

THE LOST PIANIST

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

The dark blue undefined border of the hallway is nearly impassable. An illumination of light appears under a door at the far end.

A CRACK of a belt, a THUD, the FLASH of a fallen lamp, a boy WHEEZING, a medicine inhaler DISPERSES.

MAN (O.S.)  
This is your fault.

BOY (O.S.)  
(out of breath)  
But daddy I played the piano at school. I did good, I liked it.

MAN (O.S.)  
Men don't play pianos.

We move away from the door as another CRACK of the belt is heard.

EXT. BOSTON STREET - NIGHT

A street light flickers, buildings darkened, a few cars come and go.

EXT. CONCERT HALL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Falling leaves whirl over fine automobiles. Crickets chirp in a bordering hedgerow. A LADY walks her poodle past the hedgerow and the crickets become silent. She cuts across the street...

EXT. SIX STORY BUILDING - NIGHT

... and passes an illuminated sign, "BOSTON INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR."

The Lady is hesitant but takes a quick glance at light coming from a group of windows on the fourth floor. Faint beastly cries can be heard, she pulls her collar up and moves away quickly with her poodle.

EXT. CONCERT HALL - VALET STAND - NIGHT

A pristine Jaguar pulls up. A suave middle-aged MAN exits the drivers door, handing the key fob to a FEMALE VALET. A MALE VALET opens the passenger door, extends his hand.

A young WOMAN allows the Male Valet to assist her. As she exits the car she casually exhibits her Lynx fur coat.

INT. CONCERT SEATING

Concert patrons all dressed to the nines enter the main hall and consider their seats. On the stage, spotlights reflect off of an ebony grand piano.

INT. DRESSING ROOM

A handsome European man, 20s, looks into the mirror, this is the PIANIST. He pats his perspiring face with a white silk scarf. He is dressed in loose black attire, black leather vest over a black open collared shirt. Hair long but finely styled.

The Pianist leans on a chair and inhales his asthma medicine. He's startled as someone knocks on the door. He opens the door and nods to the ESCORT.

INT. CONCERT SEATING

Patrons have settled into their posh seats. A middle-aged to older crowd with a group of young LADIES seated in the front row. One of the young Ladies slips off her Mink wrap.

INT. CENTER STAGE

The Pianist walks around the piano, stops, and looks to his audience with a modest smile. A brief applause then he adjusts the piano bench.

The Pianist begins Franz Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.

His fingers float over the keys. The music is mesmerizing.

EXT. CONCERT HALL

A MALE USHER props open an exit door with a chair, then begins to puff on an e-cigarette.

## EXT. CONCERT HALL - VALET STAND

The Male Valet grabs keys to a patron's new Tesla, then runs to the car. The Female Valet runs after him.

## EXT. SIX STORY BUILDING - NIGHT

Lights radiate out of three corner windows on the fourth floor. Shadowy movements can be seen on the walls.

High pitched TONES emanate through a partially opened window. The shadows now turn into quick chaotic movements.

## INT. SIX STORY BUILDING - FOURTH FLOOR

We are guided down the hall by the red glow of an exit sign. All silent now except for the branches of a tree scraping against the windows.

At the end of the hall are double glass doors to a laboratory. Black lettering "BOSTON INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR" can be seen on the frosted glass.

## EXT. LABORATORY DOORS

The high pitched TONE begins again. A sizable claw scrapes the inside glass which enters through our ears down into our teeth. The indistinguishable shadows move throughout the laboratory intensely agitated.

One shadow jumps onto a counter. The second shadow jumps onto the same counter forcing the first shadow to jump to a pulley machine. The machine tilts, then explodes through the glass doors.

Through the illumination of the exit sign, a massive ALPHA MALE Black Panther with a muscular appearance and abnormal protruding canines comes out.

The Alpha Male pushes through the jagged glass which slices into it's fur. The Alpha Male doesn't flinch but continues on as blood droplets can be seen on the jagged glass.

Two smaller but similar animals, FEMALE Black Panthers jockey for position behind the Alpha Male. They snarl at each other.

## INT./EXT. HALLWAY

The Alpha Male jumps onto a window ledge. He pushes through the partially opened window, both Females follow.

## EXT. SIX STORY BUILDING

The Alpha Male jumps to an oak tree, climbs down, Females in tow. They cross in front of floodlights to the building. Lights reveal a serious gap in God's original plan for these animals.

