Still

Written by

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Ring...Ring...

Click.

YOUNG WOMAN VOICE (V.O.)

Hello?

FRANCIS (V.O.) Hey Lei, this is Francis.

LEI (V.O.) Hey. What's going on?

FRANCIS (V.O.) I have a favor to ask.

INT. LEI'S ROOM - EVENING

A girl with raven black hair takes her uniform, dangling from her closet door and brings it into the closet.

LEI (V.O.) Okay, what is it?

FRANCIS (V.O.) Tessa walked out...

Sliding her legs into the **JEANS** and buttoning up her SHIRT.

FRANCIS (V.O.) (cont'd) I'd stay but I am already opening as it is...I know this is a big ask, especially since you just started but I would be grateful if you could do this, just for tonight...

Some hands with painted nails attaches something to her chest--revealing it to be name tag, reading--

"LEI"

She motions over to the mirror and looks at herself, revealing her face, she's 17 years old and fond of dark make-up.

FRANCIS (V.O.) (cont'd) What do you say?

LEI (Deep breath then--) Fuck me. She takes her **KEYS** off of the night stand and leaves her room.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

She what?

INT. CAR

Lei is operating the vehicle with one hand and holding the phone with the other.

LEI She walked out...so I'm covering her shift.

MALE VOICE (V.O.) Your boss should be the one closing.

LEI

It's just one night, Jimmy...besides, might as well get the skill to know how to.

JIMMY (V.O.) Still sucks but fair.

She lets out a chuckle.

LEI

I'll let you know when I am on my way home tonight, you think you can wait up for me?

JIMMY (V.O.) Sure. How about I bring some lunch later?

LEI

And coffee!

JIMMY (V.O.) (Chuckles then--) Alright. Coffee too.

Lei pulls into the lot surrounded by fancy buildings and teenagers prowling the streets, moving from one shop to the next.

LEI I got to go, I'm here. I'll see you later. JIMMY (V.O.) Okay. I love you.

LEI Love you back.

She taps the red button and sets her phone down on the dash.

Her eyes motions up to the building in front of her, a sign that reads "Sabrina's".

If Forever 21 and Aeropostale had a baby, this would be their spawn.

Mannequins stand in the windows of the shop, striking a pose and rocking the latest fashion wear; their bland faces gives Lei chills down her spine.

She gets out and approaches the building.

EXT. CLOTHING SHOP

Ring. Ding.

It's dead today in the shop, the only soul in here is a middle aged woman with golden hair behind the register.

The words tattooed on the name-tag attached to her chest reads FRANCIS.

FRANCIS Thank you so much for doing this, Lei.

LEI (As she's punching in) It's nothing, Francis...it's just one night.

Francis smiles.

Lei punches in a code on the register and taps "Clock in".

LEI (cont'd) So...what wisdom can you bestow upon me?

FRANCIS

So we close at midnight...I left Tessa's old key in the office along with a checklist of things to do when closing the shop...since it's a slow day, you can look over the list and get familiar with the tasks. Do you remember how to operate the register?

LEI

Tessa was admin about me learning how to use it...I think I can manage.

FRANCIS Now any questions further before I depart?

LEI Mind if I ask you about Tessa's departure?

Francis takes a deep breath.

FRANCIS

Well I got here this morning, she left me a nice letter stating she was done. She was also still clocked in, till was left behind, and...that's it. It was weird.

LEI

Sounds weird.

Francis enters her pin then hits the "Clock out" button.

FRANCIS Thank you, Lei. Have a goodnight.

LEI

Oh yeah, actually, I am assuming I should bring my till to the safe. What's the pin?

Francis takes a piece of **RECEIPT PAPER** and a **PEN** then she scribbles on to it.

FRANCIS

Here you go.

LEI

(Accepting the paper) Thank you. Have a goodnight.

Francis walks through the door tattooed "EMPLOYEES ONLY".

Lei looks around at the idle mannequins looking away from her.

LEI (cont'd) Luckily, we got each other to keep ourselves entertained, right?

It doesn't give her a response.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - LATER

A WOMAN approaches the register with some clothes, her DAUGHTER following beside her.

LEI

Just this?

WOMAN

What happened to the other girl that works here, I think her name is Tessa?

LEI (While ringing up items) Oh, she quit today.

