TONI LIBRA

by

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Raymond Kelly II Filmmaking I INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tidiest place you've ever seen.

FEMALE VOICE This human is too much, how can you allow this to continue?

No patience for politeness, no time for leisure, the voice belongs to TONI LIBRA.

Seated before her is an older, wise face, calm eyes. But he's no ordinary human. In fact, this is GOD.

GOD They're your wings, not mine. This is what you wanted, remember?

TONI Father, he doesn't need a guardian angel. He needs prison.

GOD He needs guidance.

TONI Then, give him to Satan.

BA-BOOM! Thunder booms. Apparently at God's command as He shoots Toni an angered look.

TONI (CONT'D) Sorry, I'm just saying. He's not easy to get along with, and that's the sad truth.

GOD His mother died when was a baby, his father left him when he was seven, and two foster parents later, he's heading down all the wrong roads. You're all he's got. The sad truth? You fail to realize what you can learn from him.

Toni sighs, sinks into her seat, pauses. Why her?

JOHNNY BRIMSTONE exchanges books at his locker. Arrogant soul. Just cool enough to be classified as a geek, and not a nerd.

When he shuts the locker, Toni has appeared out of nowhere. Startled, Johnny yelps.

TONI

Hi.

JOHNNY You freak-ass crackpot, I told you to stop doing that.

TONI Gosh, do you always have to be so angry?

JOHNNY

Let's trade places so I can be the clumsy guardian angel, and you be the human who suffers behind him.

TONI Become a mortal like you so I can fall in love knowing it'll never work? Live a life that's not promised to you tomorrow? No thanks, I'm here to help, not live to die.

JOHNNY Help? All you do is hurt!

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

ON THE TRACK

Johnny marches towards the parking lot, past the football field where a group of JOCKS throw a football around.

JOHNNY (V.O.) You got me beamed with that football.

TONI (0.S.)

Johnny!

Johnny pauses. Spots Toni just meters away. Rushing straight towards him.

TONI (CONT'D) Johnny, watch out for the ball!

JOHNNY

What ball?

Just then, a jock launches the football. But it overshoots his target. Heading straight for Johnny.

Johnny bolts for safety.

TONI Keep going! Keep going!

Twenty yards deep, Johnny stops for a breather. As the football nails him in the head anyway and takes him down.

Toni flinches.

TONI (CONT'D) Sorry. Sent you too far.

INT. CLASS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Late, Johnny rushes into Math class.

JOHNNY (V.O.) You let me take those gas pills.

Annoyed, TEACHER hands him his test. Johnny heads to the back of the class, hand on his stomach, face frowned.

Just as he takes a seat, the unpleasant SQUEALS of gas ripping from his rear end draws silence.

Appalled, classmates begin to search for the perpetrator.

First row student looks to the second row student. Second row looks to Johnny.

Johnny looks to fourth row -- there is no fourth row. He's the last one.

Ashamed, he faces a grossed out class.

Stands. Darts out the room.

EXT. PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Johnny surrounded by angry THUGS. They argue.

JOHNNY (V.O.) You didn't save me when I got jumped. Toni rushes into the circle, trips and falls forward. Right into Johnny's arm. In a chain reaction, WHAM! His fist lands right on the leader's nose. JOHNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D) And you're lucky no one can see you when you're supposed to be doing your angel thing. JOHNNY (CONT'D) Wait, I can explain! It was my quardian angel! (off their look) She's right there! Confused, thugs look in Toni's direction. No one there. Thugs look back to Johnny. He's not there either. He's running for his life, already twenty yards deep. At once, thugs give chase. They catch up. Pounce on him violently. INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) Johnny collapses on his bed after a long day. A RING TONE goes off. JOHNNY (V.O.) And when you do become visible so I can stop looking like a jack-ass, you give my phone number to Avanti! Digs out his cellular, answers. JOHNNY (CONT'D) Hello? INTERCUT - JOHNNY AND AVANTI Tall, deep voice, facial hair, AVANTI would be the perfect boy... if she weren't a girl. Sits exited on her bed, cordless phone to her ear.

