

CHOKE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Darkness. An empty stage. Nothing but a microphone and a spotlight. Haunting music from a piano lulls across the stage.

A young girl steps forward to fill the spotlight. An elegant dress, dark eyes, beautiful features. This is VICTORIA (20).

Victoria grabs the microphone and opens her mouth to sing...but nothing comes out. Victoria stares out into the dark. She is wide eyed, nervous, open mouthed as she chokes.

Victoria's pallor grows pale and she faints. She hits the stage hard as the music continues on, empty without a voice.

CUT TO: BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - DAY - A WEEK EARLIER

A few students enter the large building.

INT. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - DAY

Victoria sits against the wall outside the theatre. She eagerly waits.

A performance teacher, MS. RAY (40) steps out and notices Victoria.

MS. RAY

Victoria.

Victoria quickly stands up and shyly approaches Ms. Ray.

VICTORIA

Hey Ms. Ray.

MS. RAY

How are you feeling about the audition?

VICTORIA

Good.

Ms. Ray smiles warmly.

MS. RAY

I wanted to inform you that you got  
the solo for the fourth number.  
Congratulations.

VICTORIA

Oh my gosh! Thank you so much Ms.  
Ray!

Victoria hugs Ms. Ray tightly.

MS. RAY

You earned it.

Ms. Ray grins and walks away. Victoria breathes in her  
elation at the news and eagerly jogs away.

INT. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - NIGHT - A WEEK LATER

The night of the recital. The center is buzzing with  
activity.

Victoria wears the elegant dress we have seen before. She  
nervously warms up and takes deep breaths. Each time she  
opens her mouth, her voice catches in her throat.

VOICE (O.S.)

Places in five!

Victoria acknowledges the voice and walks into the back of  
the theatre.

INT. SIDE STAGE - NIGHT

Victoria ascends a set of steps and approaches the side of  
the stage. Music drifts from the stage. GREG (21) and  
SAMANTHA (20) stand on the stage performing a song.

The song ends and the two performers eagerly exit the stage  
amidst a roar of applause from the crowd. The curtain draws  
closed. Greg and Samantha pass by Victoria.

GREG

Break a leg.

They both descend the steps and disappear from view. Victoria  
looks to the stage, dark and empty.

The curtain opens. Victoria breathes in and walks onto the...

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

The haunting piano music fills the auditorium. Victoria approaches the microphone and is about to sing but she chokes. This is a scene we have seen before.

A cold sweat breaks out on Victoria's face. She can't see anything but darkness in the crowd. The music fades into a drone, barely audible in the background.

Terrifying images flash in Victoria's mind. An ANGRY MAN (22) with black pupils watches the stage.

ANGRY MAN

Choke.

An ANGRY GIRL (20) also has black pupils and mouths the word CHOKE.

A loud roar emits from the crowd that Victoria can't see.

CROWD

Choke!

The roar causes Victoria to faint. She collapses and hits the stage hard as we...

CUT TO: BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Everything slowly comes into focus. We are still on the stage but the curtain is drawn.

Victoria is being helped to her feet by Ms. Ray.

MS. RAY

Are you OK dear?

Victoria looks around in confusion.

VICTORIA

Did I faint?

MS. RAY

The nerves get the best of us sometimes. We're glad you're OK.

Victoria stops and turns back toward the stage.

VICTORIA  
I can do it. I want to do the song.

MS. RAY  
Victoria.

VICTORIA  
Just let me sing!

Ms. Ray hesitates and then nods and motions to the others behind the stage.

MS. RAY  
OK.

Victoria turns and waits as the curtain opens again. The haunting piano music lilts across the stage. Victoria steps into the spotlight and grabs the microphone.

She opens her mouth to sing. Her voice is strikingly beautiful and emanates throughout the auditorium.

She beautifully performs and finishes the song. There is an awed silence as she faces the crowd.

Victoria's dark eyes gaze out into the dark. She is a mystery.

As the crowd erupts into a monstrous roar we...

CUT TO: BLACK