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Untitled (An Original Filmscript)

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Scene 1 DAYTIME HOSPITAL SETTING-BRIGHTLY LIT. WE LOOK INTO THE PRIVATE ROOM OF KIM RICHARDS. SHE IS READING A MAGAZINE. THERE IS CRYING IN THE BACKGROUND. THE CAMERA DOLLIES IN SLOWLY. WE SEE HER NAME CARD ON THE DOOR. WE HAVE A CLOSE UP OF KIM. SHE PUTS HER MAGAZINE DOWN AND LOOKS TO HER RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW. CUT TO SUBJECTIVE SHOT OF KIM'S POINT OF VIEW. CAMERA SLOWLY ZOOMS PAST BOOKS ON BUREAU-DR.SPOCK'S BABY CARE, HOW TO RAISE A BRIGHT CHILD, OUR BODIES-OUR SELVES, PAST PHOTO OF A MAN (HER HUSBAND), SEVERAL ARRANGMENTS OF FLOWERS IN ADVANCED STAGES OF BLOSSOMING, TO OUTSIDE. FADE TO BLACK-CUT TO"

Cover Page Footnote

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Jon Harcharek / ink

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By Jan Miner

Scene 1

DAYTIME HOSPITAL SETTING-BRIGHTLY LIT.

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FADE TO BLACK—CUT TO

Scene 2

INTERIOR-NIGHTTIME-PAJAMA PARTY

FOUR LITTLE GIRLS ARE IN THE LIVING ROOM OF YOUNG KIM RICHARDS. THE ROOM IS STREWN WITH SLEEPING BAGS, CLOTHES, STUFFED ANIMALS, AND DISHES OF POP-CORN, COOKIE BOXES, AND EMPTY PIZZA BOXES. THERE IS BUBBLEGUM ROCK MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND. THEY ARE DOING GYMNASTIC STUNTS—TWO ARE HAVING A HEAD STAND CONTEST. ONE DOES A CART-WHEEL ACROSS THE FLOOR. THE TWO DOING HEADSTANDS COLLAPSE ON THEIR SLEEPING BAGS, FEIGNING EXHAUSTION.

Shelly:(the one who has just done a cart-wheel, addressing Kim, who has just done a headstand)

Boy, am I glad you didn't invite Andrea to your party. I can't stand her...Have you ever seen her dance?

SHELLY TAKES OFF ACROSS THE FLOOR IN A GROTESQUE SORT OF DANCE STEP DESIGNED TO RIDICULE A GIRL NOT PRESENT AT THE PARTY. THE OTHER THREE GIRLS BURST IN-

TO PEELS OF LAUGHTER. SHELLEY COLLAPSES ON THE FLOOR, ALSO IN LAUGHTER.

Kim: You know what she told me?...That you can get pregnant from kissing boys.

Erica: She probably knows from experience.

Karen: She's so dumb. She told me the other day (addressing Kim)that your brother is a retard (emphasizing the 1st syllable) and that your family is trying to hide him.

MORE PEALS OF LAUGHTER FROM ERICA, KAREN AND SHELLEY. A FOCUS ON KIM'S FACE REVEALS A FROZEN HURT LOOK. THE PICTURE BEGINS TO DISSOLVE.

Erica: Did you hear she got sent to the principal's office...

VOICES FADE
DISSOLVE COMPLETES

Scene 3

INTERIOR BATHROOM IN KIM'S HOUSE-THE NEXT NIGHT AFTER THE PARTY

KIM IS CRYING HYSTERICALLY AGAINST HER MOTHER. HER FATHER IS ALSO THERE AND IS TRYING TO COMFORT THE WEEPING CHILD.

Kim: Karen said that Andrea says Danny is retarded and that we're trying to hide him. (Her mother and father exchange sympathetic glances. Her mother strokes her hair and her father reaches out and touches her shoulder.)

Mother: Honey, it is true that Danny is retarded. I thought you knew that. (no answer from Kim-her mother looks at her father.)

Father: Kimmy, we've talked before about the fact that Danny is slower than most children-and about the ways we can help him learn things...You remember how long it was before Danny walked or even before he ate adult food. And he's just barely able to talk-and not plainly at that.

Kim:(still leaning against her mother)Is that why Danny looks so funny?

Mother: Danny's kind of retardation makes his eyes look puffy and slanty and his fingers

short and stubby. It's called mongolism by most people. Dr. Swanson calls it Down's Syndrome...If you'd like to, we can go to the library on Saturday and look it up so you can learn more about it.

Kim:(takes tissue offered by father) O.K.

Father: You know, we love Danny very much and would never try to hide him...That was a hurtful thing for Andrea to say and for Karen to repeat.

Mother: I think Andrea says things to hurt people because she hurts a lot inside.

(she takes Kim by the shoulders)

Now, no more tears, OK?

(Kim nods)

We have a date for Saturday?

