

Jezebel

Written by

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January 6th, 2022

Draft #1

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FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

NOA is staring at her complexion in the mirror.

Her eyes are sunken. Her clothes are quite dark in color, and they hang loosely on her body. She doesn't brush her hair much anymore, and her ragged appearance reflects her unstable mind.

Her PHONE VIBRATES.

Missed texts from someone named SAM appear on her screen.

NOA ignores it.

She looks down at a DEAD RAT in the sink.

(V.O. NOA)

I know what you're thinking.

creepy music, dark lighting, breaking the fourth wall moment... a dead rat in the sink. An intriguing start to my story right?

NOA looks down at the rat.

(V.O. NOA)

What? Oh god no, I'm not going to eat it. No no, watch.

NOA's eyes start to glow.

The DEAD RAT in the sink starts to shake.

The DEAD RAT's eyes open.

They glow the same color as NOA's.

NOA smiles.

NOA cocks her head and the DEAD RAT stands up.

(V.O. NOA)

It's sort of like a fucked up version of ratatouille.

NOA's nose begins to bleed.

(V.O. NOA)  
I've been working on this all week.

NOA breathes heavily in concentration.

The DEAD RAT begins to lift its arms up.

(V.O. NOA)  
Wait for it.

The DEAD RAT dabs.

NOA collapses to the ground.

The DEAD RAT collapses.

(V.O. NOA)  
I'm Noa.

(NOTE: Hold on to this shot. The title will be slapped onto the mirror after both NOA and RAT are out of frame)

BLACK SCREEN

(V.O. NOA)  
I guess I should start from the beginning.

FADE IN:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE BEGINS:

EXT. FISHERMAN'S WHARF - 10 YEARS AGO

A young NOA (10 yrs old) is sitting on the railing at Fisherman's Wharf.

Her FATHER, an older man, dressed in nice clothing, has his back to NOA.

He suddenly turns around, revealing TWO CORNDOGS covered in KETCHUP.

He hands one to NOA.

NOA reaches for the CORNDOG, but her FATHER quickly smashes it on her face, getting ketchup all over her.

YOUNG NOA  
Dad!

NOA'S FATHER  
(in a bad Transylvanian accent)  
Now... you are a vampire! Ah Ah Ah!

The pair laugh.

They continue to laugh and eat the corndogs.

(V.O. NOA)  
It was always just me and my dad. Life  
was, good. Even with my mother out of  
the picture.

NOA's father wipes the ketchup off of YOUNG NOA's face.

CUT TO:

INT. NOA'S FATHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - 5 YEARS AGO

NOA, now around 16 years old, is standing in a prom dress.

She wears a corsage. She looks nervous.

There is a small bit of mascara smudged on her cheek.

NOA's FATHER, slightly graying now, walks up to her, smiling.

He wipes the stain from her face.

(V.O. NOA)  
This was the worst night of my life.

NOA's FATHER is holding a CAMERA.

16-year-old NOA stands awkwardly smiling.

He takes a picture, there is a blinding FLASH.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE ON THE PORCH - 5 YEARS AGO (HOURS LATER)

The FLASH reveals NOA standing awkwardly on the porch.

BLUE and RED POLICE LIGHTS bounce off her skin.

Makeup is running down her tear-stained face.

TWO DETECTIVES exit the door from behind her, conversing  
somberly.

A POLICE OFFICER offers her a BLANKET.

She takes it from him, her eyes never leaving the distance.

Wrapping it around herself, she stands amidst the chaos of the crime scene.

CUT TO:

INT. NOA'S FATHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - 5 YEARS AGO (WEEK LATER)

NOA is now in a black dress.

SWARMS OF PEOPLE SURROUND HER, MOVING LIKE WATER.

They are all dressed in black.

NOA just stands there.

(V.O. NOA)

The DA took me in after the funeral and told me they were still looking for the shooter. They said my father left me a shit ton of money. I asked the detective if I could write him a check to bring my Dad back.

Beat.

A part of me died that day.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE CATHEDRAL (SAN FRANCISCO) - A MONTH BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME

(V.O. NOA)

Fast forward a few years and now for the part that you've been anxiously waiting to hear. How did I get my powers?

NOA wanders around the inside of Grace Cathedral.

She gazes up at the stained glass, admiring its intricacy.

