

FADE IN

INT. HELEN DARDEN'S HOUSE - DAY

MOVING

HELEN DARDEN, woman in her sixties, leads RACHEL MARTINEZ through the house. Rachel is a Hispanic girl in her late teens and is wearing jeans and a plain shirt. Rachel wears no make up, and her hair is short. They stop in a bedroom.

HELEN

I will of course be moving my sewing things into the other bedroom.

RACHEL

You have a great house.

HELEN

Well, thank you very much.

EXT. HELEN'S BACK YARD - DAY

Rachel and Helen are walking out in the garden.

HELEN

Your Mother must be a little worried...

RACHEL

She doesn't have too big a problem with it now.

HELEN

You know my youngest daughter took a couple years off before she went to college. Said she just wasn't ready and that's fine. She knew what she wanted, so good for her. Good for you too.

Rachel nods.

HELEN (CONT'D)

I'm usually out here often enough to keep the garden under control. I would expect the lawns to be mowed and perhaps some weeding every once in a while.

RACHEL

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HELEN

You haven't had a problem with anything I've said so far.

Rachel shrugs.

RACHEL

This is just what the ad said.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BOYCE STREET - DAY

CREDITS START

MOVING

Down the street. All of the houses are in pristine shape, all of the doors are open, and no people are present. A BEAUTIFUL ANDROGYNOUS VOICE sings a contemporary song.

CUT TO:

INT. A KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is spotless.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)

Lasagna tonight...yes! Hot French bread melted butter salad homemade ranch dressing!

CUT TO:

EXT. A BACK YARD - DAY

A 1970's car, in perfect condition and with all four tires on, is up on blocks in the back yard. A sparkling clean engine is on the grass next to the car. The grass under the car and next to the engine is lush and green.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)

Love workin' the dream car!
Adventure excitement hands on fun!

CUT TO:

INT. A BEDROOM - DAY

The bedroom is in pristine shape. The bed is made.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
 Floatin' on air cushy pillows warm
 blankets can't wait to get to bed
 tonight!

CUT TO:

SHOTS OF VARIOUS HOUSES ON BOYCE STREET - DAY

The houses are in pristine shape and all of the doors are open.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE YARD #1 OF A HOUSE ON BOYCE STREET - DAY

POV BEAUTIFUL VOICE

MOVING

Toward the front yard. The side door that leads into the garage is open.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
 Babies all grown up beautiful
 wonderful out by themselves time
 flies loving every min-

The Beautiful Voice reaches the side door, looks into Garage #1, and stops speaking. The Beautiful Voice then continues down the side yard in silence. The Beautiful Voice moves into the front yard, then into the front yard next door. Only then does it start to speak again.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
 New house no more renting actual
 yard garden fresh vegetables...

CUT TO:

MORE SHOTS OF VARIOUS HOUSES ON BOYCE STREET - NIGHT

All of the houses are in pristine shape and all of the doors are open. Every light in the houses is on.

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

This is the bedroom that Helen showed Rachel previously. The bedroom is in pristine shape.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
 On her own makin' anything up as
 she goes anything! What courage!
 Wonderful learning experience
 interesting fun exciting before
 goin' home head's high for sure!

CREDITS END

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The bedroom is in its normal condition. Rachel moves her clothes from her duffle bag into the dresser and the closet. A boom box and a rack containing music tapes are on the desk. Helen comes into the bedroom.

HELEN
 I could start a fresh pot of coffee
 if you're interested.

RACHEL
 Okay.

HELEN
 Do you have to go to work tomorrow?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL
 I got the bus route but I'm gonna
 go in early just to make sure.

HELEN
 Sounds good...

Helen smiles and shakes her head.

HELEN (CONT'D)
 I know you just got here, but an
 old coworker of mine called me up
 wanting to ask about a project I
 worked on last year...

RACHEL
 You want me to drive you there
 tonight?

HELEN
 No, tomorrow...do you think you
 could get home by 6:30?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL

Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rachel and Helen are sitting on the couch drinking coffee.

