

VIOLETS IN BLOOM

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

VIOLET, (22) stares at her own reflection in the mirror, her face and hair unwashed and unkempt.

VIOLET

Okay, okay. You can do this.

She opens her mouth and stares inward towards the back of her throat.

For a moment there is no sound, until a faint BUZZING escapes her mouth, and grows louder the longer she peers inside. Eyes still fixed on the interior, she grabs her cellphone, and points the flashlight into her mouth.

BUZZ.

The light glints off dozens of sets of tiny insect-like eyes in the back of her throat.

Violet SCREAMS in surprise, and throws her phone across the room.

JASMINE (O.S.)

Vi! You alright?

KNOCK KNOCK.

JASMINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hey, Violet? You good?

VIOLET

Uh, yeah. Fine.

JASMINE

It's almost eleven, I have to get in there. You almost done?

VIOLET

Fuck.

JASMINE (O.S.)

What?

VIOLET

I said one sec.

Violet scoops her up her phone, and looks back at her reflection. The tiny eyes no longer dance in her mouth.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Violet turns off the shower before she exits the bathroom, still unwashed.

JASMINE, (mid-20's) cradles a handful of freshly washed clothes in her hands, her own shower clothes held in a small tote bag to her side.

JASMINE
Amazing what finally taking a shower can do, right?

VIOLET
What?

JASMINE
Sarcasm. You look exactly the same.

VIOLET
You have to get in there, right?
I'll take one when I get home.

JASMINE
That's what you said yesterday. And the day before that, and-

VIOLET
I was tired.

JASMINE
Whatever dude.

Jasmine shoves a handful of washed clothes into Violet's arms.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
At the very least change into something else. You look homeless.

VIOLET
I can clean my own clothes.

JASMINE
Oh yeah? You've bummed in the same hoodie, and jeans for like two weeks. Are you okay? Because somehow I turned out to be the asshole for trying to get you to take a shower.

Jasmine gestures to Violet's clothes.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Let alone put on new clothes, or
for god sakes eat a meal. I'm just
looking out, okay?

VIOLET

I don't need you to.

JASMINE

I know, but I still worry. You can
talk to me, you know that right?

VIOLET

Yeah, I-

The sound of BUZZING rattles out of her mouth mid-sentence
before she slaps her hand against her mouth.

JASMINE

You good?

VIOLET

I have to go.

Hand still clasped over her mouth Violet storms down the
hall.

INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT

Violet grabs a pair of plastic cutlery, and retrieves the
dinner from the fridge. The tupperware is stuck with a yellow
post-it that reads "Gloria"

She tosses the entire container into the microwave, and
cranks the dial up to 2 minutes.

While she waits multiple EMPLOYEES enter the room, notice
her, and walk out just as quick.

JOSHUA (O.S.)

So, did I tell you I was thinking
of moving to one of the other
libraries?

AKIRA (O.S.)

Seriously? Why?

JOSHUA (O.C.)

Cause you get paid shit in the kids
section.

JOSHUA, and AKIRA round the corner.

AKIRA
You'd miss me.

The two come to a dead stop as they enter the break room, and make eye contact with Violet.

AKIRA (CONT'D)
Oh...

JOSHUA
Hey, Violet.

Violet takes out both of her headphones, and dumps them into her back pocket. The music still loud enough to hear.

VIOLET
Hey...

She looks between the two of them.

AKIRA
Akira.

JOSHUA
Josh.

VIOLET
Right, sorry.

BEEP BEEP.

The microwave behind Violet goes off.

JOSHUA
Don't mention it.

Joshua gestures towards the door.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
Well, we'll let you eat. Come on,
Akira.

Before he finishes the words, Violet has turned her attention back to the food in microwave.

Joshua is halfway out the door.

AKIRA
Hey?

Akira shifts closer to Violet, and gives a wave in her general direction.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

Be pretty depressing to eat alone.
Want us to chill for a few minutes?

Joshua stops dead in his tracks before reentering the room.

JOSHUA

Oh we'd love to, but we're real
busy, Akira.

AKIRA

Don't listen to him. We're on
break.

VIOLET

You don't have to.

AKIRA

I was asking, if you don't want to
that's cool. Just thought it might
be nice is all.

Violet glances between the two of them for a moment.

VIOLET

Maybe another time.

JOSHUA

Yep, perfect. Another time. Come on
Akira.

AKIRA

If you say so. The offer's always
open.

Akira throws a look over her shoulder, before the two of them
exit the room together.

INT. BREAK ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Violet sets up in the far corner of the room, and scrolls
through her phone.

She takes a tentative bite of her food; each bite slow. As
she eats she runs her thumb along the edge of a plastic
knife.

She draws her finger across the knife before it ultimately
breaks skin, and tears into her flesh.

VIOLET

Fuck!

As the blood drips from her finger, she wraps her hand with nearby napkins. She puts pressure against the wound before she notices something on her arm.

A mass that moves underneath the skin on her forearm.

She throws the food down onto the floor, scratching at her arm. The mass underneath crawling from her elbow to her wrist.