## EXT. CONCERT HALL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Movement in the hedgerow alarms the crickets, they become silent again.

## INT. TESLA

The Male and the Female Valet are listening to rock and roll. The car becomes silent as they watch the Alpha Male cross in front of the car, stops, looks at them, and continues on.

## INT. CONCERT HALL - FRONT ENTRANCE

The Usher who was smoking is missing. The chair overturned and the e-cigarette sparking on the sidewalk.

## INT. CONCERT HALL - LOBBY

The Hungarian Rhapsody spills out into the lobby. A high NOTE similar to the TONE from the laboratory causes the Alpha Male to become agitated. He claws on the inner entrance doors.

## INT. CONCERT SEATING

An OLDER COUPLE turn to the door annoyed. A FEMALE USHER heads to the door believing a stray animal has wondered in. She opens the door and backs off with a look of horror and runs away. The door stop flips down which leaves a slim opening.

## EXT./INT. CONCERT HALL

The Alpha Male claws at the door opening until he can push through and enter the hall.

## INT. CENTER STAGE

The Pianist continues to play, looks to the door, then stops before the finish. He stands up, the bench overturns.

The surrounding patrons are unsure what is happening. A halfhearted applause.

The Pianist scrambles for the back exit.

INT. CONCERT SEATING

Chaos breaks out, the Alpha Male attacks the young Lady in the front row with the Mink wrap. Patrons rush to the exits.

The two Females panthers attack the Lady with the Lynx fur, hiding behind chairs.

The Alpha Male looks to the Pianist and the Pianist looks back. The Pianist trips over his scarf slamming into the back exit door.

EXT. BACK EXIT

The Pianist slams on the double door push bars and crawls into a dark area. He pulls the doors closed, locks the top dead bolt. He rests his head back on the door. The doors slams against his body.

Doors almost breached, the Pianist runs to an open elevator at the far end. He's half way to the elevator as the double doors burst open.

The Alpha Male charges at the Pianist.

EXT./INT. ELEVATOR

The Pianist pushes through an "OUT OF ORDER" sign into the elevator. Panicked he punches all of the buttons. Nothing. He hits the CLOSE DOOR button. The elevator TONE sounds early as the doors slowly close.

EXT. ELEVATOR

The Alpha Male darts to the elevator but quickly repels back as the TONE places it into a state of agitation. The Females keep their distance. The TONE stops, the Alpha Male is calmed, begins pacing back and forth.

INT. ELEVATOR

The panel is under repair, missing buttons, bare wires hanging. The Pianist presses the ALARM button, nothing. He goes for the phone, nothing.

Out of breath the Pianist slides down to the floor. He pulls out his asthma inhaler and takes a couple of hits. He rises again, accidentally pushing the wires together. The wires begin sparking.

Suddenly the elevator jolts upward.

EXT. ELEVATOR

The Alpha Male literally looks up at the lit ARROW and bursts out of the stairway door. It's as if it has learned how to read signs.

EXT. STAIRWAY

The Alpha Male leaps up multiple steps at a time, the Females run after the Alpha Male. The second floor door is propped open by a mop and bucket.

INT. ELEVATOR - SECOND FLOOR

The SECOND FLOOR button illuminates. The elevator TONE sounds. The doors begin to open. Frantic, the Pianist pounds on the CLOSE DOOR button, but not soon enough. The Alpha Male manages to strike out at the Pianist, then the doors close.

The Pianist looks at his thigh, he's bleeding. He takes his silk scarf and ties it around his thigh. The elevator jerks upward.

EXT. STAIRWAY - SECOND FLOOR

Immediately the Alpha Male bolts out of the stairway door. The two Females are on the stairway platform. The Alpha Male charges through the Females to the closed third floor door.

EXT. STAIRWAY - THIRD FLOOR

The Alpha Male jumps on the door. The First Female tries to systematically claw at the door edge as the Alpha Male bounces off of it. A crack of an opening gives enough room for the First Female to begin to claw it open.

The Second Female jumps on the door causing the First female to lose the opening. The Alpha Male strikes out at the Second Female.

INT./EXT. ELEVATOR - THIRD FLOOR

The Pianist presses the EMERGENCY STOP button and peeks through the rubber trip bar on the doors. It's quiet the beasts are not there. Across from the elevator doors an office. Could there be a phone in there? Should he take a chance? It's only thirty feet away.

