

Adopting Jamie

Written by

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WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
(screaming)
Drew Parker, you're the man!

FADE IN:

INT. DREW'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

All is quiet in the kitchen.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
Give it to me, Drew!

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Not one magazine or coaster out of place.

DREW (O.C.)
Call me, Mr. Parker.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
More, Mr. Parker!

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - DAY

A trail of jeans, a pair of boxers, shirts and a bra on the floor lead up to the bed.

DREW PARKER, a handsome, early 30's man, lies on his back starring at the ceiling.

RACHEL, a stunning beauty, lies next to him, both with glazed, satisfied looks on their faces.

RACHEL
Wow, it's true what they say.
(beat)
You really are the best.

Drew closes his eyes.

DREW
Yeah well, I have been known to
dazzle.

RACHEL
So when do you want to hook up again?

DREW
(grinning)
Anytime you want, Christine?

The glazed over look on Rachel's face quickly turns powdered.

RACHEL
(calmly)
Drew?

DREW
Yes, baby? Talk to me.

RACHEL
My name is Rachel.
(beat)
Not Christine.

Rachel rolls her eyes and gets up right when Drew's pop open.

DREW
Of course your name is Rachel. What else would I call you, besides Rachel?

Rachel starts to collect her clothes while keeping the sheet over her body. Drew grabs a pillow to cover up.

DREW (CONT'D)
Isn't your middle name Christine?

RACHEL
I can not believe I slept with you.

Drew jumps off the bed and joins Rachel in the search for their clothes. Once Rachel has all hers, she dashes into the bathroom. Drew puts on his boxers to replace the pillow.

DREW
(pleading)
Come on Rachel, I'm sorry.
(SOTTO)
Man, you asshole. What is wrong with you?

Just then Rachel comes out, dressed and still pissed. She plops down on the bed and puts on her shoes.

RACHEL
I should have listened to my friends.

DREW
What do you mean you should have listen to your friends?

RACHEL
That's right. They warned me about you. But did I listen? No.

DREW

What did your friends say about me?

Upset, Rachel notices her shoes are on the wrong feet. She changes them.

RACHEL

They told me you were no good. They told me you treat women like garbage.

DREW

What is that supposed to mean?

RACHEL

You throw them out when you're done.

Rachel grabs her jacket as Drew looks astounded.

DREW

Whoa, now that's pretty harsh!

RACHEL

But do you want to know what I said? I said, not Drew Parker. He's one of the nice guys. Guess I was naive to believe that.

DREW

Listen, I am a nice guy. Which one of your friends told you I wasn't a nice guy?

RACHEL

I don't know. Maybe Christine told me.

Rachel gives Drew the coldest look and walks out. Drew grabs a shirt and takes off after her.

INT. FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Drew catches Rachel right as she opens the door. He grabs her arm turning her around.

DREW

Rachel, you've got to believe me. I don't even know a Christine.

RACHEL

Drew, you're a great guy, but you have to grow up. No one plays these games but you.

(beat)

When you become an adult, call me.

Rachel shakes her head and leaves. Drew closes the door and then bangs his head against it a few times.

DREW
Now, who the hell is Christine?

Just then, SHAUN HARRIS, Drew's good looking, obnoxious partner in crime, barges in.

SHAUN
What's going on my man?

DREW
What's up?

SHAUN
I saw your booty getting on the elevator. She didn't look too happy. What happened, you couldn't get it up?

Drew ignores Shaun. Shaun follows him to the bedroom.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

DREW
Do you remember a girl I dated named Christine?

Drew goes over to a drawer and pulls out his Polaroid head shots and women's underwear.

SHAUN
Let's see Christine... Christine... I don't remember her. She must not have had a big enough booty.

Drew shuffles through the pictures then moves on to the underwear, looking at each pair. He holds one up.

DREW
No, those are Sheri's.

Drew tosses them on the floor and Shaun damn near falls on his face to pick them up.

SHAUN
These are Sheri's? Man, do you know how long I've been trying to see these?

More underwear hit the floor.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Why are you stressing over finding
this girl?

DREW
You know Rachel?

Shaun stares at him with a blank expression.

DREW (CONT'D)
The booty from the elevator.

SHAUN'
Oh, yeah. What about her?

DREW
I called her Christine while we were
in bed.

SHAUN
See, I'm all for being a lady
pleaser. But that is something most
men don't even live through.
(then)
Is Christine the one with red hair?

DREW
No, that's Tiffany.

SHAUN
What about the girl who drove the
black Lexus?

DREW
You mean, Jessica?

SHAUN
Damn, Drew. Can't even keep the faces
with the panties.

DREW
Get out.

Shaun laughs while Drew leads him out.

SHAUN
Alright but hurry up, were going to
be late.

Drew slams his bedroom door and leans up against it.

DREW
I can't live my life like this.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - AFTERNOON

A wooden sign on the worn fence reads "Granger Group Home Baseball Field."

Walking up to the plate with hands gripped tightly around the bat, with a game face on and helmet firmly in place, is 10 year old JAMIE SULLIVAN.

Kids are on the side line screaming and cheering. Jamie puts the inhaler that hangs around her neck down in her shirt.

Everybody on the field backs up and fists smack inside gloves. Spit hits the dust and feet get ready to move. RUNNER on first takes a step off the base.

The PITCHER tilts his hat to the catcher as he rotates the ball ready to throw the pitch while the CATCHER, a tubby boy, throws down two fingers and shifts to the left.

Jamie's eyes never leave the pitcher as he winds up and throws with all his might.

Jamie pummels the ball high over left field. The runner on first takes off and every kid watches in amazement.

Jamie takes off rounding the bases like lightning. The kids in the outfield scramble around trying to retrieve the ball. After rounding third every cheering kid joins Jamie in last stretch home. The catcher joins the pitcher on the mound.

PITCHER

I can't believe they won again.

CATCHER

Jamie's too good.

PITCHER

Come on, let's go.

They both run to the crowd of kids patting Jamie on the back and congratulating her. Off in the distant comes a stomping group of kids led by a black ski hat wearing tough guy.

CATCHER (O.S.)

Here comes Vic.

VICTOR, the meanest 10 year old in the orphanage pushes through the crowd, right up to Jamie. The other kids move out his way as his gang pushes them.

VIC

Lucky hit.

JAMIE

Lucky my ass.

Jamie takes off the helmet revealing a head full of curly hair. She pulls back out her inhaler from her shirt.

VIC
You think you're so good.

JAMIE
Better than you.

A few "ooohs" come from the crowd.

VIC
You're such a girl.

JAMIE
Yeah, well you act like one. Now pay up.

VIC
I'm not paying you anything.

JAMIE
A bet's a bet and my team won. You owe me.

Vic takes a brown bag out of his pocket. Jamie reaches for it but Vic pulls it away and laughs.

VIC
Like I said, I'm not paying you anything and there's nothing you can do about it.

Vic and his gang brush past Jamie and walk away laughing. The crowd slowly winds down to Jamie and SCOTTIE, her faithful sidekick.

SCOTTIE
Don't worry about him. He's a jerk.

Jamie tries to stay tough.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go eat.

Scottie and Jamie walk off the field.

INT. GROUP HOME - BOY'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

In a room full of bunk beds, Vic pulls out the brown bag and stuffs it in a drawer. Behind him in the hall, Jamie, Scottie and a few other kids watch him.

After shutting the drawer, Vic runs out of the room past Jamie and her crew. Then they all enter the room with a LOOK OUT KID at the door.

Jamie opens the drawer and pulls out the brown bag and Scottie pulls out another brown bag and puts it in the drawer.

LOOK OUT KID
Vic's coming back.

Jamie slams the drawer shut and they all run out right when Vic comes in. He goes to the drawer and takes out the brown bag. Vic smiles at his prize and bolts back out of the room.

INT. GROUP HOME - DINING HALL - AFTERNOON

A giant lunch hall full of kids running around, eating and laughing.

Vic sits at the head of Jamie's table. Vic looks over at Jamie and smirks. Jamie doesn't give him the satisfaction of smiling back.

Vic pulls out the brown bag and waves it at Jamie. Jamie folds her arms across her chest and grins. She gets Scottie's attention towards Vic.

VIC'S SIDEKICK
(to Vic)
I can't believe you didn't give it to her. She did win the bet and it was hers to begin with.

VIC
Whose side are you on?

VIC'S SIDEKICK
I'm on your side, dude.

VIC
Besides, what's in the bag belongs to me now.

Vic reaches into the bag and slowly pulls out a handful of dirt covered worms.

Disgusted, Vic throws the worms on the table. Everybody jumps up, running all over the place while girls scream. Vic wipes off his hands. It becomes chaos in the hall. Jamie, Scottie and their friends laugh.

VIC'S SIDEKICK
Man, that's gross. Who did that?

Vic shakes off his hand and looks up. Jamie stands on a chair waving the original brown bag at Vic.

VIC
(furious)

Jamie!

Jamie and Scottie high five each other as MRS. GRANGER, an elderly, mean looking woman, in a gray skirt suit comes up behind Jamie. A few kids stop laughing and move out her way.

Jamie is still laughing but as she looks around, she notices she's the only one laughing. She looks over at Scottie who motions his head to behind her.

Jamie slowly turns around and her smile quickly fades. She slowly gets down off the chair and hands the bag to Scottie. Mrs. Granger and Jamie walk away together.

INT. MRS. GRANGER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Jamie sits in a chair with her feet dangling while Mrs. Granger sits behind her desk.

MRS. GRANGER
Jamie, what is going on with you?

Jamie stares out the window, refusing to answer.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
I've never had this much trouble with any other child before.

(beat)
Now Jamie, you've been through four couples in the last year. Don't you want to be adopted?

JAMIE
No, not really.

MRS. GRANGER
Well at this point, you might not be. Now in a few weeks a very nice couple will be here and they want to see you.

JAMIE
(unenthusiastic)
Can't wait.

Jamie gets up to leave but Mrs. Granger keeps talking.

MRS. GRANGER

One more thing, Miss Sullivan. Since you have inappropriately used worms, again, no outside activity for two weeks.

JAMIE

But Mrs. Granger, Vic...

MRS. GRANGER

I don't want to hear it. Now go help clean up the hall.

Jamie slowly shuffles out the office.

EXT. MRS. GRANGER'S OFFICE

Jamie finds Scottie waiting for her in the hall.

SCOTTIE

What did she say?

Jamie blows past Scottie.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

I'm assuming it wasn't good.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Drew and Shaun hang out in Drew's office, winding down from their day.

SHAUN

(laughing)

Man, I can't believe you called her by the wrong name.

Drew sits at his desk writing down some notes trying to ignore Shaun.

DREW

I know, Shaun. I was there.

SHAUN

It really sucks to be you.

Just then BEN, a fellow co-worker in a stylish suit, walks in with some papers and his coat.

BEN

Hey Drew, I got those files copied like you wanted.

DREW
Thanks, Ben.

Ben hands them to Drew and Ben puts his coat on.

SHAUN
Ben, couple of guys are getting
together and going to Murphy's
tonight. You want to come?

BEN
I would, but I got to go to my
daughters play. It's opening night.

DREW
You have a daughter? I didn't know
that.

BEN
Yeah, turned nine last week.

Ben's comment strikes a cord with Drew and he stares off
into space, thinking.

BEN (CONT'D)
Alright well, I'll see you fellas
next week.

Ben and Shaun shake hands and Ben leaves.

SHAUN
Drew, you ready?

Drew is still in his daze.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Drew?

DREW
What?

SHAUN
I said, you ready?

DREW
Yeah, let's go.

Drew gathers all his notes and files and puts them in his
bag.

SHAUN
So out of Rachel and Christine? Who
was better?

DREW
Man, shut up.

