

"THE SOUND OF SILENCE"

Written by

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INT. SAN FRANCISCO-CHINATOWN FUNERAL VIEWING ROOM-1958-DAY

LIN LIU (Mostly LUNA) (nine years old, Hong Kong born, Chinese, attractive girl) is standing at the end of the aisle of a number of seated GUESTS with her elementary school teacher, MRS. WOO (Chinese woman, middle-aged, schoolmarm type). Her Father had committed suicide by hanging himself in a state of depression and despair.

Luna, now early twenties, narrates the scene.

LUNA (V.O.)

That's my Dad. Even now, after more than ten years, I still have a very hard time saying it. He.... committed.....suicide....

Luna takes her teacher's hand and tries to look at the casket.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Back in those days, Chinatown had the highest rate of suicide in the whole United States. My Dad was very heartbroken over my Mom's passing when I was born. So, I never really knew my Mom.

Luna glances up to her teacher for guidance and her teacher squeezes her hand and gives Luna a comforting smile as they move toward the front of the viewing room.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Dad and I left Hong Kong for San Francisco when I was only about four or five years old. My Dad could only get manual work, mostly doing laundry or washing dishes, even though he was highly educated back in Hong Kong. Losing my mom and his dignity was just too much for him.

Luna's teacher motions for her to start to walk toward the front of the viewing room to greet her Father.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I always remember sitting on my Dad's lap as he read to me from the Golden Book Series, "The Three Little Kittens". That was my favorite and I always dreamed of having a kitten of my own some day.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
But, my Dad said that we couldn't
afford one more mouth to feed.

Luna's teacher starts to walk her forward to the front of
the viewing room.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
My teacher, Mrs. Woo, bought me a new
DRESS and SHOES for the funeral since
I had nothing nice of my own. She
wanted me to look pretty for Dad. I
remember that she also gave me a box
of chocolates, although I would have
rather had a kitten.

Luna and Mrs. Woo move closer to the front of the viewing
room as people sob and speak in hushed tones.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I was hoping she gave me a kitten.
But, she informed me that where I was
going, they really didn't allow such
things. I wondered where on earth am
I going that they don't allow a cute,
little kitten? Everybody loves cute
and little kittens. Well, maybe most
do.....

Luna finally takes a number of steps closer to the front of
the viewing room.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Well, at least the dress, shoes and
chocolates helped a bit. But, I was
so scared of what I was about to see.
I wanted to scream. I wanted to hurt
someone, anyone to make them
understand some of the pain that I
felt, even though I was very numb. I
had no idea what to expect and it was
so hot in there. The overwhelming
smell of gardenias and peonies
choking me. It was so dimly lit with
wavering candlelight. I recognized a
few of the faces, the expressions on
everyone's faces. Mostly pity for the
poor, young thing that had just lost
her Father in a most tragic way.

Luna is now halfway to the front of the viewing room.

(CONTINUED)

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LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I heard sobs in the background as my teacher guided me to the front of the room toward the casket. It was as large as a row boat. My legs felt wooden and it was as if my feet continually snagged the carpet as we moved toward my Father.

Luna stumbles a bit as she and Mrs. Woo move to the front of the casket. Mrs. Woo's hand trembles on Luna's shoulder as Luna looks up at her and sees her teacher bring both of her hands to her mouth as she stifles a SOB.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I was too numb to cry. I could barely see over the coffin and the velvet lining that pillowed around my Dad. His eyes were shut and I was struck by how much he seemed to be a wax facsimile of the man I adored. The expression on his face was not one I recognized. I thought to myself, this is not my Father, not the gentle and kind face that I knew. They weren't the same eyes that lit up when I told him about my adventures at school. His hands weren't the same ones that touched my face, soothed my hair and told me that I was loved. I wanted to be loved again. But now, there was no one there to love me. I wanted to cry so badly, but not a tear trickled.

Mrs. Woo notices that Luna's knees are starting to buckle and motions for her to kneel before the casket.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I would hear people's voices around Chinatown say that I was an "orphan". I wasn't really sure what that meant. It was a strange word to me and I wondered where exactly do "orphans" end up in this world. A place where cute, little kittens are forbidden?

Mrs. Woo bends down to kiss Luna on the forehead.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I knew enough to say a prayer to Buddha before rising.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 I was trembling so much inside and
 thought if that man in the casket
 wasn't my Father, then where is he?
 When would I see him again?

INT. MRS. WOO'S CHINATOWN APARTMENT - THAT EVENING

Luna is alone in bed for the evening, staring blankly and
 lost at the ceiling above her.

LUNA (V.O.)
 Not until that evening when I was all
 alone in bed that all my tears came
 out like a flowing river. All of the
 sadness, loneliness, anger and fear
 that I had kept pent up inside all
 day released into the room. It all
 came out and I wanted to scream. Come
 to think of it, I did. Because, my
 teacher came into the bedroom and
 tried to comfort me and told me that
 Buddha loved me and would always
 watch over me.

Mrs. Woo is sitting on the side of the bed hugging Luna and
 trying to wipe Luna's never, ending tears with a tissue.
 But, there is no stopping the ebb tide of never, ending tears
 from Luna's eyes. Mrs. Woo rocks Luna to sleep.

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Buddha? I felt so all alone. What was
 worse, after my Dad's suicide, I
 hated myself and I lost faith in
 everything. I got deeply depressed
 and wanted to die to be with him. I
 wanted to walk out into the bay
 towards Alcatraz Island until I
 couldn't touch bottom any longer and
 sink. But, I was a coward.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN CATHOLIC ORPHANAGE - NEXT DAY

Mrs. Woo is holding Luna's hand as they stand before the
 FRONT GATES of the orphanage.

LUNA (V.O.)
 And the saddest thing, I would hear
 lots of gossip and whispering all
 through Chinatown that I was an
 "orphan" and that my Dad was probably
 in hell for what he did.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (V.O.) (cont'd)

That being said, if he was in hell then I wanted to be in the gates of hell with him. I thought it surely would be a better place than going through these gates, a place that forbids cute little kittens. All alone as "one" in this world with no one to give me love.

END OF NARRATION.

Mrs. Woo is carrying a large CAKE BOX that will be presented to the ORPHANAGE CHILDREN. Luna is curious, yet anxious and fearful, as she looks through the front gates of the orphanage. Mrs. Woo bends down to face her.

MRS. WOO

This will be such an exciting new life for you. You'll see. You'll meet so many new friends among the children inside.

Luna's eyes lower, trying to avoid Mrs. Woo's gaze.

LUNA

Mrs. Woo? There's a cross there....

MRS. WOO

Where?

Luna glances up quickly and points above the front gate to the CROSS on the orphanage and Mrs. Woo looks to where she is pointing.

MRS. WOO (cont'd)

Yes. This is a Catholic orphanage.

LUNA

But, I'm.....Buddhist.

MRS. WOO

This is the best orphanage in Chinatown for an excellent education for you. Besides, it is the only one that had an opening for you.

LUNA

But, I don't know anything about being....."Catholic"?

MRS. WOO

I'm sure it's all going to feel very different at first. That's okay.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. WOO (cont'd)

That's a normal feeling. Everything might seem a bit strange, at first. But, don't worry. Just do the best you can. I'm sure you're going to do just fine.

A bewildered Luna just looks through the gates, then up at the cross with a sad expression and then back at the ground in front of her. Mrs. Woo stands up and takes Luna's hand and tries to walk towards the front gates.

MRS. WOO (cont'd)

The other children will be so delighted to see what you brought for them. This yummy cake...

Luna's eyes quickly look at the cake box that Mrs. Woo is holding and then back at the ground.

MRS. WOO (cont'd)

I'll come visit you, every chance I get, I promise....

Luna now looks up at her so confused. Suddenly, the front gate opens and it is SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (mid-twenties, natural beauty, warm, kind, understanding persona).

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Good afternoon. My name is Sister Gabrielle Marie. You can call me simply "Sister", if you prefer. We've been expecting you.

Luna curiously looks up to study the Sister, never having seen a Sister dressed in full habit. Sister bends down eye level.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)

And this must be our Miss Lin Liu?

MRS. WOO

Yes, it certainly is. She likes to go by "Luna". A nickname her Father affectionately gave her. Her Dad always said her eyes were so big and so bright like a full moon in the night.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

They are indeed, so pretty and bright. And I bet she is just as bright and smart as can be.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. WOO
Number one in her class. I hate to
lose her in my classroom. Luna? Say
"thank-you" to Sister for her
compliments.

LUNA
(shyly)
Thank-you.....

MRS. WOO
(correcting)
"Thank-you, Sister", Luna...

A beat.

LUNA
Thank-you....Sister.

The Sister stands and motions for them to enter the gates.
Mesmerized, Luna stares at the Sister who walks gracefully
with hands in her sleeves and eyes focused on the ground.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
Please come in. The children are
anxiously waiting to meet Miss Lin...

LUNA
(to herself)
"Luna"....

Mrs. Woo takes Luna's hand again to lead her through the
front gates. But, Luna stands her ground.

LUNA (cont'd)
I don't belong here....

MRS. WOO
Course you do. The children are
waiting for you, to meet you...

LUNA
My Father would be so upset. He
didn't raise me to be a "Catholic".
He wouldn't like it, not one bit...

MRS. WOO
No one is going to force you to be
Catholic. Just learn as much as you
can and pray to Buddha every night
for his guidance and blessings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luna struggles not to cry.

MRS. WOO (cont'd)

Be a big girl and let's just give it a try. Sister is so nice. I'll come back next week to see how you're doing. I promise....

Still barely holding back the tears, Luna just stares at Mrs. Woo and then at Sister Gabrielle Marie and then back at the ground with an expression as if she wants to run.

LUNA

(finally speaking)

You promise?....You promise to come back?...Next week?

Mrs. Woo smiles down at her and Luna finally offers her hand back to be led through the gates to the orphanage.

INT. CHINATOWN CATHOLIC ORPHANAGE REFECTORY - CONTINUOUS

Sister Gabrielle Marie introduces Luna to the CHILDREN encouraging her to help cut the CAKE. While Luna is distracted, Mrs. Woo quietly leaves the orphanage. When Luna looks up she realizes that Mrs. Woo is no longer in the room and runs to the front window. Luna is barely holding back the tears, not knowing where to turn for comfort. Sister comes to comfort her and lead her back to the other orphans.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Children? You can call Miss Lin here, "Luna". Her Father gave her that nickname because of her big and beautiful eyes. Aren't her eyes like a bright and full moon?

A number of GIGGLES and LAUGHTER erupt from the children. Luna is totally embarrassed as Sister leads her to the table to encourage her to continue serving the other children. Luna keeps looking down at the floor and pretends not to watch the other children having a good time eating the cake, feeling so very perplexed and pensive.

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS (and throughout the MONTAGE)- "As Tears Go By" by The Rolling Stones.

MONTAGE:

INT. ORPHANAGE CLOTHING DISPENSARY - NEXT DAY

Luna is following behind Sister, carrying her new Catholic SCHOOL UNIFORMS. Sister then leads Luna to a changing room for her to change into her new school uniform.

INT. CHANGING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luna looks completely embarrassed as she changes into her uniform. She struggles to hide her own body from herself as she looks in the MIRROR and feels totally lost and embarrassed as she finally finishes changing and stares at herself in the mirror.

EXT. ORPHANAGE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

It's recess hour and though all of the children run and play, Luna just sits by herself under and against a TREE in the courtyard. A complete loner with a sad expression.

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - EVENING

Luna is sitting on her bed as the other GIRLS giggle and tease each other before lights out. Luna suddenly looks a bit struck by all the girls fumbling through their prayers as they kneel by the side of their beds. She looks at the number of CROSSES on the wall and a picture of JESUS on the wall, a strange environment indeed.

INT. ORPHANAGE REFECTORY - NEXT MORNING

All of the children are quietly eating their morning breakfast, except for Luna. Luna is simply staring down at her morning CEREAL, JUICE, EGGS and TOAST with an expression on her face as if wishing to be far away from this place.

INT. ORPHANAGE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Luna is doing her daily assignment chores washing the dinner PLATES and SILVERWARE. Still on the verge of tears but holding them back to please her Father.

EXT. ORPHANAGE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Luna is sitting against her favorite TREE alone and glancing shyly at the other children playing in the courtyard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

END OF THE MONTAGE.

EXT. ORPHANAGE COURTYARD - NEXT MORNING

A single line of the children march together through the morning light in perfect military precision, towards the CHAPEL. Luna still has a confused and lost look on her face as she marches along with the other children.

INT. ORPHANAGE CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

Now inside the orphanage's tiny chapel, votive candles ILLUMINATE the altar. JESUS on the CROSS is above the ALTAR. Noticing the confused and lost look on Luna's face, Sister Gabrielle Marie sits in the PEW next to her. Sister points with her head to Jesus on the Cross.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 (to Luna)
 That's the Savior of us, Jesus
 Christ.....

Luna just takes it all in and then looks confused at the Sister. All of the children then lower their heads to pray except for Luna who can't help but steal a glance toward the altar and up at Jesus on the Cross.

Sister notices Luna is distracted and gently nudges her. Sister gives her a look like, "everyone's praying". Luna tries to comply and pretends to pray like the other children, but still giving little glances all around the tiny chapel.

EXT. CHINATOWN ORPHANAGE - FRONT GATES - NEXT DAY

Luna sneaks out the FRONT DOOR of the orphanage and attempts to climb over the FRONT GATES to escape. She gets to standing on top of the GATE CONCRETE WALL and stares down at the other side of the WALL, as if to decide whether she should jump or not. Sister comes running out of the front door in a panic noticing Luna standing up on the CONCRETE PILLAR.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 Luna! Luna? Come down from there,
 this instance.....

Luna just keeps looking down at the ground on the other side of the wall and doesn't answer. Sister takes her key and opens the GATE and leaves the GATE open.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
 Okay? You want to leave, the gate is
 open.....

Luna just stares at the OPEN GATE as Sister walks briskly away and back into the orphanage. Luna slowly gets down from the CONCRETE PILLAR and contemplates leaving through the open gate. She finally gets enough nerve and walks cautiously through the gate and out into Chinatown. She slowly walks and looks back every five steps, as if she is unsure if this is the right path to take.

INT. REVEREND MOTHER HELEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Luna is sitting in a chair in front of REVEREND MOTHER HELEN'S (very stern, late 50's) desk. Reverend Mother is sitting behind her desk staring at Luna. Luna has her head down in embarrassment.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 So child? Would you like to tell me
 just where you were headed?

Luna doesn't answer. She keeps her head down and looking at the floor shyly.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
 Miss Liu? I asked you a question.
 Just what were your intentions?

LUNA
 (barely audible)
 I wanted to see my Father....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Your Father?

LUNA
 My.....Father....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 And, dear child? Do you know where
 your Father is?

A beat.

LUNA
 In.....the...cemetery. I want to see
 him.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
And when you see him? What exactly
were you intending on doing?

LUNA
Tell him....I don't...belong here.
I'm not...Catholic....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
I see. And where do you think you
belong, Miss Liu?

LUNA
In.....Hell....with him...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
My goodness child? Why do you say
such things?

LUNA
That's what people say. He's in
Hell.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Well? Then it is our job to make sure
that the two of you stay out of that
place. Now, isn't it?

Luna doesn't answer, just looks confused.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
There is no need to go to that
cemetery. Saying your morning and
evening prayers, talking to your
Father through your prayers, he will
hear you. And the Lord will hear you
to forgive your Father, so both of
you will meet in Heaven some day. Do
you understand, my child? Eventually,
you'll find a new family that will
adopt you.

LUNA
I don't want a new family. I'm not
going anywhere.

Luna just shrugs her shoulders at the floor in front of her,
still not understanding all of this confusion.

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY - LATER THAT DAY

Luna is in the library and notices a BOOK that her Father use to read to her. It's the Golden Book "The Three Little Kittens". She takes the book to be checked out where another orphan girl is assigned to work. It is SUSIE SONG (Chinese, fifteen years old girl, a bit brazen and out spoken). Susie looks at the BOOK in disdain and GIGGLES. Luna shifts on her feet unsure how to take Susie's reaction.

SUSIE

That's a stupid kiddie book. What are you, two years old, in need of diapers?

A long pause as an embarrassed Luna struggles to think of what to say.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Are you a mute? I never heard you talk, not even once since you....

LUNA

(finally speaking)

My Father used to read it to me...

SUSIE

(still giggling)

Probably when you still were in wet diapers.....

Again a long beat.

LUNA

Not so. I just always wanted a little kitten of my own...

SUSIE

Keep dreaming. They don't allow stupid cats here...

LUNA

Cats aren't stupid. They're very smart....

SUSIE

Says who? Anyway, how would you know. Probably never, ever had one....

A long beat as Susie signs out the book to Luna. Luna is embarrassed as she looks around the room, not noticing that Susie is holding the book out for her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE (cont'd)
 (loudly)
 Do you want the stupid, baby diaper
 book, or not?

A number of the CHILDREN in the library start to GIGGLE and LAUGH at Luna. Luna suddenly runs out of the library in embarrassment without taking the book from Susie.

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Luna is lying on her bed staring up at the ceiling, feeling very lost and on the verge of tears. She notices a SHADOW above her bed and props herself up to see Susie standing over her holding her GOLDEN BOOK for her to take.

SUSIE
 You forgot your book....

A long beat.

LUNA
 I don't want it anymore...