RACHEL

Actually the Mexican food section
of any big supermarket is fine.
That's where I get Adobo.

HELEN

What is that?

RACHEL

It's a sauce like Mole. My
Grandmother showed me some recipes
to use it.

HELEN

How very interesting. We should
use it for something for supper
this week.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY STREET #1 - MORNING

The sun just peaks over the horizon. Rachel is at an outside
phone booth copying names and addresses of restaurants from
the yellow pages.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT #1 - MORNING

Rachel walks up to the WAITRESS #1.

RACHEL

I want to apply for a job.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

The diner has approximately 10 tables and booths, with a
counter that holds about 10 more people. Rachel hands a
filled out job application to the OWNER OF DINER behind the
counter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OWNER OF DINER
Thanks.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET #2 - MORNING

Rachel walks down the street and looks at her list of restaurants. About half of them have been checked off.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT #2 - DAY

The WAITRESS #2 has taken a defensive stance.

WAITRESS #2
You're supposed to just fill out the application.

RACHEL
I want to speak to the person in charge.

Waitress #2 shakes her head.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I'm not leaving until I speak to someone.

WAITRESS #2
I'm just supposed to take the applications.

RACHEL
You do what you want, but I'm not leaving.

INT. RESTAURANT #2 - ANOTHER ANGLE

The SUPERVISOR comes out from the kitchen looking annoyed.

SUPERVISOR
Listen, we're very busy. We will review the applications and get back to you if we need to.

RACHEL
I just wanted you to know I really want this job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUPERVISOR

Okay you told me. Now let me get
back to work.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF RESTAURANT #3 - DAY

Through the front window, it can be seen that Rachel is talking to WAITRESS #3. The conversation cannot be heard. Rachel speaks, then Waitress #3, then Rachel, and then Waitress #3.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF RESTAURANT #3 - ANOTHER ANGLE

Rachel leaves the restaurant and heads down the street.

MOVING

Rachel, head down, stops and looks over to see a Record Store/Coffee Shop.

INT. RECORD STORE/COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Rachel takes her cup of coffee and sits down in the corner booth. Rachel just stares down at her cup of coffee as the tears fall down her cheeks. Rachel takes the napkin out from between her cup and saucer and dries her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

Rachel enters the diner and sees the Owner of Diner again.

RACHEL

Hi I came in this morning?

The Owner of Diner nods.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I wanted to let you know I can
speak Spanish too.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF AN OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

A man, STEVE CARLSON, opens up a door to let Rachel and Helen exit the building. Rachel and Helen head toward a car in the parking lot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

Thanks again Helen.

HELEN

No trouble at all; don't hesitate to call if you have any more questions.

STEVE

Sure. Rachel nice to meet you.

Rachel just half waves good-bye.

INT. HELEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Rachel drives the car with Helen in the passenger's seat.

RACHEL

Do they always work so late?

HELEN

No, the trade show is next month which means it gets a little hectic...sounds like they're going to use the same booth design I did last year.

RACHEL

Oh.

A few seconds of silence.

HELEN

Do you know anybody in the neighborhood besides the people you work with?

Pause.

RACHEL

Not really.

HELEN

My church has a youth group which is fairly active. Volunteer work but also a lot of social activities. Some of my daughter's best friends came from there. I could introduce you and you could decide for yourself if it's something you want.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL

Okay.

A few more seconds of silence.

HELEN

That old booth design isn't right
this year. Not for what they're
presenting.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room is in pristine shape. A sitcom is on the television. The actor makes a mildly funny joke just before they cut to a toothpaste commercial. The Beautiful Voice laughs hysterically up to almost all the way through the toothpaste commercial.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)

Love that minty fresh feeling!
Love retirement! Sewing gardening
visiting walking anything time for
it all! Love Rachel! Forget
learning experience! She might
actually do it!...and that's harder
than any garage...could just go in,
close that out...so sweet...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

The Owner of Diner sees Rachel coming into the diner again. He stops what he is doing and takes a deep breath.

OWNER OF DINER

I am still reviewing the
applications.