WOMAN Oh, sad...she was a good worker... this place took her for granted.

Lei pauses.

LEI

W-What do you mean?

WOMAN

She worked hard, got to work on time, was super friendly...just for them to write her up numerous times for a bunch a bull crap--(Covering her lips) Oops...sorry, I forgot, there's a pair of innocent ears listening.

LEI Did she ever discuss them?

WOMAN

It was something about tampering with merchandise or the store property.

That sucks.

WOMAN

(Scoffs then--) For this establishment, not her... abuse good workers and you're gonna lose them.

Lei continues scanning items through.

WOMAN (cont'd) Did you know her?

LEI

For a day just for training. (changing the subject) Your total is on the screen. Will that be cash or card?

She hands Lei a credit card; she takes it and swipes it.

LEI (cont'd) (Handing her a receipt and pen) Sigh the bottom, please.

She takes a pen and scribbles a bunch of lines on the paper.

Lei puts the clothes into a bag.

LEI (cont'd) Here you go.

WOMAN Thank you so much... (Reading her name tag) "Lei."

LEI

You're welcome.

The woman and her daughter head for the door; Lei takes out her cellphone and scrolls through her socials.

WOMAN (O.C.)

AHHHHHH!

The screech yanks Lei's attention.

LEI WHAT!? WHAT'S WRONG!?

WOMAN

Yeah, I'm okay. (Chuckling) You shouldn't scare your customers like that.

LEI

What do you mean?

WOMAN

I think you and Tess would have been good friends.

The woman leaves with her daughter, leaving Lei with a huge question mark above her head.

She looks at the mannequin, finding its head has shifted towards where the woman was standing.

She twists its head towards the window.

LEI It's rude to stare, you know?

Lei walks back to the register and looks at her phone; not noticing that the mannequin had returned to it's previous position.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - EVENING

Lei is ringing out another customer.

LEI Thank you. Come again.

Lei's eyes follow the customer as they are leaving, then instantly snap to a man standing by the door.

She locks eyes with him and her heart begins to melt.

He holds up a BROWN BAG and a plastic cup with COLD COFFEE.

Lei's cheeks raise and fluster.

Using her hand to direct him to follow her.

The two disappear behind the "EMPLOYEES ONLY" door.

INT. BACKROOM

Not a minute after the door shuts, she attacks him with kisses.

8.

JIMMY Wait, wait, wait, isn't your boss around?

LEI It's just me all night baby.

JIMMY

Spicy.

They resume exchanging saliva.

INT. OFFICE

Lei and Jimmy are sharing laughs and eating their meal; Lei looks at the sticky note left on the monitor and reads it.

JIMMY

What's that?

LEI

(Reading) Francis. Fuck you and this establishment, I hope it eats you alive one of these days.

JIMMY Jesus...who wrote that?

LEI Tessa likely before walking out.

JIMMY Damn...that's brutal.

LEI

It's even stranger, she didn't clock out or even put her till away...

JIMMY

If she planned on walking out why would she care about the till or payroll?

LEI

True but still.

JIMMY So how is the shift going? Well didn't prepare to be thrown right into it without further training but we'll see.

JIMMY

You always could talk to the mannequins.

She laughs.

LEI

Like they would respond. All they would do is stare and say nothing.

JIMMY

You never know the strangest things that happen out of nowhere.

LEI

When that happens, I will be right behind Tessa.

Jimmy smiles.

JIMMY

Looks like you have a customer coming in.

Lei looks up at the camera, quickly stuffing her face and rushing out.

LEI

I'll be back!

Lei rushes out.

Jimmy smiles, eating his food some more in the peace and quiet.

Knock. Knock. Knock.

JIMMY Not funny Lei...you're not scaring me.

Knock. Knock. Knock.

JIMMY (cont'd) Not working!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

The last set of knocks scares him out of socks.

JIMMY (cont'd) JESUS CHRIST--(Marching to the door) OKAY LEI! GOD YOU TRYING TO--

INT. BACKROOM

He opens the door and looks around, no one was there; just the eerie dark hallway filled with previously used signs for the seasons and mannequins left to die..

He stands there with a raised brow.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - NIGHT

Lei is hunched over her desk, drinking the remains of her coffee, staring down the clock; waiting for the small hand to unite with the long hand, pointing north.