(Kim smiles and hugs her mother, saying mmmm hmmm-she opens the bathroom door to leave)

And Kim...

(Kim stops and looks back)

It really doesn't matter what anyone else thinks.

Scene 4

INTERIOR-DAYTIME-HOSPITAL ROOM WHERE ADULT KIM IS IN BED-SHE OPENS HER EYES-(CAMERA IS FILMING IN SLOW MOTION) SHE SITS UP AND BEGINS TO MOVE INDICATING SHE IS GOING TO GET OUT OF BED.

Scene 5

EXTERIOR-DAYLIGHT-MS OF SEVERAL CHILDREN BUILDING A SNOWMAY-THE BOTTOM IS ALREADY FORMED AND THEY ARE WORKING ON THE NEXT TWO SECTIONS. SEVERAL FEET AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN STANDS A BOY DRESSED WARMLY FOR OUTDOOR PLAY, BUT HE IS NOT A PART OF THIS GROUP. AS THE CHILDREN ROLL THEIR SNOWMAN THEY OCCASIONALLY GLANCE AT HIM, POINT, LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND LAUGH. THE CAMERA LOOKS PAST THE CHILDREN WHO BEGIN TO GO OUT OF FOCUS. IT MOVES PAST THE BOY WHO ALSO GOES OUT OF FOCUS AND WE SEE YOUNG KIM LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AT THIS SCENE.

Scene 6

INTERIOR-DAYLIGHT-KIM TURNS AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, PACES RAPIDLY INTO THE KITCHEN OF HER HOME WHERE HER MOTHER IS BAKING COOKIES.

Kim: I wish those stupid kids would get out of our yard and leave Danny to play in peace. (she is

pacing the floor rapidly-it is obvious she is upset)

Mother: Kim-you're making me nervous.

Kim: Well, I can't help it. They make me nervous.

KIM STOPS AT KITCHEN WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT IN TIME TO SEE A SNOWBALL LAND A FEW FEET FROM DANNY. (THE CAMERA SEES THIS TOO)

Kim:(draws breath sharply) Damn them! (she storms out the door, without coat, hat, or boots, into the yard, shouting at the top of her lungs)

If you dopey little kids don't leave my brother alone, I'll break every one of your scrawny little necks. Go play in your own yards if you can't behave like human beings in ours-you animals! THE CHILDREN HAVE STOPPED THEIR PLAY AND STAND VERY STILL OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED AT THIS OUTBURST. AS KIM FINISHES HER TIRADE, SHE GRABS DANNY'S HAND AND PULLS HIM AWAY.

Kim: Come on Danny-I'll get my coat on and then I'll help you build a snow man.

CLOSE UP OF KIM'S FACE REVEALS SHE IS ABOUT TO CRY.

Scene 7

INTERIOR-DAYLIGHT-HOSPITAL OF ADULT KIM-FILMED IN SLOW MOTION-SHOT OF HER FEET TOUCHING THE FLOOR-CAMERA RISES TO SEE HER REACH FOR HER BATHROBE FROM THE HOOK BEHIND THE DOOR.

Scene 8

EXTERIOR-DAYLIGHT-LS OF KIM'S FATHER HOLDING ONTO A BICYCLE ON WHICH DANNY IS SITTING—FATHER IS RUNNING ALONGSIDE DANNY TRYING TO HELP HIM STAY BALANCED-FATHER LETS GO OF BICYCLE AND DANNY RIDES GAILY PAST KIM

Danny: Look at me, Kim!

DANNY RIDES HIS BICYCLE RIGHT INTO THE SPIREA BUSHES BESIDE THE HOUSE.

Scene 9

CU of ADULT KIM'S FACE SMILING IN RECOLLECTION OF THIS MEMORY. SHE MOVES OUT OF HER ROOM AND BEGINS TO WALK DOWN THE HALL.

Scene 10

INTERIOR-CU OVER AN OLDER DANNY'S

SHOULDER. HE IS LABORIOUSLY WRITING A TAG FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT, NEATLY WRAPPED ON THE TABLE—TO KIM, FROM DANNY

Danny: There.

FADE OUT/FADE IN
CU OF DANNY HANDING PACKAGE TO AN OLDER (18 or so) KIM. SHE OPENS IT AND IT IS A PHOTOCUBE FILLED WITH COLORED DRAWINGS THAT HE HAS MADE FOR HER. SHE HUGS HIM.

Kim: Aw, Danny, that's beautiful, thank you very much.
SHE GIVES HIM ANOTHER HUG.
That's the nicest Christmas present I've received.(he grins from ear to ear)

Scene 11
INTERIOR-HOSPITAL-LOW MCU OF KIM'S FEET WALKING DOWN THE HALL-SLOW MOTION

Scene 12
INTERIOR-EVENING-KIM AND HUSBAND, TODD, ARE SEATED AT THEIR DINING ROOM TABLE-THEY ARE HAVING A CANDLE LIGHT DINNER.