RACHEL

You've probably had that help
wanted sign up for a long time. If
you hire me you don't have to worry
about it anymore.

OWNER OF DINER

Right now I am trying to get
someone with some experience.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL
You wouldn't have to untrain any
bad habits.

Owner of Diner is about to say something but then bursts out laughing.

OWNER OF DINER
Okay, fine...but I'm not gonna have
time to show you what to do five or
six times.

Rachel nods.

INT. DINER - ANOTHER ANGLE

The diner is about half full with customers. Rachel brings the dirty dishes back from a table. She sets them near the dishwasher and moves over and puts an order next to the Owner of Diner. Rachel surveys the diner to see that nobody needs her immediate attention. Rachel picks up a washcloth and cleans the counter that wasn't that dirty in the first place.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HELEN'S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Helen finishes sewing together one side of the front and the back of an infant T-shirt. She takes it off the sewing machine and inspects the seam. Helen then looks at the entire shirt, turns it over in her hands, and lets out a deep sigh.

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM

Rachel is slumped on the couch watching television. Helen, still holding the T-shirt, comes in and sits down in her chair.

RACHEL
What's that?

HELEN
Just a baby T-shirt...my girls
already get so many baby clothes
from each other when they're
pregnant...

Through Helen's front window, a car can be seen parking in the driveway across the street.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL (V.O.)

I changed jobs today. I put the new place and number on the table there.

HELEN (V.O.)

Oh really, were you unhappy at the old place?

RACHEL (V.O.)

A little.

EXT. DRIVEWAY ACROSS THE STREET - NIGHT

CHRIS WESTLEY, a sixteen year old boy, gets out of the driver's side of the car and ANDREW WESTLEY, his 40ish year old Father, gets out from the passenger's side.

INT. THE WESTLEY'S LIVING ROOM

Chris and Andrew walk into the living room via the front door. SHEILA WESTLEY, the 40ish year old Mother, is sitting on the couch reading to MARY WESTLEY, a five year old girl.

SHEILA

How'd it go?

CHRIS

Good. You can see the other cars a lot better with the headlights 'specially on the freeway...

SHEILA

You got on the freeway at night?

ANDREW

He's gonna have to do it sometime.

Sheila winces.

CHRIS

Dad's like directing all around town and we're going up Magnolia and he's like "get in the right lane" which only goes to the freeway. So I'm like "okay" and I take the turn and then Dad's like "faster, faster, merge" and I'm in!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chris reaches over and starts to tickle Mary. Mary squirms off of the couch, falls to the ground, and kicks at Chris as a defense. Chris dodges the feet and occasionally gets a tickle in at her ribs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

Rachel mops the floor. There are no customers in the diner. The Owner of Diner comes out from the back.

OWNER OF DINER

Did you reorganize the stock room?

RACHEL

I couldn't find anything back there.

OWNER OF DINER

Looks real good.

Rachel quickly nods and gets back to the mopping.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RECORD STORE/COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Rachel is sitting at a table drinking a cup of coffee and reading the free weekly newspaper.

FOUR TEENAGE BOYS are sitting at the table next to her. Rachel looks up and sees one of them looking at her. The boy smiles and Rachel just looks back at her paper, not changing her expression. The boy stops smiling and looks back at the other boys.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A GROCERY STORE

Rachel shops at the end of an isle. Chris walks toward her down that isle, also shopping. Chris grabs an item off of the shelf. He looks at Rachel's face and stops. Chris keeps looking at her face until Rachel looks up at him.

CHRIS

I've seen you.

Rachel just looks at him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Right across the street from me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rachel nods but doesn't change her expression.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
So you...like...ummm...

RACHEL
I rent a room there.

CHRIS
Oh, wow, yeah it had to be something like that...so now you're doing some...well of course you're doing some shopping, that's why you're here.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
You too.

CHRIS
Yeah, now that I can drive I get to do the shopping, get gas for the car. It's cool though.

Rachel smiles more broadly and nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOYCE STREET - DAY

Helen and ALICE, a woman about Helen's age, are walking down the street. They are both wearing sweat suits and walking shoes.

