

QUEEN

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

On what appears the calmest of days, a fresh grave, marked "Angelo," creates a dark cloud over two figures standing nearby.

The taller figure is ELIJAH, 17, androgynous male with a natural feminine beauty making him an obvious target for bullying. Beside him stands BIRDIE, 8, his baby sister.

Elijah bites his lip to muffle his sadness but his drenched eyes gives him away. Birdie tugs on his shirt.

BIRDIE

Will we see him again?

Elijah nods.

ELIJAH

One day, Birdie, one day.

Elijah walks over and places a gold crown on top of the cheap gravestone.

Elijah takes Birdie's hand.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Come, we have to get ready before  
the Queen comes.

EXT. HOME - DAY

Elijah checks the mailbox. He flips through the stacks of envelopes until he comes across one addressed to him. He smiles.

INT. BIRDIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elijah bursts into Birdie's pink, princess theme room. He waves a credit card in his hand.

ELIJAH

Who wants to go shopping?

Birdie leaps from the bed and follows him out.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - LATER

Elijah and Birdie walk through the lot with arms filled with bags from different stores.

Elijah manages to open the truck to his tiny beat up car.

Birdie dumps her bags and sighs with relief.

BIRDIE

Shopping is so exhausting.

Elijah laughs at his sister's over exaggeration.

ELIJAH

The Queen will reward you handsomely.

BIRDIE

She better.

They laugh as they climb into the car.

INT. HOME - DAY

Elijah and Birdie carry the bags into the house.

A husky, JACOB, 40s, pathetic excuse of a father stands before them swollen with rage.

JACOB

What's all this? More gay shit?

ELIJAH

It's nothing. Just some clothes.

Jacob snatches one of the bags from Elijah, he pulls out handfuls of makeup. His face twists in disgust.

JACOB

You wearing makeup now, boy?

BIRDIE

It's for the Queen.

JACOB

What Queen?

Elijah turns to Birdie.

ELIJAH

Hush now.

JACOB

I asked her a question.

Jacob steps forward. Elijah moves Birdie behind him to protect her.

Jacob snickers.

JACOB (CONT'D)

What you gonna do tough guy?

Elijah doesn't answer. His eyes drill into his father's.

Jacob rips the bags from his arms. He yanks Elijah's arm nearly dragging him.

Elijah notices his mom sitting in the far corner of the room pretending to be deep into her book reading.

Elijah snatches his arm from his grip.

Jacob snarls.

JACOB (CONT'D)

You better get in there boy.

(looks at Birdie)

Or I'll take her.

Elijah looks back into Birdie's frightened face.

ELIJAH

No! I'll go. Leave her alone.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jacob follows Elijah down into the dark basement. Near the center of the room are thick chains with metal cuffs on the end dangling from the ceiling.

All furnishings including a cage big enough for a person are pushed along the walls in the dark. Sunlight pierces into the room through a broken basement window covered partly with duct tape.

Elijah strips out of his shirt exposing old slashes across his back. He doesn't show nervousness or fear when he toss his shirt aside.

Jacob's face twist at the site of his son's feminine body.

Elijah cuffs his own wrists. He huffs like a bull as he awaits his punishment.

Jacob goes to a black safe in the corner of the room. He retrieves a small leather whip.

He circles around Elijah.

JACOB  
Disgusting vile beast.

Elijah avoids his eyes. He doesn't respond to his insults.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
God must hate me. He sent me you, a woman in man's body. A fag.

Elijah's jaw clench but remains silent.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
What are you, monster? Man or woman?

When Elijah says nothing, Jacob grabs his jaw. He squeezes tight. Elijah tries to pull away but Jacob's grip is lethal.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
What are you? Answer me!

ELIJAH  
Both! I am both.

JACOB  
Wrong answer.

Jacob pulls back and unleashes all his energy into the whip as he cracks it against Elijah's tender back.

Elijah's knees buckle. He screams in agony as he falls to the floor. The chains prevent him from going all the way down.

Without breaking stride, Jacob whips at Elijah's back over and over.

Elijah's ear-shattering screams fill the room.

Outside the room into the

HALLWAY

Birdie sits on the floor next to the basement door. She cries and covers her ears to help muffle the sounds of the painful screams.

INT. BIRDIE'S ROOM - LATER

Birdie sits on her bed impatient as she gazes at the clock on her wall, it is five minutes til the next hour.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Weakened by the pain, Elijah dangles from his shackles.

He manages to look over at the broken window. Yellow street light peers through.

He flashbacks.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Elijah dangles from the same shackles he is in now.

SUPER: TWO YEARS AGO

He looks as if he is close to dying. Blood runs from his gashes.

A six-year-old Birdie pulls on his shackles with no use. She cries for her brother.

She runs over to the window and scream for help.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A skateboarder, ANGELO, 16, Hispanic, rolls down the sidewalk. He stops when he hears muffled pounding.

He looks over at Elijah's house and see a pair of tiny hands pressing on the basement window.

He runs over and push open the window.

BIRDIE

Please help, my brother is hurt!

Angelo peeps his head in to see Elijah dangle from the chains.

ANGELO

I'm coming in.