Drew pushes a laughing Shaun out of the office.

INT. MURPHY'S - LATER THAT NIGHT

A bunch of men in suits, crowd inside of MURPHY'S, a downtown bar.

INSET: DREW'S TABLE

Drew, Shaun and a few other GUYS from work sit around a table holding beers with their ties hanging off their necks as they watch the game.

SHAUN

See, I told you they were gonna go all the way.

DREW

I'm going to get another round.

Drew gets up and heads for the bar.

INT. GROUP HOME - GIRL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jamie lies on her back staring at the ceiling with a few tears streaming down the sides of her face.

MRS. GRANGER (V.O.)

I've never had this much trouble with any other child.

Jamie blinks out a few more tears.

MRS GRANGER (V.O.)

You've been through four couples in the last year.

Jamie wipes her face and turns over on her side.

INT. MURPHY'S - NIGHT

The number of men begin to dwindle down as the game continues and the beers run out.

AARON, another fellow co-worker comes up to Drew's table.

SHAUN

You had enough tonight, Aaron?

AARON

Yeah, my wife just called me for the third time. Besides, I told my son I'd be home in time to tuck him in.

SHAUN
Alright, we'll see you on Monday.

AARON
Alright, guys.

The guys at the table all say bye as Aaron and another guy at the table gets up and leave. Shaun finishes the last of his beer.

SHAUN
Man, am I glad I don't have kids.
(beat)
Ain't that right, Drew?

Drew stares off into space.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Drew, you alright man?

DREW
Yeah, I'm alright.

Drew finishes his beer and gets up suddenly.

SHAUN
Where you going?

DREW
Bathroom.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Drew sits at the kitchen table writing on his laptop. The only light is coming from his computer.

INSET: COMPUTER SCREEN

Drew is filling out an application and at the top it reads "So You Want To Adopt?"

FADE TO BLACK.

SUBTITLE: 5 weeks later

FADE IN:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - THE NEXT DAY

Jamie stands at the mound, winds up and throws a fast ball. The KID at bat hits it with ease but Jamie's quick hand catches it before it even reaches the outfield.

The kid walks back to the dug out, handing his bat to another kid coming up to bat. Before Jamie could get another out, Scottie runs out to the mound.

SCOTTIE
Mrs. Grangers is looking for you.

JAMIE
(annoyed)
What now?

Jamie takes off her glove and hands it over to Scottie.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Here, take over for me.

SCOTTIE
Good luck.

Jamie takes off running, while Scottie stands there.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I don't know how to pitch.

Scottie looks around at everyone who is waiting for him to pitch the ball. He quickly drops the glove and takes off running.

INT. GIRL'S ROOM - DAY

Jamie runs into the girl's room. Mrs. Granger is waiting impatiently holding a yellow dress.

JAMIE
You wanted to see me, Mrs. Granger?

MRS. GRANGER
Yes, come here.

Mrs. Granger grabs Jamie by the arm and pulls her shirt off over her head and attempts to put the dress on her.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
You remember that couple I told you was coming to see you?

JAMIE
Yeah.

MRS. GRANGER
Well, they're here. Take your jeans off.

Jamie takes her jeans off under her dress.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
So make sure you smile a lot and look pretty.

JAMIE
Let's get this over with.

MRS. GRANGER
You want to be adopted don't you?

Jamie rolls her eyes as Mrs. Granger gives her one more look over.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
Give me the gum.

JAMIE
What gum?

MRS. GRANGER
The gum in your mouth. Give it to me.

Mrs. Granger holds out her hand as Jamie spits her wad of gum into it.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
Okay, lets go.

Mrs. Granger leads Jamie out the room.

INT. MRS. GRANGER'S OFFICE - DAY

A handsome COUPLE, in their 30's, eagerly sit and hold hands as they wait. They jump up out the their seats as the door opens and in walks Jamie along with Mrs. Granger.

MRS. GRANGER
Mr. and Mrs. Conner, this is Jamie.

Mr. Conner bends down on one knee and holds out his hand.

MR. CONNER
Hi, Jamie. How are you?

Jamie tries to hold back laughter while he smiles up at his wife. Mrs. Granger nudges Jamie to speak as she shakes his hand.

JAMIE
(mocking)
I'm doing fine, Mr. Conner.

So excited, Mr. Conner stands up next to his wife.

MRS. GRANGER

Well Jamie, I've told them all about you. So how about I leave you three alone to get better acquainted.

Mrs. Granger firmly turns Jamie around to face her.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Now I want you to behave, you understand me?

JAMIE

Yes, Mrs. Granger.

Mrs. Granger smiles at the excited couple. As she leaves, Jamie smiles a more devilish smile.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

The door swings open and The Conners run out of the office in a hurry. Mrs. Granger looks into her office and Jamie is sitting on her desk with that same smile waving after them.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - DAY

Drew sits behind his desk on his computer.

INSET: COMPUTER

Drew checks his E-MAIL and notices he has an E-MAIL from Mrs. Granger. Drew perks up and gets excited as he reads the letter, just as Shaun walks in.

SHAUN

So, it's Friday. Which one of your freaks you got tonight? And which left over freak can I have?

Drew keeps reading, not paying Shaun any attention.

DREW

Don't call them freaks.

SHAUN

Why not? You do.

Drew finally stops reading and gets serious.

DREW

Shaun, sit down.

SHAUN
(sitting)
What's up, man?

DREW
I need to talk to you about
something.

SHAUN
What is it? You can't decide which
freak to go with?

DREW
Shaun, enough with the freak thing.
Okay?

SHAUN
Sorry. What do you need to talk
about?

DREW
(excited)
I'm going to get a kid.

Drew smiles waiting for a reply as Shaun sits there not really getting it.

SHAUN
A what?

DREW
A kid.

SHAUN
Where do you get one of those from?

DREW
I'm going to adopt a kid.

SHAUN
What do you mean adopt a kid?

Drew jumps up from his seat and begins to preach.

DREW
Don't you ever get tired of being
alone?

SHAUN
You mean, after the freaks leave?

DREW
Yes, after the freaks leave.

SHAUN
(thinks)
Hell no.

DREW
(frustrated)
Don't you want more out of life?

SHAUN
You're serious aren't you? Because
you sound like a PSA right now.

DREW
Yes.

SHAUN
Alright, tell me about it.

Drew sits on the edge of his desk, excited.

DREW
A few weeks ago I talked to this
group home and today I got an E-MAIL
saying they have a little boy named
Jamie for me.

SHAUN
So you're really going to adopt this
kid? That's creepy.

DREW
It's not creepy and I'm not really
adopting him.

Drew walks back around his desk and sits down.

DREW (CONT'D)
It's more like a trial basis. You
know to see if me and Jamie like each
other.

SHAUN
So you're renting a kid?

DREW
Not renting. It's a trial basis.

SHAUN
Okay, so how long is this trial basis
supposed to last?

DREW
A few weeks I guess.

SHAUN

I don't get it. Where did all of this come from?

DREW

Remember about month ago when Ben didn't come out with us because of his daughter's play?

SHAUN

Yeah, so?

DREW

And Aaron had to leave early to put his kid to bed?

SHAUN

What about it?

DREW

It got me thinking that I need to get my life together. If I had a kid, maybe woman would take me more seriously.

SHAUN

So basically, you're using this kid to get women? Drew man, that's just sick.

DREW

It's not using. I could end up really liking Jamie.

SHAUN

And what if you don't? You just take him back to the group home?

Drew thinks about it.

DREW

Yeah, but they would eventually find another home for him.

SHAUN

And what if they can't?

DREW

(annoyed)

Look Shaun, I just need you to be there for me. Can you do that? Can you be a friend and be there for me?

SHAUN

Of course.

DREW
 (relieved)
 Good, because I need you to come with me when I pick him up.

SHAUN
 Why do I have to go? You know I don't like kids.

INT. MRS. GRANGER'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

In Mrs. Granger office, Drew sits nervously in one chair and Shaun sits in the other. Mrs. Granger walks in with a file as Drew and Shaun jump up.

MRS. GRANGER
 Mr. Parker, Mr. Harris, please have a seat.

Drew and Shaun sit back down as Mrs. Granger sits behind her desk and opens Jamie's file.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
 Here at the Granger Group Home, we are so pleased when responsible, loving adults want to adopt.

DREW
 Well Mrs. Granger, I felt that I should give back to the children and do my part.

Shaun slowly turns to Drew giving him a "that's a load of bull" look.

MRS. GRANGER
 Well that makes me very happy.

SHAUN
 So what happened to Jamie's parents?

MRS. GRANGER
 Car crash. Poor thing was only five when it happened.

Mrs. Granger gets up and puts some papers into a filing cabinet and then sits back down.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
 We don't get a lot same sex couples, especially men, who want to adopt.

Shaun in shock, looks over at Drew.

SHAUN

Wait a minute, we're--

Before he could finish Drew jumps in and grabs Shaun's hand.

DREW

--We're just so happy to become
parents. We've been trying for so
long.

Shaun struggles to let go of Drew's hand.

SHAUN

The hell we have.

Drew calms Shaun down. Mrs. Granger looks back and forth
between them.

MRS. GRANGER

Well I just have to get some more
paperwork and I'll be right back.

Mrs. Granger slips out of the office right as Shaun snatches
his hand away from Drew.

SHAUN

(yelling)

You told her we were gay?!

DREW

I had to and would you be quiet.

SHAUN

Why? Why? Why did you have to?

DREW

Because here, they usually don't look
to single parents or men for that
matter to adopt kids.

Shaun sighs.

DREW (CONT'D)

Just go along with it for now.

SHAUN

Fine, but you owe me.

Mrs. Granger slips back in with more papers.

MRS. GRANGER

You know, there's normally a waiting
period, but this one is a special
case.

SHAUN

Sounds like you're trying to get rid
of the kid.

Mrs. Granger sits down and looks up at Shaun and kind of
gives a fake smile.

MRS. GRANGER

Oh, no. We just want to find a good
home for Jamie.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

A large group of kids formed on the pitchers mound with dust
flying everywhere. More kids run up to see the action. In
the middle of the crowd, kids cheer on a fight. Jamie is
facing off with another kid, a BOY.

SCOTTIE

(yelling)

Get him Jamie! He can't fight!

KID 1

Shut up, Scottie. He fights better
than you.

SCOTTIE

We're not talking about me.

The crowd screams and cheers louder as Jamie snatches off
her inhaler and gives it to Scottie. She then jumps on the
boy, taking them both down.

After a few minutes of fighting, Mrs. Granger and her
assistant KEVIN, come and break it up. Drew and Shaun
follow. Mrs. Granger pulls Jamie off the boy, who has a
bloody nose.

MRS. GRANGER

Kevin, please take him to the nurse.

Kevin and the boy walk past Drew and Shaun with his nose in
the air trying to stop the blood.

SHAUN

(laughs)

Looks like your kid can't fight.

Drew looks at Shaun, not laughing.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

(still laughing)

I'm sorry man, but did you see his
nose.

DREW
Shaun, shut up.

SHAUN
I'm just saying, you're going to have
to put him in some boxing classes.

Just then Mrs. Granger walks up to Drew and Shaun with
Jamie.

MRS. GRANGER
This is Jamie.

Drew and Shaun look at each other and then down at Jamie,
stunned.

SHAUN
She's a girl.

JAMIE
(sarcastic)
So you must be the smart one.

Drew just looks at her as Shaun burst into laughter once
again.

SHAUN
Man, out of all these kids, you had
to adopt little Layla Ali.

Shaun continues to laugh.

INT. GIRL'S ROOM - DAY

Jamie has her small suitcase on her bed as she puts some
clothes in it. Scottie and a few other kids watch.

KID 2
Who is gonna stand up to Vic while
you're gone?

