

The Colors of Prison

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Based on a short story by Laura Gray

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EXT. A MENTAL HOSPITAL DAY

INT. THE WAITING ROOM

A DOCTOR talks to a COUPLE

DOCTOR

Here at the Behavioural Health Center, we provide the best care for our patients. If not, I'd say we're in the top five. Come this way please.

The doctor leads the couple down a hallway.

INT. THE HALLWAY

LAURA is being pushed in a wheel chair.

LAURA (V.O)

Some say I asked for it... that I ended up here in this cesspool of a place on purpose. They say everyone has a sort of madness in them, a demon. Mine burst out and flew high into the air where insanity lies. And now I lie here in a mental hospital with its yellow walls, which they tell me are meant to calm you down... it doesn't, not for me.

EXT. THE GARDEN

LAURA and TED sit on a bench while nurses attended to other patients. Laura and Ted stare at PREACHER MAN, who's on his knees while a nurse watches over him.

LAURA

How's Preacher man doing?

TED

Still thinks he's God.

Cut to

PREACHER MAN

Come children, follow me.

The nurse tries to get Preacher man off his knees, a struggle ensues and Preacher man is injected.

LAURA
There goes the Haldol.

TED
(Sighs)
Enough of the preaching... I prefer my God invisible.

Laura laughs.

LAURA
Are you religious, Ted?

TED
Oh I believe... I'm just too lazy to worship.

LAURA
How are you going to convert people?

TED
My dear, every soul needs to save itself.

LAURA
... ..Is it true?

TED
What?

LAURA
Did you get caught trying to get high again?

TED
Word doesn't pass you does it?

LAURA
The nurses gossip... a lot!

TED
I just couldn't stay still... I needed it.
(Flirting)
You're the best part of my day you know. Without you I'm unstable.

LAURA
Are you trying to hit on me?

TED

Wouldn't that be a story to tell when you get out of here?

Laura laughs.

INT. LAURA'S ROOM NIGHT

Laura lies on her bed awake.

EXT. THE GARDEN DAY

Laura sits on the bench by herself. A nurse passes by.

LAURA

Excuse me, where's Ted?

NURSE

He's been barred from coming out.

LAURA

Did he try getting high again?

NURSE

(Reluctant)

He'll be fine ma'am.

LAURA

(Agitated)

No he won't. Is he locked up?

The nurse walks away.

LAURA (Cont'd)

Hey!

Laura turns to catch a glimpse of someone with disheveled hair, someone she thinks looks familiar.

INSERT: Shot of JIM.

JIM walks up to Laura looking confused.

JIM

Laura?

LAURA
(Surprised)

Jim? What are you doing here?

JIM
Hi... I'm in for addiction... heroin... that and they say
I'm manically depressed.

LAURA
...Welcome to the club, haven't seen you in forever.

JIM
Yeah, well at least you kept your good looks I see.

Jim sits down and they begin to talk.

LAURA (V.O)
In no way could I have been prepared to meet Jim that
day.

INT. AN APARTMENT NIGHT- FLASHBACK

There's loud Punk music playing in the background.

EXT. THE BATHROOM

A young Laura and Jim are inside.

LAURA (O.S)
Stand still.

INT. THE BATHROOM

Laura applies gel to Jim's Mohwak.

Cut to

INT. AN AUDITORIUM

Laura and Jim are in the crowd rocking out to a band.

-END OF FLASHBACK-

EXT. THE GARDENS

Laura and Jim are laughing.

JIM

I remember! I do.

(Sighs)

So what happened next? I mean we lost contact after that. It's unfortunate... no Facebook, no Twitter. What's that one where they take pictures?

LAURA

(Laughs)

Instagram.

JIM

Right... so what's your story?

LAURA

Well...

INT. A BAR NIGHT- FLASHBACK

LAURA is wiping spilled alcohol off the bar when she spots JEFF staring at her. She stares at him for a few seconds and returns to work. He smiles.

EXT. THE BAR

LAURA steps out.

LAURA

Bye Bob.

BOB (O.S)

Bye Laura. See you tomorrow.

As Laura walks along the pavement, JEFF approaches.

JEFF

Hello.

Laura is startled.

LAURA
Jesus, you scared me!