She glances outside, not a light passing by, not a human in sight.

LEI Come on, come on. Nobody enter. Nobody call--

Riiing. Riiing.

Lei rolls her eyes.

LEI (cont'd)

No.

Riiing. Riiing.

LEI (cont'd) (To the phone) We're closed.

Riiing. Riiing.

Lei snatches the phone off the hook and slams it to her ear.

LEI (cont'd) Sabrina's...just so you know we close soon so make it quick please?

FRANCIS (V.O.) (Through the phone) That's not how you answer a phone, Lei. LEI

(Swallows then--) Francis...I didn't know you were--

FRANCIS (V.O.) It's fine. Just wanted to see how today went?.

LEI It was fine. A few sales here and there. Easy day.

FRANCIS (V.O.) Good. That's what I like to hear.

Lei looks at the clock and the hands have joined together.

LEI I'll do that. Thank you.

FRANCIS (V.O.) I suppose since it's midnight. Thank you again Lei, I owe you one.

LEI Have a goodnight Francis.

Click.

She motions her eyes to the clock, the hands have joined together on the **TWELVE**.

LEI (cont'd) You bet your ass I'll have a good night.

Lei cheerfully hops over the counter; she flips the **OPEN SIGN** to **CLOSED.**

INT. OFFICE

Lei walks into the office, finding the **CLIPBOARD** neatly placed on the **DESK**.

Before she takes the clipboard and begins to read...

She takes the clipboard and reads it over...

- Lock the doors before closing.

- <u>Clean and organize the store/ restock if possible.</u>

- Turn off the lights.

- <u>Count the money in the cash register and put it in the</u> <u>safe.</u>

- Leave.

The statement "Put it in the safe" is lit up with a highlighter.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

She uses the keys to lock the **FRONT DOOR**; tugging on the handle, making sure it's held in place.

INT. BACKROOM

She locks the door in the back room next, doing the same thing, making sure it's locked and in place.

Her attention is drawn to an unused mannequin who gaze back at her.

LEI What you staring at?

The mannequin doesn't move a muscle.

LEI (cont'd) I'll be quick so you can go back to sleep.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei folds all the clothes then places them in their correct spots around the store.

INT. BACKROOM

Lei grabs the broom from off of the wall and the handheld dustpan.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

She starts sweeping the floor, underneath **THE REGISTER**, and **SHELVES** moving all the dust and garbage to one place.

BOOM!

LEI What the hell?!

She peeks into the back room, finding one of the mannequins on the floor.

LEI (cont'd)

Jesus...

INT. BACKROOM

Lei approaches the fallen mannequin; kneeling down to it's level and staring into it's eyes.

Its head facing Lei.

LEI Trying to escape?

She helps it back it's feet.

LEI (cont'd) Have a goodnight...and don't try to escape again.

Lei leaves the backroom.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei flips off each switch--CLICK, CLICK, CLICK; trapping the sales floor in darkness and dead silence.

Ching!

The cash register flies open; Lei takes the money out and flips through the bills with her thumb, mouthing the amount, and entering them into the **COMPUTER**.

Knock. Knock. Knock.

Lei pulls her eyes up towards the door, finding not a soul there; she sets the money aside and goes to the door, looking around outside from the glass.

She returns to the register and keeps counting ...

Knock. Knock. Knock.

She aggressively slams the money down and stomps to the door.

She unlocks the door and yanks it open--

EXT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei steps outside, looking around the pitch black area.

LEI HEY!? KEEP IT UP AND I WILL CALL THE COPS!

Nothing.

She marches back in.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

She slams the door shut and locks it.

LEI

Stupid teenagers.

Lei goes back to the register and takes the coins in her hands--

RING! RING! RING!

The phone makes her muscles go stiff and she drops amounts of COIN on the floor.

LEI (cont'd)

Shit! (To the phone) What the fuck do you want now!?

Lei snatches the phone off the hook.

LEI (cont'd) WE'RE CLOSED!

SLAM!

She aggressively plants the phone back.

Lei collects all of the fallen change; muttering frustration under her breath.

She comes back up and her eyes look dead ahead...there's an individual mannequin, looking back at her; it's still face getting intimate with the shadows.

LEI (cont'd) What the fuck?

She approaches the mannequin and turns its head back forward; she tugs and pushes on the door handles as well briefly, finding them locked and unmoved.

