

THE LOUD SILENCE OF GOD

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CHLOE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A moving box labeled "ANNE ARTICLES," with the words handwritten with a bold blue marker is on the floor. On top of that is another box labeled "ANNE PHOTOS."

CHLOE (O.S.)

No, mom. I was there the whole week, but they never allowed me to see her.

CHLOE, a woman in her twenties, wearing a face mask, walks into her apartment's living room. She is talking on her mobile phone.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's a UPS from Anne's hospital.

Chloe examines the UPS BOX in her hand.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

No. I haven't opened it yet. I guess it's her death certificate, and her belongings.

(beat)

They agreed to send it to me.

(beat)

Yes, they sent it to me, mom. I'm her family.

(beat)

Yes, mom. I'm okay.

Chloe's right foot suddenly hits a box, and she stumbles.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Damn!...

(beat)

No...sorry, mom. That was not for you. These boxes are all over the place.

Chloe dodges several piles of boxes on her way to the kitchen countertop. She takes the face mask off and trash it.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Yes, I'm sending all boxes to my storage unit.

(beat)

No, mom. I'm not sending them to the charity, but I want to check each one to decide what to do.

(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Yes, soon, mom.

Chloe drops the UPS box at the countertop, and grabs an YELLOW HEART KEYCHAIN.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Hold on, mom.

Chloe puts the keychain in her pocket. She lays the phone at the side of the sink and washes her hands.

She opens a kitchen cabinet plenty of bottles of tequila inside. She picks up one that is half empty, and grabs her phone back.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'm back.

(beat)

No, mom. I'm not sleeping here today.

Chloe pours herself a drink in a shot glass.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'm not alone. Jane's here.

(beat)

No. She can't talk to you; she's in the bathroom.

Chloe rolls her eyes and takes a sip.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Come on, mom. It's just water.

Look, I have a lot to do now. I'll call you tomorrow.

(beat)

I...We need to pack things. So please don't call me again. I'll switch my phone off.

Chloe takes another sip.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

No, mom. I said I need to pack and go. So if you send her here, I'll not let her in.

(beat)

I love you too.

(beat)

Bye, mom...see you tomorrow.

Chloe switches her phone off and throws it on the couch. She finishes her drink in one gulp and slams the empty glass on the countertop.

She arranges all the boxes in three piles near the couch. The piles get so high that they look like they will fall apart anytime soon.

Chloe pours herself another glass and drink in one gulp. She grabs the bottle and pours herself another one. She trash the empty bottle.

Chloe takes out two tequila bottles from a kitchen cabinet. She places the UPS envelope under her arm and holds her drink in the same hand. Then, she walks down the corridor to the bedroom.

Chloe stands at the bedroom door and stares at the double bed with two large yellow pillows. A STUFFED DOG sits on top of one pillow. An ART DECO LAMP decorates the nightstand next to the bed.

Chloe throws the UPS envelope on the bed and walks in. She places both tequila bottles on the nightstand. She finishes her drink in one gulp and slams the door shut.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chloe snoozes face-up on her bed. She is well-groomed and wearing make-up. ANNE, a woman in her twenties, lays on the bed next to her. She gently caresses Chloe's hair.

ANNE
(whispering)
Hi, Pumpkin. Are you awake?

CHLOE
(muttering)
Not sure, Anne.

Chloe turns her head and stares at long tracheotomy scar on Anne's neck.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Does it hurts?

Chloe gently touches the scar.

ANNE
No. Not anymore.

Anne smiles and kisses Chloe.

ANNE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Don't worry. I'll be here for you.
We can rest now.

Chloe turns face up and closes her eyes.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Chloe's hair is messy, and her face reveals that she has been drinking and crying. She slowly opens her eyes.

CHLOE
Anne?

CHLOE'S POV

Chloe turns her head. On top of the pillow next to her, she sees the stuffed dog with its head half ripped off.

BACK TO SCENE

Chloe turns on her left side and realizes she is alone in the room. She sees the key with the yellow heart keychain hanging from the doorknob. She lays face up and covers her eyes with her hands.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Oh, fuck!

Chloe sits on the edge of the bed and stares at an emptied bottle of tequila. She grabs an AMBER DRUG VIAL next to the bottle.

We read "Fluoxetine" at the vial's label. She checks that it is empty and throws the vial at the wall.

Chloe scans the room and notices another bottle of tequila, a shot glass, and another amber drug vial on the end table at the opposite corner. She gets up but immediately feels something pricking her foot.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Damn!

Chloe inspects her foot and takes out a small piece of spiky glass. She notices shards scattered across the ground and her art deco lamp lying broken on the floor. Chloe gets up again and stumbles, trying to avoid them.

Chloe staggers to a wall with a shelf that contains photo frames. She gingerly picks up a frame with a picture of Anne and her playing beach volleyball with a yellow ball. She runs her hand across the picture and then grabs another frame with a picture of her on the top of a mountain, holding Anne's hand.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I love you!

