

THE DESIGNER BAG AT THE GARBAGE DUMP

Written by

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Based on my novel of the same name.

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FADE IN:

INT. RAVI'S FAMILY CAR - MUMBAI, INDIA - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

RAVI, (9) precocious, resourceful and good-humored, MOTHER (32) wearing colorful, dangly earrings and nurturing FATHER (41) drive north through torrential rain. Next to him in the back seat is a suitcase, various toys and a telescope. Ravi holds up a picture from a large, leather-bound astronomy book.

RAVI

The Horsehead Nebula. Fifteen
hundred light years away.

Mom tousles his hair and he revels in the affection.

INT. DUMP TRUCK - MUMBAI, INDIA - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

The DRIVER (54) sips chai as he barrels toward a narrow bridge from the south. Music BLARES in the cab.

INT. RAVI'S FAMILY CAR - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The car heads toward the bridge.

RAVI

How many stars will we see?

FATHER

At your uncles? Away from the city?
Millions. Billions!

MOTHER

Your father has saved for this
vacation for fifteen months.

FATHER

On a doorman's wages.

Mother caresses Father's chin.

MOTHER

The best doorman in all of Mumbai!

INT./EXT. DUMP TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The truck enters the bridge. Driver reaches for a pastry and spills scalding chai on his lap. He swerves into the other lane.

INT./EXT. RAVI'S FAMILY CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Ravi's red Silly Putty egg rolls under Father's seat. He drops to his knees to retrieve it. Just before the car enters the bridge, Father turns a hard left to avoid a head-on collision. Their car goes airborne over the deep ravine. The truck's driver speeds on, unaware.

FADE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - GARDEN OAKS, NEW YORK - DAY

Julie (29) insecure control freak, dressed to the nines, walks downtown. A ring in the window calls her name and she enters the jewelry store and exits admiring it on her finger.

INT. ELEGANT DAY SPA - DAY

One foot soaks while the other receives a pedicure. A chilled mask covers her eyes. Hydrating cream covers her face. A glass of wine is nearby.

INT. LIVING ROOM - GARDEN OAKS, N.Y. - DAY

Flawlessly decorated Victorian house. MICHAEL(35) the perfect, mellow husband for an anal retentive wife like Julie, reads his architect's trade journal on the floral fainting couch.

A KEY RATTLES in the door. He jumps up, tosses toys into a basket and straightens the magazines on the coffee table. Julie bursts inside, immediately kicks off her towering high heeled shoes, scans the room and pockets the overlooked yellow Silly Putty egg.

She drops a shopping bag by the couch and re-fans the magazines on the coffee table. She spins her new ring jewel side down then holds out her hands and one foot.

JULIE

Isn't this just the perfect color
of pink?

MICHAEL

Wouldn't want anyone messing with
my feet but I'm glad you're happy.
What's in the bag?

She notices lint on Michael's sleeve and picks it off.

JULIE

I unpacked this at the store today.
I'll wear it tomorrow shopping.

A colorful dress with a tag that says, "Made in India."

MICHAEL

You bought an outfit to shop in?

JULIE

Perfect for the train and traipsing
all over New York.

MICHAEL

Was this shopping trip in the
budget?

She chews a perfectly pink nail.

JULIE

I had this planned before the
budget. And it's not frivolous, I
need new clothes for work.

Michael rolls his eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)

When I dress well I feel more
confident and you know we can
afford it. Hey, we've all got our
issues.

MICHAEL

Why don't you take up a hobby
that's cheaper? Like keeping
thoroughbred race horses.

LOGAN, (9) a blue-eyed blond, every mother's dream-child,
runs into the room wearing a pirate's hat.

LOGAN

Mommmmm-e!

Julie flings her arms open wide.

JULIE

Looooo-gan! Give me a hug. Did you
and dad eat?

LOGAN

Yep, my favorites. Peanut butter
and jelly, macaroni and cheese and
Popsicles.

JULIE

Well, your dad is quite the gourmet
isn't he?

(to Michael)

Did he say 'Popsicles?'

Michael hides behind his trade journal.

MICHAEL

Hey, we all have our issues.

LOGAN

Read to me. The new pirate book,
arrr.

JULIE

We've got church tonight, arrr.
I'll read at bedtime. And Logan...

She tosses him the Silly Putty accompanied by the look.

JULIE (CONT'D)

...ye best be using yer putty at
the kitchen table or you'll be
swabbin' the poop deck, me hearty,
arrr.

INT. TRADITIONAL MAINSTREAM CHURCH - NIGHT

Julie drops in a twenty and takes out a ten as the offering
plate goes by. She seems engulfed in her Bible but it
conceals her phone used to peruse designer fashions.

INT. BATHROOM ROOM - NIGHT

Michael puts on his pajama top and Julie brushes her teeth
with a fancy electric toothbrush.

MICHAEL

A homeless family was outside the
bookstore today. Mom and two kids.
Tough economy.

She reaches for Himalayan pomegranate oil -- one of many fancy bottles lining her sink.

JULIE
Some people don't want to work.

MICHAEL
I gave her ten dollars so they could have dinner.

Julie kisses him.

JULIE
Really Michael, you're a soft touch. You could use a little discernment.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - JULIE'S DREAM

Julie and Logan are dirty, shabbily dressed standing in front of the bookstore.

LOGAN
I haven't eaten since yesterday.
Can I have macaroni and cheese or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

JULIE
I have to get some money first.

A BUSINESSMAN (32) walks by, CHATTING on his cell.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Excuse me. My son hasn't eaten.

The man looks irritated and hurries past. She approaching a MALE MILLENNIAL (18) walking his dog.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Excuse me. Can you spare a dollar for a burger? My son hasn't eaten--

The man cast a pitiful glance and as he walks by.

LOGAN
Mom, I'm really hungry.

Julie chokes back tears then she sees Michael. He glances at them and continues past.

JULIE
Michael. Michael. We need money.

MICHAEL

Sorry, I was chastised for lack of discernment. I suggest you look for gainful employment.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

Julie sits up in bed, her heart racing.

INT. HUGE WALK-IN CLOSET - DAY

Julie fusses with hair and accessories. She can't find the perfect earrings for the Indian dress. She starts to pack a small suitcase but selects her large Gucci purse instead.

JULIE

I'll just buy something to wear tomorrow so I don't have to take a suitcase.

Michael steps in.

MICHAEL

What?

JULIE

I said, 'If there ever was a perfect bag, this is it.'

MICHAEL

You look fabulous, as always. Leave something on the racks at Bloomingdales for the next shopper. See you in two days.

Michael kisses her and exits. She packs underwear, a huge make-up bag, hand sanitizer and migraine meds in the purse. She scrutinizes herself in the full-length mirror. She's not quite satisfied.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Julie enters and spots her father, BUD, (69) a retired blue collar worker, in a booth. She takes a deep breath and approaches.

BUD

You're late. I went ahead and ordered since you weren't here.

The waitress sets bacon, sausage, eggs, toast and coffee in front of Bud and unadorned oatmeal in front of Julie.

BUD (CONT'D)
You're always watchin' your weight.

Bud digs in but sees Julie staring at his food. He offers a slice of bacon. She shakes her head and starts on the oatmeal.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Julie exits in a huff headed for the train station across the street.

JULIE
Would it kill him to say something kind? He didn't even like my dress!

FADE TO:

INT. RAVI'S FAMILY CAR - RAVINE - NIGHT

The telescope is mangled against the shattered front windshield. Ravi regains consciousness. He has multiple wounds but fared better than his parents. He shakes his mother's shoulder then turns to his dad.

RAVI
Mommy? Mommy? Mommy? Daddy? Daddy?

After a minute of hysterics he puts the astronomy book on his father's lap, grabs his Silly Putty egg and climbs out the broken window.

EXT. RAVINE - NIGHT

Lightning illuminates the bridge high above. Torrential rain.

JESUS (O.S.)
Walk, Ravi. I am with you.

He climbs the muddy hillside but slides to the bottom scraping knees and palms. Halfway up he grabs for a branch, unaware it is Jesus' hand. He successfully reaches the top.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Ravi limps along the road. A black Mercedes stops.

FADE TO:

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - DAY

Julie stares at the deserted platform, confused. She sees her train. It's the only one in the station. ANGELO, (63) an angel, stands on the steps of the train car's passenger loading platform. He is distinguished looking in his white British conductor's outfit. The train lurches forward. He holds out his hand.

ANGELO

Julie, quick.

She runs. He grabs her wrist and swings her up. He glances at his pocket watch.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

Good show, Love. You're right on time.

JULIE

How do you know my name?

He ignores her question.

INT. TRAIN - DAY - TRAVELING

He leads her through several empty cars to the deserted...

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Julie looks around, confused.

JULIE

Is this the 10:30 to New York?

ANGELO

The chap at that table is waiting for you. Enjoy.

She sees LONE MAN (33) in a corner booth smiling at her. She turns back to Angelo, he's gone. Lone Man waves her over. After great hesitation she sits. Her discomfort grows over his silence.

JULIE

Who are you? I assume you had a
good reason to call me over?

He nods. Julie stares in frustration and starts to leave.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Too bizarre for me.

NOTE: When Lone Man speaks THUNDER and lightning sporadically
flash outside.

LONE MAN

I wanted to serve you the best
breakfast you've ever eaten.

Angelo pushes a cart. He lays a linen table cloth and sets
candles, china and crystal. He sets fruit, crab legs, salad
and blackberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream on the table.
Lone Man lights the candles and smiles warmly at Julie.