JAMIE
You guys will be okay. We'll see each
other at school every day.

SCOTTIE
I can't believe you're leaving.

VIC (O.S.)
Don't worry, she'll be back.

Vic and his crew walk in.

SCOTTIE
Why don't you get out of here Vic?

Vic stares at Scottie.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Did I say that out loud?

Scottie sheepishly smiles and slips behind Jamie.

VIC
I don't know why you're packing.
They're just gonna bring you right
back.

VIC'S SIDEKICK
Yeah, nobody wants an orphan like
you.

VIC
That's right Cinderella. This fairy
tale ain't gonna last forever.

Jamie slams her suitcase shut, zips it and turns to Vic.

JAMIE
Vic, do you really wanna be the last
ass I kick before I leave?

Jamie and Vic stand eye to nose (Jamie's an inch shorter)
waiting to see who backs down first.

VIC'S SIDEKICK
(pulls on Vic)
Come on Vic, she ain't worth it.
Let's just get out of here.

Vic follows his crew but turns around and points at Jamie.

VIC
You'll be back.

Vic and his crew leave the room as Scottie stands next to
his friend.

SCOTTIE
Don't listen to him, Jamie.

JAMIE
But he might be right.

Jamie looks worried.

EXT. GROUP HOME - DAY

Drew and Shaun put Jamie's suitcase and other bags in the
back of Drew's truck. Some kids stand around waving goodbye
to Jamie along with Mrs. Granger and Kevin.

Shaun gets in the car as Drew opens Jamie's door. Just as Jamie gets ready to get in Scottie comes running up to her.

SCOTTIE
I almost forgot.

JAMIE
What?

Scottie pulls out the small brown bag and hands it to Jamie. She smiles.

SCOTTIE
Wouldn't want Vic to get his hands on that.

JAMIE
No, we wouldn't.

Jamie hugs Scottie and then hops in the car. Drew shuts the door and walks around and gets in. As they drive off, a few kids join Scottie on the curb as they wave goodbye to Jamie.

MRS. GRANGER
(to Kevin)
I give him a month.

Mrs. Granger gives a small smile and waves.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Jamie, Drew and Shaun all sit at a round table in a family restaurant.

SHAUN
So Jamie, where did you learn to fight?

DREW
Shaun!

SHAUN
What? She could teach me some moves.
(beat)
How old are you?

JAMIE
I'm ten.

SHAUN
You look eight.

JAMIE
I'm small for my age.
(beat)
How old are you?

SHAUN
Thirty-two.

JAMIE
You look forty-two.

Drew laughs.

SHAUN
What's that hanging around your neck?

JAMIE
You ask a lot of questions.

SHAUN
Well how do we know it's not full of
illegal substances?

DREW
She's ten, Shaun.

JAMIE
And you watch way too much TV.
(beat)
It's an inhaler.

DREW
What's wrong with you?

JAMIE
I have asthma.

Just then a pretty WAITRESS brings their drinks and sets them on the table. She looks down at Jamie.

WAITRESS
Oh, what a beautiful little girl.

Shaun leans back and gives her a dirty smile and looks her up and down.

SHAUN
Thank you.

The waitress, Drew and Jamie all give him a disgusted look.

WAITRESS
I'll be back to take your order.

She walks away.

JAMIE

Can I have some money for video games?

DREW

Sure.

Drew reaches in his pocket and slaps a five in her small hand.

JAMIE

Thanks.

Jamie jumps down off the high stool and heads to the arcade area.

SHAUN

Man, I still can't believe you rented a kid.

DREW

I'm not renting her. This is a trial basis.

SHAUN

Trial basis. Whatever.

(beat)

But I gotta say, it's working already.

DREW

What's working?

SHAUN

The kid. You saw that waitress. She melted when she saw Jamie.

DREW

Shaun, that's not why I did this?

(beat)

Okay, that is why I did this, but just a little.

Drew and Shaun both take sips of their sodas.

DREW (CONT'D)

Besides, I think I'm gonna like Jamie.

(beat)

She seems like a good kid.

All of a sudden a roar of CHILDREN break out in the arcade area and the waitress runs up to the table.

WAITRESS

(to Drew)

I don't think your daughter is getting along with the other children.

DREW

I'm sorry, what do you mean?

The roar gets louder as Shaun looks over to the arcade.

SHAUN

She means, little Mortal Kombat is at it again.

DREW

Oh, man.

Drew and Shaun hustle to the arcade.

EXT. DREW'S BUILDING - DAY

Drew pulls up to the curb and Shaun gets out. Drew comes around from the driver's side.

DREW

Shaun, grab her bags.

Drew opens the door and Jamie gets out.

SHAUN

What do I look like?

JAMIE

The guy who's about to get my bags.

Shaun looks down at her as she looks up at him smiling. Drew bends down to Jamie's height.

DREW

Look Jamie, you can't keep fighting like that.

JAMIE

But that kid took my game after I put my money in it.

DREW

Maybe, but you gotta learn to walk away sometimes or talk.

Shaun sets Jamie's bag down beside her.

SHAUN
Yeah kid, fighting isn't always the answer. Except for that nose ramming thing. You gotta teach me that.

DREW
Shaun!

SHAUN
Just trying to help.

Just then a female JOGGER runs by. She smiles in their direction.

JOGGER
Hey, cutie.

As usual Shaun turns on the smile.

SHAUN
Well hello to you too sweet thing.

DREW
Shaun? I think she was talking to Jamie.

JOGGER
(SMILING AT DREW) She's cute too.

Drew smiles.

JAMIE
I mean, we all knew she wasn't talking to you Shaun.

Drew laughs again as Shaun's smile fades away.

INT. DREW'S APARTMENT - DAY

Drew walks in holding Jamie's hand while Shaun struggles to bring in her bags behind them.

DREW
And this is my apartment.
(points)
That's the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

They all walk in the living room.

SHAUN
Excuse me, where do you want your bags princess?

JAMIE

You can put them down right there,
bell hop.

Shaun drops her bags and plops down on a chair. Drew and Jamie sit on the couch.

DREW

So Jamie, what do you think about my place?

JAMIE

I thought it would be bigger. Aren't you a lawyer or something?

SHAUN

No, we're financial advisors.

JAMIE

(to Shaun)

Who would take financial advice from you?

SHAUN

Drew, your little Charlie's Angel got one more time.

Just then there's a KNOCK at the door.

DREW

(yelling)

Come in.

In walks NATALIE JACKSON, a beautiful well toned, thirty something but looks twenty something woman, with a gorgeous smile. Drew and Shaun stare at Natalie.

SHAUN

Hi, Natalie.

NATALIE

Hi, Shaun.

SHAUN

Miss Jackson, if you nasty.

NATALIE

What was that, Shaun?

SHAUN

Huh? Nothing.

Jamie looks over at Drew who hasn't blinked.

DREW

Hey, Natalie. How are you?

NATALIE
(smiles)
I'm good, Drew.

Jamie looks back and forth between Drew and Natalie.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
I wanted to know if I could borrow a wrench. My shower head is acting up.

DREW
No problem. I'll go get it.

Drew gets up and leaves the living room as Natalie sits next to Jamie.

NATALIE
And who is this sweetheart?

SHAUN
Oh, that's Satan's daughter.

JAMIE
Don't you have a home?

SHAUN
I'm not about to be run out of my best friend's place by an eight year old.

JAMIE
I'm ten.

SHAUN
Whatever. (beat) I have to leave anyway.

Shaun jumps up and heads for the door.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Yo Drew, I'm out man.

DREW (O.S.)
I'll see you later.

NATALIE
So what's your name sweetie?

JAMIE
Jamie.

NATALIE
Nice to meet you Jamie, I'm Natalie.

Drew finally comes back in with a wrench.

DREW
Will this one work Natalie?

NATALIE
Yeah, sure.
(beat)
Drew, where did this cutie come from?

Drew quickly thinks.

DREW
She's my niece. She's gonna be
staying with me for a while.

NATALIE
Wow, that is so sweet of you.

Natalie gets up and grabs the wrench from Drew.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
(smiling)
I better get to that shower head.
Thanks for the wrench, Drew.

DREW
(smiling)
You're welcome, Natalie. I'll see you
later.

NATALIE
Bye.
(beat)
Bye, Jamie.

JAMIE
Bye, Natalie.

Natalie flashes Drew one more smile and then heads towards the door. Drew keeps watching until he hears the door shut.

Drew sighs and looks at Jamie whose smiling from ear to ear. Drew sits back down next to Jamie.

DREW
Don't even say it.

Jamie just shakes her head.

INT. JAMIE'S ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Jamie gets in the bed just as Drew comes in. Drew takes a seat at the end of the bed.

DREW

So how is the room? Is it up to your standards? I mean as a financial advisor, it's all I could afford.

JAMIE

Well considering there isn't ten other girls in here, it's pretty good.

Drew attempts to tuck her in and then takes his seat again.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Drew, can I ask you a question?

DREW

Go for it.

JAMIE

How come you're not married? I mean, other than the fact that you hang out with a woman repellent, you seem like a good guy.

Drew laughs.

DREW

I guess I just haven't found the right woman. But that's where you come in.

JAMIE

What do you mean?

DREW

Nothing, forget it. You should get some sleep.

JAMIE

One more thing.

Jamie pulls out a tin box from under the covers.

DREW

Man, I forgot all about these?

JAMIE

I found them under the bed. What are they?

Drew opens the box.

DREW

My old baseball cards.

JAMIE
(excited)
You like baseball? So do I.

DREW
Oh, yeah?

JAMIE
It's my favorite sport.

DREW
Mine too. I used to watch games with my dad. He gave me my first card and I've been collecting them ever since.

JAMIE
I collect them too. I used to play with my dad. He said he met my mom at a baseball game. She hated baseball.

DREW
Well maybe we can play together sometime.

JAMIE
Cool.

Jamie snuggles under the covers as Drew hits the lights.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Drew, could you leave the hallway light on?

DREW
I got you. I'll see you in the morning.

JAMIE
Good night.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Drew is working on his computer. He looks over at his clock. It reads, 2:38am.

Drew closes his computer, reaches up and turns off his lamp. He gets under the covers, finds a spot and settles in, closing his eyes.

After a few moments, Drew's eyes pop back open.

INT. JAMIE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Jamie pulls back the covers and gets out of bed rubbing her eyes. She slowly shuffles out of her room. Drew then hurries in and over to the bed. He frantically searches the covers.

When he can't find her, he gets on his knees and checks under the bed. Jamie returns with a glass of water.

JAMIE

If you're looking for monsters, they usually live in the closet.

Drew gets up trying to catch his breath.

DREW

Where did you go?

JAMIE

(holds up her glass)

To get some water.

DREW

Oh. I just came in here to make sure you were breathing okay because of your asthma and everything.

JAMIE

I'm breathing fine.

DREW

Right. Do you have your inhaler thing?

Jamie holds up her inhaler.

JAMIE

It's right here.

DREW

Alright, so you got your water and your air. You're good to go. Good night.

Drew hurries back out leaving Jamie standing there confused.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Drew sleeps right through his blaring alarm.

Jamie, groggy and yawning, walks in and over to Drew's bed side table and shuts off his alarm and then climbs on the bed.

JAMIE
Drew, wake up.

Drew shifts.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
It's morning. Get up.

DREW
Good morning, Monica. I'll have
pancakes.

JAMIE
(giggles)
No wonder he doesn't have a
girlfriend.

Jamie grabs Drew's alarm clock and turns it on right in his ear. Drew wakes up instantly and Jamie falls back laughing. Drew scrambles and takes the clock from Jamie and turns it off and looks at it.

DREW
Eight o'clock? What are you doing up
so early? It's Saturday. Go back to
sleep.

JAMIE
I got a problem.

Drew tries to go back to sleep.

