearing his BLACK LEATHER JACKET. The brisk weather brings a sting to his face.

He stops on the sidewalk, takes THREE WHITE PILLS from his hand and performs his communion ritual.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY ALLEY - DAY

Early morning, SNOW FALLING, the SOUNDS OF THE CITY waking up. High on pills, Adonis sits beside a dumpster, scrolling through images on his cell phone.

Photos of his various sexual conquests flash across the small screen of the phone.

He stops on a selfie of him and Liza kissing, then scrolling past to one of Natalie servicing him. A tear forms in his eye as he begins to text the images to Liza.

INT. VEHICLE MOVING - DAY

The driver, ADBURAHIM, (40's, weathered, Turkish descent) operates the vehicle across the thruway. Adonis sits in the passenger sit, his right hand buried in his jacket pocket.

ADBURAHIM

This must end, all of this
collecting girls like no more than
a boy collects the baseball cards.

Adonis turns, staring out the passenger side window watching the SNOW FALL.

ADBURAHIM (CONT.)

Adonis, do you listen to me? They
are people not deserving of this
type of play. You find one to love
that loves you in return, you don't
stray.

ADONIS

You did. You haven't seen mom since
I was eleven.

His father becomes agitated.

ADBURAHIM

I did not stray for the body of
another woman! I work for you and
her! It is different, your mother,
not understanding the role of the
man.

ADONIS

She's sick, pop, you know that? No
one stops in to see her but me. No
one.

Adburahim scoffs.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIZA'S FRONT YARD - DAY

The vehicle pulls into Liza's driveway. Sure enough, unsealed garbage bags of Adonis' clothing sit scattered across the yard collecting SNOW.

Adburahim pulls the car to a stop, places it in park, opens his door.

ADONIS

No. Stay in the car.

His father closes the door. Adonis exits, stares at the windows of the house as he walks towards the bags. He sees Liza watching through the front picture window.

He waves as she disappears from view. He bends over, begins gathering the bags when suddenly he is pushed forward, stumbling onto the cold ground.

Liza hovers over him, no longer adorned with fake-dyed strawberry blond hair, but with new, NATURALLY BROWN LOCKS.

ADONIS (CONT.)

Myza...your hair.

LIZA

Don't fucking call me that!

She begins to stomp on the prone Adonis, as he tries to cover his head from the assault. She jumps on him, like a wild animal scratching, clawing and punching.

ADBURAHIM (OS)

Hey, young lady!

His father stands outside of the open driver's door.

ADONIS

Get back inside!

Begrudgingly, his father returns to the car as the onslaught continues. From the front door Ryan watches amused.

ADONIS (CONT.)

Stop it! Liza!

Tears of rage fuel her attack. Finally, Adonis gets his feet near her abdomen, kicking her forcefully away. In a flash, Ryan darts from the front stairs.

(CONTINUED)

Adonis sees Ryan sprinting towards him barefoot, SNOW FLYING from his rapid feet.

Immediately he pulls the BRASS KNUCKLES from his jacket pocket, landing a HAY MAKER across Ryan's skull.

Ryan, flat on his back, out cold begins to bleed from the side of his head. The WHITE SNOW on the ground turns RED. Adonis jumps on him, proceeds to brutally BASH him in the face with the BRASS KNUCKLES.

Liza sits, catatonic watching the savagery. Large hands grab Adonis by the back of his neck. Adburrahim drags him to the car.

Adonis stares down at his BLOODY FIST, HAIR and FLESH stuck to the BRASS KNUCKLES.

As he is pushed into the car, he looks back at Liza, sitting on the ground, holding her knees, rocking back and forth, her breath making PUFFS OF VAPOR in the wind.

CUT TO:

INT. VEHICLE MOVING - DAY

Adburrahim can't stop looking at his son in disbelief, glancing quickly to keep the car on the thruway.

ADBURAHIM
(in Turkish)
Salak!

Translated in subtitles as "Idiot!"

Adonis pulls his hand out of his jacket pocket, stares at the brass knuckles still surrounding his fist.

ADBURAHIM (CONT.)
(in Turkish)
Bu nedir? Bana orospu seni oglum!

Translated in subtitles as "What is that? Give it to me you son of a bitch!"

