TONI LIBRA

by

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FINAL DRAFT
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Raymond Kelly II
Filmmaking I
FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tidiest place you’ve ever seen.

FEMALE VOICE
This human is too much, how can you
allow this to continue?

No patience for politeness, no time for leisure, the voice
belongs to TONI LIBRA.

Seated before her is an older, wise face, calm eyes. But
he’s no ordinary human. In fact, this is GOD.

GOD
They’re your wings, not mine. This
is what you wanted, remember?

TONI
Father, he doesn’t need a guardian
angel. He needs prison.

GOD
He needs guidance.

TONI
Then, give him to Satan.

BA-BOOM! Thunder booms. Apparently at God’s command as He
shoots Toni an angered look.

TONI (CONT’D)
Sorry, I’m just saying. He’s not
easy to get along with, and that’s
the sad truth.

GOD
His mother died when was a baby,
his father left him when he was
seven, and two foster parents
later, he’s heading down all the
wrong roads. You’re all he’s got.
The sad truth? You fail to realize
what you can learn from him.

Toni sighs, sinks into her seat, pauses. Why her?
INT. SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

JOHNNY BRIMSTONE exchanges books at his locker. Arrogant soul. Just cool enough to be classified as a geek, and not a nerd.

When he shuts the locker, Toni has appeared out of nowhere. Startled, Johnny yelps.

TONI
Hi.

JOHNNY
You freak-ass crackpot, I told you to stop doing that.

TONI
Gosh, do you always have to be so angry?

JOHNNY
Let’s trade places so I can be the clumsy guardian angel, and you be the human who suffers behind him.

TONI
Become a mortal like you so I can fall in love knowing it’ll never work? Live a life that’s not promised to you tomorrow? No thanks, I’m here to help, not live to die.

JOHNNY
Help? All you do is hurt!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

ON THE TRACK

Johnny marches towards the parking lot, past the football field where a group of JOCKS throw a football around.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
You got me beamed with that football.

TONI (O.S.)
Johnny!

Johnny pauses. Spots Toni just meters away. Rushing straight towards him.
TONI (CONT’D)
Johnny, watch out for the ball!

JOHNNY
What ball?

Just then, a jock launches the football. But it overshoots his target. Heading straight for Johnny.

Johnny bolts for safety.

TONI
Keep going!  Keep going!

Twenty yards deep, Johnny stops for a breather. As the football nails him in the head anyway and takes him down.

Toni flinches.

TONI (CONT’D)
Sorry.  Sent you too far.

INT. CLASS - DAY (FLASHBACK)
Late, Johnny rushes into Math class.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
You let me take those gas pills.

Annoyed, TEACHER hands him his test. Johnny heads to the back of the class, hand on his stomach, face frowned.

Just as he takes a seat, the unpleasant SQUEALS of gas ripping from his rear end draws silence.

Appalled, classmates begin to search for the perpetrator.

First row student looks to the second row student. Second row looks to Johnny.

Johnny looks to fourth row -- there is no fourth row. He’s the last one.

Ashamed, he faces a grossed out class.

Stands. Darts out the room.

EXT. PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK)
Johnny surrounded by angry THUGS. They argue.
JOHNNY (V.O.)
You didn't save me when I got jumped.

Toni rushes into the circle, trips and falls forward.
Right into Johnny’s arm. In a chain reaction, WHAM! His fist lands right on the leader’s nose.

JOHNNY (V.O.) (CONT’D)
And you’re lucky no one can see you when you’re supposed to be doing your angel thing.

JOHNNY (CONT’D)
Wait, I can explain! It was my guardian angel!
(off their look)
She’s right there!

Confused, thugs look in Toni’s direction.
No one there.
Thugs look back to Johnny. He’s not there either.
He’s running for his life, already twenty yards deep. At once, thugs give chase.
They catch up. Pounce on him violently.

INT. JOHNNY’S ROOM – NIGHT (FLASHBACK)
Johnny collapses on his bed after a long day. A RING TONE goes off.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
And when you do become visible so I can stop looking like a jack-ass, you give my phone number to Avanti!

Digs out his cellular, answers.

JOHNNY (CONT’D)
Hello?