JULIE

These are all my favorites. How...?

LONE MAN

To make up for what just happened.

He picks up a large pitcher and fills her glass. She sips.

JULIE

Apricot nectar?

LONE MAN

It is your favorite.

Julie nods.

LONE MAN (CONT'D)

One hundred and three thousand five
hundred and forty-eight.

Julie looks confused.

LONE MAN (CONT'D)

The number of hairs on your head.
Of course, after you brush you'll
be down to one hundred and three
thousand four hundred and one.

JULIE

Michael's idea of a joke, right?

LONE MAN

Julie Louise Sprague, I know you; I created you. I've walked down the corridor of your life and seen the very end.

He smiles and reaches for her hand. She sees His nail scars and searches for a rational explanation.

JULIE

Wake up, Julie. You're having another wacko dream.

LONE MAN/JESUS

I see your wounded heart mishandled by your father, then and now. I'm so sorry.

JULIE

What's he got to do with anything?

JESUS

He has everything to do with how you perceive Me. I'm not like him. I'm your biggest fan. As you get to know Me, you'll learn to trust.

FLASHBACK - INT. LITTLE JULIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (1988)

Lower class and cluttered. In need of a woman's touch. Jesus and Julie watch together as a scene from her past unfolds.

JESUS (V.O.)

I was with you the year your mother died, nineteen eighty-eight.

LITTLE JULIE, (9) wearing striped pants and polka dot blouse, gathers her school papers. BUD (45) enters.

BUD

You were supposed to clean this place up.

LITTLE JULIE

I had homework last night.

BUD

And what do you think you're wearing? Those don't match.

LITTLE JULIE

My clothes need washed.

BUD
You look like Bozo, the clown!

INT. COAT CLOSET - DAY

Little Julie takes refuge in the dark. She sits, hugs her knees and rocks. Tears.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE COAT CLOSET - DAY

Bud paces, full of regret.

JESUS (V.O.)
It wasn't you, Julie. He was
hurting too...

Bud reaches for the doorknob but loses his nerve.

JESUS (V.O.)
...and the love you needed never
came. Inside you're still that
little girl trying to prove your
worth in order to get love.

Bud sighs, pounds palm to forehead as he grimaces then pulls a flask from his pocket.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY

Julie tears up. Jesus looks at her, full of compassion.

JESUS CONT'D (V.O.)
Your dad has his way of coping. You
have yours.

MONTAGE - CURRENT TIME

Julie:

- A. Watches Michael build an elaborate gazebo in the yard.
- B. Lays clothes and credit card by the cash register.
- C. Watches Michael hang a stained glass window in kitchen.
- D. Looks at a high-dollar vacation package on line.

E. Hangs an elaborately framed painting in her house.

END MONTAGE

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY

JESUS

Counterfeits never satisfy because
I planted a longing in you for
eternity -- the real perfect world.

Julie is momentarily stunned by this truth. Jesus opens His hand to reveal a large orchid.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Your life is like this -- here
today and gone tomorrow. Decades
will hurry by, soon your
grandchildren will be weeping by
your casket.

As He speaks, the flower wilts, shrivels and turns to dust, which falls through His fingers and settles gently on the tablecloth.

JESUS (CONT'D)

When you leave earth you can't
bring anything. I'm offering you a
choice -- live unfulfilled, or live
for My eternal kingdom.

JULIE

I try to be good enough, but can't.
I hate myself sometimes...

JESUS

It pains me because deep inside you
hate yourself all the time. But, if
you die a shopping addict, I won't
love you any less.

Still unable to make eye contact she runs her finger through the dust and considers His words. He lifts her chin.

JESUS (CONT'D)

No one on earth can love you
unconditionally.

JULIE

I'll never measure up.

JESUS
Julie, if I had a refrigerator,
your picture would be on it.

FADE TO:

EXT. BARNYARD PIG PEN - DAY

Jesus and Julie stand next to a pig wallowing in a mudhole next to a lamb struggling to get out. Julie crinkles her nose and sidesteps to avoid any mud.

JULIE
Where are we?

JESUS
What do you see, Julie?

JULIE
Um, a pig and a lamb? And... mud?

Jesus wades into the wallow, dirtying His feet and clothes. He gathers the lamb in His arms and carries it to her.

JESUS
They both get in the mud, but the pig is content there and the lamb struggles to get free.

Careful to avoid touching the mud, she pets its head.

JESUS (CONT'D)
There's a big difference between rebellion and immaturity. Outwardly it looks the same, but it's really all about your heart.

JULIE
I want to run and hide when I... choose the mud.

JESUS
You'll end up back in the mud, a lot. But I long to give you a gift of forgiveness in exchange for your failures. Confess them and I'll pull you out and make you white as snow.

He rubs His nail-pierced hand over the muddied wool and it becomes clean. He puts the lamb down and Julie strokes it.

JULIE

It's hard to believe You can really
forgive me. Really forgive.

JESUS

My enemy's biggest lie is 'you
can't come to Me until you're
perfect.' It's the opposite, you
can't get free until you run to Me.

Jesus holds out a baby bottle that suddenly materialized.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Would you like to feed My little
lamb?

Julie strokes the lamb and smiles as it drinks.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Wallowing in shame or avoiding Me
sinks you deeper in the mud.

FADE TO:

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Back at the table Julie sets the baby bottle down. The train
RATTLES down the tracks.

JESUS

Let's eat dessert first! Blackberry
cobbler, thickened with tapioca.
Thin crust and vanilla ice cream.

JULIE

My favorite desert from childhood.
The ice cream isn't melted.

JESUS

You don't like it melted.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY

They eat from each dish and smile and LAUGH as THUNDER and
lightning ebbs and flows.

JESUS

How do you please a good father?

JULIE

I-I don't know. I tried to but...

JESUS

You hold up your cup and ask for more.

She looks at her empty glass, then back at Him and smiles. She holds, He pours. He proposes a toast.

JESUS (CONT'D)

To your destiny!.. I have a special group of little lambs, precious orphans. I've spent this time preparing you to feed them, physically and spiritually.

JULIE

To feed them?

She glances at the bottle.

JESUS

Will you feed My littlest lambs?

JULIE

Yes, Lord. Anything for You.

He hands her a Bible and opens to the inside cover.

JESUS

Here are some scriptures in the order you'll need them. My truth will guide you on this adventure.

He smiles and hands her a pair of colorful, dangly earrings.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I know you love jewelry. These might also come in handy.

She hold them up to her dress.

JULIE

Oh, they're perf--, I mean, they're wonderful.

JESUS

It's time for you to leave.

JULIE

I don't want to leave You -- ever!

JESUS
Remember, I'm always with you.

EXT. CABOOSE - PASSENGER LOADING PLATFORM - DAY

After a long hug she backs down the steps still clutching His hands until she stands on the...

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

The train pulls away, she stares until it disappears. She turns around and SHRIEKS. Dark skinned men and sari-clad women stare. The sign says "Mumbai."

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

MR. SHAW, (45) smooth talking and prosperous, jumps out of the black Mercedes and throws his suit jacket over Ravi.

MR. SHAW
Let me get you out of this rain.
Why are you out on a night like
this?

RAVI
A car wreck. My parents. They need
help.

Ravi SOBS. Mr. Shaw gently picks him up and places him in the...

INT. MR. SHAW'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

He turns on the heater and points the vents toward Ravi. Ravi frantically rolls the Silly Putty egg between his fingers. Mr. Shaw places his hand on Ravi's shoulder.

MR. SHAW
Let me take you to my home. Then
I'll call the police to help your
parents.

Ravi continues SOBBING. He puts the egg in his pocket.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
You're safe with me. I'll help you
and your parents. I promise.

Ravi passes out.

EXT. MR. SHAW'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

An average looking house surrounded by a high wall with an iron gate. A shed in the back. An old green beater car and several others are parked by the door. Mr. Shaw carries the unconscious Ravi toward the house.

INT. MR. SHAW'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The inside is decorated far beyond what the outside would indicate -- a spiral staircase, crystal chandeliers, hand-made rugs and carved teak furniture. His wife, VIDYA (39) enters. She's a dark, somber looking beauty. The phone rings.

MR. SHAW
(into phone)
Shaw here.

He tenses.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
But I don't have enough kids... OK,
OK, I'll have it by Tuesday.

He hangs up.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
How much today?

VIDYA
Six thousand rupees--

MR. SHAW
Not enough. I need more kids. The
little ones. Seven, eight, ten
years old.

INT. MR. SHAW'S HOUSE/SPARE BEDROOM - DAY

Bars on the windows. Ravi sleeps on a mat. He wakes when THE MAID, (23), stoic and somber, unlocks the door and enters.

THE MAID
Mr. Shaw wants you downstairs, now.

INT. MR. SHAW'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Remnants of a sumptuous breakfast. Ravi enters.

RAVI
My parents. Can we see them?

MR. SHAW

Let me take care of your wounds
first.

Ravi is in shock but follows Mr. Shaw to the table. He holds out his injured left arm. Mr. Shaw ignores it and wraps gauze around Ravi's uninjured right arm from wrist to shoulder. Ravi points to the large gash on his left arm.

RAVI

This hurts.

MR. SHAW

Air and sunshine will help that
heal.

Mr. Shaw liberally applies orange Mercurochrome on even the littlest scratch and rips a scab off Ravi's knee. Ravi WHIMPERS and rolls the Silly Putty egg between his fingers. Mr. Shaw hands Ravi his half eaten pastry. Ravi devours it.

