

Stolen Life Redux

Emma Bloomfield

03/30/2020

Copyright @2020EmmaBloomfield

Premise:

Anger fueled desire for control destroys freedom.

Theme:

The desperate need of one to regain control of their life will compel them to deprive another of their freedom.

Logline:

Lily's life destroyed her mental stability and, led by a delusion, she believes college student Rebecca holds the key to regaining control of her fate. When Rebecca inadvertently rejects her, Lily is compelled by a sick need to control not only her life, but also Rebecca's.

Modern college student Rebecca's ordinary life is uprooted when she is kidnapped by photographer Lily who believes Rebecca is the missing piece needed to control her fate.

Treatment:**Act One**

Rebecca is your average college student, attending a small liberal arts school in northern Indiana. She doesn't see herself as anything special and doesn't expect anyone else to either. She's never left the country and the biggest risk she's taken was going to school three hours away from her hometown in Ohio. She's a fine student and a good friend, but, when asked to describe herself, there is no quality that she believes stands out. She doesn't recognize the things that make her special and she dresses the way she feels, usually donning muted tones. She expects to live a happy, but average, life and that's how it's been for 20 years.

Walking to meet her friend, Sam, Rebecca doesn't think much of her surroundings. From her perspective, it is a usual Tuesday. Since freshman year, she's always met Sam to do homework on Tuesdays, but a small voice in her head suggests something is not quite right. After glancing around, she decides to ignore it. She doesn't realize she's just crossed paths with Lily.

Lily's life is the definition of tragedy. After losing her mother to cancer when she was two years old, she was raised by her father. He began her love of photography when he bought her a camera at age 6. She believed life would be fine, until she turned 8 and her father decided to re-marry a narcissist with two sadistic sons who'd torture Lily in ways that would only leave mental scars. Her father seemed so happy that she couldn't bring herself to speak of her misery.

Her pain and anger were concealed until her father passed suddenly in a car accident when she was 16. The news pushed her into a fit of blinding rage. Her step brother laughed as he filmed her screaming, sobbing and destroying pictures, furnishings and objects around the house.

Using only the video as evidence that she was a danger to herself and others, Lily's stepmother had her admitted to a mental hospital. Amidst torture and solidarity, Lily developed a fixation on film and photography because of the power she believes it holds, since it was used to steal her life from her. Determined to turn the tide, she longs to take back control of her life, but 3 years spent in the mental hospital has robbed her of the ability to think rationally. Driven by a delusion, Lily believes a muse is the key to regaining control of her fate and making photography beautiful again.

When she crosses paths with Rebecca, Lily feels that all beauty has been restored. She's learned throughout her life that being taciturn is the safest approach to life because people can't hurt you if they don't know what your intentions are. However, the pure happiness Lily feels when she sees Rebecca causes her to smile.

Driven by irrational thought, Lily decides to tell Rebecca of her importance. However, before Lily can reach her, Rebecca's friend Sam arrives and they begin to walk to another destination to do homework.

Led by her sickened mind, Lily believes Rebecca purposefully rejected her. A familiar feeling of abandonment comes over Lily, reminding her of the pain she'd felt when her father died. Seeking comfort, she glances at the images on her camera, seeing a picture of Rebecca that she'd taken a few minutes prior. The image triggers the feeling of betrayal, Lily is reminded of her stepmother's cruel actions, the mental hospital's torture, and pure anger creeps into Lily's mind. Projecting all negativity onto Rebecca, Lily believes capturing and controlling her is the only way to fix her life.

Act Two

Lily follows Sam and Rebecca, determined to make Rebecca hers. Unseen, Lily photographs Rebecca's every move, every photograph making her more certain about her plan. From her past, Lily knows the best time to attack a person is when they're alone and vulnerable. She's patient, a skill learned during her solidarity and she has an amazing memory so her plan is perfectly laid out in her mind.

Rebecca has had an above average day. She had little homework so Sam and her spent more of their 'study' time just talking about life and laughing. When Sam begins to leave, Rebecca wants to hold onto this sense of joy that she feels so she waves goodbye to Sam from the fence bordering the porch where they studied. After Sam leaves, Rebecca decides to stay outside a little longer, enjoying the weather and watching videos on her phone.

Now that Rebecca is alone, Lily sets her plan in motion. She stealthily climbs over the fence that divides them. A friend leaves, a threat enters. Rebecca, completely unaware of what's happening, continues to watch a video on her phone. She's absorbed in it and laughs at its silliness, her care-free happiness clashing with Lily's determined anger.

Rebecca knows her life is going to change in a matter of 15 seconds. That's how long it takes for Lily to cover her scream with a sleeve covered hand and force her to pass out. The last thing Rebecca remembers is the taste of cotton on her mouth and the sound of her heart rapidly beating in her ears.

some time later

Rebecca awakens slowly, disoriented and unable to accept her circumstances. An unknown time has passed. Her mouth is covered with a bandana and her hands are bound to a desk. The only identifying aspects of the room are said desk and a chair that resides next to her. It's dark, but Rebecca knows she's never been in this room before. She's alone, but that's no accident. Lily wanted Rebecca's surroundings to mirror her time in isolation.

She's scared, but not a fighter so Rebecca's resignation is immediately obvious. She doesn't try to escape because she doesn't see a way out. All she can think is "why me?"

The sound of a door opening catches Rebecca's attention. The thought that her kidnapper is coming causes adrenaline to surge through her as a mixture of horror and fear begin to consume her. An

illuminated silhouette stands in the doorway. Their face hidden, adding to the sense of terror Rebecca feels. Lily has come to visit.

Lily sees this event in a different light. She's taking back control of her life. In fact, she feels rather powerful having another person's life in her hands and she doesn't plan on losing that control ever again.

The End



1. Medium Long Shot



2. Long Shot



3. Cowboy Shot



4. Over the Shoulder Shot



5. Medium Shot



6. Over the Shoulder, Medium Long Shot



7. Over the Shoulder, Medium Long Shot



8. Medium Close Up



9. Medium Close Up



10. Medium Shot



11. Medium Close Up



12. Medium Long Shot



13. Medium Close Up



14. Medium Long Shot



15. Over the Shoulder, Long Shot



16. Medium Close Up Two Shot



17. Medium Close Up Two Shot



18. Close Up



19. Medium Close Up



20. Medium Shot



21. Medium Shot



22. Medium Shot



23. Over the Shoulder, Medium Long Shot



24. Medium Long Shot