

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

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FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Year is 2002. YOUNG CLAIRE, a bookish curly haired girl sits with her head against the bus window. The bus hits a bump causing her to bump her head and sit up straight.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
The first time it happened, I
thought I was going crazy.

Young Claire smiles awkwardly at the OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL sitting across the way hoping she didn't see her hit her head.

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL (V.O.)
I'm totally screwed if she forgets.

YOUNG CLAIRE
Who?

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL
What?

YOUNG CLAIRE
Did you say something to me?

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL
No.

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL (V.O.)
Why would I?

Young Claire stares at Obviously Pretty Girl's mouth sure that it didn't move. She blinks and looks away making eye contact with a STONER KID a seat ahead.

STONER KID (V.O.)
(white noise)
This...blows.

Another GIRL who sits beside Stoner Kid makes brief eye contact with Young Claire and then looks out the window.

GIRL (V.O.)
I wonder if avocados grow on bushes
or trees.

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL (V.O.)
I seriously will NOT be her friend
anymore.

Young Claire is panicked by the voices. She closes her eyes.

YOUNG CLAIRE (V.O.)
It's a dream. It's a dream.

Young Claire opens her eyes.

STONER KID (V.O.)
(white noise)
Gonna....sleep...1st period...

GIRL (V.O.)
Maybe in the ground like a potato.

OBVIOUSLY PRETTY GIRL (V.O.)
Self obsessed bitch.

YOUNG CLAIRE
No no no.

Young Claire sticks headphones on her ears and presses play on a portable disc-player attempting to will the world away.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - LATER

Young Claire stands gripping the edges of a sink. She breathes heavily struggling with a panic attack.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
It hit just around the time the text books say it will. Only thing is, the books forget to mention how terrifying it is. How scared shitless you are to even tell anyone. That it doesn't feel like a gift, or a power, but more like you're losing control and something is taking over your body, making changes and you have no choice in the matter.

GIRL 2 walks into the bathroom and makes eye contact with Young Claire through the mirror. Girl 2 enters a bathroom stall and Young Claire waits, listening. There's silence except for peeing and Young Claire smiles, hopeful. Girl 2 exits the stall and washes her hands. She fake smiles at Young Claire who is beaming ear to ear.

GIRL 2 (V.O.)
Creep.

Young Claire sighs and drops her head again feeling defeated. Girl 2 exits the bathroom.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

They don't mention the doctors. And the tests. And the paradox of emotions, worrying that they'll find something and simultaneously fearing that they won't. The books don't mention all the poking and prodding and the blood and the feeling that your once vapid little life is now under a microscope.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DOCTOR'S OFFICE

- A) Young Claire fidgeting in the waiting room.
- B) A Nurse checking Young Claire's vitals.
- C) A needle in Young Claire's arm taking blood.
- D) Young Claire being moved into a catscan.
- E) Young Claire and Mother being shown brain scans.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

The year is 2018. An older Claire sits in a cozy office.

CLAIRE

It's like you've gone to the doctor for a stomach flu and then you wake up from anesthesia like "What just happened?" And the Doctor is all like, "Oh, I attached an extra limb for you." And you're like "WHY? I didn't need an extra limb! I just had a normal boring life and now what am I supposed to do with an extra limb? I'm gonna have to special order all my shirts now."

(awkward silence)

Does that make sense?

THERAPIST

Yes. We've talked about this before. About accepting yourself as you are. Being confident in YOUR super. Owning it.

CLAIRE

But I'm not super! There is more to being super than just having abnormal genes. What do I do that is super?

THERAPIST

You tell me.

CLAIRE

I go to work. I come home. I struggle carrying groceries up the stairs. I can't fly or fight. I'm not some extraordinary genius, like, I hate math. And I've got an anxiety disorder. How am I supposed to save someone from the clutches of evil, when I've got an anxiety disorder?

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

Hypothetical situation: A man with a perfectly fixed top hat, is tied to old timey train tracks and a train is steaming forward. Claire has her hands on her knees bent down beside him and the man wriggles looking to her for help.

CLAIRE

Please stay calm sir. I will save you. Just give me a second to catch my breath. DUDE, we can't both freak out.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - SAME

THERAPIST

Everyone has their vices and limitations, including supers. Superman, for instance, he has severe allergies. And the news reported just the other day that Iron Man had a panic attack after saving a little boy's life.

CLAIRE

Yes, I did read that.

THERAPIST

How did that make you feel? Knowing that he also struggles with anxiety and panic?