EXT. OFFICE - THIRD FLOOR

The Pianist goes for it. SMACK, he collides into the door, it's locked! He takes his keys and tries to dig into the side of the door. He looks down the hall, nothing.

The Pianist then looks to the stairway door window, his heart stops. The Alpha Male stares at the Pianist in a calculating way.

EXT. OFFICE

The Pianist is drenched in sweat, shirt stuck to his body. He tries to break the window, tries again. The Pianist goes back to digging into the door. He stops and listens. The Alpha Male can be heard slamming against the stairway door.

The Pianist kicks the office door open and rushes in, slams it shut.

EXT. STAIRWAY - THIRD FLOOR

The Alpha Male begins clawing into the drywall, white powder rising.

First Female leaps to the drop ceiling. She claws at the ceiling support wiring and pulls herself up.

INT. OFFICE

The Pianist tries all phone lines. He dials, it connects, then the call drops. He dials again, same thing. What a nightmare.

EXT. OFFICE

We can see the Pianist through the window continuing to work on the phone.



Suddenly the ceiling tiles cave in. The First Female falls on top of the Pianist, it is disoriented. The Pianist staggers out the door, slams it shut, and runs to the elevator.

EXT. OFFICE WINDOW

First Female can be seen trying to get out, banging against the door. It looks up to the ceiling opening.

INT. ELEVATOR - THIRD FLOOR

The Pianist sticks his head out and listens to the clawing on the opposite side of the wall. He presses the SIXTH FLOOR button. The doors close at an excruciating slow speed, then jams.

EXT. STAIRWAY WALL - THIRD FLOOR

The Alpha Male continues to claw through the drywall, the beast is a ghostly white. Drywall begins to flake off, then chunks. The Alpha Male can be seen struggling to get through the opening.

INT. ELEVATOR - THIRD FLOOR

The Pianist pulls on the elevator doors trying to close them. Still jammed with an opening of only inches.

EXT. ELEVATOR - THIRD FLOOR WALL

A large piece of drywall panel slams to the floor. The Alpha Male covered in white powder pushes all the way through the opening.

EXT. ELEVATOR - THIRD FLOOR

The Alpha Male slams against the elevator doors leaving a white shadowy print. He tries to claw his way through the elevator door gap.

INT./EXT. ELEVATOR

The Pianist has his back to the far wall, trying to stay out of reach of the Alpha Male. The beast tears at the trip strips of the elevator door with it's canines, it's getting through.

The Alpha Male tries to squeeze into the elevator. The Pianist kicks it in it's eye, not really phased. The Pianist jumps onto the handrail.

The First Female being smaller forces her way under the Alpha Male into the elevator. The Pianist grabs the covering on the overhead light and throws it at the First Female.

The Pianist pulls on the fluorescent bulb, hits it on the wall, and jams the jagged edge into the First Female's eye. It falls back with a piercing shriek.

Through a strobe light effect the Pianist looks up to the trap door, pushes it upward and climbs through. The First Female takes a final swipe catching his shoe.

EXT. ELEVATOR ROOF - SHAFT

The Pianist out of breath, he looks for his asthma capsules in his pockets. He retrieves a capsule and takes it.

The Pianist rests on the elevator roof. He looks down through the lighting panel and sees the Alpha Male made it into the elevator.

The Pianist rest his eyes for a short beat. The trap door begins to open. The Pianist grabs the elevator cable, slips from the grease, falling onto the trap door. The Alpha Male's paws are crushed, falling back into the elevator. It limps out of the elevator doors.

The elevator lift motor kicks on from above bringing the elevator between the fourth and fifth floor. The elevator doors don't open.

INT. ELEVATOR

The Pianist drops down into the elevator from the trap door, wounded leg buckling, falling flat onto the floor. He turns over on his back and rests his eyes again. Above, the trap door slams shut. Shaken, he listens but doesn't hear any movement.

The elevator jolts upward again only inches. It begins scraping alongside the elevator shaft, grinding to a stop.

INT. ELEVATOR - ABOVE FOURTH FLOOR

The doors open to a brick wall with an opening of only inches to the fourth floor landing area. The Pianist looks out through the small gap in the elevator doors.