JEFF
Sorry about that. I'm Jeff.

He extends his hand, but doesn't get a response.

LAURA
I'm Laura.

JEFF
Can I walk you home?

LAURA
I'm perfectly fine. Thank you.

JEFF
I saw the way you were looking at me at the bar.

Laura stops walking.

LAURA
(Surprised)
Excuse me? I caught you starrng at me from the dark corner of the bar.

JEFF
And from the dark came the light.

Laura laughs.

LAURA
You're cute, I'll give you that.

EXT. LAURA'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Jeff stands outside knocking. Laura opens the window.

LAURA
(Surprised)
WHAT?!

JEFF
Can I come in?

LAURA

Fuck no. Are you kidding? I knew it was a bad idea to let you know where I live.

Laura closes her window.

EXT. LAURA'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Jeff is outside knocking again. Laura peeps through the curtains and smiles.

Finally...

EXT. LAURA'S APARTMENT NIGHT

Once again, Jeff knocks on the door... and this time it's opened. He smiles.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT

Jeff and Laura sit on chairs a distance apart.

JEFF

I've actually been on vacation for the past two years.

LAURA

Is that your fancy way of saying you're in between jobs?

JEFF

(Laughs)

You see, you're just perfect for me!

Laura smiles.

EXT. THE BAR NIGHT

Laura steps out and Jeff is waiting for her to walk her home.

LAURA

Hey!

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM

The door to her bedroom is slightly opened. It's clear from the movement of the sheets, they're having sex.

EXT THE BAR DAY

Laura steps out of the bar and she has a baby bump. Bob's head peeks out.

BOB

You get some rest, dear.

LAURA

I will.

INT. LAURA'S APARTMENT

Laura is sat down frustrated. She picks up her phone and dials Jeff, it reaches voice mail.

LAURA

Hey Jeff, it's Laura. You know, the woman you knocked up. I need my fruits or you're going to have an angry baby-mama when you come home. It's bad enough you haven't married me.

Laura sighs and drops the phone. There's a knock on the door. She struggles to stand up and eventually opens the door. It's the SHERRIF.

LAURA

Hello?

SHERRIF

Hello, ma'am. Are you Laura?

LAURA

Yes.

SHERRIF

I'm sherrif Constable.

The sherrif holds up a bunch of keys?

SHERRIF

(Cont'd)

You recognize these ma'am?

LAURA

(Worried)

Yes, those are my car keys. I don't understand. How did you...

SHERRIF

We arrested your boyfriend.

(Laura gasps)

Jeff is it?

LAURA

(Nodding)

Yes.

SHERRIF

Well, ma'am. He's wanted for the attempted robbery of a bank.

INT. A COURTROOM

Laura sits behind Jeff with his attorney.

JUDGE

I hereby sentence the accused to six years in prison without parole.

The judge bangs his gavel.

INT. A HOSPITAL ROOM

Laura holds her baby crying tears of joy and sadness.

INT. A MENTAL HOSPITAL- CORRIDOR

A NURSE leads LAURA'S SISTER and MOM to a room.

INT. CORRIDOR- IN FRONT OF LAURA'S ROOM

NURSE

She's been diagnosed for depression.

LAURA'S MOM

She's been bipolar since she was a kid. She seemed so happy when she was pregnant and before when she was working at the bar.

NURSE

Em, I heard she had a baby? Where is she?

LAURA'S SISTER

She's with me. I'm her sister.

NURSE

Okay! ...Well she'll be out in a couple of days; just to get her on some medication. Make sure she's stable.

LAURA'S MOM nods.

Fade to:-

BLACK

EXT. AN APARTMENT BUILDING

SUPERIMPOSED: SIX YEARS LATER

There's a moving van in front of the building, Laura and Jeff are unpacking. Their six year-old daughter plays while holding a doll.

INT. THE APARTMENT

The apartment is well furnished. Jeff sits alone drinking Bombay Sapphire and tonic. Laura walks into the room.

LAURA

(Concerned)

Jeff... aren't you going to do anything else?

Jeff simply looks at her and goes back to drinking. Laura shakes her head and moves on frustrated.

TIME PASS

Laura walks into the living room and Jeff is nowhere.