A spider monkey wearing a fez and a vest tips its hat, reaches in its pocket and hands Ravi a candy. Mr. Shaw smiles. Then the monkey hands Ravi a coin and a pocket knife.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

Why you little...

The monkey screeches as Mr. Shaw grabs it and empties its pockets of a carved elephant, glasses and a ring.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

If there's one thing I can't stand
it's a thief!

Enraged, he flings the monkey into an ornate cage

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

Time to go.

RAVI

Are we going to see my parents?

MR. SHAW

If you're good you can see them at
the end of the day.

When Ravi doesn't move Shaw picks him up and carries him out.

INT. MR. SHAW'S OLD GREEN BEATER CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Mr. Shaw parks by a busy shopping center. He tries to hand Ravi an empty can. Ravi is still frozen in shock, tears streaming down his face.

Mr. Shaw strides to the passenger side and opens the door. When Ravi hesitates Mr. Shaw yanks him out. Ravi winces. Mr. Shaw snatches the egg. Ravi jumps for it.

RAVI

It's mine! My mother gave it to me!

MR. SHAW

Your mother's dead, and your dad.
You belong to me now... son.

Mr. Shaw's kick sends him sprawling.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

Ask everyone who comes by for
rupees. If you aren't here tonight
I'll find you and kill you. Don't
cross me, son. I never forget.

Mr. Shaw drives away. Ravi lies fetal on the sidewalk as people step around and over him. He feels in each pocket for his egg and cries.

JESUS (O.S.)

Walk, Ravi. I'm always with you.

He struggles to his feet, looks left then right, and walks into the crowd.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MUMBAI - DAY

Julie watches in disbelief as a train arrives from the other direction on the same tracks. She scans every window, then sits on a bench and CRIES. She senses a presence and looks up.

ANGELO

Isn't this brilliant? Here we are
in India looking for lambs!

Julie jumps up, grabs His shoulders.

JULIE

Oh, thank goodness. You've got to
help me get back home.

He holds up his pocket watch.

ANGELO

Not yet, Love. I was only sent to
help you find lambs. Remember,
'Yes, Lord. Anything for You'?

Lightning strikes the top of the depot.

JULIE

I changed my mind. No, Lord, no.

ANGELO

'No, Lord' is a frequently used
oxymoron, but a oxymoron no less.

He turns to exit the building.

JULIE

Don't leave me!

She reluctantly follows him outside the station to the...

EXT. TRAIN STATION - STREET - CONTINUOUS

He hails a three-wheeled auto rickshaw.

ANGELO

I know this adventure throws a
spanner in your works but when
you've learned what you need to
know I'll get you home.

INT./EXT. RICKSHAW - DAY

She reluctantly gets in and slides over to make room for him.
He doesn't get in, but whispers instructions to the RICKSHAW
DRIVER, (47) a NASCAR wanna-be. The cab inches forward into
congested traffic. Angelo looks at his pocket watch.

ANGELO

Impeccable timing.

JULIE

Don't leave me! Where will I sleep?
I don't know anyone. Noooo!

Angelo smiles and waves enthusiastically.

ANGELO

Remember? Jesus is with you!

Construction, HONKING HORNS, horrific pollution and oppressive heat engulf Julie. She wipes sweat from her forehead, coughs and rubs her watery eyes.

JULIE

(to Driver)

The exhaust is killing me. Get me out of this hideous traffic. Go faster; I don't need a migraine!

The driver smiles and nods -- clueless. The rickshaw stops in traffic and a BEGGAR GIRL (9) thrusts her hand in the open side and touches Julie's arm. She screams and slides away.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Nooo, no. Leave me alone!

An ELDERLY MALE BEGGAR (73) sticks his arm in the other side. Julie slides back toward the girl and goes fetal.

MALE BEGGAR

Please, give to me in the name of God. Please. Please.

JULIE

(to Driver)

Go, go. I'm getting assaulted!

Traffic finally lurches forward. Julie frantically slathers hand sanitizer from fingers to elbows.

TIME CUT TO:

INT./EXT. RICKSHAW - DAY

Rickshaw Driver parks on a non-residential street.

JULIE

No, no, this isn't where I want to be. Ho-tel? Hy-att, Hil-ton? Close to airport?

She holds out her arms mimicking an airplane.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Even a Red Roof Inn.

The driver shakes his head, steps outside and yanks her on to the...

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - CONTINUOUS

RICKSHAW DRIVER
Two hundred rupees.

JULIE
Rupees? I've got dollars.

RICKSHAW DRIVER
Yes, yes! Five, er, eight American
dollar.

She opens her purse and is stunned to see an English-to-Indian dictionary and rupees. She holds some rupees up and stares. The driver snatches them and jumps in the rickshaw.

JULIE
Wait, don't go!

Julie grips the auto's grab bar and is yanked spread eagle on the dirt as the rickshaw lurches forward. She sniffs, grimaces and looks around.

JULIE (CONT'D)
What's that putrid smell?

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Across the street are two vacant lots heaped with mounds of rubbish. Behind the trash is a hedge row and one lone tree to the side. Julie crinkles her nose as the smell assaults her.

Six filthy ORPHAN GIRLS dig through the trash. SAPNA (7) wears a man's T-shirt as a dress. The youngest is NILAYA (6). SHOBA (9) is skeletal. CHAVI (8) is the only one with shoes, but the toes are cut out. SAPNA (7) argues with SASHI, (11) the tallest girl. Sapna bites Sashi's arm.

On the other side of the lot are the boys. MADHU (10) folds origami birds and pets a skinny dog, RAJA. Beside him is SAMMY, (7) missing his front teeth and with a bum leg. He watches PRAVEEN, (13) the tallest boy and BAHNU, (8) with a scar on his chin, wrestle. Julie stares in disbelief.

ORPHAN BOYS
Get him, Praveen! Go Bahnu. Hit
him! Hit him!

WILSON (12) lays his walking stick aside and creeps behind Praveen, kneeling on all fours. Bahnu topples Praveen backward over Wilson. MAHIPAL, (11) wearing an embroidered Nehru jacket, claps. Bahnu grabs Wilson's walking stick and Wilson ferociously attacks. Mahipal and Praveen pull him off.

JULIE
They're animals!

Wilson notices Julie and points.

WILSON
Get her!

The orphan girls look up. They all charge across the street to the...

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - CONTINUOUS

The orphans engulf her. Dirty hands grab and pull.

ALL ORPHANS
Rupees! Give us rupees! Get her!

Wilson grasps her purse but she yanks it back. She hits with her bag and scratches with her nails.

JULIE
Get away! Get-your-hands-off-me!

The orphans retreat, but Nilaya twists her ankle and falls in the street. Julie sees the bleeding scratch on Nilaya's skinny arm and steps forward to help. Nilaya cowers. Julie stops.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Just tryin' to help.

Sashi carries Nilaya back across the street. Julie steps toward them and all the girls run away. The boys glare. Bahnu shakes his fist. Julie glares at them and backs away.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Fine, I don't want you either!

An idea! She locates her phone and frantically dials Michael. Jesus answers.

JESUS (O.S.)
Hello, Julie.

Julie does a double take. Hangs up and dials again.

JULIE
Pick up, Michael.

Jesus answers the phone.

JESUS (O.S.)
I brought you here to learn to
trust Me. No phone calls allowed.

Julie, with her back to the sidewalk, doesn't notice HOMELESS PEOPLE who appear seemingly from nowhere to sleep on the sidewalks as the sun goes down.

JULIE
Where have You been? I demand that
You take me home, now!

JESUS (O.S.)
Julie...

JULIE
(interrupts)
'Yes, Lord? Yes, Lord?' What was I
thinking? You bribed me with crab
legs and apricot juice. I was under
duress. I didn't realize what I was
agreeing to. I was insane!

JESUS (O.S.)
Trust Me. I've had this planned for
a really long time.

JULIE
You neglected to mention that my
little adventure would be in the
slums of India! You obviously don't
understand. I can't be dirty. I
don't want lice. The whole block
smells. This is impossible.

JESUS (O.S.)
Nothing is impossible with Me. I'm
the God of the impossible.

JULIE
I'm not missionary material. I
don't speak the language. I
contribute by designing and sewing
extraordinary costumes for the
church Christmas Pageant.

JESUS (O.S.)
Julie, if I can speak through a
donkey I can certainly use a fish
out of water.

Julie notices the bodies lying on the sidewalk.

JULIE

Where'd they come from? Help me.

JESUS (O.S.)

Turn left. You'll find an ivory house with a wrought iron gate. It's My refuge for you.

She steps over bodies as she dashes along the sidewalk.

JULIE

Ivory house, iron gate. Ivory house, iron gate.

A YOUNG HOMELESS MAN (19) grabs Julie's arm.

YOUNG HOMELESS MAN

Madame, you are very beautiful.

She breaks free and runs. He follows several blocks but gives up. Julie flings open the iron gate and enters the...

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/YARD - CONTINUOUS

The two story house has an exterior staircase to the second floor. She runs for the porch and knocks on the door.

(NOTE: Only Julie can hear Jesus' voice.)

JESUS (O.S.)

I didn't say you'd sleep inside. There's a space between the bushes and the house.

JULIE

You've got me mixed up with someone else. I can't sleep on the ground!

JESUS (O.S.)

Look around, thousands of others are.

JULIE

Not me! And Michael will be worried sick when I don't show up. I have to call.

