

RED CARPET

INT. LAURA'S ROOM -- DAY

A THIN YOUNG BODY steps into a beaded GOWN.

ZIPS

She puts on SHOES.

LIPSTICK to her lips.

On the bed is a VERSACE garment bag (or any high-end designer) alongside a bag from TARGET. A HAND takes the Target bag and removes from it cheap jewelry that could pass as the real thing--if no one looked close.

She puts on the NECKLACE and the EARRINGS.

The image of the girl appears in the mirror. This is LAURA, 17 but could pass for 21, sweet, innocent... She stares at her reflection, nervous, but the vision of a future Hollywood beauty. She breathes in and out.

On her side table is a MAGAZINE. The picture of an attractive man graces the cover, a man we will come to know as Lou. Headline reads "Caught? Star denies constant rumors!"

EXT. LAURA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Dressed to the nines, Laura exits her modest San Fernando Valley home. Awaiting her is a LIMO. She approaches and is about to open the door when the DRIVER gets out. He opens it for her and she awkwardly gets in.

INT. LIMO -- DAY

Laura rides in the silent limo as it rolls down the 101.

EXT. LOS ANGELES MANSION -- DAY

The limo approaches a gorgeous mansion.

INT. LIMO -- DAY

Laura gazes at the mansion through the window as the limo comes to a stop. Her hands are shaking as she clutches her purse. She breathes in and out. Waits.

Suddenly the door flies open and LOU, a 30's Hollywood movie star in a tux, climbs in. He enters like a whirlwind and on his cell phone.

LOU

(into cell phone)

Sharon, you're the worst publicist I have ever worked with!... I don't care!

(MORE)

LOU (CONT'D)

I don't care if he had kidney stones coming out of his ass, it was the Vanity Fair party for god-sakes. I was standing there like an idiot... I had to call James, and you know how I hate that fag... Alright, well, where are you?... East entrance?

(yells to driver)

East entrance of the Shrine!

(back into phone)

What?

The limo starts up and leaves the posh neighborhood. Lou looks at Laura, sizing her up.

LOU (CONT'D)

Yeah... she's hot. Cute blonde...

(to Laura)

What's your name sweetie?

LAURA

Laura.

LOU

(into phone)

Lauren... Yeah, the dress looks great, Versace? Damn, you are good Sharon.

I'll see you in fifteen.

Lou closes the phone, kicks his heels up on the seat, leans back and exhales.

LOU (CONT'D)

I never fucking stop.

He takes a cigarette from his pocket, lights it, takes a drag and blows the smoke out the window. He finally notices silent Laura.

LOU (CONT'D)

How old are you?

LAURA

Uh... twenty-one.

LOU

No really?

LAURA

Eighteen.

LOU

Hmmm.

LAURA

In three weeks.

LOU

(laughs)

I should be careful then, right?

She smiles sheepishly.

LOU (CONT'D)

How do you know Mike at the agency?

LAURA

Oh, um...

LOU

Nah, forget it. I don't give a shit.
It's better not to know how everything
is connected in this town.

Laura sits quiet, her visibly shaken hands rested on her knees.

LOU (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

LAURA

Yeah, why?

LOU

You're scared shitless.

(laughs)

Here, you should drink something.

Lou leans over to the bar and pours some SCOTCH into two glasses. He hands her one and takes one for himself which he immediately sips as he juggles his cigarette.

LOU (CONT'D)

He should have told you there's
nothing to be nervous about.

(pats the seat next
to him)

Come here, over near me. I won't
bite.

Reluctantly she gets up and moves next to him. He puts his arm on the back of the seat behind her.

LOU (CONT'D)

You'll learn fast, you don't need to
worry about being nervous. Truth is,
everyone in this town is fucking
nervous. What you have to worry
about is how to hide it.

He smiles at her, sips his scotch.

LOU (CONT'D)

Have you seen the shit they print about me?

There is a pause, Laura nods.

LOU (CONT'D)

Don't believe a fucking word. I do one gay role convincing enough to get a nod and everyone's rambling on about the secret life of Lou "the fucking fag" Hanson. So you don't blame me for wanting to go about it this way, do you?

LAURA

No, I see.

LOU

I know it's awkward. The biggest misconception is that I can just go out to a fucking bar and pick up some gorgeous girl. I pick up crazy fucking chicks who like to leech, that's who I find.

He downs his drink.

LAURA

No, it's good. I want to be here. I'm excited.

He smiles at her.

LOU

Good.

He leans over her as he pours himself another drink.

LOU (CONT'D)

So you're an aspiring actress?

LAURA

Yeah, kind of obvious, huh? Actually, I'm up for a new Paramount film, its between me and this other girl, so...

LOU

Then it's perfect for you to be on my arm tonight. I'll place a call into Brad tomorrow, see what I can do.

LAURA

What! You're kidding.

LOU
 We help each other, that's what this town is, one large, fucked up dysfunctional family.

Lou laughs, Laura feels a little more relaxed.

LAURA
 That's really nice of you, you don't have to do that.

Lou digresses:

LOU
 So where did we meet?

LAURA
 What?

LOU
 You know for E!, Extra, the rags...
 Where do you think we met?
 (gets an idea)
 I got it!
 (laughs)
 Oh shit, this is great. You know what would send them over the edge, rolling in middle america? We could say we met at church.

He extinguishes his cigarette and gets excited.

LOU (CONT'D)
 Do you go to church?

LAURA
 Yeah. Um... Bel Air Presbyterian.

LOU
 Perfect! We met at Bel Air Presbyterian, I love it! Sharon will die, talk about bringing up my conservative image.

LAURA
 You think people will believe that?

LOU
 Sweetie, they want to believe it.

Laura tries to take a sip of the scotch. She stops from the taste, spits it back in the cup.

Lou looks out the window then turns to Laura. He place his hand on her shoulder, strokes.

LOU (CONT'D)

I've got a great acting challenge
for you tonight.

LAURA

Yeah?

LOU

Don't think I'm like a pervert or
anything.

LAURA

No, I don't-

LOU

You're going to...
(stops himself, leans
closer into her)
You're going to have to do something
for me.

Laura looks at him, her heart beats faster.

LOU (CONT'D)

I mean, I am doing a lot for you
tonight especially if I win... the
press you will get, oh god! The
press you are going to get, just do
this one thing for me...

LAURA

(tentative)
What?

LOU

Don't be scared!
(laughs)
Just when we walk by the crowds
outside the Shrine, when all the
cameras are on us, I need you to...
to just lean in and kiss me... you
know, really passionate.

LAURA

I don't get it.

LOU

(defensive)
Look, you know there are a lot of
rumors, and this is just how it goes
alright?

LAURA

(gives)
Alright.

He shifts.

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