

LION
By
James Gunn

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INT. A SMALL FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT-TIME - A WOMAN - LION
- (MID-LATE 20S) IS LOOKING INTO A MIRROR SPEAKING.

LION

People always say they give a shit
about mental health. Don't they? (she
looks behind her seemingly looking at
someone and then turns back to face
the mirror) But they don't.

LION head butts the mirror full force and falls backwards and
down on to the floor. The camera stays focused on the
shattered mirror and we can hear stumbling about on the
ground as she tries to get back to her feet. LION then comes
into shot as she stands up and looks into the mirror again,
she is bleeding from her head. She smiles.

LION

Ouch.

She grimaces slightly and then reaches for a pack of
cigarettes which sit on top of a small cabinet. She takes a
cigarette and lights it. Breathing it in and sighing like it
is bringing her pleasure. She breathes out, filling the room
with smoke.

LION CONT'D

So where was I? Oh yeah. (She begins
to dance slowly, just spinning around
on the spot.) People, like to pretend
that they give a shit. They do their
fucking Instagram posts about mental
health, they talk about 'be kind',
they talk about checking in with your
loved ones. Are they checking in? Are
they fuck.

LION stops dancing. She looks over at whoever she's talking
to and waves. She takes one last puff of the cigarette, holds
out her arm, and stubs it out on her wrist. She grimaces
slightly, and then smiles a big huge smile.

LION CONT'D

Painful? That's what you're probably
thinking. But you're just like the
rest. You don't know what fucking pain
is. 'oh, boo-hoo, you're a bit sad'.
Get fucking over it! That's not mental
health problems, you're just
temporarily inconvenienced about
something that can be fixed. I can't

be fixed. Count yourself lucky.

LION throws the cigarette to the floor. She takes off her top which is now splattered with blood and holds it to her head. She's wearing a bra with cartoons on it.

LION CONT'D

I should probably call somebody to come and help me. What do you think?
You're not much use.

LION picks up her mobile phone and rings 'HARVEY' which has a middle finger emoji next to it in her contacts.

CUTS TO.

INT. FLASH APARTMENT/PANORAMIC VIEWS OF LONDON SKY LINE - NIGHT-TIME. HARVEY (MID 30S) STANDS WATCHING A BEAUTIFUL POLISH BLONDE WOMAN WHO IS WEARING A SHORT SPARKLY DRESS STARE OUT OF THE WINDOW ONTO ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE DISTANCE.

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

You have a very beautiful home

HARVEY wanders over to the sofa area. He's wearing a suit and although quite handsome he looks dishevelled. His shirt is tucked out and he looks tired. He puts his keys and his phone down on the side cabinet and drops himself down on to the sofa. Sighing as he does.

HARVEY

Thank-you. (he looks around the apartment as if to say 'yeah it is nice')

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

(she turns around from the window to face Harvey) You must be doing very well for yourself.

HARVEY

(shrugs) Not too bad.

Harvey, on the surface is pretty cool, but also has dorky-ish mannerisms. He seems like he can't believe his luck that he's with this beautiful woman.

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

Oh, a humble man. What a rarity.

HARVEY

(smirks) Ah, what can I say? I'm a rare breed.

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

And there it goes.

HARVEY

What goes?

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

The humbleness.

The woman seductively walks over to Harvey. She kneels over him and grabs his tie and pulls him towards her. She kisses him. Then his phone starts vibrating on the table. She leans away.

HARVEY

Forget that. Let's get back to this.

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

I need to freshen up anyway, can I use your bathroom?

HARVEY

(rolls eyes) Sure, it's just at the end of the room to the left. (he watches the woman strut away)

Harvey moans as he leans across to grab his phone. 'Aliona' is ringing. The name has a no entry road block sign emoji next to it. Harvey answers.

HARVEY

What!

LION (VO)

Hello brother

HARVEY

I'm not your brother, what do you want.

CUT TO.

LION

Well, your Mum married my Dad, so you are my brother. Am I wrong?

HARVEY (VO)
What do you want Ali?

LION
I don't like when you call me that.
Call me Lion.

HARVEY (VO)
I'm not calling you fucking Lion, just
tell me what you want?

LION
(she starts to chant) LION, LION,
LION!

CUT TO.

