

"THE NOISE"

by

Madison Lewis

50 Hairpin Dr.  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
(618) 650-2774

FADE IN:

INT. CONTROL ROOM OF TV STUDIO - AFTERNOON

VICTORIA is working as a director and technical director in the news studio. VICTORIA'S coworkers, AVERY and MASON are arguing next to her.

AVERY

(Offended)

What's wrong with you? How could you say that to me?

MASON

What's wrong with me? I have to work with an audio technician like you who doesn't know how to do their job!

AVERY

Right... says the man who messes up the newscast nearly every week.

MASON pushes AVERY, who bumps into VICTORIA. VICTORIA'S hand pushes the wrong button on the switcher, which makes the slate turn on.

INT. TV STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Everyone in the studio gives puzzled looks to each other. The floor director, CARMEN looks toward the control room and sees MASON and AVERY arguing. YASMIN, who's on camera 1 taps CARMEN on the shoulder.

YASMIN

(Whispering)

What do we do?

CARMEN

(Whispering to everyone)

Keep going!

INT. CONTROL ROOM OF TV STUDIO - AFTERNOON

VICTORIA fixes the newscast, turns around, and gives a dirty glare to both AVERY and MASON. VICTORIA points to their designated positions in the control room.

VICTORIA

(Yelling)

Get back to work! Now!

VICTORIA sighs out of frustration and turns back to the switcher.

INT. CONTROL ROOM OF TV STUDIO - AFTERNOON - 1 HOUR LATER

The Newscast finishes and VICTORIA stands up from her chair to get ready to go home. CARMEN walks into the control room.

CARMEN

What happened earlier with the slate?

VICTORIA

Mason and Avery were arguing and bumped into me, which made my hand slip and press the wrong button.

CARMEN

That's ridiculous!

VICTORIA

I know, I'll talk to them tomorrow.

CARMEN

(Joking)

I mean...you could've been faster at correcting the newscast.

VICTORIA

(Offended)

Oh really! I'd like to see how you would handle it.

CARMEN

Okay, okay! Relax! I was just messing with you.

VICTORIA

Well, it didn't sound like it. Sorry, I'm still frustrated with the whole Mason and Avery thing.

CARMEN

You're okay. It frustrated me too.

INT. VICTORIA'S HOUSE - EVENING

VICTORIA opens the door to her house, and she sees her husband, OLLIE sitting on the couch typing on his computer. OLLIE looks over at VICTORIA and notices that she looks exhausted.

OLLIE

Hey...are you okay? You look exhausted.

VICTORIA walks into the living room.

VICTORIA

Yeah, it was a pretty rough day at work. It didn't help that Mason and Avery were complete morons and messed up the newscast.

OLLIE

I'm sorry they ruined part of the newscast. Come here and sit with me and talk about it.

OLLIE pats the seat next to him and smiles at VICTORIA. VICTORIA smiles back at OLLIE. OLLIE sets his laptop on the coffee table as VICTORIA sits down. VICTORIA sets her purse on the floor.

VICTORIA

Thanks, Ollie. So, Avery and Mason used to date, and they recently broke up. Now they have to make that our problem too. It's so annoying! Why can't they just be adults and leave their personal matters at home? They're like immature teenagers who don't know how to act!

OLLIE

Do you think they'll ever get over it?

VICTORIA

Honestly, I'm not sure. They broke up a month ago and they've been at each other's throats since! If they don't start at least acting civilly towards each other, I'm not sure what I'll do.

OLLIE

Well, I would say to talk with them in private and explain to them that if they can't get along, you'll have to report them.

VICTORIA

I don't like confrontation, but you're right. Their arguments are now putting the quality of the broadcast at risk.

I'll talk to them tomorrow and explain that if they're not acting civilly towards each other by next week, I'll have no choice but to report them.

OLLIE

Good idea! Has this kind of thing ever happened before at KPLR?

VICTORIA

There was an incident a few years ago, but it wasn't as bad as this. The people back then were very professional and didn't bring their personal issues to work.

OLLIE

I'm glad they were professional about it.

VICTORIA

Me too. I wish Avery and Mason could do the same.

OLLIE

That's understandable.

There's a few seconds of silence between the two.

VICTORIA

Well, I've had a rough day, so I'm going to go to our room and play on the XBOX for the rest of the night.

VICTORIA kisses OLLIE, picks up her purse, stands up, and starts walking to their room.

OLLIE

That sounds good! I'll be here editing on my laptop. I'm glad you get some time to unwind tonight! You deserve it!

VICTORIA stops in the hallway to respond to OLLIE.

VICTORIA

Thanks, baby. So do you! Promise me that you'll find time to relax before going to bed?

OLLIE

I promise, my love.

VICTORIA walks into their room and turns on the XBOX.

