

"Nothing to See Here"

written by

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Based on

Nothing to See Here

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INT. ATTIC - DAY

It's the late spring of 1995.

LILLIAN (28) is sitting on the bed in a cashiers outfit, smoking a joint with one hand and reading a letter with the other.

She finishes one letter and pulls out another from a BOX next to her.

A PHOTO falls out of the letter. Lillian looks at the picture. We see an OLDER MAN DRESSED IN A FANCY SUIT, A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY IN AN EXPENSIVE DRESS and in-between them a LITTLE KID DRESSED IN A NAUTICAL SUIT LOOKING LIKE AN EXPENSIVE TEDDY BEAR.

Lillian studies the photo for a bit, but then notices the time.

LILLIAN

Fuck.

She puts the photo and the letters back in the box and covers it with a lid that says 'MADISON' on top of it.

INT. LILLIAN MOTHER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lillian runs through the living room where HER MOTHER is watching the TV while smoking a cigarette.

LILLIAN

Bye mom!

Lillian's mother never takes her eyes off the television and does not even acknowledge Lillian's goodbye.

EXT. LILLIAN'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Lillian runs out of the house and past the MAILBOX onto the street.

Suddenly, she turns around on her heels and runs back to the mailbox.

She opens the mailbox and finds a new letter from Madison, she puts it in her pocket and runs out of frame.

INT. SAVE-A-LOT SHOP - DAY

Lillian is scanning one product after another, bored out of

her mind.

LILLIAN  
That'll be 52.50.

The customer hands her the money and she gives her the change back.

She goes on to scan the next person's in line items.

EXT. SAVE-A-LOT BACKLOT - DAY

Lillian opens the new letter from Madison and a 50\$ bill falls out of it. She picks it up and starts reading.

DEREK (30), Lillian's boss comes out looking for her.

DEREK  
Lillian you're up, number 5.

LILLIAN  
Hey Derek, do you think I could get a few days off?

DEREK  
No.

Derek walks back in.

Lillian walks back to the door. She stands in front of it, freezes for a beat, then she turns around and walks in the opposite direction.

FADE OUT

EXT. NASHVILLE BUS STATION - DAY

FADE IN

Lillian walks out of the bus with a backpack on her back.

CARL (late 40's), A MAN IN A POLO SHIRT AND SUNGLASSES approaches Lillian as soon as she gets out of the bus.

CARL  
Lillian Breaker?

Carl sounds like a cop, Lillian nods.

CARL (CONT'D)  
My name is Carl. Mrs. Roberts asked me

to escort you back to the estate.

LILLIAN  
Are you their driver?

CARL  
Not exactly, I help Senator Roberts  
and Mrs. Roberts when things come up.

LILLIAN  
Do you know what I'm doing here?

CARL  
I'll let Mrs. Roberts talk to you. I  
think she would prefer that.

Lillian starts testing Carl out.

LILLIAN  
What kind of a car do you drive? Is it  
your own car?

CARL  
It's a Miata. It's mine. Ready to go,  
ma'am?

LILLIAN  
Sure.

CARL  
May I take your luggage?

LILLIAN  
I didn't take any.

CARL  
Excellent. If you'll follow me.

Carl walks first and Lillian walks behind him, looking him  
up.

They get to a SMALL RED MIATA.

LILLIAN  
Can we drive with the top down?

CARL  
I'm afraid not, ma'am.

INT. CARL'S MIATA - DAY

Carl and Lillian are driving down the road, she's checking out the area out of the window.

CARL

Mrs. Roberts says that you're her oldest friend.

LILLIAN

We've known each other for a while.

Carl does not know what else to ask and Lillian just keeps on looking out of the window, so Carl turns on the radio.

They cruise along in silence as the radio plays some easy-to-listen-to songs.

Lillian is deep in thoughts.

FADE OUT

EXT. IRON MOUNTAIN GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL - DAY

A BANGED UP OLD CAR stops in front of THE IRON MOUNTAIN GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL, a building that looks like a castle on top of a mountain. All the other cars around are expensive fancy cars.

INT. OLD CAR - DAY

Heavy metal is playing from the radio. YOUNG LILLIAN (16) in an ugly jumper and HER MOTHER look at this castle of a building from inside the car.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

God, look at this place!