HARVEY
(looks down the room to see if the
woman is coming, he whispers
aggressively into the phone). Listen,
I'm not calling you fucking Lion okay.
I'm with the world's most beautiful
woman right now, she wants to sit on
my dick and I would very much enjoy if
she could whilst I'm not on the phone
to my fucking bat-shit crazy step-
sister. Now for the love of God - tell
me what the fuck you want.

LION (VO)
Aww you called me your sister. I love
you too.

HARVEY
Lion, I'm going to put the phone down
if you don't tell me what.you.want.

Lion speaks on the phone but it is inaudible to the audience.
Whatever she says make Harvey sit up, eyes wide open and come
over all stressed. He stands up and looks down the room again
to see where the woman is.

HARVEY
Just stay there okay? I don't want you
to move a bloody muscle. Sit down on
the floor and don't move. I'll be
there in 20 minutes.

HARVEY ends the call.

HARVEY grabs his keys and looks down the room once more. He shouts out to the woman.

HARVEY

Hey! (stutters for an excuse) I'm just popping out. We're out of drink. Or ermm yeah I've just got to grab something.

He waits for a reply. There isn't one.

HARVEY CONT'D

Just make yourself at home yeah? (he calls out)

Harvey walks out of the apartment. As he does the woman walks out of the bathroom and into the living room area. She stares out of the window at the London skyline and then begins to call somebody on her mobile phone.

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WOMAN

(in Polish) He's left the building. I don't know why but he was on the phone to a girl. He called the person his step-sister. It must be her.

CUT TO.

INT. A SMALL FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT-TIME - A WOMAN - LION SITS ON THE FLOOR. SHE'S STILL LOOKING AT SOMETHING, WITH HER T-SHIRT TO HER HEAD SOAKED IN BLOOD. SHE'S TRYING TO BE STILL BUT SHE KEEPS SPORADICALLY POUTING HER LIPS AND BLINKING QUICKLY EVERY SO OFTEN.

LION

Someone's coming over. Someone better than me. His name's Harvey (nods). He hates me. He probably thinks I hate him but I don't.

There's a pause as LION takes the t-shirt off her head and then puts it back on her body. Her head is still bleeding.

LION CONT'D

What shall we talk about? I like talking about how important bees are. And people always try to squash them don't they? It's annoying. It's really annoying actually.

The scene cuts over and over again to different things Lion

is saying - also to show time passing the clock ticks on the wall and changes as the time goes past.

LION CONT'D

You probably think I'm crazy don't you, but who defines what crazy is anyway?

LION CONT'D

There's Bi Polar Disorder, Body Dysmorphia, Borderline Personality Disorder - and they're just some of the one's that begin with B. I like the letter B too.

LION CONT'D

You know, hoarding, is also a mental health condition. That's why I'm looking at you now.

The camera pans around to see what LION has been speaking to all along. It's a big old looking wardrobe - just sitting in the middle of her flat.

LION CONT'D

Not too long now. (she blinks rapidly and pouts her lips then put her hand up to her mouth to stop herself from doing it)

She then jumps as the front door is banged on loudly. She remains sitting and there's an awkward silence until the door is banged on again and LION jumps for a second time.

HARVEY (OS)

Lion! Open up! Now.

LION jumps up and opens the door hurriedly. Harvey walks in and brushes past her. LION closes the door. They both just stare at each other and LION shrugs. HARVEY walks over to the wardrobe and opens up both doors. LION looks on, and as she does a little boy steps out of the wardrobe and stands next to HARVEY. HARVEY puts his arm around him and both he and the little boy look at an uncomfortable looking LION who is twitching and pouting, she puts her hand to her mouth to stop herself.

FADES TO BLACK. OPENING CREDITS.

INT. A SMALL FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT-TIME - THE LITTLE BOY (MAX) IS EATING SOME SERIAL AT THE DINNER TABLE WHILST HARVEY TALKS TO LION BY THE WARDROBE IN THE LIVING ROOM AREA.

HARVEY

Why is there a small child in your house?

LION

(looks nervous) I don't know.

HARVEY

Are you a paedophile?

LION

Nooo of course I'm not a fucking paedophile. Are you a paedophile?

HARVEY

No. I'm not the one with Damien from the fucking Omen sitting at my dinner table eating cereal after he was found in a wardrobe. Are you working for some kind of sex trafficking gang?