His father pulls the brass knuckles from his sons hand, rolls down the driver side window and throws them into a snow bank.

Adburrahim looks at his own hands, now BLOODY as well, wiping them on his pant legs.

INT. COLLEGE LIBRARY - NIGHT

A BLACK SCREEN

The sound of a PENCIL FURIOUSLY WRITING.

SUPER IMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Liza Chapter Three

Liza sits in a study cubicle, several large text books piled high overseeing her frantic term paper writing. Her cell CHIRPS with a text message.

A BRAINIAC student looks up annoyed.

BRAINIAC

Shhh!

She looks at her phone, an image of a smiling Adonis holding a baggie of Molly. The phone chirps again, much to the frustration of the Brainiac. Quickly, Liza turns off her phone.

ROSS (OS)

(whispering)

Anything interesting?

Startled, Liza looks up to see Ross hovering over the top of the cubicle.

LIZA

(whispering)

Oh, hey. No, I just needed a break from all this.

Ross smiles.

ROSS

Sounds like you need to join the Nocturnal Club.

LIZA

The what?

Ross begins to pack up her text books.

ROSS

Come on.

CUT TO:

INT. BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

Ross leads Liza down a cavernous hall. MUFFLED VOICES are heard in the distance.

ROSS
My sister told me about it when she came to school here. Apparently the only people that know about the Nocturnal Club are people who have been let in on the secret.

They round the corner of the dark brick hallway to find a group of EIGHT STUDENTS, both boys and girls, sitting around a camping lantern smoking cigarettes, drinking beer engaged in conversation.

ROSS (CONT.)
Everyone, meet our newest member, Liza.

The group waves, a round of courteous VOCAL GREETINGS.

LIZA
(whispering in Ross' ear)
Are we allowed here?

ROSS
Probably not.

LIZA
Can't we get in trouble?

ROSS
I doubt it. All we do is stay up late and talk.

LIZA
About what?

ROSS
Everything. Life, politics, our place in the world. Why we're here and how we can make things better. Whatever comes up.

MONTAGE

-Liza sits Indian style watching as the group is involved in an intense conversation.

-Everyone in the club is now in DIFFERENT CLOTHING, sitting in DIFFERENT POSITIONS, as Ross holds their attention conveying a story. Liza watches him impressively, intently.

(CONTINUED)

-Liza holds everyone's attention, all members sit diligently listening, again wearing DIFFERENT CLOTHING.

The crowd claps, producing an enormous grin from her lips. Ross leans in and hugs her, causing her smile to grow even more. Her cell sits on the concrete floor on vibrate, ignored:

"2:45 AM ADONIS CALLING".

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. DORMITORY - DAY

Ross and Liza stand outside the main entrance as the sun just begins to rise. STUDENTS exit the front doors on their way to breakfast and class.

LIZA

You know, what Kelly said, about how we, our generation, really has to get our shit together, that's so true.

ROSS

Definitely. When's your first class.

LIZA

Not 'til ten, thank God! I can get a few hours sleep.

ROSS

Yeah, that sounds good.

He smiles. Liza smiles back. She reaches for his hand, the DIAMOND RING prominent.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - DAY

Quietly, Ross pulls on his shirt as Liza sleeps peacefully naked. He exits, closing the door gently, yet her eyes pop open. She smiles, then looks at the DIAMOND RING on her finger.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL CITY STREET - DAY

A BLACK SCREEN

The WAIL OF POLICE SIRENS

SUPER IMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Adonis Chapter Four

Adburahim pulls the vehicle onto the street, staying a distance away from the officers surrounding their home.

He looks to his son.

ADBURAHIM

Go. Take your punishment like a man.

Adonis stares through the windshield, makes eye contact with a BEAT OFFICER who immediately recognizes the perp, resulting in a soundless announcement to his colleagues causing all heads to turn.

The officer pulls his gun and approaches the car. Adonis sits, staring blankly, only hearing the officer's orders as a DISTANT MUFFLE.

CUT TO:

INT. CITY COURTROOM - DAY

BAILIFF

All rise.

Like programmed lemmings, everyone in the courtroom stands, including Adonis wearing an orange jumpsuit. Adburahim stands in the back of the courtroom, disheveled and angry.

