



PDC

Faith-Based Drama
Short Film, Screenplay

Logline

An 18-year-old ages out of foster care, only to return to the house where she and her mother were abused.

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INT. FOSTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Three young children chase one another around the couch. One male, RAMBUNCTIOUS CHILD (4) jumps on the couch cushions. MS. JENKINS (60) African American, storms in holding a spatula.

MS. JENKINS

Get, down, and I mean now!

Rambunctious child jumps off the couch. He runs up the stairs away from Ms. Jenkins.

INT. FOSTER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Rambunctious child runs by several closed doors until he comes to one that's half opened. He pushes against the door hitting the back of the chair where ANGIE BROWN (15) African American, sits. Angie sticks her head out into the hallway. He runs back to the stairs.

ANGIE

You better run you little --

INT. FOSTER HOME - APRIL AND ANGIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Angie slams the door close. She goes back to her interrupted conversation with APRIL JAMES (18) Caucasian, mild mannered, somewhat melancholy. April packs the suitcase placed on her bed.

ANGIE

You're gonna leave me here to deal with them?

April chuckles.

APRIL

Like me being here is gonna keep the rug rats away.

ANGIE

It's your birthday. Why you gotta go today, and where are you going?

APRIL

... I'm going home.

ANGIE

Home? Back to where your Granddad killed your Mom?

April throws a pair of her underwear at Angie's head.

APRIL

Why do you always say that? He didn't kill her. It was an accident. She fell trying to get him... off of me.

Angie throws the underwear back at April.

ANGIE

Don't be throwing your nasty drawers at me. How you gonna defend the man who beat the crap out of you and your mom?

April throws the underwear into the suitcase. She locks it up and grabs it off the bed.

APRIL

They're both dead now, so what difference does it make.

April heads for the door.

APRIL (CONT'D)

I wish I never told you about it. And my underwear are clean.

April walks out of the room.

INT. FOSTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

April moves toward the front door. The three children continue to run about. April is approached by Ms. Jenkins.

MRS. JENKINS

You're leaving already?

APRIL

Yes, ma'am.

MRS. JENKINS

On your birthday? Does your social worker know you're leaving?

April glances at the initials "PDC" tattooed on her hand. She opens the front door to leave.

APRIL

Yes Ma'am. It's okay. Thank you.

EXT. FOSTER HOME - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Angie rushes out the door after April. April stops to look at Angie from the sidewalk.

APRIL
Sisters fight... right?

Angie tries to hide her tears as she shakes her head "Yes."
She watches April walk away.

EXT. FAMILY'S HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

April walks toward the front door. She's about to knock when she hears a voice from across the street.

PATRICIA (O.S.)
You're looking for Linda?

She turns and sees PATRICIA HAMILTON (55) Hispanic. Patricia has an air of wisdom about her. She sits by her house, in front of a tray with peanut butter, crackers and lemonade.

APRIL
Yes ma'am.

PATRICIA
When people call me ma'am I feel like throwing things... at their heads. As you can see I'm armed with this jar of peanut butter. So, please, call me Patricia. No one's home, but you're welcome to join me for some peanut butter and crackers while you wait.

April slowly approaches the woman.

APRIL
I don't know.... I was taught never to talk to strangers.

PATRICIA
Would a stranger offer you peanut butter?

April can't keep from smiling a little as she walks over to join Patricia.

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - FRONT - LATER

Patricia notices April's tattoo as April stuffs her mouth with peanut butter crackers.

PATRICIA
So you're Jeff and Hattie's
granddaughter.

April chokes a little on the crackers. Patricia pours a glass of lemonade for her.

APRIL
How did you know that?

PATRICIA
Your aunt told me. I've known Linda since she inherited the house. I didn't know your grandparents very well, but they were good neighbors.

April rolls her eyes and looks away.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
Okay. Was it something I said?

April shakes her head "no" and continues to look away.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
Your head says "no," but your face says "yes."

APRIL
My grandparents were two of the most evil people I know. But, they went to church every Sunday and said they were Christians.

PATRICIA
Christians? Honey, if you're right, then they weren't Christians. If you ever meet any real Christians, they won't need to say what they are. You'll know.

LINDA JAMES (35) Caucasian, pulls up in front of Patricia's house wearing her usual African centric apparel. She rolls down her car window.