SUSIE
 Why not? It's checked out in your
 name. Can't have a cat here, might as
 well have the book...

LUNA
 I said, I don't want it...

Luna turns on her side to face away to hide her embarrassment from Susie. Susie tosses the book on the end of Luna's bed and walks away to her bed. As Susie prepares herself for bed, she glances curiously now and then over to Luna lying on her side in her bed.

INT. ORPHANAGE CHAPEL - NEXT MORNING

Susie is sitting next to Luna in one of the pews. All of the CHILDREN have their heads lowered in prayer and in complete silence.

SUSIE
 (whispering to Luna)
 Finish your book?

A long pause as Luna struggles hard to think of something to say back to Susie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE (cont'd)

You know, you never had a cat. I never had a Father. Least, you had a Father....

From the back of the chapel, one of the Nuns makes a "hissing keep quiet sound". Luna just keeps her head down pretending to pray, too scared to say anything to upset the Nuns. But, Susie's brazen persona doesn't care.

SUSIE (cont'd)

My Mom dumped me here, didn't want me anymore. Can you believe that?

LUNA

(barely audible)

Sounds familiar....

SUSIE

Then, I guess we're both dumped here like garbage.....

Luna just looks down at the floor with an expression on her face "I really didn't need to be reminded of that".

EXT. ORPHANAGE COURTYARD - LATER THAT DAY

It's recess time again and Luna is sitting under her favorite tree with her head down, a most definite loner from the other children. Again, she notices a SHADOW above her.

SUSIE

If you like books so much, I can get you a "gig" in the library with me?

LUNA

But, I'm assigned by Sister to the kitchen.....

SUSIE

Fuck that! I can pull some strings...

Luna looks down in embarrassment at Susie's language.

LUNA

(finally speaking)

Why?

SUSIE

Least, I can do. You know? To.... apologize?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

For what?

SUSIE

Embarrassing you....

LUNA

You didn't embarrass me....

SUSIE

Then why the fuck did you run?

Again, Luna looks down in embarrassment at Susie's language.

LUNA

How did you learn "talk" like that?

SUSIE

What "fuck"? My Mom always said it, what the fucks the big deal?

LUNA

The Sisters will hear you...

SUSIE

Fuck them! You want the gig, or not?

ONE WEEK LATER.

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY - DAY

Luna is now assigned to the library with Susie pulling some strings. They are at the check-out desk, when Susie takes Luna's hand and pulls her to the BACK ROOM and then out the BACK DOOR behind the orphanage building.

EXT. LIBRARY OUTSIDE BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Susie and Luna sit down on the ground outside the back door. Susie reaches under her school girl uniform and pulls out a pack of cigarettes and matches from inside her school girl undergarments. Luna is shocked and panicked as she watches Susie light up a cigarette and starts smoking. Luna tries to get up in a panic to retreat back inside. Susie pulls her back down by her arm.

SUSIE

Sit the fuck back down....

LUNA

But, we'll get caught...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

Let them! Where are they going to send us, to Alcatraz Island? We're already the fuck in prison, alone and forgotten.....

A long beat as Luna keeps her eyes down at the ground, almost afraid to look at Susie smoking her cigarette. Susie then offers her cigarette to Luna.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Here, try.....

Luna just stares at the smoldering cigarette like it is something nasty and forbidden.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Don't be a fucking big cry baby in diapers. Try it....

The words "cry baby" make Luna cringe.

LUNA

But, I'm only nine....

SUSIE

Who the fuck cares. Just try it, or should we go get you a pair of fucking diapers?

Luna starts to feel a bit intimidated by the reference to being a big cry baby in diapers. She hesitantly reaches for the cigarette like it is a nasty spider to hold. She takes a puff of the cigarette in a clumsy way and starts to CHOKE very loudly. Susie takes the cigarette back and tries to cover Luna's loud COUGHING SPELL.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Shut the fuck up! Sister Magdalene will hear us! Here, try again...

LUNA

No, I hate it!

SUSIE

You're such a big baby! I thought you'd be my friend....

Susie puts out her cigarette and hurries back inside the orphanage building, leaving Luna outside by herself. She sits there hurt and embarrassed and then starts to practice her "sign language" with her hands that she learned in the classroom from the Nuns.

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY - NEXT DAY

Susie and Luna are working behind the check-out desk checking out books for some of the other CHILDREN. They finally get a break from the line of children.

SUSIE

(teasing Luna)

Did you say your prayers last night,
like a good Catholic girl should?

LUNA

I'm not Catholic...

SUSIE

What? You're not Catholic? Then, what
the fuck are you doing here?

LUNA

My teacher said I would get a good
education here..

SUSIE

Yeah. Good luck with that one...

LUNA

Besides, there was no other place
that could take me....

SUSIE

Get use to it. You're a fucking
orphan. No one wants an orphan,
another mouth to feed....

Luna looks self-conscious.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Sister Magdalene wants me to be a
Nun....

Luna looks at Susie in a bit of disbelief.

LUNA

But you smoke.....and say bad words.

SUSIE

Stop being so freaking naive....and
such a big baby...

LUNA

Stop saying that. I'm not a baby...
I'm nine.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Susie grabs Luna by her hand and starts to pull her outside the building again.

SUSIE

Hey! I want to show you something...

LUNA

No more cigarettes, I hate them...

EXT. LIBRARY OUTSIDE BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

SUSIE

I want to show you my "pet"...

LUNA

But, I thought they don't allow pets here?

SUSIE

It's a secret. Friends can keep secrets, right?

LUNA

Are we "friends"?

Susie leads Luna over to a LEDGE OPENING under a WINDOW of the building. She pulls out a SHOE BOX and there is a wounded ROBIN BIRD lying on a NEST OF STRAW, just barely moving.

SUSIE

See? It's my pet. I've been taking care of it. It'll get well soon.

LUNA

It's hardly moving....

SUSIE

It'll get better. I feed it everyday.

Susie hides the shoe box back in the ledge under the window.

SUSIE (cont'd)

C'mon. Before Sister Magdalene misses us.....

Luna and Susie sneak back into the building.

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Susie has crawled inside of Luna's bed with her after lights out. Susie tries to cuddle with her (in a motherly fashion that she never got from her Mother) as Luna is feeling very uncomfortable with Susie being so close and intimate.

SUSIE

What exactly is that book about, with the three kittens?

LUNA

About three kittens that get their mittens dirty and then they lose them.....

SUSIE

Why the hell do three kittens need mittens?

LUNA

It's just a story.....

SUSIE

Well, tell me what happens?

LUNA

They just get scolded a lot by their Mother and always being told to behave and do things because "I told you so".....

SUSIE

Sounds like my Mother, from what I can remember. Is that how Mothers are supposed to be?

LUNA

I wouldn't know. I never knew my Mother. I just know that the book started my love for kittens and wanting one so much.

SUSIE

You'll have one some day. Maybe when you get adopted, you'll get one.

LUNA

I don't want to be adopted.....

SUSIE

What do you mean, "you don't want to be adopted"?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I'm not going anywhere. Sister told me that Jesus suffered for his Father to finally be with him in Heaven and not with anyone else. That's what I want to do. My Father always told me that we'd always be one and together forever and ever...

SUSIE

Your Father is a liar. My Mom told me the same thing. They're both liars.

LUNA

My Daddy is not a liar.....

Susie doesn't answer, dosing off to sleep and still cuddling Luna. Luna just looks up at the ceiling full of thoughts.

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY - NEXT DAY

There is a long line of children at the front desk to check out library books. SISTER MAGDALENE (elderly, strict and librarian type) notices that Luna is all alone trying to check-out all of the books by herself. The Sister rushes over to rescue Luna in distress.

SISTER MAGDALENE

(to Luna)

Where in Heaven's name, is Miss Song?

Luna backs away from the check-out desk a bit intimidated by Sister Magdalene's strictness and anger.

LUNA

(barely audible)

I think....in back....Sister....

SISTER MAGDALENE

Don't just stand there child, like the Statue of the Virgin Mary! For Heaven's sake, find her....

Luna runs in the back and out the back door searching for Susie. She finds Susie kneeling under the window ledge hugging the shoe box and WEEPING deeply. Luna kneels next to her to see the sight of a limp and deceased robin bird lying motionless on the nest of straw. Luna is at a loss of what to do or say to Susie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA
(finally speaking)
Don't cry, Susie....

But, Susie's WEEPING gets louder.

SUSIE
(weeping tears)
You don't even have feelings for
him....

LUNA
Course I do....

SUSIE
You don't show it. Why don't you cry?

LUNA
(a bit hesitant)
I.....forgot....how to cry...

SUSIE
What? How can you forget how to cry?

LUNA
I cried and cried so much after my
Father's funeral, I think there are
no more tears left. They were enough
to last a lifetime...

SUSIE
That's stupid. Everyone cries...

Luna just looks helpless. She then takes out her
handkerchief and tries to dry Susie's teary cheeks.
Motionless, they both stare silently at the dead bird.

LUNA
What you going to do with him?

SUSIE
Don't ask stupid questions like a
baby? We need to bury him...

LUNA
Where?

Susie gets up and carries the shoe box to the orphanage
garden a few feet away from the building. Luna follows
behind her with a bit of concern on her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)
Susie? Sister Magdalene is looking
for you. She needs help inside...

SUSIE
To hell with her....

LUNA
But, Susie?

SUSIE
Hurry up and help me. Stop being such
a big baby....

Susie starts to unearth the garden with both of her hands and nods at Luna to help her dig a grave for the robin bird. Susie places the covered shoe box in the makeshift grave and then motions to Luna that they need to pray for the bird. Susie prays in silence as Luna tries to imitate her, but she keeps glancing up at Susie to see if she is finished with her praying. Susie finishes and does the sign of the cross with Luna trying to imitate her. Susie then buries the shoe box as Luna watches curiously.

SUSIE (cont'd)
We need a cross....

LUNA
A what?

SUSIE
Are you going to keep fucking asking
baby questions? A fucking cross...to
mark the grave out of respect.

Luna looks around naively in search.

SUSIE (cont'd)
We'll come back later with one.
Remember where the grave is...

Susie gets up to run back into the building, then realizes that Luna is still staring down at the makeshift grave in bewilderment. Susie runs backwards yelling at Luna.

SUSIE (cont'd)
Are you fucking coming or not?

Luna gets up and runs back into the back door.

INT. REVEREND MOTHER HELEN'S OFFICE - FEW DAYS LATER

Susie and Luna are being interviewed together by a MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE searching to adopt one of the orphans (possibly two). Luna is acting very shyly and has a hard time looking at the REVEREND MOTHER HELEN and at the middle-aged couple.

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE WIFE

So, Reverend Mother here tells us the two of you are so like sisters. Always together and very close friends?

SUSIE

(very enthusiastically)

Oh yes, Ma'am! We even work together in the library. My name is Susie... Susie Song, Ma'am. I love books so very much and I always study so hard and have the best grades at the orphanage...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

Bragging can be a sin, Miss Song. Let us be humble....

SUSIE

Yes, Reverend Mother. I apologize profusely, Reverend Mother...Please forgive me, Reverend Mother..

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE HUSBAND

My goodness, such a well mannered child. And so well behaved...

SUSIE

Yes, sir! I'm very well mannered and courteous to all, at all times.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

Miss Song? What did I just say?

SUSIE

Again, I apologize so profusely, Reverend Mother...Please forgive me.

Luna is still staring down at the floor and rolling her eyes at Susie with all her antics to impress the adopting couple.

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE HUSBAND

(to Luna)

And what about you, dear? Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE WIFE

She's so pretty. And such adoring
eyes and wonderful eyes....

Susie looks at Luna with a look of a bit of jealousy that
Luna might be stealing some of the attention in the room.
Luna still hasn't answered.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

Miss Lin? Please answer....

Luna is still hesitant and shy.

LUNA

My name....it's...it's...Luna...

Reverend Mother gives Luna a stern look.

LUNA (cont'd)

I mean...it's...it's Lin...Liu...

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE WIFE

Such a pretty name for such a pretty
girl.....

Again, Susie gives Luna a jealous look.

SUSIE

She's very shy.....and she's not even
Catholic...I'm Catholic and Sister
Magdalene says I'd make a great Nun
someday...I say my prayers like a
good Catholic every night and every
morning in the chapel, like the
Sisters instruct us to do.

LUNA

(whispering to Susie)

You don't. And you smoke and say bad
words....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

What's that, Miss Liu?

Susie shoots Luna a mean look to tell her to shut her mouth.

LUNA

Nothing...Reverend Mother...

Luna starts practicing her sign language as if she wants to
be somewhere else as Susie keeps rambling on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

My favorite subject is math. I got all straight "A's" in all my math classes. But, I love art...

LUNA

(barely audible)

Because you cheat off me...

MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE WIFE

You must be very talented?

SUSIE

Oh, yes Ma'am. And I'm learning to cook and I can do lots of housework.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

That's quite enough for now, Miss Song. I believe the two of you are due back at the library for your assignments.

SUSIE

Yes, Reverend Mother. Sister Magdalene relies on me so much at the library to keep it running...

Luna and Susie get up to leave and head for the door. The middle-aged wife nods at the Reverend Mother and then at Susie to show her interest in Susie.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

Miss Song?

SUSIE

Yes, Reverend Mother?

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN

Please stay for just a few more minutes. Miss Liu, you are excused.

LUNA

Yes, Reverend Mother...

Luna shyly goes out the door leaving Susie standing in front of the middle aged couple with a big smile of accomplishment on her face.

INT. ORPHANAGE MAIN ROOM AND FOYER - FEW WEEKS LATER

Luna is cleaning the inside front windows of the orphanage. She notices a CAR pull up inside the gates as the Reverend Mother is escorting Susie to the car. The middle-aged couple's husband gets out of the driver's side to open the back door for Susie. Susie is carrying an OVERNIGHT BAG that the husband takes and places in the car trunk. Luna watches curiously as the car drives off, Susie off for the weekend.

EXT. ORPHANAGE FRONT GATES - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Luna is sitting on a step outside the front of the orphanage playing with a tree twig at the ground waiting for Susie to return from her weekend. The CAR pulls through the GATES, as Luna jumps up in excitement at seeing Susie get out of the CAR and walking toward her.

LUNA

Have fun?

SUSIE

As best can be....

LUNA

What does that mean?

SUSIE

Just a matter of time before they adopt me. I can tell....

Susie walks off ahead, leaving Luna trying to catch up to her, with a pensive expression on her face.

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY BACK STOREROOM - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna is rearranging some library BOOKS and she suddenly notices a PACK OF CIGARETTES on the floor and assuming that they must have fallen through Susie's undergarments. Luna quickly picks them up to cover for Susie. As Luna tries to hide the cigarettes, she sees another SHADOW over her and it is that of Sister Magdalene, standing over her with a stern and angry look on her face.

INT. REVEREND MOTHER HELEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Luna is in a chair in front of the Reverend Mother sitting behind her desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
So, young lady? Are you aware of the
rules here?

Luna just looks up slightly trying to avoid the Reverend
Mother's gaze at her.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
Miss Lin Liu?

LUNA
(shyly)
I prefer...."Luna"...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
I see. And do you prefer to be
smoking in the library?

Luna is speechless and afraid to look up.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
Miss Liu? I asked you a question. Are
you just going to sit there and be
insolent and contemptuous with
Reverend Mother?

Luna just looks at the Reverend Mother as if she doesn't
know what those two big words are.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
Now, Miss Liu!

LUNA
(terrified)
No....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
No, what?

LUNA
No... Reverend Mother...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Are you going to be an obedient
Catholic girl and admit whose "these"
are?

Luna just stares at the pack of cigarettes and shrugs her
shoulders.

LUNA
(barely audible)
I'm not.....Catholic...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 (getting more angry)
 Now, I know for a fact, there are
 only three people that are allowed in
 that back storeroom of the library.
 Can you tell me who they are?

LUNA
 (barely audible)
 Susie.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Speak up child.....

LUNA
 Susie.....Sister Magdalene.....and...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Yes, go on.....

LUNA
 (holding back tears)
 And.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Go on, or are you waiting for hell to
 freeze over?

LUNA
 No, Reverend Mother...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Who else, Miss Liu?

LUNA
 (to herself)
 Myself.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Who?

LUNA
 Me.....Reverend Mother...

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
 Now that we have that information.
 Can you kindly tell me which of the
 three of you, these belong to?

Revered Mother holds up the PACK OF CIGARETTES to Luna, but
 Luna is afraid to look at them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
I'm waiting, Miss Liu. If you're
waiting for hell to....

LUNA
Not....not...Sister Magdalene....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Well, I didn't expect it to be
Sister's...

LUNA
No, Reverend Mother....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
So, that narrows it down to who?

Luna just stares at the floor and shrugs her shoulders.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
Don't you dare just shrug your
shoulders like an insolent child.
Who?.....

LUNA
Me.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Excuse me?

LUNA
Mine.....they're....mine....

Reverend Mother is silent for a long beat. She then gets up
from her desk and stands in front of Luna sitting in the
chair.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
You know, these are not good for you?

LUNA
Yes, Reverend Mother....

Luna is silent and very afraid to look up at Reverend
Mother's stern gaze down at her.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Come with me, young lady....

Luna slowly gets up from the chair and follows the Reverend
Mother over to the office sofa. The Reverend Mother sits
down on the sofa and nods to Luna for her to drop her
schoolgirl skirt. Luna looks at her in horror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
Are we still waiting for hell to
freeze over, Miss Liu?