INT. THE CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

VICTORIA walks into the control room and sets her purse on the table. VICTORIA turns towards the door and sees that MASON and AVERY have entered the control room. VICTORIA walks over to them.

VICTORIA

Hey guys, can I talk to you in private before we start rolling?

AVERY

(Annoyed)

Can it wait until later? I have to set up the audio.

VICTORIA

(Irritated)

No. Hallway. Now.

MASON and AVERY look at each other and then back at VICTORIA.

MASON

(suspicious)

What will we tell Carmen?

VICTORIA

I'll explain it to her later. Just follow me.

AVERY and MASON follow VICTORIA into the hallway.

INT. THE HALLWAY - NIGHT

VICTORIA stops in the hallway, crosses her arms, and gives MASON and AVERY a stern look.

VICTORIA

Do either of you know why I'm talking to you right now?

MASON and AVERY pause for a few seconds to think of any reason why VICTORIA would need to talk to both of them in private.

VICTORIA

You guys seriously don't remember what happened yesterday?

AVERY

(Confused)

Um...no. Did we do something wrong?

VICTORIA

(Appalled)

Of course, you guys did something wrong! I know that breakups can be hard, but it's important that you don't bring your personal issues to work. Because of your constant fighting and arguing, it cost the station a dip in quality. You pushed Avery into me yesterday, which made my finger slip, and press the wrong button.

MASON

(Confused)

What are you talking about? Avery and I have been in a happy and healthy relationship for 5 years now. We barely argue and if we did, we would never bring it to work.

AVERY

(Concerned)

Are you okay Victoria? Not only did Mason and I never argue or push each other, we weren't even here yesterday because we had to go to a funeral.

MASON

Yeah...this is pretty weird Victoria. Come on Avery, let's go prep for the broadcast.

MASON grabs AVERY'S hand as they walk back into the control room. AVERY opens the door, but before she walks into the control room, she turns her head slowly towards VICTORIA and widens her eyes for three seconds. She turns her head back to the control room and walks in. Victoria talks to herself under her breath.

VICTORIA

(Uncomfortable)

That was weird...are they pretending to be together to get out of trouble?

VICTORIA continues to be deep in thought when CARMEN walks into the hallway.

CARMEN

Hey! What are you doing just standing here? We have to start rolling! Get your ass in that control room!

VICTORIA

(offended)

Don't talk to me like that! And I was talking to Mason and Avery about the incident yesterday.

CARMEN

(Aggressive)

What incident? And I can talk to you however I want! Stop being so sensitive!

VICTORIA

(Confused)

How could you not remember it either? Mason and Avery fought each other in the control room and ruined the broadcast. I literally talked to you about it while we were getting off work yesterday.

CARMEN

(Aggressive)

I don't know and I don't care! We don't have time to listen to whatever spews out of your mouth! Now get in the control room so we can start rolling!

CARMEN's face shifts from livid to wide eyes a giant eerie smile. VICTORIA is frozen in place out of fear as she knows that something is not right. CARMEN goes behind VICTORIA and pushes her into the control room and forces her to sit down at the switcher.

INT. THE CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

VICTORIA thinks to herself as she is trying to figure out what's wrong with her coworkers. VICTORIA puts on her headset and pulls down the microphone to talk to the crew.

VICTORIA

This is just a reminder that this is pre-recorded, so if we mess up, we can redo it.

CARMEN

Yeah, yeah, whatever. We won't mess up, so we won't have to restart. Unless you overreact like you always do. Now come on! Let's get started!

VICTORIA

(Stern)

Listen Carmen, last time I checked, I'm in charge around here. Stop being disrespectful or I'll report you.

CARMEN

(Mocking tone)

Oh no! I'm so scared! Whatever. Let's just start already.

VICTORIA rolls her eyes and starts the broadcast. The broadcast is rolling. VICTORIA hears a low humming sound. She turns to MASON and turns her microphone away from her mouth.

VICTORIA

Do you hear that humming noise?

MASON pauses for a moment to listen. MASON's eyes widen and the whites of his eyes become red.

MASON

I don't hear anything, sorry.

MASON turns back to his position. VICTORIA's eyes widen and starts breathing rapidly. She looks at AVERY, who is looking at the audio controls with a blank stare with her eyes wide open. VICTORIA starts biting her lip and continues to direct the newscast.

The humming gets louder. VICTORIA turns her head to look around the control room to see what could be making the sound. VICTORIA pulls her microphone near her mouth.

VICTORIA

(Nervously)

Let's pause the recording for a bit. There's a humming noise and I want to make sure it doesn't interfere with the newscast. Everyone in the control room, go into the studio until I figure it out.

CARMEN

(Sarcastically)

Wow...how did I know that we couldn't have one smooth newscast with Victoria in charge.

VICTORIA looks into the studio from the control room window and gives CARMEN a nasty look. The crew in the control room go into the studio. VICTORIA puts her headset on the table next to the switcher.

