

SAMPLE TEXT

EXT. ST. PETERSBURG RUSSIA - DUSK

A lone woman in her late twenties, ASTRID, calmly walks down an alley hidden in the shadow of the St. Petersburg skyline. She is dressed for the harsh Russian winter but it is obvious she is very athletic. As she walks from the alley into a major street she looks from side to side inquisitively. Three cars roar up to her as six burly men jump out yelling at her in Russian. She sighs, reaches to her back under her coat and pulls out two guns.

ASTRID (V.O.)

It wasn't supposed to be like this.

Gun shots erupt.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE - DAY

A seventeen year old Astrid sits in front of big desk with a bloody mouth. The HEADMISTRESS paces behind the desk with a bloody cane. They are both soaking wet.

ASTRID (V.O.)

This was how it was always supposed to be.

HEADMISTRESS

I don't care that you are almost out of here, you will not embarrass me any longer! This has gone on far too long.

The fire sprinklers turn on dropping loads of water on them.

HEADMISTRESS

And you will make this stop.

ASTRID

It's only for seventeen seconds.

HEADMISTRESS

It has been going on all morning!

ASTRID

Every seventeen minutes.

HEADMISTRESS

Very cute.

The sprinklers stop.

ASTRID

See? Seventeen seconds.

HEADMISTRESS

You will pay for this.

An ASSISTANT peaks her head in.

ASSITANT

Excuse me, Headmistress? The benefactors  
are here for their tour.

The Headmistress glares at Astrid while she leaves the  
room.

HEADMISTRESS

Hide her until they are gone.

(to Astrid)

Then I will deal with you.

Astrid smiles wide, showing off her bloody teeth.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE CELLAR - DAY

Astrid is thrown down the stairs of a damp, dark cellar.  
She lands hard on her shoulder, knocking it out of  
socket, as she loses consciousness.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE - DAY

The headmistress leads a small group of well dressed  
benefactors through the orphanage halls. She is walking  
very quickly.

HEADMISTRESS

And this is the teen girl ward.

BENEFACTOR #1

Can we slow down?

BENEFACTOR #2

I agree, I can't keep this up.

They pause as Benefactor #2 bends over to rest. They just  
happen to stop outside Astrid's bedroom. Benefactor #1  
notices the deadbolt on the outside of the door.

BENEFACTOR #1  
Is that totally necessary?

HEADMISTRESS  
Unfortunately it is in that particular case. Now, if you please, we have much to cover if we could move on now.

Benefactor #2 peeks in through the window in the door.

BENEFACTOR #2  
Oh my...there is nothing but a torn mattress and a pot in there...

BENEFACTOR #1  
Is this how you treat your children?

HEADMISTRESS  
This particular girl is an exception, believe me. She is completely antisocial and violent. She's borderline sociopathic actually.

BENEFACTOR #1  
Still doesn't seem humane.

HEADMISTRESS  
We do what we can here with every child, troubled or not. Our resources, however, are finite. If you and your peers could find the generosity to donate, however, I'm sure things could always be more ideal. Now if you will follow me.

The headmistress looks to her watch nervously.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE CELLAR - DAY

Astrid wakes up and winces as she reaches for her shoulder. She slams it into the floor, knocking it into place and stands up. She looks directly to a bundle of wires hanging from the ceiling and smiles.

ASTRID  
Perfect.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE - DAY

The headmistress leads the benefactors to the door more quickly than ever looking to her watch.

HEADMISTRESS

I would like to thank you all for visiting to us and I truly hope you consider us for your generosity in the future.

BENEFACTOR #1

That's it? We have been here for barely fifteen minutes.

HEADMISTRESS

The world of orphanages waits for no man I am afraid.

She nearly pushes them to the door.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE CELLAR

Astrid unsheathes several wires, disconnects, and connects certain wires together as if she is a professional.

ASTRID

That should do it.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE - DAY

Just as the headmistress gets the benefactors to the door the sprinklers erupt. The headmistress stands in paralyzed anger as the benefactors bolt for the door.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE CELLAR - DAY

Astrid sits chuckling to herself as the headmistress storms down the stairs.

ASTRID

How did the tour go?

The headmistress hits her hard across the head with her cane.

HEADMISTRESS

You may only have seventeen days here, but you will pay for this!

She begins beating her repeatedly with the cane until Astrid's body goes limp.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE ASTRID'S ROOM - DAY

Astrid lays on her battered mattress with medical equipment attached to her monitoring her vitals. Her face is bruised badly.

ASTRID (V.O.)

This was always how it was, and how it was always supposed to be. Don't worry though, it would never stick.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE - DAY

ETHAN, a well dressed man in his early twenties enters the front door of the orphanage as the headmistress rushes up to stop him.

HEADMISTRESS

No visitors today.

ETHAN

Nice to see you too.

HEADMISTRESS

She isn't up to seeing you, and frankly she'll be out of here in fifteen days so I would recommend waiting until then.

ETHAN

You can't stop me and you know it, or would you like another visit from my attorney?

HEADMISTRESS

She is truly under the weather.

ETHAN

The cane again?

Ethan brushes past her.

INT. LONDON ORPHANAGE ASTRID'S ROOM - DAY

The dead bolt snaps open as a woman lets Ethan in the room. Astrid's bruises are nearly gone and she is busy pulling the I.V.'s out of her arm.

ETHAN

You could probably do that a little more gently. You'll scar.

Astrid looks up with a huge smile.

ASTRID

Ethan!

She runs to him and gives him a huge hug.

ETHAN

Good to see you too.

ASTRID

Can you believe I'm almost out?

ETHAN

I know, I've got your room all ready.

ASTRID

Really?

ETHAN

Yep, just like old times.

ASTRID

Well not really, no headmistress.

ETHAN

What a pity. I know she misses me.

ASTRID

You were my only friend in here, I think she hates you by association.

ETHAN

I think she just hates everyone.

ASTRID

She never beat you.

ETHAN

I got my fair share of smacks.

ASTRID

But she didn't beat you like she beats me.

ETHAN

That's because you keep getting up. If you stay down, she'll stop.

ASTRID

There's no sport in that.

ETHAN

Even with fifteen days left, you're not  
going to stop are you.

Astrid just smiles.