

BBC TASTER SHORTS - THE BREAK

THE MATCH GIRL

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1. INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

CU of burnt photograph of a girl, face obscured.

2. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (OCT)

LISA sits with her arms folded. Her hair is disheveled. Her hand is freshly bandaged from a burn. Darkness rings her eyes.

LISA

(Direct to camera)

Counselling's bullshit. I'm not going to be that case for you. Where you try and convince yourself you're actually making a difference. I can tell, you're not going to last. I've been living with my shit a lot longer than you, and I'll still have my shit when you're gone. So, I'll just swear up and down that I'll be a good girl from now on and we can skip the whole sob story bit.

(BEAT)

You look like you might actually care. But sooner or later you all do you know - break.

3. INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

CU of gloved hands taking burnt items out of a box.

4. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (OCT)

LISA

She had it coming. People always get what they deserve, don't they? That's why we're here isn't it? To get what we deserve?

5. INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

OS of someone looking at files and documents of an incident. REVEAL over shoulder of COUNSELLOR. Outline of her distinctive glasses looking at burnt items.

6. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (NOV)

LISA no longer wears the bandage. Her hair is brushed down and more relaxed. She looks generally better.

LISA
(conversational)

I'm not asking you to lie about it.
I'm just asking you not to mention
it.

(BEAT)

So I went a little out of bounds. I
just wanted some air.

(BEAT)

You can't fix everything with group
hugs.

(BEAT)

I've been good with everything
else? Coming here. Doing the
classes. I've even been reading the
books you gave me.

(BEAT)

So I've been good, haven't I?

7. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (DEC)

CU of a holiday decoration. It's Christmas. LISA sits in
stark contrast to the superficial cheer of the holiday decor.
LISA grabs a holiday decoration and plays with it. But her
mind is clearly on something else.

LISA
(nervous)

Yeah. No. Mum was gonna come down
but she said we oughtta be saving
up. For when I come back home.
LISA lets go of the decoration.
Do you know if she's coming to the
hearing? The girl's mum?

8. INT. HALLWAY - PRESENT DAY

OS of COUNSELLOR walking with WARDEN.

9. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (DEC)

LISA is nervous.

LISA
Alright fine. So I went out of
bounds again. It's just - I'm
nervous. About next week.
(BEAT)
I noticed how long your breaks been
getting. Why'd you tell me you
don't smoke?
How bout we make a deal?
You give me some smokes and I
promise I'll be good from now on.
(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

I'll swear it this time. Hand over heart.

(BEAT)

You know I even liked one of the stories you gave me. The one about the girl who burns up all her matches trying to stay warm. I liked it 'cause it was honest. Cause she dies anyway and that's what the real world is like.

(BEAT)

At least in here, if you fall, they kick you in the gut and say get the fuck up, or get outta my fuckin way.

10. INT. HALLWAY - PRESENT DAY

OS of COUNSELLOR being taken by WARDEN down a hallway corridor.

11. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (DEC)

POV on LISA. She is pacing and angry.

LISA

Why didn't you say something? You're supposed to be helping me. Acting like you care all the time. But you just sat there. Didn't say shit.

(BEAT)

I know how the system works. Don't tell me 'bout shit I already know. Why'n't you tell me 'bout shit I don't know. Like why the girl's mum had to come and say all those things about me and why my own mum couldn't even show up.

(Calmer, introspective)

Did you see the way everyone looked at me? Like I'm some kind of monster. I'm not a monster.

(BEAT)

I never meant to hurt anyone.

12. INT. CELL - PRESENT DAY

CU of burnt items on a wall. REVEAL a small room that's been fire damaged. A DISTINCTIVE CUSHION amongst items.

13. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (JAN)

LISA looks tired, defeated. Her hair looks worn, flat. Her face is stripped of make-up.

LISA
(dejected, catatonic)

They said I'd be transferring next week. I was getting sick of it here anyways. Could do with a bit of change.

(BEAT)
You know I used to think, if I could just get away from here, just far enough, I'd look back, and see how little we all are. Like tiny little ants, all lit up underneath. Just running around, breaking apart, waiting for the match to go out. At least in here, if you fall down, they kick you in the gut and say get the fuck up, or get outta my way.

14. INT. CELL - PRESENT DAY

ANGLE ON COUNSELLOR being shown something by WARDEN.

15. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK - (JAN)

LISA
People think it's about burning stuff up. But it's not. Sometimes, I just like watching a fire go, that's all. You know a match always gets a little jump in it when it starts to burn out. Like a last spark. And it gets so lonely like -
(BEAT)
Cos you know, I think even a match knows when it's dying.

16. INT. CELL - PRESENT DAY

REVEAL COUNSELLOR and WARDEN looking at a fire damaged cell. COUNSELLOR considers DISTINCTIVE CUSHION.

17. INT. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (JAN)

LISA
I asked mum. Why she didn't come. She said it wasn't a good time. Bet she'll even forget I'm going and turn up after I'm gone.
(BEAT)
If she does, I hope you're the one to tell her I'm gone. Tell her, I'm sorry. Yeah, tell her, I'm sorry, But we all get what we deserve. Don't we?
(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

(BEAT)

You lasted longer than I thought
you would.

18. INT. CELL - DAY - FLASHBACK

We see the same room before the fire. LISA sits on her cell bed holding the DISTINCTIVE CUSHION. We see the burnt photograph from before it was burnt. LISA considers the photograph of her with her mum.

Sound of a match striking.

19. INT. CELL/HALLWAY - PRESENT DAY

The COUNSELLOR and WARDEN leave the cell.

20. COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK - (JAN)

LISA

Well, that's time again isn't it?

CUT TO BLACK.