

SHE SAID

HIGH SCHOOL & FIRST LOVE

Written by

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EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

ELAINE (14 Nuyorican) looks up at her Brooklyn High School. Students bustle around her.

ELAINE (V.O.)
High School ain't fun like I
thought it would be.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL

Students hurry to get to their classrooms. Elaine stands center and still among them. She matches a classroom door number to her class schedule.

ELAINE (V.O.)
My school is divided into East,
West, South and North. I know that
North is up and South is down, on
account of I have heard lots a
people from my block say

EXT. BROWNSVILLE BROOKLYN STREET

Two GOSSIPING NEIGHBORS (African American, Female, 60's) speak on a bench. **Although they are speaking, the only voice we hear is Elaine's coming from their mouths

GOSSIPING NEIGHBOR 1
I heard he went Down South to North
Carolina.

GOSSIPING NEIGHBOR 2
Well I heard he went Up North to
the pokey.

BACK TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Elaine looks for a room number

ELAINE (V.O.)
North and South ain't up and down
here and so I ain't got no idea
where I am going at any time, and I
am too embarrassed to ask. I am
pretty sure that I am the stupidest
person in the whole building.

Elaine gets to her

LOCKER

Elaine struggles with a combination lock.

ELAINE (V.O.)
 The locker that I always dreamt of
 having since I seen the movie
 GREASE on TV...I can't open it
 cause them round combination locks
 is the pits!

The BELL RINGS

Elaine gives up on the lock.

CLASSROOM

Students fill the seats. Sitting three across, Elaine watches
 A BOY (caucasian, 14) who watches ANNA MILAT MEYER (Blonde,
 Very Pretty, 14)

ELAINE (V.O.)
 The boy that I wish liked me, likes
 a girl from a place called
 Yugoslavia. I stare at him while he
 stares at her, and she--Anna Milat-
 Meyer--couldn't care less about
 either one of us.

Anna Milat Meyer opens her notebook, exposing (on its cover)
 sticker hearts, and pictures of her and her boyfriend taped
 to the front of it.

EXT. SUTTER AVENUE- DAY

Elaine walks

ELAINE (V.O.)
 Best thing about going to high
 school

AT THE TRAIN STATION

Elaine swipes her free transit card

ELAINE (V.O.)
 ...is free train fare to get there.

Elaine walks up

THE STAIRS TO

THE TRAIN PLATFORM (SUTTER AVENUE LL)

ELAINE (V.O.)

The great thing about trains is
that every time you step into one,
it takes you to another world...

A train arrives.

Elaine steps onto the train. The train rides away.

THE TRAIN

The train doors open at the next stop. Elaine sits and
watches as the train fills with new PASSENGERS.

ELAINE (V.O.)

...and as soon as the doors reopen,
new people get on who have no idea
where you started from.

Elaine scans them all--A BUSINESS MAN reads a newspaper, a
BLUE COLLAR UNIFORMED WORKER listens to his walkman
headphones, a NURSE reads a romance novel.

ELAINE (V.O.)

On my platform I am just a girl
from Brownsville's Sutter Avenue--
the poorest, crime capital of New
York City...But on here--I could be
from anywhere--

EXT. TRAINS MOVE IN FAST MOTION. DAY TURNS TO NIGHT AND THE
DAY AGAIN.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Elaine exits the Classroom, into THE HALLWAY

ELAINE (V.O.)

It is the third week of High School
and I still don't know my East from
my West.

Elaine spots JOEY (Latino, 15)

ELAINE (V.O.)

A boy that stopped to help me get to my second period class on the first day seems to always be at that same spot, at the same time, as where we met. Waiting for me to say hi to him.

Elaine nods hello. Joey nods back and approaches her.

ELAINE (V.O.)

His name is Joey. He's kind'a cute

Joey smiles big, exposing his big crooked yellow teeth.

ELAINE (V.O.)

except when he smiles...I think he likes me, but I can't help but wonder what would happen if Anna Milat Meyer passed by. Would he stop looking at me to look at her.

