

INT. BACKSTAGE DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT

(white noise covers  
scene)

LISE sits in front of a mirror, slowly applying pale  
pancake make up to her face.

LISE (V.O.)  
Being on the stage was okay. At  
first it was all I really  
thought I was good at.

LISE continues putting on the make up, very deliberately.  
You can see the arm and movement of a girl in the next  
chair.

(white noise fades into  
diegetic sound- the  
hustle and bustle of  
backstage)

CHORUS GIRL  
I told her that the red tape was  
for the second girl on each row  
and that she was much too close  
but did she move over in the  
matinee? No, so we'll just have  
to be on the look out for her  
big feet tonight.

LISE doesn't reply but begins putting on eye make up.

CHORUS GIRL  
You really don't like to talk,  
d'you? Chrissy said you were  
unfriendly but I don't think you  
are, just quiet. and that's  
okay, I can keep a conversation  
going well enough for the both  
of us. D'you think that there  
will be a full house tonight?

LISE continues putting on her make up as the CHORUS GIRL  
speech fades out and white noise increases.

LISE (V.O.)  
XXXX

INT. SIDE STAGE. NIGHT

LISE is lined up with other CHORUS GIRLS getting ready to  
run on stage. The show has already started.

LISE (V.O.)  
But the city was cold and too  
grey. I missed the sun.

The music changes and the CHORUS GIRLS begin to run on,  
but LISE doesn't move. The girl behind her bumps into her  
and then goes around her, staring as if LISE is insane.

INT. SIDE STAGE. NIGHT.

The SHOW MANAGER is confronting LISE who looks fraught.

SHOW MANAGER  
what in hell do you think you're  
doing?

LISE  
I don't know.

SHOW MANAGER  
I pay you to be on the stage,  
not to stand beside it

LISE  
I know.

SHOW MANAGER  
so what happened? Are you sick?  
Are you deranged? Do you want to  
be fired?

LISE  
I don't know.

SHOW MANAGER  
You don't know if you want this  
job? Because other girls want  
this job and-

LISE  
I know.

SHOW MANAGER  
So you do want it? Cause if you  
do-

LISE  
I don't know

SHOW MANAGER  
What in God's name is wrong with  
you?

LISE  
I don't know!

EXT. STAGE DOOR. NIGHT.

LISE bursts through the door into the cold street, she has a coat and scarf thrown on over her costume and she's hurriedly doing up the coat. CHORUS GIRL bursts through the door after her.

LISE (V.O.)  
In the cold I hardened, became  
brittle...

CHORUS GIRL  
Lise! Lise! You can't just take  
the costume, they won't pay you  
if you take the costume.

LISE  
I'll bring it back tomorrow.

CHORUS GIRL  
But -

LISE  
I will, I will. I promise. I'll  
clean it and everything

CHORUS GIRL  
They'll be so mad that you took  
it.

LISE  
Then don't tell them. Okay, for  
me. We're friends right?

CHORUS GIRL  
yeah?

LISE  
Great, I'll bring the costume  
back tomorrow.

CHORUS GIRL  
okay- but

LISE  
see ya

LISE turns away and begins to walk down the street. CHORUS GIRL watches her for a second before disappearing through the stage door again.

LISE (V.O.)  
...so brittle that I splintered  
into something completely unlike  
myself.