

# Camouflaged Nails

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CHARACTERS

LISA LUMIERE                      30s    HOMELESS WAITRESS.  
OFFICER SIMMONS                30s    POLICE OFFICER.  
MRS. GRIFFIN                    50s    THE MOTHER OF A POLITICIAN.  
EMMA HANCOCK                 20's    A STUDENT WAITING FOR THE BUS.

TIME

PRESENT-DAY

PLACE

A MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.

World premiere August 24<sup>th</sup> – Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
5th Annual Ten-Minute Play Festival 4th Street Theater in Chesterton, IN.

Director: George Maslankowski

Lisa Lumiere: Jill Ritchie

Officer Simmons: Kelly Horton

Mrs. Griffin: Sandy Owens

Emma Hancock: Hillary Havlin

Honorable Mention, STAGE IT Festival, Bonita Springs, FL 2018.

Four chairs, set up to represent the front and back seats of a car, that is parked along a city curb. In the backseat LISA is curled up in a sleeping bag, sticking out of the bag is her un-brushed wild hair. She is wearing sunglasses to block out the street lamp light. It's still a little dark when a Police officer walks up behind the car holding two orange cones. He places them on each side of the car from bumper to bumper. He then walks over to the back seat and uses his police baton to knock on the edge of the chair back like he was tapping on the back of the car windshield. LISA begins to stir awake.

*OFFICER SIMMONS*

Hey, Get up!

Lisa pops her head out of the sleeping bag.

LISA

What do you want?

*OFFICER SIMMONS*

You need to move!

She starts to slide the rest of her body out of her sleeping bag. She is wearing a sports bra top and boxer shorts.

LISA

I'm moving. What do you want from me?

*OFFICER SIMMONS*

I need you to move this. What do you call these vehicles?

Lisa

It's "A Thing."

*OFFICER SIMMONS*

Yeah, well there is going to be a parade today. So, you're going to have to move your "THING".

LISA

A Parade?

*OFFICER SIMMONS*

Yeah, Happy Memorial Day.

He taps his baton again on the back of the car then begins to stroll off down the street and exits.

Lisa climbs out of the back seat and stretches her body back to life. She then leans over into the front seat pulls out whats left of a half pint of whiskey. She takes a swig then takes another deep breath of the morning air. She takes another big swig of whiskey and begins swishing it in her mouth and gargling with it as she returns the bottle to her backpack. The sky starts to brighten a morning glow. Then Mrs. Griffin, an older, well- dressed woman walks up carrying a folding chair, and a large red white and blue tote bag. Out of the bag sticks large political Fans, with one side painted like the American flag and the other the big head and bow tie of her political candidate son. Almost a porky pig like the photo of him. She sits the chair down next to the back of Lisa's car rear bumper. She gives Lisa the once over.

MRS. GRIFFIN

My God, I hope you're not part of the entertainment.

Lisa swallows the shot.

LISA

Good Morning.

Mrs. Griffin finishes setting up her stuff then begins to use one of her Face Fans to cool herself off.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Are you here for the parade?

LISA

It is hot.

Mrs. Griffin waves her fans harder.

MRS. GRIFFIN

My Son is going to be in the parade.

She picks up another fan and shows it to Lisa.

MRS. GRIFFIN

He is in politics. Maybe he could help you.

LISA

Doubt it.

Lisa begins to stuff her sleeping bag back into its carrying sack.

Mrs. Griffin

Oh, He does a lot for your type.

LISA

My type?

MRS. GRIFFIN

Yes, he does a lot of work with the homeless. Just this past Thanksgiving he was helping by giving out dinners at a local shelter. Here hold on. I have the article. It was a lovely picture of him.

LISA

I'm sure it was.

Lisa returns to packing her things, while Mrs. Griffin continues to dig in her purse.

MRS. GRIFFIN

No, I want you to see it. They took it just before he announced he was going to run for re-election.

She continues to dig in her bag when the same police officer returns.

OFFICER SIMMONS

(to Lisa)

I have to have this area cleared.

Mrs. Griffin finds the article.

MRS. GRIFFIN

I found it see. See officer; my son works with the homeless. He is a politician. A real war hero. Here would you like one of his fans? It will help you cool off?

OFFICER SIMMONS

Sorry, I can't, while on duty.

He taps the back of Lisa's car.

OFFICER SIMMONS

Better get this "thing" a moving. Happy Memorial Day.

He keeps walking on and exits.

LISA

I'll take one.

MRS. GRIFFIN

You're not even going to be here for the parade.

LISA

Please, I'm really not feeling well, and it's hot.