(V.O. NOA)

I would always come to places like these to look at the art.

NOA walks over to a sculpture. It's a memorial of the people who perished during the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

NOA brushes dust off of an engraving on the statue.

This causes her to sneeze.

An older woman sitting nearby in the pews speaks softly.

OLDER WOMAN

God bless you.

NOA scoffs.

NOA

God's not real.

As NOA says this, she hears a WHISPER.

WHISPER

Noa.

NOA looks around in confusion. There are a few lonely souls seeking refuge in the Cathedral with her. But the voice seemed to come from her mind.

(V.O. NOA)

This is that part in the movie where you go "No! Don't follow the creepy voice little girl!"

NOA hears the WHISPER again. It's coming from a door now.

WHISPER

Noa.

(V.O. NOA)

But this wouldn't be a fun story unless I followed it.

NOA, as if in a trance follows the voice.

It leads her to the front of the door.

She turns the handle, opening the door.

The WHISPER is louder now.

She peers down what appears to be a staircase.

A BREEZE shoots past her, carrying the WHISPER with it.

The BREEZE lights old candles down the cobblestone stairway, guiding NOA.

WHISPER

Noa!

NOA follows the WHISPER leading her into the depths of the cathedral.

The WHISPER seems to be coming from every corner now, overlapping in different tones.

WHISPER

Noa...

As NOA descends into the darkness, the room grows colder.

Candlelight flickers against her face as she appears to be in a dreamlike state.

The stairs fan out, eventually leading her into a crypt.

INT. CRYPT - GRACE CATHEDRAL - A MONTH BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME

NOA enters the crypt.

The BREEZE swirls around her, picking up DUST and a few pieces of PAPER.

WHISPER

Noa!

The WHISPER echoes off the walls of the crypt.

NOA steps towards what appears to be a tomb.

Inscribed on the sepulchre are the Latin words, "Maledicto Hiezabel"

Her hand reaches to graze the inscription.

As her fingertips make contact with the stone, a CRACK begins to form.

The CRACK spreads, until a small hole, revealing the interior of the tomb, is exposed.

A glowing smoke slowly rises from the hole.

NOA stares at the smoke, entranced, her fingers still on the

stone.

The smoke forms itself into a WHITE, GLOWING ORB.

The sounds emanating from the ORB can only be described as the sound of a thousand souls suffering.

The ORB floats for a moment, buzzing and vibrating with supernatural energy.

It suddenly forces itself into NOA.

NOA braces her body as the ORB sends glowing smoke into her mouth.

Her eyes glow white, as her screams meld together with the sounds of hell.

Wind rushes around her small frame as she emits white piercing light from her eyes and mouth.

She begins to lift off the ground, as the smoke from the orb continues to fill her body.

The smoke is now inside of NOA. She hovers above the floor, her hair floating around her face.

Her eyes are closed now.

She collapses to the floor.

Silence.

All that can be heard is a faint hiss echoing off the cavernous walls of the crypt.

INT. CRYPT - GRACE CATHEDRAL - A MONTH BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME - HOURS LATER

NOA opens her eyes quickly.

She is still inside the crypt, the cold hard floor beneath her.

She slowly stands up, sore and confused.

She touches her forehead where a cut seeps a small amount of blood.

NOA looks around at her surroundings, unsure of where she is.

Her eyes dart to the cracked tomb.

She reads the words from before, "Maledicto Hiezabel"

NOA's face turns white as she remembers what happened to her hours before.

She bolts out of the tomb as fast as she can.

INT. GRACE CATHEDRAL (SAN FRANCISCO) - A MONTH BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME - SECONDS LATER

NOA burst out of the doorway to the crypt.

There is a church service going on, and a few people turn their heads to the sound of the door.

NOA looks over to the exit of the Cathedral and makes her way over to it.

A SHATTERING sound can be heard.

A bird crashes through a nearby stained glass window, falling at NOA's feet.

The church service stops, as now everybody turns to look in NOA's direction

NOA ignores them.

The BIRD twitches as it takes its final breath.

It then goes still.

NOA crouches down to the bird.

She briefly touches it, to see if it could still be alive.

The dead bird's eyes open, but they are no longer the typical beady black color, they glow white.

NOA's eyes glow white.

The dead bird begins to twitch.

NOA gasps.

She backs away from the zombie bird in fear.

