

Any moment now.

Finally it shuts off and she leaves.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Um okay... Anyways, listen, I'm going to tell you something that you cannot tell anyone at the office.

START →

Scene 1

Tera nods. She's flattered by the secrecy. Did someone get a boob job?

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Rise management is in the red. If we don't impress some people at this show and get Lola on a tour -- God, I don't even want to think about that scenario. I've invested so many years into Lola.

TERA

Wait, what do you mean "Rise is in the red"?

ELEANOR

It means we don't make *money* Tera. I'm not even sure how your checks don't bounce.

TERA

They have been bouncing. I've been talking to you about this for the past three months. I leave invoices on your desk every week for my missed payments.

ELEANOR

Oh, that's what those are?

TERA

Yes.

ELEANOR

Those are a lot of invoices.

TERA

Yeah.

ELEANOR

Oh, well we'll pay you for sure... I mean, we'll resolve that.

TERA

I've been emailing Lisa in accounting for awhile but she never responds to me.

Eleanor looks at Tera -- *who?*

ELEANOR

We don't have an accountant. I don't know where you got that email from.

TERA

You gave it to m--

ELEANOR

Look, Tera can you just listen? I'm trying to tell you something, okay? I need to figure out how the hell to get Lola out of this funk because there are four hundred people who came to see her today and we cannot fail.

Eleanor runs her hands through her hair.

TERA

Well she's only sixteen. Maybe she wants to talk to her parents, and not just her manager.

ELEANOR

(dismissive)

No, no. Her parents don't like her.

TERA

What?

Eleanor checks her watch.

ELEANOR

Shit, we have twenty minutes until she has to be up there. I can't believe the nerve of Connor to just break up with her minutes before she has a show like this.

TERA

Yeah, I mean, she must be heartbroken.

Eleanor is already storming out of the bathroom.

ELEANOR

Yeah, well, she's going to be even more heartbroken if the label drops her. So let's talk to her again.

←END

INT. HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

The room is an open space consisting of a couch and some chairs, clothing racks for Lola, and a snack bar off in the corner. **ARRI** (30's), a gay stylist, waits patiently for Lola.

ELEANOR

(to Arri)

Is she dressed yet?

Arri shrugs his shoulders.

ARRI

She hasn't come out since she got the phone call.

ELEANOR

(to self)

...Okay, let's do this.

Spy shot on: Eleanor knocking on Lola's dressing room door. She waits a few moments, then enters.

INT. LOLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ELEANOR

Lola? It's me.

LOLA (16), the pop star, is on a couch wrapped in a pile of blankets. She's young looking, even for her age, with smoky eyes now ruined by her tears and a sad, desperate lost look on her face. The pieces are finally coming together now.

Eleanor lightly taps her hands together as if to say: let's get this show on the road.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Alright. Breaks over. It's time to get ready.

LOLA

(monotone)

I can't.

Eleanor ignores her; she doesn't know what she's talking about. Eleanor looks at a pair of jeans draped over a chair.

INT. HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tera lingers outside by the door. She seems to always linger, ready for when Eleanor needs her next.

ELEANOR
(exiting door)
Tera. Go in there. And get her on that fucking stage.

TERA
(confused)
Uh, wha --?

ELEANOR
Just go.

TERA
Oh, um, okay.

INT. LOLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tera enters cautiously. We may notice how incompetent all the adults are at handling her, that she's truly still just a kid in an adult's industry no matter how smokey they make her eyes.

START →

TERA
Hey Lola...

Scene 2

Lola is non-responsive. She only looks at her phone, upset, scrolling through pictures.

Tera sits down next to her. Silence.

TERA (CONT'D)
So, do you want to talk about what happened?

LOLA
No.

TERA
Okay, okay. Cool.

Tera turns her head away, trying to avert herself from the awkwardness.

LOLA
(suddenly starting up)
Connor called over the phone --

Tera swings her head back, feigning interest.

TERA
Oh? Really?

LOLA
-- And he just told me he was
dating Kristina Dun now and that we
were over.

TERA
Kristina Dun? The girl from X
Factor?

LOLA
I guess.

TERA
Oh sweetie. Kristina is going
nowhere. She only made it to, like,
episode three and no one even likes
her.

Tera smiles.

TERA (CONT'D)
And, get this. I heard that her
nose is fake. She totally got it
done. And yours is real, so at
least you have that to feel good
about!
(teasing)
I mean it's real right?

She winks. Lola looks off into the distance and just slowly
shakes her head.

LOLA
No.

TERA
(shocked)
Oh... Oh, well. It looks amazing.
Like, no one would ever know.

← END

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Eleanor is standing by Arri, waiting for Tera. She's checking
her watch. Minutes are flying by. This is live TV. How much
time now? Ten?

Arri is sort of lamely waiting around, fiddling his thumbs.

He suddenly turns to Eleanor.

ARRI

So...do you want to just pay me in
a check, or?

ANGLE ON ELEANOR.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. LOLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tera and Lola continue to talk.

START →

TERA

You know, I had my heart broken
once. I definitely went through
some low times...

Scene 3

Tera pauses. She closes her eyes, remembering.

TERA (CONT'D)

(soft voice)

Some would say it was a mental
breakdown, but um...it was really
just me going through the process
of healing.

She opens her eyes.

TERA (CONT'D)

But eventually, before you know it,
you just feel nothing inside and
it's like it never happened. Even
when you talk about it, you'll just
be like...

(starts to choke up)

Who even cares you know? Like it's
over.

Lola slowly looks over to Tera: WTF is happening?

TERA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm just going to need a
moment.

INT. HOLDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tera comes out of Lola's room. Eleanor notices that now *she*
is upset.

ELEANOR
Oh my God, Tera, what did she do to
you?

TERA
(pulling herself together)
It's fine. I'm fine.

← END

ELEANOR
Oh god.

Eleanor storms back into Lola's room.

INT. LOLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She closes the door SHUT.

ELEANOR
Well, you managed to break Tera so
this is officially a crisis.

Eleanor sits down next to her, determined.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Lola, listen to me. How long have I
known you? Since you were a baby.

Lola furrows her eyebrows.

LOLA
No, that's not true.

ELEANOR
Okay, maybe not a baby but since
you were just a small child.

LOLA
No, I was a teenager when --

ELEANOR
-- The point is I know you better
than you know yourself.

LOLA
What?

ELEANOR
Just listen. You can do this. You
CAN go out there because you are
talented, you are charismatic, and
because you're
fucking...invincible.