

Jessica's Triumph

By: Spencer McDonald

Spencer McDonald
12527 68th Ave. SE
Snohomish, WA 98296
425-879-9706
stmcdonald@yahoo.com

FADE IN:

EXT. UNDER FREEWAY - NIGHT

A young girl, JESSICA (15) huddles underneath the busy freeway. She is sitting on the ground with her legs pulled up to her chest and her head buried into her legs.

The night is freezing and snow can be seen falling under the glow of a light from the freeway above. Every exhale of her breath can be seen in the air.

Jessica sits huddled without a jacket. She shivers.

Jessica is alone under the freeway, except for her childhood companion, a homemade doll. The doll lies on the ground next to her.

Jessica lifts her head from between her legs to reveal tears, a bruise on her cheek, and a broken piece of glass in her right hand.

JESSICA

(to doll)

What are we going to do? I'm cold.
I'm tired. If we go back he may kill
us. I won't go back to that house.
Ever!

She pulls the doll to her ear as if listening for an answer.

JESSICA

No. He hates me. You heard those
nasty words he screamed at me. You
saw him hit me for no reason.

(beat)

We're NOT going back!

FLASH CUT:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jessica's step father JOHN (39) wears a stained tee shirt from his auto mechanic work. His face hasn't been shaven in days. He stands about five foot eight and is not quite as tall as Jessica.

John pokes his index out at Jessica. His eyebrows are drawn up tight and his face is ridden with anger.

He holds a coffee mug in one hand.

JOHN

Loser! Yeah loser just like your missing father. Get outta my face!

CUT TO:

Jessica breaks down into a flood of tears.

She hugs her doll for comfort, still with a piece of broken glass in one hand.

JESSICA

Right now I just want to die. Nobody wouldn't even miss us. They wouldn't even care if we were alive or dead.
(beat - listening)
What's that? No mom won't do anything. She'll just get beat up too.

Holding the doll to her ear again she pretends to listen to what it is saying.

JESSICA

You're right buttons. If we're gonna do it we should do it together. Doing it together would make it easier.
(beat)
Yeah. Anything is easier than this life.

She wipes her face and brushes tears away and looks at the piece of glass in her hand.

FLASH CUT:

EXT. GARAGE - AFTERNOON

John is hammering on a project at his work bench. He has a lit cigarette hanging out of his mouth that sports a long ash.

JESSICA

Mom says to give me five dollars for
the dance tonight.

He gets disgusted and tosses his hammer to the back of the
workbench.

JOHN

Go tell you're mom you ain't worth two
nickles. Stop bothering me and take your
fat ass outta my garage.

JESSICA

Mom says...

John smacks Jessica with the back of his hand across her
face.

JOHN

(screaming)
I said out whore!

CUT TO:

Jessica holds the doll to her ear again to listening to it.

JESSICA

I can't take it anymore. I can't take
those mean words, insults, and abuse.
(beat)
I just can't. This life is no life. Let's
do it.
(beat)
It'll all be over in minutes. It has to
be better than this.

In the glow of the light you see a shadowy figure of a man
run by. The figure wears a long coat that flows behind him
as he runs through the shadow.

She lays the doll on her lap and slices the wrists of the
doll. Stuffing falls out as she pulls the broken glass
across each dolls wrist.

JESSICA

(crying)
I'm sorry buttons. I'll see you in a

(continued)
minute.

Jessica holds out her left wrist and cuts it with the broken glass. Then she cuts the right wrist. Blood spills out and she winces in pain from the cuts.

Tears run down her face. She closes her eyes.

A soft comforting voice is heard and Jessica opens her eyes to see a tall man standing over her. The tall man is an angel named GABRIEL.

He leans down and touches her wrists. The blood stops running out of her wrists. As he bends down his long coat opens just a bit and bright pink light is seen shining inside the coat.

GABRIEL

Child, what have you done to yourself?
It's not time. Your name doesn't appear
in THE BIG BOOK OF OMEGA on this day.

Jessica's face has turned pale and she seems in shock as she stares at Gabriel. She blacks out.

Gabriel picks Jessica up and wraps her inside of his long coat. He runs off with Jessica in his arms as the screen fades to pink.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MERCY GENERAL HOSPITAL ER - NIGHT

The scene fades in from pink.

A NURSE, mid thirties, sits at the emergency room check-in desk. She is talking on the phone.

Patients sit in the waiting room nursing injuries.

The automatic doors slide open. Snow drifts in from the cold wind

NURSE

Sorry, I gotta go. Can you call

(continued)
back in a minute?
(beat - listening)
Sure. Thank you. Talk to you in
a few.

She gets up puts on her sweater and folds her arms to keep the warm inside her body.

The nurse walks over to the open doors and looks outside. At first she sees nothing. Then on second glance she sees a tall man in a long coat motioning with a wave of his hand to come outside.

She sees Jessica lying on the sidewalk with blood pouring out of her slit wrists. She runs toward Jessica.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

NURSE

Doctor. I need a doctor. Hurry. Hurry.
She's bleeding bad.

DOCTOR DAVIS, near forty, run toward the nurse and Jessica.

She stands as the doctor attends to Jessica and looks around for the man who waved her over. He has disappeared.

DOCTOR DAVIS

She's lost a lotta blood. Let's get
her inside.

The nurse is paralyzed by the disappearance of the man who waved her over.

DOCTOR DAVIS

Hey, we need to get her inside right
now. Help me.

She snaps out of her concentrated look of deep thought and helps the doctor pick up Jessica and carry her into the emergency room.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM #4 - NIGHT

Doctor Davis and DOCTOR SHAPIRO, early fifties, work frantically to get the bleeding stopped and get Jessica's condition stabilized.

The nurse stands in the doorway holding Jessica's doll with the stuffing falling out of the arms.

DOCTOR DAVIS

Looks like we found her in time. I think she'll live.

DOCTOR SHAPIRO

When she wake up she's gonna be pissed to see hospital lights and not the white lights of heaven.

NURSE

I think in the long run she'll love you both.

DOCTOR DAVIS

Sure hope you're right. Any luck with her parents.

NURSE

We're still working on it Doc.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jessica is draped in a white hospital gown and lying in a bed. Next to her in the bed is her doll. Both her wrists and the dolls wrists are wrapped in gauze.

She raises her arms to look at the bandages around her wrists.

JESSICA

(to doll)

Looks like it didn't work.

Gabriel sits in a chair watching Jessica. She looks around the room and is startled to see a stranger in her room. He is wearing his long coat and carrying a single rose.

Jessica starts to scream for help.

Gabriel stands and waves his hand over Jessica's mouth. She continues screaming but nothing comes out. Gabriel has silenced her with his magic hand.

GABRIEL

Child I'm sure you wantta know who I am. Names Gabriel. We met last night but you don't remember.

Gabriel points at her bandaged wrists.

How are you feeling?

Jessica attempts to talk again but nothing comes out.

GABRIEL

I'm sure you have questions. Question like who am I? Why am I in your room? If I give you your voice back will you scream?

Jessica attempts to speak and nothing comes out so she shakes her head back and forth to indicate no.

Gabriel waves his hand across her mouth and her voice is restored.

JESSICA

Are you a cop?

GABRIEL

(smiling)

No not a police man.

JESSICA

A psychiatrist?

GABRIEL

Oh no.

JESSICA

Then my mom sent you.

GABRIEL

Your mom? Child if your mom could

(continued)
have helped you she would have. No
your mom didn't send me. I was sent
here by a power that has your best
interest at heart.

Jessica reaches for the button to call for help.

Gabriel waves his hand in Jessica's direction and she
becomes weak and can't lift her arm to push the button.

GABRIEL
(scolding voice)
Child. Oh you're a feisty one.

JESSICA
What do you want?

GABRIEL
My employer sent me here to give you
a very important message.

Gabriel walks closer to the bed. He lays the single rose on
the bed next to her.

JESSICA
A message?

GABRIEL
Child you are someone special to us. You
have a gift and we couldn't let you waste
it by ending your life before it's your
turn. Your gift is your purpose as they
say.
(beat)
Now are you going to trust me?

Jessica shakes her head up and down.

Gabriel takes his index finger and touches Jessica between
the eyes.

Her eyes fall shut and she sleeps.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTERSPACE - MIDNIGHT

Gabriel holds Jessica's hand as the two stand among the stars. Occasional specks of floating lime green dots stream past the two.

JESSICA

What are those?

GABRIEL

Those are lost souls child.

Jessica looks at Gabriel with a puzzled expression.

GABRIEL

You can only see souls of teenager who have departed before their time in THE BIG BOOK OF OMEGA.

JESSICA

Ok stop. The big book of Omega?

GABRIEL

You know.

(beat)

Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. Now pay attention this is very important.

(beat)

Those streaming lime green dots are teenage souls who took their lives all because the pressure of life's moment was too much to bear.

(beat)

Sound familiar child?

Jessica shrugs her shoulder in confusion.

GABRIEL

What you are seeing child are lost souls because of teenage suicide.

She pulls away from Gabriel.

JESSICA

But I'm alive. I'm in the hospital and alive.

Gabriel takes her hand again.

GABRIEL

Yes. You are alive. If you had died
this is what you would have caused.

(beat)

As I said earlier. You are special and
you have a special purpose to fulfill.
Says so in THE BIG BOOK OF SUCCESS.

Gabriel snaps his fingers.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jessica wakes gasping for air and startled. She sees a
nurse attending to her bandages.

JESSICA

Who was that man that was in my
room?

NURSE

Man? You haven't had any visitors
just little ole me.

JESSICA

There was a man in my room. He wore a
long coat and brought me a single rose.

She points to the rose laying next to her on her bed.

JESSICA

See there's the rose.

NURSE

Oh yeah and your mom was here earlier.
Maybe she left it for you.

JESSICA

I may be suicidal but I'm not losing my
mind. A man was here and left that rose
for me. My mom did not leave it for me.
Besides she would have left daisies.

(beat)

Why didn't she stay?

The nurse puts her hand on Jessica's forehead to check for a fever.

NURSE

Said she had to pick up your step father.
You know...

(beat)

You probably just had a dream. It'll be alright just take few deep breaths and try and forget about your dream.

Jessica closes her eyes as the nurse leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jessica walks down the hallway holding her doll. Nurse and doctors walk past her in the hallway. They are engaged in idle chit chat.

She rounds a corner of the hallway and comes face to face with Gabriel.

Before she can speak he waves his hand in front of her face and she is muted. He snaps his fingers and all the people who were in the hallway disappear.

GABRIEL

Are you feeling better today child?

Jessica shakes her head up and down.

GABRIEL

Good. I knew you would be feeling stronger today. Now we can get down to business.

He waves his hand in front of Jessica's face and she is able to speak again.

JESSICA

(crying)

What do you want from me?

He takes her hand in his.

GABRIEL

I want to show you something.

JESSICA

Then will you leave me alone.

GABRIEL

Oh no. I am here to protect you. To help you along with life. We all need a guardian angel.

JESSICA

Are you telling me you're an angel. My angel.

GABRIEL

Yes.

JESSICA

And you're here to protect me.

(beat - laughs)

Watch over me.

(beat)

Did you save me?

GABRIEL

We are all here to save someone.

Even you child.

He takes one hand and strokes Jessica's long hair.

JESSICA

Alright I'll bite. Who am I here to save?

GABRIEL

Oh you're here to save thousand.

JESSICA

(laughing)

Thousands.

GABRIEL

You have been given the gift of words.

JESSICA

No I was given the gift of receiving words of insults and hate.

GABRIEL

Child those words put upon you by your step father were regrettable. They were harmful and they were the price you had to pay to deliver inspiration to others. Your words will lift the spirit and save thousands from the pain you have endured. Your words will lift the spirit of thousands of teens who have lost hope.

(beat)

Believe me. You have the power to save lives with your words. That's why I'm here.

Jessica hugs her doll as she listens.

JESSICA

What if I don't want to help others?

He opens his long coat and pulls out a simple brown bound book and hands it to Jessica. The title is: THE BIG BOOK JESSICA A. WORTHINGTON'S LIFE PLAN.

GABRIEL

It was written well before your DNA spun to life. You can't alter the balance of your reason for being.

As she takes the simple brown book a bright pink light glows from the pages inside. She gasps to catch her breath as if it has been taken away for a split second and her mind is filled with all the words of the book.

Gabriel snaps his finger and the activity in the hallway resumes and he is gone.

The brown book Jessica had been holding is gone also.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Both Jessica and her MOM, thirty-nine, are crying and hugging.

MOM

(sobbing)

Jesse I'm so so sorry I put you through a living hell. I've been so selfish.

JESSICA

What about John? You know he'll be back.

MOM

No Jesse. I had him arrested for hitting you.

(beat)

He won't be back to bother us again.

JESSICA

(mad)

Why did you wait so long?

MOM

I'm sorry Jesse. My mind thought I would be so lost without him. When I found out he hit you and you..

Mom falls to the ground in the fetal position and cries like a baby. Jesse bends down and hugs her mom.

JESSICA

(patting mom)

Ok ok mom. It's ok. It's just you and me. We'll be fine. We'll be great. Now we can learn to laugh more, love more, and embrace the joy of our lives. We're gonna succeed.

She puts her hands over her mouth as if she can't believe she just spoke those words.

Both stand. Mom wipes tears away from her face.

MOM

Jesse that was beautiful. Those words.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Jessica stands on stage in front of a packed auditorium of high school students. She holds her doll and stands in front of a microphone.

JESSICA

...You gotta learn to love yourself more. You gotta know your life matters. You gotta know that the only thing that matters is joy, love, and laughter. Yes laughter. What never matters are words that berate, words that condemn, words that destroy. Those words never matter. They never matter. What matters?!

The audience joins in chanting with Jessica.

AUDIENCE

Joy!

Jessica pumps her arm in triumph.

JESSICA

What matters?!

AUDIENCE

Love!

She pumps her arm again in triumph.

JESSICA

What matters?!

AUDIENCE

Laughter!

One TEEN GIRL stands off to the side of the chairs in the auditorium with tears in her eyes as she quietly chants those three words silently to herself.

Gabriel is standing in the wings of the stage holding Jessica's brown book in his hands.

The audience and Jessica continue chanting joy, love, and laughter. She holds both arms up in the air as if triumphant in victory and smiles big. You see both wrists bandaged. The doll is in Jessica's hand and its arms are also bandaged.

GABRIEL
Good child. Good.

He blows a kiss to her and disappears.

FADE OUT:

THE END