TIME PASS

Laura looks out the window and sees a blue car stop in front of the apartment, Jeff steps out.

JEFF
(To the driver)

Later!

Laura notices the driver is female. Jeff looks up to the apartment and sees Laura looking at him. She's infuriated.

INT. LAURA AND JEFF'S APARTMENT NIGHT

There's a knock on the door. Laura goes to answer in a bathrobe having been woken up. She opens the door. It's Jeff drunk.

LAURA
(Infuriated)
Where have you been?

JEFF
(Slurring)
All over town.

LAURA
You were with her weren't you? Does she fucking take care of you?

JEFF
Hey... take it easy!

LAURA
God! Jeff, what is wrong with you? You can't do this to me, not after all you've put me through.

JEFF
Fuck you! Everything I did was for you.

LAURA
I didn't ask you to rob those people. If I had known you were going to be like this, I...

JEFF
You what? ... Bitch!

LAURA
Fuck you, Jeff!

As Laura begins to walk away, Jeff grabs her. A struggle ensues and he hits her. Laura is shocked.

EXT/INT. A POLICE STATION NIGHT

Laura and her daughter walk in. They head for the front desk.

LAURA
Hi, I'm here to bail Jeff Green.

Cut to

An officer addresses Laura.

OFFICER
What's your relationship with the perp?

LAURA
We live together... he's my baby father.

OFFICER
Well a word of advice. We went through his file; bank robbery. I suggest you calm your baby daddy down. I know it's just a DUI and he's on his first strike here. But a little caution would be welcomed.

Laura nods.

INT. LAURA AND JEFF'S APARTMENT

Laura sits as she looks at a drunken Jeff sleeping.

INT. THE APARTMENT DAY

Laura is at a desk working when she gets a phone call.

LAURA
Hello?

Cut to

Laura starts packing all her belongings. Her daughter walks in.

DAUGHTER

Mommy... where are we going?

INT. THE POLICE STATION

Jeff sits handcuffed to a bench waiting to get bail.

TIME PASS

A police officer approaches Jeff.

OFFICER

Sir, if you can't get bail, we're going to have to lock you up.

The officer un-cuffs him and leads him to a cell.

INT. A HOUSE

Laura is having a conversation with her sister as her daughter plays with Laura's mother.

LAURA'S SISTER

I'm so glad you left him. Look how bright you look for the past three months.

The doorbell rings.

LAURA'S SISTER

(Cont'd)

I'll get it.

Laura's sister answers the door.

LAURA'S SISTER (O.S)

(Worried)

LAAAAURRA!

Laura rushes to the door.

AT THE DOOR

There's an FBI AGENT standing in the doorway.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Laura and her sister sit with the FBI agent, who produces a picture of Jeff.

FBI AGENT

Do you know this man?

Laura nods.

FBI AGENT

Who is he?

LAURA

My husband.

FBI AGENT

When did you get married?

LAURA

(Sighs)

Not long ago... he'd just come out of prison.

FBI AGENT

He hit up a teller a few days ago. He was seen speeding away in a blue car. The security footage outside caught his face and it was run through the police database. It wasn't long before we got wind of it, he robbed a bank before. Do you know about this?

Laura nods her head.

FBI AGENT

Do you know whose car it is?

LAURA

... His girlfriend's... he was seeing her while we were together.

Laura's sister is shocked at this.

FBI AGENT

When last did you see him?

LAURA

Three months ago.

FBI AGENT

Would you happen to know where he is?

Laura shakes her head.

FBI AGENT

Let me rephrase that... this robbery... this is his third strike! (Laura begins to shed tears) Now you wouldn't want to be caught aiding and abetting a criminal, so if you have any information on where he could be...

LAURA'S SISTER

She doesn't know where he is. She's been here since she left their apartment.

FBI AGENT

Where is this apartment?

INT. LAURA AND JEFF'S OLD APARTMENT

A SWAT TEAM breaks in and checks the place. There's no one.

INT. LAURA'S SISTER'S HOUSE- THE KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

Laura sits down and start to imagine.

IN LAURA'S IMAGINATION

Laura is punching Jeff multiple times with all her anger till he starts flying backwards slamming into a brick wall and breaking it.

IN REAL LIFE

Laura starts to cry.

-THE END-