DREW
Did you have a bad dream?

JAMIE
No.

DREW
Did you wet the bed?

JAMIE
No.

DREW
(drifting off)
Then what's the problem?

Jamie climbs back on top of Drew.

JAMIE
I forgot to pack underwear.

Drew shoots up.

DREW
You forgot to pack underwear? So
what, you don't have any?

JAMIE
Only the ones I'm wearing.

DREW
(sighs)
Alright, let's go.

Jamie jumps off of Drew and runs out the room.

DREW (CONT'D)
(to himself)
This kid better be worth it.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Drew KNOCKS on 418. Jamie stands next to him.

Natalie opens the door, looking even more beautiful. Drew
and Natalie just stare and smile at each other.

JAMIE
Hi, Natalie.

Natalie realizes that Jamie is there.

NATALIE
Hey, Jamie.

DREW
I hate to bother you but--

NATALIE
You're not bothering me.

DREW
I have to run to the store and I was
wondering if you could keep an eye on
Jamie for me?

NATALIE
Of course.

DREW
Okay, I'll be right back.

Drew doesn't move. Jamie notices and helps them out.

JAMIE
Bye, Drew. Bye, Natalie. Jamie, be
good.

Both Drew and Natalie laugh at themselves and Drew finally leaves. Natalie and Jamie go inside.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - GIRL'S SECTION - DAY

Drew frantically searches among racks and racks of little girl's underwear.

DREW
Jesus, where did all these princesses
come from?

A female WORKER walks past.

DREW (CONT'D)
Excuse me, miss.

WORKER
Yes?

DREW
Which princess is the most popular
these days?

WORKER
What?

DREW
My niece needs some underwear and I
don't know which kind to get.

WORKER
Well what size does she wear?

DREW
(thinks)
I have no idea.

WORKER
Well do you at least know how old she
is?

DREW
Of course I know how old she is.

The worker waits.

WORKER
Well how old is she?

DREW
She's ten.

The worker looks at the racks.

WORKER
She's probably a size eight.

DREW
Thanks.

The worker walks away and Drew picks up two different packs of underwear.

DREW (CONT'D)
Now which one of these will she like?

As Drew ponders, a LADY and her DAUGHTER also shop for underwear. Drew watches.

LADY
Can I help you?

DREW
I just wanted to see what kind of underwear you were gonna get for your daughter.

The lady looks at Drew repulsed, grabs her daughter and quickly walks away.

LADY
(yells)
Creep!

Another WOMAN walks by and Drew smiles innocently.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jamie runs in and leaps onto the bed with Drew behind her carrying a shopping bag.

JAMIE
So, did you get them?

DREW
Yes, but I wasn't sure what princess to get, so...

Drew pulls out a pack of underwear.

DREW (CONT'D)
I got you Spider-Man.

JAMIE
(excited)
Cool.

DREW
Alright, now go get dressed.

Jamie grabs her underwear and bounces off the bed and jets out the room. Drew rubs his hands together.

DREW (CONT'D)
Cause we got work to do.

INT. DREW'S TRUCK - DAY

Drew parks his car in a grocery store parking spot and turns it off.

DREW
Jamie, I need you to do me a big favor, but if you don't wanna do it, it's okay.

JAMIE
You want me to act lost to attract women.

DREW
How did you know?

JAMIE
(giggles)
I did it once before for one of my foster brothers.

DREW
(seriously)
Jamie, have you had a lot of foster families?

Jamie looks down and shrugs.

JAMIE
Yeah, a few.
(beat)
So are we gonna do this?

DREW
Only if you're up for it.

JAMIE
Let's go. Cause you need a girlfriend.

They get out the car.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Jamie and Drew are planted in isle 3 ready for action.

JAMIE
Can I have some cookies?

DREW
No.

JAMIE
Why not?

DREW
Because they're not good for you.

JAMIE
But I can't work on a empty stomach.

DREW
No cookies.

JAMIE
Fine, then I want money.

DREW
What?

JAMIE
Twenty bucks or no deal.

DREW
Are you bribing me?

JAMIE
Actually, you're bribing me.

DREW
How would you like it if I told Mrs.
Granger that you're extorting money
from me?

JAMIE
How would you like it if I told Mrs.
Granger that you're pimping kids to
pick up women?

Drew reaches in his pocket, pulls out a twenty and slaps it
in Jamie's hand. Just then a WOMAN strides past.

DREW
Okay, there's our first target.

Drew pulls Jamie down to the end of the isle.

JAMIE
Are you sure this is gonna work?

DREW
Did it work for your foster brother?

JAMIE
No. It got him arrested.

A beat.

DREW
Look, I'm sure it's going to work.
Now remember, lay it on thick.

JAMIE
Okay.

DREW
But not too thick.

JAMIE
Okay.

INSET: ISLE 4

Jamie walks around to the next isle and stands on the other side of the woman.

Drew sticks his head around the corner. The woman's back is towards Drew. He motions Jamie to go ahead and Jamie nods, agreeing. Without hesitation, Jamie bursts into tears.

A few PEOPLE in the isle stop what they're doing, along with the woman, who turns out to be none other than... Rachel. She bends down to Jamie.

RACHEL
What's wrong, sweetie?

JAMIE
(through tears)
I can't find my daddy.

RACHEL
Where did you see him last?

JAMIE
I don't remember. I'm scared.

RACHEL
Don't be scared. I'll help you find your daddy.

Rachel stands up and searches each end of the isle.

JAMIE
I don't want to be like Annie.

RACHEL
Who?

JAMIE
 (more tears)
 I don't want to sing the song.

Drew sticks his head back around the corner, amazed at Jamie's performance.

DREW
 Damn, this kid is good.

Rachel grabs Jamie's hand as she cries and tries to calm her down.

RACHEL
 Don't worry. We'll find him.

Drew ducks back to isle before Rachel sees him.

INSET: FRONT OF STORE

Drew pretends to search for his lost child and then spots Rachel holding Jamie, with her back still towards him. Drew runs to them and continues to pretend to be frantic and concerned.

DREW
 Oh Jamie, there you are.

JAMIE
 Daddy!

As he approaches them, Rachel turns around and Drew stops in his tracks.

DREW
 Rachel?!

RACHEL
 Drew?!

Jamie switches back and forth between their shocked faces.

JAMIE
 You guys know each other?
 (beat)
 This can't be good.

Rachel lets go of Jamie's hand.

RACHEL
 Drew, what the hell is going on?

DREW
 Just doing a little grocery shopping
 with my niece.

JAMIE

I guess you want your twenty bucks back, huh?

DREW

(laughs nervously)

Kids today, always making up games.

Rachel puts two and two together.

RACHEL

Oh my God! You're even more pathetic than I thought.

DREW

Rachel, it's not what you think.

JAMIE

I think she's a little smarter than that, Drew.

Drew quickly clamps his hand over Jamie's mouth.

DREW

Rachel, let me explain.

RACHEL

I think we both know you're not good at explaining things.

DREW

Rachel, please--

JAMIE

Geez Drew, don't beg.

Drew shoots Jamie a look.

RACHEL

(yelling)

Attention everyone!

CUSTOMERS shopping and CUSTOMERS in check out lines stop and give their full attention.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(yelling)

This man right here is using his niece to pick up women.

A few women look at him like he's the scum of the earth as Drew backs up a little terrified.

DREW

No listen, it's not like that.

There's a GUY standing next to Drew.

GUY

Man, I should have thought of that.

An OLD LADY smacks Drew with her purse.

DREW

OW!!

OLD LADY

You sick piece of crap!

RACHEL

That's right ladies, stay away from him.

Just then women start throwing small fruits and vegetables at him. Rachel stands watching and smiling. Both Drew and Jamie try dodging the objects.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Jamie strolls out the automatic doors smiling and eating a box of cookies. Drew comes out behind her with a bag of groceries in one hand and holding his head with the other.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sprawled out on the couch with his head in Jamie's lap, Drew has an ice pack on his face while Jamie eats cookies.

JAMIE

Well at least you didn't get arrested.

DREW

It's such an old trick. It should have worked.

JAMIE

Worked my ass.

DREW

Watch your mouth.

JAMIE

So is Rachel an ex-girlfriend?

DREW

That obvious, huh?

JAMIE

She started a fruit and veggie war
against you. It was very obvious.

DREW

Sorry I made you do that.

JAMIE

It's okay. It was fun.

DREW

I bet it was.

There's a KNOCK on the door as it opens.

SHAUN (O.S.)

Anybody home?

DREW

(painfully)

We're in here.

Shaun enters at a fast pace rubbing his hands together and smiling.

SHAUN

Get out, munchkin. I gotta talk to
Drew.

JAMIE

Why don't you get a dog?

SHAUN

Look dwarf, I--

DREW

Shut up, Shaun.

(beat)

Jamie, you can eat your cookies and
watch TV in my room.

Drew slowly sits up just enough for Jamie to slide off the couch. But before she leaves she sticks her tongue out at Shaun.

SHAUN

Yo Drew, did you see that?

Shaun takes a seat on the coffee table.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

Drew lifts up the ice to answer.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Nevermind. I need you to go out on a
double date with me tonight.

DREW
You know I don't do double dates.

SHAUN
Drew, you owe me.

Drew struggles to sit up.

DREW
Owe you for what?

Shaun shifts to right next to him.

SHAUN
Remember, I had to pretend to be your
boy toy so you could adopt the karate
kid back there. You owe me.

DREW
Fine, I'll go. What does she look
like?

Silence. Drew puts his ice pack down and stares a hole
through Shaun.

DREW (CONT'D)
What does she look like?

SHAUN
She has a nice personality.

Without responding Drew rolls his eyes and puts the ice pack
back on his face.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Jamie lies on the bed watching television with an empty box
of cookies.

JAMIE
Nice personality, huh? That means
she's a dog face.

Drew is in his bathroom checking himself in the mirror and
then swallows a mouthful of mouthwash, swishes it around and
spits it out.

DREW (O.S.)
Now come on, there are plenty of good
looking women with nice
personalities.

Drew comes out of the bathroom and sits next to Jamie and puts on his shoes.

JAMIE

Yeah, but what are the odds you and Shaun would go out on a date with them?

Drew finishes the final touch and stands in front of Jamie and hold out his arms.

DREW

So how do I look?

Jamie sits up and looks him up and down.

JAMIE

Like you need a woman.

DREW

Great, now grab your cookies.

JAMIE

They're gone.

DREW

You ate that whole box of cookies? What are you trying to do, go up a weight class? Come on, let's go.

Jamie stands up on the bed and leaps onto Drew's back. Drew hits the light switch as they leave.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Drew walks down the hall with Jamie on his back. Shaun is behind them looking handsome, holding Jamie's pink bag.

JAMIE

(to Shaun)

Your cologne stinks.

SHAUN

Shut up. You stink.

Drew KNOCKS on Natalie's door.

DREW

Would you two stop? Shaun, act your age.

SHAUN

What about her?

DREW
She is acting her age.

Just then the door swings open, startling everyone.

DREW/JAMIE/SHAUN
Hi, Natalie!

NATALIE
Hi, boys. Hey, Jamie.

DREW
Natalie, I appreciate this so much.

NATALIE
It's no problem, really.

DREW
Well she's already in her pajamas.

Drew takes Jamie's pink bag from Shaun and gives it to Jamie.

DREW (CONT'D)
She's got her inhaler and a movie in her bag.

NATALIE
Got it.

DREW
She should go to sleep afterwards.

NATALIE
Drew, she'll be fine.

SHAUN
Come on, we gotta go.

DREW
Right. Jamie, behave yourself. I'll see you in the morning.

SHAUN
Bye, rugrat.

Jamie sticks her tongue out again.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Drew, she did it again.