Julie dials again. The phone goes dark. She stares in disbelief, barely resisting the temptation to throw it.

JESUS

Now that that's not an issue, let's begin your obedience training.

EXT. LARGE BRICK GATE POST - CONTINUOUS

Julie stomps to the gate, stares past the sea of sleeping people to the street and waits.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE BRICK GATE POST - NIGHT

And she waits.

JESUS (O.S.)

I measure galaxies with the span of
My hand, yet you think I won't
notice if you sneak to the airport?
I've been diverting cabs for thirty
minutes.

JULIE

They'll think I'm dead when I'm not
back in two days. Please, just fix
my phone!

JESUS (O.S.)

This is about learning to trust Me.
If you take care of My lambs, I'll
take care of yours.

Julie kicks the brick pillar in anger and breaks off her
stiletto heel. She tries unsuccessfully to walk and
reluctantly kicks until she breaks the other heel off.

JULIE

Two hundred and ninety dollars, on
sale!

She heads toward the porch but a large, white German Shepherd
is there.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Where did you come from?

Julie tries to make nice with the dog but the dogs not having
it. She gives up and crawls between the bushes and house.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

She tries to brush all the dust off her dress but gives up,
hugs her knees and rocks. Tears.

JULIE

I've got to get home. I refuse to sleep on dirt and I'm starving.

JESUS (O.S.)

You're merely feeling hunger pangs. Our lambs are starving. Will you feed them?

JULIE

The only lamb I want is in a gyro sandwich.

After trying every conceivable sitting position, she gives up, fluffs her purse like a pillow and reclines on the dirt. She cries, tosses and turns. She sits up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(yells to Jesus)

My sleep number is thirty nine!
Thirty nine is soft. It's soft!

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - DAY

Julie wakes.

JULIE

No! No! No! I can't wake up from this nightmare! I'm supposed to be at Bloomingdale's.

She gets her makeup bag, crawls to the end of the bushes, looks around and squats. The hem of her dress soaks up urine and she accidentally puts her hand in it. She shutters, slathers on liberal amounts of hand sanitizer then brushes her teeth and spits.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Lovely.

She notices berries on the bushes and eats as fast as she can while avoiding the thorns.

JESUS (O.S.)

Don't eat too many.

JULIE

Two eggs, scrambled, and a side of Canadian Bacon. Thanks for asking.

She continues eating.

JESUS

Our lambs will love having fresh berries for breakfast. There's a bucket around the corner.

Julie looks in her compact's mirror and sighs.

JULIE

I didn't cleanse last night. Now I've got a pimple.

She fixes her hair and paints her face.

JULIE (CONT'D)

This is not going to work. I need organization and order. I need internet, my iPad, a copy of Vogue and a Grande Caramel Brulee Latte with whipped cream -- every day.

JESUS

What you really need is to learn to trust Me -- every day.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - DAY

She reluctantly picks berries for the orphans, scratching her arms in the process.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - DAY

Her nose wrinkles in disgust. She watches the orphans from a distance. Bahnu eats from an opened tin of sardines he pulls from the dump. Julie gags. Wilson grabs the tin and runs away. Julie crosses the street, puts the rusty bucket down and shouts in her best fake, pleasant voice.

JULIE

Breakfast! I've got berries!

The orphans stampede. Praveen and Bahnu have a tug of war. Some berries spill, the other orphans frantically eat off the ground. Bhanu kicks Praveen and runs off with his prize.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Animals!

After the commotion the littlest orphans, Nilaya, Sammy and Shoba look for stray berries on the ground but find none.

JESUS (O.S.)

They don't need manners, they need food. Survival is a full-time job.

JULIE

They could still be nice about it.

JESUS (O.S.)

Unless you help, some of these young ones will die. Malnutrition, infection, they'll dodge traffic to beg and be run over. What are you going to do about it?

JULIE

Me? You just saw my best effort go up in flames!

JESUS (O.S.)

I gave you rupees. Buy food at the market.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

A BEGGAR BOY (6) blocks her path. Julie pulls out her wallet and is immediately hounded by eight more BEGGING CHILDREN. She fights them off and continues on.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

VENDORS and CUSTOMERS packed in shoulder to shoulder. VENDOR #2 (25) sells raw fish from a wagon. A chai stall and a tobacco stall flank a primitive grocery store.

TOOTHLESS MALE BEGGAR, (78) wearing only a loincloth, thrusts a can at Julie. She steps backward and causes VENDOR #3 (45) to spill a plate of tandoori chicken. He puts out his hand.

VENDOR #3

Sixty rupees, sixty rupees!

Julie flees into the grocery store.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Julie is bewildered by the strange food. She selects prepared sandwiches, juice boxes, apples, a bottle of multi-vitamins and hard candies (sweets).

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie sits on the grass, slathers hand sanitizer and stares as an assortment of people and animals parade by. She samples a sandwich, makes a face and tosses it toward a mangy dog.

JESUS (O.S.)
Your garbage disposal eats better
than half the world.

JULIE
Thanks for the commentary. Not.

A LIMPING BEGGAR (71) grabs and devours it. She pulls out another sandwich and slaps his hand as he grabs at her sack.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - DAY

The orphans, except Nilaya, attack when they see Julie's sacks. Wilson snatches one and runs away. The orphans devour the rest, even the apple cores. They drop their wrappers and walk away. Julie is disgusted and picks their litter up.

JULIE
(deadpan, to self)
Give a hoot, don't pollute.

Nilaya looks on from a distance. Julie steps toward her and she backs up.

INT. ALLEY #1 - DAY

Ravi hides in the shadows. When Julie enters and squats, Ravi runs, snatches her purse and disappears onto the street.

JULIE
(yells to Jesus)
You give me the worst case of
diarrhea in the history of the
world and now you let my purse get
stolen? It had my Bloomingdale's
card!

JESUS (O.S.)
This is about learning to trust Me.
I didn't just bring you here to
bless the orphans. I brought you
here to bless you.

JULIE
Bless me? You're blessing me? It
seems like you're killing me.

JESUS
Exactly.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie walks past a LAME BEGGAR (24) who holds out his hand.

JULIE
My purse was stolen by a thieving
Indian child. I have no money.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

She grimaces and flicks a crushed berry away.

JESUS (O.S.)
Over a billion people go to bed
hungry every night.

JULIE
Well, I have no prospects of
breakfast either, now that I know
what the berries do.

JESUS (O.S.)
I asked you to trust Me.

JULIE
Maybe You can show up tomorrow with
fish and bread. You're good with
those.

JESUS (O.S.)
Agree with Me, not your perceived
situation.

JULIE
My perceived situation? Impossible.

JESUS (O.S.)
In Heaven we call that a set up for
a miracle. Tomorrow morning, first
thing, go to the dump.

JULIE
Be still my heart.

She reclines, tosses and turns.

JULIE (CONT'D)
And my sleeping condition couldn't
possibly get any worse.

Thunder, lightning and torrential rain.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Thanks, I needed a bath.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - DAY

Ravi limps past the orphans clutching Julie's purse. The boys recognize it, tackle and restrain him.

Julie arrives. The girls, have hideously painted faces, having applied her make up. Her migraine meds are spilled on the ground. Julie grabs her purse. A few curious girls creep closer. Julie's quick inventory reveals most of the rupees and all the credit cards are there.

JULIE
Thank you, Jesus. Amen!

GIRL ORPHANS
(mimicing)
Thank you, Jesus. Ah-meen!

The boys have tied Ravi's legs with string and are working on his hands.

BOY ORPHANS
Thief. He stole your purse. Thief.

Julie recognizes Ravi's clothes from the alley. Ravi struggles and Wilson hits him in the face. Julie flinches. Tears well in Ravi's eyes. When Julie approaches, the boys back away and Ravi's hands are loose. He works to untie his feet. Julie notices his injuries and blood-stained clothes. As she stares she imagines an injured Logan, then back to Ravi. Julie comes closer. He cowers. Julie kneels. Ravi's feet are now loose but he's fixated on her colorful, dangly earrings and remembers...

FLASHBACK - INT. RAVI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Small house, few possessions. His mother wears identical dangly earrings and holds a birthday cake.

FRIENDS/FAMILY
Happy Birthday, Ravi.

His father presents him with a large, leather astronomy book and a telescope.

FATHER
On vacation, we'll see many stars.

INT. RAVI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sparsely decorated -- a sleeping mat, a packed bookcase, a poster of the solar system. Ravi's mother tucks him in.

MOTHER

Your father is proud of your good grades and wants you to study, but, I want you to have a silly gift.

She opens a red, plastic egg, presses the putty on a comic book, pulls it off and holds it out to him. Ravi takes it.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Stretch it. This is where it gets silly.

RAVI

Colossal Man is getting taller!

MOTHER

Stretch it the other way and he'll get fat.

They GIGGLE together.

RAVI

This is the best gift ever.

When she leans to kiss his forehead her dangly earrings sweep across his cheek and tickle him.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie speaks softly.

JULIE

I'm Julie.

Still fixated on the earrings, he flings his arms around her. Julie is surprised and repulsed. Ravi senses it and pulls away. Julie reaches for him. He runs.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Wait! I can help you!

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY DUMP - DAY

Mr. Shaw sees Sammy as he limps down the sidewalk.

MR. SHAW

I'm looking for the market. If you
help me I'll buy you some sweets.

Sammy beams and takes his hand.

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Julie peeks into the alley. Ravi sleeps, surrounded by trash.
Julie sits and stares at this filthy, wounded boy.

