

RICK

Boy can't even keep a girlfriend.

TAMMY

You got the wheat seed in yet?

RICK

It'll be done today.

Husband and wife eat without further talk. The radio drones on in the background.

16 EXT. FARM - FARMYARD - LATER 16

Rick trudges across the farmyard.

He passes a row of domestic pickups with matching vanity plates [like LIVFREE, numbered 1-4] are parked. There's a rusty tractor on blocks nearby, busted.

MOMENTS LATER

Rick hooks a seeder to another tractor. Worry on his face.

The weathervane Jesus on top of the barn shows there's a steady southerly blowing.

17 EXT. KIM AND BRAD'S HOUSE - MORNING 17

A pretty colonial on a residential street. Well landscaped, hanging baskets, cushioned porch furniture.

KIM (40) hustles out the door juggling workbag, purse, travel coffee cup. Her phone rings but she can't get to it on time. BUZZ of a voicemail being left.

Sc. 1 Start

KIM

Come on kiddo, we're going to be late.

Her daughter PEYTON (8) steps out. Kim locks the door and hurries down the steps. Tries to fire off a text without dropping everything.

Finished, she looks back at Peyton still making her way down.

KIM (CONT'D)

A little faster hon, come on.

The girl is in her own world. It's as if she doesn't hear.

KIM (CONT'D)

Peyton?

(beat)

Peyton?

Kim crouches. Adjusts the volume on her daughter's hearing aids.

KIM (CONT'D)

That better?

Peyton's face lights up. She nods. Kim takes Peyton's hand and they start down the street.

PEYTON

I don't want to go to school.

KIM

Everyone has to go to school.
That's just how it is.

PEYTON

You and Daddy don't.

KIM

We have to go to work. I don't
always want to go to work either
but we have to make money so we can
have the things like food and a
home --

Kim's cell RINGS.

KIM (CONT'D)

~~Sorry hon, I have to take this.~~

~~-(on phone)~~

~~Hey Steve. Sorry I missed you. No,
no, totally fine. What's up?~~

As Kim talks, Peyton gazes at the sky. Her eye follows a flock of BIRDS dancing in the breeze.

KIM (CONT'D)

~~(on phone)~~

~~Which network reported that? No,
it's just that sort of reporting is
- No, we can't put that message out
because we don't know that. It
wouldn't be responsible. Uh huh.
Yeah, I spoke to the National
Weather Service twenty minutes
ago...Sounds good, see you then.~~

She hangs up.

KIM (CONT'D)

Peyton?
 (louder)
 Peyton?

The girl looks up at her Mom.

KIM (CONT'D)

I hope we don't need a new pair of those things, they cost more than you can imagine. What are you looking at?

Peyton points to the birds on the branch of a TREE WITH A DISTINCTIVE TRUNK.

PEYTON

Where do they go when it thunders?

KIM

They know how to take care of themselves. Animals sense weather better than people. They fly themselves away or tuck into safety before weather comes.

Peyton likes this answer.

KIM (CONT'D)

What I want to know is: what do you do if a "Watch" is issued?

PEYTON

Pay special close attention.

KIM

And if a "Watch" becomes a "Warning"?

PEYTON

Do what my teacher says.

KIM

What if we're at home?

PEYTON

Put on bike helmets, get in the tub and cover with pillows and blankets.

KIM

You got it.

Sc. 1 End

Peyton sits alone, oblivious to the world around her. To the older boys playing football nearby. To the other 8 and 9-year-old girls playing hand clapping games.

Isabella finishes her turn. As another girl steps in, Isabella notices Peyton.

MOMENT LATER

Sc. 2 Start Isabella stands over Peyton.

ISABELLA
Want to play?

PEYTON
(dubious)
Me?

ISABELLA
Stand up.
(she does)
Put your hands like this. No, like
this.

Some of the girls waiting their turn move closer, curious.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)
Repeat after me. "Nobody likes
me...". Say it.

PEYTON
Nobody likes me.

ISABELLA
Everybody hates me...

PEYTON
Everybody hates me.

ISABELLA
Guess I'll go and eat woorrms...

PEYTON
Guess I'll go and eat worms.

The other girls GIGGLE. Peyton sees.

ISABELLA
Fat ones, skinny ones, ooohy gooohy
gooey ones.

PEYTON
Fat ones, skinny ones, ooohy gooohy
gooey ones.

Peyton struggles to make the sounds. The other girls LAUGH.
Peyton's face burns with anger and hurt. She stops playing.

ISABELLA

What? That's how it goes!

Peyton turns and runs. Doesn't want them to see her tears...

Sc. 2 End

She flees straight through the middle of the football game...A BOY (12) is running for a catch. Doesn't see her, she doesn't see him. He makes the catch and...BOOM! Collision. He falls on top of Peyton, hard. Other boys pile on, burying her as they scrap for the ball.

Eventually, play moves on. The last boy climbs off of her.

BOY

Sorry.

But she only sees his lips move. For Peyton, the world of sound has stopped. The boy runs off down the field.

Peyton crawls around the grass searching desperately for her hearing aids.

40

EXT. FARM - FIELD - DAY

40

A knife edged wheel cuts into the earth. Deposits rows of seeds neatly into the soil with every rotation. Rick drives the seeder. The worry gone from his face. He's out in the fresh air, finally getting the job done.

Carlos and Daniel work on a fence nearby.

Without warning, the tractor jolts to halt.

Rick climbs down. Pops the hood. Pokes around. Burns himself.

RICK

Ow! Dammit.

Rick blows past the farmhands on his way to the house.

DANIEL

Sir? Excuse me, Sir? My buddy knows cars.

RICK

It's not a car, it's a tractor.

Rick storms toward the house.