Natalie giggles and closes the door.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Drew and Shaun stand in the front of a classy restaurant, where instead of bowls of peanuts, there are candles on the tables. Shaun searches the place while Drew fixes himself one last time.

Shaun gets excited as he spots two SEXY LADIES at the bar, sipping on drinks.

SHAUN
There they go.

DREW
Where?

SHAUN
Over at the bar.

Drew's eyes go to the bar as the sexy ladies wave them over. Drew grins at Shaun very pleased.

DREW
Shaun, you came through.

SHAUN
I know. Okay, calm down. Let's be cool.

Drew and Shaun straighten themselves out and walk smoothly over to the bar.

INT. NATALIE'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Jamie sits in a chair on her knees, holding a spoon waiting impatiently as Natalie sets down a bowl of ice cream in front of her.

NATALIE
Here we go. A triple scoop with chocolate sauce.

Natalie takes her bowl and sits next to Jamie.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
So Jamie, how do you like hanging out with your uncle?

JAMIE
(mouth full)
My uncle?
(thinks)
Oh yeah, my uncle. Uncle Drew is great.

NATALIE
What do you guys do together?

JAMIE
(mouth full)
Lots of things.

Jamie inhales more ice cream. Natalie keeps drilling.

NATALIE
Why were your uncle Drew and Shaun
dressed up tonight?

JAMIE
They were going out to eat.

NATALIE
Oh yeah, with who?

JAMIE
These two women Shaun met at the gym.

Natalie swallows her mouth full of ice cream like a block of ice.

NATALIE
Are you serious?

JAMIE
(laughs)
Yeah, I know. Shaun in a gym.

Natalie gets up and sets her bowl on the counter. Jamie looks up and sees Natalie's face, almost ghost like. She knows she made a big mistake.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Natalie, it was a blind date. Uncle
Drew didn't even wanna go.
(laughs)
We didn't even have to the grocery
store trick.

NATALIE
What grocery store trick?

JAMIE
I have got to stop doing that.

Natalie comes back to the table and takes Jamie's ice cream and holds it in the air.

NATALIE
Jamie, what grocery store trick?

Jamie thinks about it and looks at the bowl of ice cream.

JAMIE

Drew gave me twenty bucks to act lost
in the grocery store to pick up
women.

Natalie's eyes get big as her mouth drops open as she sets
the bowl back down and storms out.

NATALIE

Get your coat.

JAMIE

Man, Drew is gonna kill me.

Jamie takes another bite of ice cream and then jumps off the
kitchen chair and runs after Natalie.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

INSET: TABLE

Shaun and Drew sit across from each other and next to their
dates, eating and drinking. Shaun looks up and notices
something behind Drew.

SHAUN

Drew, is that Natalie?

Drew, along with their dates, turn around and Natalie is
stampeding at them full speed. Drew turns back to Shaun,
both confused.

DREW

What is she doing here?

SHAUN'S DATE

Who is she?

Natalie gets to their table, with Jamie at her heels

NATALIE

So is this what you've been doing
with Jamie, using her to pick up
women?

Jamie smiles and waves at the guys' dates.

JAMIE

Hi, ladies. I'm Jamie.

DREW

Natalie, calm down.

SHAUN

I can't believe you actually tried that.

NATALIE

Shaun, you knew about this?

Shaun shakes his head "no." Drew's date jumps up.

DREW'S DATE

Drew, what is going on?

Jamie stops a WAITER walking by.

JAMIE

Do you guys have any cookies here?

The waiter rolls his eyes and walks away as more PATRONS stop eating and watches the show.

NATALIE

I'll tell you what's going on. Drew paid his niece ten dollars to pretend to be lost in the store to get women.

DREW'S DATE

Is this true?

JAMIE

No.

(beat)

He paid me twenty.

Drew's date smacks her lips, grabs her purse and leaves. Shaun's date leaves behind her.

SHAUN

Wait baby, what I do?

Shaun jumps up to go after his date.

DREW

Natalie, please let me explain.

NATALIE

Explain it to someone who cares.

(beat)

Goodbye, Drew.

Natalie scurry's off, while Drew puts his head in his hands. Jamie puts her hand on his back, comforting, but not for long.

JAMIE

So can I get some cookies or what?

People go back to eating and dining.

INT. DREW'S TRUCK - THE NEXT DAY

Drew pulls up in front of Jamie's school and turns off the car.

JAMIE

I'm really sorry about last night Drew, but Natalie tricked me with ice cream.

DREW

It's okay. It was wrong for me to ask you to do that. So I'm sorry, too.

JAMIE

It's cool.

DREW

Good. Let's go.

Drew gets out the car while Jamie takes off her seat belt. He opens the passenger door and Jamie gets out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Drew and Jamie approach her classroom as he bends down.

JAMIE

You know why Natalie got so mad at you, don't you?

DREW

Why?

JAMIE

Because she likes you.

DREW

Did she tell you that?

JAMIE

No. I can just tell.

DREW

Well if she did, I don't think she likes me anymore.

JAMIE

Man, you could cut the sexual tension between you two with a knife.

DREW
I see Shaun is rubbing off on you.

JAMIE
You should try asking her out.

DREW
I'm sure she'd laugh in my face.

JAMIE
Probably, but at least you would've tried.

DREW
I'll think about it.

Drew then quickly changes the subject.

DREW (CONT'D)
You got your inhaler?

JAMIE
(holds it up)
Got it right here.

DREW
I'll be back later to pick you up.

JAMIE
Okay.

Drew stands up as Jamie goes in her classroom. Drew watches to make sure she gets in just as a pretty, female TEACHER with papers and books and glasses on, bumps right into Drew.

TEACHER
Oh my God. I am so sorry.

DREW
No, I'm sorry. I was in your way.

They both bend down to pick up the papers as students shuffle by to get to class. They stand up together holding the same book. No one lets go as they smile flirtatiously.

DREW (CONT'D)
(SOTTO)
Jamie, you have done it again.

INT. JAMIE'S CLASS - DAY

Jamie stands at the back of the classroom, along with Scottie and a few other kids from the group home.

JAMIE

I even get my own room.

CLASSMATE

You're so lucky.

Vic storms up, pushing some kids out of his way. Of course his sidekick follows.

VIC

Well if it isn't Cinderella.

SCOTTIE

Well if it isn't the jerk.

Vic gives Scottie the glare.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

VIC

So did that carriage turn into a pumpkin yet?

JAMIE

I don't know. The only pumpkin I see is your head.

A few kids laugh.

VIC

You think you're so funny.

JAMIE

I'd rather be funny than stupid.

VIC

You're stupid. I'm not stupid.

JAMIE

Oh yeah, then how come you're repeating the fifth grade?

Vic pulls back his fist. Jamie doesn't flinch. The bell RINGS as Vic backs down and they disperse to their seats. Jamie grins.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - A WEEK LATER

Drew is typing while Shaun leans back with his feet on Drew's desk.

SHAUN

Did you really ask out Jamie's teacher?

DREW
(stops typing)
I told you, she isn't Jamie's
teacher.

SHAUN
How did you even meet her?

DREW
She ran into me in the hallway and
she is perfect. We've been talking
every night. She likes the same music
and movies as me. We have so much in
common.

SHAUN
And you didn't even have to use
Jamie. Well not directly.

DREW
I thought we weren't gonna talk about
that again.

SHAUN
(laughing)
Man, Natalie was so mad the other
night. I thought she was gonna hit
you for sure.

DREW
Why do you have to be such an
asshole?

SHAUN
I'm sorry, but that's what you get
for using that little girl.
(beat)
And what's the deal with you and
Natalie, anyway?

DREW
Jamie seems to think she likes me.

SHAUN
Of course she does and you like her.

DREW
What makes you think that?

SHAUN
You guys have been flirting with each
other since she moved in down the
hall from you. I've always wondered
why you never made a move.

DREW

I don't know. Guess I never thought I had a shot with her.

SHAUN

(laughing)

I mean, you probably don't. So you're better off with the teacher.

Shaun stops laughing and takes his feet off the desk.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

But seriously, are you gonna take Jamie back now?

Drew gets caught of guard.

DREW

What do you mean?

SHAUN

I mean, you say you found your perfect woman. So you can return Jamie to the group home, right?

DREW

Return her? Shaun, she's not a purchase.

SHAUN

Oh, no?

DREW

No, she's not.

SHAUN

You know how when you go to the store and you try on a shirt and it doesn't fit? What do you do with it?

DREW

(oblivious)

You put it back. What's your point?

SHAUN

Right, you put it back. That's exactly what you're doing with Jamie.

DREW

Shaun, that's not how it is.

SHAUN

I'm serious, Drew. You tried it out and now that you got what you want, so you don't need her anymore.

Shaun stands up.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
She doesn't fit.

Shaun leaves Drew thinking.

INT. DREW'S TRUCK - DAY

Jamie gets herself settled in her seat belt while Drew tosses her book bag in the back seat.

JAMIE
Look what I made for you.

DREW
What's that?

Jamie hands him a picture.

INSET: PICTURE

It's a picture of her and Drew with a dog.

DREW (CONT'D)
Wow, this is really good.

JAMIE
You like it?

DREW
I love it. But this dog looks an awful lot like Shaun.

JAMIE
(giggles)
I know.

Drew sets the picture down on the console.

DREW
Jamie, how would you feel if I went out on a date with a teacher from your school?

JAMIE
You mean, Ms. Morgan?

DREW
How did you know?

JAMIE
Because she's always talking about you to her friends at lunch.

DREW

Really?

JAMIE

Yeah, and the fact that everyone saw you two starring at each other in the hallway when you met.

DREW

Nice.

(beat)

Now, who am I gong to get to watch you?

Drew and Jamie exchange glances.

INT. LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Shaun and Jamie sit side by side with their arms folded. Drew stands before them dressed to impress.

DREW

Okay, now I want you to be good while I'm gone.

SHAUN

(looks at Jamie)

You hear that?

DREW

You Shaun. I want you to be good while I'm gone.

Jamie gives Shaun a grin.

DREW (CONT'D)

Now, she is not allowed to have any cookies. No matter what she says.

SHAUN

Alright man, go have fun.

DREW

Okay, how do I look?

SHAUN & JAMIE

Good.

DREW

Alright, see you guys later.

Drew leaves and Jamie waits until they hear the door SHUT.

JAMIE

Can I have some cookies?

SHAUN

Yeah.

They get up.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Drew and Ms. Morgan sit at their candle lit table eating and talking to each other. Ms. Morgan continues with their conversation while Drew drifts away to another table not listening.

INSET: TABLE

We see a MOTHER and FATHER with their DAUGHTER. A few waiters come out holding a birthday cake. They set it in front of her and sing to her.

The little girl smiles wide as she blows out her candles and then jumps into her father's arm and squeezes him tight. The restaurant claps. Drew stares at their celebration.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Drew finds Natalie in his living room, watching TV. Jamie and Shaun are passed out. There are empty pizza boxes and cookie bags lying around.

DREW

What are you doing here?

NATALIE

I wanted to check on them and I found them sleep. They're cute aren't they?

DREW

Yeah, they're adorable.

NATALIE

How was your date?

DREW

It was good.

NATALIE

Good.

(beat)

Well, I'll leave them to you.

DREW

Thanks Natalie, for keeping an eye on them.

NATALIE
Have a good night, Drew.

Natalie leaves.

INT. JAMIE'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Drew sits on the floor next to Jamie's bed, while she's sleeping. Jamie's hand hangs out the covers. Drew softly touches her hand.

Then he takes her hand and puts back under the cover. Drew sighs and picks up the phone that was sitting next him. Drew gets up and leans against the door frame still watching Jamie.

He dials.