JESUS

Talk to him. Always talk to him.

JULIE

Right, like that will do any good.
(sing-songy to Ravi)
Raaa-vi.

He awakes with a start and stares at her earrings. He
scrambles to his feet and runs.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'm trying to help you. Come back.
(to Jesus)
That went well.

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - NIGHT

Ravi hides and stares longingly at the kids all sleeping,
girls in one group and guys in another. He picks at several
scabs, tosses, turns and silently cries.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie files her nails with a vengeance.

JULIE

(to Jesus)
Look at these! It was the perfect
color of pink.

JESUS (O.S.)

You need an attitude of gratitude.
I want you to give thanks no matter
how bad things seem.

She holds up her dirty fingernails with chipped polish as
exhibit A.

JULIE

That's not even realistic. I was expecting a little sympathy considering what You're putting me through!

She opens her makeup bag.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Great, they must have eaten my cotton balls!

JESUS(O.S.)

You had clean water, flushing toilets and unlimited food, but you weren't grateful. How many things can you thank Me for today?

JULIE

Hmmh? Today I've got no clean water, no flushing toilets, no food and no cotton balls.

JESUS(O.S.)

Start by rejoicing that you'll spend eternity in Heaven covered by My love, instead of getting what you deserve.

JULIE

Eternity is a long ways away. Dirt, hunger and deprivation are now.

JESUS

And Julie, this is the last time I'll speak for awhile. You need to learn to trust Me in every circumstance, by faith.

JULIE

No, wait, I take it back. I'm grateful for everything. This is the most comfortable dirt ever. Don't leave me. Please!

JESUS

I'll never leave you. And I didn't say I wouldn't be communicating. I said I wouldn't be speaking. If you're attentive you'll see I'm always communicating.

Julie tears up.

JESUS (CONT'D)
And you've got My ear. I'm always
listening.

She starts to panic and whine then sees five ripe apricots
clinging to the berry bush. Stunned, she picks one, takes a
bite, looks up and forces a smile.

JULIE
Help me to trust You. And thanks
for the apricots.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET - MR. SHAW'S HOUSE - DAY

Ravi walks aimlessly, unaware of his surroundings.

INT./EXT. MR. SHAW'S GREEN BEATER CAR - DAY

Mr. Shaw, with CRYING young girl, TAMASI, (6) pulls into his
drive. Ravi and Mr. Shaw make eye contact. Ravi runs for his
life.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET - MR. SHAW'S HOUSE - DAY

Mr. Shaw exits the car and sprints after Ravi.

MR. SHAW
I forgive you. Come back, son.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Ravi plunges into the crowd. Mr. Shaw gives up. Ravi hides
behind a tree puffing and dry heaving.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET - MR. SHAW'S HOUSE - DAY

Mr. Shaw sees the car door open and Tamasi gone.

MR. SHAW
I'll make that boy pay, twice!

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie exits the store with two sacks. Ravi sees her then runs
ahead unnoticed. Julie ignores the BEGGARS who approach.

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - DAY

Ravi hides and watches. Julie arrives with two sacks. The orphans grab. Wilson tries to steal her wallet.

JULIE
No food for you!

Sashi helps the children sit. Julie squirts hand sanitizer on Bhanu's palm. He licks it off and scowls at her. Sapna grabs for the food. Julie passes her by and Sapna bites Julie's leg, drawing blood. Sapna glares at Julie.

JULIE (CONT'D)
You little ingrate!

Sashi carries Nilaya's food to her. Two servings of food are left. Raja, the dog, trots toward Julie.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Get away. Mangy thing.

Madhu gathers his dog and pets him.

MADHU
You're a good boy. Shake, Raja.

Raja shakes and Madhu shares his food. Madhu opens discarded juice boxes and Raja licks them.

Julie holds out the empty sack and several children deposit their wrappers. Julie smiles and lays the sack on the trash pile. The orphans look confused.

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Julie peeks in the alley. She and Ravi look at each other. She holds out the sack. He grabs it and runs.

JULIE
(to Jesus)
This boy is giving me a migraine.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

She unpacks ten travel-sized containers from her cosmetics bag, most of which are now empty.

JULIE
(to Jesus)
Michael's probably called the police. Can't I please call?

She opens the first bottle and goes to work on her face.

JULIE (CONT'D)
I could tell them what I'm doing
and they could even pray for me.
Are You hearing this?

She starts on bottle number two.

JULIE (CONT'D)
I know. I take care of Your lambs
and You take care of mine. But who
takes care of me?

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - DAY

Ravi hides and watches Julie arrive with food. She and Wilson lock eyes. The orphans charge, push and grab. She holds the sacks over her head and slaps their hands. They back off.

Sapna glares at her. Julie glares back. She gets them seated but they attack when she pulls out the first sandwich. Several kids pretend they didn't receive one.

Nilaya watches from a distance. Sapna motions that she will deliver food to Nilaya, but then runs away with it. The orphans drop their wrappers and walk away. After being prompted, Sashi and Shoba pick up the wrappers.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie sits with several girls and flips through the dictionary. She gives up and teaches The Hokey Pokey, which translates into any language.

JULIE
(sings)
'YA PUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT IN, YA PUT
YOUR RIGHT FOOT OUT, YA PUT YOUR
RIGHT FOOT IN...'

Nilaya watches from behind the tree. The girls are having so much fun that all the boys, except Wilson, jump in. Everyone LAUGHS as they get carried away in a wild free-for-all Hokey Pokey dance with Raja yipping in the middle.

EXT. SIDEWALK TO ALLEY #2 - DAY

A YOUNG MOTHER (15) holds a starving, hollow-eyed baby. She thrust a tin can at Julie, who keeps walking.

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Ravi eyes her suspiciously. She holds out two sandwiches.

JULIE

Double rations. Guess someone found
a better place to eat.

He eats while keeping an eye on her.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Sometimes when I see you I picture
my son, Logan. He's about your age.

A tear wells in her eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)

If you spoke English I'd ask to be
your temporary mom. I'd give you
hugs every day. Guess that's not
going to happen.

Ravi's face relaxes slightly.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'm here to help the orphans, and
you. It's a weird story. I'm from
America; I really miss my family.

He studies her, picks up the empty wrappers and puts them in
her sack. She smiles.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Maybe you understand more than I
think you do.

Julie HUMS as she leaves. Ravi sighs and grins.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Ravi hides behind a bush. Mr. Shaw parks and yanks Sammy from
the car. Sammy stumbles and lies WEEPING. Mr. Shaw leaves.
Ravi helps Sammy up. Sammy recognizes him and tosses his can.

RAVI

Come on. Mr. Shaw will hurt you.

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Sammy rides piggyback as Ravi gallops back and forth.

JULIE (O.S.)
Raavv-i.

Julie enters and recognizes Sammy. She scolds Ravi.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Ravi, why'd you take him? You both
need to come back where I can keep
a better eye on you.

Ravi's countenance drops. Julie is oblivious.

JULIE (CONT'D)
(to Sammy)
Don't let Ravi talk you into
staying here. It makes it so hard
on me.

When the boys finish eating, Julie holds out the trash sack.
Ravi stares, annoyed. She motions, he ignores her.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Well, someone isn't in a good mood!
(to Sammy)
Come on, let's go.

She takes Sammy's hand.

RAVI
(to Sammy)
No! Mr. Shaw will get you.

Sammy clings to Ravi. Julie exits in a huff.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie walks the same route, but she's gotten so dirty the
beggars no longer approach. She thinks back...

FLASHBACK - INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - (NEW YORK) - DAY

Some church volunteers mingle among the homeless at the
tables. Julie hides in the kitchen and forces unconvincing
smiles as she hands out food trays.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie slows her pace.

JULIE
(to Jesus)
You can send me back now. I get it!
Given lousy circumstances anyone
can end up homeless. Right?

She holds her arms out, turns her face toward Heaven, closes her eyes and clicks her heels together three times.

JULIE (CONT'D)
There's no place like home. There's
no place like home. There's no
place like home.

She waits then opens her eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)
I'll visit the shelter twice a week
and I'll even tithe-- on net.

A frustrated Julie catches her reflection in a store window. She is shocked at the dirty image staring back at her.

JULIE (CONT'D)
I'll help them but I won't become
one of them.

She sees the grocery store and marches inside.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

She buys a six-pack of cola, a chocolate cake, a pint of ice cream, a candy bar and a glossy Indian fashion magazine. On the cover, a model wears a flowing yellow chiffon dress.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

She lays down and clutches her churning stomach.

JULIE
So sick.

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - NIGHT

Sammy and Ravi, hidden, lay down for the night. Sammy's stomach growls. He clutches it.

SAMMY
So hungry.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie MOANS and escapes into a FANTASY:

INT. JULIE'S LIVING ROOM - GARDEN OAKS, N.Y. - NIGHT

Julie floats among the wall-to-wall GUESTS. She wears the chiffon dress from the fashion magazine's cover. Julie's hair and dress ripple in the wind even though she is indoors.

JULIE

I picked this up in India. It's the latest, right from Bollywood.

She serves Indian food on hand-painted stoneware.

JULIE (CONT'D)

And this coconut chutney? To die for!

TIME CUT TO:

INT. JULIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

When the last guest is gone, Michael sweeps her up in his arms and dips her.

MICHAEL

You look so beautiful tonight. You make this outfit live. It shimmers with your every move. But... why do you smell so bad?

