

“IDLING INSIGNIFICANTLY”

By

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TITLE: PART I - DANKO/MANUEL

EXT. STREET - DAY

ELIZA JANE, 38, is looking up at the roof of a 3-story building. WARREN, 20, is standing at the edge of the roof peering down and shouting at her and several onlookers.

WARREN

Have you ever seen The Last Waltz?

ELIZA JANE

No! Why don't you tell me about it?

BYSTANDER #1

Why bother indulging him?

BYSTANDER #2

It doesn't matter. Someone has to keep him talking. The police have already been called and will be here in about 8 minutes.

ELIZA JANE

Did you hear me? I want to know about The Last Waltz!

BYSTANDER #3

This is boring. He should jump and get it over with or stop wasting our time and come down before the cops show up.

WARREN

The Last Waltz was a concert film The Band made as part of their farewell tour. Richard Manuel, Rick Danko, Levon Helm, Garth Hudson, and Robbie Robertson. They were great! I remember the first time I heard Music from Big Pink!

ELIZA JANE

Is it one of your favorite movies?

WARREN

I guess so! Martin Scorsese directed it. If you ever watch it, Robbie spends the whole time peacocking. He was friends with Marty and had other gigs lined up, that's why he took to film scoring after The Band broke up. You put a guitar in his hands and he was a genius, but he treated everyone else in The Band like shit.

BYSTANDER #3

Seriously?

WARREN

Go watch it! Robbie is straining to sing these soaring vocals throughout the concert even though The Band would always unplug his microphone because he couldn't sing to save his life!

BYSTANDER #2

Tell him you'll see it to keep him from jumping or something.

ELIZA JANE

It sounds interesting! I'd like to see it soon!

WARREN

If you pay attention, Richard Manuel and Rick Danko look so sad in their interviews, like they knew this was the best time of their lives. Like they were never gonna be this high again.

ELIZA JANE

And you're feeling what you think they were feeling at the time?

WARREN

What? No, I just thought it was interesting, you know. Danko and Manuel sitting there wondering where the road

WARREN CONT'D

they were taking was going to lead them. Levon Helm hating Robbie for being a jerk. Garth being the silent old wiseman watching over everything. Robbie being Robbie. It's all so sad!

ELIZA JANE

But you feel better after talking about it, right?

WARREN

Not really. Robbie Robertson is still an asshole. Richard Manuel is still dead. He killed himself shortly after. Rick Danko died later on because of all those drugs he did back then.

ELIZA JANE

I'm sorry to hear that!

WARREN

It's all right! That's the way life works out sometimes.

BYSTANDER #1

Very enlightening. I'm going back to work.

BYSTANDER #2

The police are probably 5 minutes away by now. It won't be long.

ELIZA JANE

Is there anything else you wanted to vent about?

WARREN

Of course! There's a great moment in The Last Waltz when Muddy Waters is on stage performing "Mannish Boy." The only reason that part was captured on film is because László Kovács got tired of listening to Marty's incessant directions through his

WARREN CONT'D

headset, so he didn't hear the instructions to shut down his camera. Good guy László Kovács, saved the day!

ELIZA JANE

That's really cool! But...

BYSTANDER #2

You need to do something. 3 minutes 'til he gets hauled off in cuffs when the cops show.

ELIZA JANE

Please, won't you come down?

WARREN

Wait, what? Why would I come down?

ELIZA JANE

Don't jump, little boy! Don't jump off that roof! You've got your whole life ahead of you, you're still in your youth!

WARREN

I think you're projecting the way that you're feeling! I'm not suicidal, just idling insignificantly! I come up here for perception and clarity! I like to imagine I'm playing Sim City! All the people look like ants from up here, and the wind's the only traffic you can hear! All I ever wanted to be was an elevator operator, can you help me please?

BYSTANDER #2

Miss, I don't know your name or if this kid is crazy, but I think this is your chance.

ELIZA JANE

I'm not sure my idea will work.

TITLE: PART II - SURELY

INT. ELEVATOR

Eliza Jane and Warren are standing next to each other.
Warren is now wearing a bellhop uniform.

WARREN

Which floor, madame?

ELIZA JANE

Any. Or all. Let's start from the basement
and work our way up.

WARREN

As you wish.

ELIZA JANE

How does it feel?

WARREN

Really nice. Thanks, by the way.

ELIZA JANE

No problem. Shame the cops didn't get to
be heroes.

WARREN

They're probably still up there, and I
didn't finish my sermon.

ELIZA JANE

We have more important things to worry
about. What are you going to do when you
finish with this?

WARREN

I don't know. I'm not going to work today,
I'm gonna count the minutes that the
trains run late.

ELIZA JANE

Sounds fun.

WARREN

More fun than dealing with more people
like the annoying ones outside. I don't
think they'll watch The Last Waltz. Why
did you help me?

ELIZA JANE

I don't know. But I'm glad I did.

SMASH CUT:

THE END

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