JUDGE O'GRADY, an older, attractive, bespectacled woman, enters the courtroom.

JUDGE O'GRADY

OK, please be seated.

She ruffles through her files, then looks up to make eye contact with Adonis.

JUDGE O'GRADY (CONT.)

Young Adonis...

The judge looks up from her papers, a soft, motherly smile.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE O'GRADY (CONT.)
I've reviewed your report. This was a very serious incident you were involved with. The family of the victim...

She looks back down to her papers.

JUDGE O'GRADY (CONT.)
...Ryan LeBouf, have yet to decide what exact charges they will be filing against you.

Adonis maintains respectful eye contact with O'Grady.

JUDGE O'GRADY (CONT.)
Until that time, I see no reason why you can't be released to the custody of your parents. I can see you have no prior record and your father has told me you are the primary caregiver for your ill mother. Is that correct?

Adonis looks back to his father who nods at his son.

ADONIS
Yes, ma'am...your honor. My mother is very sick. I'm responsible for operating her dialysis machine, three, sometimes four times a week.

JUDGE O'GRADY
And your father isn't able to do this?

He looks down, then up with large, sympathetic puppy eyes to the judge.

ADONIS
My parents are divorced. My mama lives alone, but I'm there everyday to help her.

His sweet story softens Judge O'Grady even more.

JUDGE O'GRADY
Very good. At this point I'm releasing you to the care of your father. You do understand there are still consequences to come based on your actions?

ADONIS

I do your honor, thank you.

JUDGE O'GRADY

Adonis, just let me say, as a parent myself, maybe you should consider moving in with your mother for the time being. It certainly sounds like she needs your help and I think at this time in your life you could benefit from a woman's perspective.

CUT TO:

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Sweaty and flushed, Adonis makes his way through the exit crowd of the Beacon Theatre. Leaning against a parked car, he checks his cellphone. NO NEW MESSAGES.

Frantically, he dials Liza.

MONTAGE

-Adonis tries to hail a cab.

ADONIS (VO)

Myza, baby, where you at? We got separated back there.

-He quickly walks up a city sidewalk, checks his phone, makes another call.

ADONIS (VO)

Hey, it's me. I'm worried about you, baby. Hit me back, OK?

-Adonis enters a convenience store, eyeballing the busy clerk behind the counter. Adonis enters the cooler section, ducks down, opens a glass door from the bottom, places three quarts of beer in his jacket.

ADONIS (VO)

Liza, come on, where'd you go? Are you at your daddy's place? I'm coming over there.

-Drunk, he arrives outside an expensive apartment building, staring up at a dark window.

END OF MONTAGE

(CONTINUED)

He stands, almost in a trance as a group of HASIDIC JEWS quietly and quickly walk around him. As they pass he takes a final swig from his bottle, turns to the departing group.

Violently, he HURLS the empty bottle at the pedestrians, striking one in the back of the head. The victim falls to the sidewalk as his friends kneel to help.

HASIDIC JEW

What's wrong with you? Why did you do this?

Adonis power walks towards the gathering.

ADONIS

Fuck you! I'll kick the shit out of all you chosen ones!

Quickly, the group grab their fallen friend and drag him off into the night, leaving Adonis alone defiantly standing in the street.

He looks down the street towards the EXPENSIVE APARTMENT BUILDING.

EXT. EXPENSIVE NYC APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A BLACK SCREEN

ADONIS (OS)

Your pops is going to hate me,
Myza.

LIZA (OS)

No he won't, he's not the way you
think he is.

SUPER IMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Liza Chapter Two

Adonis sprints ahead to hold the door open for Liza, still wearing her FAKE STRAWBERRY BLOND HAIR. Gallantly, he waves her into the building. She LAUGHS and performs a curtsy.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

An apartment door opens to reveal Liza's Father smiling. When he sees Adonis, his grin quickly disappears. Adonis extends his hand.

ADONIS

Hello, sir. It's nice to finally meet you. I'm Adonis.

The older man refuses to extend his hand in return.

LIZA'S FATHER

Liza, why did you bring him here?

LIZA

Daddy!

LIZA'S FATHER

I told you we had something very important to discuss tonight.

LIZA

I know. Whatever it is, Adonis can hear it, too.

