

Vita

written by

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SCENE 1, EXTERIOR, BRIDGE OVER LAKE, 9:00 P.M.

A woman falls from a bridge, she is wearing a long white dress and the city behind her is glowing.

SCENE 2, INTERIOR, BALLROOM, 10:00 P.M.

MONROE, a woman in her late 30's with dark brown hair and eyes, stands in the ballroom. She is wearing a dark red velvet ballgown with black gloves.

WOMAN 1

Oh, Monroe, darling, what a wonderful party you have hosted!

MONROE

Thank you, but it really isn't much, the party you hosted last week was far better than this shabby old one.

WOMAN 1

Oh, you're flattering me
(laugh)
Right! Before I forget, congratulations, Vita has turned into such a bright and beautiful young woman. I wish my daughter was even half as bright and beautiful as her! And for her to win such a prestigious competition at a young age! My, my.

MONROE

Oh you're flattering me! Charlotte is a wonderful young woman as well, I heard she has a handful of admirers!

WOMAN 1

What is the use of admirers if they do not propose?

Both women laugh and converse for some time.

Suddenly there is a loud knock on the door, interrupting their conversation.

Monroe, puzzled, goes to answer the door and she sees two police officers.

MONROE
 Officers, hello, is something
 wrong?

OFFICERS
 Ma'am
 (pause)
 We're very sorry, we found a body.
 We think it's your daughter, Vita.

SCENE 3, INTERIOR, MONROE'S MANSION, 6 A.M.

Monroe lies in her bed. She is wearing a dramatic robe, wine red with fur on the sleeves. It seems like she was crying. She stays staring at the ceiling, with an expression of pure defeat, before she slowly starts to stir.

Monroe then silently gets up and heads to Vita's room. She collapses onto the carpet at the center of the room as soon as she enters. She sees a loose floor board, the word SOMNIUM etched into it.

She pries it open and sees a diary lodged inside. Curious, she starts to read the diary.

SCENE 3, INTERIOR, VITA'S ROOM, 10 P.M.

Young Vita is in her room, on her bed writing in her diary. It is decorated with glittery trinkets and there are numerous stuffed animals and dolls. She is wearing a pink dress with puffy sleeves and has her hair in pigtails.

VITA (V.O.)
 June 4th, 1940. Today I made my
 mommy proud. I won the competition.
 It was hard to practice everyday
 and the harp strings hurt my finger
 a lot. But because I made my mommy
 proud I am very happy! My mom is
 calling me to eat dinner, she made
 me my favorite spaghetti and she
 even bought me chocolate cake!
 Yummy!

Vita skips out of her room, happily.

SCENE 4, INTERIOR, VITA'S ROOM, 3:00 PM.

Vita is on her bed again, she is a teenager now. Her room has changed and she has painted her walls a pale yellow. The trinkets and dolls are gone.

VITA (V.O.)

August 10th, 1945. Today my mom and I went on a picnic at the park. We ate some sandwiches and drank some lemonade. It was a sunny day and the sky was so clear. Like a beautiful dream.

(beat)

My mom seemed happy but she looked tired as well. I'm glad I got to spend some time with my mom. I rarely see her because of she works so much everyday. I really wish I could help her... My mom's telling me to practice... Again.

Vita sighs as she goes out of her room.

VITA

Coming mom!

SCENE 5, INTERIOR, VITA'S BEDROOM, 6:00P.M.

Vita slams her door, obviously very angry. It is raining and Vita takes out her diary and starts to angrily write in it. Her room is now grey and bleak and her past enthusiasm gone.

MONROE

VITA, young lady, do NOT slam the door at me!

Monroe screams from outside but Vita pays no heed as she goes underneath her covers. A few moments pass by and we hear a door closing and Vita comes to get her diary.

VITA (V.O.)

October 19th, 1950. I hate her. I hate my mom. Ever since I started to get some prize money my mom started to force me to practice every single day. I hate it, I hate it! She doesn't even care about me, nope, she only cares about money and money and money. I miss when she wasn't so money hungry, I'd rather be poor than live through this hell. I hate her! Ugh she's calling for me again.

MONROE

Vita, VITA, come down here young lady! Your music instructor is here. Do not embarrass me.

Vita storms out of her room, fuming. We can see how hurt she is by Monroe's words.

SCENE 6, INTERIOR, VITA'S ROOM, 7:00P.M.