She returns back to the register and looks at the time on the computer--

12:36 am

LEI (cont'd) Stop wasting time, Lei. Count the fucking drawer, Lei.

INT. OFFICE

She brings her till and sets it down on the safe, presses the buttons 1-1-8-1-5...the flashes red goes BEEP, BEEP.

She tries again, only to wind up with the same results.

LEI What the fuck? (As she's punching the keys) 1-1-8-1-5. Right?

BEEP. BEEP.

Lei rolls her eyes.

LEI (cont'd) Oh my fucking God!!

Lei takes the phone off of the hook and begins rapidly pressing numbers, listening to the buzzing ringtone in her ear.

FRANCIS (V.O.) LEI Hello, this is Francis, I Oh you gotta be kidding me! cannot come to the phone right now, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

BEEEEP!!!

LEI (cont'd) Francis! This is Lei, what's the pin code to the safe!? I need you to call me back ASAP.

Lei hangs up the phone.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - LATER

The hands on the clock strikes 1:24 AM; Lei is staring at the phone, tapping her foot repeatedly on the floor.

LEI Come on Francis, what the fuck?

Lei takes out her phone and scrolls through her contacts until she locates Francis' name.

Tapping on it and tapping away.

LEIA'S TEXT MESSAGE Francis, this is Lei, what is the safe pin?! Come on, get back to me, it's getting late!

She smashes the GREEN ARROW and slams the phone down.

She leans forward, rolling her nails on the marble top, the sound echoing through the empty building.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - LATER

Ring. Ring--

Lei snatches the phone up.

LEI FRANCIS, what's the--

CUSTOMER (V.O.) Hello? Hello?

LEI

Um. Hello?

CUSTOMER (V.O.) Hi, I was wondering if you guys were still--

SLAM!

She rests her face into the palms of her hands as her patience meter reaches "E"; she removes her eyes and they notice the strangest thing.

The mannequins have all aimed their heads at Lei, gazing upon her with their soulless eyes.

LEI

Um...

She looks away for a second to leave the register--looking back--they have shifted their bodies in the same direction.

LEI (cont'd) What the fuck...?

She looks around the store for a possible culprit.

LEI (cont'd) HEY WHO'S IN HERE PLAYING--

She shifts her attention at mannequins and they've gotten closer, suspended in a motion stance like time froze.

She scurries back like a horrified animal--her bottom lip tremors, lost for words.

Ring. Ring. Ring.

Without a second to lose, she snatches the phone off of the hook.

LEI (cont'd) About fucking time Francis, listen we have a situation! It's gonna sound crazy but--

VOICES (V.O.) (Whisper) No. No. No. No. Francis...

LEI

Hello?

VOICES (V.O.) Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Lei...

Lei's eyelids are pulled back; her eyes motions to the caller ID, revealing only one sentence...<u>UNKNOWN CALLER</u>.

LEI

Who are you?

LEIWhose "we"?

A pause.

LEI (cont'd)

Hello?

She looks back on the sales floor, seamlessly they have shifted closer.

VOICES (V.O.) WE. WE. WE. WE. WE.

Her hand trembles, her eyes glued to the mannequins as the realization of who "We" are.

Click.

Her jaw drops lower, her eyes moving around each of the **MANNEQUINS**.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - LATER

She looks through the recent callers, finding the caller ID that contacted her.

She clicks "dial" then places the phone against her ear.

OPERATOR (V.O.) We're sorry. The number you dialed is not in service.

She rolls her eyes and places the phone down on the base and dials...

*-6-9

Then she places the phone against her ear.

OPERATOR (V.O.) LEI We're sorry. The number that This can't be happening... you dialed is not in service.

She takes her cellphone and starts checking the browser.

Clicking the URL and typing in...

Click.

She glances back at the mannequins quickly; while the link is loading--No one has moved a muscle.

Her eyes cut back to the phone, a page of links comes up--

- Sabrina's Workers vanishing?

She cuts back to the sale floor and then taps the link An article comes up, greeting Lei with this bold print.

SABRINA'S MANNEQUINS RUMORED TO BE ALIVE

LEI (cont'd)

(Reading) The mannequins are rumored to be in random places after hours. Many former employees report being blamed for tampering or thievery but he employees claims they never touched the mannequins...some however...went missing...It's hard to draw heads or tails without a coin.

