

The Assassination of Lost Innocence: Mary

by Qiana C.

EXT. TRAILER HOME LIVING ROOM - MID AFTERNOON

KIM (mid 30's), tosses her stringy blonde hair to the opposite side, sinks into the tattered couch, eyes glued to the television.

MARY (12) walks through the door focused only on the paper she holds.

KIM
(slurring)
What's that, brat. HA brat, cat, fat,
mat.

Mary drops the paper to her side almost trying to hide it from Kim.

MARY
My essay from school, the teacher graded
them and handed them back today.

KIM
Well, how did my little nerd do?

MARY
I did fine mom.

Kim breaks her gaze from the television and stands, hovering over Mary.

KIM
What the fuck is fine Mary?

MARY
I got a B plus mom.

Kim slaps Mary in the back of the head.

KIM
Ooo. Dumb-ass ya shoulda got an A-plus.

Mary hangs her head and leaves the living room. Kim flops back down on the couch and grabs her drink.

KIM (CONT'D)
Fuckin' idiot.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - EVENING

Mary sits on her bed with a pen in hand and her diary in her lap. Her stare, far away as she looks at the walls covered in hand drawings before scribbling in the diary.

MARY (V.O.)

I try my best all the time and she acts like I'm doing this on purpose. I'm not a dumb-ass. I can do better I know it. Ms. Summers says I'm the best in the class. Why can't mom see that?

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

MS. SUMMERS (LATE 30'S) paces at the front of the classroom her paisley dress flowing with each turn.

MS. SUMMERS

Class the family tree project is due Thursday. Are there any questions before you leave?

She catches Marys' gaze as she looks around. Mary, at the back of the class, shifts her eyes down to her desk.

MS. SUMMERS (CONT'D)

Great. You guys have a great night and work on those projects.

The kids gather their belongings and start to file out of the classroom. Many of them say their fair-wells to Ms. Summers who returns them.

Mary shoves all her things in her ratty bag and joins the crowd.

MS. SUMMERS (CONT'D)

Mary, can you stay for a second?

MARY

Sure, Ms. Summers.

The last kid leaves the room and Ms. Summers closes the door behind him. She pulls her chair in front of a desk and ushers Mary to sit down.

MS. SUMMERS

Mary, how are you doing? I would be happy to help you with this project.

MARY

Thank you Ms. Summers but I think I will be able to do it on my own.

MS. SUMMERS

Alright Mary, but will you let me know if you need help with anything?

MARY

Yes. I will, thank you.

MS. SUMMERS

How is everything at home? Are you and your mom getting along alright?

MARY

Yes, just fine. Thanks again Ms. Summers but if I don't hurry I'll miss my bus.

Mary throws a bag over her shoulder and heads towards the door.

MARY (CONT'D)

Bye.

She closes the door behind her as Ms. Summers starts to get out of her chair.

MS. SUMMERS

But...

EXT. MARY'S HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Mary walks up to the trailer door. Her hand grips the handle as she takes a beat and a deep breath.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A man lies out on the couch with his hand just under the band of his shorts resting on his hair beer belly. RICK (early 50's) oily face, scruffy salt and pepper beard crushes his empty beer can before throwing it on the table.

As Mary fully enters the room he sits up and looks her up and down.

RICK

Who are you?

MARY

I'm Mary, who are you?

RICK

Rick.

He holds out his hand and Mary grabs it.

MARY

Nice to meet you. Are you a friend of my mother's?

RICK

(smirking)

Yeah, I'm one of her... friends. How old are you Mary?

MARY

Twelve. I'll be thirteen in May.

Rick smiles from ear to ear still holding Mary's hand.

RICK

Ah, thirteen such a ripe age. Just five shy.

MARY

Five shy?

RICK

Before you're legal silly. You can drive, vote, have boys over all kinds of fun.

Kim enters from the other room and the two break their bond.

KIM

I see you met the nerd. Or should I say the dumb-ass who gets B pluses and thinks they are good?

Rick turns his back on Kim and looks Mary right in the eyes.

RICK

I think B pluses are amazing. I wish I got at least one when I was your age.

He winks at her. Mary gives a sheepish grin as Rick turns back around to Kim.

KIM

Ugh, go to your room dinner will be ready soon.

Kim trots over to Rick and lays a deep kiss on him.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'm making Rick's favorite.

Rick slaps her on the butt and she giggles.

Mary proceeds past the two lovebirds.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The three sit at a small table off the living room. Rick pushes his empty plate away.

RICK
Thanks, babe. Dinner was amazing.