Vita walks into her room lifelessly, she is wearing a white dress, her hair is messy and her head is hung low. She slumps down, her back against the door and she cries silently. Soon after she stands up with sudden vigor and takes out her diary and starts to write on the floor.

VITA (V.O.)

December 17th, 1952. I can't do it anymore. I'm just tired. My mom, someone who is supposed to be on my side is now my enemy. She is always dictating what I do. Forcing me to practice 6 hours a day, while she goes around spending the money I earned. Does she even love me? Or is she just in love with the money I bring? My friends have all left me, saying that I was barley around and that I was becoming boring. What even is life? Mom, if you're reading this I'm so sorry. But I can't do this anymore. I love you.

Vita slowly gets up, puts her diary back into the floorboard and starts to leave her room. Before she does, however, she looks around the room and smiles with tears streaming down her cheeks. When she goes out we can see the word SOMNIUM etched into her door.

SCENE 7, INTERIOR, MONROE'S MANSION, 9:00 A.M.

Monroe, closes the diary and hugs it close to her heart. She is crying again, clutching the diary.

MONROE

(cries softly)

Vita, vita, my darling I'm so, so sorry.

(sob)

It's all my fault. All my fault.

(sob)

Where did things go wrong. My poor, poor Vita.

She screams.

A lot of time passes but eventually we see Monroe fall asleep on the floor.

She stays like that for some time when she suddenly gets up, completely awake. Everything suddenly seems so barren. A pale light shining from the windows.

She heads to the door, as if she is possessed. She opens the door and sees a white envelope with a single WHITE CARD inside. Turning it over she sees the words "YOUR REQUEST HAS BEEN COMPLETED". She gasps and drops the card.

SCENE 8, INTERIOR, CHRISTMAS EVE, 2 A.M.

A pregnant Monroe on the floor begs a man to not go. But the man, MICHAEL, ignores her and picks up his briefcase.

It is snowing and the only source of light are the street lamps. The neighborhood is completely quiet and the only sound heard are the sounds of their argument.

MONROE

Michael, please, you can't leave me like this! How could you leave me for another woman!

MICHAEL

I'm sorry, Monroe..

MONROE

Michael, Michael, get back here! What about the baby? What am I supposed to do? Michael please!

He doesn't turn back and Monroe starts to cry even more, sinks to the ground.

After a few moments she gets up and heads out the door. The vibe of the town is different, the shops have turned on their lights and there is a distant choir of children singing silent night. There are sharp and raspy voices chanting SOMNIUM in her ear.

Monroe quickly walks to a building, the word Somnium appearing everywhere. The voices in Monroe's ear keep getting louder, to the point where it is almost unbearable. The camera is also very blurry, like a dream.

SCENE 9, INTERIOR, ABANDONED OLD BUILDING, 2:30 A.M.

As Monroe walks in the whispering suddenly stops and is replaced by an eerie silence.

Inside it is completely dark except for a few fireflies. The building's walls are thick with ivy, the ground covered with grass, wildflowers and moss.

Monroe walks up the stairs and goes to the 3rd floor. And there is a room, on the door is "THE OFFICE OF MR. SOMNIUM". She goes in and we can see a man, smoking a pipe, dressed head to toe in a dark expensive suit.

MONROE

Mr. Somnium?

He turns around, however, his face is still hidden in the shadows. Monroe pulls her coat tightly around her body, a shiver suddenly overtaking her body.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Are you Mr. Somnium?

MR. SOMNIUM

(beat)

Yes, you must be Ms. Monroe.

MONROE

That does not matter.

Then Monroe takes out a letter and places it on his desk. She turns to leave the room.

MONROE (CONT'D)

Read it after I leave, The money is
in the envelope so do not worry.

She leaves. In the envelope is a check. He opens the letter and it says: "Take my life when I am at my happiest."

Somnium rips and sets the envelope with the card and money on fire. Then stalks out of the room, following Monroe, still smoking his pipe. The embers of the fire transfer to city lights in the next scene.

SCENE 9, EXTERIOR, THE BRIDGE, 9:00P.M.

This scene is similar to the first one. It is windy and there is an air of mystery surrounding the night. We see Vita on the bridge, contemplating whether to jump. However, unlike the first scene we see her trying to go back. But as she turns around we see her get pushed, a black gloved hand shoving her. We see the shock on her face. Then we see Vita falling down, like the first scene. During the whole scene there is an ominous music playing in the background. The whispering voice saying Somnium getting louder and louder, almost like a fever dream.