Lei brings her hand to her mouth and what she finds at the bottom of the page--rows of reported missing employees who worked at Sabrina's.

She swings up and notices they all have approached within arm's reach of the counter--Lei hops and her phone goes flying, smacking the floor.

LEI (cont'd)

Shit...

She glances at her phone and at them; she swallows and inches off the chair--her eyes locked on them.

She peeks to see where her phone fell and then she slowly descends down, stretching her arm out for the phone; she's forced to keep an eye on them but struggling to do so.

She takes one more glance more to pinpoint the phone and then she grabs it quickly; feeling the weight on her heart grow heavy--the screen is completely cracked and shut off.

LEI (cont'd)

Great.

Jimmy walks up the steps, a bag of **TAKE-OUT** wrapped around one wrist and then he dials her number.

LEI (V.O.) Hellooooo! I see you tried to reach me and I didn't make it! You know what to do.

He hangs up the phone and hits the REDIAL.

LEI (V.O.) (cont'd) Hellooooo! I see you tried to reach--

He cuts her off.

JIMMY Come on Lei, pick up.

He pops a squat on the steps and pulls up his browser, searching up Sabrina's.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei has not broken eye contact with the mannequins, even reaching for her coffee cup with sparing an eye to see where it is.

Ring! Ring! Ring!

Lei's heart stops and her coffee crashes to the floor, exploding like a grenade.

She bounces her eyes between them and the phone; she keeps her eyes on them as she motions the phone to her ear.

LEI

Hello?

JIMMY (V.O.) Hey baby, are you still at work?

LEI Jimmy?! Is that really you?!

EXT. LEI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JIMMY (V.O.) Yeah it's me. Why aren't you at home-- LEI (V.O.) JIMMY! JIMMY! Listen! I need you to come to my job!

JIMMY Is everything okay?

LEI Please baby, I'm scared!!!

JIMMY (V.O.) Okay! Okay! I'm on my way!

LEI (V.O.)

HURRY!

JIMMY

He stuffs his phone into his pocket and then makes a break for his car.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei is balling her eyes out, her heart growing heavy with joy.

JIMMY (V.O.) I'll be there soon. Just hang on, okay?

LEI

I love you.

He raises his cheeks.

JIMMY (V.O.) I love you back.

She hangs up the phone.

Ring. Ring. Ring.

She looks at the caller ID--she squints her eyes at the mannequins and places the phone to her ear.

LEI Make it quick, I will be leaving you soon.

VOICES (V.O.) We are excited to see him again. I wonder what his lips feels like. Lei ascends out of her seat.

LEI I swear to God if any of you touch him, I'll skin you all!

VOICES (V.O.) Skinning. Skin. Skin. Skin. Skin. Only if you let us have a turn with you.

Click.

She slams the phone down--she glances at the mannequins, utter disgust and annoyance joined hand and hand.

LEI What are you looking at?

Nothing.

She takes her cellphone and knocks over the mannequin with it.

LEI (cont'd) Take a look at that.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - LATER

The silence begins to grow eerie as the night wages on.

Lei is squirming in her seat like a cat trying to break free...but what wants to break free will end well.

LEI Come on Jimmy....come on...fuck... just hold it. Just hold it for a while longer...

Her thighs tightens its grip, keeping the flood back but it grows increasingly difficult--Lei catches something in her line of sight and just dodges out of the way on time.

It explodes on the wall behind her instead of her face.

Lei looks down to the floor and realizes what it was...her **CELLPHONE!**

She looks back and she's greeted with a mannequin at the register like a customer waiting to check-out; it's leaning and uncomfortably close.

She recognizes the damage and shakes violently in her seat.

Ring! Ring! Ring!

She brings the phone to her ear.

LEI (cont'd)

H-Hello...?

VOICES (V.O.) You shouldn't lose your phone, you never know when you're going to need it...It. It. It. It.

Her skin gets goosebumps and she shakes even more violently.

LEI What do you want? Please tell me.

Silence.

She begins Breaking until she explodes from her seat and gets in its face.

LEI (cont'd) WHAT DO YOU WANT!?!?

VOICES (V.O.) You...Your silky skin. Skin. Skin. Let. Us. TOUCH IT! Caress it. Let. Us. TAKE IT! Take! Take!