He lays his hand on top of Mary's as she placed her silverware on her plate.

RICK (CONT'D)
Wasn't it Mary?

MARY
Yes, it was Rick. Thanks mom.

She slips her hands out for under Rick's.

MARY (CONT'D)
I got some homework to do before bed.
Good night mom, good night Rick, nice to meet you.

Leaving the table she places her plate in the sink.

KIM
Whatever.

RICK
Good night Mary. Sweet dreams.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rick stands at the door of Mary's room watching as she sleeps. Mary wakes up.

RICK
Mmmmm

MARY
Mom, is that you?

RICK
No. It's Rick.

He enters the room and places his hands on the edge of Mary's bed.

RICK (CONT'D)

I was just checking on you. You were making some weird noises. Are you okay?

He proceeds to sit on her bed near her feet.

MARY

I'm fine. Thank you.

RICK

Okay, let me know if you need anything. Sweet dreams.

He stands and moves to the top of the bed. He tucks Mary in and takes a noticeable deep breath while over her.

Mary scrunches a puzzling look onto her face as Rick leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Mary sits on the couch with a bowl in her lap, enthralled in her cartoons.

Rick enters the living room from the back room and sits thigh to thigh with Mary. He puts his arm on the back of the couch, his fingertips grazing Mary's shoulder.

RICK

How did you sleep?

MARY

Well. Thank you for asking.

RICK

Good. Well, I have to get going. Tell your mom I said bye.

He stands and extends his hand to Mary who does the same. He plants a long kiss on the top of her hand, looks up, and winks at her.

RICK (CONT'D)

You have a great day, beautiful.

MARY

You too, Rick.

She carefully wipes the back of her hand on the couch, places her bowl on the table, and sinks back into her place on the couch.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Mary places the bowl in the sink. Kim knocks into her as she blows into the room.

KIM
Where's Rick?

MARY
He said bye and that he had to go.

KIM
Ugh, did he say when he would be back?

MARY
No, all he said was bye.

Kim slivers her eyes at Mary.

KIM
What was that nice to meet you shit last night?

MARY
Just being nice.

KIM
Don't. Can't have you scarin' off this one too. Just stay out of the way.

The two part ways in opposite directions.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

As Mary sleeps Rick stands close to her bed and watches her.

RICK
Mmmmm.

He sits and moves her hair out of her face. Mary jolts awake. She sits up in her bed and pulls the covers close.

MARY
What are you doing in here Rick? Was I making weird noises again?

RICK
Shh.

MARY
Why are you in here?

RICK

Quiet. You know if you wake up your mom she will be really mad. You don't want her to be mad at you, do you?

Mary's eyes become glossy as they begin to tear up.

MARY

No, but please get out.

RICK

Just stay quiet.

Mary begins to cry quietly. She wipes her tears and pulls the cover over her body.

RICK (CONT'D)

You're too pretty to cry.

He wipes a tear from her eye.

RICK (CONT'D)

You'll get better at our game. We'll keep playing. That's what friends do. We're friends right?

Mary side eyes him from her position on the bed.

Rick stands and wipes his hands across his shorts.

RICK (CONT'D)

Mmmm. Good night beautiful.

EXT. - TRAILER HOME STAIRS - MORNING

Mary plays with dolls in front of her home. Her mom stumbles as Rick tries to keep her upright as they walk by.

KIM

(slurring)

I'll be back later. Be sleep before I get back.

RICK

See ya later, beautiful.

Kim slaps Rick's chest.

KIM

Don't go giving her a big head.

Mary doesn't acknowledge them and continues to play.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Rick and Kim stumble into the door of the trailer. Mary jolts at the sound of the door hitting the wall but does not turn around from the sink to acknowledge them.

KIM
(slurring)
What are you still doing up dumb-ass?

Rick struggles to sit Kim on the couch. As he tries to get her shoes off and her legs up on the couch she tugs at his leather jacket.

MARY
I was just finishing the dishes.

RICK
Hey, there.

Mary quietly leaves the room leaving the water running. Rick focuses on the unruly Kim who's now trying to stand.

KIM
Hey, hey!

Mary returns and turns off the water without them acknowledging her brief absence.

Mary looks in the direction of the slurred words and sees Rick crawl behind Kim causing her to roll her eyes.

KIM (CONT'D)
Go to sleep. Go to sleep.

MARY
Goodnight, mom.

RICK
Night, Mary.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rick stumbles as he stands.

Mary pulls her covers up to her face to wipe tears from her eyes.

RICK
I like our little secret game!