Chloe drops both frames on the floor, and they hit a YELLOW BEACH VOLLEYBALL lying there. She grabs the ball from the floor and mimics the smile emoji engraved on it.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Hi, Timmy. What a day, huh?

Chloe puts the ball down on the bed and aligns the smile emoji such that it faces her. She turns back to the shelf, places her hand over a photograph of her and Anne at a picnic.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Why you?

Chloe throws the frame on the floor. She stares at another photograph where both girls are riding a tandem bike.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I miss you so much.

Chloe places the frame face-down. She stares at a photograph of her holding a news channel microphone and interviewing Anne, wearing a yellow scarf. She kisses the picture.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I'm coming for you, honey.

She walks up to an ANNIVERSARY WEDDING PLATE on the shelf, with "5th Anniversary" engraved in gold letters. Chloe reads the names on it as if trying to remember.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Chloe Miller...Anne Johnson.

Chloe staggers to the end table at the corner of the room and opens another bottle of tequila. She pours herself a drink in a shot glass. She puts the tequila bottle back on the end table and raises a toast to the shelf.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(loud)

Here's to Anne Johnson.

Chloe takes a gulp and then grabs the bathroom door frame as she loses her balance. She stares at a big WHY written on the bathroom mirror with lipstick.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
That's a good question.

Chloe pours herself another drink and sits on the floor, next to the end table. She leans against the wall and stares at the roof. The light of dawn streams in through the half-closed blinds, illuminating her fierce face.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(to the roof)
You bastard! I used to rely on you.
(beat)
Okay, lesson learned.

Chloe holds the glass with both hands. Then, she rotates it until she can see the message engraved on the glass surface.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(reading the engraving)
Anne and Chloe. Five shots and counting.

Chloe puts the glass on the end table and notices a black ant finding its way around the glass.

Chloe finishes her drink in one gulp and stamps the empty glass upside down on the table, trapping the ant inside it.

She lean to the table and look closely to the ant inside the glass.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(to the trapped ant)
Crazy, isn't it?
(beat)
What?
(beat)
I agree. Life isn't fair.

Chloe slides the glass across the end table surface just enough so the black ant moves.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(to the trapped ant)
See? I control you now.
(beat)
You're right. Maybe I'm pathetic,
or perhaps I'm just a bad person.
Or both.
(beat)
(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

You need to learn this lesson. One day, you're free, and the next, you're trapped.

(beat)

The point is that now I decide your destiny.

Chloe grabs the amber medicine vial from the end table, opens it, and drops several white pills on her hand. She puts the vial back on the end table, but many white pills slide from her hand and spread across the floor.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

No.

Chloe collects the pills from the floor, putting them back in her hand. She stares at the pile of white pills for a while and then lays the pills on the end table, near the trapped ant.

Chloe looks at the stuffed dog.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(to the stuffed dog)

You don't dare say that.

(beat)

I'm no coward. I need some water. I can't swallow this with tequila.

(beat)

Because I can't gulp it down with alcohol, that's all.

Chloe throws the empty vial at the stuffed dog but misses it. She tries to stand up, but she falls.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(to the stuffed dog)

You say that 'cause you're stuffed inside. You don't even have a throat.

Chloe crawls to the bed and leans on it to get up. She staggers to the bathroom door and stops at the doorway.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(to the stuffed dog)

Sorry to be rude. I'm not having a good day.

INT. CHLOE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe walks in, opens the tap, gets some liquid soap, and washes her hands. Then, she gets some more liquid soap and washes her hands frantically.

Chloe splashes water on her face. She puts both hands on the bathroom countertop and watches the water slowly runs down the sink. Finally, the water drains completely.

Chloe looks at her wet face in the mirror. She tries to erase the lipstick's writing from its surface. Now, her reflection looks messy and reddish.

Chloe talks to her reflection, acting out both parts.

CHLOE
(to the mirror reflection)
What?

MIRROR CHLOE
It's so simple. Just do it.

CHLOE
Simple? So why don't you do it yourself?...Come on, let me see it.

MIRROR CHLOE
You know I can't.

CHLOE
You can't do it because you don't feel anything...no hunger or thirst. You only wait until I come in and judge me.

MIRROR CHLOE
Don't dare say that. I miss Anne as much as you do. But I am trapped in this glass cage, and you aren't.

CHLOE
And how is it?

MIRROR CHLOE
What?

CHLOE
When do I leave? Do you stay there?
(pause)
Is her reflection still inside the mirror? Or do you just vanish?

Chloe's reflected image stares at Chloe without saying anything. Chloe closes her eyes.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
I just want to sleep...just enough
to see her again.

Chloe grabs a water glass from the countertop, pours some tap water on it, and leaves the bathroom.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe staggers into the room and turns to go back to where she was seated at first. But halfway, she stubs her big toe against the end table leg.