INT. JAMIE'S ROOM/MRS. GRANGER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The scene INTERCUTS between Drew in Jamie's room and Mrs. Granger in her office. Mrs. Granger's phone is RINGING. She answers.

DREW
Mrs. Granger, it's Drew Parker.

MRS. GRANGER
Mr. Parker, how is everything?

DREW
Everything is fine.
(beat)
Listen, I wanted to talk to you about Jamie--

MRS. GRANGER
Ready to bring her back already?

DREW
Excuse me?

MRS. GRANGER
I can't say that I blame you. I was expecting this.

DREW
You were?

MRS. GRANGER
Of course I was. You're not the first person to bring her back.

Drew's face drops.

MRS. GRANGER (CONT'D)
It's okay, Mr. Parker. Nobody wants a
problem child.

Drew looks over at Jamie peacefully sleeping.

MRS. GRANGER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Just bring her back and we'll take
her off your hands.

Drew hangs up the phone.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Drew KNOCKS on the door and opens it a little. PRINCIPAL
WHITE, a man in his 50's, with glasses, sits behind his
desk.

Jamie sits in the middle chair in front of his desk
breathing in and out and a BOY, her same age, sits next to
her.

PRINCIPAL WHITE
Please come in Mr. Parker.

Drew enters a little frantic.

DREW
Jamie, are you okay?

PRINCIPAL WHITE
I called the group home, but they
told me she was under your care.

Drew sits next to Jamie and helps her with her inhaler. He
holds it while she breathes deeply.

DREW
Mr. White, what happened?

PRINCIPAL WHITE
Apparently another child pushed Jamie
into a locker.

DREW
(to the boy)
She hit you?

PRINCIPAL WHITE
Jamie didn't hit anybody.

JAMIE
I was going to, but this kid hit him
first.

DREW
 (to the boy)
 Who are you, her body guard?

PRINCIPAL WHITE
 I just called Jamie in here to tell
 me the story.

DREW
 So you didn't hit anybody?

JAMIE
 (smiles wide)
 Nope.

DREW
 Alright, give me some.

Drew and Jamie high five each other as they get up to leave.

DREW (CONT'D)
 (to the boy)
 Hey man, you lucky you didn't catch
 one from her.

INT. OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Drew and Jamie come out of Principal White's office and there's another BOY, also Jamie's age, sitting next to the secretary's desk. The secretary is not at her desk. The boy is holding an ice pack on his nose.

DREW
 Is that the boy who pushed you?

JAMIE
 Yeah, that's him.

Drew looks around to make sure no one is watching before he walks over to the boy.

DREW
 Hey kid, how's your head?

The boy takes the ice pack down, confused.

BOY
 Huh?

Just then, Jamie SMACKS him in his forehead and his entire head goes back and BANGS against the wall.

BOY (CONT'D)
 (crying)
 Ow!!

Drew and Jamie laugh and high five each other again as they run out of the office.

INT. DREW'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Drew and Jamie come walking down the hallway.

DREW
I'm really proud that you didn't
fight that kid.

JAMIE
Man, I wanted to.

Natalie is walking up to her apartment. Jamie runs over to her.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Hi, Natalie.

NATALIE
Hey Jamie, how have you been?

Natalie's smile fade as she sees Drew.

DREW
What's up, Natalie?

NATALIE
Hello, Drew.

They have a stare down.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Jamie, I'll see you later.

Natalie's eyes never leaving Drew.

JAMIE
Bye, Natalie.

Natalie goes inside her apartment and shuts the door. Drew and Jamie continue down the hall.

DREW
She definitely still hates me.

JAMIE
Yeah, she does.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Drew and Jamie lounge in their pajamas eating cookies out the same box, staring at the television. Drew glances over at Jamie.

DREW
Hey, you want to go to work with me tomorrow?

JAMIE
But I have to go to school.

DREW
You can skip just one day.

JAMIE
(smiling)
Cool.

Jamie reaches into the box and pulls out nothing. She holds the box up to her eye.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Drew, did you eat the last cookie?

DREW
(swallows)
No.

Jamie jumps up and stands on the bed facing Drew and points at him.

JAMIE
Don't you know that cookies aren't good for you?!

DREW
Oh, I got your cookie.

Drew grabs Jamie and slams her down on the bed, making her laugh.

INT. OUTER OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

DING. Drew and Jamie walk out the elevator, striding in sync. They approach Drew's secretary, MARGARET'S desk. Jamie can't see over the desk.

DREW
Margaret, were there any calls for me?

MARGARET
No, Mr. Parker.

JAMIE

Hi.

Margaret leans over the desk to see Jamie.

MARGARET

Well, who are you?

JAMIE

I'm Jamie. Drew's niece.

MARGARET

Well isn't that nice?

Jamie smiles up at Drew and winks at him. He smiles and winks back.

DREW

Margaret, can you bring the files from the Abernathy case into my office?

MARGARET

Yes, Mr. Parker.

Drew and Jamie head to Drew's office.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - DAY

Drew goes behind his desk and turns on his computer and sits down.

JAMIE

You have a nice office.

DREW

Thank you.

JAMIE

Looks better than your apartment.

DREW

(sarcastically)

Thanks.

Jamie walks behind Drew's desk and notices he taped her picture up.

JAMIE

Hey, this is my picture. You hung it up?

DREW

Of course I hung it up. It's a beautiful picture.

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)
(looks down)
Tie your shoe.

Jamie bends down a second before Shaun comes in. The two share an awkward silence.

DREW (CONT'D)
Hey.

SHAUN
Hey.

DREW
How's it going?

SHAUN
Good.

Tension sits between them.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
So, I got some notes we need to go over.

DREW
Alright, let's hear them.

As soon as Shaun sits down, Jamie pops up from behind the desk.

JAMIE
Hi, Shaun.

Shaun jumps and falls right out his seat. He gets up, composing himself.

SHAUN
What is she doing here?

DREW
We're hanging out today.

JAMIE
Yeah, we're hanging out today.

SHAUN
Well you better not let Mr. Lovelette see her.

Just then, MR. LOVELETTE, an elderly man with glasses and greying hair, walks in and Drew pushes down on Jamie's head and stands up quickly. Shaun turns around.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Mr. Lovelette, how are you doing today, sir?

MR. LOVELETTE

Just fine, Harris. Parker, I hope you two are ready for the presentation on Friday.

DREW

Of course, sir. Everything is ready to go.

Drew struggles to keep Jamie down.

MR. LOVELETTE

Good because I'm looking forward to you and Harris' group the most.

SHAUN

Thank you, sir.

MR. LOVELETTE

Alright, get back to work.

DREW

Yes, sir.

Mr. Lovelette leaves and Jamie rises once again.

SHAUN

I got a lunch meeting to get to. I'll let you know about those notes later.

DREW

Cool.

JAMIE

Bye, Shaun.

SHAUN

Bye, midget.

Shaun walks out and Margaret walks in with a stack of files and plops them down on Drew's desk.

MARGARET

Here are those files you wanted on the Abernathy case.

DREW

Thank you, Margaret.

Drew picks up a file folder and hands it to Margaret.

DREW (CONT'D)

Can you make copies of these please?

MARGARET

Yes, Mr. Parker.

JAMIE
Can I help?

MARGARET
Sure Jamie, come on.

Jamie grabs Margaret's hand. Drew picks up his phone and dials.

DREW
Jamie, be good.

Jamie and Margaret leave.

FLIP TO:

INT. DREW'S OFFICE

Jamie and Margaret come back in. This time Margaret carries a bag with a dead fish in it. Drew hangs up the phone as Jamie stands in front of him looking real guilty.

JAMIE
Drew, I swear that fish was dead already.

DREW
You're going to school tomorrow.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jamie is doing her homework. Drew is sorting through mail.

JAMIE
Are you still mad at me?

DREW
Yes, Jamie. I am.

Jamie looks down, sad and then quickly--

JAMIE
Drew, I'm really sorry. I swear.

DREW
Jamie, why do you do things you know are going to get you in trouble?

JAMIE
I don't know. I don't mean to. Sometimes, I can't help it.

Drew sighs.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Are you going to take me back now?

DREW

No, of course not. Is that why you act bad sometimes, so you'll get taken back?

JAMIE

Sometimes it's just easier to get taken back in the beginning before I get too used to a family.

Beat.

DREW

Finish your homework.

INT. GYM - THE NEXT MORNING

Drew and Shaun are in his apartment building gym. Drew is working out. Shaun is watching women work out.

SHAUN

So she killed the fish?

DREW

Yes.

SHAUN

How in the world did she kill the fish?

DREW

I have no idea.

SHAUN

I told you she was the spawn of Satan.

DREW

Cut it out, Shaun. She's just a kid. I just didn't know how hard it was going to be.

SHAUN

What? Raising a kid?

Shaun smiles at a WOMAN who walked past him.

DREW

Yeah.

SHAUN

Well what did you think? It's a whole human. You thought it was going to be easy?

Drew sits up on the bench.

DREW

I didn't think it was going to be easy. But I just didn't think Jamie would make it this hard. She's just so scared.

SHAUN

Of what?

DREW

Being hurt. She puts on this tough exterior so she doesn't have to get close to anyone. She's afraid everyone is going to leave her. She's a scared kid thinking no one wants her.

SHAUN

(shaking his head)

And here you are using her.

Shaun watches another WOMAN do squats in the mirror. Shaun's head goes up and down with her.

DREW

I don't know why I work out with you.

SHAUN

I never noticed how many beautiful women live in your building. I need to hang out here more often.

DREW

You're already here too much.

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - LATER THAT DAY

Drew and Jamie sit at the counter both eating ice cream cones.

DREW

I haven't had an ice cream cone since I was a kid.

JAMIE

Didn't you just work out this morning?

DREW
Yeah, that was stupid.

Shaun comes walking out from the bathroom wiping his shirt with a paper towel. He sits next to Jamie.

JAMIE
Sorry, Shaun.

SHAUN
(mocking)
Sorry, Shaun. Do you know how much this shirt cost?

JAMIE
Too much.

DREW
Remember when I said we should play baseball together?

Jamie eats and shakes her head.

DREW (CONT'D)
Well there's a park by the house. You wanna go hit a few?

JAMIE
(excited)
Yeah! (BEAT) Shaun, you wanna come with us?

Shaun looks up from wiping his shirt and stares at Jamie. That's a no.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Jamie stands at the plate with a helmet and bat. Drew gets ready on the mound with a bucket of balls at his feet. Shaun stands in the outfield with his arms folded and yawns.

DREW
Now, if you don't hit this first one, it's okay?

Drew softly pitches the ball and Jamie cracks it to left field. Shaun stands there and watches it go over his head, not making a move to go after it.

Drew stares in amazement at Jamie. She just stands there and shrugs her shoulders.

DREW (CONT'D)
Okay. Well if you don't get this next one, it's okay too.

LATER

Jamie joins Drew out on the mound.

DREW (CONT'D)
 Alright, we got all the balls. You
 wanna go again?

JAMIE
 Yeah.

Drew stands up and notices Natalie walking towards them.
 Jamie smiles.

DREW
 What's Natalie doing here?

JAMIE
 I called her.

DREW
 When?

JAMIE
 When I went to the bathroom. I
 figured you guys might want to see
 each other. (BEAT) You should really
 keep a lock on your phone.

Natalie gets to them.

NATALIE
 Hey, guys.

DREW/JAMIE
 Hey, Natalie.

DREW
 We were just hitting a few around.

NATALIE
 Mind if I watch?

DREW
 (grinning)
 Not at all.
 (beat)
 Hey Jamie, how about we ask those
 kids over there if they wanna play?

JAMIE
 Cool.

There is a crowd of KIDS playing by the field.

DREW
(calling out)

Hey!

The kids look up and run over to the field. Everyone gathers around the mound.

DREW (CONT'D)
You guys wanna get a game going?