Her father turns his gaze to Adonis, reaches into his wallet, pulls out FIFTY DOLLARS.

LIZA'S FATHER

Here. Go get a pizza or something.

ADONIS

Sir?

LIZA'S FATHER

You won't be having dinner with us tonight. Just take this and come back in a few hours if you have to.

LIZA

Daddy! What are you doing?

ADONIS

Oh. It's OK Myza, just text me when you're done here.

Adonis kisses Liza on the head, turns and walks off.

LIZA

Adonis, wait.

Her father takes her gently by the arm, leading her into the apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. EXPENSIVE NYC APARTMENT DINING ROOM - DAY

Liza sits, refusing to eat the dinner placed in front of her. Her father shoves a mouthful of ziti in his mouth, swallows, takes a sip of red wine.

LIZA'S FATHER

I'm surprised he didn't take the money. Probably would have bought drugs with it anyway.

LIZA

He's not like that.

LIZA'S FATHER

Really? That's not what your brother's been telling me.

LIZA

Ryan doesn't know him. Neither do you.

He takes a longer gulp of wine.

LIZA'S FATHER

Look, Liza, you have plans. College starts in just a few months and I know you haven't scheduled your classes yet.

She looks up to meet her father's gaze.

LIZA'S FATHER (CONT.)

If you knew the hoops I had to jump through to get you in, you just might see this whole situation differently.

LIZA

Situation?

LIZA'S FATHER

You're going to Stonybrook. That's not up for debate. It's best if you just forget about this kid.

LIZA

I'm not going to just forget about him. You've been making decisions for me all my life. No more.

(CONTINUED)

He picks up his fork, stabs more ziti.

LIZA'S FATHER
Eat your pasta, it's getting cold.

EXT. UNDER CITY BRIDGE - DAY

A BLACK SCREEN

The SCREECH and HOWL of diesel trucks and morning traffic.

SUPER IMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Adonis Chapter Five

Eyes closed, huddled in the fetal position, Adonis sleeps under a city bridge. His cell phone begins to CHIRP with a new text message.

He opens his eyes, sits up, rubs his face and retrieves his cell phone. Reading the message, he looks across the traffic, stands then trots down the berm of the road.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - DAY

Pacing, Adonis watches as a SUBWAY CAR SCREECHES to a halt. The doors open, he sees Liza clutching a hand rail. He enters the car, takes her hand, leads her to a seat.

ADONIS
Just tell me you love me.

No response.

ADONIS (CONT.)
Everything will be cool, I just
need to hear it.

Liza looks down at her feet.

ADONIS (CONT.)
Myza?

LIZA
Don't call me that.

ADONIS
Baby, please.

He takes her hand, caresses her finger, dancing around the DIAMOND RING. He stares at her profile, tears forming in his eyes. Liza turns upwards to meet his gaze.

(CONTINUED)

Without looking at their intertwined hands, she manipulates his hand around the ring, slowly pulling her finger back. The ring now rests in his hand as the subway screeches to another stop.

Liza stands, places a consoling hand on Adonis' shoulder, then exits the car.

He stares blankly out the windows of the closing doors. The car lurches into motion. He opens his hand to reveal the DIAMOND RING, studying everything it represented.

Adonis stands, walks over to an older woman wearing a waitress uniform, her name tag reads "MARIA". The woman clutches her purse tightly, studying this approaching, distressed young man.

Silently, he looks into her eyes. She begins to soften, seeing the hurt this boy is feeling. Gently, he takes her hand, places the DIAMOND RING in her palm.

The subway car again comes to a halt. He folds her fingers over the ring, offers a half-hearted smile, then exits through the closing hydraulic doors.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Adonis enters the OLD BROWNSTONE, the same building he exited from in the first scene.

CUT TO:

INT. DANK APARTMENT - DAY

Sitting in a flowered easy chair, an old woman, DILARA, looks up as she hears the JANGLE OF KEYS. She wears a flowered blouse clashing with the red homemade afghan draped over her legs.

DILARA
(thick Turkish accent)
It's open, Adonis!

The WHIR of a home dialysis machine begins to WHINE as Adonis enters the apartment.

ADONIS
Why is unlocked, mama?

