

# GIRL ON FIRE

Treatment,

10/6/2020, MCDALAN LOUIS

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## Logline

Looking for her biological father, a socially awkward teenager with the ability to control heartbeats, teams up with a washed up marine to take down an underground notorious arms dealer.

## Characters

**Vanessa** - A socially awkward teenager with stutter, a twitch and cardia-telekinesis, the ability to hear and control heartbeats, and a. If she is emotionally distraught, she loses the strength of her powers. Break her spirit, and you've found her weakness. She uses music also as a tool to help her quell her noises. With an everlasting smile, music takes her to her happy place as she has a soulful singing voice that would melt away the toughest of thugs. Verbally abused by her step father and made to feel insecure about herself. After the death of her mother, she has had a burning desire not only to find her real father, but to know the roots of her powers.

**Maxwell** - A former marine, suffering from PTSD and addicted to alcohol, cigarettes and prescription medication. Maxwell has been haunted by a repressed memory that he can not yet figure out. He also has another big issue which is his brother Kelvin who has tormented Maxwell his whole life. He has been seeing a therapist to help find the cause of his self-destructive ways. He struggles to do good, but is often veered off course by his destructive brother Kelvin.

**Kelvin** - Maxwell's older brother, always wanting to fit in. With A proclivity towards young girls. Always looking for an easy way out, he is not a believer in honesty and righteousness. Seeing Silas, who is his boss and a bit younger and hip, he seeks the need for Silas's approval. Maxwell has always been a sort of punching bag for Kelvin. He is used to bossing him around and bullying him. Kelvin is also the most selfish of the characters. He is the type that would sell his mother for a quick buck.

**Silas** - A street hustler who has a legitimate job that launders

his side job as an arms dealer. He aspires to take his business from the streets to the international stage. He knows that there is one person who can help tip the balance of power in the streets towards him, and that is the legendary Queen of hearts, who happens to be his sister. Silas likes to break people down, make them feel weak, and eventually they will give in to his demands. That is how he approaches everything.

**Roger** - A young handsome neighbor of Maxwell, whom Vanessa develops a crush on. He is shallow, and everything is about his car. That is his baby.

**Ambar** - Ambar is a big tough brute, who when short on money, takes this lucrative side job for Silas as one of his guards. Although he knows that Silas is a criminal, the money is too good to walk away from. He often finds it a struggle to do Silas's bidding.

### **Synopsis**

We start off at Silas's auto body shop which is a front for his underground arms dealing. He has three young girls held against their will because one of them might be the Queen of Hearts. The Queen of Hearts is a girl with the power to control heartbeats. Those who seek her, look to harness her power for their benefit.

Not too far across, is Vanessa a socially awkward stuttering teenager with a twitch, and a special gift. Armed with a guitar and glasses that are really spy glasses, and a cup of bubble tea. She loves music and is a beautiful singer, she uses music to quell the noises that she hears. The noises are the sound of heartbeats that she can hear within a 100 yard radius. She has cardia-telekinesis, the ability to hear and control heartbeats using her mind. She is sitting down on the street, doing what she loves best, which is singing. Since she is drawn to older music, she is singing an old James Brown song "It's a Man's World." With her eyes closed, unaware that people are putting money into a makeshift cardboard box. When she is finished, she sees two homeless men, and evenly splits up the money between the two homeless men. She is looking for Maxwell, who she feels may be her biological father.

Finally we meet Maxwell at his therapist office, going over his many stories of how abusive his brother Kelvin is. Maxwell is an alcoholic suffering from PTSD and addicted to prescription medicine. His therapist realizes that there is a deeper issue that may be the cause of his downward spiral. A picture on the wall sparks Maxwell's interests. It is a picture of Senator Terrence who is an old friend of Kelvin.

Leaving the therapist office, Maxwell goes into a bar to drown his troubles away. Where there is a news report of three missing teenagers. Leaving the bar, a bit inebriated, he runs into Vanessa who was wandering the streets. From an old picture that she has of him holding her as a baby, she instantly recognizes that he is Maxwell. He tries to avoid her, until he begins to have a minor heart attack. The perfect opportunity for Vanessa to use her powers. Hearing his heartbeat changing she springs into action and keeps his heart beating normally.

