

LÜA

WRITTEN BY

MAND PASKUSKI

TEASER

OVER BLACK:

A MONSTROUS ROAR. Whatever it is, it's in pain.

EXT. FAIR GROUNDS - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSED: It is AUGUST. The YEAR is 1926.

An antsy pair of WORK SHOES run spritely through dark blades of grass. They are in search of something or no, someone.

I/E. MENAGERIE - NIGHT

The shoes poke through a RED CURTAIN. The young man attached to them, a CIRCUS WORKER (20's) finds who he's looking for and shouts:

CIRCUS WORKER
Eamon! It's happening!

EAMON WATLING (40's-50's), tends to an ORANGUTAN MONKEY. He's dashing in that Clark Gable kind of way, and even has the little swoopy fall in his hair.

Another SONOROUS ROAR quakes in the pulled air.

Eamon's eyes light up. Ready. He gives us a shot of a smile and jolts out of the Menagerie tent.

As he walks through the grounds, we catch glimpse of a SAD CLOWN (50's maybe). He sits on a step, and SINGS a melancholy song:

SAD CLOWN
**THE WORLD IS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL
THINGS,
BUTTERFLY WINGS, FAIRY TALE KINGS,**

INT. WATLING'S QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

Eamon bursts through to see A LARGE LION half-mooned on the floor in LABOR.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
**AND EACH NEW DAY UNDOUBTEDLY
BRINGS,
STILL MORE BEAUTIFUL THINGS...**

He kneels beside her and strokes her mane. She PURS and GROANS.

EAMON
(lovingly)
I know, I know, it hurts. It'll be over soon. It's okay.

CIRCUS WORKER (O.S.)
Eamon...

EAMON
You can go, I'll take care of it!

CIRCUS WORKER
No...Eamon...

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
THE WORLD ABOUNDS WITH MANY DELIGHTS, MAGICAL SIGHTS, FANCIFUL FLIGHTS,

Eamon turns around and when he does we see a sweat-soaked cot where his wife, GIA WATLING (Late 30's) lays. She too, is in labor.

CIRCUS WORKER
I meant your wife.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
AND THOSE WHO DREAM ON BEAUTIFUL NIGHTS, DREAM OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

Eamon's face falls, he rushes to her cotside and folds her hand into his.

EAMON
Oh, my darling.
(to Circus Worker)
Both of them?

A question to which is answered with a simple nod of yes.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
BEAUTIFUL DAYS FOR SUNSHINE LAZIN' BEAUTIFUL SKIES AND SHORES, BEAUTIFUL DAYS WHEN I CAN GAZE IN, BEAUTIFUL EYES, LIKE YOURS.

Eamon strokes his wife's hair back off her face.

She raises a hand up to his cheek, groggy-eyed and achey.

GIA
Eamon. Something's wrong. There's
something wrong with the baby.

EAMON
Call for the Doctor at once!

Circus Worker rushes away.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
**YOU WONDER WHY THE NIGHTINGALE
SINGS,
LOVERS HAVE WINGS, PEOPLE WEAR
RINGS,**

A ROAR. Gia SCREAMS.

EAMON
Oh no. Oh dear. Okay. It's okay.
I'm here. I'm right here.

Eamon rushes over to the lion. He feels her belly.

EAMON (CONT'D)
(to self)
Breech.

GIA
What's wrong with her?

EAMON
(to both)
It's okay. It's okay. It's gonna be
okay.
(to anyone in ear shot)
Help! Somebody help! Help me!

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
**THE WORLD IS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL
THINGS!
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE TOO!
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE LIKE YOU!**

GIA
Eamon. Eamon come here. Quickly!

Eamon rushes over to Gia, his eyes welled with tears. A man
who for once in his life, doesn't know what to do.

The life dims in Gia's face. She's pale, breathy and all too
aware that she's dying...

GIA (CONT'D)
Here. Open it.

She hands Eamon a GREEN VELVET BOX.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
**OUR LIVES TICK BY LIKE PENDULUM
 SWINGS,
 POOR LITTLE THINGS, PUPPETS ON
 STRINGS,**

Eamon opens the box. Inside are TWO GOLD CHAINS.

ONE: A NECKLACE with ONE HALF of a CIRCLE PENDANT with A SMILING LION engraved on it.

THE OTHER: An identical HALF CIRCLE PENDANT engraved: LÜA.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
**BUT LIFE IS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL
 THINGS!**

GIA SCREAMS with pain. Eamon drops the box.

The lion ROARS. Eamon goes back and forth between the two as they both deliver.

It's a torturous process and he sweats just as much as they do.

Gia delivers a perfect baby BOY.

EAMON
 (shocked)
 A boy. We may have to change that engraving!

Gia smiles and squeezes his hand.

GIA
 No. Call him Ashley. Don't change it.
 (last breath)
 Eamon...I...

EAMON
 Don't...

GIA
 love you.

He sets the baby down gently in a BASSINET. Returns to his dying wife.

EAMON
 I love you. Gia, please don't--

Gia touches his cheek one last time intimately, she knows.
Her eyes fill with acceptance and then the light from them leaves altogether.

EAMON (CONT'D)
No, no, no, no! No. Gia! Gia! Baby?
Honey! Oh no, honey! Gia!

The lion ROARS.

EAMON (CONT'D)
No!!! Oh god no! No!
(to Gia delusional)
I'll be right back, okay? Okay?

Eamon lets go of Gia's dead hand and rushes back over to deliver Lúa.

EAMON (CONT'D)
Another boy. Oh my goodness and
look, he's a big boy isn't he?
(petting her)
You did good.

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
**BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE,
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE TOO!**

The lion moans, something is wrong. Eamon sets Lúa down next to Ashley in the bassinet.

The lion nuzzles Eamon's legs, she knows too. Purs weakly. Eamon hugs her close and whispers in her ear:

EAMON
I'll take care of our sons. I
promise.

He pulls back enough to make final eye-contact. She dies in Eamon's arms. He sobs and holds her.

The DOCTOR (40's) bursts in...too late.

The velvet box and it's golden-gift contents on the ground next to Lúa and Ashley are the last things we see as:

SAD CLOWN (V.O.)
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE LIKE YOU...

TITLE CARD: LÚA fades in and the rest of this world fades out to heart-punching symphonic theme music.

END OF TEASER.