Joey and Elaine walk down the hall. Joey talks non stop. Elaine just nods.

ELAINE (V.O.)

Joey talks alot. He never stops. Told me more about himself in one trip from 1001 North to 231 East than I know about my next door neighbor in all my 14 years. Joey is a junior, and he originally from Ecuador, but now he lives in the Bronx with his Grandmama, and he LOVES Soccer, and Joey thinks that I am crazy for never having watched a soccer game. He says

Joey speaks but Elaine's voice come from his mouth.

JOEY (E-VOICE)

All Latinos know soccer, it's practically OUR sport!

Joey continues to talk

ELAINE (V.O.)

Joey is on the school's soccer team, and he made me--

JOEY

Promise you'll come watch my soccer practice today.

EXT. THE SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

Elaine sits on the, otherwise empty, bleachers doing her homework.

DANA (O.C.)
Who you here for?

Elaine spots DANA (Platinum Blonde, green eyes, female 14) who sits across the bleacher. The SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM PLAYERS, including Joey run onto the field. Their jerseys all have numbers.

ELAINE
Joey, number 3.

ELAINE (V.O.)
I said.

DANA
I'm Dana

ELAINE
Elaine.

The girls nod at eachother. Timelapse. The players play. Elaine (in real time) watches as the sun shifts across Dana's hair.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
You got nice hair...the blondest hair I ever seen.

Dana laughs.

DANA
I'm what you call a "platinum blonde.

ELAINE
Like Hulk Hogan.

Dana laughs again

ELAINE (V.O.)
Dana laughs alot, and thinks that I'm--

DANA
You funny, Elaine.

Dana claps for the team play on the field. Elaine stares at her

ELAINE (V.O.)
 Dana got NICE green eyes, but she
 not pretty like you'd think that
 would automatically make somebody.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ELAINE'S BATHROOM

Young Elaine (10 now) stands at her bathroom mirror. She is cutting a fashion magazine. When she is done cutting, we see that she has cut the "Green" eye out from the cover model. Elaine places the cut out against one of her eyes and examines how she looks with a green eye.

DANA (O.S.)
 What number is Joey?

Elaine snaps

BACK TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - BLEACHERS

ELAINE
 He's number three. Who you here
 for?

DANA
 Number eleven, Brian.

Dana points toward the players. NUMBER 11 (Caucasian, male 15) emerges in slow motion. The sun glistens on his beautiful face.

ELAINE (V.O.)
 Number 11 is a boy that I think...I
 know... is definitely... the cutest
 boy that I have ever seen in my
 whole entire life.

Number 11 stands next to and a whole head taller than Joey. Slow motion he waves toward Dana.

ELAINE (V.O.)
 then Dana says... the best thing
 that I have ever heard... anybody
 say... in my whole life.

Dana speaks in slow motion. Her words echo in a romantic swirl.

DANA
He's my brother, Brian.

Elaine stares out as the practice continues. It seems that she is in real time as everything around her is sped up. Dana yaps away. Elaine stares so long that she forgets to blink. Her eyes water until Dana taps her

DANA (CONT'D)
Hey, Elaine! I asked you, where do you live?

Elaine snaps out of it.

ELAINE (V.O.)
Why's she care where I live?

ELAINE
In Brooklyn, where do you live?

DANA
Across the street. You should come over one day after practice and I can make you guys some pasta.

Elaine looks confused.

ELAINE (V.O.)
Pasta? And I say

ELAINE
I don't like that.

DANA
You don't like any kind of pasta?
Not even spaghetti and meatballs?

ELAINE (V.O.)
Thing is I ain't never heard the word pasta before. Spaghetti and meatballs have always been called spaghetti and meatballs in my house.

ELAINE
(covering)
Oh Pasta...I thought you said Lobsta. I don't like Lobsta

Dana laughs. Elaine laughs with her. Elaine stares at her (in real time) as Dana watches the practice continue (timeplapse).

THE SOCCER FIELD-LATE AFTERNOON

Elaine still sits on the bleachers. Dana's books still on the bleachers, but Dana is out on the field with the players. Elaine grabs Dana's books. She eyes Dana as she talks to her brother NUMBER 11 aka BRIAN.