LUNA
No, Reverend Mother....

Reverend Mother picks up a wooden hairbrush from the side
table and points the hairbrush at Luna's skirt.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
What do we say after each?

Luna just stands there wanting to run out the door.

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN (cont'd)
I'm waiting, Miss Liu. What were you
taught?

LUNA
(timidly)
Forgive me, Reverend Mother; for I
have sinned.....

REVEREND MOTHER HELEN
Very well. Let us proceed. When we're
through here, you are to proceed to
the chapel and say ten Hail Mary's
and ten Our Father's and ask God to
forgive you. Do I make myself clear?

LUNA
Yes, Reverend Mother....

Holding back tears, Luna slowly undoes her schoolgirl skirt
and lets it fall to the floor. She then raises her blouse
and proceeds to lay over Reverend Mother's lap.

INT. ORPHANAGE CHAPEL - CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

Luna kneels inside the CONFESSIONAL BOOTH. The SLIDE DOOR
opens and a PRIEST'S FACE can be seen in OUTLINE through the
SCREEN.

LUNA
Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
It's been two weeks since my last
confession.

PRIEST
What sins have you to confess, child?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Twice I heard a bad word, once I thought of joining my Father in Hell and once I got caught with a pack of cigarettes. But, that was really an accident. They weren't really mine.

PRIEST

Then it was not a sin. But, what was that second one you said?

LUNA

I had thought of.....being dead and buried, to be with my Father....in Hell.

PRIEST

That is a terrible....Wait, how do you know he's in Hell?

LUNA

Because he committed...suicide. But, I pray to Jesus every day and night for him to forgive him and accept him into Heaven.

PRIEST

That is very Christian of you. But, that is a pretty big sin, my child.

LUNA

Yes Father, I know.

PRIEST

You should think about this, child. What did you say your name was?

LUNA

I didn't. But, it is Luna....I mean, Lin...Liu. Aren't we supposed to be "silent" about that, our name?

PRIEST

You know, Miss Liu? A good Catholic girl should never, ever think about things like that. That is very serious, indeed.

LUNA

But.....I'm not Catholic....

PRIEST

What was that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I'm not Catholic, Father. I'm just here to get a good education. And, no one else wanted me....

PRIEST

I see. Well, I will speak with Reverend Mother about this....

LUNA

But, I thought "silence" was for confession, just between the priest and the sinner?

PRIEST

You are most certainly correct, Miss Liu. I'll consider that. What I really meant to say was to speak with Jesus and God about that. Anyway, this is your penance. Say two rosaries and.....be careful, reflect on your life and never, ever have these thoughts cross your mind again. Am I clear?

LUNA

Yes, Father.

The Priest starts to slide the screen door shut, then stops.

PRIEST

Miss Liu?

LUNA

Yes, Father?

PRIEST

Just what do you believe you are, if not Catholic?

LUNA

Not sure, Father. I thought I was Buddhist, but lately. Your guess is as good as mine....

PRIEST

Of course. Well, Miss Liu. I absolve you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.

INT. ORPHANAGE GIRL'S SHOWER AND LOCKER ROOM - NEXT DAY

Several of the GIRLS are taking a shower and they all start pointing and GIGGLING at Luna's RED BOTTOM (not shown on camera, since she is only nine). Luna quickly showers and heads for the locker room. Susie is sitting on the locker room BENCH getting dressed after her shower. Susie stares at Luna's red bottom (hidden by towel) as Luna tries to cover.

SUSIE

Why would you do that?

LUNA

Do what?

SUSIE

Get your ass kicked, like that?

LUNA

I thought we were...."friends"?

SUSIE

Yeah, right....Just stop being such a fucking martyr and savior for everyone. Grow fucking up!

Susie leaves. Luna stands there trying to cover herself with her towel, a hurt look on her face, expecting Susie to thank her, not condemn her!

INT. ORPHANAGE LIBRARY BACK ROOM - FEW DAYS LATER

Susie and another ORPHAN BOY (15 years old) are secretly kissing in the back room when Luna accidentally sees them, without their knowledge. Luna quickly exits the back room before they notice her.

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - FEW SUNDAY EVENINGS LATER

Luna is sitting on her bed writing into her diary when Susie comes walking in carrying her little sleep over luggage BAG after another weekend staying with the middle-aged adopting couple. Luna observes her unpacking her things.

LUNA

(finally speaking)

You stayed with them again?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

(sarcastically)

No, I went to fucking Paris and back.
Where the fuck else do you think I
went?

LUNA

Just asking. You don't have to be
upset....

SUSIE

I'm not upset. But, I think you
are.....

LUNA

What were you and that boy doing in
the back room the other day?

SUSIE

Again with the stupid baby questions?
What do you think?

LUNA

Is he your new friend?

SUSIE

Fuck no! He was just "experience"...

LUNA

Experience for what?

SUSIE

You are so naive. "Experience", when
I get sprung out of here, with boys.

LUNA

Am I still your best friend?

Luna looks down at her diary feeling a bit hurt. Susie
notices Luna holding back her tears. Susie goes and sits
down next to Luna on her bed.

SUSIE

I think they're going to adopt me. I
can tell they really, really like me.

Susie gets up and goes over to a MIRROR on the wall and
starts admiring herself in the mirror.

SUSIE (cont'd)

They think I'm so pretty..and so
smart..and so well-mannered...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Do they know you smoke cigarettes and use bad words?

SUSIE

Fuck no! Why would I let them know that? Still asking stupid baby questions. I told you to grow up!

Susie keeps admiring herself in the mirror.

LUNA

Just you?

SUSIE

What?

LUNA

Just going to adopt.....just you?

SUSIE

Of course, just.....

It dawns on Susie where Luna wants the conversation to go. Susie goes back and sits down on Luna's bed with her.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Listen? I think I can talk them into adopting you too. I'll build it up that we are such close friends and so close with each other....

LUNA

Are we?

SUSIE

Are we, what?

LUNA

Friends?

SUSIE

Whatever. Just be patient. I'll get you the "gig" just like I got you in the freakin' library.

LUNA

But, they don't like me. They don't want me, I can tell. Anyway, I'm not going anywhere. I really don't want to be adopted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

I told you to stop being such a fucking baby! Trust me, I'll have them eating out of my hand in no time and spring you out of here. We'll be sisters and always be together.

LUNA

Think they'll let me have a cute little kitten?

SUSIE

Fuck, yeah! I can tell I can talk them into anything I want. You'll see...

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - FEW EVENINGS LATER

Susie is sitting in her bed reading a DIARY she found under Luna's mattress. Luna returns to the bedroom after finishing her chores for the day and sees Susie with her diary. She just stares quietly at Susie reading her diary. Susie finally realizes that Luna is standing there.

SUSIE

I didn't know....what the fuck? Why didn't you ever tell me? I thought we were friends?

LUNA

Are we?

SUSIE

Don't you know that by now?

LUNA

I wouldn't know. I never, ever had a friend before....

SUSIE

It must of been awful.....

LUNA

I don't remember....

SUSIE

What do you mean, you don't remember? It was your Father....

LUNA

I told you, I don't remember...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

If you don't remember, why did you write it here in so much fucking detail?

LUNA

Just give it back....

Susie just keeps reading. Luna suddenly reaches for it and snatches it back.

LUNA (cont'd)

I said, give it the fuck back!

Luna just stands there holding her diary a bit surprised at herself for her choice of words.

SUSIE

Wow! I can't fucking believe it. I think you need another round of "Forgive me, Reverend Mother, for I have sinned!"

LUNA

Shut up! Just shut up!

Luna walks off to the bathroom, clutching her diary.

LUNA (cont'd)

Maybe he didn't want me anymore....

INT. ORPHANAGE REFECTORY - FEW DAYS LATER

All of the children are eating in silence except for Luna. Luna is simply staring down at her plate of food as if it disgusts her, somehow to absolve her secret, crippling guilt. Susie is sitting at another table, their friendship a bit strained. Across the table, two of the GIRL ORPHANS start staring at Luna and GIGGLING at her. As Luna looks up from her plate of food, one of the GIRLS makes a "hanging by a rope around her neck" gesture with her tongue hanging out. Both of the girls break out LAUGHING at Luna as they get up to return their dinner trays. Luna gives a "how could you" look of disloyalty at Susie for revealing her secret.

EXT. LIBRARY OUTSIDE BACK DOOR - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna and Susie are in their usual spot leaning up against the outside wall of the building. Susie is smoking a cigarette and Luna is practicing her sign language.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

Make sure you take care of my pet's grave after I'm gone....

LUNA

What's to take care of?

SUSIE

Pray over it for me. Don't you do that with your Father's?

LUNA

Mrs. Woo was supposed to come back and take me to visit it. But, she never, ever came back to even visit.

SUSIE

They're all the fucking same. They dump you here and then they forget about you. Just like my Mom...

LUNA

Your Mom never came back to visit?

SUSIE

Fuck no! I was only six the last time I saw her. The day she dumped me. I'm what you call a "Love Child"....

LUNA

Love child? What is that?

SUSIE

An "accident" that just happened. Just take care of the grave, okay?

LUNA

Sure. But, you'll forget about it and probably me too. Will you come visit me?

SUSIE

Sure. But, we'll be sisters soon. I told you, I'll convince them to adopt you too.

LUNA

Can you ask them if I can have a little kitten too?

SUSIE

We'll both have pets. I'll have a dog and you'll have your stupid cat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I told you, cats are smart. I think even smarter than dogs...

SUSIE

No way!

Luna does her sign language to one of her favorite childhood rhymes and recites it as she signs.

LUNA

Hey diddle, diddle. The cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon.....

Susie stares at Luna's childish behavior.

SUSIE

And try not to act like a little baby after I leave. Can you promise me you'll grow up?

LUNA

I'll miss you so much, Susie. I won't know what to do. Friends should always be together for each other when they are feeling alone....

SUSIE

Just fucking grow up....

Susie takes a long drawl of her cigarette before she flicks it away. As she starts to get up, she motherly fixes Luna's hair behind her ear and gives a kiss on her forehead.

SUSIE (cont'd)

I'll be back for you, I promise....

INT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna and Susie are sitting on Luna's bed together. Susie is primping Luna's hair and showing her in a hand held mirror.

SUSIE

There? Just as pretty as before. You know, you need to take care of yourself, after I leave?

LUNA

I'll miss you so much. I wish you would stay. Who will look after me, after you've gone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

You're going to have to start standing up for yourself. I can't be around all the time, you know?

LUNA

But, you promised we'd always be sisters and friends and always together?

SUSIE

We will. Just be patient. Anyway? You said you weren't going anywhere?

LUNA

But, if we're together....

SUSIE

If they agree to take both of us, you'll come?

Luna thinks about it for a bit, then shrugs her shoulders and nods in the affirmative.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Good. You'll see, we'll both be adopted. And live happily ever after.

As Susie primps Luna's hair in the mirror, a slight smile forms on Luna's lips.

EXT. ORPHANAGE FRONT GATES - FEW WEEKS LATER

The children are lined up inside the gates to say goodbye to Susie. She was finally adopted by the middle-aged couple. Luna is standing in line with the rest of the children, a very sad expression on her face, staring at the ground, not being able to look at Susie leaving in the CAR.

INT. ORPHANAGE CHAPEL - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna is sitting in a pew all alone feeling very lost and abandoned. Sister Gabrielle Marie sits down next to her as Luna keeps looking down at the floor.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

You miss her lots, don't you?

Luna just keeps looking at the floor in front of her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
Love and sacrifice. That was very
brave what you did in Reverend
Mother's office a few weeks ago. A
true friend, indeed. But, you should
of told Reverend Mother the truth.

Luna looks up at the Sister.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
I know it wasn't you. Of course,
there are many different ways that
people chose to show gratitude to
their Lord. There's just no such
thing as true love without sacrifice.

LUNA
No one wants to be with me...

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
You know very well that's not true. I
know someone that truly wants you and
loves you very, very much.

Luna looks up intrigued. Sister nods up at Jesus on the
Cross. Luna follows her nod to above the altar.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
He'd be truly disappointed if you
insisted "he" didn't want you...

Luna looks again at Sister confused.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
You know, I noticed you the very
first day you came here...

A beat.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
Sure, I noticed you. You're very shy
like me. You seem to like to be by
yourself a lot. To think a lot....

LUNA
(self-conscious)
I guess so....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
It's okay. I like to be by myself and
think a lot too. We're so alike...

Luna just stares at her for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
 Just because someone likes to be
 alone, doesn't mean they don't
 sometimes crave intimacy.

LUNA
 You really think God and Jesus are
 real?

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 Of course I do. I'm married to them,
 silly....

LUNA
 Married? But, you're so pretty and
 nice. You could of married some boy.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 (blushing a little)
 But, I'm in love with Jesus....and
 God. More than anything else...

LUNA
 I don't understand....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 You will...you will...someday...

INT./EXT. ORPHANAGE DORMITORY BEDROOM AND ORPHANAGE FRONT
 GATES - NEXT MORNING

All of the CHILDREN are getting ready to go on a PICNIC.
 They are all packing their day backs, except for Luna. She
 is still lying in her BED with the covers almost over her
 head. Sister comes into the dormitory and notices Luna lying
 in bed playing "sick".

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 Luna? Get up child. The bus is about
 to leave for the picnic.

LUNA
 I don't want to go....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 Luna? The picnic will be fun. You
 told me you never went on a picnic
 before?

LUNA
 I don't feel good. I don't want to.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
Okay, child. We'll have the nurse
come see you.

Sister leaves along with the rest of the children to board the bus. Luna gets up from her bed and stares out of the window to see the bus drive away through the gates.

INT./EXT. REVEREND MOTHER HELEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Luna sneaks into the Reverend Mother's office searching for the HAIRBRUSH that she was disciplined with. Luna finds it on the side SOFA TABLE and confiscates it out of the back door of the library and hides the hairbrush where the shoe box that contained the robin bird once was.

EXT. ORPHANAGE GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Luna then heads for the grave site of the robin bird, kneels down and stares at the grave and says a prayer with the sign of the cross, exactly how Susie told her to take care of the grave. Suddenly, she starts digging another grave.

EXT. ORPHANAGE GARDEN - FEW WEEKS LATER

Luna is walking toward the GARDEN looking for the robin bird's makeshift grave. Luna kneels in front of the cross and does the sign of the cross and prays in silent.

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - (and throughout this scene and the next scene) - "Bury My Body" by The Animals.

She then starts digging again with both of her hands at the hole she started a few weeks ago. She digs a hole big enough for her and then lowers herself into the hole. She starts to cover herself with the loose dirt, pausing at times to feel what it is like to be buried in dirt and then completely buries herself up to her neck. She then takes the CROSS from the bird's grave and places it in the ground.

TEN YEARS LATER. (MUSIC continues throughout the scene).

INT. SAN FRANCISCO 1968/1969 - HAIGHT ASHBURY APARTMENT -
AFTERNOON

TWO FIGURES are buried under bed sheets on the bed in an obvious amorous entanglement. A naked woman's SHOULDER with a TATTOO of a MOON on it is revealed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A grownup Luna (hippie looking, early twenty years old) on top of her hippie boyfriend ZACHARY (mid-twenties, long hair hippie). They both fall onto the floor in a playful embrace and Luna runs into the kitchen. Zachary chases her into the kitchen to offer her a JOINT to smoke as the MUSIC continues. Zachary goes into one of the kitchen cabinet DRAWERS and pulls out several BAGS of marijuana.

LUNA

Zach? I want you to stop doing that.

ZACHARY

Doing what?

LUNA

Dealing. It scares me...

ZACHARY

Who the fuck is paying the rent here? You're so fucking naive. You're too fucking lazy to bring in any money. And look at this place. It's a fucking mess. I told you to clean up this place while I'm out getting some bread to pay the fucking rent.....

Zachary pulls Luna by her long hair over to the KITCHEN SINK. He pulls her head down to the sink.

ZACHARY (cont'd)

I told you to get these dishes cleaned up, a week ago. Maybe I should just get a new chick to live with.....

LUNA

But, I thought you were my boyfriend?

ZACHARY

What the fuck do you want from me? I pay all the fucking bills, don't I?

LUNA

But, a boyfriend should be more than that. A boyfriend should be someone that loves you, cares for you and protects you like family. They know your deepest secrets, laugh at your silly things you do and try to make you happy.....

Zachary picks up his stash and tries to leave. Luna tries to hold him back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Zachary slaps her and pushes her to the floor and Luna slides herself along the floor to the corner of the kitchen, trying to hold back her tears and hurt feelings.

LUNA (cont'd)
Zach, please? I don't want you to...

ZACHARY
Just shut the fuck up! When I get back, I want you the fuck out of here. Do you hear me?

LUNA
But, Zach.....please?

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO CEMETERY - NEXT DAY

Luna is walking around the cemetery with her BACKPACK on her back, carrying some FLOWERS. She is searching for her Father's grave site. She places the flowers beside the HEAD STONE and gets down on her knees and makes the sign of the cross and stares at the head stone.

LUNA
I'm here....Father....

A long beat as a strange moment of connection, trying to understand her Father more deeply than she ever thought before in her life.

LUNA (cont'd)
I just came to say good bye for now, Father. Maybe not forever but, just for now. I need to get away, far from here, Father. Find myself, perhaps. Far away from a place that is haunting me so badly.

A long beat.

