

I NEED A STATEMENT

by

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FADE IN:

EXT-5 AFRIKA STADT- EVENING

A WOMAN walks up to the patio of her house. She feels her coat for her keys, nothing. She looks in the bag over her shoulder, hussing and fussing. She drops something, bends over, looks up slowly and notices her door is ajar. The knob has shifted. Frozen. She releases a sigh, puts her hand over the door and races up the stairs.

INT- 5 AFRIKA STADT- BEDROOM- EVENING

She freezes by the door, her eyes fixed to her dressing room table. A tear falls. Then it rains on her face. She rushes to the table, pulls out the open drawer, and she falls to the ground.

WOMAN

Why! Why! Why!

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT-5 AFRIKA STADT- EVENING

Seated on a patio with a cup of tea, she's barely touched in her hand, rocking back and forth, A MAN approaches the WOMAN.

MAN

Evening mam, I am officer Grant
Winks with--

WOMAN

How long?

GRANT

Excuse me?

WOMAN

How long until I get my stuff, all
of it?

GRANT

It's tough to say miss. But our
department will do everything we
can to ensure that you get
everything--

WOMAN

I had some jewellery in there. It
doesn't mean much to those who took
it but... Those pieces were the
only things I was going to leave
behind... You know for my children,
all three of them. I wanted them to
have something of mine, from me,
with them. That's all... That's
all...

GRANT

Miss...

WOMAN

(sniffles)

Lizzie. Elizabeth but everyone
calls me Lizzie. So.. Lizzie

Lizzie lifts up her head, looks over her shoulder and sees another officer going through her house. She gasps, desperate to hold back a tear but it can't wait. She weeps.

FADE OUT

INT- STADT POLICE STATION. GRANT'S DESK- EVENING

A distraught Lizzie trails behind Grant into the main precinct. They walk past a bunch of empty desks she assumes belong to other officers.

GRANT

We're understaffed and very
popular, don't mind the space/

They reach the back of the room, one desk is separated by glass from the rest.

Grant puts his overcoat behind the chair, turns to his computer and slumps to his chair.

GRANT

Please...have a seat Eliz-- Lizzie

Slowly Lizzie takes a seat.

GRANT

I just need to give you an
official statement for the report.
I would need some ID...

LIZZIE

My statement? Of what? I wasn't
there?

GRANT

We understand. We just need to know
the how you got to your apartment,
what you saw and a list of
everything that's missing.

LIZZIE

Me.

GRANT

What?

LIZZIE

Can I get on that list of what's missing? Elizabeth Lizzie Green. They stole her from me too.

Grant nods his head, staring at the woman's defeated exterior. He dares to say something but he let's it go. Leaning forward, he grabs the notebook on his hand and a pen, slides it over to Lizzie.

GRANT

Everything you can think of that's missing.

Lizzie grabs hold of the book and pen. She 's ready to pin something down and then breaks down...

LIZZIE

Why? Why me? I am a good person; devout christian, mother, I... I work hard. Really hard! And I perservere. I perservere you know...

GRANT

Miss, Elizaebth--

LIZZIE

And I keep going Grant, even when things are bleak. I work hard. Really... I look up, walk up straight-- don't slouch-- and keep moving forward. Just to put food on the table, just to foot the water bill, just to make sure my...my children...my... I work really hard but still I have nothing. Not anymore.

GRANT

Miss, like I said we will do our best to return everything you're owed--

LIZZIE

(becomes animated)

Three gold. See, I had this set, three sets of gold, chains and earrings, the whole set for each child you know. And the plan was...

She fidgets, pulls out her phone from her pocket, opens her chat app to the conversation to her daughters. Slides the phone to Grant. He sees a photo of three gold sets (as she described) and underneath the message: THIS IS WHAT I'VE LEFT FOR YOU FOR WHEN I'M GONE. I CAN'T DO MUCH GIRLS, BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU MUST OWN IT IS THIS.

LIZZIE

If I was gone tomorrow I wanted them to have it. I wanted something of value, of mine, to travel with you see. I'd been saving it for a long time you know. But who knew...

GRANT

(nod sympathetically)

These things happen--

LIZZIE

I know it happens but I wish I saw it coming, I wish I could've spared something. I wish someone stopped to ask. It's funny right, how a bunch of strangers can interrupt your life and change you...I work hard Grant. Really hard, that's my statement.

THE END