ALICE
Laurie's husband got an offer in Chicago...

HELEN
You said he doesn't like the job he has now...

ALICE
I know, but this would mean moving the kids in the middle of the school year. They're thinking of only him moving up, come back on some of the weekends, then have everyone move in June.

HELEN
That would be tough...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICE

I'm glad we never had to face
anything like that...

HELEN

Yes I know...let's take the long
route tomorrow.

Helen stops in front of her house. Alice keeps going.

ALICE

Sure.

Helen looks dejected as she watches Alice leave.

CUT TO:

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

The answering machine is flashing. Helen presses the play
button.

STEVE

Hi Helen this is Steve. Hey could
you give me a call, I just have a
couple of questions about what you
did last time...

INT. HELEN'S LIVING ROOM

Helen paces the living room.

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN

Helen is talking on the telephone. Rachel comes through the
kitchen-to-side yard door with bags of groceries and sets
them on the counter.

HELEN

...not full time or anything like
that, but I could free you up and
not have you running back and forth
between so many projects...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A FRONT YARD ON BOYCE STREET - NIGHT

The houses are in pristine shape, all the doors are open, and
all the lights are on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
Ginger Ginger Ginger! Man's
bestest of best friends! Taking
you for a walk tomorrow better
believe it!

EXT. ANOTHER FRONT YARD ON BOYCE STREET - NIGHT

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
Business trip Cleveland! All
right! Week of paradise!

EXT. HELEN'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
In for good...no references...no
age check...job is there...she
don't talk it to death.

EXT. SIDE YARD #1 - NIGHT

MOVING

Toward the door that leads into Garage #1. The door is open.
The light in the garage is on.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
Just one room...

The door is ten feet ahead.

MOVING SLOWER

Toward the doorway.

STOP THREE FEET FROM THE DOORWAY.

BEAUTIFUL VOICE (V.O.)
Doesn't really matter...don't need
to fix it...

MOVING

Away from the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rachel is lying on her bed listening to her boom box. Rachel
gets up and turns off the tape, then selects the radio.
Rachel lies back down on the bed, but after a few moments she
gets up, turns off the radio, and flops back down on the bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After a few more moments, she rolls over and sits up at the edge of the bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WESTLEY'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Chris is playing catch with his Father. Andrew catches the ball and walks over to Chris. They are both now heading toward the front porch, but they are still tossing the ball back and forth.

CHRIS

If he was innocent he would just be saying at the time of the robbery he was here and he was with these people...

ANDREW

He doesn't have to say anything if he doesn't want to.

CHRIS

Yeah to incriminate himself.

ANDREW

I'm not saying he's not guilty, but say they charge him, everything he says they could use against him. And that's true even if he is innocent.

CHRIS

I guess.

Chris sits down on the porch next to two cups. One of them has juice still in it but the other one just has ice and a little bit of juice. Chris takes a drink from the full cup. Andrew opens up the front door.

ANDREW

Here, I'll put the stuff away.

Chris nods and throws his glove to Andrew. Andrew goes inside and closes the door behind him. Chris is still sitting on the front porch. He looks across the street to see Rachel come out to the front yard with some gardening tools.

EXT. HELEN'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Rachel is on her knees weeding the garden in front. A drop of perspiration from Rachel's forehead falls off her face and soaks into the dry dirt she is working on. Sounds of Rachel DIGGING can be heard.

Across the street, Chris has moved from the porch to behind the car in the driveway. Chris watches Rachel, but Rachel has not noticed Chris.

EXT. THE WESTLEY'S DRIVEWAY

Chris moves out from behind the car and heads toward Rachel. As he reaches the edge of the street, Chris sees Rachel's next door neighbor EDWARD THOMAS come out from his side yard. Chris stops as he sees Ed begin to talk to Rachel. Chris then goes back toward the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RECORD STORE/COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Rachel looks at a rack of tapes. While glancing through them she looks up to see TWO TEENAGE GIRLS sitting down at a table that has an empty cup of coffee on it. Rachel sets down the tape and moves over to the table.