KIDS
(yelling)
Yeah!!

DREW
Alright, everybody grab a position.
Jamie, you're up to bat.

The kids including Jamie, cheer in excitement as they spread out on the field. Natalie goes to the dugout to watch. And the game goes on.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - LATE THAT NIGHT

It's getting dark and all the kids are gone. Drew and Natalie gather up the equipment, while Jamie gets baseballs from the field. She runs to them.

DREW
You ready?

JAMIE
Yeah. Where did Shaun go?

ANGLE ON:

DUG OUT

They stand at the dug out, watching Shaun sleep on the bench.

INT. JAMIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Drew tucks Jamie in. Natalie watches.

NATALIE
You're really good with her.

DREW
She's growing on me.

NATALIE

It's really amazing to see you step up to the plate and take care of your niece.

DREW

(realizing)

Right. My niece. (BEAT) That's what family is for.

Drew gazes at Jamie.

NATALIE

Family is important.

DREW

It sure is. We were in the store the other day and she was just an isle over and for a split second, I thought she was gone. Scared the hell out of me.

NATALIE

Well it's a good thing she has you looking out for her. She's pretty lucky.

DREW

I think I'm the lucky one.

Drew switches his gaze to Natalie. She's gotten closer to him. They both lean in for a passionately heated kiss. A long time coming kiss.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

SHAUN

You kissed her?!

Drew, Shaun and Jamie are having lunch.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Oh and thank you for leaving me sleep on the field.

JAMIE

We left you sleep in the dugout.

SHAUN

Whatever. So you and Natalie finally kissed? I figured you and her would be further along, but I'll take it.

JAMIE

Yup and you missed it.

SHAUN

Time out. How did little orphan Annie get to see and I didn't?

DREW

Yeah, I thought you were sleep.

JAMIE

Kids are never sleep

(beat)

Can I have a soda?

Drew hands Jamie a dollar.

DREW

Come right back.

SHAUN

Don't kill any fish while you're gone.

DREW

Shut up, Shaun.

Jamie leaves.

SHAUN

Well I'm proud of you.

DREW

For what?

SHAUN

First the hot teacher from Jamie's school--

DREW

We've only had a couple of dates.
It's not like we're getting married.

SHAUN

And now Natalie, the sweet neighbor from down the hall. The kid is definitely doing her job.

DREW

Look, can you still take Jamie home while I go to my appointment?

SHAUN

Yes, I can bring the minion home.

DREW

Thank you.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - LATER

Drew walks into his room tired and falls backwards on his bed. Suit jacket in one arm and briefcase in the other.

The phone RINGS. Drew groans loudly.

DREW
I'm not home.

Drew pulls himself up. The phone RINGS again.

DREW (CONT'D)
Hang up.

Drew goes into his bathroom and turns on the shower. The phone RINGS once again. Drew SLAMS his bathroom door shut.

INT. KITCHEN

An answering machine sits on the counter with a red flashing light. The front door opens and Jamie and Shaun walk into the kitchen. Jamie of course is eating cookies. Shaun tosses her book bag on the table.

SHAUN
(calling out)
Drew, where are you? I picked up your little cookie monster from school.

Shaun notices the answering machine and hops up on the counter.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Looks like Drew has a new message.

JAMIE
That's an invasion of privacy. You can't listen to that.

SHAUN
Shut up and eat your cookies.

JAMIE
You shut up.

SHAUN
(sotto)
Lord, I've never hit a child before.

Shaun pushes the red button.

MRS. GRANGER (V.O.)

Mr. Parker, it's Mrs. Granger. I'm happy to hear you've decided to officially adopt Jamie. I was so sure you were going to bring her back. I'm so glad you changed your mind. Well, we still have a lot of papers to go through and sign. So please call me first thing in the morning.

Stunned and surprised, Shaun looks at Jamie, who looks like she's ready to cry. Drew walks into the kitchen in a robe and drying his hair with a towel.

DREW

Hey, when did you guys get here?

Jamie turns and stares at Drew, with tears and rage.

JAMIE

You were going to take me back?!

DREW

(confused)

What?

Jamie jumps up on a chair so she's level to Drew.

JAMIE

You asshole! You were going to take me back, weren't you?!

DREW

Jamie, just calm down and get off the chair.

SHAUN

Were you really gonna take her back?

DREW

Yes.

(quickly)

But then I changed my mind.

JAMIE

You changed your mind?

Natalie walks into the kitchen.

NATALIE

The door was open and I heard yelling. Is everything okay?

DREW

Yes, Natalie.

JAMIE

No Natalie, it isn't. Why don't you tell her?

Shaun hops off the counter.

SHAUN

Yeah Drew, why don't you tell her?

Drew shoots Shaun a look.

NATALIE

Tell me what?

JAMIE

That I'm not his niece.

DREW

Jamie!

JAMIE

I'm a foster kid. Drew was just temporarily renting me so he could meet women, and now he's taking me back.

Natalie can't believe what she's hearing.

NATALIE

(to Drew)

Is this true?

SHAUN

Yeah Natalie, it's true.

DREW

Shaun!

SHAUN

Drew, I told you this wasn't right from the beginning. I told you it was a bad idea.

Jamie directs her anger to Shaun.

JAMIE

(yelling)

You knew what he was doing?

Jamie is face to face with Drew.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I want you to take me back to the group home in the morning.

Jamie jumps off the chair.

DREW
Jamie, let me explain.

JAMIE
I don't need an explanation. I've
been down this road before.

Jamie coldly walks away. Drew just stands there. Shaun and Natalie just look at him.

INT. DREW'S CAR - THE NEXT MORNING

Drew drives quietly. Jamie sits in the passenger seat trying not to cry.

EXT. GRANGER GROUP HOME

Drew pulls up to the group home and gets out the car. He goes to the other side and gets Jamie's bags from the back seat. Kevin is waiting for them and grabs Jamie's bags.

Then Drew opens Jamie's door and helps her out. He kneels down in front of her for one last plead.

DREW
I just want to explain everything.

JAMIE
Drew, I get it. I'm an orphan. I'm
used to getting dropped back off.

Jamie gives him one last stare and walks towards Kevin. Drew watches her walk away.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE

Drew sits in his chair. Margaret comes in.

MARGARET
Good morning, Mr. Parker. No Jamie
today?

DREW
(sulking)
No, she's at school today.

MARGARET
Well everything is set up for your
conference call.

Drew doesn't respond so Margaret just turns to leave. She slowly closes his door.

INT. GROUP HOME - GIRLS'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Jamie slowly unpacks her bag with Scottie sitting on her bed.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Drew stares at Jamie's picture. Just then, there's a KNOCK on his door. Drew sits up and Shaun walks in.

SHAUN
How you doing?

DREW
Not good.

Shaun sits in one of the chairs in front of Drew's desk.

SHAUN
You really miss her, don't you?

DREW
Of course I miss her.

SHAUN
So what are you going to do?

DREW
What can I do? This morning she wouldn't even talk to me.

SHAUN
So that's it? You're going to let her get adopted by someone else?

DREW
Shaun, you didn't even want me to adopt her.

SHAUN
That's because you were being selfish. But if you're serious, you should do something about it.

Drew glances up at Shaun. Ben KNOCKS on the door and walks in.

BEN
You two ready for the meeting?

Drew looks down at his watch and him and Shaun jump.

DREW
Damn, I almost forgot.

Drew grabs some papers off his desk and they run out.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - THAT AFTERNOON

Kids swing and play on the monkey bars. Jamie is on the baseball field. She walks to the plate and waits for the pitch.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

Ben, Shaun and Drew all take a seat around a huge conference table, with other EXECUTIVES, just as Mr. Lovelette walks in.

MR. LOVELETTE

Hope you boys have your presentation ready.

SHAUN

Yes sir, we do. Right, Drew?

Drew doesn't respond. He stares off into space. Shaun gives a nervous smile to Mr. Lovelette.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Drew?

DREW

(snapping out of it)
Oh, of course. We're ready, sir.

MR. LOVELETTE

That's what I like to hear.

Shaun hits Drew in his shoulder.

SHAUN

Are you going to be alright?

Drew looks at Shaun and then at Ben.

DREW

Yeah, I'm fine.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - SAME TIME

The pitcher throws with all his might, but as usual Jamie hits it out of the park. Jamie then takes off running, rounding every base with the quickness.

Jamie reaches home plate. She stops and puts her hands on her knees, having a hard time breathing. A few kids run up to her cheering.

While they jump and shout, Jamie holds her chest searching for her inhaler. She looks down her shirt and realizes she doesn't have her inhaler and looks through all her pockets.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

Ben, Drew, and Shaun stand in front of the entire room full of executives and give their presentation.

Ben speaks first while Drew stands beside him trying to look interested.

INT. JAMIE'S CLASS - SAME TIME

The kids pour back in the class from recess. Jamie searches through her desk.

Jamie panics as Scottie is still excited about the game. Jamie, breathing frantically, searches through her book bag.

Jamie holds her chest as it goes in and out. Scottie, realizing that something's wrong, runs to get the teacher. Within seconds Jamie falls to the ground.

The teacher and a few students hover over Jamie. The teacher tells Scottie to get help. Scottie runs out the room while the teacher holds Jamie's head.

EXT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

Ben's part of the presentation is over. Shaun is speaking. While presenting Shaun stops and reaches back toward Drew with his hand out.

Drew reaches into his jacket pocket. He looks over at Ben and then over at Shaun, who still has his hand out and he pulls out Jamie's inhaler.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Drew is closing Jamie's lunch box and grabs her inhaler sitting next to it and sticks it in his suit pocket.

END MONTAGE

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - PRESENT

Shaun smiles nervously at the executives and slowly walks over to Drew. Ben continues to smile.

SHAUN

Drew, what is wrong with you?

DREW

I have Jamie's inhaler.

SHAUN

That's great. You can give it to her later. After the presentation.

DREW

No Shaun, you don't understand. She can't breathe without it.

Ben shuffles over to them.

BEN

Are you guys finished whispering? Because we have a room full of very important businessmen who didn't come to hear you two have girl talk.

SHAUN

I'm finished.

They look at Drew who looks at them.

DREW

Yeah, I'm finished.

Shaun and Ben have a sigh of relief and put back on their corporate smiles. Drew looks down at Jamie's inhaler and grips it tight.

DREW (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Damn right I'm finished.

Drew then hurries past everyone and out of the conference room. Mr. Lovelette stands up shocked.

MR. LOVELETTE

What is the meaning of this?

Shaun and Ben glance at each other.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Drew runs through the hall of Jamie's school and into her classroom.

INT. JAMIE'S CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Drew stops dead in his tracks and just stares at Jamie's empty seat. The kids along with the teacher look up.

INT. JAMIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Jamie sits up in her bed playing cards with DR. SPENCER.

DR. SPENCER

I can't believe you beat me again.

JAMIE

I told you Spades was my game.

(beat)

How about another?

KNOCK. Jamie looks up and Dr. Spencer turns around. Drew cautiously walks in. The doctor smiles and turns to Jamie.

DR. SPENCER

We'll play another game later.

Dr. Spencer gets up and approaches Drew with his hand out.

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)

You must be Drew Parker.

(they shake hands)

I'm Dr. Spencer. I've been looking after Jamie.

DREW

Nice to meet you.

(beat)

You mind if I have a minute with her?

DR. SPENCER

Of course. I'll leave you two alone.

Dr. Spencer leaves. Drew turns towards Jamie and smiles. He holds out her inhaler.

DREW

I found your inhaler.

Jamie holds the one up around her neck.

JAMIE

I got a new one.

Drew eases down on Jamie's bed.

DREW

Jamie, listen--

JAMIE
Drew, I've been adopted.

DREW
(surprised)
You've been adopted?
(beat)
When?