Angelo squeezes his body through the small window. He runs to Elijah.

ANGELO (CONT'D)  
Where are the keys?

BIRDIE  
With daddy. He always has the keys.

Angelo looks around the room. He finds a pair of chain cutters. He cuts the chains. Elijah wails in pain.

Angelo holds Elijah's head up. He moves Elijah's silk hair from his face. Angelo blinks at Elijah's beauty. He smiles.

ANGELO  
What is your name?

Elijah struggles to talk.

ELIJAH  
Elijah.

ANGELO  
Okay, Elijah, we gotta get you some help.

BIRDIE  
No! If we say anything, daddy will hurt him more.

ANGELO  
Okay... you will have to help me then...

BIRDIE  
Birdie.

ANGELO  
Okay Birdie, you have to help me. I need bandages and alcohol. Can you do that?

Birdie nods. She leaves.

ANGELO (CONT'D)  
Hang in there... Elijah.

Angelo strokes Elijah gentle face.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Birdie burst through the door of the basement. She runs down the steps.

BIRDIE

Elijah!

She holds his face in her hands.

BIRDIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

ELIJAH

Angelo was here.

Birdie pulls the key from her pocket. She unlocks the cuffs. She helps holds him up as the move up the steps.

INT. RESTROOM - NIGHT

Birdie dabs at the gashes on Elijah's back. Elijah winces in pain. They say nothing as they move through their routine.

Elijah stands dried off with a towel around his waist. He allows Birdie to circle him with large bandages wrapping his body.

BIRDIE

How thick should we make it?

ELIJAH

Thick enough not to ruin the dress.

BIRDIE

The Queen would not like that, huh  
Eli?

ELIJAH

That is right.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Elijah hands Birdie a pair of black leather gloves.

ELIJAH

Hear, now, you know what to do  
right? Get me what I need.

Birdie nods with a smile.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Go now, I must get ready. The Queen  
will be here soon.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Birdie sneaks down into the basement. She stops and looks at the blood on the floor beneath the shackles.

She goes over into a corner where the safe sits. She puts on the black gloves and spins on the combination lock until it opens.

She retrieves a pistol and picks out a few bullets from a case. She closes the safe and darts back up the steps.

SERIES OF SHOTS - MAKING OF THE QUEEN

A) Elijah looks into the mirror at the boy he was born as. He unravels a stick of blood red lipstick and rubs it across his lips.

B) Birdie looks at her princess-like dress in the mirror.

C) Elijah applies eyeshadow.

D) Birdie brushes her hair.

E) Elijah sprays his neck with perfume.

F) Birdie rubs her painted lips together.

G) Elijah zips up the back of a white gown.

INT. ELIJAH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Birdie knocks on the door. She opens the door and is stunned into silence.

Elijah has transformed into a real queen. He smooths out his gorgeous gown with his silk arm gloves. His hair done up with large curls. His makeup done so well it is hard to tell he was ever male. A sparkling tiara rests on top of his head.

Birdie gasps at her brother's transformation.

ELIJAH  
Come closer Birdie.

Birdie closes the door. She steps before Elijah and bows.

Elijah giggles at his sister's acting. He grabs the second tiara out of a velvet box.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)  
I pronounce you a true Princess.

He places the tiara onto Birdie's curly hair. Birdie's eyes sparkle with excitement.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)  
Will you help me lie the roses?

Birdie lies real stemmed roses on Elijah's bed.

Elijah lights candles placed all over the room.

Elijah and Birdie stare at the decorated bed. It sits in wait for a body.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)  
Did you bring what I needed,  
Princess?

Birdie nods. She hands him the pistol and few bullets.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)  
You know what to do now right? What  
we talked about?

Birdie begins to cry. She nods.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)  
Don't cry, sister, we'll all be  
free soon.

Elijah kisses his little sister on the forehead and hugs her tight.

BIRDIE  
I love you, Eli.

ELIJAH  
I love you too Birdie.

INT. BIRDIE'S ROOM

Birdie goes into her room and locks the door. She climbs onto the bed, lies down and covers her ears with her pillow. She counts.

BIRDIE  
20... 19... 18...

INT. ELIJAH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elijah lies back onto his pillow surrounded by candlelight, red and white roses. He looks as if he is lying in a coffin.

He holds the pistol at the side of his head. He stares into the ceiling as he counts.

ELIJAH  
10... 9... 8...

INT. BIRDIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Birdie counts.

BIRDIE  
7... 6... 5...

A gunshot is heard.

Birdie stops counting.

INT. HOME - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

- A) Paramedics run into the home.
- B) Birdie watch a body bag roll down the hallway.
- C) Jacob talks to the police.
- D) Birdie pulls onto a female cop's uniform and points to the basement.
- E) The female cop discovers the shackles and blood.
- F) Jacob and his wife are arrested.
- G) Birdie is carried away safely in the arms of the cop.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Birdie stands before Elijah and Angelo's graves. She places the Tiara onto Elijah's gravestone beside the crown on Angelo's stone.

Birdie bows to both graves before she runs to a new pleasing pair of parents. She takes both their hands as they walk out of the cemetery.

FADE OUT.

THE END.