LUNA (cont'd)
Perhaps, if I get away, I can change my life. A better life, perhaps. I will miss you, Father.....

Another long beat as she tries to hold back her tears.

LUNA (cont'd)
I've been strong for you, Father. Just like you taught me. The thing that haunts me the most, you never, ever said good bye.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

You were gone before I knew it and only God knows why. In life I loved you dearly. In death I love you still.

Another long beat as Luna adjusts the FLOWERS.

LUNA (cont'd)

In my heart I will always hold a place that only you can fill. It broke my heart to love you. But, you didn't go alone, a part of me went with you the day God took you home.

Luna stands up to leave and gives a long look at the head stone and starts to walk away. She suddenly turns and comes back to the head stone and lies down on her back over the grave site as if she is trying to feel her Father's feelings rising up to meet her.

LUNA (cont'd)

You always told me I shouldn't cry. To be strong for you. I'm so sorry, Father. I cried and cried so much the night you left me after the funeral. Enough tears to last a life time. I promise, never, ever again.....

INT. SAN FRANCISCO GREYHOUND BUS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Luna is sitting on a BENCH inside the station waiting for her BUS that is heading east. She has a sad look on her face, just staring at the floor in front of her.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS HEADING EAST - CONTINUOUS

Luna is sitting on the BUS heading cross country to the east from San Francisco. Luna closes her eyes and reminisces about the past at the orphanage.

FLASHBACK ONE YEAR AGO.

INT. ORPHANAGE CHAPEL - DAY

Sister Gabrielle Marie is sitting next to Luna in a pew of the chapel. Luna is twenty-one and it is her last day at the orphanage and she will be out and on her own in life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
 You've been here since you were nine,
 Luna. I've watched you grow and
 become a woman. We will always be
 friends, no matter where you are....

Luna looks at Sister so tenderly and then up at Jesus on the
 Cross in a pensive way.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE (cont'd)
 I will always love you with all my
 heart. I want you to always remember
 that Jesus will always be there for
 you, wanting you to love him back.
 Please don't disappoint him by not
 loving him back and wanting him to
 want you....

LUNA
 I always wanted an ideal love, that
 asked everything of me. That I would
 have to sacrifice everything for....

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS HEADING EAST - CONTINUOUS

The tiniest hint of a smile appears on Luna's face as she
 drifts off to sleep on the bus.

EXT. BOULDER, COLORADO - DAY

Luna is walking around the TOWN as she notices what she is
 searching for. It is a local BOOKSHOP which she enters.

INT. BOULDER, COLORADO - BOOKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Luna goes to the CHILDREN'S SECTION and finds her favorite
 GOLDEN BOOK - "The Three Little Kittens". She brings it over
 to the checkout counter where a hippie looking girl, mid-
 twenties is working. It is her old friend, Susie Song (now a
 Ph.D. psychology student at the University of Colorado).
 Susie looks at the book to check it out and then to her
 surprise glances up at Luna.

SUSIE
 You'll have to go across the street
 for the fucking diapers. We don't
 sell those here.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Susie runs out from behind the counter and hugs and kisses Luna, almost knocking her off her feet.

SUSIE (cont'd)
What the fuck? Why didn't you tell me.....

LUNA
I wanted it to be a surprise....

Susie pushes Luna away to look her over.

SUSIE
Let me look at you....

Luna turns in circles as Susie ganders at her.

SUSIE (cont'd)
Jesus, Joseph and Mary. All grown up. And so pretty as ever, too. I was always so jealous of you, how pretty you are back at the orphanage...

LUNA
And look at you? Studying to be a doctor? I guess all that cheating off my papers, you learned a thing or two off me?

SUSIE
Fuck you.... Hey! I get off in half and hour. I want you to see my apartment, off campus.....

INT. SUSIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

LUNA
Nice pad.....Wish I had one like this....

SUSIE
So glad that you found me. Sneaking into Reverend Mother's file cabinet to get my address was awesome...

LUNA
Guess, I learned a thing or two from you back then....

They both break out in laughter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

So, ever get that stupid cat you
always wanted?

Luna opens her BACKPACK and pulls out an URN/VASE and places
it down on the KITCHEN TABLE. They both just stare at it.

SUSIE (cont'd)

What the fuck?

A beat as they both stare at it some more.

LUNA

My...."cat"....

SUSIE

Your "what"?

LUNA

My "cat". He's in there....

Susie cautiously raises the lid of the urn/vase.

SUSIE

It's "ashes"....

LUNA

Of course silly. He died....

SUSIE

Why the fuck are you carrying it
fucking around?

LUNA

To bury it....

SUSIE

Where the fuck, "where"?

LUNA

Haven't decided yet.....But, when I
feel it, I'll know it. I even have a
cross....

SUSIE

You know what? That fuckin' orphanage
has really messed you fuckin' up, big
time....

Luna takes the urn/vase and puts it back into her backpack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE (cont'd)

Oh, I get it. Since I asked you to help me bury my bird? Now, it's my turn?

LUNA

No, I wasn't thinking that. Anyway, it's too cold here in Boulder to bury him. I want someplace warm for him.

SUSIE

Luna? The fuckin' cat's fuckin' dead and returned to dust! He won't feel a fucking thing....

LUNA

But, I will. I want him comfortable. So, where's your dog, you always wanted to get?

SUSIE

With my parents. They don't allow pets here in the apartment. Her photo is over there, by the sofa.

Luna goes over and picks up the FRAMED PHOTO of Susie's dog.

LUNA

Things haven't changed, have they?

SUSIE

Yep, just like back at the orphanage. No pets allowed....

LUNA

What's her name?

SUSIE

"Magdalene"...

LUNA

(giggling)

As in "Sister Magdalene"?

SUSIE

The only living memory I have of the fucking place. Hey, I don't have much at all here that's actually eatable. Let's go out to eat...

INT. BOULDER, COLORADO RESTAURANT/BAR - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Susie are at a table eating and drinking wine.

SUSIE
So, how's that Zachary of yours?

LUNA
Fuck him....

SUSIE
Bring him around. I just might....

LUNA
He's a fucking asshole....

SUSIE
Aren't they all.....As for me, I've
been leaning towards the "other
persuasion".....

LUNA
Other persuasion?

Susie glances over at the BAR and NODS her head at a very attractive COLLEGE GIRL. Susie and her SMILE at each other.

LUNA (cont'd)
I'm not following....

SUSIE
Haven't you fucking grown up yet?
You're just as naive as back then....

Luna thinks back to the orphanage and suddenly remembers how Susie would always crawl into her bed and cuddle with her. Luna starts blushing red in embarrassment.

SUSIE (cont'd)
Luna? Don't you ever think how we use
to sleep together after lights out?

LUNA
It did kinda recently cross my...

SUSIE
Luna? I want you to move in with me.

LUNA
Here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

Of course, fucking here. It'll be great, the two of us, back together.

LUNA

Would I have my own room...or....bed?

SUSIE

I only got a one bedroom. Why the fuck would we need two bedrooms?

LUNA

Just asking. I don't know, Susie. I want to travel and get my head straight. Locked up in that orphanage all those years, I never saw the world....

SUSIE

I understand. But, you're staying with me tonight, right?

LUNA

Sure. I'll just crash on your sofa. You know, next to"Magdalene".

INT. BOULDER, COLORADO - SHOPPING MALL - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Susie are strolling around the shopping mall as CHRISTMAS MUSIC is playing in the background. They are giggling and feeling a bit tipsy from the wine at dinner. Luna notices the shopping mall SANTA CLAUS where a line of CHILDREN are waiting to sit on Santa's lap, as Luna and Susie sit down on one of the BENCHES to observe.

SUSIE

We never got the fuck to do that growing up. Now, did we?

LUNA

I always, always wanted to...

Susie develops a mischievous look on her face.

SUSIE

Then go fucking do it.

LUNA

What? Are you fucking serious?

SUSIE

Go sit on fucking Santa's lap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Come on? I'm twenty-two years old.

SUSIE

Always using "age" as an excuse. You wouldn't smoke a freakin' cigarette because you were only nine. Do it!

LUNA

You're fucking right! I'm going for it. I want to sit on fuckin' Santa's lap. Is there a freakin' picture too?

Luna heads for the end of the line of the children. Suddenly, Luna is at the head of the line and a MALL EMPLOYEE gives Luna a big grin as he lets her through the rope to approach Santa. Luna, in a drunken fashion approaches the waiting (young mid-forties looking) Santa Claus. Santa pats his legs with BLACK GLOVED HANDS for Luna to sit on his lap. Luna falters slightly from the wine, squinting at Santa's lap as she sits down on his lap. Luna shuffles uncomfortably, staring into Santa's light gray beard and into his eyes.

SANTA CLAUS

(amused)

Hello?

LUNA

You're not old?

Santa lets out a loud Santa-like LAUGH.

SANTA CLAUS

You're new. But, let's move along. What do you want for Christmas?

LUNA

(dramatically)

All I want for Christmas...is love.

Luna glances over at Susie on the bench and Susie is practically rolling on the floor with laughter.

LUNA (cont'd)

(as if on stage)

I want to find someone who truly cares for me, and understands what I truly want. I want a guy who kisses me not just because he feels like it's his obligation, but because he wants to and likes it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

I want a guy who can make me laugh, cry, smile, rant, everything. It's that simple. Oh, and I need a new cat, mine died a few weeks ago...

Shockingly, Luna feels Santa's hand graze the bottom of her thigh, out of sight from the rest of the line.

SANTA CLAUS

Is that it?

Santa allows his fingers to dance across her jean-clad front of her jeans and up and down her zipper of her jeans. Luna sucks in her breath, her thighs burning from his touch. Luna lets out an exaggerated sigh and finishes her speech.

LUNA

Is that too much for a girl to ask?

SANTA CLAUS

Not at all. We can work with that. See, what Santa can come up with...

Luna could tell he is a man in his forties. But, she was slightly turned on by his looks and husky voice. The mall employee takes their photo. She then suddenly realizes that there is a line of children waiting. She quickly jumps off Santa's lap, smoothing her clothing.

LUNA

Merry Christmas, Santa....

Luna walks off the roped area still a bit dazed from the encounter. She walks back to where Susie is sitting on the bench with a huge grin on her face.

SUSIE

So? What did you ask for?

LUNA

What I've always been searching for...love. Actually, he had me so hot, I wanted him to fuck me...

SUSIE

What?

LUNA

He kept playing with my zipper and with the fringe of my flannel shirt. His low, husky voice was making me squirm on his lap and I could feel "it" through his Santa pants....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

(laughing)

You need a session with Reverend Mother, "For thou, have sinned"...

LUNA

The fabric of his glove skimmed my waist and my breath hitched. I didn't care that this was one older dude using this for an opportunity to feel up a girl. I wanted to "sin" so bad and be in Hell.....

SUSIE

Let's get wasted and end up in Hell tonight. I'll show you want "sin" really freakin' is!

Luna sticks the PHOTO inside her flannel shirt and sends one last look at Santa Claus, only to see him staring at her while blatantly ignoring the child on his lap. Their eyes meet, a slow smirk slips on his face. Winking at Luna, he jerks his head up to acknowledge Luna's presence. Luna starts to walk away and then sends Santa one more look, but he was no longer paying attention to her.

INT. BOULDER, COLORADO - COLLEGE BAR

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "I'm Crying" by The Animals.

Luna and Susie are drinking, dancing together and having a wild time in the college bar.

INT. SUSIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luna is lying in Susie's bed with the COVERS pulled up to her neck. Susie comes out of the bathroom in just a pair of panties and playfully falls into the bed. Susie cuddles up next to Luna and kisses her on the cheek as Luna is nervous.

LUNA

Susie? I'm not use to this...

SUSIE

Use to what?

LUNA

You know, being the..."other"...."persuasion"?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUSIE

It's just like old times. Don't you miss them?

LUNA

Actually, I always kind of felt a bit uncomfortable. You know, the Nuns catching us after lights out?

SUSIE

You worry too much. Back then and now. Why the fuck you worry so much?

Susie cuddles Luna closer and gives her several more kisses on her cheek and one on her lips.

SUSIE (cont'd)

Fuck! You're so fucking pretty!

LUNA

Susie? Perhaps, I should go sleep on the sofa, you know, with Magdalene?

But, Susie is knocked off fast asleep, the wine and dancing having too much affect on her. Luna slowly crawls from under Susie's grasp and heads for the sofa to spend the night.

INT. SUSIE'S OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Luna is still asleep on the sofa as Susie appears with a CUP OF TEA and sits on the floor in front of the sofa. Luna stirs and awakens to see Susie holding the cup of tea. Luna sits up and takes the cup of tea from Susie.

SUSIE

So, what are your plans?

LUNA

Like I said, I want to see the world.

SUSIE

I really wish you'd move the fuck in with me.....

LUNA

Maybe after you finish school and I've seen enough of the world. But, for now....

SUSIE

For now, you're going to leave me the fuck alone....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

You've got your parents....

SUSIE

Yeah..."them"...

LUNA

What do you mean "yeah, them"?

SUSIE

I mean, they've been great to me, given me nearly everything I've wanted. But, I just don't feel like I belong to them. It's not a natural feeling. People don't understand just how an orphan feels, even when they have been adopted....

LUNA

That's why I never wanted to be adopted. Nobody could ever replace my Dad.....nobody, but nobody.

A long beat as both sip on their tea.

LUNA (cont'd)

Susie? Why did you want to be my friend at the orphanage?

SUSIE

Because, nobody else wanted to be my friend. Nobody liked me there. I thought maybe you'd be stupid enough to like me.....

LUNA

I have to admit. I hated you when I first met you and you treated me so mean. But, then I kind of knew that you wanted to mother me and take care of me. I was a big baby, like you always said I was.

SUSIE

You were naive and so sheltered. You were someone I could experience what being a Mother was all about. I guess, I wanted to feel "Motherly Feelings" through you, by watching out for you. Like nobody else did in my life. My Mother was never affectionate with me....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Least, you knew your Mother. I never did.....

SUSIE

If you had a Mother like mine, you wouldn't want to know her.

LUNA

Do you ever wonder where she is, or want to find her?

SUSIE

Probably in some whore house. And fuck no, I'd never want to find her.

LUNA

Do you still consider yourself "Catholic"?

SUSIE

What do you expect me to do? Play fucking bingo the rest of my life?

Susie crawls onto the sofa and hugs and kisses Luna.

SUSIE (cont'd)

I'll always love you and want to take care of you, like my little sister...

LUNA

Yeah, let's make it "little sister". And not the "other persuasion".....

EXT. SOMEWHERE MIDWEST CEMETERY - FEW DAYS LATER

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "The Sound of Silence" by Nouela.

"Hello darkness, my old friend. I've come to talk with you again."

As MUSIC plays, Luna is walking around the cemetery perusing all of the HEAD STONES. She then is sitting under a TREE staring straight ahead with a blank expression on her face. She then is lying on a few of the graves looking up at the sky, smoking a CIGARETTE and watching the smoke rise towards the CLOUDS as if in a transitional state, trying to feel the people below her in the graves.

INT. SOMEWHERE MIDWEST MOTEL ROOM - THAT EVENING

Luna is lying on the motel bed watching a 1968/1969 television show, "The Flying Nun". The URN/VASE is sitting on the credenza. A scene from the television show is playing where the Reverend Mother is scolding the Flying Nun. It is bringing back painful memories of her past. She takes out the PHOTO of her with Santa and smiles at it. She then takes out a ROSARY and starts to pray.

EXT./INT. BUFFALO, NEW YORK - HILTON GARDEN INN DOWNTOWN - LAFAYETTE SQUARE - FEW DAYS LATER - DECEMBER 1968/1969

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "I Am A Rock" by Simon and Garfunkel.

An exterior view of the HILTON HOTEL and LAFAYETTE SQUARE and across at BUFFALO CITY HALL. Luna is in the WINDOW looking down at Lafayette Square on this December snowy morning. A freshly fallen snow morning, a first time experience for Luna to see SNOW. As MUSIC is playing, Luna comes out of the HOTEL ENTRANCE and into LAFAYETTE SQUARE to play in the snow like a little girl, throwing SNOW BALLS by herself and doing "ANGELS" in the snow. She runs up the CITY HALL STEPS and tries to slide down the RAILINGS. The MUSIC continues into the next scene.

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK - NIAGARA FALLS -CONTINUOUS

As MUSIC plays, Luna is walking around NIAGARA FALLS admiring the FROZEN FALLS. A first time experience for her. As the MUSIC fades out with the ending lyrics:

"And an island never cries".....

As Luna is sitting on a BENCH overlooking the FALLS, a SNOW FLAKE falls on her CHEEK, resembling a TEAR trickling down. She then holds out the PALM of her hand to catch a falling SNOW FLAKE, that melts in her palm and trickles down the palm of her hand like a TEAR as the lyric ends of the MUSIC.

INT. BUFFALO, NEW YORK - ANCHOR BAR - THAT EVENING

Luna is sitting at the bar alone staring at a plate of the famous BUFFALO CHICKEN WINGS on the BAR in front of her. Luna senses someone sitting down next to her at the bar observing her staring at the plate of WINGS. It's BENJAMIN BLUMENSTEIN (mid-twenties, graduate student, attractive, hippie style).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

You know, if you stare at those long enough, they might just fly...

LUNA

Huh?

BENJAMIN

Are you going to eat them or...

LUNA

How on earth does anyone eat such things? I never intended on dying in this place called "Buffalo"....

