

THE VOICE WITHIN MY SILENCE

Written by

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FADE IN:

Black screen. The soundscape is composed by a muffled voice and ambient noise background. The muffled voice gradually can be distinguished as belonging to a female which softly states: PEOPLE HAVE DREAMS.

CUT TO:

1

INT. AUDITION ROOM - MORNING (DREAM SEQUENCE)

1

We see the eyes of a woman that suddenly open.

A delicate brunette woman occupies the frame. She is slim and gracious. Based on her appearance, she is in her early twenties. This is ALICE PLATE, her face expresses fear but her eyes are full of determination. She holds in her right hand a stack of papers. Both hands are shaking.

The judges are looking at her unimpressed and almost uninterested.

Alice tries to control her nervousness so she takes a deep breath. CEILING LIGHTS are now OFF and the performance begins.

THE PIANIST starts playing the piano.

Alice feels something odd when it comes to her vocal cords.

Alice starts singing.

ALICE (SINGING)

Hear me out,
I try to open my mouth
But I cannot speak.
I feel the sound of silence
Turning my dreams to nightmares
And I cannot breathe.

The lights become darker. Alice's expressions become more insecure. There is something wrong going on.

ALICE (SINGING) (CONT'D)

But when I dream I hear a song
A melody that I've known for so
long
But I forgot to listen
When I lost my voice within the
silence
Look at me...

Alice suddenly starts losing her voice. Her beautiful melody abruptly transforms into a scratchy sound. The rhythm of the song starts to get slower and slower up to a point in which she tries to sing but cannot make a sound.

The judges start laughing at her. The sound of an alarm clock becomes prominent as Alice continues to struggle to make a sound.

CUT TO:

2

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

2

Alice opens her eyes once again and they remain open.

ALICE (V.O.)

As I said, people have dreams. And this was my dream.

We can hear one short breath which is intensified.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE: THE VOICE WITHIN MY SILENCE.

FADE IN:

3

INT. UNIVERSITY - MORNING

3

Alice is the type of person that stands out in a crowd of people. She is charismatic and always tries to put a smile on your face. But today, her behavior is different. Alice looks doubtful and insecure.

Based on her movements, Alice is looking for a particular room.

During this search, Alice explains through the aid of a voice-over what happened to her voice.

ALICE (V.O.)

My name is Alice and I'm a dreamer, or rather I used to be. I wanted to become a famous singer, someone like Gaga or Adele, but I lost my voice three months ago. I never would have guessed that a vocal cords surgery could take my dream away forever. But now I'm here and I don't know who I am anymore.

Alice stops for a second and takes a deep breath. She puts her left hand on her neck to feel her vocal cords. She gives a look at the papers in her hand and starts walking again at a faster pace.

ALICE (V.O.)

I don't even know why I'm lost in these hallways in search of a sign language teacher. What can she teach me?

(MORE)

ALICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 How to gesticulate with people? I
 cannot even ask someone for
 directions if not by gestures.

Alice is worn out. Out of pure luck, she meets a guy that points her in the right direction after she shows him the name on her papers. Alice knocks at the door and enters the office. A CLOSE UP of the door etiquette reveals that the office belongs to a sign language teacher that's waiting for Alice.

CUT TO:

4

INT. SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER OFFICE

4

Once the door opens, we see the sign language teacher, ALEXANDRA NIKOLAOU, who smiles at Alice joyfully.

ALEXANDRA
 (smiling)
 You must be Alice.

Alice nods her head in agreement. She takes a step towards the teacher and they shake their hands.

Alexandra Nikolaou, 27, is best known among her friends as Alex. Her appearance is harmonious. On her desk, there is a picture of her mute brother, a collection of books about sign language and two warm cups of coffee.

Alexandra welcomes Alice into her office. Because Alice cannot speak, she interacts via writing through whiteboard notepad.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)
 How are you feeling?

ALICE (V.O.)
 How the fuck do you think I'm
 feeling?

Alice puts hesitantly her hand on the pen and starts writing on the whiteboard. She writes: 'I'm good'.

ALEXANDRA
 (smiling)
 I know it takes time to adapt but
 you're here for this. Right?

ALICE (V.O.)
 No, pff, I'm just here wasting my
 time.

Alice writes again on the whiteboard. She simply writes:
 'Yes'.

ALEXANDRA

Good, I heard that you are an amazing songwriter.

Alice looks biased and confused.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

And that's why I thought of you when I saw these.

Alexandra takes the University Arts Showcase flyer from the top of the piano, mixed with a bunch of other flyers. She shows it to Alice.

ALICE (V.O.)

Are you kidding?

ALEXANDRA

I can prepare you for that. You will find that sign language can be used to better express the feelings in your songs. You can sing again, Alice, just not as you were used to.

Alice takes yet again the whiteboard and writes: 'It was a mistake, I'm sorry'. Alice is both nervous and pissed off. Alexandra keeps smiling and Alice does not see a reason for doing that.

Alice stands up and she is about to leave the office. Alexandra tries to stop her.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Alice, wait...Think about it. Believing in your dreams is the best option to recover.

Alexandra hands Alice the flyer. Alice looks at the flyer and she leaves the office in anger.

5

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE

5

Alice sits on her bed. She is crying out of frustration. She holds the music sheets of her songs in her hands. She throws the music sheets on the floor. The only paper that remains on the bed is the University Arts Showcase flyer.

