

Shooting Script

# Tourettes & I

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1        **INT. BEDROOM | FLAT - MORNING**

1

**CU:** An iPhone, flashing, the alarm blaring, 07:00AM.

Camera slowly moves away from the bedside table where the phone lies charging and we turn, revealing a bed.

LIAM BARKER (early 20s, dark hair, tired, asleep, in a messy bed, in an uncomfortable position. He has had limited sleep... A standard problem in Tourette's Syndrome...)

His leg shakes, he lifts his right hand up and slowly moves it towards the iPhone. His middle finger flicks up and down.

**(NB: THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPT, LIAM WILL HAVE TICS, TICS ARE WHERE SOMEONE WITH TOURETTE'S MAKE NOISES, OR MAKE RANDOM BODY MOVEMENTS, AND IN SEVERE CASES SWEAR, WITHOUT CONTROL. IN THE SCRIPT THERE WILL BE MOMENTS WHERE IT SAYS TIC, IN RED. THESE WILL BE BASED ON WHICH ACTOR PORTRAY HIM.)**

He taps the onscreen button which turns off the alarm.

His hand retracts back to the bed as he turns around.

LATER

Liam stands in front of his wardrobe, getting dressed.

LIAM  
(to self)  
So why would you want to  
work here?

He nervously adjusts his tie, stares into a mirror, thinking.

2        **INT. LIVING ROOM | FLAT - MOMENTS LATER**

2

MONTAGE:

1) The balcony door opens.

2) The curtains are pulled open, shining light in.

3) A small water jug pours water into three Cacti pots.

4) A small drawer desk tidy rests on a gaming desk, a hand pulls the bottom drawer open and pulls out a week based tablet holder.

5) Wednesday gets opened, revealing some medications.

(CONTINUED)

Tourettes and I 2.  
2 CONTINUED: 2

6) Liam puts one in his mouth and drinks some water from a glass repeatedly.

7) He closes the Wednesday door and puts it into the drawer, closing it.

8) Liam walks through an open door into a hallway.

3 **INT. KITCHEN | FLAT - CONTINUOUS** 3

Liam walks in and heads to the sink where he turns the tap on and washes out his mug.

Tic.

He adjusts his neck after, and puts the glass on the draining board. He turns the tap off.

4 **INT. HALLWAY | FLAT - LATER** 4

Liam is wearing a jacket, and ties his shoelaces.

He stands and walks to the door, unlocks both locks, opens it and leaves, shutting the door.

We stay on the closed door.

**TITLE #1: TOURETTE'S & I.**

5 **EXT. STREET - MORNING** 5

Liam walks down a side road. He continues to walk down, but sees a DUO of CONSTRUCTION WORKERS sitting on a wall.

He bites his lip again and walks past them.

Tic. BOTH HEAD AND VOCAL.

The Workers chuckle. They've been working there for weeks, picked on him before.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1  
Alright Screamer?

He poses like the famous Scream Painting. Copying the tic.

Liam speeds up.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2  
Yeah leg it freak!

They laugh, stand and walk towards their flat.

(CONTINUED)

5 Tourettes and I 3.  
CONTINUED: 5

Liam doesn't look back, he runs as fast as he can.

6 **INT. SHOP FLOOR | CHARITY SHOP - LATER** 6

Liam sits by the closed back door. Waiting for someone.

The CASHIER turns and looks, having just finished with a Customer, offering him a smile.

CASHIER  
Won't be long now, want a coffee or something?

LIAM  
(shy)  
No thanks, I'm good.

Tic.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
(rubbing neck)  
Sorry.

CASHIER  
Not a problem.

7 **INT. MEETING ROOM | CHARITY SHOP - MOMENTS LATER** 7

Liam is seated.

SUSAN (the Manager) sits opposite him, folder in hand.

SUSAN  
Thank you for coming in,  
sorry bout the wait.

LIAM  
Not a problem.

SUSAN  
I'm Susan, the Manager, you  
must be Liam. How are you?

LIAM  
I'm good thanks.

SUSAN  
Good, how did you get here?  
Bus or walk?

LIAM  
I walked. Didn't take too  
long.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN  
I'm quite the walker too,  
anything to avoid the bus.

He chuckles. The ice is broken.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
Right, so, first of all,  
thank you for your  
application, just want to  
ask a few questions if  
that's okay?