ELAINE (V.O.)
C'mon, look over here. Look over here.

JOEY (O.C.)
Hey.

Joey runs up to Elaine. Elaine nods at him. Her attention stays mostly toward Dana and Brian.

JOEY (CONT'D)
So? What'd you think?

ELAINE
I liked it.

DANA (O.S.)
Hey Elaine!

Dana waves as she yells out. Elaine waves back. Brian still not making eye contact.

DANA (CONT'D)
Hey Elaine, you guys wanna come over and have some pasta at our house?

Brian oblivious.

Elaine, happy and about to say YES, when Joey answers back

JOEY
Sorry, we can't!

Elaine looks at Joey with daggers.

ELAINE (V.O.)
and I... I wanted to KILL Joey.

ELAINE
(to Dana)
Tomorrow. Tomorrow. We'll come over tomorrow.

Dana gives a thumbs up from across the field. Elaine watches as Brian (still no eye contact) walks away.

EXT. WILLIAMSBURG STREETS-LATE AFTERNOON

Elaine and Joey walk. Elaine's eyes still annoyed at Joey.

Joey continues to talk, but Elaine's voice is the only one we hear. Joey stands over a manhole and faces Elaine. It seems like he is asking her "What's wrong?". Elaine looks down at the manhole.

ELAINE (V.O.)
Fall. Fall.

ELAINE
Nothing.

Joey and Elaine continue to walk.

ELAINE (V.O.)
Doesn't he ever shut up? Then he says

JOEY
Elaine, you know everything about me and I only know that you have a terrible sense of direction.

Joey laughs his crooked teeth gleam.

ELAINE (V.O.)
...and with that Joey laughed at his own words.

Elaine doesn't laugh.

ELAINE (V.O.)
But I ain't laugh back.

JOEY
Where do you live?

ELAINE (V.O.)
He said, and I say

ELAINE
I live on the other side of Brooklyn.

Joey and Elaine land outside of the LL train stairwell.

LL TRAIN STAIRWELL

JOEY (E-VOICE)
Which train stop?

ELAINE (V.O.)
I ain't want to answer but then I figured that Joey ain't prob'ly know nothing about Brooklyn in the same way I 'on't know nothing about the Bronx, or Ecuador, or Soccer and so I told Joey the truth...

ELAINE
Sutter Avenue on the Double L.

Joey smiles, working hard not to show his big crooked teeth.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
He didn't seem to know.

Joey leans over and kisses Elaine on the cheek. Elaine taken aback.

JOEY
See you tomorrow?

ELAINE
OK, I'll go to your Soccer practice too, and then we can have pasta with Dana and Brian afterward. OK?

ON THE TRAIN- DUSK

Elaine sits, amongst the crowd of passengers. A quiet smile on her face.

ELAINE (V.O.)
It's good that Brian never looked over at me... 'cause I want the first time that he looks at me to be special. I want him to look at me in the same way that that boy stares at Anna Milat Meyer. Like she is a whole other country and his eyes just can't get enough. What am I gonna wear?

Elaine's brow furrows.

ANA'S (ELAINE'S SISTER) BEDROOM-NIGHT

Ana (17, Nuyorican) lays fast asleep. Elaine tiptoes into the room with a flashlight. She quietly opens the closet. She rummages through it. Ana shifts position.

Elaine stops dead in her tracks until Ana stops moving.
Elaine resumes her clandestine approach to

ANA'S CLOSET

Elaine shifts the hangers quietly. The flashlight moves through the clothes on Elaine's "perfect outfit finding" mission... BINGO. Elaine's delighted eyes held tight by the perfect pair of pink jeans. She grabs them and tip toes out, but not before stubbing her toe. OWWW!

IN ELAINE'S ROOM

Quick cuts: Elaine struggles to get the pants on: They are very tight: She hops trying to get them up her thighs. She lays sweating on the bed trying to zip them: She nurses her zipper (index) finger, now cut up from the long lasting attempts: ZIP: Got it: Elaine examines herself in the full length mirror.

