

Tam Lin

Written By

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PRODUCTION DRAFT
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1. EXT. WEST END LONDON - MORNING

On a grey and rainy morning, commuters bustle in and out of Tottenham Court Road station in a sea of umbrellas.

2. EXT. COSTUME SHOP - SAME

Rain runs down the fogged up windows of a fifth floor costume shop in a tall brick building.

3. INT. COSTUME SHOP - SAME

In front of the foggy window a female hand comes into view.

4. POINTER FINGER

A needle goes through the skin at the tip of the pointer finger. A little bead of blood collects at the needle's point as the needle pushes back out through the skin.

RYAN (O.S.)

Janet?

The needle rips through the thin skin, surprised.

5. ANOTHER ANGLE:

RYAN (40s) costume designer with an arm load of fabric and a wrist pincushion, is looking expectantly at JANET GIBSON (late 20s) a thin woman with bags under her eyes and a bleeding finger.

RYAN

You all good? Look, could you tie off wherever you are? Just so it's in a state for trying on. She'll be here any minute.

(walking away)

And take out any straight pins!

Janet looks at the thick green cloak she has been working on. It has gold embroidered animals and silk roses. She reaches into the bag of roses, grabbing a final rose.

She pulls out a bloom with a manufacturing error. Two roses twisted together, attached by the petals. She examines the rose.

Behind the rose we see TAM LIN (20s), a young man with

an umbrella, enter with DAME MARY ORCHID (50s) a lipsticked actress in an expensive black rain coat.

DAME MARY

(shaking her arms dry)
 Lovely London weather. Well, I've
 dragged myself all the way up here.
 Let's get this over with shall we?

Tam Lin looks at Janet, who quickly stuffs the double rose into her pocket and ties off her thread, standing. Ryan comes running up.

RYAN

Dame Mary, I am so sorry they had
 you come all the way to the shop,
 but the theatre is completely a
 mess with load-in--

DAME MARY

I know how the theatre world works,
 Mr. Murphy, let's just see what
 you've prepared.

RYAN

Of course, Dame Orchid. Right this
 way.

He leads her to a display wall of designs behind outfits on dress forms. Dame Mary puts on reading glasses as they continue to converse.

Tam Lin watches Janet gather the cloak and lay it on the shoulders of a nearby dress form with a simple green dress in matching colors.

Dame Mary scrutinizes a blue number on another form.

DAME MARY

Mmmm. This cut is unflattering.
 Could we make it A-line? Can it be
 changed in time for the costume
 parade on the twenty first?

RYAN

Twenty second.

DAME MARY

I beg your pardon? My PA can check,
 but I assure you--

Tam Lin flicks through Dame Mary's date book.

TAM LIN

(quietly)
 It's the twenty first.

JANET

It's the twenty second. I have a copy of the production calendar--

Janet takes a piece of paper taped to the wall by her work station and presents it to them.

DAME MARY

Who is this?

RYAN

This is Janet Gibson. She's been a seamstress with us for a while, but she's going to be assistant costume designer for this project.

JANET

(trying to be professional)

It's a dream, really.

DAME MARY

(looking over her glasses)

You dreamed to be an assistant in your thirties?

Janet looks like she's been slapped. Her breathing increases.

RYAN

Why don't we try some of these on?

We have a changing area over here.

Ryan hands a dress to a FEMALE SEAMSTRESS who ushers Dame Mary toward a curtained room with mirrors.

RYAN (CONT'D)

And why don't you take five, Jan.

JANET

Why did she say--

RYAN

She doesn't know. Just give the Orchid some space, she's in a foul mood.

Janet nods and goes to her work station, clicking off the light, she looks as though she may cry. Ryan goes back to

join Dame Orchid. Janet sees Tam stroking the cloak she had been working on.

TAM LIN
 Exquisite work.
 (holding out hand)
 Tam Lin. I'm Dame Mary's PA.

Janet holds out a meek hand, they shake, he sees the dried blood on her finger. She pulls away, looking at the floor.

TAM LIN (CONT'D)
 I don't recall seeing you at the first production meeting...I would have remembered you.

JANET
 I wasn't on the project then...

TAM LIN
 I see.

Silence.

JANET
 (visibly uncomfortable)
 Well, I really ought to...I'll just... Bye.

She leaves.

6. EXT. BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Janet stands in the rain. Getting soaked, breathing too fast. She takes the double rose out of her pocket. She clutches it in her fist and tilts her head toward the sky.

TITLE: TAM LIN

BEGIN FLASHBACK

Janet, looking healthier, unpacks boxes in an apartment with NICK (20s). They laugh as she places framed photos along the mantle. He laughingly rearranges them to look more in height order. He smiles...

END FLASHBACK

7. INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - ONE WEEK LATER

It's grey out but not raining. Janet lies on an unmade bed in an empty room. There are boxes which lie about opened and rummaged through, but not unpacked. One box spills costume designs, notebooks, and textbooks, another spills clothes.

Janet stares at the blank wall. An ALARM on her phone goes

off. Janet doesn't turn it off. She doesn't even flinch at the sound.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Janet, now dressed, but looking bedraggled, precariously puts on a pair of boots while holding a glass milk bottle and can of cat wet food.

She gets the boot on and crosses to her window. She's on the second story, but has a fire escape with a single dead potted plant and a pair of empty metal dishes.

She fills one dish with a bit of milk and the other with a bit of the canned wet food.

A ratty looking stray cat with one squinty eye and half an ear, climbs up the fire escape. Janet strokes the wet and bedraggled animal while it eats.

JANET

Hello, Moggy. Big day today.
Costume Parade. We'll see how it
goes. I suspect better than the
first fitting...

(beat)

Last night I had a dream about--

A NOISE of someone tossing their rubbish into a bin down the alley. Janet looks abashed, foolish. She glances at a watch on her wrist.

JANET

Shit.

Janet climbs back in the window, and can be heard getting her things together.

JANET (O.S.)

I'm sorry Moggy, I'm running late,
I'll see you when I get home!

Janet reappears in the window.

JANET

And no more rows with the
neighbor's dog.

The cat looks at her with a look of sarcastic annoyance. Janet smiles.

JANET

I love you too.

She slams the window shut.

The cat laps at the milk. Through the window, we see Janet leave the apartment.

8. INT. LONDON UNDERGROUND - LATER

On a crowded train, Janet seems uncomfortable, staring straight ahead, picking at a fraying cuff.

The train pulls to a stop at Holborn Station. A tinny voice announces.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

This is Holborn. Change here for
the Picadilly Line.

In between the bustling commuters. Janet sees a large advertisement for Dame Mary's show, in which Dame Mary wears a blue fur with a large caption reading "Me On A Stage". Janet looks at the advertisement.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

This is a Central Line Train to
Ealing Broadway.

Janet looks at Dame Mary's smiling eyes. The train begins to move.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The next station is Tottenham Court
Road.

9. INT. CARTERHAUGH THEATRE - LATER

In the audience of a lavish West End theatre, Ryan sits in the third row with a notebook. Fabric and items take up the chairs next to him. Janet stands nearby, at the ready with a tape measure around her neck.

The DIRECTOR and a few other PRODUCTION MEMBERS sit at a tech table midway through the house.

Dame Mary comes out in the green dress and the now-finished, ornately embroidered cloak. The dress is too long.

DAME MARY

I can barely walk in the damn
thing.

RYAN

We can hem it. (to Janet) I'd say
two inches.

(MORE)