VICTORIA walks over to the audio board and turns it off and back on. VICTORIA unplugs and plugs the audio board back in. The pitch of the humming gets higher.

VICTORIA turns her head rapidly to the switcher. She runs to the switcher and unplugs it. The noise becomes even louder. VICTORIA flinches and covers her ears.

VICTORIA

I'm sure they can hear the noise now.

VICTORIA gives up and walks fastly to the door to try to ask the crew if they can hear the noise and if they could help her. She gets to the door, but can't get the door open. VICTORIA pulls on the door as hard as she can. The door doesn't budge.

VICTORIA

(Irritated)

Ugh! Come on! Why is everything going wrong?

VICTORIA runs over to the window between the control room and the studio. VICTORIA bangs on the window to try to get the crew's attention.

VICTORIA

(Yelling fearfully)

Guys! Help! I'm trapped in the control room!

The crew was talking to each other when they simultaneously froze when VICTORIA banged on the window. All the crew's heads turn around to face the window. As their heads turn, their eyes widen, and get a big, demented smile on their faces. VICTORIA freezes out of fear and her breath becomes heavy and rapid. VICTORIA brings her hands down and sees that they are shaking.

VICTORIA  
(Fearful)

This is real? Am I going insane?

VICTORIA looks back towards the studio. The crew walks towards the window slowly and in sync. VICTORIA slowly backs away from the window. As the crew gets closer, VICTORIA realizes that since she can't escape. Her only option is to hide.

VICTORIA looks around and runs into the corner of the control room and hides under a desk. The crew begins to try to break the glass with whatever object they can find. VICTORIA curls into a fetal position and screams.

INT. VICTORIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The noise suddenly stops. VICTORIA violently wakes up and is gasping for air. VICTORIA starts crying and tries not to wake OLLIE up. OLLIE wakes up, turns on the lamp, and rolls over in bed to face VICTORIA. OLLIE hugs VICTORIA while rubbing her back.

OLLIE  
(Whispering)

Hey! I'm right here! What happened? Are you okay?

VICTORIA  
I'm okay now, but I just had the worst nightmare!

OLLIE  
Wanna tell me about it?

VICTORIA  
So, I was at work-

OLLIE  
Hold on! You need some tissues!

VICTORIA and OLLIE sit up in bed. OLLIE grabs some tissues from the nightstand and hands them to VICTORIA. As VICTORIA takes the tissues, she smiles and hugs OLLIE.

VICTORIA  
Thanks, Ollie. I'm so glad to see you again and I don't know what I'd do without you.

OLLIE

I'm glad to help! Now what was your nightmare about?

VICTORIA

I was at work, and I thought it was tomorrow. I tried to talk to Avery and Mason about their behavior yesterday, but they were the complete opposite of themselves in real life.

OLLIE

Really? How?

VICTORIA

They were super professional and a happy couple and said that they would never argue at work. Then they acted like I was crazy when I mentioned how they acted yesterday.

OLLIE

That must've been really bizarre. What were you thinking?

VICTORIA

Honestly, I thought they were playing a prank on me. But, I started to get suspicious when Carmen started to be super rude to me.

OLLIE

That's pretty weird! Especially since Carmen is your closest friend at work.

VICTORIA

That's what I thought too! And everyone in my dream had this terrifying facial expression where they would widen their eyes as wide as they could and then have a giant evil smile. It was so creepy!

OLLIE

That sounds like a pretty scary nightmare, but I'm glad it's over now.

VICTORIA

Oh, that's not even the scariest part! I started to hear a low humming noise,

but it kept getting louder and higher in pitch. Everyone was in the studio when I got locked in the control room. I banged on the glass to get help, then they froze with that awful look on their face. They tried to break the window to get to me, so I ended up hiding in the corner waiting for something to save me.

OLLIE

Man, that sounds like it was terrible!

VICTORIA

It was, but I'm happy to be safe with you now.

OLLIE

Me too!

VICTORIA hugs OLLIE. A faint low humming noise starts. VICTORIA's eyes widen and her breathing becomes faster. VICTORIA pulls away from the hug.

VICTORIA

(Anxiously)

Please tell me you hear that!

OLLIE

Hear what?

VICTORIA

Are you serious?

OLLIE

No, I hear it too. It's just the mini fridge. Sorry, I just wanted to mess with you.

VICTORIA

(Joking)

Ugh! You asshole!

VICTORIA lightly pushes OLLIE as they both laugh.

OLLIE

We should probably go back to bed.

VICTORIA

Good call. I have to talk to the real Mason and Avery tomorrow about what

happened yesterday.

OLLIE

Hopefully, it goes better than your  
dream!

VICTORIA and OLLIE laugh as they lay down. VICTORIA cuddles  
up to OLLIE and they both fall asleep.

FADE OUT:

THE END