The bird's eyes fade back to black as it stops twitching.

A hand reaches over onto NOA's shoulder.

It is the older woman from before.

OLDER WOMAN  
Are you alright sweetheart?

NOA turns to face the woman.

Her eyes glow white.

The woman gasps and pulls her hand away in fear.

OLDER WOMAN  
Witch!

The word snaps NOA back to reality, her eyes fade back to normal.

She peers at the woman in confusion and terror.

NOA looks over to the churchgoers staring at her with disgust.

She quickly gets up and bolts out the Cathedral doors.

(V.O. NOA)  
This was when I knew I left that crypt  
with something.

FADE TO BLACK:

(V.O. NOA)  
Now that we got through all that,  
let's take things from the present.  
You remember, don't you?

Beat.

(V.O. NOA)  
The dead rat in the sink? Yeah, let's  
take it from there.

INT. NOA'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT TIME - NIGHT

NOA is sitting on her couch with a tissue shoved up her nose.

In the background, the TV is playing Jeopardy.

NOA isn't watching it, instead, she scrolls through her phone.

A KNOCK is heard at the door.

NOA gets up slowly.

She answers the door, tissue still shoved up her nose.

NOA  
Can I help you?

A pizza delivery man stands at the door with a pizza box.

He looks nervous.

PIZZA GUY  
Uh... Is this 66 Pinegrove way?

NOA  
Oh yeah. I forgot about the 'za

PIZZA GUY  
Just sign here.

The pizza delivery man stares at the tissue hanging out of NOA's nose as she signs the receipt.

NOA takes the pizza, mumbling a "thank you" and quickly shuts the door.

She takes the tissue out of her nose, it has blood on it.

She sits back down on the couch, now eating pizza.

NOA begins to watch Jeopardy.

JEOPARDY HOST (VOICE)  
On today's topic, we will be looking at Etymology or the study of words. Let's start with the first question, guess the word. Your clue is: Having physical custody or control of an object

NOA shoves another slice of pizza into her mouth.

JEOPARDY CONTESTANT (VOICE)  
What is possession?

JEOPARDY HOST (VOICE)  
Correct. Possession is the physical custody or control of-

Suddenly another KNOCK is heard at the door, cutting off the TV.

NOA looks over.

She doesn't answer.

The KNOCK is heard again.

NOA rolls her eyes.

NOA  
Go away!

The KNOCK is heard again and again.

NOA  
Motherfucker.

NOA turns off the TV.

She gets up again.

She storms to the door, opening it.

NOA  
Dude if this is about the pizza I  
already-

SAM  
Noa.

A girl, late teens stands at the door. She is wearing bright colors, and her hair is done quite nicely. She looks upset with her arms folded.

NOA  
(startled)  
Sam?

NOA stares at SAM.

SAM  
Are you going to let me in?

NOA begrudgingly opens the door, letting SAM walk inside.

SAM hugs her chest in discomfort looking at the messy state of NOA's apartment.

SAM

I've been trying to reach you for the past two weeks, Noa.

NOA sits down on the couch.

SAM stays standing.

NOA grabs another slice of pizza and takes a bite.

NOA

I've been busy.

SAM

Have you though? From the looks of it, I'd beg to differ.

NOA

What's that supposed to mean?

NOA speaks between bites.

SAM

Really? Okay. I invited you to my Mom's gala, you didn't come. You couldn't take a moment to pick up the phone. You couldn't spare a second to answer my texts. Can you just be honest with me Noa? What have I done wrong?

SAM looks genuinely hurt.

NOA notices this and softens slightly, putting the pizza down. She sighs.

NOA

Nothing. You've done nothing wrong, Sam.

SAM sits beside NOA, still upset.

SAM

Well, it sure as hell feels like I have. My best friend's been ignoring me for weeks.

SAM looks down and fiddles with her necklace, a silver cross.

Beat.

NOA is now the one who looks uncomfortable.

NOA

Okay, Sam. I'm sorry. It's not that I'm ignoring you, I've sort of been of ignoring everyone.

SAM

Is that supposed to make me feel better?

NOA

That came out wrong.

SAM looks hurt.

SAM

Look, I get it. Ever since your Dad died you've been weird.

NOA stiffens at the mention of her father.