BENJAMIN

These people in Buffalo do...

LUNA

Do what? Die eating them?

BENJAMIN

(amused)

They won't bite back, just try...

LUNA

You said, "these people"? You're not one of them?

BENJAMIN

Just attend grad school here. I'm originally from the "big one"...

LUNA

Big one?

BENJAMIN

Big Apple...New York City. Least try one....

LUNA

I did. I'm still trying to recover from my first bite....

Luna holds up a once bitten CHICKEN WING to Benjamin. Benjamin offers his HAND to shake to introduce himself.

BENJAMIN

Benjamin....

LUNA

I'm Luna...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

Beautiful name...

LUNA

A nickname my Father gave to me. The one thing I can say is a remembrance of him I can hang onto.

BENJAMIN

Here, let me order you a "beef on wick"....

LUNA

Beef on what? You people here have some strange foods to eat...

BENJAMIN

Obviously, you're not from here...

LUNA

San Francisco....

BENJAMIN

Cool...

Benjamin orders a beef on wick sandwich for Luna.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

Visiting relatives here in Buffalo for the holidays?

LUNA

Sort of. Someone I use to know back home. She got transferred here. Would you happen to know where Saint Adalbert Basilica is?

BENJAMIN

That's Catholic. Wouldn't exactly know, I'm Jewish. So, you're Catholic?

LUNA

Sort of...

BENJAMIN

Lots of "sort of's"...

LUNA

Long story. I just promised myself I wouldn't say I was raised in a Catholic orphanage as an orphan. Seems to always get me in trouble...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

Why? I think that kind of makes you like a kind of an interesting person...

LUNA

My life's been interesting, for sure....completely interesting. Actually, I'm kind of weird...

BENJAMIN

No, interesting. Why weird?

LUNA

For one thing, I like to lie on graves...

BENJAMIN

Now, that is interesting...

LUNA

I just hear and feel the people below. How they looked, what they wore, lived, what they loved. I just feel at peace with them....

BENJAMIN

How many of these wings did you say you ate?

They both stare down at the plate of wings, then back at each other, then back at the wings and start to break out in laughter as Luna gets her SANDWICH delivered to her.

EXT. BUFFALO, NEW YORK - ANCHOR BAR - SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Benjamin are standing out on the sidewalk trying to keep warm as Luna is waiting for a TAXI CAB to take her back to her hotel room.

BENJAMIN

Thanks for an interesting evening..

LUNA

Not weird?

BENJAMIN

Not in the least. Like I said, I find you very interesting. And very pretty, indeed....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA
You're just saying that, so you can
jump my bones....

They both look into each others eyes and then Luna closes
her eyes and lets out a long sigh.

LUNA (cont'd)
Listen? I promised myself I wouldn't
do that anymore....

BENJAMIN
Do what? Say you're an orphan?

LUNA
That too. But, get involved with just
another guy. It always ends so
terribly.....

BENJAMIN
But, I'm just not another guy. I'm...

LUNA
Yeah, I know. You're "Jewish"...

BENJAMIN
I can promise you, I'd definitely
make your life lots more interesting
than it already is...

LUNA
Interesting? What I'm searching for
is someone that can give me hope for
being a part of a "family", with love
and friendship....

INT. HILTON GARDEN INN - LUNA'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The hotel TELEVISION SCREEN is showing the introduction of
the television show and theme song from "The Brady Bunch".
Luna is pinned against the wall as Benjamin is clumsily
trying to make love to Luna against the wall, groping and
kissing her and falling into bed as the Brady Bunch theme
song is playing and ending.

DISSOLVE TO:

Luna is getting up from the bed to turn off the television.
It is showing a scene with MARCIA BRADY in it.

LUNA
Who the hell is like Marcia Brady?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

What's that?

LUNA

Come to think of it. I was once like that. So sweet, so innocent, so naive. Now, I'm just weird...

BENJAMIN

Stop putting yourself down so much. You're a beautiful person, both inside and out.....

LUNA

You don't have to say that. You already got into my pants....

BENJAMIN

How does an orphan afford a room like this anyway?

LUNA

See? Now, you're always going to refer to me as that orphan girl. Actually, if you need to know, my Father left me quite well off with a trust fund and savings. I never even knew I had. Another secret I didn't know about my Father. Surprise, surprise. Come to find out, my Father saved every cent since he was a teenager. I always thought we were so poor that we couldn't even afford to feed a cat.

BENJAMIN

Sorry to hear that, about your Dad.

LUNA

Just don't ask me anything more about that....okay?

BENJAMIN

So, why did you ask me about the Basilica?

LUNA

There's someone there that I haven't seen since I left the orphanage. Sister Gabrielle Marie. She really helped me get through those years. I miss her so much.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

Probably one of the only true friends I've had in my life time. Sometimes I feel like I'm walking around with a stone in my heart. The ones who notice the storms in your eyes, the silence in your voice and the heaviness in your heart are the ones you need to let in.

BENJAMIN

Can I ask you how you became an orphan?

LUNA

I told you, I prefer not to talk about that....

BENJAMIN

Talking things out can help...

LUNA

One of the Sisters at the orphanage once told me that it would make sense one day. But, it never happened to her, how would she know....

BENJAMIN

Seems like you had quite an experience.

LUNA

The funeral was probably the worst day of my life. It hurt for such a long time. Still does. But, the worst part of it all, I ask myself "why"? I guess I tried to answer that question with drugs and alcohol. And lots of assholes for boyfriends. You're not an "asshole", are you?

BENJAMIN

Last time I checked, I don't think so....

LUNA

I just wish I can remember how to cry....

BENJAMIN

So, you don't have a boyfriend now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I'd rather have a cat! They don't shout at you and hit you upside the head.....

BENJAMIN

Let's find that Basilica that you're looking for, okay? Can you least give me a chance to try and be your friend? Can we do that?

A long beat as Luna thinks it over.

LUNA

Is it okay that at any point during this period, I can change my mind?

BENJAMIN

Just say the word....

EXT./INT. SAINT ADALBERT BASILICA - BUFFALO, NEW YORK - CHRISTMAS EVE - CONTINUOUS

The sounds of a WOMAN SINGING "O Holy Night" are coming from inside the front of the Basilica as Luna and Benjamin enter and take a seat in one of the pews in the back. They observe the MASS mostly in silence.

BENJAMIN

(whispering to Luna)

Very beautiful. Almost wants me to convert....

LUNA

(whispering back)

You're just saying that so Jesus forgives you for being of the Jewish faith and not accepting him.....

BENJAMIN

That what they taught you back at that Catholic orphanage? I'm just glad I waited here and missed Hanukkah back in New York. I would of never met a "roaming through the country on a bus Catholic".....

LUNA

I'm not...Catholic...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The MASS concludes and Luna notices Sister Gabrielle Marie at the front of the Basilica. Luna rushes up to hug and kiss the Sister. Sister notices Benjamin at Luna's side.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

(to Luna)

This your latest?

LUNA

Oh, this is my new friend, or should I say new acquaintance, Benjamin. We just met a few days ago.

BENJAMIN

I was teaching her how to eat Buffalo Wings....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Jesus help us, on that one....

BENJAMIN

You two take your time talking. I'm sure you have lots to catch up on. I'll just sit in one of the pews and become better acquainted with my ancestor Jesus....

INT. SISTER GABRIELLE'S DORMITORY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sister shuts the door and turns and hugs and kisses Luna.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Merry Christmas, my sweet child. So, how are you doing?

LUNA

I'm fine. Really I am, Sister...

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Tell me the truth now. I want the God's honest truth...

A beat as Luna hesitates.

LUNA

I'm fine, really. I mean, there are days where my old friend "darkness" reappears and I have to talk with him. But, overall, I'm doing fine. I just had to get away and find myself, just change everything...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
I.E., the Jewish guy?

LUNA
Just a guy I met at a bar here.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
Luna? You promised back at the orphanage that you would lead a good Christian life. Meeting guys in bars is not....

LUNA
I'm trying so hard, Sister. It's just that....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
It's just that, you keep carrying that albatross on your back. You need to forgive and move on with your life.....

LUNA
It's just so awful sometimes. Sometimes, I get these awful feelings that I want some kind of revenge against my Father what he did to me. Even though I love him so, I feel so awfully upset at him how he left me all alone and abandoned.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
Luna? I know it may seem natural to have those feelings. But, living happily is the best revenge you can do to something or someone that hurt you in the past. "Silence" is the best answer to all questions. Smiling is the best reason in all situations.

LUNA
"Silence", Sister?

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE
Sometimes silence is the best way to let someone know they did you wrong. Silence gives you space you need to start healing. Talk to your Father one more time and tell him what you feel and that you do not want to question it again. Only God knows the reason. Restore your sanity and regain control of your life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A long beat as Luna sits down on the bed.

LUNA

Is that like what Reverend Mother
always spoke about, Grand Silence?

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

The continual quest and goal to find
God in solitude and silence. And when
you find God and feel comfortable
with his love, the silence is the
best. You don't have to say
anything - silence is real!

Sister comes and sits next to Luna on the bed and hugs her
and kisses her on the forehead.

LUNA

It just seems like no one wants me...

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Remember when you first came to the
orphanage and I told you there would
always be someone that wants you, to
love you and take care of you?

Luna looks down at the floor as if to remember past memories
at the orphanage.

LUNA

I remember...

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Then go with God and Jesus'
blessings.....

LUNA

Yes, Sister. I will try for you and
for Jesus. Thanks so much for seeing
me. I missed you so much....

Luna hugs Sister and gets up to leave and head for the door.

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

So, where will you go now?

LUNA

I don't know. Maybe where ever God
and Jesus takes me.....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Well, just make sure it's a place
that they desire you to be...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luna walks to the door and then turns around.

LUNA

I just know I need to find myself. I just don't know who I am without my Father.....

SISTER GABRIELLE MARIE

Luna? You are a truly remarkable young lady. I knew that the very first day you came to the orphanage. A girl with deep feelings and total loyalty and true devotions. The one that falls in love with you will be a truly blessed one.

Luna leaves out the door leaving the Sister with a concerned expression on her face.

INT. HILTON GARDEN INN - LUNA'S HOTEL ROOM - CHRISTMAS MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Benjamin are lying in bed. Luna is still asleep when there is a knock on the room door from ROOM SERVICE. Benjamin answers the door as Luna is still sleeping. Luna finally awakens to see a small CHRISTMAS TREE atop the ROOM SERVICE CART that room service prepared at Benjamin's request along with morning breakfast.

LUNA

What on earth?

BENJAMIN

Merry Christmas...

A beat.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

You know, being of the Jewish persuasion, I think that is the very first time I ever wished someone a Merry Christmas?

LUNA

Why me?

BENJAMIN

Because you're special...

Benjamin hands Luna a WHITE ENVELOPE that he took out of his JACKET on the CHAIR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN (cont'd)
Go ahead, open it....

Luna opens the envelope.

LUNA
An already used Hanukkah card? One
hundred dollar bill? You are weirder
than me.....

BENJAMIN
All I had. My parents sent it to me a
few weeks ago for Hanukkah.

LUNA
I see. Your parent's greetings are
all crossed out and a Merry Christmas
is written over Happy Hanukkah.

BENJAMIN
The one hundred should cover the room
service...

LUNA
You charged all this to my room?

BENJAMIN
At least say "Merry Christmas" and a
holiday kiss to say thanks...

Luna hugs Benjamin and gives him a kiss on his cheek.

LUNA
You don't have to reimburse me...

BENJAMIN
Well, I thought a traveling orphan...

LUNA
Let's just say my Father left me more
money than the Catholic Church has
saints.....

BENJAMIN
Well, I wouldn't have a clue how many
the Catholic Church has...

LUNA
A hell of a lot. Trust me. I had to
memorize all of them at the
orphanage...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Benjamin gets up from the bed and turns on the RADIO that is playing HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS MUSIC and then goes back to his jacket and takes out another ENVELOPE and hands it to Luna.

LUNA (cont'd)
Tell me it's not an old barmitzvah
card from one of your relatives...

Luna opens the card to reveal two bus tickets.

LUNA (cont'd)
Two bus tickets to New York?

BENJAMIN
Ever been to Times Square for New
Year's Eve?

LUNA
Never. But.....

BENJAMIN
I want you to experience it with me.
And show you around New York....

LUNA
Why me?

BENJAMIN
I already told you. You're
"special"...And I want you to meet my
parents...

LUNA
Parents? Benjamin? This is moving
much too fast. You don't want to get
involved with a loony tunes like
me...

BENJAMIN
I told you, I love crazy, loony
chicks....

Luna gets up from the bed and opens the BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE on the room service CART and pours the CHAMPAGNE over her morning BOWL OF CORN FLAKES.

LUNA
See how crazy I am? I love champagne
over my morning corn flakes...

BENJAMIN
A pure flaky, loony chick, for sure.
I love it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luna goes over to the RADIO and finds a rock and roll station that is playing late 1960's ROCK MUSIC.

Luna starts seductively dancing to the MUSIC for Benjamin in just her bra and panties. He ends up chasing her around the room and they fall into bed in a passionate embrace.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS HEADING EAST TO NEW YORK CITY - NEXT DAY

Luna is sitting on the BUS by herself when suddenly Benjamin comes out of the bus' RESTROOM at the back of the bus and sits down next to Luna.

BENJAMIN

I just hate bus restrooms...

LUNA

And I hate all the strange and weird people that ride buses. What am I talking about, I'm one of them...

BENJAMIN

Stop putting yourself down. We should be in New York in an hour or so. I'm so glad that you agreed to come back with me...

LUNA

Don't hold your breath. We're still under the "if at any point, I change my mind" agreement....

Luna looks out the BUS WINDOW at the passing Upstate New York State SCENERY.

LUNA (cont'd)

You know? I really didn't have New York City on my bucket list....

BENJAMIN

Who doesn't have New York City on their first experience in life list?

LUNA

I didn't book a room..

BENJAMIN

We'll stay in Manhattan, my parent's apartment....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Benjamin? I'm not good at meeting "parents". Every time a married couple wanting to adopt me would come to interview me back at the orphanage, I'd clam up and get so extremely nervous...

BENJAMIN

Just relax, no sweat....

LUNA

I guess you did say you'd make life more interesting for me...

BENJAMIN

Just don't mention the name "Jesus" in any of the conversations...

Luna looks at Benjamin and rolls her eyes at him. Luna goes into her backpack again and retrieves the PHOTO of her sitting on Santa's lap. Benjamin breaks out in laughter at the photo that Luna is holding in her hand.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

Radical! That is so great.....

LUNA

My girlfriend back in Boulder talked me into it. Actually, something I never got to do as a child. Why the fuck not now?

BENJAMIN

That's what this road trip is all about. Doing things you never got to do locked up most of your life.

LUNA

And all these years, I thought that Santa was some sweet, nice, old, wise man! He's really a fuckin' pervert!

BENJAMIN

What? You're not telling me he...

LUNA

Bus rides? They're so exhausting...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

Life is a bus ride. With so many seats, you'll be surprised how quickly new and interesting people somehow find their way onto your bus.

LUNA

With the people I've encountered on a bus these past few weeks, I don't think I'd want any to find their way into my life....

BENJAMIN

That's the trouble with you. You look at things in an non creative way.

LUNA

I'm very creative. In fact....

Luna goes into her BACKPACK and retrieves a cloth type WALLET with a BUTTON closure. She offers it to Benjamin as a gift that she made for him.

BENJAMIN

What is that?

LUNA

It's for all the money you're going to make when you finish grad school. It's a wallet, silly. I made it for you, from an old tie. I like to recycle things. Give them new life. From things that people don't want anymore. Why get rid of it, when someone can give it new life.....

Benjamin tries to be amorous to Luna on the bus. But, Luna rejects his advances.

LUNA (cont'd)

Benjamin, stop. I'm not a "sex on the bus" kind of girl. I'm trying so hard to be a "raised by Nuns" kind of girl.....

BENJAMIN

And you're trying to find a God fearing, Jesus loving, honest, truthful person who will never cheat, hurt or lie to you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I want a relationship that turns out to be a blessing and not a lesson. Don't worry, not even a word about Jesus in front of your parents...

INT. BENJAMIN'S PARENTS' MANHATTAN APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

MR. and MRS. BLUMENSTEIN (Benjamin's conservative, upper class, Jewish parents, mid-fifties) are sitting across the DINING TABLE from Luna and Benjamin having DINNER.

MR. BLUMENSTEIN

So, Benjamin tells us that you're from San Francisco...

LUNA

Yes. Well, actually I was raised in Chinatown...

MRS. BLUMENSTEIN

So, that makes you "Chinese"?

LUNA

How on earth could you tell? Chinatown is not that awful. Rents are low, food is great and we have the best roaches in San Francisco....

MRS. BLUMENSTEIN

I see.....

Benjamin looks at Luna with a "please try to relax" stare. Luna avoids his gaze.

MR. BLUMENSTEIN

So, your parents still make their home there?

LUNA

Actually, I'm an "orphan". Never knew my Mother. She died in my birth. My Father hung himself when I was only nine....

Benjamin almost chokes on his food and the Blumensteins have shocked looks on their faces.

BENJAMIN

(to Luna)

Why didn't you....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. BLUMENSTEIN

My goodness. You must of, kind of had a rough go of it in life?

LUNA

Kind of? I'd say, I've had a fucking life of hell, to say, the least. I'm nobody's child. Nobody wants me. I'm just a flower growing wild....