MARY
 (sotto voce)
 I don't!

She lays face down in her pillow with her hands underneath.

As Rick leaves her room Mary punches the pillow and flips over revealing the shine of her tears on her cheeks. She gets out of bed and heads to the small mirror on her wall.

MARY (CONT'D)
 Do it.

She pulls the string of her shorts as tight as she can before crawling back into bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Kim sits on the couch smoking as Mary enters the room.

MARY
 Mom, there's something I need to tell you.

KIM
 What?

MARY
 You have to promise not to get mad at me.

KIM
 Spit it out, nerd.

MARY
 Mom, Rick...

KIM
 What is it?!

MARY
 He does things to me.

Kim in a hysterical laugh stands and slaps Mary in the back of the head.

KIM
 Wow! You lyin' sack of shit! Why would you say something like that? You have no idea what you're saying. What's your problem?

MARY

I promise. I'm not lying, you have to believe me!

Kim, now in a slight chuckle sits back down taking a sip of her beer as she adjusts back into the couch.

Mary looks at her mom with a pleading gaze.

KIM

Get the fuck out of my face liar. Don't ever say anything like that to me again!

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rick stands up with his back to the bed.

MARY

I don't want to do this anymore Rick.

RICK

Don't be like that.

MARY

I've told my mom.

Rick turns to Mary and sits on the edge of the bed. His eyes show the slightest bit of shock.

RICK

Mary, this was our secret game. You weren't supposed to tell her. She was mad, wasn't she?

Mary pulls her knees to her chest and sits at the top of her bed as far away from Rick as she can.

RICK (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'll tell her not to be mad.

Rick smiles. He does his routine before he exits the room.

Mary gets out of bed and goes to the mirror on the wall.

MARY

(sotto voce)

Save yourself.

Mary lays down in bed and cries into her pillow until she falls asleep.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Ms. Summers walks the isles of the classroom until she gets to Mary who scribbles away. Mary does not acknowledge her.

She taps on the desk now garnering Mary's attention. Mary promptly places her workbook over her drawing.

MS. SUMMERS

Alright, I cannot wait to see your family tree projects tomorrow. Be ready to share.

The class packs up their stuff. Mary bolts to the door but Ms. Summers stops her.

MARY

I have to go.

MS. SUMMERS

Can I just talk to you for a second? You've been really distracted today.

MARY

So.

MS. SUMMERS

It's not like you.

Mary rolls her eyes at Ms. Summers.

MS. SUMMERS (CONT'D)

Can I see what you were drawing?

MARY

No.

MS. SUMMERS

Mary. What's going on? You know you can talk to me.

MARY

Why would I? You won't believe me either.

Mary pushes past Ms. Summers whose face has now changed to disbelief.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mary throws her bag on the ground as she enters the room.

Rick sharply sits up from his lounging position as Mary walks in.

RICK

Hello, beautiful. Where have you been?

Kim busts into the living room with a cigarette hanging from her mouth and a spatula in her hand.

KIM

Where the fuck have you been?

MARY

School.

Kim slaps Mary on the shoulder with the spatula.

KIM

Don't lie to me. School closed hours ago.

MARY

I was working on my project with Ms. Summers.

Kim ashes her cigarette.

KIM

I don't like you staying after with that uppity bitch. It's fuckin' weird. And it's late so go to bed.

MARY

Whatever.

KIM

What did you just fuckin' say?

MARY

I said goodnight.

KIM

That's what I thought.

Rick stands with his hand out as Mary walks by.

RICK

Goodnight, beautiful.

Mary nudges his hand away and proceeds to her room.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rick sits at the edge of Mary's bed.

RICK

I'm so sorry you had a bad day at school.

Rick stands with his back to Mary. Mary sitting on the edge of her bed sticks her hand under her pillow and removes a knife.

She jabs it into Rick's back repeatedly.

He falls to his knees and ultimately flat on the ground.

Mary sits back on her bed and stares at Rick's lifeless body who's pants have fallen around his ankles.

MARY

Yeah, me too.

INT. MARY'S ROOM - MORNING

KIM (O.S.)

Mary! Get the fuck up!

Kim bust through Mary's door and begins to speak. As she starts to she looks down at her feet now sticky from the pool of blood she finds them in.

KIM (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

Mary?

Her eyes dart around the empty room. A beat later she looks up to find a ripped page from Mary's diary on the bed. She snatches it and reads it.

ON THE SCREEN

You didn't believe me so I had to save myself.

Kim lets go of the paper and it floats to the floor to take on the crimson tint of the blood.