INTERCUT – JOHNNY AND AVANTI
Tall, deep voice, facial hair, AVANTI would be the perfect boy... if she weren’t a girl. Sits exited on her bed, cordless phone to her ear.
AVANTI
Oh my, gosh! It’s really you!

Johnny bolts straight up. Can’t be hearing right.

JOHNNY
Avanti?

AVANTI
Yes! Oh, my gosh, You have got to thank that Toni girl for me. You just don’t know how long --

JOHNNY
Sorry, I’m not even in right now. But if you leave your name, number, and brief message after the beep, I’ll make sure I get back at you.

Avanti sits. Waiting.

JOHNNY (CONT’D)
BEEP.

She breaks into laughter.

AVANTI
Johnny Brimstone, you made that message just for me? Aww, that’s so sweet, you so had me fooled. But down to business... I’m still madly in love with you --

Disgusted, Johnny hangs up the phone.

AVANTI (CONT’D)
Hello? Hello?

INT. SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

JOHNNY
Life wasn’t great, but it sure wasn’t hell until you showed up. I don’t need an angel, or a fallen angel at that.

She pins him against the locker.

TONI
Listen up, earth’s no picnic, and neither is caring for a ungrateful soul like you.
TONI (CONT’D)
Now, I need my wings back, and
trust me, you are going to help me.

JOHNNY
Whoa, don’t get your panties in a
bunch, this is all your fault,
remember?

TONI
Excuse me? What did you just say?

JOHNNY
(slower)
I said don’t get your panties --

She SLAPS him hard into the locker. Infuriated, she walks away.

JOHNNY (CONT’D)
Geez, my nose! You’re an angel,
you can’t do that!

TONI
Fallen angel.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT
Toni sits knees to her chest. Chunking rocks as far as she
can into the passing streams.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
Thought I’d find you here.

Johnny pushes through a bush, takes a seat beside her.

TONI
What do you want?

He hesitates, can’t believe what he’s about to say.

JOHNNY
To apologize. I’ve been a real
asshole.

TONI
Multiplied by a million.

JOHNNY
I didn’t ask to be this way, you
know.

Toni ignores him. Johnny frown - he’s getting nowhere.
JOHNNY (CONT’D)
I’ve got homework to do.

Starts to his feet, but she pulls him back down.

TONI
Johnny, wait. Maybe I should apologize to you too. I mean, look at me, I’m clumsy, impatient --

JOHNNY
Self-centered.

TONI
Well --

JOHNNY
Psycho.

TONI
Okay. The point is nobody’s perfect, and I shouldn’t have been expecting it from you. I’m sorry.

Johnny nods in acceptance. They gaze out over the river.

JOHNNY
So... what’s Heaven like?

Toni smiles.

TONI
Don’t think there’s a word here on earth that can describe it.

JOHNNY
Maybe I’ll actually end up there one day, if I’m lucky.

TONI
One day.

JOHNNY
This sounds crazy... but, have you ever seen her?
   (off her look)
   My mom?

A touching question. Toni keeps her eyes locked with him.

TONI
Many times.
JOHNNY
What’s she look like?

Toni stares back out over the river.

TONI
Radiant face. Skin smooth as silk.
Jet black hair. Just an all around wonderful person. I know her because I used to protect her.

Johnny face fills with shock.

TONI (CONT’D)
On her death bed she asked me to protect you.

Pulls a necklace from her pocket. There is a DOLPHIN ornament attached.

TONI (CONT’D)
This is her necklace.

Johnny’s eyes light up with wonder as she passes it into his hands.

TONI (CONT’D)
When she died, this was all I had left of her. Now, I have you.

Johnny gapes into Toni’s eyes. Puts the necklace around his neck.

JOHNNY
Maybe there is someone I can trust.

TONI
Maybe.

They share gaze. Frozen for a moment in time. And then --

CRIMINAL (O.S.)
Not so fast, lover birds.

A CRIMINAL. Definite drug addict. Sweating his nervousness away. His firearm aimed dead at them.

CRIMINAL (CONT’D)
Gimme the cash, I need the cash, I need the drugs.

Johnny steps in front of Toni, though terrified.
JOHNNY
Wait a sec. Let’s talk about this.