Vanessa follows Maxwell to his apartment building, where in the building she is enamored by Roger, Maxwell's young swank neighbor. She later offers to take Roger on a bubble tea date. In Maxwell's apartment is where Vanessa reveals that she is looking for her biological father, and that Maxwell may be the father. Maxwell seems to be the only person who sees beyond her awkwardness, and begins to develop a father/daughter bond. With no place to stay, Maxwell let's her stay in his guest room. She notices that Maxwell has bad eating habits combined with smoking and alcohol abuse among other things.

One morning, Maxwell wakes up and finds Vanessa talking to his brother Kelvin. This does not sit right with him, but Kelvin knows that. Kelvin and Maxwell are at odds when Kelvin offers to get Vanessa a job working for Silas. Kelvin jumps up and threatens Maxwell as he always does with a knife against his throat. Scared for Maxwell, Vanessa instinctively stops Kelvin's heart enough for him to drop the knife. Maxwell, notices, so does Kelvin. In that encounter, Kelvin could feel the grip on his heart was not natural. Kelvin believes that behind all of her quirkiness, lies something special, perhaps she is the queen of hearts.

Kelvin tells Silas about Vanessa, so sure that she is the queen of hearts. Silas dismisses that on the basis of her being so awkward. But he is determined to show Silas that she is the queen of hearts, he decides to hatch a plan.

Maxwell and Vanessas relationships become stronger as they learn from each other. He takes her to the pharmacy to get feminine hygiene products, in the pharmacy is where someone mentions helping the homeless. He realizes that he has to get her new clothes. He takes her to get new clothes, and eventually gets her a cell phone and air pods. The cell phone can connect to her spy glasses. They also share a bonding moment when he takes her to the amusement park.

Maxwell gets Vanessa a job working at a neighborhood coffee shop. On her first day, she is teased by some teenagers. But this does not break her. Her first day is highlighted by a big surprise. Roger walks in and takes her up on her offer to go on a bubble tea date. So excited by this she runs home to Maxwell to tell him the news.

At the bubble tea cafe, Roger does not appear, Vanessa imagine's that he is there and has an imaginary date. Checking up on her Maxwell see's that she is all alone so he walks in and tries to cheer her up. Roger finally comes a little late, Maxwell leaves, but not before letting Roger know about his lateness.

On the date, Vanessa, so excited by being on her first date, she unintentionally stops Rogers heart momentarily. He is a little shaken but ok. He is busy looking at his cell phone. He is up to something.

Rogers' plan is finally revealed when he takes her after the date to Silas's shop and leaves her. Kelvin introduces her to Silas as the queen of hearts. Silas, still a doubter, decides to put her to the test, but takes away her cell phone. She passes with flying colors. Silas's plan to have Vanessa align with him as he ascends from street to international arms dealer is cut when Vanessa turns down his offer. Silas, who has been looking for Vanessa for a long time, knows all about her, even her weakness. After all she is his younger half sister. He tells her about this and tells her the real cause of her mother's death, which was homicide, by Silas. Silas had her mother killed, so emotionally distraught, Vanessa loses the strength of her powers. Silas, so angry that she turned him down, savagely beats her almost busting out her eardrums. The combination of the emotional and physical abuse, has left Vanessa powerless and a hostage in Silas shop. Kelvin has conveniently slipped out.

Late at night Maxwell has been trying to call Vanessa, but she does not pick up. He begins to worry, until he looks outside and sees Rogers' car is parked outside. On his way to Rogers apartment, he stops and decides to take his gun and storm down. When he gets there he finds Roger is there with another girl. Back at his apartment, Kelvin comes inside as the door is left ajar, he leaves something in a drawer. He threatens Roger to tell him where Vanessa is. The girl with Roger then calls the cops, not before she knocks out Roger silly, just before he could tell Maxwell where he dropped off Vanessa.

As Vanessa awakes with bruises, she finds herself in a giant dumpster. She tries to sneak her way out, but finds Ambar blocking her way from freedom. Seeing her battered face, Ambar turns the other way allowing her to escape.

Lost and wandering the streets of New York, Vanessa finally runs into Maxwell, who then takes her to the Police. At the precinct, Vanessa notices Ambar walks in in full police uniform. The police can't be trusted, she tells Maxwell and they go back to the apartment so he can get more ammo. At the apartment, he finds the police. The police are there to place Maxwell under arrest for the kidnapping of the three missing girls. Vanessa once again is left alone, without any help.