(CONTINUED)

DILARA

There were two men here, the super
let them in. I can not make to
answer the knock.

Adonis enters the rays of sunlight appearing through the
partially askew Venetian blinds.

ADONIS

What men?

DILARA

Adonis, what is wrong? You look
horribly sad. Was it true what
these men say to me?

ADONIS

No, mama, I'm fine.

He lowers his face to give his mother a kiss on the cheek.
To her right rests a wooden end table with a plastic drink
cup and a variety of orange prescription bottles of various
sizes.

DILARA

They say you hurt a boy.

A large bottle labeled "DILAUDID 8MG"; his hand reaches
down, clutches it.

DILARA (CONT.)

Why, Adonis? Why you fight with a
boy?

Adonis takes the bottle into the kitchen. He selects a
coffee mug from the dish drying rack, turns on the faucet,
fills the cup.

DILARA (CONT.)

You don't fight, Adonis, you love,
you were born to be a lover.

Slowly, Adonis performs his communion ritual, one pill,
swallow of water. Next pill, swallow of water.

DILARA (CONT.)

I knew, before you were born, you
would be the one to break the
hearts of those who loved you.

Another pill, swallow of water. Another, more water.

(CONTINUED)

DILARA (CONT.)

Was this argument over a girl? Did you do this for love, Adonis?

Another pill, swallow of water. Another, more water.

DILARA (CONT.)

They tell me they must speak with you, it is very serious. I tell them you haven't been here for a week or two.

Another pill, swallow of water. Another, more water.

DILARA (CONT.)

Why don't you come? They looked to the face of each other when I say that to them. Was that wrong to tell?

ADONIS

No, mama. It's fine, it doesn't matter now.

Another pill, swallow of water. Another, more water.

DILARA

I tell them you must be busy with a girl, you always have a girl who needs your time, isn't that so my son?

ADONIS

Yes, mama...always with a girl.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY

A BLACK SCREEN

MALE VOICE

Eight months. Don't you think that's a long time?

SUPER IMPOSED OVER THE BLACK

Liza Chapter One

A modern, warm, inviting office. DR. LUKASIAK (Early 40's, caring eyes) sits in a leather chair addressing Liza, sitting across from him, dressed exactly the same as the first time she appeared, along with the FAKE STRAWBERRY BLOND HAIR.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA

A long time for what?

DR. LUKASIAK

A long time to not address why you did what you did, Liza.

LIZA

I told you, I really don't know. I can hardly remember it.

DR. LUKASIAK

Let's try. What was going through your mind when you took your mother's pills?

Liza looks down at her hands.

LIZA

I don't know...I was lonely.

DR. LUKASIAK

Everyone gets lonely every once in awhile, that doesn't mean everyone considers taking their own life.

LIZA

I just couldn't understand why people have people, yet they act like it doesn't matter.

DR. LUKASIAK

Like your parents?

LIZA

Them, and like my friends...if I had someone, you know...

DR. LUKASIAK

Someone to love you?

LIZA

Yeah...I would love them back.

DR. LUKASIAK

Your family loves you, your brother--

LIZA

That's not the same. They have to love me. I don't want to talk about this anymore.

She looks out the window.

(CONTINUED)

LIZA (CONT.)
It's my birthday today.

DR. LUKASIAK
Happy birthday. Anything exciting
planned?

LIZA
My friend is outside waiting. We're
going into the city after this.

DR. LUKASIAK
That sounds nice. Do you have
birthday wish?

Liza chuckles, looks her doctor in the eyes.

LIZA
Those stop being real when you're
like seven.

DR. LUKASIAK
I don't think so. I remember
wishing my wife would grill be a
giant steak on my last birthday.
When I came home that night--

LIZA
Let me guess, you had Fillet Mignon
for dinner?

DR. LUKASIAK
A T-bone, but I didn't complain!
Just the fact that I wished for a
steak, and it magically appeared
was enough to make my birthday a
little more special than any other
day.

Liza stands.

LIZA
Well, I'll keep that in mind. Do
you mind if I cut out a bit early
today? I don't want to keep Natalie
waiting.

DR. LUKASIAK
Consider it my birthday gift to
you. Go, have an adventure!

She smiles, exits the office.

FADE TO BLACK