Johnny bolts straight up. Can't be hearing right.

JOHNNY

Avanti?

AVANTI

Yes! Oh, my gosh, You have got to thank that Toni girl for me. You just don't know how long --

JOHNNY

Sorry, I'm not even in right now. But if you leave your name, number, and brief message after the beep, I'll make sure I get back at you.

Avanti sits. Waiting.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

BEEP.

She breaks into laughter.

AVANTI Johnny Brimstone, you made that message just for me? Aww, that's so sweet, you so had me fooled. But down to business... I'm still madly in love with you --

Disgusted, Johnny hangs up the phone.

AVANTI (CONT'D) Hello? Hello?

INT. SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

JOHNNY

Life wasn't great, but it sure wasn't hell until you showed up. I don't need an angel, or a fallen angel at that.

She pins him against the locker.

TONI Listen up, earth's no picnic, and neither is caring for a ungrateful soul like you.

TONI (CONT'D) Now, I need my wings back, and trust me, you are going to help me. JOHNNY Whoa, don't get your panties in a bunch, this is all your fault, remember? TONI Excuse me? What did you just say? JOHNNY (slower) I said don't get your panties --She SLAPS him hard into the locker. Infuriated, she walks away. JOHNNY (CONT'D) Geez, my nose! You're an angel, you can't do that! TONI Fallen angel. EXT. RIVER - NIGHT Toni sits knees to her chest. Chunking rocks as far as she can into the passing streams. JOHNNY (O.S.) Thought I'd find you here.

Johnny pushes through a bush, takes a seat beside her.

TONI What do you want?

He hesitates, can't believe what he's about to say.

JOHNNY To apologize. I've been a real asshole.

TONI Multiplied by a million.

JOHNNY I didn't ask to be this way, you know.

Toni ignores him. Johnny frown - he's getting nowhere.

JOHNNY (CONT'D) I've got homework to do. Starts to his feet, but she pulls him back down. TONI Johnny, wait. Maybe I should apologize to you too. I mean, look at me, I'm clumsy, impatient --JOHNNY Self-centered. TONI Well --JOHNNY Psycho. TONT Okay. The point is nobody's perfect, and I shouldn't have been expecting it from you. I'm sorry. Johnny nods in acceptance. They gaze out over the river. JOHNNY So... what's Heaven like? Toni smiles. TONI Don't think there's a word here on earth that can describe it. JOHNNY Maybe I'll actually end up there one day, if I'm lucky. TONI One day. JOHNNY This sounds crazy... but, have you ever seen her? (off her look) My mom? A touching question. Toni keeps her eyes locked with him. TONI Many times.

Toni stares back out over the river.

TONI

Radiant face. Skin smooth as silk. Jet black hair. Just an all around wonderful person. I know her because I used to protect her.

Johnny face fills with shock.

TONI (CONT'D) On her death bed she asked me to protect you.

Pulls a necklace from her pocket. There is a DOLPHIN ornament attached.

TONI (CONT'D) This is her necklace.

Johnny's eyes light up with wonder as she passes it into his hands.

TONI (CONT'D) When she died, this was all I had left of her. Now, I have you.

Johnny gapes into Toni's eyes. Puts the necklace around his neck.

JOHNNY Maybe there is someone I can trust.

TONI

Maybe.

They share gaze. Frozen for a moment in time. And then --

CRIMINAL (O.S.) Not so fast, lover birds.

A CRIMINAL. Definite drug addict. Sweating his nervousness away. His firearm aimed dead at them.

CRIMINAL (CONT'D) Gimme the cash, I need the cash, I need the drugs.

Johnny steps in front of Toni, though terrified.

JOHNNY Wait a sec. Let's talk about this.