Again, the Blumenstein's are shocked.

LUNA (cont'd)

I got dumped like garbage behind the gates of hell, in a Catholic orphanage and I'm not even freakin' Catholic...

Mrs. Blumenstein motions to Mr. Blumenstein to help her in the kitchen. They both get up and go into the kitchen, leaving Benjamin staring at Luna.

BENJAMIN

What the hell are you doing?

LUNA

Best to tell the truth. Besides, I can tell your parents are wondering where the fuck did you ever find me.

BENJAMIN

In fucking Buffalo, trying to eat a fucking plate of chicken wings! What happened to how you're going to be "silent as a lamb" on the bus?

LUNA

I didn't even mention one word about Jesus. I don't care anymore what people think of me. I just want to be myself....

BENJAMIN

Well? You don't have to be so fucking specific. You never told me about your Father....

LUNA

Was there a need to know? What am I supposed to say? My Father had complications with his life and had a most terrible accident? He fuckin' hung himself, "hello"? Is that what I was supposed to say?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

Your parents already don't accept me.
I'm not freakin' Jewish and I'm not a
fucking graduate from some fucking
private girl's school at Vassar....

BENJAMIN

Why do you always have to feel sorry
for yourself and put yourself down?
You need to fuckin' grow up, Luna!
You're not a two year old any
longer....

Luna looks down at her plate of food as if she is thinking
of past memories about Susie telling her to grow up.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

I thought you wanted a friend, to be
understanding, loving and to help?

LUNA

And how the hell are you going to
help me?

BENJAMIN

Be your friend. I guess that little
talk with your Nun friend back in
Buffalo didn't help?

A long beat as Luna keeps looking down at her food.

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

Well, did it?

LUNA

Fuck you, Benjamin. You're an
asshole.....

Luna gets up and rushes off to Benjamin's bedroom.

BENJAMIN

(shouting at Luna)

You know what? I think, you think all
men are assholes, including your
Father.....

CUT TO:

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Sugar, Sugar" by The Archies.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - CENTRAL PARK - NEXT DAY

Luna and Benjamin are strolling around Central Park (as MUSIC continues into the scene) and Luna is enjoying all of the freshly fallen snow. She starts to make ANGELS in the snow and then starts a SNOWBALL FIGHT with Benjamin. We then see them ICE SKATING in Central Park.

INT. MANHATTAN COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Benjamin are sitting at a BOOTH in the coffee shop having HOT CHOCOLATE.

LUNA
Mmmm, this is exactly what I needed.
I'm so friggin' cold....

A long beat as they both sip at their hot chocolate. Luna starts to feel uncomfortable with Benjamin staring at her.

LUNA (cont'd)
Benjamin? Why are you staring at me
like that?

BENJAMIN
You are so beautiful. That cold air
just makes your face so alive.

LUNA
Stop it. You're making me feel self-
conscious.....

BENJAMIN
Luna? I'm telling you that you're
beautiful. It's a compliment.

LUNA
Benjamin? Do you ever feel that
religion helps you? Gets you through
things?

BENJAMIN
I guess....sometimes...

LUNA
I mean, do you ever feel like
you're....."Jewish"?

BENJAMIN
(amused)
What the fuck are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Being "Jewish"? I mean, I never feel like I'm "Catholic". I can't even remember feeling that I was "Buddhist". I guess I was too young to know the feeling. All this religion bullshit? It just segregates people and separates everyone. There is no sense to it all. It's all a bunch of crap. Jesus never intended to create all of these religions. He just wanted people to have faith!

BENJAMIN

Maybe growing up in an orphanage has totally turned you off about religion?

LUNA

It all just seems like a set of rules that people are supposed to follow. Other humans telling others how to act, behave and live their lives...

Another long beat as they sip at their hot chocolates.

LUNA (cont'd)

Benjamin? I want you to show me how feeling like "Jewish" feels like...

BENJAMIN

What?

LUNA

The way I feel dead people...

BENJAMIN

Why do I love crazy, loony chicks?

LUNA

What they eat, how they dress, what they think, the whole fucking thing.

Luna grabs Benjamin by his hand and pulls him out of the coffee shop and they head down the street in a rush.

MONTAGE:

EXT./INT. - JEWISH DELI - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin is introducing Luna to a variety of "kosher foods". Some she likes and others she makes disgusting faces to.

EXT./INT. - JEWISH HABERDASHERY - CONTINUOUS

Luna is trying on various outfits that Jewish people wear in a mirror and Benjamin sits and observes each outfit.

EXT./INT. - JEWISH COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Luna is on the edge of her seat trying to overhear various older JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN chatting and interacting.

EXT./INT. - JEWISH SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Benjamin are seated in a pew as the Jewish service is continuing. Luna is trying hard to understand everything that is happening. Luna is sitting next to an OLDER JEWISH LADY in the pew and tries to connect with her.

LUNA
(whispering)
This "Jewish Thing"; How's that
exactly working for you?

Benjamin nudges Luna and shakes his head for her to cool it. The Jewish lady just gives Luna a strange look.

OLDER JEWISH LADY
Excuse me?

LUNA
Being Jewish? Does it work for you?

EXT. OUTSIDE THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin is pulling Luna out the front door of the synagogue and shaking his head. Luna pulls back and they stop at the bottom of the stairs.

LUNA
Benjamin! I just asked her a simple
question.....

BENJAMIN
You're even over the top of me loving
crazy, loony chicks! Unbelievable!

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - TIMES SQUARE - NEW YEAR'S EVE - 1969

Benjamin leads Luna by her hand through the large CROWD in TIMES SQUARE awaiting the countdown to the New Year of 1970.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA
(shouting over the crowd)
This is crazy. All these crazy
people....

BENJAMIN
You should feel quite at home, loony
and crazy....

LUNA
You don't have to rub it in...

TIMES SQUARE CROWD
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...Happy
New Year!

Benjamin hugs Luna and kisses her passionately to wish her
Happy New Year.

BENJAMIN
I'm so in love with you! So hooked
and stoned on you.....

Luna just looks at Benjamin with a slight scared expression
on her face as he hugs and kisses her all over.

EXT. EMPTY MANHATTAN STREET - EARLY NEW YEAR'S DAY -
CONTINUOUS

Luna and Benjamin are walking down a cold and empty street
back to his parent's apartment after the New Year's Eve
festivities. Their breath is coming out in long plumes.

LUNA
It's so freakin' cold....Too cold to
bury my cat...

BENJAMIN
Yeah. It smells like snow. Wait, what
did you say?

LUNA
Nothing....

Luna tries to sniff at the air, unsure what Benjamin is
referring to.

LUNA (cont'd)
I wouldn't know. This is only the
second time I've experienced snow my
entire life. Once back in Buffalo and
now here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

Now, I see why people in Buffalo eat those chicken wings to keep freakin' warm. I'd never bury my cat in Buffalo, that's for sure...

BENJAMIN

Huh?...Luna? I know we just met a few days ago. But, I want you in my life...

LUNA

As what? Some crazy ass chick to entertain you, make you recycled things and get your rocks off on?

They walk a bit more in silence.

LUNA (cont'd)

And for someone to raise questions about Jesus with?

BENJAMIN

You're making me feel guilty.

LUNA

You are guilty. I'm guilty.

BENJAMIN

Of what?

LUNA

I think we're both guilty of maybe not believing who and what is this person called Jesus.

BENJAMIN

Your Nun friend didn't put you in the know?

LUNA

I know what I know.

BENJAMIN

And what do you know?

LUNA

I know if there really is a Jesus. Why the fuck did he do this to me? Nine years old and leave me all alone and abandoned? What kind of caring soul would do that to a helpless child? Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luna looks for his response. He makes none.

LUNA (cont'd)

What exactly in this stupid life that God gave to us, is for what? You know, sometimes I think my father felt ashamed he only had a daughter. The Chinese believe that a family with only daughters is a dead end. No sons, no happiness. Geese are more profitable than girls!

Again nothing but silence.

LUNA (cont'd)

Benjamin? Are you listening to me?

BENJAMIN

Yeah.

LUNA

To the Chinese, wanting a son is like believing in God. It's unquestionable..... Benjamin? I'm really afraid. Ever since I was nine years old. I'm afraid of who I am. I don't even give a fuck if I burn in Hell anymore.

Benjamin doesn't answer. Luna stops in her tracks.

LUNA (cont'd)

Benjamin?! Are you even fuckin' listening to me?

BENJAMIN

I'm ignoring you, Luna. You're talking completely stupid.

LUNA

Oh! That's what you think I am "stupid"? Just like your parents?

BENJAMIN

You're paranoid. My parents never said that.

LUNA

They didn't need to. It was written all over their freakin' faces! Benjamin?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

Just go find yourself some prim-pie,
cutie pie, Vassar girl, with a stick
up her ass! I'm NOT worth your
efforts....

Luna walks off ahead of Benjamin in a faster pace, leaving Benjamin standing there shaking his head.

BENJAMIN

Luna? Stop....

LUNA

Leave me the fuck alone....

Benjamin runs up to her and pulls her back by her arm.

BENJAMIN

Listen to me....stop!

Luna brushes his hand away from her arm.

LUNA

I said leave me alone...

BENJAMIN

Luna? I love you.....

LUNA

Now, whose talking stupid?

BENJAMIN

I mean it. That night I saw you in Buffalo, I was so mesmerized by you...intrigued.

LUNA

It was the fucking chicken wings, Benjamin. You ate them all off my plate and I had the beef on "witch", remember?

BENJAMIN

That's "wick". Anyway, I love you and want you to always be in my life.

LUNA

Stop it, Benjamin. Just, shut the fuck up!

BENJAMIN

Listen? I know your heart is broken. Being nine years old and not even being able to understand any of it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I said, shut the fuck up. I don't want to talk about it....

BENJAMIN

I know you loved your Father dearly. He was taken away from you much too soon. Sometimes, love breaks your heart, it messes the fuck up of everything. We're not here to make us perfect. Snowflakes are perfect. The moon so big, bright and round is perfect.....

LUNA

The moon's not perfect. It's full of fucking holes, like me....

BENJAMIN

We're not perfect, Luna. We're here to ruin ourselves and break our hearts and love the wrong people and die. That Golden Book about the three kittens you always talk about is bullshit.

LUNA

Don't say that, it's one of the last reminders I have of my Father....

BENJAMIN

Sorry. It's just that, I know you're a survivor just like my ancestors were surviving the Holocaust! You're a strong woman! Anyone that's been through the most difficult life as you, is most definitely a survivor.

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Fly Me To The Moon" by Patrizio Buanne

Benjamin pulls Luna close to him and hugs her for the comfort she is needing. Luna gives out a long sigh and closes her eyes and hugs Benjamin closer. They stand there in silence hugging each other as the MUSIC starts and then we see them holding hands and continue to walk off toward Benjamin's parent's apartment into the chilly evening.

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Luna is sitting on the bed sewing one of her RECYCLED CREATIONS as Benjamin comes into the bedroom and closes the door. Luna doesn't look up from her sewing.

LUNA
(barely audible)
I'm sorry.....

BENJAMIN
What?

LUNA
I said....I'm sorry. I'm the asshole.

Benjamin comes and sits down on the end of the bed.

BENJAMIN
No, it's me that should say sorry. I shouldn't have said that about your Father, the other day. I'm sure he wasn't an asshole, not in the least. And, stop putting yourself down again. You're so perfect to me.

A long beat as Luna continues her sewing.

LUNA
Benjamin? I really didn't want this to happen...

BENJAMIN
Happen?

LUNA
Getting involved again with someone....another guy. It always ends terribly....

BENJAMIN
Is that why you acted so strange in front of my parents? To make it easier to go our separate ways?

LUNA
Can we be....just friends?

Luna avoids Benjamin's attempt to caress her on the bed and goes over to the bedroom window where MOONLIGHT starts to flood into the bedroom. The WINDOW is GLOWING with moonlight and STRIKES her, and she is caught in its spell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Benjamin appears behind her and they speak in low voices, as if they were in church. The full MOON is so big and bright and glows off of Luna's face.

BENJAMIN

It's so bright. I think its your Dad,
shining down on you....

LUNA

I've never seen a moon like that.

BENJAMIN

It makes you look like an angel.
"Bella Luna". Non ti lascerò mai.

LUNA

You speak Italian? What does that
mean?

BENJAMIN

Just picked up a few phrases here and
there when I backpacked through Italy
and Sicily last summer. "Beautiful
Moon". "I will never leave you".

LUNA

Sister Gabrielle Marie told me it is
so beautiful there. She had some
training at the Vatican last year.

BENJAMIN

There is a quaint village in Sicily
called Sovaca. It is so peaceful and
beautiful. I hated to leave it. Its
way up in the mountains.

LUNA

Perhaps, that is what I need, a place
full of peace and tranquility, to
lose myself into and forget my past?
I want to see so much that I've
missed in my life. Being locked up in
an orphanage, I felt like I was in
prison all of my life.

BENJAMIN

Didn't they ever let you out?

LUNA

If you got adopted. But, I always
chose not to be adopted. I didn't
want a new family at that time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

I just wanted to be a part of my real Father. It seemed so disloyal to him to be part of another family and another Father. Sometimes, I think maybe I should of told Reverend Mother, that I would consider other families to adopt me. But, I always told her that I wasn't going anywhere. I finally got enough nerve to leave when I turned twenty-one.

Benjamin starts to unbutton Luna's blouse and jeans, as they stand in the romantic moonlight. Luna smiles at him meekly.

LUNA (cont'd)

Please Benjamin? I promised myself I wouldn't get involved any more. I always get so hurt. I'm so scared how I feel about you, honest I am. You know, I really need to apologize to your parents for the way I behaved that first night....

Benjamin tosses Luna's blouse aside and pulls her jeans down and off of her, leaving her in just her bra and panties. He then takes her hand and leads her over to the bed.

LUNA (cont'd)

No Benjamin. I promised I wouldn't...

Benjamin ignores her and gives her a passionate kiss and gently pushes her down on the bed to make love to her.

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - EARLY MORNING

Benjamin is deeply asleep and Luna slowly gets up and dresses and starts to pack. She then writes a LETTER to Benjamin saying how sorry she is and how she needs to move on with her life. She places a FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL folded in the LETTER and quietly exits the bedroom and out the apartment front door. The DOOR closes and she is gone.

EXT./INT. - SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - MANHATTAN - CONTINUOUS

Luna is walking past the church and then decides to go inside for one last prayer before leaving New York City. She is sitting in a pew praying her ROSARY, when she sees a PRIEST go into the CONFESSIONAL BOOTH. Luna follows into her side of the confessional booth. The Priest slides open the screen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
It's been over ten years since my
last confession.

PRIEST

Goodness, my dear? Why so long?

LUNA

Guess I've just drifted, Father?
All's I know, I've sinned a hell of a
lot...

PRIEST

Well? Are there any specifically,
that stand out to you, that we need
to discuss?

LUNA

I guess basically, I've been pretty
promiscuous in my life and my
language hasn't been one to win Miss
Debutante at the Cinderella Ball....

PRIEST

I see.

LUNA

And the biggest one of all....I'm
not sure I exactly believe in God
anymore....

PRIEST

I see. Well, let me ask you this. Do
you believe in love?

LUNA

Of course. I really loved my Father,
very much so.

PRIEST

Well, God is love. You see, there is
no difference.

LUNA

But, I don't see God. I don't feel
God.....

PRIEST

But, you can see love?

LUNA

Yes....But....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRIEST

Then, you can see God. Because God is all about love and loving him. When you feel love, you feel God.

LUNA

But, Father? It's been so long since I've felt "love". Really it has...

PRIEST

Well, that is why you are having a most difficult time seeing God. Does that make sense?

LUNA

In a way, I guess it does Father.

A long beat.

LUNA (cont'd)

So, how many "Hail Mary's" and "Our Father's" must I say?

PRIEST

None, my child. As your penance, I want you to go find "love" and then the light of God and his presence will be seen by you...

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Fly Me To The Moon" by Frank Sinatra.(and into next scene).

EXT. NEW YORK LA GUARDIA AIRPORT - CONTINUOUS

An AIRPLANE is taking off from the runway and Luna is aboard heading for Rome, Italy.

EXT. ROME, ITALY - CONTINUOUS

Luna is strolling around the city and visiting various sites of Rome as the MUSIC continues to play. She is TWIRLING IN CIRCLES in front of the VATICAN and then enters SAINT PETER'S BASILICA. She is in awe of the Basilica as the MUSIC fades into the next scene.

ONE WEEK LATER.

EXT. SAVOCA, SICILY - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

Luna is alone and climbing and trying to hitch a ride up to the small, picturesque, Sicilian town of Savoca, Sicily. She finally makes it into the town and stops in front of the SANTA LUCIA CATHOLIC CHURCH. Suddenly she feels faint and tired from the climb from heat exhaustion and dehydration. She collapses in front of the church on the ground.

INT. SANTA LUCIA INFIRMARY - CONTINUOUS

Luna is lying on a clinic BED still passed out from exhaustion. NINO BENVENUTO (Sicilian seminary student, mid-twenties, attractive, Jesus-look-alike) tries to attend to her. From Luna's "point of view", she gradually awakens and tries to focus her eyes on the seminary student, thinking he is Jesus in the flesh!

LUNA
Jesus Christ? Am I in Heaven?

NINO
(amused)
Not today, but possibly, someday...