END FANTASY

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Sammy and Ravi hide behind a parked car watching KUMAR, (9).

SAMMY

That's Kumar. Mr. Shaw hits him.

Sammy motions for Kumar.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I'm Sammy! Remember me?

RAVI

I'm Ravi. We can help you. Mr. Shaw had us too.

KUMAR
I've got to work.

RAVI
Come with us. We can help you.

Kumar holds out his can to a MALE TOURIST (63).

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Ravi and Sammy play a tapping game with their hands.

JULIE
Hey, guys!

She distributes the food. Ravi eats half his sandwich and wraps the rest.

RAVI
(to Sammy)
Keep half. For Kumar.

Sammy grabs his sandwich, looks at his apple, hesitates and lays it aside.

JULIE
Not too hungry today?

Ravi grabs his food and stares at Julie through squinty eyes.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Even though you stole my purse I
want to trust you, but I hope
you're not using Sammy to get extra
food.

Ravi looks wounded.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Ravi and Sammy crouch between parked cars. Ravi holds up his half sandwich. Sammy holds up his apple with two big bites gone. Kumar devours the food.

RAVI
Come with us. We get fed every day.

KUMAR
If I don't get enough rupees he'll
beat me, or worse.

Kumar thrusts his can at a FEMALE TOURIST (23).

RAVI
We'll bring food tomorrow. Promise.

EXT. SIDEWALK TO BUSINESS DISTRICT - DAY

Julie walks past the market and comes to a more prosperous business area. She sees a beauty shop/spa and lights up.

INT. BEAUTY SHOP/SPA - DAY

Julie bursts inside. BEAUTICIANS 1 & 2 (34) and (45) exchange glances. Finally INDU (35) motions for her to wait. Julie hears a TOILET FLUSH O.S. and the SALON MANAGER (43) a GQ-ish, western dressed man enters. Julie ducks in the...

INT. BEAUTY SHOP/SPA BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

She gazes in awe at the western toilet. She cleans the sink with hand sanitizer and zealously washes hands, face, arms and legs. Water splashes on her dress. She applies lipstick. It smudges. Her attempts to wipe it off make the area redder.

INT. BEAUTY SHOP/SPA - DAY

All Beauticians exchange glances as they hear Julie talking.

JULIE (O.S.)
(to Jesus)
What an amazing invention. To sit
instead of squat with my dress
pulled up around my ears.
Wonderful. Thank You, Lord!

The TOILET FLUSHES O.S. and Julie enters. All eyes are on her as Indu escorts her to the shampoo bowl. Julie's smile reveals lipstick on her front tooth. Indu smirks, vigorously shampoos her, sits her up abruptly and wraps her hair in a towel. Indu places a fabric mask over Julie's eyes and slathers cream on her face and neck. She begins Julie's manicure. Julie squirms a little.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Is the cream supposed to be hot?

Julie points to her face; Indu ignores her. Julie rips off the mask, and wipes her face with a towel, ruining her manicure. She stares in the mirror at her red skin.

JULIE (CONT'D)
I look like a raccoon in reverse!
You burned my face!

She leans in close to the mirror then turns back to Indu.

JULIE (CONT'D)
It's buurned! I tried to tell you!

Indu shoves her and Julie lands in a beautician's chair.
Salon Manager appears and escorts Julie outside.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Your beautician is incompetent! How
are you going to compensate me?

He motions for her to lean in like he's going to tell her
something, grabs the towel off her head and locks the door.

EXT. SIDEWALK TO BUSINESS DISTRICT - DAY

PEDESTRIANS stare at her half red face, wet hair, lipstick
smudged tooth and dirty, torn, wet dress. She reaches for her
purse and realizes she doesn't have it.

JULIE
Help! Does anyone speak English?

Young, BEARDED INDIAN MAN (16) steps forward.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Oh, thank goodness. Well, first
they burned my face...

She leans forward to give him a good look and he leans away.

JULIE (CONT'D)
...and then they threw me on the
street and kept my purse. Can you
get it back?

Indian Man knocks and finally returns with the bag. Julie
clutches it like it's an infant.

JULIE (CONT'D)
How can I ever repay you?

He glances toward her purse and holds out his hand.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Oh, of course. You earned this.

She rummages in her bag.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 They stole my wallet! They're
 crooks and incompetent beauticians!
 Help, help, police!

Indian Man turns to go. Julie grabs his sleeve.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Wait, I need you to take me to the
 police station!

Her other hand rakes through her purse. She offers a bottle
 of kid's multi-vitamins. He shakes his head.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Wait, please. I'll find something.

She pulls out a plastic Bic pen and displays it like it's a
 game show prize.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 I brought it all the way from
 America. It writes blue.

He points to her ring.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 I just paid five hundred dollars
 for that. I'll find it on my own.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

One big room, two walls lined with old, green file cabinets.
 Eight POLICEMEN in grey uniforms at their desks. Julie
 enters. All eyes on her.

JULIE
 English?

Two officers respond. DAYA, (30) muscular, attentive, and the
 CHIEF, (63) overweight, he displays a permanent scowl.

DAYA
 How can I help you?

CHIEF
 (interrupts)
 I speak English.

Julie hurries to him.

JULIE

(speaks rapidly)

I went to the beauty shop and they burned my face and then they threw me out and then I asked for my bag and they finally returned it but my wallet is gone. They stole it.

She opens the purse so the chief can look. He doesn't.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Let's go, now. It just happened a few minutes ago. Aren't you going to arrest them? They're thieves.

The chief translates, mimicing Julie's frantic voice.

CHIEF

Aren't you going to arrest them?
They're thieves!

All officers LAUGH except Daya.

JULIE

OK, I won't press charges because they burned my face but I need my wallet. I'm taking care of orphans.

CHIEF

Why should I help a foreigner?
There is much injustice done to my people. Can you pay me?

JULIE

Yes, I can pay you when I get my wallet. We can go now. Hurry.

CHIEF

Young lady, we can't help you. We are short staffed.

(mimics her intensity)

I suggest you leave now. Hurry.

Julie pounds her fist into her palm.

JULIE

But I'm an American and I have rights and I know those rights and I demand you to act on my rights.

The chief pounds his fist into his palm.

CHIEF

Then I encourage you to go back to
America immediately to find your
rights. Hurry!

Two officers grab her arms, carry/drag her to the door and
propel her to the sidewalk.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE POLICE STATION - DAY

Julie smolders.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

My face, it's burned and my money
is gone! I can't believe You let
them steal my wallet. No one is
going to eat today, including me.

Pedestrians gawk as Julie complains to herself. She walks and
notices a large, bare tree. A brown sack blows down the
sidewalk and sticks to her leg. She shakes her leg but the
bag stays. She looks back to the tree and all the low
branches are now covered with berries. The bag drops. She
picks it up.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Julie sets sandwiches, juice, fruit and sweets on the
counter. She opens the bag of berries. The GROCERY SHOPKEEPER
(42) looks inside. Julie points to all the food.

JULIE

Barter? For all this?

He puts only the sandwiches in a sack and hands it to her.
Julie's countenance falls.

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - DAY

Ravi and Sammy hide and watch the orphans.

RAVI

She's late.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The orphans are restless. WILSON creeps behind Madhu and
kneels on all fours. Bahnu topples Madhu backward over
Wilson. The boys wrestle.

Wilson pushes Mahipal down and bloodies his nose. Sapna and Shoba pick through the trash. Sashi and Chavi keep a lookout for Julie.

When Julie arrives Nilaya hides. The orphans mob Julie, she falls. Sashi comes up with the sack and protects it until Julie gets up. Wilson points and LAUGHS at Julie's face. She distributes the sandwiches.

SHOBA
Where's the fruit?

WILSON
This is all?

Julie glares at them.

JULIE
(to Jesus)
Now I know how You feel!

INT. ALLEY #2 - DAY

Ravi teaches Sammy addition on his fingers. Julie enters. Ravi notices her red face and sad eyes and he forces a smile. One sandwich each.

RAVI
(to Sammy)
I promised Kumar food. I'm going to give him half. You can do what you want.

Sammy and Ravi eat half and reluctantly wrap the rest.

JULIE
Saving some for later? Probably a good idea.

Sammy unwraps his half, eats all but the crusts. Looks chagrined, wraps them again.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Kumar's face lights up when he sees Sammy and Ravi. He devours the food.

RAVI
We only got one sandwich today but if you come you won't get beaten.

KUMAR

Mr. Shaw promised he'd find me.

RAVI

He hasn't got us. I can hide you.

Kumar wrestles with it but continues begging.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie and the orphans sit in a circle. Julie flips through the dictionary. Sashi leaves and comes back with a cautious Nilaya. Julie closes her dictionary and motions everyone up. She teaches the movements to a song.

JULIE

(sings)

'FATHER ABRAHAM HAD MANY SONS AND
MANY SONS HAD FATHER ABRAHAM. AND I
AM ONE OF THEM AND SO ARE YOU SO
LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD.'

The orphans, including Nilaya, LAUGH and imitate Julie. Daya, obscured by a bush, watches from the sidewalk, unnoticed.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE POLICE STATION - DAY

Julie carries a brown sack. She shows up at the tree but there's no fruit. She tries to get the bag to stick to her leg, but it falls. BEGGAR CHILD (8) taps her on the arm. Frustrated, Julie turns toward him.

JULIE

(yells)

I have no money for you. I have no
money for food tomorrow for the
orphans. I have no money for me.
What do you think about that?

When Beggar Child speaks it's Angelo's voice.