MRS. GRIFFIN

No, they are for people who want to stay for the parade.

LISA

What if I stayed.

*MRS. GRIFFIN*

You need to move your car.

Lisa opens up a door to the back seat. She starts to rifle through her backpack. She pulls out a waitress uniform and slips it on over her sports bra and boxers. She then slips off the boxers under the dress. As she is in the process of changing a young female student, Emma walks up and stands on the far side of Lisa's car. Mrs. Griffin sees her and walks over and offers, Emma, one of her fans.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Are you here for the parade?

EMMA

Parade?

MRS. GRIFFIN

Yes, the Memorial Day Parade. Here is a fan. My son, he is running for re-election. It will help you stay cool while you watch.

Emma takes the fan.

EMMA

Thank you, but I'm not here for the parade.

MRS. GRIFFIN

What kind of city is this? Why would you walk up and stand at a street corner, unless there is a parade?

EMMA

I'm waiting for my bus.

LISA

Now she is going to want her fan back.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Mind your own business; these fans are for my son's supporters.

EMMA

Your Son.

LISA

The Turkey trotter.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Turkey trotter?

LISA

Yeah, that's what we call them down at the shelter.

EMMA

Turkey Trotter? I don't get it?

LISA

They show up once every year at Thanksgiving and Trot themselves out with the turkey like they are a blessing. A turkey trotter.

MRS. GRIFFIN

My Son is not a turkey trotter. He is a war hero. He spent a tour overseas fighting for his country.

Emma starts typing on her cell phone.

EMMA

It says here he was in a JAG outfit. Everything I've read about them is they are running around Iraq handing out briefcases of money for us killing someone's goats.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Give me back that Fan.

LISA

I told you.

EMMA

No! (Beat) You gave it to me, and now I'm giving it to her.

She hands to fan over to Lisa.

LISA

Thank you.

MRS. GRIFFIN

Well, my family will be coming soon enough. I expect that pile of junk will be moved, by the time they show up.

LISA

Lucky for you I do need to get to work.

MRS. GRIFFIN

That's your service.

EMMA

Hey, old lady why are you picking on her?

MRS. GRIFFIN

You're picking on me!

EMMA

No, you're bullying her. Why? Because of your stupid fan? Is that it? I've seen your son on TV. He needs to grow up.

MRS. GRIFFIN

How dare you! He is your representative.

EMMA

He does not represent me. I've seen him at that Health Care town hall. You could tell by his body language alone that he is no leader.

MRS. GRIFFIN

He is a leader!

EMMA

All the good leaders stay in the military. The bad ones, well they weed them out into the private sector and political seats.

Mrs. Griffin becomes mad and starts throwing the fans at Emma, who ducks and dodges them. Lisa tries to grab hold of Mrs. Griffin to stop her they are struggling and yelling at each other when the police officer comes running up and gets between the two of them breaking everything up.

OFFICER SIMMONS

What is going on here! Don't you know there is going to be a parade? You? Yeah, You? Did I not tell you to move that car?

MRS. GRIFFIN

She and that other one over there started bullying me. She attacked me over my fans.

OFFICER SIMMONS

That's it let me see some I.D.

LISA

I.D.?

OFFICER SIMMONS

Yes, you do have an I.D.?

LISA

One sec.

Lisa walks back to the front of her car and digs in her backpack then returns with a driver's license She hands it to the policeman and bowing her head in shyness.

OFFICER SIMMONS

Lisa Anne Lumiere

The officers is shaking as he holds up his hand to match the I.D. With Lisa's face.

OFFICER SIMMONS

Lieutenant Lumiere?

Lisa looks up and gives him a little nod then bows her head again.

OFFICER SIMMONS

I have been looking for you for years ma'am.

He snaps to attention and gives her a military salute. He stands still waiting for her response. Lisa then stands tall and returns the salute to him.

MRS. GRIFFIN

You mean you're not going to arrest her? After what she did?

OFFICER SIMMONS

What she did was fight the enemy for twelve hours from her position. Without her, I would have been dead. Sixteen of us she saved that night.

(to Lisa)

Give me your keys and get in the back of your car.

Lisa follows as instructed. You can start to hear a marching drum band start its beat. Officer Simmons walks over and one at a time retrieves his orange cones. He then walks back to Lisa's car and places them on the passenger seat. He climbs in the front seat.

OFFICER SIMMONS

How do you roll down this rag top? There it goes. Today we're going to have a real parade, with a real hero!

The marching bands drums grow louder. EMMA grabs a fan off the ground and begins to wave the flag side and shouts for Lisa!

END OF PLAY