

BRYN GETS A LIFE

Characters, Story & Screenplay
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INSERT: 1968

A young BRYN, ten years of age, stands on the side of a dirt road. She wears a stuffed book bag and has her thumb out to hitch a ride.

A middle aged police officer, NASH, crosses the street and approaches Bryn. A pair of handcuffs dangle from his hip.

NASH

Young lady--Where do you think you're going?

BRYN

Boston.

NASH

Is that right? Mind telling me what's in Boston?

BRYN

My daddy. Mama said he's lost so I'm going to find him.

NASH

Say--I know you. You're Ellie Mae's girl...uh...

(snaps fingers)

...something weird..."Brine."

BRYN

(scoffs)

It's Bryn. B-R-Y-N.

Bryn stays silent with her thumb still out.

NASH

Well I don't care what your name is. You're far too young to be hitching a ride in my town. Now let's get you home to your mama.

Nash tugs at Bryn's arm.

Bryn leans forward and bites Nash's arm, causing him to let out a loud yell.

A DOORBELL rings.

2 INT/EXT. BRYN'S HOUSE - DAY

2

Bryn's mother, ELLIE, opens the front door.

Nash holds Bryn up by her book bag. His hair is disheveled and he has a cut on his face. Bryn sips on a juice box.

ELLIE
Hey Officer--Bryn?!

NASH
I caught this one trying to skip town.

Ellie takes Bryn from Nash.

ELLIE
My apologies. She must have snuck out while I was taking a nap.

Bryn runs into the house.

NASH
You better keep that girl on a tight leash. The last thing this town needs is another juvenile delinquent.

ELLIE
Of course, Officer. It won't happen again.

NASH
It better not.

Nash walks away, clutching his back.

Ellie shuts the door.

3 INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

Ellie enters the dining room.

Bryn has her back turned.

ELLIE
You mind telling me what you were thinking?

Bryn stays silent.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
 Bryn--look at me when I'm talking
 to you.

Bryn faces Ellie.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
 Don't you ever pull a stunt like
 that again!

BRYN
 I just wanted to find Daddy.

ELLIE
 Honey...

BRYN
 What if he's out there, Mama, and
 he's looking for us?

ELLIE
 Trust me. He's not.

BRYN
 But what if he is?

ELLIE
 He's not!

Bryn turns her back to Ellie.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
 Look--I'm sorry if you're not
 satisfied with the life you have,
 but I'm doing my best. Maybe one
 day you'll learn to show a little
 gratitude.

Ellie exits the room.

Bryn unzips her book bag. Pulls out a drawing of two parents
 and a little girl holding hands. She stares at it.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Good morning listeners! It's
 another beautiful Friday morning in
 Jackson.

Bryn, now twenty-seven years of age, stares at the same
 drawing of her family.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Don't change that dial because we
have the latest song from Gypsy
Starlight starting right now!

Synth-based music plays.

Bryn puts the drawing aside and pulls an envelope out of her drawer. It says 'Escape Fund.' She opens the envelope and pulls out a wad of cash.

ELLIE (O.S.)
Bryn!

Bryn quickly hides the money in the envelope and stuffs it under the clothes in her drawer. Stands in front of the dresser.

Bryn's mother, Ellie, peeks her head in.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Oh good. You're awake. Jump in the
shower. Don't make us late for
work.

BRYN
When have I ever made us late for
work?

ELLIE
There's been a couple times.

BRYN
Like when?

ELLIE
What--it's not like I can list off
the specific dates to you.

BRYN
Aha! Because it never happened.

ELLIE
Just get ready.

Ellie exits.

Bryn crumbles up the drawing and tosses it in the trash bin.