BEGGAR CHILD/ANGELO

Hello, Love. I hear they nicked
your wallet. No worries.

JULIE

It's, it's you?

BEGGAR CHILD/ANGELO

Faith is worshipping God. Worry is
worshipping the Devil. Whoever
controls your mind controls you.

JULIE

What?

BEGGAR CHILD/ANGELO

You'll never find peace until you
renounce lies and replace them with
truth. This constant stressing
about food, for example. Let it go.

Beggar Child holds up a pocket watch and smiles.

BEGGAR CHILD/ANGELO (CONT'D)

When the time is right, Love.
Cheerio.

He disappears before Julie's eyes.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie reclines.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

I don't have to provide food. You
provide food. I can't provide food.
You can provide food. You're always
with me. I trust You.

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - DAY

Julie wakes. The bushes are loaded with berries. She reaches
out almost caressing them.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

There's way more berries today.
We'll get sandwiches, fruit and
drinks! Julie checks the next verse
written inside the Bible's cover
and reads silently.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. BETWEEN BUSHES AND IVORY HOUSE - DAY

JULIE

You provided food for the Children
of Israel? Forty years? Their
clothes and shoes never wore out?
Bummer for the ladies.

She empties her makeup bag. Only a mostly empty tube of lipstick remains.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Can you make this last forty years?

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The orphan girls kick a can and watch for Julie.

SHOBA
Think she'll come today? Yesterday
she was late.

SAPNA
And only sandwiches. I was hungry
all day.

SASHI
Before she came we were hungry all
the time.

CHAVI
There she is!

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Ravi and Sammy crouch between two parked cars.

RAVI
Hand me your sandwich.

SAMMY
I forgot it, in the alley.

RAVI
It's OK. That gives me an idea.

Kumar runs to Ravi and reaches for the food.

RAVI (CONT'D)
Today, you have to come with us to
eat. There's another half sandwich
waiting for you.

KUMAR
But Mr. Shaw will hurt me!

RAVI
How much is in your can?

Kumar looks in his can and hangs his head. Sammy gives him a gap-toothed smile and points to his bum leg.

SAMMY

Race you.

He takes Kumar's hand and they leave. Kumar constantly scans for Mr. Shaw and startles with every sound.

RAVI

As long as we stay together we can help each other. I saw a movie once about cowboys and Indians.

SAMMY

What are cowboys?

RAVI

They take care of cows and fight the Indians.

SAMMY

Why do they fight us?

RAVI

Not us. Other Indians.

SAMMY

There are other Indians who have sacred cows?

RAVI

Not sacred cows. Regular cows.

SAMMY

What are regular cows?

RAVI

Never mind. I just said it because cowboys stay together and help each other.

SAMMY

I wanna be a cowboy!

RAVI

We are cowboy brothers then.

SAMMY

What's that mean?

KUMAR

It means we take care of each other.

RAVI
All the time!

EXT. SIDEWALK BY DUMP - DAY

Madhu, Shoba and Bhanu play together on the sidewalk. Mr. Shaw parks. He and the monkey exit. The monkey hands the kids candies. They follow to his car. Julie and the rest of the orphans, sitting behind the trash heap, don't see.

EXT. DUMP - BEHIND THE HEDGE - DAY

Sammy, Ravi and Kumar arrive. Ravi sees Mr. Shaw.

RAVI
(to Kumar and Sammy)
Stay here. You'll be safe.

Ravi jumps from behind the hedge and shouts to Julie in English.

RAVI (CONT'D)
Stop him! Don't let him get away.

Mr. Shaw sees Ravi and throws Madhu, Shoba and Bhanu in the back seat.

RAVI (CONT'D)
(to orphans in Hindi)
He's taking them. Let's go.

Praveen grabs a tree limb. Wilson flails his walking stick and lets out a BATTLE CRY. Julie and the orphans charge. Mr. Shaw is in the street ready to get in the driver's seat. (The street side in India.) The orphans swarm him but he hits, slaps and easily shoves them down. Praveen approaches from behind, Mr. Shaw grabs his branch and sends him sprawling. Sapna crouches ready to bite his calf. He kicks her and she falls backward.

JULIE
(to Mr. Shaw)
How dare you! I demand you release them, now!

He slaps and kicks her. She falls in the street. A car swerves but still runs over her toes. Sashi and Chavi pull her upright. She leans against Shaw's car and CRIES. Wilson hits Mr. Shaw with his walking stick. Enraged, he knocks Wilson down. Ravi opens the back passenger door and motions to Madhu, Bhanu and Shoba.

RAVI

Get out, now. He'll hurt you.

Madhu, Shoba and Bahnu exit and run toward the dump. Bahnu changes his mind and climbs back in on the other side. Ravi reaches back inside and grabs Bahnu. Bahnu kicks at him.

BAHNU

Let go! He's got sweets and food!

RAVI

He's lying. He'll make you beg.

Mr. Shaw jumps in the driver's seat, locks his door and turns and grabs Ravi's wrist.

MR. SHAW

I'll take two boys any day,
especially you, son!

He steps on the accelerator. The car jerks ahead and drops Julie on the ground. Ravi is half in and half out of the car, feet dragging on the pavement. The orphans pursue. Wilson shatters the driver's side window with his walking stick. Mr. Shaw lets go of Ravi to protect his eyes. Ravi bails out but can't hold on to Bahnu.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

I'm watching all of you!

He speeds away.

RAVI

(to Julie in English)

He steals orphans. He took us and made us beg.

JULIE

You speak English. You can
translate! How in the world?

(to Jesus)

Lord, he speaks English!

NOTE: It is understood that Ravi now translates for Julie.

Ravi beams. Julie, still in pain, reaches for Wilson's walking stick. He gives her a dirty look and yanks it away. She stumbles but Ravi steadies her. Praveen hands her the branch and she hobbles back toward the trash pile. Sammy climbs out of his hiding place. Kumar remains trembling in fetal position. Ravi pulls him from the bushes.

RAVI
 (to Kumar)
 He's gone. You're safe.

Julie kneels and pulls Kumar on her lap for a hug.

JULIE
 Oh, you poor thing, you're shaking.
 Ravi, who is this? Where'd he come
 from?

RAVI
 From Mr. Shaw. First I escaped and
 then I rescued Sammy. Today we
 rescued Kumar. He came for our
 food.

It takes Julie a second but her duh-cernment kicks in.

JULIE
 That's why you weren't eating all
 your... Ravi, I misjudged you.
 You're quite the hero!

Julie tousles Ravi's hair and he beams. The orphans catch
 Julie's enthusiasm toward him.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Tell him we'll protect and feed him
 and he's part of our family now.

She rocks Kumar and HUMS "Jesus Loves Me." After the song,
 the orphans whisper among themselves.

RAVI
 (to Julie)
 They want to know if you'll sleep
 here. Mr. Shaw's always watching.

Julie looks stricken. Kumar begins to cry. Nilaya holds
 Sashi's hand. Ravi's eyes plead. He tugs her arm.

RAVI (CONT'D)
 Please!

JULIE
 I'll stay.

Relieved, Ravi nods. The orphans smile, several embrace.
 Kumar hugs Julie. They all sit together.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 When I yelled and hit you I thought
 you wanted to hurt me. But you just
 wanted money for food. I'm sorry.

Several children look to Sashi. She smiles and nods.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Ravi rescued Madhu and Shoba and
 Sammy and Kumar. They're safe now.
 Hurray for Ravi!

Julie CLAPS and everyone follows.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 I am so glad Jesus brought Ravi so
 we can talk and be friends.

The orphans look confused.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 I know you have millions of gods.
 Have you heard of Jesus? The one
 true God? Jesus will supply food
 for us each day.

The children CLAP and CHEER. Julie looks toward the sky.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 (to Jesus, lacking
 confidence)
Daily bread, right?

Julie flips through her dictionary.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 Julie, mithira. (friend)

RAVI
 We will call you 'Auntie.' It's
 what we call an older woman.

JULIE
 I guess I am an older woman. I'm
 thirty two.

CHAVI
 I'm Chavi, and I'm eight.

SAPNA
 Sapna, seven.

WILSON
 Wilson, twelve.

He runs his hands across the walking stick.

SHOBA
My name's Shoba. Nine.

KUMAR
Kumar, nine also.

Madhu looks up from his attempts to make a hole through the shell of a large, brown seed using a rusty nail.

MADHU
Madhu, ten. And almost a half. This
is Raja.

Madhu coaxes Raja to shake, speak and roll over.

MADHU (CONT'D)
I'm teaching him a new trick. Play
dead, Raja. Play dead.

Raja hesitates then falls on his side. The children LAUGH.

MAHIPAL
Mahipal, eleven.

PRAVEEN
Praveen, thirteen.

Nilaya stares at the ground and holds up six fingers. Sashi nudges her.

NILAYA
(barely audible)
Nilaya.

SASHI
Sashi. I'm eleven.

RAVI
Ravi, nine.

SAMMY
Sammy, I'm six...or seven. Maybe.

JULIE
You're not sure?

EXT. BEHIND TEMPLE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Sammy wakes up behind a temple and is attacked by two adults.

SAMMY (V.O.)

I just remember waking up behind a big building and my head was bleeding. I stayed there until two big guys hit me and made me leave.

JULIE

I'm so sorry, Sammy. Can you remember anything before that?

Sammy scrunches his face and frowns.

SAMMY

Nope, nothing else.

JULIE

What happened to you, Ravi?