Tic.

LIAM  
Sorry... Yeah.

Susan is slightly taken aback but resumes.

SUSAN  
Its okay. Interviews like  
this can be stressful,  
don't worry. Why would you  
like to join our te --

Tics again.

He starts panicking.

LIAM  
I... I'm so sorry!

SUSAN  
Its fine, don't worry bout  
it.

LIAM  
(in pain)  
What was the question  
again?

SUSAN  
Why would you like to join  
our team?

Tics again, more uncontrollably.

LIAM  
I'm sorry, I can't...

Tics again.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
I need to go.

He darts out the room.

(CONTINUED)

7 Tourettes and I 5.  
CONTINUED: (2) 7

SUSAN  
Liam!

8 **EXT. OUTSIDE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER** 8

Liam runs out and darts around the corner, leaning against a wall.

He breathes in and out, taking in what just happened inside.

9 **INT. CONSULTATION ROOM | TOURETTE'S CLINIC - DAY** 9

Liam sits, next to him is DR. GIBSON (40, long dark hair, glasses, smart clothing).

DR. GIBSON  
How's the tics?

LIAM  
Fine. Normal.

DR. Gibson tries to test him.

DR. GIBSON  
Have you tried the methods I said?

LIAM  
Doesn't work.

DR. GIBSON  
And the medication?

LIAM  
Fine.

Tics.

DR. GIBSON  
Liam --

She removes her glasses.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)  
I want to help you. You need to tell me if the tics are getting worse.

He says nothing.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)  
Maybe you want me to try increasing the dosage? That sometimes helps.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM

It does?

DR. GIBSON

In most cases, there are some where the tics get worse, but there's no fixed medication for TS. It's a trial and error game.

Liam thinks, tics.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)

Shall I go ahead and arrange it?

Liam nods.

DR. GIBSON (CONT'D)

Okay. Leave it with me.

10

**EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

10

Cars and buses wiz past on the street.

Liam and his friend, GREG, are sat outside a small independent coffee place.

Liam stares aimlessly into his coffee.

GREG

The interview might not have been as bad as you think.

LIAM

It was.

GREG

You could ring them? Ask to start over.

LIAM

Same thing would happen.

GREG

We could do something to take your mind off it?

Liam looks up to his friend.

GREG (CONT'D)

Me and a few friends are going to the cinema, you could join?

LIAM

Which friends?

(CONTINUED)

GREG  
My friends.

LIAM  
I don't know them.

GREG  
You can't just stay in your  
shell, man.

LIAM  
Easy for you to say. You  
won't be the one ticking  
during the film, everyone  
looking at you like you're  
this... inconvenience to  
them. It's an inconvenience  
to me. A big one.

GREG  
Liam, are you coming or  
not?

LIAM  
I'll speak to you later.

Liam stands, mopes away from the table.

11 **INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY**

11

Liam walks in and picks up a basket. He walks down the  
steps and into the shop floor.

He walks down towards the fridge food aisle, picks up  
some grated cheese in a bag.

Tics.

He stretches his neck.

He walks towards the milk and goes to pick one up.

He yells / tics.

IN ANOTHER AISLE

A CUSTOMER hears him, doesn't look yet but continues  
shopping.

Tics again.

She looks back, now walking down towards the end of  
her aisle, trying to see whom is making the noises.

IN ANOTHER AISLE

The two CONSTRUCTION WORKERS from before, are shopping  
in the drink aisle, looking for energy drinks.

(CONTINUED)

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #2  
Got a 30 minute break, pick  
one and then lets get lunch  
man.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER #1  
Fine, give me a minute,  
we're only working round  
the flaming corner!

Liam tics again.

They look back, and then at each other. They know who  
it is.

IN LIAM'S AISLE

Liam rubs his neck and tries to not look back, as the  
CUSTOMER stares from the corner of her aisle.

He bites his lip and walks towards the other aisle,  
leading towards the veg.

Tics again.

He makes it to the veg aisle and takes out a bag,  
stocking up on mushrooms.

Tics again.

A flapjack is thrown at him, hitting him on the back.

This hurts him...

He looks back, to see the WORKERS throwing NUMEROUS  
flapjack and chocolates that they picked up, at him.

LIAM  
Stop it!

Tics again.