SAM

-And then recently you've been cold and distant. Eventually, you need to get over that stuff. I know you don't like church but have you ever just thought about maybe-

NOA

You know nothing about what it's like to lose a parent. Your only parent.

SAM

That's not what I mean. Can't you just be a good friend for once in your life!

NOA stands up, furious.

NOA

Alright, Sam. You really wanna fucking see why I've been so distant? You wanna see!?

SAM looks scared.

NOA makes her way into the bathroom.

SAM sits uncomfortably on the couch.

NOA emerges, holding the DEAD RAT by its tail.

SAM gasps.

SAM

Ew. Noa, what the hell is that?

NOA angrily shoves the pizza and clutter off her table, it falls to the floor. She slams the DEAD RAT onto the table.

SAM looks like she's going to be sick.

NOA stands above the RAT.

NOA

You wanted to know why I've been so distant huh?

SAM looks at the RAT, then back at NOA. She quickly looks over at the door.

NOA

Oh, what? Are you scared?

SAM

Seriously Noa- what is this. What are you doing?

NOA stares at the RAT.

Her eyes glow white.

The DEAD RAT's eyes open white.

SAM gasps in horror.

NOA

Ever since my Dad died I've been weird huh? Is this weird to you? Is this what you wanted to see?

NOA makes the RAT stand up on all fours.

It looks over at SAM.

SAM screams at this, clutching her necklace.

SAM

Noa please! Stop!

The RAT starts to slowly crawl towards Sam.

Its beady white eyes fixated on her with the same intensity as NOA.

NOA  
I'm just your creepy freak friend  
right?

NOA's nose begins to bleed again, it drips onto the floor, staining the carpet.

SAM pushes herself back against the couch, the RAT inching closer and closer.

SAM begins to cry.

NOA  
You think you know everything about  
me. You don't know shit.

The RAT is at the edge of the table now. Both the RAT and NOA are looking dead at SAM like prey.

Suddenly, NOA makes the RAT POUNCE onto SAM.

SAM screams and pushes the RAT off of her.

She has a bloody scratch on her face.

NOA's eyes fade back to normal.

She sees the scratch on SAM's face.

NOA  
Wait no, I didn't want it to hurt you.

SAM stands up shaking, nursing her wound.

SAM  
What the hell is wrong with you!  
What... What are you?

SAM gets up to leave, cowering in fear.

NOA  
I... I was just trying to scare you. I  
didn't mean to hurt you.

SAM turns around, sobbing and bleeding.

SAM  
Hurt me? Hurt me! You- You're a

fucking freak! Stay the hell away from me.

With that, SAM walks to the door and rushes out.

NOA stands for a moment.

Like an ocean tide, her emotions overcome her.

She crumples to the floor in a tiny heap.

Her hands run through her hair and scrunch it into a knotty bundle as she sobs into the carpet.

INT. NOA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - A FEW HOURS LATER

NOA is sleeping.

She tosses and turns from side to side, having a nightmare.

SAM (VOICE)  
You're a fucking freak!

NOA grimaces in her sleep.

NOA  
(whispers in her sleep)  
No.

OLDER WOMAN (VOICE)  
Witch!

NOA mumbles incoherently. Her brow furrowed in sadness.

DA (VOICE)  
We never could find the shooter. I'm sorry kid.

NOA  
(whisper)  
Dad.

The voices from the orb return.

Screams and wallows crescendo off the walls and get louder.

NOA  
(whisper)  
No.

WHISPER

You know what you have to do.

NOA wakes up in a cold sweat.

She pants as she catches her breath.

Her alarm clock shows the time, 3:00 am.

Alone in her apartment, she walks to her couch in the dark.

INT. NOA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

The living room is messier than before.

Pizza litters the floor, the rat is in the corner.

A broken lamp lays on its side.

NOA sits on the couch.

She looks around at the mess she made, her eyes resting on the RAT.

She takes a breath and closes her eyes.

Beat.

NOA opens them, but her face has grown dark.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT - LATER

It is now 4 in the morning.

NOA is sitting amongst a graveyard.

In front of her is a gravestone.

She stares at it with intensity and a hint of deep sadness.

She is scared.

The air grows cold.

NOA hears a voice.

WHISPER

You know what to do.

NOA is no longer afraid.

She huffs a sigh and stands up.

Staring at a headstone.

NOA  
Hey dad.

CUT TO BLACK

ROLL CREDITS