LINDA
April? Oh my goodness girl, look at you. Thanks Pat for keeping her company. Let me pull over and park.

Linda pulls off. April stands up from the table and grabs her suitcase. Patricia glances again at her tattoo.

APRIL
Thanks for the snack.

PATRICIA
Anytime.... What does PDC mean?

APRIL
It's just a reminder.

Patricia watches April walk away.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - APRIL'S OLD BEDROOM - DAY

Linda leans by the door as April unpacks.

LINDA
You know it's just you and me now?
I mean Curtis lives here but he's
not family. At least not yet.

April unpacks without any responds.

LINDA (CONT'D)
After momma passed away I don't
know what I would have done without
him. Are you glad to be back home?

April looks around the room, then continues to unpack.

APRIL
I guess so.

LINDA
Well, I'm glad you're here.... I'm
gonna go start dinner. Just relax.

Linda leaves. April quickly closes and locks the door.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Linda, April and Linda's boyfriend CURTIS BROOKS (32) African American, sit together eating dinner.

CURTIS
I guess foster-care was pretty
rough huh?

APRIL
It was alright.

CURTIS
What are your plans now?

Before April can answer, Linda intervenes.

LINDA
Curtis, she just got here. She's
got plenty of time to figure that
out.

Curtis looks up from his dinner plate at April and gives her one of his sweet boyish smiles.

CURTIS
Sure she does.

MONTAGE - APRIL GETS ACCLIMATED

-- April waves across the street to Patricia from the front door of her family home.

-- April helps Linda wash dishes.

-- April gets out of Patricia's car. Both she and Patricia grab bags of groceries from the car.

-- April and Linda play a game of monopoly, while Curtis watches television. Linda throws a monopoly piece at Curtis' head. Linda and April hold their laughter and continue to play, while Curtis looks for what hit him.

END MONTAGE

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - APRIL'S OLD BEDROOM - NIGHT

April locks the door and pushes a dresser in front of it. In bed, she reaches under her pillow and pulls out a butcher knife. She doesn't close her eyes until she holds it close to her chest.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

April watches television alone. Curtis enters the front door. From the couch, April can see he's been drinking. She turns off the television and heads for her room. Curtis blocks the stairway.

CURTIS
Where are you going, Linda?

APRIL

I'm not Linda. Move, please.

Curtis turns off the light and grabs April's arm.

CURTIS

I think you should be here with me.

April tries to pull away from Curtis. Curtis throws her down onto the carpet then pins her to the floor.

APRIL

Stop it! Please, get off of me!

CURTIS

I can get you off. Keep still.

April screams and struggles. She hears a crack. Curtis falls slightly to the side of her. The light comes on. Standing over April and Curtis' still body is, Patricia. She's holding a baseball bat in one hand, and keys in the other.

PATRICIA

Linda gave me keys... in case of an emergency.

April pushes the rest of Curtis' body off of her. Patricia helps her up from the floor. Curtis begins to come to.

EXT. FAMILY HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

April stands in the street with two POLICE OFFICERS. Two PARAMEDICS roll Curtis into an ambulance. Linda gets out of her car and runs to the gurney.

LINDA

Baby what happened to you?

Linda walks fiercely over to April.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What happened, what did you do?

APRIL

Your boyfriend is sick, and that house is evil.

LINDA

Do not go into the house until I get back here and get some answers.

APRIL
I'm never going back into that
house.

Linda hurries to get into the ambulance with Curtis.

April looks around for Patricia. She finds her in front of her house, signaling that April's welcomed to come inside.

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Patricia sits having breakfast. April enters and joins her. Patricia looks at the initials on April's hand as they eat.

PATRICIA
Are you ever gonna tell me what the
letters mean?

APRIL
It doesn't really matter, cause
they mean something different now.

PATRICIA
Well, can you tell me what they
meant?

APRIL
It use to mean... "People Don't
Care."

PATRICIA
So, what does it mean now?

APRIL
"Patricia Does Care."

PATRICIA
Oh... okay. But you know I'm not
the only one who cares, right?

APRIL
Maybe. Are you a Christian? Cause,
I don't pay you, and you don't --

PATRICIA
Tell you what, after you've lived
here for a while, you tell me.

The two smile at one another, then continue to enjoy
breakfast.

FADE TO BLACK.