CRIMINAL
You think I’m playing?

Criminal COCKS the gun. Right before he pulls the trigger --
Toni leaps in front of Johnny, casts her hands up.
Criminal’s arm freezes in mid-air. Stuck. He tugs away.
But as long as Toni hands are up, he’s frozen in time.

CRIMINAL (CONT’D)
What the hell? Stop it you little freak.

Both begin to tremble - Criminal trying to break free. Toni using all her might to keep him at bay.

TONI
You picked the wrong night, pal.
And the wrong gal.

With an impressive burst of strength, Toni shoves forward --
Supernaturally shoving the man into the parking lot. Climbs to his feet. Suddenly, he is drenched in WHITE LIGHT.

HEADLIGHTS of an SUV.
Criminal shrieks. IMPACT.
He soars across the parking lot.
DRIVER and PASSENGER leap out. Study the addict closely.

PASSENGER
Oh, no. Is he dead?

Finally, criminal groans.

DRIVER
He’s alive.

PASSEGER
What do we do?

DRIVER
Back in the car. Let’s go.

They escape to the vehicle.
EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Toni gapes into the parking lot, stunned.

    TONI
    I did it. I saved your life.

    JOHNNY
    Not bad.

Just then, WHITE LIGHT falls around them. Toni looks up. Knows what it is. Pulls away.

    JOHNNY (CONT’D)
    What is that?

    TONI
    I saved your life. My wings are waiting for me.

Johnny looks to the light, then back to Toni.

    JOHNNY
    I thought all you had was me?

Toni gazes back, a little guilty. But it’s the sad truth.

    TONI
    Johnny, look at us. We’re not of the same body. Not of the same world. I couldn’t dare give up my life. To know that one day, I’ll actually die.

    JOHNNY
    Death is a part of life.

    TONI
    But not mine. I’m so sorry Johnny. But I have to go.

Steps away from him, towards the brilliant light.

Suddenly, it brightens, so bright he must cover his eyes. And just as quickly as it came --


INT. OFFICE - DAY

Toni steps out of the light. Door SHUTS behind her. She grins.
TONI
Father, I did it! I saved him!

God spins around in his chair.

GOD
You did. I’m proud of you, you’ve come a long way.

TONI
Couldn’t have did it without you.

GOD
Or, Johnny.

The beaming smile slowly fades into saddened uncertainty.

TONI
I’ll miss him.

God nods.

GOD
Well? I’m waiting.

TONI
On what?

GOD
For you to make up your mind. Your wings are ready for take off, but so is your heart. Just say the magic words. That this what you want back forever.

TONI
You know what I’m thinking?

GOD
All the time. I just want you to remember this: once you choose, there is no turning back.

Toni takes a deep breath.

TONI
I know.

God pauses. Smiles.

GOD
Then, it is done.

He CLAPS.
EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

Johnny sits, numb to the world as he stares out over the reflections in the river. WHITE LIGHT. Beaming behind him.

Stands, turns.

Toni emerges. The light vanishes.

    TONI
    Johnny!

Speechless, he gapes back at her.

She sprints to his arms, trips.

Johnny rushes to her side. Toni grunts in pain.

    JOHNNY
    Don’t move, let me see.

Examines her leg. These is a small cut.

    JOHNNY (CONT’D)
    Not bad. Just needs cleaning and a small band-aid --

He pauses, cold in confusion.

    JOHNNY (CONT’D)
    You... you’re bleeding.

He helps her to her feet. Realization sinks in.

    JOHNNY (CONT’D)
    You gave up your wings?

    TONI
    Why? Was it not worth it?

    JOHNNY
    But, for me? Why? What about dying?

Toni looks away at first. Gazes back into his eyes.

    TONI
    Everyone dies. But friendship is forever. Maybe you can protect me for a change.

    JOHNNY
    I think I can make that happen.
She entwines her hands with his. The beginning of a beautiful friendship.

    TONI  
    Let’s get out of here.

As they start off, Toni trips. Johnny lunges for her. Misses. She HITS the ground.

    JOHNNY  
    Oops. Sorry.

Toni grins... breaks into laughter.

    FADE OUT.