CRIMINAL You think I'm playing?

Criminal COCKS the gun. Right before he pulls the trigger --Toni leaps in front of Johnny, casts her hands up.

Criminal's arm freezes in mid-air. Stuck. He tugs away. But as long as Toni hands are up, he's frozen in time.

> CRIMINAL (CONT'D) What the hell? Stop it you little freak.

Both begin to tremble - Criminal trying to break free. Toni using all her might to keep him at bay.

TONI You picked the wrong night, pal. And the wrong gal.

With an impressive burst of strength, Toni shoves forward --

Supernaturally shoving the man into the parking lot. Climbs to his feet. Suddenly, he is drenched in WHITE LIGHT.

HEADLIGHTS of an SUV.

Criminal shrieks. IMPACT.

He soars across the parking lot.

DRIVER and PASSENGER leap out. Study the addict closely.

PASSENGER Oh, no. Is he dead?

Finally, criminal groans.

DRIVER He's alive.

PASSEGER What do we do?

DRIVER Back in the car. Let's go.

They escape to the vehicle.

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Toni gapes into the parking lot, stunned.

TONI I did it. I saved your life.

JOHNNY

Not bad.

Just then, WHITE LIGHT falls around them. Toni looks up. Knows what it is. Pulls away.

JOHNNY (CONT'D) What is that?

TONI I saved your life. My wings are waiting for me.

Johnny looks to the light, then back to Toni.

JOHNNY I thought all you had was me?

Toni gazes back, a little guilty. But it's the sad truth.

TONI Johnny, look at us. We're not of the same body. Not of the same world. I couldn't dare give up my life. To know that one day, I'll actually die.

JOHNNY Death is a part of life.

TONI But not mine. I'm so sorry Johnny. But I have to go.

Steps away from him, towards the brilliant light.

Suddenly, it brightens, so bright he must cover his eyes. And just as quickly as it came --

It's gone. Leaving Johnny alone in the dark. Sad. Hurt.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Toni steps out of the light. Door SHUTS behind her. She grins.

TONI Father, I did it! I saved him! God spins around in his chair. GOD You did. I'm proud of you, you've come a long way. TONI Couldn't have did it without you. GOD Or, Johnny. The beaming smile slowly fades into saddened uncertainty. TONI I'll miss him. God nods. GOD Well? I'm waiting. TONI On what? GOD For you to make up your mind. Your wings are ready for take off, but so is your heart. Just say the magic words. That this what you want back forever. TONI You know what I'm thinking? GOD All the time. I just want you to remember this: once you choose, there is no turning back. Toni takes a deep breath. TONI I know. God pauses. Smiles. GOD Then, it is done. He CLAPS.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

Johnny sits, numb to the world as he stares out over the reflections in the river. WHITE LIGHT. Beaming behind him.

Stands, turns.

Toni emerges. The light vanishes.

TONI

Johnny!

Speechless, he gapes back at her.

She sprints to his arms, trips.

Johnny rushes to her side. Toni grunts in pain.

JOHNNY Don't move, let me see.

Examines her leg. These is a small cut.

JOHNNY (CONT'D) Not bad. Just needs cleaning and a small band-aid --

He pauses, cold in confusion.

JOHNNY (CONT'D) You... you're bleeding.

He helps her to her feet. Realization sinks in.

JOHNNY (CONT'D) You gave up your wings?

TONI Why? Was it not worth it?

JOHNNY But, for me? Why? What about dying?

Toni looks away at first. Gazes back into his eyes.

TONI Everyone dies. But friendship is forever. Maybe you can protect me for a change.

JOHNNY I think I can make that happen. She entwines her hands with his. The beginning of a beautiful friendship.

TONI Let's get out of here.

As they start off, Toni trips. Johnny lunges for her. Misses. She HITS the ground.

JOHNNY

Oops. Sorry.

Toni grins... breaks into laughter.

FADE OUT.