He tries to walk away, but they continue to throw  
them, one hits him at the back of the head...

He breaks down, ticking non-stop.

He runs off. The Workers laugh, high fiving.

AT THE TILL

Liam drops the basket at the till and runs off.  
Leaving.

The door slams open!

(CONTINUED)

Tourettes and I 9.  
12 CONTINUED: 12

Liam storms in and slams the door shut, locking both locks...

He runs into

13 **INT. BEDROOM | FLAT - CONTINUOUS** 13

He lies on his bed, crying. His tics go off like crazy, giving him a lot of pain.

He gets up, rushes out.

14 **INT. LIVING ROOM | FLAT - CONTINUOUS** 14

He heads to the desk and pulls out his medication.

Tics.

This forces him to drop his medication all over the room.

FLASHES TO SC. 11.

He tics, starts looking faint.

FLASHES TO SC. 7.

He starts to wobble.

FLASHES TO SC. 12.

His eyes close.

FLASHES TO SC. 13.

Liam no longer standing, drops to the floor, surrounded by his medication. As soon as he hits the floor, we...

SLAM TO BLACK.

15 **INT. LIVING ROOM | FLAT - LATER** 15

A doorbell intercom rings continuously.

Liam lies on the floor still, not having moved for hours, his face pinned onto the floor.

He groans as he lifts his head up, a tablet stuck on his forehead. Arms hit the floor, raising him up slowly, now standing. He walks slowly towards the front door.

HALLWAY

(CONTINUED)

He heads to the INTERCOM on the wall, and picks up the phone.

LIAM  
(slowly - pained)  
Hello?

GREG  
(intercom)  
Liam, it's me -- Greg, can  
I come in?

LIAM  
Now's really not a good  
time mate.

GREG  
I heard what happened in  
the supermarket... Sorry  
that happened.

LIAM  
How... How did you hear?

GREG  
The Owner called me,  
remember, he's known us for  
years, please let me in  
mate.

Liam presses a key button, buzzing the downstairs door open.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Coming up.

Liam puts the phone back on the wall and spots himself in a mirror by the wall.

Tics.

He rubs his neck again, now red, he spots the tablet and pulls it off his head.

Liam opens the door, Greg stands outside holding two bottles of beer.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Can we talk?

Greg sits on the sofa, Liam walks in with a bottle opener.

He tics, fights through the pain and pulls of the bottles in Greg's hand, taking one.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

It's horrible what happened  
to you mate. I wish I was  
there.

Liam sits at the desk.

LIAM

Nothing you could've done.

GREG

I could've stuck up for  
you, support you.

He notices the pills around Liam.

Liam notices.

LIAM

Kinda crashed last night.

GREG

Are you okay mate?

LIAM

Fine, given the crappy  
circumstances.

He drinks.

GREG

People fear what they don't  
understand. Tourettes isn't  
as well known. When they  
see things they don't  
understand, they act out  
against it, some don't mean  
to, and others do. Those  
people in the shop are the  
latter.

Beat.

Liam drinks.

GREG (CONT'D)

Do you remember when we  
were in school. Hanging out  
all the time, both at lunch  
and home. We were  
inseparable. Your tics were  
really bad in year 11, you  
had to go your exams in  
another room because people  
complained you were  
distracting them, you were  
bullied...

(CONTINUED)

LIAM  
What you getting at?

GREG  
You fought it Liam. You fought through it and came out an amazing person. A person who cares for others, and doesn't ask to be put first. You got fantastic grades in school, college and uni. You graduated with a 2:1! You didn't let the bullies win... So you gotta do the same, fight it, fight through it.

LIAM  
That's the thing Greg.

Beat.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
I don't think I got any fight left in me.  
(beat)  
I mean look at me, I graduate and couldn't get a job. 2 years of depression. I try one time to get a job, and my Tics stop me!

He stands, takes out his phone and chucks it onto the desk. Walking down the room.

Greg stands and walks to the centre.

GREG  
Sure you do! Look... I'll be honest, I was so proud when you applied for FARA. I don't like seeing you in distress and you again fought through it enough to send out an application and get an interview. Yes it didn't got to plan, but I know for a fact... If you call them and ask for another, they will give you that chance.

LIAM'S PHONE BUZZES ON THE DESK.

They stare at the phone, both from a distance, in silence, just the phone ringing.