JAMIE
This morning.

DREW
(confused)
This morning?

JAMIE
When you dropped me off this morning,
Mrs. Granger already had parents
waiting who wanted to adopt me.

DREW
So that's it? You're adopted?

JAMIE
Yeah. You're off the hook.

Drew is silent.

DREW
Well I have to get back to work. I
hope you'll be happy with your new
family.

JAMIE
Thanks, Drew.

Drew gives a small smile and bends down and kisses Jamie on her forehead. Drew goes to leave but when he gets to the door and turns back around.

DREW
You want your old inhaler?

JAMIE
No, you can keep it.

Drew slowly turns and leaves. Jamie lays back in her bed.

INT. DREW'S BUILDING - HALLWAY

Drew stands outside Natalie's door, staring at it. He raises his hand to knock, and then puts it down and decides to walk away. After a few moments, he comes back and knocks.

No answer. As Drew walks away, the door opens and there stands Natalie. Drew is frozen.

NATALIE
Can I help you?

DREW
Hey, Natalie.

NATALIE
What is it, Drew?

DREW
Natalie, I'm... I'm...

Natalie waits.

DREW (CONT'D)
Natalie, I'm sorry. I'm sorry for
lying to you. I'm just sorry.

NATALIE
What you did was really messed up.

DREW
I know it was and I never meant for
anyone to get hurt. I was being
selfish and was only thinking about
myself.

Natalie softens up a little and steps out of her apartment.

NATALIE
So what happens to Jamie now?

DREW
She's already been adopted.

NATALIE
What?

DREW
Yeah, it sucks.

NATALIE
You okay?

DREW
Not at all.

NATALIE
Well if you ever want to talk, you're
welcome to come over any time.

DREW
Are you hitting on me?

NATALIE
(laughs)
You're unbelievable.

They smile and stare at each other.

DREW
Thanks, Natalie.

NATALIE
You're welcome, Drew.

INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Drew sits on the floor and tosses all his pictures in the trash. He pulls out Jamie's inhaler and stares at it. Then picks up his phone, dials and waits.

DREW
(into phone)
Mrs. Granger, I'm so glad I caught
you. Listen, I know it's late but...

FADE TO BLACK.

SUBTITLE: ONE YEAR LATER

FADE IN:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

School bell RINGS.

Kids emerge from the school and scatter into different directions. Some begin walking home, some are getting picked up by their parents and others just hang around.

Jamie, Scottie and a group of kids come out of the school.

JAMIE
Alright, I'll see you guys later.

Just then Vic walks by Jamie and Scottie.

VIC
Bye, Jamie.

JAMIE
See you later, Vic.

Jamie and Scottie sit on the steps.

VIC
(yelling)
Hey, Jamie!

Jamie and Scottie look up and see Vic standing by his DAD.

VIC (CONT'D)
Don't forget, it's your dad's turn to
bring snacks to the game this
weekend.

JAMIE
Alright. I'll see you Saturday.

Vic smiles and him and his dad get in the car.

SCOTTIE
You and Vic being friends still
scares me.

JAMIE
It's all good, Scottie.

SCOTTIE
Well, there goes my mom. I'll see you
later.

Scottie hops off the steps and runs towards his mom's car.
She rolls the window down.

JAMIE
Bye, Scottie.

SCOTTIE'S MOM
Jamie, do you have a ride home?

JAMIE
Yeah, my dad's on his way.

Jamie continues waiting.

INT. DREW'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Drew is in a panic. He's trying to find his keys, just as
Shaun comes in.

SHAUN
Are you ready? She's waiting for you.

DREW
I'm ready. Let's go.

Drew finds them and runs past Shaun who just shakes his head
and smiles.

INT. DREW'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Drew drives while talking on his cell phone.

DREW
(into phone)
Tell her I'm on my way.

Drew hangs up his phone and tosses it in the passenger seat.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LATER

Jamie sits on the steps waiting. After a few seconds of looking around, her eyes focus on what's in front of her and she's not happy.

JAMIE
Shaun, what are you doing here?

We see Shaun walks up to Jamie and kneels down in front of her.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Where's my dad? I thought he was picking me up.

SHAUN
He was. But he had to stop somewhere.

JAMIE
Where?

SHAUN
I'll tell you in the car.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD - LATER

Shaun and Jamie walk up to the desk and Shaun says a few words to the NURSE. Jamie looks to her left and smiles wide.

JAMIE
There he is!

Jamie takes off running down the hallway. She runs under a sign that says "Maternity."

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Dad!

Drew, with his back turned hears Jamie and turns around. Drew smiles and they hug.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
Dad, what's going on? Where's mom?

DREW
She's right in here. She's been
waiting for you.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Drew walks in the room holding Jamie's hand. Natalie is sitting up in a hospital bed.

JAMIE
Hi, mom.

NATALIE
Hi, baby.

Jamie slowly gets on the bed next to Natalie.

JAMIE
So, where is he?

DREW
I'll go get him.

Drew leaves just as Shaun comes in with diapers.

NATALIE
More diapers?

SHAUN
Apparently, when you have a baby, you
get diapers.

Drew comes in carrying a small bundle wrapped in a blue blanket. He brings the baby over to Jamie and lowers him so she can see him.

JAMIE
Wow! He can fit inside my mitt. Can I
hold him?

DREW
Sure. Sit back.

Natalie helps position Jamie so she can hold the baby. Drew lays the baby down on Jamie's lap. Natalie helps her hold him.

SHAUN
Aww, isn't that sweet. The rugrat
holding the baby rugrat.

DREW
Shut up, Shaun.

JAMIE
So, what's his name?

DREW
(proudly)
Drew Parker, Jr.

JAMIE
You couldn't think of anything better
than that?

Natalie and Shaun laugh. Drew is offended.

DREW
Well, excuse me. Drew is a very
strong, family name.

SHAUN
Drew is a soft name. I've been
telling you that for years.

DREW
Whatever. Oh, Jamie, I have a
surprise for you.

JAMIE
What is it?

Drew slowly picks up Drew, Jr. and hands him to Shaun.

SHAUN
Boy, I can't wait to take you to a
strip club.

NATALIE
Drew, I think we need to rethink our
choice of Godfather.

SHAUN
He's fine. You should've picked a
better father choice.

JAMIE
So, what's my surprise?

DREW
Well, remember that brown paper bag
you had?

JAMIE
Yeah.

Drew pulls a notebook out of a bag and hands it to Jamie.
She opens it and her eyes light up as she looks through it.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

These are the baseball cards my dad gave me!

NATALIE

Now you can keep them in this notebook, so they'll stay nice and neat.

Jamie looks up at Drew.

JAMIE

Thank you, dad.

DREW

You're welcome.

A NURSE comes in.

NURSE

How is everything in here?

SHAUN

Everything is good. Listen nurse, he's still a little pink looking. When is he going to get some color to him?

DREW

Give me my son.

Drew takes Drew, Jr. from Shaun.

SHAUN

I'm just saying, he looks a little flushed. He might not be yours.

NATALIE

Nurse, would you mind taking a picture of all of us?

NURSE

Oh, sure.

NATALIE

Honey, grab the camera.

Drew hands the nurse his phone. Everyone gathers together and the nurse snaps a picture of them.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - AFTERNOON

The stands are filled with cheering parents and friends. Natalie is in the stands holding Drew, Jr. and cheering.

Shaun is off flirting with a WOMAN. Jamie is talking to Drew as he stands on the other side of the fence.

DREW
You ready?

JAMIE
I'm ready.

DREW
Remember what I told you. Loose grip
and elbows up.

JAMIE
I remember.

DREW
You got your inhaler, right?

Jamie pulls her inhaler out of her back pocket.

JAMIE
Got it.

Scottie and Vic run up to Jamie.

SCOTTIE
Come on, Jamie, the game is about to
start.

VIC
Yeah and you're first at bat.

DREW
Alright, good luck, sweetie.

SCOTTIE
Thanks, Mr. Parker.

DREW
I was talking to my daughter,
Scottie.

JAMIE
(laughing)
Thanks, dad.

Jamie, Scottie and Vic run off towards the field.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - STANDS

Drew sits in the stands with Natalie. Shaun comes up smiling
and sits by Drew.

SHAUN
I got her number.

Drew takes a double look at the woman Shaun was talking to.

DREW
Ay, man. That's Christine!

SHAUN
That's Christine?! You mean the one
that you--

DREW
Yes!

NATALIE
Who's Christine?

SHAUN
Oh man, you won't believe this! So
Drew--

DREW
(quickly)
She used to work with us. Before I
met you. She means nothing to me.

Natalie looks at them like they're crazy.

NATALIE
Okay. Well, you know Shaun, she has a
kid.

DREW
She what?!

SHAUN
No, she doesn't.

Drew and Shaun glance at each other.

NATALIE
Why else would she be here?

SHAUN
She likes sports.

DREW
Yeah, I believe she's an avid sports
watcher.

NATALIE
She's got a kid the same age as
Jamie. She actually adopted him from
the same orphanage as Jamie.

Shaun looks distraught.

SHAUN
Which one?

NATALIE
(pointing)
The one on second base.

DREW
(laughing)
Looks like Shaun might become a
family man. Let God help us all.

SHAUN
(thinking)
I don't know. It might be time for me
to settle down.

DREW
What?! Shaun, is looking to become an
honest man?

SHAUN
It could be good for me.

DREW
Well, I'm proud of you.

They smile at each other and do a handshake.

NATALIE
Aww, are you guys done with your
little male bonding moment?

DREW/SHAUN
Yeah.

They let go of each other's hands.

SHAUN
Stop touching me.

NATALIE
Good, because my daughter is up to
bat.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD

Down on the field, Jamie's teammates, including Scottie and
Vic all cheer and scream for her. COACH RIVERS hands Jamie
her bat.

COACH RIVERS

Let's go, Jamie. Let's get the game started right.

JAMIE

Alright, coach.

COACH RIVERS

Just concentrate and keep your body straight.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - STANDS

Drew, Natalie and Shaun all cheer loudly for Jamie and shouting out her name.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jamie looks back and waves at her parents and Shaun. The back of her jersey says "PARKER." Jamie proceeds to walk towards the plate where the catcher, WARREN, is standing.

WARREN

So, you're Jamie?

JAMIE

Yup.

WARREN

I've heard about you.

JAMIE

Good. Then you know, you're not about to catch anything. So you can relax.

WARREN

(snickering)

Whatever. That's Max Stone pitching.

Jamie looks to the mound and sees MAX STONE, a powerhouse 11 year old, getting ready. She looks back to Warren.

JAMIE

Yeah, so.

WARREN

I've never met anybody who can hit what he throws.

JAMIE

Well, today just might be your lucky day.

Just then, the UMPIRE approaches Jamie and Warren.

UMPIRE

Alright, let's get this game going.
Batter up!

The umpire stands behind Warren, who puts his mask down. Jamie loosens her grip on her bat and digs her feet in the dirt and firmly plants them. Everyone in the field gets ready as Max winds up his pitch.

Max pitches and with all her might, Jamie smacks the ball clear into right field, sending everyone in a scramble as they try to recover the ball.

Everyone in the stands jumps to their feet and cheers. Warren stands up and pulls his mask off and he stares in amazement. Jamie smiles and drops her bat.

JAMIE

It was nice meeting you.

Jamie holds her hand out and Warren, in awe, slowly shakes it. Then Jamie takes off towards first base.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - STANDS

Drew, Natalie and Shaun are on their feet. Drew, Jr. is in his stroller next to the stands.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD

Jamie continues rounding the bases, while the outfielders try their hardest to get the ball back into play.

Jamie begins to round third base and begins the stretch home, with her teammates waiting and screaming for her.

FADE TO BLACK. *