

DREAM PAINTER

FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

BECCA (10) long hair in a pony tail and worn, simple out of style clothing sits at a desk.

She paints a beautiful picture of a pretty house, a man and a woman holding hands, a girl that looks like Becca and a small boy. The sun shines and there's a dog, a cat and even a pony.

SHAWNA (10) cute and perky with multiple pigtails and hip clothes strolls up to Becca and admires the painting.

SHAWNA
That's beautiful.

BECCA
Thanks.

SHAWNA
Did you make that?

Becca nods.

SHAWNA (CONT'D)
Is that your house?

Becca nods again.

Shawna points at the girl in the picture.

SHAWNA (CONT'D)
That looks like you.

BECCA
Yeah, and that's my mom and dad...that's my little brother David...That's our cat Wilson and our dog Dennis.

SHAWNA
You're lucky! My dad won't let me have a pet.

BECCA
My dad is really nice. He'll do anything for me and my brother.

Becca points at the pony.

BECCA (CONT'D)
This is Sweet Dreams. I call him
Magic. My dad gave him to me on my
birthday.

SHAWNA
You have a pony too?

Becca nods and continues to paint.

SHAWNA (CONT'D)
You're lucky. All my parents ever
do is yell at me to clean up and do
my homework.

BECCA
Yeah, I'm very lucky.

She paints on with determination.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A school bus pulls up. Doors open and Becca gets out. She
clutches her school books.

She hurries across a concrete playground towards a
dilapidated ghetto highrise.

INT. HIGHRISE FOYER - DAY

Run down place, graffiti on the walls, metal mesh covered
lights flickers. RON (12) a punk in the making and JAY (12)
hell bent on a prison career stand around.

Becca keeps her eyes fixed on the floor as she marches past
them. Jay and Ron follow and Jay pushes the elevator button
right before she gets a chance to. They glare at her in a
threatening way. Ron touches her pony tail.

RON
What you up to little girl?

The doors open and she hurries inside. They follow and the
doors close behind them.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Becca stands facing the doors. The boys are behind her.

JAY
Spent your day on all fours in the
park earning a living like your
mama?

Becca's face tightens.

RON
Five buck Betty. Best blow job
around for the money...That's what
my brother says.

JAY
I bet you could make some money
that way too.

RON
Fuck yeah! Like a mother daughter
team.

They laugh.

JAY
Where's your pop at anyway?

RON
I think he's doing the same thing
as her mama, but for free at the
big house.

They laugh again. Jay touches her neck. The doors open.

BECCA
Leave me alone!

She bolts out the door. Tears in her eyes.

JAY (O.S.)
Let me know if you need someone to
practice on.

More laughter.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Becca hurries down the dimly lit corridor and stops outside one of the apartment doors, puts the key in and opens it. The sound of a small child crying greets her.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Despair all around. Dirty, messy, liquor bottles and a crack pipe on the coffee table, clothing on the floor along with toys and dirty diapers.

Becca walks in.

DAVID (2) stands in a playpen wearing wet training pants and crying hard. His face is red and sweaty from crying.

DAVID
Mommy...mommy.

She hurries over to David and picks him up.

 BECCA
Sshhh... Mommy's not here.

She carries him into --

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

-- a messy bathroom where clean laundry hangs over the dirty tub and the dirty laundry covers the floor. She puts him on the floor, turns on the water in the tub then takes off his wet pants. She tests the water then puts David in the tub.

Later:

David seem happier as Becca dries him with a towel.

 BECCA
Are you hungry?

David nods.

 BECCA (CONT'D)
Let's make dinner.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is a disgrace and not fit for cooking. Becca looks inside an empty refrigerator and then in the cupboard. There's half a loaf of bread and a jar of peanut butter inside.

She takes out the loaf of bread. It's moldy on the outside. With a knife she trims off the moldy edges then spreads on the peanut butter.

Series of shots:

David sits in a highchair eating his PB sandwich and drinking a cup of water.

Becca with a garbage bag cleans up.

David watches a cartoon on the television.

Becca's cleans the dishes.

Becca vacuums.

Becca does her homework with David on her lap.

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Becca tiredly puts her schoolbooks away and looks at David.

BECCA
It's time to go to bed.
You want me to read you a story?

David sleepily nods.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A small dingy room with only a bed and a night stand with a lamp without a shade. The walls are covered with bright happy paintings. Paintings of animals, happy people, beaches, flowers and so on. The SUN shines brightly in every picture.

Becca and David lie in bed. David sleeps while he sucks on a pacifier. Becca reads from a worn copy of Cinderella.

BECCA
(different voice)
"That awful untidy girl simply cannot have been at the ball," snapped the stepmother. "Tell the Prince he ought to marry one of my two daughters! Can't you see how ugly Cinderella is! Can't you see?"

She puts the book down on the night stand.

BECCA (CONT'D)
The Prince awaits to present you with his engagement ring!" said the minister. Cinderella joyfully jumped up and went with them, and lived happily ever after with her Prince.

She turns to her side and studies her brother.

BECCA (CONT'D)
Some day David, a handsome prince will ask me to marry him and I will say yes, but don't worry, I won't leave you behind. I will take you with me and we will live happily ever after.

She kisses him on his forehead then turns off the light.

FADE OUT: