BBC TASTER SHORTS - THE BREAK

THE MATCH GIRL

Written by

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SHOOTI NG SCRI PT

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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.

LI SA

(Direct to camera)
Counselling's bullshit. I'm not
going to be that case for you.
Where you try and convince yourself
you're

LI SA (conver sat i onal)

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.

LI SA (ner vous)

Yeah. No. Mum was gonna come down but she said we ought ta 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.

LI SA

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)

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

(BEAT) You know I even liked one of the stories LI SA (dej ect ed, cat at oni c)

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)

LI SA

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.

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

LI SA

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)

(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.