All alone, Vanessa goes to the only person that she knows, Roger. Roger and his lady friend refuse to help her, even in fact ridiculing her. She then runs back to the apartment, where she hears the goons breaking in to come get her. SHE makes an exit down the fire escape.

At the precinct Maxwell is interrogated. Kelvin planted evidence belonging to the missing girls in Maxwell's apartment. They question Maxwell about the whereabouts of the missing girls, then he is placed in a holding cell.

A scared, beaten and powerless Vanessa scurrys the New York streets looking for safe haven. She winds up in a coffee shop where the attendant recognizes her from the other night singing, then asks her to sing for his youtube channel. She goes to the restroom crying hysterically, trying to sing to herself to calm her down.

While in the holding cell, and tired Maxwell falls asleep. While asleep, he has a dream that is a revelation. His dream is actually a flashback. He is taken back to a boy, where he was left alone by his brother Kelvin, with now Senator Terrence. Terrence sexually abused Maxwell as a boy, a memory that he has repressed for years. He awakens in a rage, as he pounds his fist into the wall. He is then surprised with news that he is free to go. His therapist Megan is there outside as she is his alibi. Upon leaving the precinct, they are met by reporters questioning him about the missing girls.

Meanwhile, as Vanessa leaves the shop, she runs right into Silas's goons (Ambar and Omar) in full police uniform. She has been recaptured. She is taken in Ambar's vehicle. Ambar is upset that she did not make a better attempt to escape. They have a conversation on the way to Silas's alternate secret

location. During the conversation, Vanessa realizes that she can get to Ambar.

Maxwell gets back to his apartment, and surveys the damage that has been done. He then gets an anonymous text from someone who claims to know where Vanessa is.

Maxwell gets to the address where he finds Silas and the rest of his goons. Desperately trying to find Vanessa, Maxwell threatens Silas. Ambar meanwhile in the back, finds Vanessa and tells her to wait outside. Maxwell is ready to take on Silas, but he wants a one one one. Silas refuses. The battle is about to take place, however Maxwell finds that he has an unlikely ally in Ambar who turns on Silas. The battle takes place, Ambar and Maxwell holding their own. Finally Vanessa comes out to Maxwell's delight, he runs to give her a hug, but drops to the floor from a bullet coming from Silas's gun. Enraged by the prospect of losing Maxwell, especially at the hands of Silas who took her mother's life, Vanessa slowly hears the heartbeat again. Silas by this time comes over Maxwell about to fire the final shot. His attempt is thwarted by Vanessa as she stops his heart momentarily until he drops the gun. She then grabs Maxwell's knife and stabs Silas in the chest, for her mother. Not finished yet, she uses her powers to ensure Maxwell's heart continues to beat, and she does the same for Silas. She keeps Silas alive just so he can feel the pain. It's not over, Vanessa hears other heartbeats in the area. In particular three. Maxwell and Ambar follow Vanessa as they discover the three missing girls.

Next stop Maxwell pays the senator a visit, letting him know that he remembers what he did. The senator denies it at first, but then tells Maxwell that no one will believe him because he is a washed up hasbeen. He eventually admits to it, unaware that Vanessa's spy camera is fully operational. She plays back the confession and Terrence pulls out his gun about to shoot him, but Vanessa uses her powers to stop him in his tracks.

Kelvin, who has been missing, turns up at Maxwell's apartment as Vanessa waits outside. They have an intense standoff in which Maxwell learns that Kelvin is the one who texted him the whereabouts of Vanessa. He was hoping that Maxwell and Silas would kill off each other. With Maxwell's hand behind his back hiding a knife, Kelvin has his hand behind his back on his gun with the finger on the trigger. They have an intense discussion which ends with Maxwell slicing Kelvin's throat watching as he lay on the floor til his last breath.

Leaving the apartment Roger and his girlfriend teases Vanessa

before they go into Roger's sporty car which unbeknownst to him, is on cinder blocks, his wheels have been stolen.

Maxwell and Vanessa are in the car on a trip, perhaps to start a new life. Maxwell has found out the root of his downward spiral, while Vanessa has not found her actual father, she found something else. Someone who sees beyond her awkwardness, and sees her strength. Our story ends here, for now.