Lillian's mother lights up a cigarette.

Young Lillian starts waving her hands not to get the smoke in her hair.

YOUNG LILLIAN

I told you not to smoke!

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

Sorry. Sorry.

Lillian's mother throws the cigarette out of the window.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 I don't want to sound mean, Lillian.  
 But you don't belong here. You're  
 gonna have a rough go of it.

LILLIAN  
 It's a good opportunity.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER  
 You got shit, I understand that.

Lillian's mother taps the steering wheel, patiently thinking what words to use next.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 You got shit and I know you want  
 better than shit. But you're going  
 from shit to gold. It's going to be  
 real tough to handle that.

Lillian's mother pulls out another cigarette and pushes in the car's cigarette lighter. While waiting for it to heat up, she hugs Lillian and gives her a kiss.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D)  
 You can come back home anytime,  
 sweetie.

EXT. IRON MOUNTAIN GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL - DAY (CONT'D)

Young Lillian gets out of the car and her mother drives off. She walks to the school, looking around and noticing that nobody else pays attention to her. It is as if she was invisible.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Young Lillian walks into her room.

YOUNG MADISON (16) is already in the room. She has shoulder-length blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing a yellow summer dress with hundreds of little orange goldfish printed on it. She is taller than Lillian.

Young Madison smiles at Young Lillian.

YOUNG MADISON  
 Are you Lillian?

Young Lillian is shy, looking at Madison as if she is an angel.

YOUNG MADISON (CONT'D)

I'm Madison. It's nice to meet you.

Young Madison holds out her hand with her pink nails.

Lillian shakes her hand.

YOUNG LILLIAN

I'm Lillian.

YOUNG MADISON

They told me that you're a scholarship kid.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Why did they tell you that?

YOUNG MADISON

I don't know. Maybe they wanted to make sure I'll be nice to you.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Ok, I guess.

YOUNG MADISON

Doesn't matter to me. I prefer it, rich girls are the worst.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Are you not a rich girl?

YOUNG MADISON

I am a rich girl. But I'm not like most rich girls. I guess that's why they put me in a room with you.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Ok, good.

YOUNG MADISON

Why are you here? Why this place?

YOUNG LILLIAN

I don't know. It's a good school, right?

YOUNG MADISON

Yeah, I guess. But, like, what do you want to get out of this place?

Young Lillian starts sweating.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Can I put down my bag first?

Young Madison takes her bag for her and places it on the floor. She then gestures to Lillian's unmade bed and they sit on it. Madison sits very close to Lillian, which makes her even more nervous.

YOUNG MADISON

What do you want to be?

YOUNG LILLIAN

I don't know, Jesus, I don't know.

YOUNG MADISON

My parents want me to get amazing grades to go to a prestigious university and then marry a university president and have beautiful babies. My dad was very specific. But I'm not going to do that.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Why not?

Young Madison's look turns psychotic.

YOUNG MADISON

I want to be powerful. I want to be the person that makes big things happen, where people owe me so many favours that they can never pay me back. I want to be so important that if I fuck up, I'll never get punished.

Young Madison flips her hair and Young Lillian looks at her with a dreamy gaze.

YOUNG MADISON (CONT'D)

I feel like I can tell you this.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Why?

YOUNG MADISON

Because you're poor, right? But you're here. You want power too.

YOUNG LILLIAN

I just want to go to college and get out of my mom's house.



YOUNG MADISON  
I think we'll be friends.

YOUNG LILLIAN  
God. I hope so.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

A basketball match between two rival all girl schools is at play.

Young Lillian and Young Madison run next to each other on the field. Young Lillian gets the ball, dribbles past her opponent and passes to Young Madison. Young Madison catches the ball and shoots. Nothing but net.

Young Lillian and Young Madison jump on each other and celebrate.

YOUNG LILLIAN  
We're like Magic and Kareem!

THE COACH (O.S.)  
Jesus girls, you're acting like you're New York playground legends. Pay attention to the game!

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Young Lillian and Young Maddison are sitting on the floor in their pyjamas, cutting out pictures from magazines.