Alice takes the flyer in her hand. She opens a notebook and starts writing the title of a song called RAISE MY VOICE.

Alice starts writing the song. As she is writing, we start hearing the instrumentals for the song.

This scene alternates between the REAL Alice standing on the bed while writing AND Alice's FADED PERSONA (HER GHOST, ALTER EGO) that stands up and sings what the REAL one writes on the notebook.

CUT TO:

Several days pass. Alice now feels ready to get the help she needs from Alexandra.

6

INT. MUSIC ROOM-COLYER FERGUSSON-AFTERNOON #DAY1

6

Alice enters Alexandra's office with the flyer in her hand. Alexandra warmly welcomes Alice.

ALEXANDRA

(smiling)

I knew I would see you again. Are you ready?

Alice smiles but we can still see she is insecure towards her new self.

Alexandra, however, is full of confidence as she knows that Alice can achieve her dreams.

They start practicing for the University Arts Showcase. Alice shows signs of struggling and frustration as it's the first time she practices sign language.

7

INT. MUSIC ROOM-COLYER FERGUSSON-AFTERNOON #DAY2

7

Alice and Alexandra practice again. Alice seems to learn the basics of sign language. They both try and gesticulate the first lyrics of Alice's song.

Alice is still very clumsy. After multiple mistakes, she gets annoyed and falls to the floor. Alice feels like there is too much pressure on her shoulders. Alexandra hugs Alice strongly to comfort her.

In the background, we can hear Alice's inner voice singing her song while the REAL Alice practices.

This scene alternates between the REAL Alice practicing with Alexandra AND Alice's FADED PERSONA (HER GHOST, ALTER EGO). While the ghost of Alice plays the piano and sings, Alexandra and Alice practice the sign language.

ALICE (SINGING)

People looking at me
Wonder if they can see
The struggle within me and my
dreams.
Feels so lonely up here
On the edge of glory
(MORE)

ALICE (SINGING) (CONT'D)

This height could overwhelm me.
But I won't let my fears
Win over me
'Cause I know
That I'm worth it
I guess...

8

INT. MUSIC ROOM-COLYER FERGUSSON-AFTERNOON #DAY3

8

Alice shows even more the will to learn. She does not want her negative thoughts to control her actions. Alice seems to be smiling for the first time in a long time.

The colours start to get brighter, Alice's smiles brightens up the room but she still has tears in her eyes.

ALICE (SINGING)

Trying to hold my breath
Until I find the strength
To open up my eyes
And raise my voice into the sky
It's time for me to try
I will raise my voice
So no one can deter me
Anymore.

9

INT. AUDITION ROOM -UNIVERSITY ARTS SHOWCASE

9

We once again see the eyes of Alice opening. Meanwhile, we gradually hear Alexandra introducing Alice to the judge panel.

ALEXANDRA

...I'm really proud of what Alice managed to create throughout these weeks. It was a difficult path but Alice is here to prove to you and to herself that no matter what happens, you can always find a way to achieve your dreams.

Alexandra leaves the stage. Alice takes a step forward and she prepares for the audition.

JUDGE #1

(smiling)

Okay, Alice, take your time,
whenever you're ready...

She looks at her pianist and nods her head. The pianist starts playing.

The following scene alternates between the REAL Alice singing the song in sign language while we hear on the speakers her voice singing the song she composed for the showcase.

ALICE

(alternating)

All the times I gave up
On dreams that turned to failures
Keep coming to my mind
Among the ones that I loved
Among the ones that left me
My music's never gone.
So, I won't let my fears
Win over me
'Cause I know
That I'm stronger.
I am.

JUDGE #2

(towards Judge #1)

I think she's the one.

ALICE (SINGING CONT'D)

Trying to hold my breath
Until I find the strength
To open up my eyes
And raise my voice into the sky
It's time for me to fly.
Even in the darkest nights
Remember that your light
Explodes into the drums
That play until the morning comes
Ten thousand miles apart
Hold on to your voice
So no one can deter you anymore.
'Cause when I feel unworthy

10

INT. UNIVERSITY OF ARTS SHOWCASE - THEATRE

10

The ghost of Alice walks down the empty theatre as she sings

ALICE (SINGING CONT'D)

I wonder if the music can remind me
of who I am
And when I pray at night
To find the reason why
I let myself down

The ghost of Alice singing disappears as the theater becomes full of people looking at the real Alice performance.

Alice is at the center of the stage she finally looks confident in her sign language abilities. Her movements almost look like a practiced dance that follows the lyrics of her song.

ALICE (SINGING CONT'D) (CONT'D)

But now it's time to face my fears
And I won't stop
Until I find the strength
To open my eyes
(MORE)

ALICE (SINGING CONT'D) (CONT'D)

And free the voice inside
That raise me up into the sky
It's time for me to fly
Even in the darkest nights
Remember that your light
Explodes into the drums
That play until the morning comes
Ten thousand miles apart
I will raise my voice
To the drown out all the noise
'Cause no matter what
Now no one can deter me anymore.

Her performance ends with the crowd standing up and cheering.
Alice is crying once again, but this time they are tears of
happiness.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE: THE VOICE WITHIN MY SILENCE.

Credits rolling.

CUT TO BLACK.