CLAIRE

At the end of the day he's still a super genius billionaire inventor that practically saved all of New York City and I'm just some chick who works at a bookstore and has total freak out meltdowns over misplacing my keys. Hardly comparable. I'll never save anyone.

THERAPIST

Why do you feel like being super is directly linked with being a savior?

CLAIRE

Isn't it? If you have "powers" you're either a hero, a villain, or a freak.

THERAPIST

You think you're a freak?

CLAIRE

No. I know I am.

A soft beeping is heard. Claire crosses her arms.

THERAPIST

Sorry, that's our time. To close out, I want you to think on this. "If you judge a fish by it's ability to climb a tree, it'll spend it's whole life thinking it's stupid."

CUT TO:

EXT. MARSHY BANK

A fish flops by the trunk of a tree.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - SAME

THERAPIST

You didn't ask to become super. There's no law saying you have to use your power for anyone else's benefit. That's a confine you're putting on yourself. I want you to take the time and really think about it. Make yourself a list of all the ways you can use your power in your life now, the way it is, to benefit you. Ok? And we'll go over it next week.

CLAIRE

Sure.

Claire exits the office and walks down a narrow hallway to the waiting room. An employee behind the desk smiles and waves.

EMPLOYEE

See you soon.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

They know me here. That's not so cool to say when it's about a mental health clinic.

Claire exits the building.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Claire puts on sunglasses and walks to her car. She looks at her phone and has 6 missed calls.

INT. CLAIRE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Claire begins driving.

CLAIRE

Call Neema.

CAR

Calling Neema.

The phone rings once.

NEEMA (V.O.)

(urgently)

Oh my god! What took you so long?

CLAIRE
(casually)
What's up?

NEEMA (V.O.)
Where are you?

CLAIRE
I have six missed calls. You, you,
you, you, you and you. Where are
you?

CUT TO:

INT. FANCY LADIES' BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

NEEMA, a beautiful feminine asian, is in a toilet stall.

NEEMA
I'm in the bathroom.

CLAIRE
Ok. I don't think that's something
I can actually help you with.

NEEMA
No, I called you because I'm bored.

CLAIRE
Seriously?

NEEMA
Yes! I'm waiting here, doing
nothing, getting bored and the more
bored I get the more I am freaking
the f out.

CLAIRE
Why are you-

NEEMA
Because I'm at the GGP building
right now.

CLAIRE
Oh yeah, your interview.

CUT TO:

EXT. GGP BUILDING - DAY

A street view of a large glass pyramid building. A slide show of pictures dating over the years shows different groups of people in a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the building.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

GGP stands for Giant Glass Pyramid which is what the building is shaped as. It is currently the headquarters of NIL the National Intelligence League. The owners change so often that locals stick to calling it what it is, the GGP building.

CUT TO:

INT. FANCY LADIES' BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

NEEMA

Yeah! I just wasn't expecting Emma Frost to be doing the interviews herself.

CLAIRE

It's a personal assistants job right? I'm guessing that means she doesn't have an assistant to do it for her?

NEEMA

Some times you are literally the worst person to call.

CLAIRE

Listen, there's no reason to freak out. You've got this. Just *chill*.

Neema is visibly annoyed by this.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE

You see what I did there? Chill because she's a-

CAR

Call disconnected.

Claire laughs alone in the car.

CLAIRE
Call Neema.

CAR
Calling Neema.

The phone rings once.

CLAIRE
You hung up on me.

INT. FANCY LADIES' BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Neema now stands in front of a mirror fixing her make-up.

NEEMA
You're an insufferable asshole.

CLAIRE
I know. Sorry. Seriously though,
you got this.

NEEMA
What if I'm not super enough? This
guy sitting across from me. I can
tell he has powers. You know how
you can just tell some times?

CLAIRE
Super isn't a requirement is it?

NEEMA
No.

CLAIRE
Then you'll be fine. Besides no
matter what his super is, yours is
better suited for the job. Who
doesn't want a freakishly fast
assistant?

NEEMA
True. You're still picking me up
right?

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Claire types the address in her GPS and u-turns.

CLAIRE

Yes. That is exactly what I'm doing.

NEEMA

Ok, well. I'll see you soon then. I better hang up because I don't want to miss my turn.

CLAIRE

Same.

NEEMA

Bye.

CLAIRE

Bye.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Neema's super power is she's super fast. This seems like a pretty great power to have but she's only super fast on sunny days. It's like a vitamin D thing. Sunshine is good for her soul. It is quite literally her speed.