He watches the Second Female circling the Alpha Male who limps to the elevator door and looks up. But it's in pain and can't jump.

These beasts are relentless, they hunt and pursue like demons out of the pit of Hell.

With glass pieces still stuck in the First Female's eye she jumps up onto the floor of the elevator. She tries to squeeze through. But only its head and front paws have succeeded. The Pianist throws his shoe at the button panel, wires spark.

The elevator moves up, a beastly cry, then silence. The Pianist looks away, the First Female has been crushed, bloody remnants on the floor. The Pianist climbs through the trap door again.

EXT. ELEVATOR ROOF - SHAFT - ABOVE FIFTH FLOOR

The Pianist closes the trap door and sets a heavy tool box on top of it. He lays his head down, closes his eyes.

A cool breeze brings autumn leaves swirling down into the shaft. Dust and pieces of mortar fall on top of the Pianist. He covers his head as the air vent smashes only inches away from his head. The Alpha Male looks down as the Pianist looks up.

The Alpha Male is edging for a position to get to the Pianist. It jumps to a ledge and falls between the elevator and shaft. Wedged in, it tries to strike at the Pianist.

The Pianist takes a pipe wrench and crushes it's front leg. The Alpha Male slips and falls to it's death.

The Pianist lays down and looks over the side between the elevator and shaft. It's severed claw swipes his face, then falls down to the basement.

INT. ELEVATOR

The Pianist is back in the elevator, through the strobe light effect he moves the wire around, sparks fly. The elevator music comes on. He glances at his thigh, his white scarf is a scarlet red now. He looks at his watch.

The elevator begins to rise up to the motor room. The elevator squeals, scraping against the elevator shaft then comes to a halt. The doors don't open, so the Pianist climbs through the trap door.

## INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT

The Pianist is able to climb to the roof exit door. He looks through the window. Two of the beasts are dead which leaves the one Female.

The Pianist looks out of the roof door window. All is quiet but he needs to make sure that the Second Female has not made it up to the roof. He takes one of the slats off the vent, then files it on the shaft wall, turns it into a spear.

He looks to the fire escape ladder which will bring him down to the street level, then be able to seek medical help.

The Pianist pushes the door bar and opens it slowly. There isn't any noise or traffic on the streets. Even with the concert patrons who were attacked there should be at least ambulances heard.

## EXT. ROOF

The Pianist searches around the corner, circling the elevator motor room building. The Second Female is not seen, the Pianist walks past the roof door. It flies open smashing into him, he immediately pushes the door back. But the force of the Second Female is great.

## EXT. ELEVATOR MOTOR ROOM

He can't hold it much longer being much weaker and much blood lost. A ladder next to the door leads up to the motor room roof.

The Pianist releases his hold on the door and scrambles up the ladder. The Second Female pushes the door open and enters onto the roof. She can smell the blood of the Pianist on the ladder.

The Second Female is motionless looking up to the roof. The Pianist looks over the side watching the beast staring him down. She looks to the ladder.

## EXT. MOTOR ROOM ROOF - DAWN

It's cold and the Pianist is still losing blood. He's praying for a quick death. The Pianist sees that dawn is breaking, but it's still quiet, no traffic on the streets yet. The ladder to the roof is squeaking with movement.

EXT. MOTOR ROOM ROOF LADDER

The Second Female is slowly climbing the ladder. The Pianist stands with spear in hand. The Second Female's head rises over the edge and the Pianist shoves the spear through its open mouth and falls back to the roof.

Our Pianist is out of breath and close to being out of blood.

Still again the Second Female is climbing the ladder just coming over the top. Blood spewing from her mouth.

Church bells begin to ring as the sun begins to rise.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Church bells continue to ring. The sun continues to rise through dirty cracked windows. Below the window on a stained sofa is the man who we have known as the Pianist.

As he wakes up from his nightmare he finishes off a bottle of whiskey. He looks over to a photo of a child at a piano. He wipes the tears from his face.

NARRATOR

Our Pianist had lost faith in himself at an early age. The world had told him over and over that he was no good, that he was a nothing. If a lie is told enough times we begin to believe it as the truth. If our Pianist would have rejected these lies at a young age he could of overcome this mountain and his life would of turned out different.

This reminds me what is says in the Good Book;

Have faith in God, Jesus said.  
Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, go, throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Mark 11:22-23

FADE TO BLACK.