YOUNG MADISON  
I want to be a lawyer that sends the most evil men to the electric chair.

YOUNG LILLIAN  
I want to eat a Milky Way bar every morning for breakfast.

YOUNG MADISON  
Good. That's better than wanting to be the president of The United States of America. I'm going to be that.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Young Lillian walks with her tray past a table where Young Madison is seated with all the other beautiful girls.

She looks at her, Young Madison smiles back.

Young Lillian keeps on walking past the table onto the next one where another poor looking scholarship girl is seated.

SCHOLARSHIP GIRL

Please don't talk to me the entire time that we're here.

Young Lillian nods in agreement and starts eating her food.

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Young Lillian is asleep when Young Madison enters the room with a big bottle of water. She turns on the lights and sits on Young Lillian's bed.

YOUNG MADISON

God! I hate being so predictable.

Young Lillian wakes up as Young Madison chugs down water.

YOUNG MADISON (CONT'D)

Once again we got some coke from the sketchy dude called Panda and now look at me.

YOUNG LILLIAN

It looks fun.

Young Madison looks at Young Lillian with her huge pupils.

YOUNG MADISON

It can be... But it's just a phase.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Young Lillian gets an A graded quiz handed back by her PROFESSOR. She smiles and keeps on re-writing something in her journal from an open book on the table.

Young Madison looks at Young Lillian's test.

YOUNG MADISON

Good job.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Thanks.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

THE DORM PARENT abruptly enters the room and walks towards Young Madison's drawer. She starts going through it like a

police dog.

YOUNG LILLIAN

What's going on?

The dorm parent pulls out a BAG OF COKE out of the drawer, she victoriously swings it in the air and leaves.

YOUNG MADISON

Fuck. It had to be Natalie. She got upset at a joke I made about her.

YOUNG LILLIAN

Oh no.

YOUNG MADISON

I hope the school will go easy on me.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

Young Madison, Young Lillian, Lillian's Mother and MADISON'S FATHER, looking like Andy Griffith, are sitting at a table in a fancy steakhouse.

Lillian's mother is drinking a gin and tonic, Madison's father is having a bourbon, neat. The girls are dinking lemonades.

Lillian keeps looking at Madison to find out what is going on, but Madison will not even look at Lillian.

MADISON'S FATHER

I'm happy you two could join Madison and myself on this night.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

Thank you for inviting me.

MADISON'S FATHER

I'm afraid the reason for our gathering is not so happy.

He looks at Madison, who just keeps on staring at the table cloth.

MADISON'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I'm afraid Madison has gotten herself into some trouble. And that is why I wanted to talk to you and Lillian here.

YOUNG MADISON

Dad --

Madison's father freezes her with a stare.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

Did Lillian do something wrong?

MADISON'S FATHER

No, my dear. Lillian has been an exemplary student. I'm sure you're proud of her.

Lillian's mother is quite surprised, replying in a question-like tone.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

I am.

MADISON'S FATHER

Well, here's the situation. I'm a businessman and as such I'm always looking at things from a different angle. The ramifications of Madison's expulsion would have a horrible effect on her future.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

Well, kids make mistakes. That's how they learn.

MADISON'S FATHER

That's right.

Madison's father smiles for a brief moment.

MADISON'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I come to you with an offer.

Young Lillian looks at Young Madison, but she's still staring at the table cloth. Young Lillian grabs Young Madison's arm under the table and squeezes the shit out of it. Young Madison does not even flinch.

Lillian's mother seems interested.

LILLIAN'S MOTHER

What's the offer?

MADISON'S FATHER

I have a check made out to you for ten



At that moment, MADISON (28) appears in the front doorway and waves.

Carl pulls the car around the fountain in the middle of the driveway and stops at the front door of the house.

Carl quickly jumps out of the car.

EXT. THE ESTATE - DAY

Carl opens the door for Lillian.

Lillian stays seated, looking at the house.

Madison walks down the stairs and holds out her hands for an embrace.

Carl pulls Lillian out of the car and places her into Madison's arms.

Lillian comes back to life in Madison's arms and straightens up.

MADISON

You look so beautiful.

LILLIAN

Well, you look like a supermodel.