She drops the phone and lunges away from the counter, maintaining eye contact with the plastic human.

The crotch of her pants starts to soak, yellow rivers running down her legs, getting down her shoes; running like the tears in her eyes.

EXT. CLOTHING SHOP

The strip mall streets are drowning in the sea of darkness, even the street lamps are not enough to keep the light afloat.

Jimmy is speeding down the mall, skipping through stop signs.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei stares through the window, a sight worth staring at; Jimmy's car flipping into the slot; he hops out the car and approaches the doors.

LEI Thank God! Oh thank God!

Lei quickly hops the counter and rushes for the door.

LEI (cont'd) JIMMY! OH THANK GOD! YOU'RE HERE!

JIMMY Are you okay!?

LEI JIMMY No! I'm not! T-The What's wrong? The what? Lei, mannequins...t-the phone... Lei, LEI!

> JIMMY (cont'd) Slow down Lei!

LEI The mannequins...they're alive.

Jimmy raises a brow.

JIMMY

They're what?

LEI They're alive! I am not sure how but they want to hurt me!

JIMMY Honey...what are you talking about?

LEI THE MANNEQUINS!

JIMMY

I mean, I see you spent some time moving them around and--

LEI I DID NOT--WHY AREN'T YOU LISTENING?!

JIMMY I am listening.

He tries pulling on the door.

JIMMY (cont'd) Want to let me in and we'll try to figure this out? LEI Y-Yes. Wait here, I'll go to get the keys from the office...and Jimmy... keep an eye on the mannequins.

JIMMY (Raises a brow) Um...okay...

LEI I'm serious! Don't. LOOK AWAY.

He takes a deep breath and forces a nod.

Lei runs to the backroom door; The mannequins haven't moved.

She looks at Jimmy one more time, blowing him a kiss--he pretends to catch the kiss like a baseball.

INT. OFFICE

Lei takes the keys but before leaving, she looks at Tessa's note she left behind...getting a hint of inspiration.

She sits down, flips the paper with the closing tasks over, and then she starts scribbling away on the backside.

EXT. CLOTHING SHOP

Jimmy stands there awkwardly, his hands stuffed into his pockets, and whistling a tune.

Ring. Ring. Ring.

Jimmy starts patting himself down for the phone but cannot find it.

JIMMY

Where is it?

Ring. Ring. Ring.

He looks back at his car, glancing back at the shop, remembering what he promised Lei--he takes a deep breath.

JIMMY (cont'd) It'll just be two seconds.

Jimmy goes to his car and takes his phone from the passenger seat, answering the call; looking away from the shop.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Hello? Hello? Oh hey, mom...I know it's late, I got worried about Lei and I went to check up on her...I know, I know I should have said something before I left but it was urgent.

The doors on the shop push themselves open, making not a single noise.

JIMMY (cont'd) I'm sorry. I'll be home in a bit after I get Lei home, okay? Love you too. Bye.

Jimmy hangs up the phone and turns around, finding the doors opened up to him and no culprit in sight; he doesn't question it.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Jimmy walks into the store, looking around; he turns to one of the mannequins looking at him, nearly having a heart attack.

JIMMY Jesus Christ...okay baby, you got me on that one.

Jimmy turns the flashlight on his phone and walks further into the store.

He walks towards the door in the back; he sees the remains of her shattered phone before opening the door.

He kneels to investigate.

JIMMY (cont'd) What the fuck?

He stands back up, not realizing the Mannequins behind him; their heads are all pointing their heads at him.

INT. BACKROOM

He opens the door and his eyes bestows the Mannequins there; all their heads looking towards him.

JIMMY Oooookay Lei, this is not funny anymore. Please stop with the games. He steps back and shuts the door.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

He lets the door shut and stands there, trying to catch his breath.

JIMMY I'll just wait for you here.

He turn and the same mannequin that "greeted" him at the door was standing there. RIGHT IN HIS FACE--the plastic face has a tear roll down it's cheek.

INT. OFFICE

Lei finishes her writing and throws the pen down.

LEI Signing off. Kiss my ass.

JIMMY (O.S.) (Distorted) LEEEEEEEEEI!

Lei stops everything!

LEI

Babe!?

