

SHINE

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FADE IN:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

MOTHER, 30's, is standing beside the JUNGLE GYM in the PLAYGROUND. The SUN is shining brightly on her face as a TEAR streams down her CHEEK. She is clutching a DOLL. She LOOKS at it, FACE TO FACE.

MOTHER

Shine, baby. Forever and ever, now
you can shine...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

JILL comes RUNNING in to the KITCHEN where her MOTHER is CLEANING up supper.

JILL

Mom, mom! C'mon let's go. Just for
a little while tonight? I can't
stand being cooped up in here
anymore! Please?

MOTHER

It's not safe, Jill. Going to the
playground after dark? I don't
know. I don't think so.

JILL

Mom, what could possibly happen
now? Really. I haven't been out
for, like, forever!

MOTHER

(Sighing)

Okay, but only for a little while.
I don't have a good feeling about
this...

JILL

You're the best, Mom. Thanks.

URNS to dress to GO out. STOPS and TURNS BACK.

You know, you always have been...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Jill is SWINGING on the swing set while her mother LOOKS on from a BENCH nearby. She keeps checking her WATCH and looking at the SKY.

JILL

C'mon Mom! Come swing with me!

MOTHER gets a FARAWAY LOOK in her EYES.

MOTHER

No thanks, sweetie. You go ahead.
I'm okay here. But, look, we have
to go soon. We have to get home
before the sun comes up!

FLASHBACK TO:

Jill and her Mother WALK to the STORE on a MOONLIT Summer NIGHT. They TURN the CORNER to the darkened ALLEY that leads to their back door. Mother is STRUCK and knocked DOWN. Jill is the next to be ATTACKED, but the LIGHT from the STREET LAMP dissolves to a PINPOINT as her CONSCIOUSNESS is STOLEN from her. When she WAKES, Mother CRAWLS to a BLEEDING Jill and STRUGGLES to LIFT her from the GROUND and STAGGER the rest of the way HOME with her.

MONTAGE:

Mother TEARS the blood-stained CLOTHING from the girl's BODY. She tenderly WIPES the WOUNDS, noticing the dual PUNCTURES. After getting the girl into her NIGHTCLOTHES, she COVERS her and begins and bedside VIGIL.

DISSOLVE TO:
(THE DAY AFTER
THE ATTACK...)

Jill tosses and turns VIOLENTLY in her bed. She is FEVERISH and her BODY is BEADED with SWEAT. Her CLOTHES are SOAKED through and her SKIN is paper WHITE.

DISSOLVE TO:
(TWO DAYS
LATER...)

JILL remains in a WEAKENED state. Her mother is SHOCKED that she has SURVIVED, but the JOY she feels is apparent on her FACE.

The girl WAKES. She tells her mother she is STARVING. No matter what FOOD the mother brings to her she PUSHES it away.

Finally, she THROWS the TRAY violently against the wall and SCREAMS toward the heavens, revealing her FANGS. Her mother finally UNDERSTANDS and MOTIONS to Jill to let her know she will RETURN soon with something the girl can EAT.

DISSOLVE TO:
(THREE DAYS
LATER...)

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The GIRL is the GLOWING picture of HEALTH. The mother STANDS near as the child SHAKES her DOLL in the darkened ROOM, her FACE is etched with a mixed look of FEAR and CONFUSION.

Jill PACES in the bedroom as her mother WRINGS her HANDS.

JILL
(Turns toward mother)
I'm so hungry! Please won't you
help me, Mom! Get me something to
eat!!

MOTHER
Honey, what do you want me to do?
You can't kill people! What do you
want me to do!

Jill HEARS the CAT meowing outside and, FASTER than a human, is out the DOOR. The cat SCREECHES loudly.

DISSOLVE TO:
(LATER THAT
NIGHT)

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mother and Jill SIT at the Kitchen TABLE. Mood is SOMBER.

JILL
Mom, we've tried everything. I
looked on the internet, too.
There's nothing.

MOTHER
Well, the answer will come. We'll
find a cure or something. We can't
stay trapped in this house
forever...

Mother's EYES become DARK and VACANT.
...forever. Yes.
(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)

You have forever, don't you? But I will grow old. What will you do when I die, Jill? You're not going to be ten. You're not going to be a teenager. You're never going to be an adult!

Mother starts to get Hysterical.

You'll need someone to look after you. To act as your caretaker. I won't be here. Oh my God! Jill. What are we going to do?

JILL

Mom, you're not going to die. Stop. I can take care of myself.

MOTHER

Yes, yes I will die. You're not strong enough to turn me. We've tried that. I'm going to die someday and you'll be all alone. That can't happen, Jill!

Jill PAUSES and THINKS a minute. A mature, SAD resolve passes across her FACE.

JILL

It's okay, Mom. Please just trust me. We'll work it out somehow.

Jill abruptly acts HAPPY, like a nine-year old should, like she used to be.

We'll shine, Mom. We'll shine ... and we'll be fine!

CUT TO: (PRESENT
MOMENT)

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Jill PLAYS in the FOREGROUND as Mother SITS on a BENCH in the MIDDLE GROUND, coming out of her reverie. Suddenly, mother PANICS as the first RAYS of the morning SUN pass over the HILLS in the BACKGROUND.

MOTHER

RISING from the BENCH, she WALKS toward Jill playing on the SWINGS.

Jill, JILL! C'mon now, honey, the sun is doing its thing and we have to get home. Please.

Jill raises her HEAD slowly and LOOKS at her mother with a presence of mind beyond her years.

JILL

It's okay, Mom. I think I'm going to stay here a while. You go on ahead.

Mother breaks into a RUN, but Jill anticipates and LEAPS over her to the JUNGLE GYM beyond. Mother turns, GRABS the APPARATUS and, with every fiber of her being, PLEADS with Jill to come down as she CRIES and CLAWS at the BARS.

MOTHER

(Calming down to speak)

Jill, honey, we'll find a way to deal with this. Please. Please don't do this. I can't live without you.

(Becoming more urgent now)

We'll sell everything. We'll go somewhere. Anywhere. Please don't give up now. Give me a chance to help you. Please. PLEASE. Dear God, help me! PLEASE!

More LIGHT breaks over the HORIZON. A slight HALO begins to ILLUMINATE Jill's SILHOUETTE.

JILL

(Extremely calmly)

Mom. I love you. You are the best Mother in the world. It's not your fault. I can't live like this anymore. You were right the other day. I see that now. There's no reason for both of us to be stuck, hidden away from the world.

The SUN becomes STRONGER and SMOKE begins to RISE from Jill's CLOTHING. Time is fast running out and the TENSION is PRONOUNCED.

You'll go on, Mom. You go on for us, both. Just shine, Mom. Shine ... and, you'll be fine.

The SUN rises FULL over the PLAYGROUND. From the FEET, up, Jill's BODY begins TURNING to ASH. It SWIRLS and SHIMMERS in the coming DAWN. It DANCES and DIPS in the AIR before ENVELOPING mother, COLLAPSED now. It appears to HUG her, then takes FLIGHT and WHIRLS away.

FADE TO BLACK.