

BECOMING UNSEEN

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INT. CAFE - DAY

Billy sits with Laura, the cafe is quiet and they're both tucked away in the corner.

Billy cups both hands around his large coffee, he's on edge. Laura plays on her phone.

BILLY

I need to talk to you. I know how this is going to sound, but if I didn't believe it. Like, really, really believe it, I wouldn't be saying it.

(a deep breath)

I'm scared that I'm turning invisible.

LAURA

You'll be fine.

BILLY

Will you at least look at me whilst I'm talking to you?

Laura doesn't take her eyes from her phone screen.

LAURA

I'm just watching this for a second.

BILLY

I just feel like I'm losing my place in the world.

Laura begins to drift off, paying less and less attention to him.

LAURA

Yeah.

BILLY

Laura, will you put your phone down and talk to me?

LAURA

Yeah.

BILLY

You're supposed to be my fucking girlfriend, but you look at that fucking phone more than you look at me.

LAURA

Sure.

Laura, eyes still locked on her phone, finishes off her own coffee then stands up. Putting on her coat and grabbing her bag.

He watches her leave the cafe, stunned.

BILLY

Laura?

No answer. She acts as though he's not even there.

Billy looks around the rest of the cafe, the other customers chatting to each other.

Laura's gone. Billy stands up.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Would anybody like to have a conversation?

Nothing. No one even reacts to his shouting.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(still shouting)

A conversation about anything. You choose.

Still, he gets no reaction from anybody. Like he's shouting into thin air. The people inside the cafe either can't hear him or don't want to hear him.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Billy gets dressed in a bright yellow high visibility jacket and trousers. He tops this off with a hi vis vest.

He poses in front of a full length mirror, inspecting his appearance. He nods, satisfied.

BILLY

I won't be ignored.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Billy, in his new outfit walks around the park, following the path.

Lots of other people here, joggers, people on their bikes. Billy sees them, expecting them to see him, but no one pays him any mind.

BILLY
(to himself)
What the hell is going on?

INT. CITY STREET - DAY

Billy stands on a busy street corner, still in his high visibility outfit, but now holding onto two large cowbells in either hand.

He rings them as loud as he can, high above his head. None of the other people here stop to look, or either look over in his direction.

After a short while Billy throws down the cow bells in disgust.

EXT. LAURA'S HOUSE - DAY

Outside Laura's house, Billy first rings her doorbell. He waits, but no answer.

He climbs over her garden, trampling on her flowers to peer in through her front window. He can see Laura sitting on her sofa, eating a bag of crisps and watching television.

BILLY
Hey!

He then starts banging both hands against the window, loud and aggressive. But she never stops watching television.

BILLY (CONT'D)
We're over. We're finished. And for the record, I'm dumping you. You didn't dump me, I dumped you.

He turns and leaves, close to tears.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Billy stands at the counter, waiting to be served. He's the only customer here.

Three workers on the other side of the counter talk amongst themselves.

Billy is getting agitated. He taps a knuckle down against the top of the counter, in the futile hopes of gaining their attention.

BILLY
Excuse me. Large Latte to go please.

Nothing.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

They don't hear him. And it doesn't appear that they see him either.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Fuck this.

Billy moves around to the other side of the counter. He faces the workers, getting up close.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I would like to order something to eat, and something to drink.

They just continue with their conversation as though he's not even there.

Billy now turns his focus onto the food on sale. He reaches out and snatches a sandwich and a slice of cake.

He returns to the workers, showing them what he has.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I'm taking these.

Still, they pay him no attention at all.

Billy bites into the cake.

BILLY (CONT'D)
And I'm not paying either.

He walks back to the other side of the counter. Looking back at the workers, still they just talk. Billy smirks.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Alright, maybe there are benefits.

He pockets the sandwiches. Heads for the door, continuing to eat the cake.

He exits, no one tries to stop him.

INT. HIGH END CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Billy walks around the high fashion store. Removing his t-shirt and putting on one for sale. He doesn't even bother to remove the price tags.

He continues looking. Switches out his jeans for a pair on the rack.

The workers at the front of the store don't even look his way.

Billy leaves his clothes on the floor, and simply walks out with his new unpaid outfit, easy.

Billy gives the workers a wink and a smile as he exits.

BILLY

Thanks. I never knew shopping could be this much fun.

INT. SHOE STORE - DAY

Billy now switches out his beaten up shoes for a pair of brand new ones. He checks the price tag.

BILLY

Wow, that's more than my rent.

He puts them on, does a quick walk up and down, they're a good fit.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Nice. Don't mind if I do.

He spots VICKY, 30, short, blonde and pretty as she fills up a suitcase with expensive high heel shoes.

He grins to himself whilst watching her.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(to Vicky)

Do you want me to take those out for you? They don't stop me. I can take whatever I like.

She stops. Turns to face him. She looks dumbstruck.

VICKY

What the fuck.

Now it's Billy's turn to stop in his tracks and look dumbstruck back at her.

BILLY
What the hell?

VICKY
(to Billy)
You can see me?

He swallows hard, nodding.

BILLY
Yeah, I was about to ask you the
same thing.

VICKY
(nodding)
Yeah, I can see you.

BILLY
And I can see you.

A stand off. They both just stare at each other, not moving.
Neither one is sure what to do next.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END