Lei gets up and runs, forgetting one important piece, the **KEYS**.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP

Lei emerges onto the sales floor, swinging her head around in numerous directions in the store...but no one is there.

Even the mannequins seemingly have returned to their original positions.

LEI Baby...? Where are--

CRACK!

She looks down, underneath her shoe is a phone, flashlight left on and everything; she kneels down and picks it up, the screen turns on, showing her and Jimmy underneath cracks. LEI (cont'd)

Jimmy...

The sound of gasping for air is heard; Lei swings her head toward the darkness, hearing footsteps grow louder.

Something emerges from the shadows--caressing its ghostly white hands.

????

Oh yes...

Lei's eyes pull open and her lower jaw drops.

???? (O.C.) Yes. Yes. Yes.

The white hands belong to the walking statue that was and still is...a <u>mannequin</u>!

MANNEQUIN Flesh. So much delicious flesh!

LEI

(Whispering) Oh my God...

It pinches the skin on its hands as well.

MANNEQUIN P-Pain...there's pain. I feel pain. MUST HAVE MORE.

It pinches the soft tissue deep, until crimson liquid starts to slightly spew then it yanks it away; holding the dismembered piece in-between its fingers.

> MANNEQUIN (cont'd) Oh yes!!! It's so good!

She screams at the top of her lungs

MANNEQUIN (cont'd) I wonder what yours feels like.

Horrified eyes motioning between them and the door to the office--each time she looked away, they shifted and moved. closer.

She gets up to her feet and runs for the front door, throwing all her weight to get out but the doors won't budge.

The "Mannequin" motions slowly towards.

MANNEQUIN (cont'd) Just a simple touch. All we want. JUST...ONE...

She snaps around and punches it across the face and then she hops over it running for the backdoor.

INT. BACKROOM

She breaks through the door running through and runs clean into the door, trying to get out that way but the door won't budge.

She rams it several more times, kicking the glass, shoulder bashing, everything--nothing is strong enough to even crack the glass.

LEI COME ON! FUCKING OPEN!!! THE KEYS!

Lei turns around and runs into mannequins all trapping her at the door; she attempts to move but her body has gone cold and her eyes have become idle.

LEI (cont'd) W-What?! What's happening to--

The mannequin she's staring directly at its plastic skin begins to shed like a cocoon, but its nothing as beautiful as a butterfly that breaks through but **FLESH**.

The mannequin has become...HUMAN!

It zooms into Lei's eyes and slowly raises it's cheeks--Lei's skin suddenly shifts, encasing her in plastic.

Lei lets out a scream that twists and disorients like a bad record recording as the plastic consumes her...

Everything goes to **BLACK...** followed by silence...

LEI (V.O.) Hellooooo! I see you tried to reach me and I didn't make it! You know what to do.

INT./EXT. FRANCIS' CAR - THE NEXT DAY

Francis is speaking to her phone connected the vehicle, trying to maintain focus on the road.

FRANCIS

Hey Lei, I am so sorry. I forgot I changed the passcode after Tessa quit. If you decided to leave the til, that's fine this once. Anyway, thanks again for closing.

INT. RETAIL SHOP

Francis walks around the sales floor; finding Mannequins out of place. Her attention is drawn to a phone left on the floor, flashlight shining still.

As she moves forward--crunch!

Francis looks down underneath her shoe, finding some shards of glass.

She motions to the punch-card--she witnesses that Lei is still on the clock.

FRANCIS

Lei?

Francis hits the **CLOCK OUT** button on the screen and walks away.

INT. OFFICE

Francis walks into the office, finding it vacant.

FRANCIS

Lei?

Francis approaches the bathroom door and knocks.

FRANCIS (cont'd) Lei, are you in there??

Nothing.

She pushes open the door and finds no one on the toilet.

As she motions back she finds a note left behind on the desk; she skims through it.

Her heart sinks upon finishing her read.

INT. RETAIL SHOP

Francis punches in her number and hits 'clock in'; putting the mannequins back in place and cleaning up the glass shards.

Ring Ring. Ring.

Francis stops sweeping and answers the phone.

FRANCIS Thank you for calling Sabrina's, this is Francis. How can I be of service?

There is silence on the other end.

FRANCIS (cont'd) Hello? Is someone there? Hello?

Little does she know, there's heads slowly shifting their aim to Francis.

CREDITS ROLLS.