(CONTINUED)

GREG (CONT'D)  
Answer it mate.

Greg walks to the desk and picks it up, holding it out to Liam, showing him the caller.

SUSAN - FARA CALLING

GREG (CONT'D)  
I'm right here mate. They probably just wanna talk.

Liam tics, goes to take it but stops, thinks, grabs it and answers, putting it on speaker.

LIAM  
Hello?

SUSAN  
(PHONE)  
Hi Liam, can you pop to the shop please, I really think we should talk...

LIAM  
Uh...

Greg nods yes.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
Sure... I see you in 10.

SUSAN  
(PHONE)  
Perfect. See you then.

He hangs up. Deep breathes...

GREG  
I'll come with you.

Liam tics.

17 **EXT. OUTSIDE SHOP - LATER**

17

Greg and Liam walk to the shop. Greg stops outside, Liam goes to him.

GREG  
Go on mate, I'll wait here. You need to do this. I'll be right here.

Liam nods, nervous, scared because of the interview.

He slowly walks in.

(CONTINUED)

Tourettes and I 14.  
17 CONTINUED: 17

Greg leans against the wall, takes out a cigarette.

18 **INT. MEETING ROOM | CHARITY SHOP - MOMENTS LATER** 18

Susan sits at the meeting tables, tagging a top.

Liam knocks on the door, nervous.

SUSAN  
(turning around)  
Ah Liam. Please come in.

He walks in, head tics.

LIAM  
I should apologise for  
yesterday, I really didn't  
mean to run out... I...

Susan stands.

SUSAN  
It's okay Liam, Tourettes  
is like that, you have good  
days and bad days, no need  
to apologise.

Liam looks confused...

LIAM  
You know about Tourettes?

Susan smiles.

SUSAN  
I use to be a Social Worker  
before this, I've helped  
kids with it. No stranger,  
in fact I was gonna mention  
it on the interview.

Liam is silent.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
I didn't want to do this on  
the phone, but...

She turns around and picks up his application form,  
turning back.

Liam knows he's been rejected.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
We want to you to work with  
us!

A SONG WRITTEN FOR THE FILM STARTS UP.

(CONTINUED)

His eyes widen, he's in disbelief.

LIAM  
You... you...

SUSAN  
If you want the job, it's  
yours, just tell us what we  
need to do to make it a  
comfortable job for you,  
and we'll make it work out.  
You'll be a treasured  
member of our team.

A tear drops down from Liam's eyes, the tics calming,  
hope rising.

LIAM  
I don't know what to say...  
I... Thank you... Thanks.

Susan smiles. She holds his form up, an approved stamp  
in red on the front.

SUSAN  
So... When can you start?

Liam stutters, the happiest he's ever been.

THE SONG BUILDS INTO THE CHORUS AS WE...

CUT TO:

19 INT. SHOP FLOOR | CHARITY SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

19

Liam, still in happy tears, exits the back door and  
walks past the shop. Smiling.

Cashier is at the till, having served a Customer. He  
turns to face Liam through the plastic shields.

CASHIER  
Can't wait to work with  
you.

He smiles.

Liam smiles.

LIAM  
I'm looking forward to  
working with you too.

CASHIER  
Have a good evening. See  
you soon.

(CONTINUED)

LIAM  
You too, see you Monday.

Cashier nods.

Susan steps into the back doorway and looks at Liam who looks back and smiles brightly...

She nods, knowing his dream is now a reality. He turns around and walks towards the door.

Susan looks at Cashier who smiles back. Happy to have a new Team Member.

20 **EXT. OUTSIDE SHOP - CONTINUOUS**

20

Liam walks out, Greg is sitting on a flower wall. The sound is muted, only the song.

LIAM  
(mouthing)  
I got it!

Greg cheers, they hug. Afterwards, Greg puts his arm around Liam and they walk down a long road. We stay on them as they vanish into the distance.

**TITLE #1: TOURETTE SYNDROME IS A MEDICAL CONDITION CHARACTERISED BY MOTOR AND VOCAL TICS - INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENTS AND NOISES.**

**TITLE #2: DUE TO TS BEING A LESSER KNOWN DISABILITY, PEOPLE WITH IT HAVE BEEN BULLIED, TEASED AND TREATED DIFFERENTLY BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT TS.**

END