MADISON

I wish I were a supermodel. I wish I had a calendar that was nothing but me.

Carl checks his watch, bows, gets back into his car and drives away.

MADISON (CONT'D)

It's so hot out here. Let's go back inside.

LILLIAN

This is your house?

Madison smiles.

MADISON

It's one of them.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The inside of the house is pretty plain, simple things made out of the best possible materials.

Lillian and Madison sit on the sofa. On the table in front of them are sandwiches on a tiered tray, lots of mayo, tiny cucumbers, a pitcher of iced tea and two glasses with big solid chunks of ice in them.

MADISON

Do you remember that day we first met?

LILLIAN

Of course I do. You had a dress with goldfish on it.

MADISON

My dad had that dress made for me. I hated it.

Lillian doesn't respond, looking around her.

MADISON (CONT'D)

When you walked into the room, I knew that I was going to love you. I always felt like I missed out on something really wonderful when you left the school.

Lillian just looks at Madison, waiting for an apology.

MADISON (CONT'D)

But now you're here!

Madison pours Lillian some iced tea, who drinks it in two big gulps. Then Madison just quickly fills up the glass again.

Lillian starts eating a sandwich and talking with a full mouth.

LILLIAN

Where's your son?

MADISON

Timothy? He's taking a nap. He loves naps. He's lazy like me.

LILLIAN

I love naps, too.

MADISON

I bet you want to know why I asked you to come all this way.

LILLIAN

You said there was an opportunity for me? Like a job, maybe?

MADISON

I thought of you, Lillian, because it is very private.

Lillian keeps on eating the sandwich.

Madison starts looking away from Lillian.

LILLIAN

Is everything okay?

Madison twists her mouth.

MADISON

Yes and no. Jasper had two kids with his second wife, Jane. Twins, a girl and a boy. And well, Jane was strange. There was darkness inside of her.

LILLIAN

Okay?

MADISON

Jane died, Lillian. She died a few months ago.

LILLIAN

I'm sorry. What happened to her?

Madison frowns.

MADISON

Now that Jane has passed away, there is the matter of Jasper's children. We are making adjustments to accommodate them, because they are Jasper's kids.

LILLIAN

Are they not already here?

MADISON

They are with their grandparents. They've been through a lot, Lillian.



They've not had the best life. They're not used to people.

LILLIAN

What do you want me to do about it?

MADISON

I want you to take care of them.

LILLIAN

Madison, are they like mole people or something? What's wrong with them?

Madison drinks a whole glass of iced tea and looks at Lillian with great seriousness.

MADISON

Here's the thing. Jasper is up for secretary of state. They're gonna start the process of vetting him. This could lead to big things. Vice-president or president stuff.

LILLIAN

That's cool.

MADISON

I need you to make sure the kids are safe and that they don't do anything crazy.

LILLIAN

I don't know shit about kids, but I guess I can do it.

Lillian toughens up.

Madison eyes brighten up.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)

I'll do it. I can do it!

Madison hugs Lillian, hard.

Once Madison let's go, Lillian reaches out for another sandwich.

MADISON

There's one more thing about the kids I need to tell you.

LILLIAN  
Do they not have any teeth? ... Do  
they kill kittens?

MADISON  
No! Just listen, ok? They have this  
affliction where they get really  
overheated. It's an alarming increase  
in temperature, actually.

LILLIAN  
Oh, okay.

MADISON  
Sometimes they even burst into flames!

LILLIAN  
Are you joking?

MADISON  
No! Why would I joke about something  
like this?

LILLIAN  
Cause it seems like a joke.

MADISON  
It's not a joke. It's a serious  
condition.

LILLIAN  
Jesus, Madison. That's wild. How are  
they still alive?

MADISON  
It doesn't hurt them.

Lillian puts down the rest of her sandwich.

LILLIAN  
This is all a bit much to be honest.  
Maybe I can take a nap?

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The room looks like a princess's room with a huge chandelier.  
Lillian is lying in the bed. Madison is standing above her.

MADISON  
Do you need a nightgown?

Thank you for reading the preview of my screenplay.

If you're interested in reading more or discussing potential collaboration, please feel free to reach out to me.

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