CHLOE
(screaming in pain)
Ouch! Damn.

Chloe drops the glass on the floor. It does not break but splashes water all over the place.

Chloe screams in pain, jumping on one leg across the room.

Chloe steps on the yellow ball on the floor.

Chloe falls, hitting her head on the nightstand.

Chloe stays motionless on the floor.

Chloe's head is half an inch away from the nightstand. Her face is close to several pieces of broken glass from the art deco lamp.

The yellow ball rolls on the floor and stops by her face with the upside-down smile emoji facing her.

CHLOE'S POV

Chloe slowly opens her eyes and sees the emoji smiling at her.

BACK TO SCENE

Chloe frowns to the ball's emoji.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(to the ball)
That's it? Why didn't you finish me
off?

(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(beat)
I don't believe you, Timmy. You
meant it.
(beat)
Really?

Chloe caresses the emoji on the ball with the back of her hand.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

It's so kind of you. She'll be
happy to hear it.
(beat)
Do you remember?
(beat)
It was our best match ever. I can
still hear her laughing.
(beat)
It's true. She was pushing us
forward all the time.

Chloe stares at nothing as if she is looking beyond the room.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Maybe she is upset with me now.

Chloe turns on her side and slowly crawls around the bed. She stops near the end table and stares at the ant trapped inside the glass.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(to the ant)
I'm still not sure you'll get out
of this one.
(beat)
Don't blame me.
(pointing up)
That's what he...she...does. She
walks around smashing bugs like you
for no reason.
(beat)
No, there's no point. She does it
just because she can.
(beat)
Do you want to break free?

Chloe lies on the floor and stares at the roof.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(to the roof)
Did you hear it? Come on. Do your
magic. Set this ant free. Show me
this isn't all bullshit.
(to the ant)
(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Do you see? That's how she does. No response, no commitment. Did you get it?

Chloe stares at the pile of white pills near the trapped ant.
CHLOE

Now I need another glass of water.

Chloe turns on her side to crawl again. She grabs the empty glass of water on the floor and stares under the bed.

Chloe notices the UPS box is below the bed. Chloe creeps under the bed and stretches her arm to grab it.

Chloe comes out from under the bed with the box in her hand. She sits near the window, places the box on her lap, and opens it.

Inside, Chloe picks up a white sealed envelope from Saint Claire Hospital. She inspects and tosses it.

Chloe picks up a plastic bag with a ring and a necklet and another with a yellow money purse. She places both plastic bags on the floor.

Chloe rechecks the box and picks up a thin rectangular gift box wrapped in yellow paper.

Chloe rips off the wrapping paper and finds a brown box. She opens it and grabs a DIGITAL VOICE RECORDER with a post-it note.

CHLOE'S POV

The post-it reads, "To Chloe. Play it when it is over. Love, Anne." A single drop of tear splashes on the note.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Anne.

BACK TO SCENE

Chloe pushes play on the digital voice recorder. There's a CLICK, and we hear Anne's weak voice breathing heavily.

ANNE (V.O.)

Hi, Pumpkin... I don't know how to start this.

Chloe closes her eyes, and a tear runs down her face.

ANNE (V.O.)
But we all know it's over.

Anne barely ends the phrase and starts coughing.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe gets up, with the digital voice recorder in her hand, and lies on the bed.

ANNE (V.O.)
I know you think...I'll get better.
(cough)
I did my best to stay with
you...but it's over...I see it on
the nurses' faces.
(pause)
That is why I decided...to record
this before they...intubate me.
(pause)
I'm sorry...if I'll hurt you.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe caresses and then hugs the stuffed dog.

ANNE (V.O.)
It's heartbreaking. I'll leave
you...and I can't do...anything
about it...neither can you.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe sweeps the broken glasses off the floor and places the broken lamp on the nightstand.

ANNE (V.O.)
But there is something you can do
for us...You can move on...It's
easy for me to say...I'll go
somewhere else, and you'll stay
here, alone in the night, with all
this pain.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe puts each photo frame back on the shelf.

ANNE (V.O.)

But you know what? We did it, we enjoyed our life together...and nothing, nothing can take it away from us...I enjoyed each moment since we met.

INT. CHLOE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe throws the bottles of tequila in the trash. She cleans the mirror and smiles shyly at her reflection.

ANNE (V.O.)

I know you're strong, Chloe. You'll find your way out. Just keep moving...just keep trying.

INT. CHLOE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe flushes the white pills and throws the amber vials into the trash.

ANNE (V.O.)

I'll miss you as much as you'll miss me. But I need to ask you one last thing for me.

(pause)

Promise me you won't give up.

(pause)

If you can't do it for yourself, remember you're doing it for me...for us.

INT. CHLOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chloe picks up the tequila glass and releases the ant.

ANNE (V.O.)

I love you, Chloe. Keep moving, and I'll be watching over you.

The black ant stays steady for a while, and then finds its way out of the end table.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END