ELAINE

Perfect.

Elaine slips a pair of big gray sweatpants over the pink pants and makes her way through her apartment.

THROUGH THE HALL

Passing her mother CARMEN (30s. Puerto Rican)

THROUGH THE KITCHEN

Passing her sister Ana

THROUGH THE LIVINGROOM

Passing her brothers BENJAMIN (16) and DANNY (15) to her

12TH FLOOR HALLWAY

Elaine removes her gray sweatpants and stuffs them into her school knapsack.

EXT. BROWNSVILLE BROOKLYN STREET - MORNING

Elaine walks wearing the tight pants

ELAINE (V.O.)

I get all my sister's clothes eventually anyway.

Elaine struts her stuff down the street. Passed DRUG ADDICTS,
Passed DRUG DEALERS.

Elaine reaches

THE LL TRAIN STATION

Elaine enters. She swipes her school train pass and makes her way to

THE LL STATION STAIRS

Elaine tries to take two steps at a time, but her tight pants won't allow it. One at a time.

ELAINE (V.O.)

I better not eat anything until
pasta after practice, or these
pants'll split.

JOEY (O.S.)

Hi!

Elaine looks up from the last step before

THE LL TRAIN PLATFORM

ELAINE (V.O.)

There, on the Sutter Avenue, Double
L platform, was none other than--

At the top of the stairs stands

ELAINE

Joey

Joey stands on the platform. Elaine is taken aback, like seeing him for the first time.

ELAINE (V.O.)

And I feel crazy....crazy
bad...crazy guilty...crazy, liking
that...

ELAINE

You come all the way out here...to
Brownsville...from the Bronx?

Elaine looks at Joey. Really looks at him. His military style jacket makes him look braver.

ELAINE (V.O.)

Some might say that he risked his life for me... Nobody ever comes to Brownsville to visit us. Not even our family. Even people that once lived here but moved away. They say

Behind Joey, TWO WOMEN (Latina, 40's) on the platform talk

WOMAN 1

I ain't risking my life.

WOMAN 2

Not even to visit my own Mother.

ELAINE (V.O.)

And so I think Joey is crazy. Crazy Brave and crazy 'bout me.

Elaine still looking up at Joey from the step below the platform, where he stands. He is taller than her there. His smile works hard to cover his teeth.

Behind Elaine, a LADY WITH A CART (30's, African American) struggles to get up the stairs.

LADY WITH A CART

Hello? Should I wait here all day?

Elaine steps up to the platform. Joey helps the Lady with the cart. The LL train roars by. Joey's hair sway in its wake.

The train doors open. Joey enters,

ON THE LL TRAIN

Joey holds the doors for Elaine.

JOEY

You coming?

Elaine steps onto the train.

HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM

SFX: THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS

Students bustle. Joey waits outside of Elaine's classroom door. Elaine exits the classroom. Joey takes Elaine's books.

Just then Anna Milat-Meyer walks by,

IN SLOW MOTION--Anna makes eye contact with Elaine and then notices Joey. Anna gives Joey a flirtatious look. Anna flings her hair in Joey's direction. Elaine looks over at Joey to see his reaction.

ELAINE (V.O.)
And just like that...

Joey, annoyed, flicks away Anna's hair

ELAINE (V.O.)
Joey just flicks her away,

JOEY
Rude!

ELAINE (V.O.)
...like you would a fly on your macaroni and cheese lunch...And then he said

JOEY
Those are new pants right?

Elaine nods.

JOEY (CONT'D)
They look nice.

ELAINE
Yeah?

ELAINE (V.O.)
I said.

JOEY
Yeah. Real nice.

ELAINE
But they are a little tight. Maybe we could skip the pasta after practice.

Elaine and Joey walk down the hall together.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
You got an extra pair of sweat pants in your locker I could maybe borrow?

FADE OUT.

Credits roll as

ANA'S (ELAINE'S SISTER'S) BEDROOM

Ana looks through her closet.

ANA

Mami, have you seen my new pink
jeans?