Fingers dig into her arm as the mass crawls under her flesh. Her nails barely break the surface of the skin.

She tracks it under her skin, and bites down hard. The bite draws blood as she gnaws on herself.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Get out, get out!

AKIRA
Violet!

Akira stands in the doorway, eyes wide. Violet glares back, teeth stained red.

Violet unclenches her teeth, and wipes her mouth. When she looks down, there is no longer a mass underneath her skin.

VIOLET
I...

Violet runs her fingers through her hair, and casts streaks of red through her unwashed hair.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
...don't know what to say.

Akira grabs a handful of paper towels from the table and shoves them into Violet's arms. She pats them against her wound.

AKIRA
Grab your shit.

VIOLET
I'm fine.

AKIRA
Shut up. I'm taking you to the hospital.

Violet presses herself against the wall, and inches away from Akira.

VIOLET
It's not that deep.

AKIRA
What the fuck do you mean?

VIOLET
I mean I'll live. Just forget it.

AKIRA
Holy fuck. I'm taking you to the hospital.

Violet snatches her hand back before she can grab her.

VIOLET
I'm not going anywhere.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Akira opens her back door to allow Violet to get in. She pushes dozens of paper receipts, brown paper bags, and textbooks onto the floor.

AKIRA
Get in.

VIOLET
I'm-

AKIRA
In!

Akira points inside her car. The two stare at each other for a moment before Violet climbs in.

She pulls out her phone, and dials Joshua's number.

AKIRA (CONT'D)
Hey, can you tell them that I had to take Violet to the hospital. She cut herself when she was...eating.

Akira shrugs at Violet.

AKIRA (CONT'D)
I don't know, a plastic knife can still cut. Look, just tell the them okay? Thanks.

She hangs up the phone with a CLICK.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

Ready?

Violet nods.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Akira drives down the highway towards the hospital. The car itself is silent save for the exterior sounds of passersby.

Akira shifts lanes towards the right most one, and glances back in the mirror at Violet. Violet stares out the window as they drive.

AKIRA

Is there anyone you need me to call?

No response.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

Violet?

Akira slaps her hand against Violet's knee.

VIOLET

Huh?

AKIRA

I said, is there anyone you need me to call?

VIOLET

I have a roommate. I'll call when we get there.

AKIRA

We have time now if you'd like?

VIOLET

It's fine, she'll find out one way or another.

AKIRA

Gotcha.

Akira turns the volume of the music up to fill the silence.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

So. We going to talk about what happened?

VIOLET

Nope.

AKIRA

Seriously? I'm driving you out here, least you can do is tell me why.

VIOLET

I didn't ask you to take me. I was against it actually.

AKIRA

I thought I was doing something nice, screw me then.

VIOLET

I can tell the difference between being nice, and being pitied. You all got that look.

Violet picks at the cut on her arm, the blood mostly dried. She scratches at the area with her nails, her skin now a sickly green.

AKIRA

Whatever you think this is, I promise I was just trying to do something cool. Wasn't a situation I thought I could just walk away from, you know?

As she picks at her skin, the flesh peels away slightly no longer bleeding. She traces her finger down her arm until she hits a raised bump.

The bump under her skin crawls beneath the surface once more.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

We'll be there in a few, okay?

She opens her mouth to scream, but no sound escapes. The only sound that comes from Violet, is the BUZZING from within.

The bump crawls up her arm, and towards her shoulder, before disappearing beneath her clothes.

The mass moves across her shoulder, towards her chest, and up towards her throat. She grabs hold of her neck, and GASPS for air.

Her gasps for air are replaced with the constant BUZZ. She struggles to breathe, each moment her skin loses more and more color.

Suddenly she spits up into her own hand with a gasp. She draws breath back into her lungs, color returning to her face.

In the center of her palm a small insect twitches in her hand.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

Violet?

Her eyes shoot up at Akira, before she looks back at her hand.

The bug is gone, and her flesh is healed.

VIOLET

What?

AKIRA

We're here.

VIOLET

Oh.

AKIRA

I'm going to go find somewhere to park, you cool to get checked in?

VIOLET

Yeah.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Violet stumbles out of the car, and leans against the exterior of the hospital.

Akira shifts the car back into drive, and disappears into the parking lot.

A handful of patients are lead into the hospital, some of them practically dragged into the building.

AMBULANCE SIRENS.

An ambulance careens into the spot in front of Violet, the paramedics already burst from the doors.

In a flash they carry out an elderly man in a hospital stretcher.

PARAMEDIC

Move!

The paramedics shove by Violet and speed the man into the hospital. As he passes by Violet she gets a look at his face.

Eyes closed, and mouth open the man passes by her. A familiar fly crawls from the mans mouth before it escapes into the sky.

The man is rushed into the hospital and disappears inside. A similar fly crawls out of Violets mouth, and rests on the side of her face.

VIOLET

Okay.

Violet dons her hood, and walks the opposite direction of the hospital back towards the highway.

FADE OUT.

END.