RACHEL
I'm still sitting here.

One of the girls slowly turns to her but doesn't bother to look up.

GIRL #1
There's just a cup here.

Girl #2 smiles. Rachel points to a bag next to the table.

RACHEL
That's my bag.

GIRL #1
You better pick it up then.

Girl #2 laughs. Rachel reaches down and picks Girl #1 up to her feet.

GIRL #1 (CONT'D)
Hey!

Rachel pushes her over the chair she was just sitting in. Girl #1 lands hard. Girl #2 is speechless and motionless.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rachel looks at Girl #2 and Girl #2 gets up and moves back. Girl #2 is almost crying.

Rachel moves toward Girl #2 but is intercepted by the OWNER OF STORE who restrains her.

OWNER OF STORE

Enough!

Rachel does not resist and moves back. Girl #1 has gotten up and is checking herself. The Owner of Store turns to see that Girl #1 is okay, and then turns back to Rachel.

OWNER OF STORE (CONT'D)

You can leave.

Rachel grabs her bag and heads toward the door, continually glaring at Girl #1.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WESTLEY'S DRIVEWAY - AFTERNOON

Chris is playing basketball with his friend DREW. Chris bounces the ball at the corner of the driveway.

CHRIS

...we gotta have someone in class go over our essays before we turn 'em in. So I get Stacey and I'm like "so what do you think?" and she's "well, I really like it but maybe it would be a little better just maybe..." and she was like this the whole time. It's like "just tell me the parts you don't like!".

DREW

I've never seen Stacey ever get mad. Ever.

CHRIS

Yeah...okay what's the score?

DREW

This is it, man. H-O to H-O-R-S.

Chris directs his attention to the basket, bounces the ball quickly, shoots, and misses the shot. Drew retrieves the ball.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRIS

One more?

Drew moves over to his bike and passes the ball to Chris.

DREW

Nah, I gotta get home.

CHRIS

Okay.

Drew picks up his bike and pedals off. Chris stands in the driveway, bounces the basketball, and looks over at Helen's house.

POV CHRIS

Chris looks at the house for a couple seconds, then turns to see Rachel walking down the street carrying a sack of groceries and her bag that carries her uniform.

EXT. BOYCE STREET

Chris watches her for a second then walks over to meet Rachel in front of Helen's house.

CHRIS

Hey I'm sorry, I could've driven you home you know at the store. I got my stuff and it was just like...I don't know...

RACHEL

Uhhh...oh...yeah that was fine.

Chris looks at Rachel's uniform sticking out of the top of the bag.

CHRIS

Guess you're just getting off work...so you're like...done with school?

Rachel nods.

RACHEL

I finished early.

Chris nods.

CHRIS

Must be cool to get home and not have to worry about homework.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

Sure.

Chris looks at Rachel's shirt that shows a music band. Chris points at her shirt.

CHRIS

Didn't those guys have a hit a couple years ago? What was it called...

Rachel's eyes light up.

RACHEL

Probably <actual band's hit single>. It's good but the great ones on that tape never get played.

CHRIS

Yeah sometimes the best songs are the weird ones that don't get anything. I should probably try to listen to that whole CD...

Chris looks at the groceries.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I guess your stuff is getting warm.

Chris starts to walk away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'll see you some other time or something.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WESTLEY'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Chris takes out a glass from the cupboard and sets it on the counter. He then opens up the refrigerator and takes out a carton of milk. Holding the milk, he takes out another glass from the cupboard and pours the milk into it. Chris puts the milk back in the refrigerator, sets the glass of milk down, and leaves the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. HELEN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Rachel is putting the groceries away when the doorbell RINGS.

INT. HELEN'S FRONT FOYER

Rachel opens up the front door to see Chris standing there.

CHRIS

Listen, I...I was wondering if
maybe you would like to go out
sometime.

RACHEL

Okay.

Chris now looks very relieved.

CHRIS

Great, great. How about
Saturday...maybe six thirty?

RACHEL

Sure.

Chris starts to walk away.

CHRIS

Okay great I'll see you then.