Kim:(Looking at Todd almost shyly)

I saw Dr. Ross today. He said I'm pregnant...we're going to have a baby next March.
TODD PICKS UP HER HAND, KISSES IT, SMILING WIDELY.

DISSOLVE

Scene 13
INTERIOR-EVENING-TODD IS IN A RECLINING CHAIR READING THE PAPER. KIM APPEARS AT THE DOORWAY-SHE IS QUITE PREGNANT.

Kim: Dr. Ross says I am doing just great.

Todd: Good! I'm getting anxious.

Kim: You! I can hardly wait until my size and my life get back to normal!(she smiles) I hope it's...a girl.

DISSOLVE

Scene 14
INTERIOR-NIGHTTIME-IN KIM AND TODD'S DARKENED BEDROOM. THEY ARE LYING CLOSE TOGETHER AND AWAKE.

Kim: Maybe she'll be a dancer...or a journalist...

Todd: Or a football player. (Kim giggles)
Kim: I'm praying for a bright baby. She'll read at four.

Todd: Not even born yet and you have it graduating from Harvard.

Kim: (laughing) That's right — summa cum laude.

Todd:(leans over to kiss her, laughs too)
You're crazy.

Scene 15
INTERIOR-DAYTIME-SLOWMOTION SHOT OF KIM'S FEET. A NURSE'S VOICE INTERRUPTS. CAMERA MOVES UP TO VIEW THE NURSE.

Nurse: How are you today, Mrs. Richards?

Kim: Fine, thank you.

Scene 16
INTERIOR-DAYTIME-HOSPITAL ROOM A FEW DAYS BEFORE-THERE ARE MANY FLOWERS IN THE ROOM-MOST HAVE NOT MANY BLOSSOMS ON THEM-THERE ARE ROSES WHICH HAVE NOT OPENED. KIM IS ASLEEP AND TODD IS STANDING NEXT TO HER HOLDING HER HAND. HER EYES FLUTTER OPEN-SHE SMILES WEAKLY AND SPEAKS IN A BARELY AUDIBLE VOICE.

Kim: Have you seen the baby?

HE NODS AND SMILES GENTLY AT HER.

Todd: She has good lungs. I told her she should be ashamed for giving her mom such a hard time. (she smiles) Now get some more sleep, honey.

DISSOLVE

Scene 17
INTERIOR-MLS OF A DOWN-THE-HALL CONFERENCE BETWEEN TODD AND KIM'S DOCTOR — TODD IS LEANING AGAINST THE WALL. THE EXPRESSION ON THEIR FACES IS SERIOUS. THE DOCTOR PUTS HIS HAND ON TODD'S SHOULDER.

FADE TO BLACK

Scene 18
INTERIOR-LATE AFTERNOON-KIM IS PROPPED UP IN HER BED AND LOOKS MORE AWAKE THAN SHE DID EARLIER. TODD IS STANDING BESIDE THE BED. THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING.

Kim: No, I haven't seen her yet, much less fed her. I've really been out of it.

Todd: Well, considering the bad time she gave you-it's understandable.

Kim: I've picked out a name if it's OK with you...(Todd looks expectant)

Jennifer Katherine.

Todd: That's pretty. It's all right with me.

Kim: (sitting straight up in bed)

Good...now, tell me, who does Jenny look like?

Todd: (hesitates a second, then speaks very evenly)

She looks just like the pictures of Danny(pause) when he was born.

KIM LEANS HEAVILY BACK ON HER PILLOW. SHOCK IS WRITTEN ON HER FACE.

Scene 19

INTERIOR-DAYLIGHT-NURSE IS IN DOORWAY OF KIM'S ROOM-WE VIEW HER FROM KIM'S POINT OF VIEW.

Nurse: Mrs. Richards, do you want to feed you baby this meal?

KIM NUMBLY SHAKES HER HEAD NO-SHE IS STARING AHEAD BLANKLY.

Scene 20

INTERIOR-HOSPITAL CORRIDOR-BRIGHTLY LIT-KIM'S FEET ARE STILL MOVING SLOWLY DOWN THE HALL-HER FEET STOP AT A NURSE'S STATION.

Kim: May I please see my baby?

WE SEE THE NURSE'S FEET WALK OVER-AND THEN THE TWO PAIR OF FEET WALK OVER TO A WALL, ABOVE WHICH IS A WINDOW INTO THE NURSERY.

Nurse: (gently)

She is sleeping now, but you may look at her. She is right down there in front. ...When she wakes, I'll bring her down to you if you'd like to feed her.

THE NURSE'S FEET STEP AWAY AND KIM'S ARE THERE ALONE. THE CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY FROM HER FEET TO HER FACE. SHE TAPS AT THE WINDOW BELOW WHICH HER DAUGHTER IS LYING. TEARS ARE IN HER EYES.

Kim: It's OK about Harvard, Jenny.



Linda Paulmeno / photograph