LUNA
You're "Jesus", right?

NINO
You're delirious, just rest...

A Catholic Nun enters the room to check on Luna. It is REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (elderly, strict, broken English, Sicilian Nun).

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
(to Nino)
How is she?

NINO
Just coming to, Reverend Mother.

LUNA
Reverend Mother?! Oh God! I must be in Hell then? Don't they give free "Get out of Hell" passes to orphans?

NINO
(whispering down to Luna)
Her bark is worst than her bite...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

(whispering back)

The Catholics must have a training program for Reverend Mothers. Turning them into "Godzilla" to devour the city?

Luna tries to focus her eyes on the Reverend Mother standing over her.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Where on earth have you come from child?

NINO

She's an orphan....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Heaven sake no, she's much too old to be a runaway orphan. Are you trying to take refuge from the "policia", here at the church?

LUNA

Oh no. Nothing like that. Just traveling through enjoying the sights....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

(to Nino)

Well? See that the poor child gets her strength back. She's your responsibility now. When she's up and running, bring her to my office...

The Reverend Mother leaves the infirmary.

LUNA

Please don't send me to Reverend Mother's office. I've had more than my share of visits to Reverend Mother's....

NINO

Don't tell me we've been a bad, little girl, at the orphanage?

LUNA

Let's just say. I got caught holding the bag on several occasions...

Nino gets Luna a GLASS OF WATER to drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

Here, you are totally dehydrated.
You're in need of fluids. When was
the last time you ate?

LUNA

I forgot...

NINO

You rest up a bit more. I'll come
back in a few hours and then we'll
get you something to eat.

Nino leaves the room.

INT. SANTA LUCIA INFIRMARY - FEW HOURS LATER

Luna starts to wake up and focus her eyes on an image that
is sitting on the end of the bed. It is a PURE WHITE CAT
staring at her with curious CAT EYES.

LUNA

I am in Heaven! My prayers are
answered. Do you know how I prayed
and prayed for a kitten of my own....

Nino comes into the room and when Luna looks again, the cat
is gone from sight.

LUNA (cont'd)

Is that your cat?

NINO

What cat? There's no cat here....

LUNA

The one that was just there, on the
end of the bed...

NINO

You're still delirious. Can you walk
to the dining room?

Luna looks at Nino in a flirty, admiring way and plays
"damsel in distress".

LUNA

I think you'll have to carry me, I'm
so weak.....

Nino carries Luna into the dining room.

INT. SANTA LUCIA DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Nino is trying to position Luna in the DINING ROOM CHAIR, he is having a bit of trouble placing her in the chair and they both start LAUGHING and GIGGLING. Reverend Mother Angelina walks into the dining room and notices the flirtations going on.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Mister Benvenuto? Are you in need of
assistance, with that young lady?

Nino finally positions Luna in the dining room chair as Reverend Mother looks on sternly.

NINO
There we go. I think she's ready,
Reverend Mother...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Are you quite sure, Mister Benvenuto?

NINO
Definitely, Reverend Mother...

Luna giggles under her breath at a blushing Nino.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Is this amusing to you, young lady?

LUNA
No, Reverend Mother. It's just that.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
It's just that, seminary students are
forbidden to have any uncalled for
contact with members of the opposite
persuasion. Are we clear on that,
young lady?

LUNA
Opposite persuasion?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
The likes of "you", young lady....

Reverend Mother stares at Luna for an answer.

LUNA
Yes...Reverend Mother...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 First thing in the morning, I expect
 you in my office, bright and early.
 Perhaps we can sort this all out.....
 Is that clear, young lady?

LUNA
 Yes...Reverend Mother....

Reverend Mother gives a stern stare at Nino and leaves.

LUNA (cont'd)
 (to Nino)
 Are you sure this isn't Hell?

NINO
 Don't mind her. "Old habits" are hard
 to break.....

INT. REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Luna is standing in front of the Reverend Mother's desk as
 the Reverend Mother is sitting behind her desk. A long beat
 as Reverend Mother is going over some paper work.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 (without looking up)
 What time is it, young lady?

LUNA
 Not sure. I don't own a watch. Never,
 ever in my life....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 Interesting....

A long beat as Reverend Mother still is busy with her
 paper work.

LUNA
 Reverend Mother?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 Not till you're spoken to.....

LUNA
 Sorry.....

Another long beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
(still without looking)

Did I not say, "first thing in the morning"?

LUNA

Yes, but? What time is that?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Let's move on. Now, what were you to say?

LUNA

What I was about to say was, I really appreciate all that you've done for me. Getting me back on my feet and all. But, I need to move on from here. I'm just traveling through. You see, I was raised in an orphanage by Nuns and never, ever seen the world. So, I decided that I wanted to travel. You know, see the world and...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Are you through?

LUNA

Excuse me?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Are you through carrying on with your rambling thoughts?

Luna shifts on her feet getting a bit nervous at Reverend Mother's strictness.

LUNA

I guess... yes...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Yes, what?

LUNA

Yes.....Reverend Mother. I'm.... through.....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

You say, that you were raised by Nuns in an orphanage?

LUNA

Yes.....Reverend Mother...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Seems to me, that someone that was in
the presence of Sisters, that someone
hasn't learned a thing or two about
how one should behave in the presence
of a Reverend Mother or that of a
seminary student?

LUNA
Excuse me?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
I witnessed your behavior yesterday,
young lady. Is it your practice to go
roaming around the globe, flirting
and carrying on with every man in
sight, including a young man that is
devoting himself to the Lord?

LUNA
With all due respect, Reverend
Mother. I didn't intend to...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
I intend to offer you a position
here.....

LUNA
Position?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Seeing that you are in need of work
and perhaps a refresher course on
proper Catholic behavior...

LUNA
But, I'm not Catholic....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Excuse me, young lady?

LUNA
I said, I'm not....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
I heard you.....

Reverend Mother gets up from her desk and stands in front of
Luna and stares her straight in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
Perhaps you are right? A proper and
behaved Catholic woman would not
carry on as you did yesterday....

LUNA
Honestly, Reverend Mother. I'm not in
need of work. My Father left me quite
well off. More money than the
Catholic Church has saints...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
What was that?

LUNA
More money than....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
I heard you.....

Reverend Mother walks back behind her desk.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
So, I see then. You're spoiled and in
need of discipline?

LUNA
Discipline?

Luna searches around the desk and room for a hairbrush.

LUNA (cont'd)
You don't own a hairbrush, do you?

INT. SANTA LUCIA HALLWAY - OUTSIDE REVEREND MOTHER'S
OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Luna rushes out of Reverend Mother's office to notice Nino
standing in the hallway.

LUNA
(to Nino)
Jesus, Joseph and Mary! Talk about
"Godzilla" in Nun's clothing...

Luna goes up to Nino and scolds in his face.

LUNA (cont'd)
I'm a United States citizen. You
can't hold me captive here...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

Captive?

LUNA

She's insisting I take a position here to help straighten me out...

NINO

The Reverend Mother feels it is her obligation to clean the souls of everyone she feels that needs it so. Guess, you're her latest. You wouldn't be her first. She means well, she just wants to help lost souls....

LUNA

Lost souls? Is that what she thinks I am? I'm not. Well, maybe a "lost lamb". Well, I'm NOT staying. You hear me?

Luna storms off to collect her things as Nino just smirks as he watches her rush off.

EXT. SANTA LUCIA COURTYARD - NEXT DAY

Luna is in the courtyard with a number of the church's ORPHANS from the school. She is chaperoning the children when Nino walks by as she is attending to one of the orphans.

NINO

(teasing Luna)

Nice "position"....

LUNA

Shut up.....Just shut up....

Nino watches Luna walk off to attend to another one of the ORPHANS.

NINO

(to himself)

Godzilla has conquered again....

EXT. SOVACA, SICILY VILLAGE STREET - NEXT DAY

Luna is strolling around the village to become better acquainted with the area.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She then spots the WHITE CAT again. She sees it run into a SMALL BARN and goes into the barn to find the cat.

INT. SMALL BARN - CONTINUOUS

Luna sees the WHITE CAT go up a LADDER into the HAY LOFT and she goes up the ladder to find the cat that is lying on a bed of straw. As Luna tries to pick up the cat to cuddle, it runs off and out of sight leaving Luna sad.

EXT. SANTA LUCIA COURTYARD - NEXT DAY

Luna is attending to the Orphan children in the courtyard. Nino appears and he's carrying a PICNIC BASKET.

NINO
(yelling to Luna)

Hey!.....

Luna comes over to Nino at the edge of the courtyard.

LUNA
What's with the basket? Selling Girl Scout Cookies for the parish, are we?

NINO
It's for a picnic...

LUNA
Well, have fun....

Luna starts to walk back to the children in the courtyard.

NINO
Aren't you coming?

LUNA
You really do want to send me off to a Nunnery, don't you?

NINO
The children are due at their classes. I'll get you back before recess....

EXT. SOVACA, SICILY HILLSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Nino are sitting on a PICNIC BLANKET having a nice spread of CHEESES AND FRUITS and watered down WINE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

I've never, ever been on a picnic before...

NINO

Well, no better a place than here in Sicily.....

LUNA

It is so beautiful here and so peaceful. I think I can envision myself staying here the rest of my life.....

A long beat as they sample the various cheeses, fruits and wine and relax on the picnic blanket.

NINO

I have a confession to make....

LUNA

Shouldn't this be the other way around? You're the priest...

NINO

Not yet. I haven't taken my vows yet...

Another long beat as Luna looks at Nino curiously.

NINO (cont'd)

I'm also.....an orphan...

A beat.

NINO (cont'd)

One day when I was very young, some bad men came to my family's house. They were from the local Mafia. You see, my Father was one of the law enforcement agents here and trying to convict some of these bad men.

Another long beat as Nino has a hard time recalling his memories of his youth.

NINO (cont'd)

My family. My Mother, my two brothers and sister. All murdered by these bad men.....

LUNA

You escaped?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

I was a coward and hid from them.
Under the kitchen sink...such a
coward....

LUNA

My God. Your whole family. And here,
I just lost one...

NINO

One is too many...

LUNA

Don't say that you were a coward. You
did what you had to do. You know, I
thought I was a coward when I wanted
to drown myself out in San Francisco
Bay, after my father committed
suicide.

NINO

Suicide?

LUNA

Yes, over being so depressed and full
of despair....I was only nine. I feel
guilty that maybe he felt he only had
a daughter, not a son. Do you know, I
knew a Chinese girl at the orphanage
that her family didn't want her
anymore because they already had
three daughters and no sons. They
named her "Awan", which means "no
more girls" in Chinese....

NINO

I'm so sorry. I still feel so guilty
too about it. Perhaps, that is why I
decided to become a priest.

LUNA

I feel guilty too. I always think
that maybe I was such a burden to
him, to support and raise by himself.

NINO

I guess we both have quite a bit of
guilt from both our pasts? Painful
things that have happened in the
past, really aren't our fault. But,
it's our responsibility where we go
from here. We should take ownership
of our lives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Do you think we shouldn't believe in everything we think about ourselves?

NINO

A person can be awfully critical and opinionated about themselves. I guess by becoming a priest, I thought I can help. Our wounded hearts and our deepest pains are always the starting place for helping heal the world. We were not created to be held a prisoner in hell.

LUNA

That's how I felt most of my life. A prisoner in hell that has forgotten how to cry. Sad to say, I've tried to fix my guilt and pain with alcohol and drug addictions and a few terrible boyfriends. Reverend Mother thinks I'm some roaming Jezebel from down under.

NINO

She doesn't think that. She thinks you are doing so well and she is so impressed with how you relate to the children.

LUNA

Not hard to do. I've been around orphans all of my life it seems. I still don't think I will ever find the answer to why my Father did what he did, leave me all alone in this world by myself....

NINO

The hunt and chase of that most elusive question known to hurt hearts. "Why?" To find hard to locate answers to our suffering and to find rest in forgiveness. It's like trying to chase and catch those birds over there....

They both look at the flock of birds on the hillside.

NINO (cont'd)

You can chase those birds. But, you'll never catch one.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO (cont'd)

It's just best to remember, love is
always stronger than death.

LUNA

So, maybe we both should run towards
the pain and not away from it?
Roaming around like I've been doing
these past few months, maybe I'm
trying to run away from the pain
instead of taking it straight on?

NINO

You're trying to find yourself....

Luna stands up and stretches her arms out as if she is ready
to embrace the world.

LUNA

Here is the world. Both beautiful and
terrible. Things will happen. We
shouldn't be afraid....

EXT. SAVOCA, SICILY VILLAGE STREETS - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna is strolling around the village again in search for the
WHITE CAT that seems to allude her at all times. She goes
into the BARN but doesn't find the cat and then comes out to
the streets again and confronts some the the VILLAGE
RESIDENTS.

LUNA

(to Village Resident)

Excuse me? Have you seen a white cat?

VILLAGE RESIDENT

Non capisco....

LUNA

Scusi?....Sorry...

It dawns on Luna that most don't understand English. She
approches the next village resident.

LUNA (cont'd)

Il Gato...Bianco...Vedo?

She approaches several of the residents but no one seems to
know of a white cat.

EXT. SOVACA, SICILY VILLAGE CEMETERY - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna is lying on one of the village grave sites, staring up at the sky, smoking a CIGARETTE. She blows her cigarette smoke towards the sky and watches as it blends into the CLOUDS above. She stares at the clouds curiously and tries to feel the ground and deceased below her.

EXT. SANTA LUCIA COURTYARD - NEXT DAY

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Mala Femmina" by Patrizio Buanne

As the MUSIC plays, Luna is in the courtyard attending to the orphan CHILDREN and then she takes them on a hike through the village countryside. Luna is then playing BOCCE BALL with some of the SENIOR CITIZEN MEN of the village. Nino is admiring her from afar and from the look on his face, he is falling deeply in love with her. The MUSIC fades into the next scene.

INT. SANTA MARIA CLASSROOM - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna has now been promoted to teaching the children in the classroom. As she is teaching the CLASS OF CHILDREN, she sees Nino out in the hallway through the WINDOW ON THE CLASSROOM DOOR. Nino is motioning for her to come out into the hallway. Luna excuses herself from the class and goes out into the hallway.

LUNA
What's up?

NINO
Nothing. I just....just..

LUNA
Just?

NINO
I want to...to...take you out...

LUNA
Out where?

NINO
Like on a.....you know...date?

LUNA
Date? You do want to send me off to that Nunnery.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

I'm serious. Tonight....

LUNA

Nino? This is a small village. You know it will only be a matter of time before Reverend...

NINO

I don't care. I need to be with you. There are nights that go by and I long for you so much...

LUNA

Nino? You're a seminary student. Besides, a dinner date with me, for a first date? It'll be a disaster....

NINO

Disaster?

LUNA

I'm a freakin' mess when I consume food. I spilled the wine twice on the picnic....

NINO

No wine this time. I promise...

LUNA

I've gotta go. The children.....

NINO

How about this? I'll be at the restaurant in the village and then you just happen to meet me there, out of coincidence.

LUNA

I gotta go. Definitely out of the question.....

INT. SOVACA, SICILY VILLAGE RESTAURANT - THAT EVENING

Nino is sitting at a table by himself when Luna walks in trying to be nonchalant about meeting him there.

NINO

Well, heaven help us. Look whose here. Such a shame the both of us having to eat alone tonight...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Luna sits down at his table.

LUNA

Perhaps you need to stick with the priest thing? You'd never make Hollywood with that acting...

Nino orders for both of them from the WAITER.

LUNA (cont'd)

Nino? I think it's my turn to make a confession....

NINO

Great. It'll be good practice for me. You know, when and if I become a priest...

LUNA

I have to confess one of the biggest reasons I decided to stay on here in Sovaca, is....."you". I liked you from the very first time I opened my eyes and thought you were Jesus and I was in Heaven...

NINO

Hope I didn't disappoint you that I wasn't Jesus...

LUNA

I was glad you weren't. I'd have to become a Nun to be married to Jesus. I mean...I didn't mean "married", I meant....

NINO

And here I thought, the only reason you stayed on was to prove to Reverend Mother that you weren't some roving around Jezebel trying to corrupt men to making deals with the devil.....

LUNA

Well? Maybe that was another deciding factor. But, it was really "you". Aren't you going to say anything about me?

NINO

Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

Like...like, *why did you ask me out on a date?*

NINO

Because....I like you. Very much so.....Since I first saw you lying in front of the church. Like you were an angel dropped from Heaven...

LUNA

Gawd! Weren't you wrong. I'm weird... I'm crazy....and loony. And, don't tell me that you love loony, crazy chicks.....

NINO

I was just going to say...very pretty and sweet. Down deep, that is....

Nino calls the waiter over and orders a bottle of wine.

LUNA

Nino? You promised, no wine....

NINO

We need to celebrate...

LUNA

Celebrate what?

NINO

To you, thinking you might stay here for ever and ever....

LUNA

I never said that.....

NINO

But, I can see it in your eyes, you want to stay here, you love it here..

LUNA

I do, very much so. But....

NINO

But, what? Don't you want to settle down somewhere?

LUNA

I do....but....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The waiter brings the BOTTLE OF WINE and pours it into GLASSES for them.

NINO

Salute....

Luna and Nino are dancing on the dance floor to traditional Italian MUSIC and full of wine the rest of the night.

EXT. SOVACA, SICILY VILLAGE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Nino is walking Luna back to the church dormitory. They are both LAUGHING and full of wine with a bit of drunken slur in their dialogue. Suddenly, Nino gently leads Luna into an ALLEYWAY behind a BUILDING and KISSES her passionately on her lips and hugs her.

NINO

I'm so in love with you, Luna!

Luna looks at Nino totally shocked and confused. She first starts walking away from Nino backwards, then picks up her pace and runs back to the church dormitory by herself.

NINO (cont'd)

(yelling at Luna)

Luna?....Luna?

But, Luna keeps running and never turns back.

EXT. SANTA LUCIA COURTYARD - NEXT DAY

Luna is in the courtyard attending to the children. She sees Nino at the edge of the courtyard with a yearning expression on his face. Luna is trying to avoid engaging with him, still a bit in a panic about the end of their date.

INT. SANTA LUCIA HALLWAY - OUTSIDE REVEREND MOTHER'S OFFICE

Every time Luna spots Nino in the hallways she makes herself scarce and avoids him. Finally, Nino corners her in her dormitory room and he closes the DOOR.

INT. LUNA'S DORMITORY BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

NINO

I'm sorry.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

No need.....

Luna tries to busy herself folding some of her LAUNDRY and hanging her CLOTHES, having a hard time looking at him.

LUNA (cont'd)

Please, Nino? If Reverend Mother catches you here in my room. I don't need anymore trouble in my life...

NINO

I never, ever felt like this before. Why are you acting so strange?

LUNA

I told you. I'm strange, I'm weird, I'm loony, what can I say...

NINO

Stop saying that. You need to get over thinking of yourself like that. You're a beautiful and sweet person, with lots of emotions bottled up inside you to give...

LUNA

Please, Nino? Please leave me alone. You don't want to get involved with me...Someone will only get hurt...

Luna sits on the very edge of her bed with her back towards Nino, still not wanting to face him.

NINO

I thought you liked me?

LUNA

I do. That's why I don't want anyone to get hurt. I don't want to get involved with anyone, never, ever again. I want to be alone...

NINO

You can't be alone the rest of your life...

LUNA

It's in my cards. Every time I get involved, I always end up all alone. Full of longing and absolutely no love to feel....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

And, that's why you ran away?

Luna just looks down at the floor in front of her, closes her eyes and nods her head in agreement. She then stands up to face him.

LUNA

Please, Nino? I don't want to be hurt anymore.....

NINO

I promise. I will never, ever hurt you...I....love you!

LUNA

And what happens when that day comes and you take your vows to be a priest? You'll go away and be married to the Virgin Mary or whatever priests get married to?

NINO

It's my choice. My choice whether I want to be a priest or not....

LUNA

And it's my choice not to be hurt anymore. I'm cursed. Maybe when you become a priest you can give me an exorcism?

NINO

Don't talk ridiculous...

LUNA

Do you remember before, when you told me you wanted to rectify your guilt for how you acted so cowardly with your family?

Nino turns away and looks down at the floor.

LUNA (cont'd)

And do you remember when you asked me what I was starving for?

Nino turns and looks at Luna again. Luna walks up to him to face him straight away in the face.

LUNA (cont'd)

I just want you to comfort me, that's all.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

I just want you to comfort me, help me understand me. Be a true friend to me. True friends are those rare people who come to find you in dark places and lead you back to the light.....

NINO

I never planned on being a priest. I just....I just thought it seemed like such a beautiful idea, to be able to spend my whole entire life devoted to love. I just thought a life like that, seemed worth every sacrifice. Sacrifice for my guilt for the family that I lost.

LUNA

And now?

NINO

Now, I know there are other things to devote my life to love, to show my love and devotion to someone I truly believe in...

LUNA

What about God...and Jesus? Reverend Mother says that you are studying to devote yourself to them...

NINO

Sometimes....sometimes, I wish I could be more loved back. What I mean is, I wish I knew for sure, that we all knew for sure, that he really loves us back as much as we love him. I wish I could feel more....

LUNA

Don't wish for things you shouldn't.

NINO

That night I kissed you? I felt so much love, so much feeling and I felt your ever so longing to be loved back, to be wanted so much by someone....I could feel it from you.

Luna goes and sits on her bed facing away from him. Luna seems like she's about to cry, her body shaking and trembling a bit, yet somehow she won't allow herself to cry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA
I think you should go now, Nino.

NINO
But, Luna? My feelings for you....

LUNA
Now, Nino. Please?

Nino slowly walks towards the door and opens the door. He turns to look at Luna one more time.

NINO
I just wanted something more than God
could give me.....

Nino closes the door leaving Luna still on the verge of tears, but she won't let herself go to cry.

INT. REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA'S OFFICE - FEW DAYS LATER

Luna is standing in the DOORWAY. She tries to hide her nervous concern with a smile.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Come in, dear.

Luna stands awkwardly, shy and nervous in front of Reverend Mother's desk as she is sitting behind it, busying herself with her normal stack of paper work.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
(not looking up)
Did we say our prayers, this morning?

LUNA
Yes, Reverend Mother....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
And do we care to share?

LUNA
Pardon?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Your prayers, child? What, if
anything, did we pray for?

LUNA
(thinking)
Everything.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Everything? Be specific, young lady.

Luna shifts on her feet nervously and says nothing. Reverend Mother gets up from her desk and stands in front of Luna and stares straight in Luna's face.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
Young lady? If you're going to stand there and try to hide things from me and the Lord....

LUNA
Hide things?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
It's totally obvious you've been going up and down this hallway outside of my office and back and forth past Mister Benvenuto's room...

LUNA
But, I was just looking for him. I haven't seen him in days....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
That's because he is no longer here. He is off to Rome....

LUNA
Rome? No longer here?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Are you not aware that once a seminary student makes their decision to take their vows as a priest....

LUNA
But, he didn't even say goodbye...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
His place is with the Lord now....

LUNA
But, Reverend Mother? We were....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
You were what?

LUNA
(thinking)
Friends....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Friends? Is that what you call it?

Luna shifts on her feet a bit nervous.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
Besides, he has many more things on
his plate and his mind than to be
wasting his time on the likes of you.

LUNA
Wasting his time? But, Reverend
Mother....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Yes, wasting his time. You know, the
first time I laid eyes on you, I
figured you were nothing but trouble.

LUNA
But, Reverend Mother. You said it
yourself. I was doing such a great
job with the children, that you were
so impressed with me....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Yes, I agree. But, Jesus help us! My
word, carrying on in the village,
full of drink, the devil's advocate
to Mister Benvenuto! Trying to seduce
him and tempt him with sin....

LUNA
But, Reverend Mother, I wasn't the...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Are you trying to accuse Mister
Benvenuto of sinning?

Luna again shifts on her feet. Memories of her taking the
blame for Susie back at the orphanage running across her
mind.

LUNA
Reverend Mother? I didn't....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
I want your things packed and I
insist that you return the key to the
classroom before you leave...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA

But, Reverend Mother? Are you sending me away?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

We're done here, young lady. I can't take the risk of you spreading the devil's wrath among the children.

LUNA

But, Reverend Mother? I would never do that. I know what it's like to be an orphan.....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

You're excused, Miss Liu. I want the key on my desk by the end of the day.

Luna just stands there, trying hard to hold back her tears and feelings. Reverend Mother nods at the office door for Luna to leave and go pack her things.

LUNA

I just want you to know, I'm not all what you think. I'm just trying to forgive myself for the goodbye I didn't get to give to my Father. And now, the goodbye I never got to give to Nino. Death is horrible enough. Can't you just have a little bit of kindness in your heart? How can you be so cold?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

Pain can be used to learn, Miss Liu. Obviously, you haven't learned a thing....

LUNA

I have learned. I've learned that it's people like you that aren't understanding what other people are going through in their life. You just can't tell someone that you don't want them around any longer and tell them that they're not wanted anymore. You're supposed to be loving, caring and understanding. How can you be so cruel?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

I have a deep concern for the children, Miss Liu. A bad influence around the children is my concern.

LUNA

But, I'm not a bad influence. Haven't you witnessed it this past month my performance with the children?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA

I have, Miss Liu. You were doing exceptionally well. Then the gossip all around the village about Mister Benvenuto and you carrying on in the streets. Honestly, Miss Liu? Is that anyway to represent Santa Lucia?

Luna looks down at the floor in front of her for a long beat. She then takes the classroom KEY from her jean pocket and tosses it on the Reverend Mother's desk.

LUNA

I guess if that is how you feel, not to want me around any longer, then so be it. I'm sorry for all the trouble I've caused here. Goodbye, Reverend Mother.

Luna turns on her heels and heads for her dormitory room to pack her things to leave. Reverend Mother glances at the framed picture of JESUS on the wall with a nod and an expression "so be it". Luna turns before she heads out the door.

LUNA (cont'd)

It's no use trying to explain oneself to someone like you. But, remember this, Reverend Mother. Silence doesn't mean that person quits, it simply means that one doesn't want to argue with people who just don't want to understand.

Luna walks out the door leaving Reverend Mother with a pensive look on her face.

INT. LUNA'S DORMITORY BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luna is standing in front of the MIRROR trying to hold back her tears. Her BACKPACK is on the BED with the little possessions of hers packed and ready to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She struggles a bit to fix her long HAIR in the MIRROR, then grabs her belongings and walks past Nino's room one more time to assure herself that he is no longer there. She then goes out into the street in front of the church.

EXT. SANTA LUCIA CHURCH-OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Luna hurries away from the church still trying to hold back her tears. She then stops and starts to walk backward to get one last look at the church. She then suddenly decides, as if someone is telling her, to go inside the church to say one last prayer to her "Darkness".

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel.

"Hello darkness, my old friend". "I've come to talk with you again".

The MUSIC continues to play as Luna slowly walks down the aisle and she stares up at JESUS ON THE CROSS. She then sits down in one of the PEWS to pray to her "Darkness".

As the MUSIC continues to play, Nino walks past Luna down the aisle and he is dressed in STREET CLOTHES (not his seminary student uniform). He goes past Luna without looking at her, places his SEMINARY UNIFORM at the foot of the ALTAR and gets down on his knees to pray. He then gets up after a long beat and turns around to face Luna.

As MUSIC continues to play, Nino does SIGN LANGUAGE to Luna.

NINO (SUBTITLE)

(sign language)

Never left you. Couldn't say goodbye to you. You were right. The wrong reason for being a priest. I now have found a real reason for my life, "You"! I love you and want to be with you always. I promise, so help me God.....

Luna's sad expression develops into a little hint of a smile. A new sense of self, of conviction, of peace and understanding is gradually appearing in her eyes.

Nino then comes down from the ALTAR, gets down on his one knee to Luna and he continues to communicate with her in sign language as the MUSIC continues to play.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO (SUBTITLE) (cont'd)
Please marry me? I promise to never,
ever leave you, so help me God.

The never before release of TEARS, from the evening after Luna's Father's funeral, come pouring out of her EYES and down her CHEEKS. But this time, they are truly tears of joy!

INT. REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Luna and Nino are standing in front of Reverend Mother's desk as she is sitting behind her desk. Reverend Mother finally looks up at the nervous couple.

NINO
Reverend Mother? Luna and I have come
for your blessings...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
There will be no need for that.
Evidently, you two have made your
decisions....

LUNA
But, Reverend Mother? If I may so
speak?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
At this point, I'm sure there is
absolutely no way of me being able to
stop you...

LUNA
We love each other very much so.
We've come to ask for both of our
forgiveness. Nino for deciding not to
take his vows and mine for being a
bother to you....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
As for Nino, it is best he made his
decision now and not in the future. A
priest must be totally devoted to the
Lord, with no distractions. And as
for you, Miss Liu? You have been no
bother. In fact, you have been a very
much needed lesson for me....

Luna and Nino look at each other in shock at Reverend Mother's confession. Reverend Mother gets up from her desk and stands in front of the nervous and shocked couple for a long beat. She then stares directly in Luna's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
 "You", my child, have taught the
 Reverend Mother that, for it is I
 that has sinned.....

LUNA
 Huh?

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 You see? If Jesus can wash away the
 sins of the past, then we as a people
 and as of the Catholic faith, should
 do likewise. Perhaps, you were lost
 in sin in your past? It has been very
 evident to me that you are trying so
 hard to make amends for yourself.

NINO
 Reverend Mother? It was me that
 tempted Luna that evening. She
 resisted my advances and preferred
 not to have the wine...

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 I see? Then perhaps, I owe Miss Liu
 an apology?

LUNA
 There is no need for that, Reverend
 Mother....

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
 Oh, I insist. I apologize to you,
 Miss Liu. I'm so sorry I misjudged
 you and I apologize for my rush to
 judgment.....

Luna shifts on her feet and bit anxious.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA (cont'd)
 What is wrong, child?

A long beat.

LUNA
 Reverend Mother? Can you please, for
 once, call me "Luna"?

A beat and then all three break out in laughter. Reverend
 Mother hugs Luna and kisses her on her forehead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Then "Luna", it is. God Bless you,
Luna. The two of you go in peace and
let the Lord be with you in your life
and marriage.....

LUNA
(tears of joy)
Thank you so much, Reverend Mother.

Nino takes Luna by her hand and they start to head out of
the Reverend Mother's office.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
Oh, "Luna"?

LUNA
Yes, Reverend Mother?

A beat.

REVEREND MOTHER ANGELINA
The key to the classroom is back in
your room. Please attend to it and
please do not lose it like you have
done so carelessly twice already, in
just the past month.

LUNA
Yes, Reverend Mother. I promise...

EXT. SOVACA, SICILY CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

Luna and Nino are sitting in silence in the cemetery,
overlooking the picturesque village. The only SOUNDS are the
BREEZE and some distant BIRDS. Luna has her BACKPACK.

LUNA
I was really hoping I didn't love
you. But, I did. I ran away from
other guys, not just you....

NINO
Afraid you'd get hurt again?

LUNA
So terrified after my Father left me
all alone. I didn't want to have that
feeling ever again in my life. I was
so afraid that if I loved you so
much, you'd not want me around any
longer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NINO

I promised you I would never do that.

LUNA

One day, before my Father passed. I asked him, what does it feel like to get older. He said, "Inside of you, you hear the music and you can feel yourself dance to it. You like the same things and more. But, when you look in the mirror, it's not the person that's still inside."

NINO

I think I know that feeling....

LUNA

That day when Reverend Mother wanted to send me away, I looked at myself in the mirror and thought to myself, the complete opposite. I still felt the same feeling that was inside of me. I still had my friend "darkness" to contend with. It seemed like I could never, ever get rid of the darkness deep down inside of me.

NINO

And now?

LUNA

And now, I feel like it is time for a new birth. The burden of the world's sins and guilt washed away. A new start in life. You know, like Jesus?

NINO

And the resurrection has begun. For the two of us....

Luna thinks about it deeply, hugs Nino closer and a TEAR drips down her pretty cheek.

LUNA

I'm just so happy I remembered how to cry again. So happy they are happy tears and not sad tears like the day my Father left me all alone. But, I've learned that the most painful tears are not the ones that fall from your eyes and cover your face. They're the ones that fall from your heart and cover your soul.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A distant CHURCH BELL is heard in the distance, as if calling us somewhere. Luna looks up and notices the WHITE CAT sitting on one of the grave stones and staring at her.

LUNA (cont'd)
There's that white cat again....

NINO
Where?

Luna points at the vision she is seeing.

LUNA
(pointing)
There....

Nino squints but doesn't see anything.

NINO
You're not feeling faint again, like that first day you got here, seeing visions?

Luna looks again at the grave stone and this time the vision is gone from her sight.

LUNA
You know, something or someone told me to go back into Santa Lucia for one last prayer. To sit there in silence and have my last talk with my "darkness". Tell that darkness what I felt and that I didn't want to question it again. Only God knows why things happen. I don't ever want to be alone again. I want the secrets your secrets haven't found...

NINO
I already told you all of my secrets in your room the other day....

LUNA
You know, the tunnel I was traveling through the first year in the orphanage when I was nine was terrible. Then it got a little brighter when I met another orphan named Susie. Then I started to forget a little the tunnel I was walking through until Susie got adopted by a family.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUNA (cont'd)

Then I was all alone again and I wanted to be dead and buried with a cross over my head....

NINO

That would be absolutely crazy to do that...

LUNA

You'd never believe how true it is being dead and buried felt like...

Luna opens her BACKPACK and takes out the URN/VASE of her cat. She looks at it deeply and emotionally for a long beat. Nino looks curiously at her.

LUNA (cont'd)

I think this is a good enough place as any. Don't you?

NINO

Like I always say. No better a place than here in Sicily.....

Luna and Nino start digging a grave site for Luna's cat. They place the URN/VASE into the freshly dug grave and both say a prayer and the sign of the cross. Luna slowly buries the urn/vase as tears trickle down her cheeks. Luna then takes a CROSS out of her backpack and places it over the grave site and stares down at it in silence.

They both sit in silence together and then give each other a big smile as the suggested MUSIC starts.

SUGGESTED MUSIC - "Smile" by Patrizio Buanne

As MUSIC plays we see them sitting and hugging each other looking down on the picturesque village. Then, we see them walking hand in hand through the village. They stroll past Santa Lucia church and we see Reverend Mother looking at them through the church front DOOR with a slight smile on her face as she glances up at Heaven.

THE END.

AS ENDING CREDITS ROLL:

SUGGESTED MUSIC - "Someday, We'll Be Together" - By Diana Ross and the Supremes.