LION

No! Why does everything have to be about sex with you Harvey? All the time!

Harvey goes to speak again but then doesn't bother. He just shakes his head and then walks over to the dinner table and sits down opposite the boy (MAX).

HARVEY

Hello mate? What's your name then?

MAX

Max

HARVEY

Max. (he looks over to LION who shrugs and pouts, still covered in blood)

HARVEY CONT'D

(looks back to Max) and how did you get here Max?

MAX

She took me (he points at LION)

LION shrugs again when Harvey looks over to her. He gets up and storms over to LION. She looks worried because he looks angry. As he gets to her he sees that she is worried and hurt. He puts his hands on her arms.

HARVEY

Come on. Let's sort you out. You can tell me all about it in the bathroom.

CUTS TO.

EARLIER THAT DAY.

INT. DOCTORS - DAY-TIME - LONDON. LION SITS OPPOSITE HER GP WHO IS JUST STARING HER DOWN.

DOCTOR TIM

Well you look healthier. Do you feel healthier?

LION

(pouting whilst thinking) Yes! (nods)

DOCTOR TIM

That'll be the medication. It's working.

LION

Right.... Doctor Tim?

DOCTOR TIM

Yes?

LION

Do you think they'll ever be a time when I don't have to be on medication. You know? Just like a normal person.

DOCTOR TIM

Honestly?

LION

(nods)

DOCTOR TIM

I don't think so.

LION

(looks down disappointed)

DOCTOR TIM

But that's not to say that you won't get to live a life like a normal person. Plenty of normal people are on medication. And what's normal anyway?

LION

I see.

DOCTOR TIM

You should be proud of yourself Aliona. You're facing more than one mental health issue and you're eagerness to control the problems is a sign of how strong you truly are.

LION

(beat) It's just so tiring.

DOCTOR TIM

I know. Just remember, your life is of great value and those who love you are there for you.

LION

Not sure there's many of them but I get your point. (smiles).

CUTS TO.

EXT. DAY-TIME. HIGH-STREET. LION walks through the busy London street. As she does she starts to appear to become agitated by the crowds and the noise. She stops in the street and people begin walking into her as they try to get past. She puts her hands over her ears and stumbles down an alleyway and walks down it until she is standing on a quiet side street. She becomes relaxed, opens her handbag, takes out a cigarette and lighter, lights the cigarette and begins to smoke. She blows the smoke high into the air, she's blinking quickly and pouts. Somebody walks past and she stops herself from pouting by rubbing her face. She takes another puff of her cigarette. As the smoke fades into the air in front of her eyes, she notices a rich looking family leaving a posh hotel on the corner of the street. As a Mother and a Father hold the hand of their young son either side of him, a black van speeds up and stops in front of them. A gang jump out and aggressively grab the family, trying to put bags over their heads. The Mother and Father are thrown into the back of the van but as the boy is grabbed he manages to escape. LION drops her cigarette in shock and looks around confused, she walks towards the commotion as the little boy runs

towards her. The boy sprints closer to LION and the gang panic and try to chase after him. As he gets nearer LION reaches out her hand and the boy takes it, she grabs him and they run through the alley together and into the busy crowd. The gang follow, but as they reach the crowds LION and the boy (Max) cannot be seen.

CUTS TO.

INT. PRESENT. SMALL FLAT. BATHROOM. NIGHT-TIME. HARVEY is tending to LION. LION takes off her blood stained top and throws it on the floor outside of the bathroom. She sits down. HARVEY looks confused at her cartoon bra. He also notices the scars and burns on LIONS arms. You can see he feels sad about it. HARVEY wets a cloth in the sink then joins LION on the floor.

HARVEY

So, you didn't take him take him? You just, kind of took him?

LION

Exactly

HARVEY

You took him away from danger.

LION

CORRECT (winces as Harvey puts a cloth on the wound)

HARVEY

(beat) So why is he in the wardrobe then?

LION

He just went in there.

HARVEY

So you took him back here, he's walked in to the flat, and then walked over to the wardrobe and got inside?

Lion has a think to herself.

CUT TO.

FLASHBACK

INT. FLAT - EARLIER THAT DAY. LION walks up the stairs to her flat with MAX. She's greeted by a middle-aged neighbour