He tears up and looks away. Julie lays her hand on his shoulder.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Shoba, how did you get here?

SHOBA

I lived with my grandmother and she died. I have no other family.

Julie rubs her hand over Shoba's skinny arm.

JULIE

What about you, Praveen?

PRAVEEN

My parents died while I was a baby, and my aunt didn't want me. She yelled at me and took me to an uncle. He beat me. I ran away.

Julie is dumbstruck. There is a moment of sad silence.

SAMMY

Let's play a game together.

MADHU

Kabbadi! Let's play!

SASHI/SAMMY/KUMAR

Auntie, be on my team.

She points to her injured foot. Ravi stays with her they LAUGH at Raja, a welcome and enthusiastic addition to the orphan's running game.

JULIE
Where did you learn English?

RAVI
School.

JULIE
You went to school?

Ravi looks embarrassed.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Sorry, I didn't mean...

RAVI
My dad saved all his money for
me...

He tears up and picks a scab on his arm.

RAVI (CONT'D)
Tomorrow I'll rescue Bhanu. I know
where Mr. Shaw will take him.

JULIE
We'll go together, but you're
brave.

The sun is setting.

RAVI
Not so brave at night. I wake.
Afraid.

JULIE
Let's do an experiment. You know
that word?

RAVI
Yes. I like science, very much.

JULIE
Tonight pray to your god for sleep.
Tomorrow I'll ask Jesus to help.

RAVI
Maybe you can pray for me, tonight?

JULIE
I'll do it, now--Jesus, will You
show Ravi how much You love him by
letting him sleep well tonight?

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - NIGHT

At bedtime Julie arranges Kumar, Sammy and Ravi in the middle of the boy's group. She motions for Wilson to move beside Kumar. Wilson glares at her and holds his ground.

JULIE

Let's pray--Jesus, please keep us
safe and please keep Bhanu safe
too.

She winks at Ravi then lays down on the ground. All the girls clamor to get next to her. She's unable to get comfortable.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(to Jesus)

My Sleep Number, still thirty nine.

Madhu clutches the car he's built from tin cans.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie motions for Ravi to get the kids in a circle.

JULIE

Jesus is God's son. He loves you so
much that He wants you to live with
Him in Paradise forever, but if we
have done bad things, we can't. He
was sad about that so He came to
earth to pay for all the bad things
we do.

Sashi, Ravi and Madhu are interested. The rest look around.

JULIE (CONT'D)

If you believe Jesus and give your
life to Him then when you die you
will live with Him forever.

Julie holds up her index and middle finger like a peace sign, then picks up a piece of paper from the trash.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Let's say this is God, and this is
you. And this is sin.

She points to the index finger as representing the children, the middle finger as God, and the paper as sin. She inserts the paper between her two fingers and closes them.

JULIE (CONT'D)
See how sin keeps us from being
close to God? But if we ask Jesus
to forgive our sins He takes them
away.

She pulls the paper away which leaves the two fingers
together.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Never forget, you can be close to a
God who loves you enough to die for
you.

MADHU
I don't believe in Jesus.

JULIE
That's OK, Madhu. He believes in
you. I'm going to pray and ask Him
to show you how much He loves you.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The orphans use a stick for a rollicking game of Keep Away
from Raja.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Julie and Ravi crouch behind several bushes. Bahnu isn't
there. Mr. Shaw, obscured from their view, sees them and
leaves.

RAVI
He won't use this corner any more.

JULIE
You're still brave. Let's go get
the food.

She tousles his hair and he smiles slightly.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The orphans scream and scatter as Mr. Shaw and ADEEL, (45)
attack, dragging Kumar and Madhu toward the car.

EXT. STREET/SIDEWALK TO MARKET - DAY

Ravi and Julie head to the market.

RAVI
I finished my fifth standard of
school. My father was a doorman but
he wanted me to be a scientist.

He chokes up. Julie hugs him. Finally he relaxes.

JULIE
Ravi, what's your favorite food?

RAVI
Bananas. Bananas are verrry good!

Julie hunches like a monkey and scratches under her arms.

JULIE
Well Mr. Monkey, I'll tell you a
secret. I'm a monkey too. I love
bananas.

RAVI
Auntie Monkey!

JULIE
Ravi Monkey. Let's get some.

They hold hands and amble like monkeys down the street.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Julie points to Grocery Shopkeeper.

JULIE
Ask him if I can please use the
toilet. Tell him I'm too shy to use
the street.

RAVI
Can my friend use your toilet,
please?

Grocery Shopkeeper points to the street. Julie takes off her
ring and holds it up. The shop keeper reaches for it.

JULIE
(to Ravi)
I get to use the toilet every day.

RAVI

She wants to use your toilet every day.

He nods, takes the ring and points to a door in the back. Julie smiles and hands Ravi the groceries.

INT. GROCERY STORE/BATHROOM - DAY

Julie's countenance drops when she sees the flat hole with shoe imprints on either side and a bucket of water close by.

JULIE

I still have to squat but at least I squat in private.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Mr. Shaw drags Madhu to the street-side car door. Raja attacks Mr. Shaw's leg. He SCREAMS and Madhu wiggles free and bolts down the sidewalk. Mr. Shaw kicks Raja into the street.

TIRES SQUEAL O.S.

Mr. Shaw speeds off. Raja lies bleeding. Madhu buries his face in Raja's side and weeps. Raja wags his tail once.

MADHU

Don't play dead. Not dead!

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

When Julie returns from the bathroom Ravi is gone. The shopkeeper points left.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET TO MARKET - DAY

Julie searches for Ravi.

JULIE

That little thief.

She sighs when she sees him eating a banana on the grass.

RAVI

I only stole once, when I had nothing. I would not steal the other children's food.

JULIE

I forgot, you shared your food to
rescue Kumar. I'm sorry...How'd you
sleep?

Ravi smiles and nods.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Remember to thank Jesus for that.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie and Ravi arrive. The orphans mob them and speak
simultaneously. Sashi, Madhu and Niliya CRY.

ALL ORPHANS

He got Kumar! Kumar's gone! Raja
got run over.

Ravi goes pale.

RAVI

(to Julie)

Mr. Shaw took Kumar. Madhu's dog
got run over.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

You're supposed to be showing Madhu
how much You love him!

Everyone sits. Julie rocks Madhu and he dissolves into tears.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Let's ask Jesus to protect Kumar
and Bahnu and to help them get
rescued. And Lord, heal Madhu's
broken heart... and show him how
much You love him.

MADHU

A man came and took Raja. He told
me not to worry.

JULIE

Did he have long brown hair?

MADHU

No.

JULIE

Oh.

MADHU

He took Raja. I think he was dead.

CHAVI

My family had a dog... and I had three brothers and two sisters. My father worked at an office and we were very happy...

Her face scrunches in pain. Julie puts an arm around her.

FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK/RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL - DAY

M.O.S Chavi, lost in a crowd is approached by SUSPICIOUS INDIAN MAN (45), listens, talks and points. Chavi brightens. He enthusiastically scoops her in his arms and leaves.

CHAVI (V.O.)

I stopped to look at flowers and couldn't find my family. I lived by a park with a big fountain. My last name is Reddy.

END FLASHBACK

Julie holds and rocks Chavi.

JULIE

(sings)

'JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO. LITTLE ONES TO HIM BELONG, THEY ARE WEAK BUT HE IS STRONG.'

The children hum along and stumble over the words. Wilson, in deep thought, fiddles with his walking stick.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You're pretty proud of that stick, Wilson. Where'd you get it?

FLASHBACK

Wilson, at an orphanage, getting hit by other boys. DAYASAGAR (12) enters carrying the stick and hits the boys. They flee.

END FLASHBACK

He stares at the ground, his nervous fingers tap the stick.

WILSON

Police came and made everyone leave my orphanage so they could build a road. I left with Dayasagar. We lived under a bridge. He got sick and died. I left him there and I ran for many days.

He clutches his walking stick.

JULIE

It's a nice walking stick Wilson, a really nice one...

She buries her face in her hands and CRIES. The orphans look at each other wondering how to help. Nilaya looks compassionately at Julie. Madhu lays an origami bird on her lap. Sashi pats her knee.

SASHI

Don't cry. We take care of each other. You are in our family now. We will help you to not be sad.

Julie SOBS. Ravi scoots close and gives her a gentle pat/tousle to her head. She finally regains control.

JULIE

Mahipal, tell me your story.

FLASHBACK - INT. CAR - DAY

Mahipal is pinned to the back floorboard under the KIDNAPPER's (34) feet.

MAHIPAL (V.O)

A man took me while my mother shopped. He said if I told anyone he would cut out my tongue. He made me beg.

END FLASHBACK

MAHIPAL

One day I ran and ran until I came to here. I lived at house eight opposite to the Eshwara temple, Geddalahalli eleven.

JULIE

You knew your address but didn't go home?

MAHIPAL

I could not find home. I hid during
the day and walked at night so I
would not be found and killed.

Julie beams and grabs Mahipal's shoulders.

JULIE

I'm going to take you home, now.
(to orphans)
Everyone pray. I need money for the
taxi.

Wilson stands and extends both hands to Julie. He pulls her
up and she steps forward and hugs him. After a brief
hesitation Wilson wraps his arms around her.

MONTAGE:

A) Julie and Mahipal in a rickshaw. Julie writes "Jesus" on
his hand and places it over his heart.

B) Julie SHRIEKS as the NONCHALANT DRIVER (25) HONKS and
passes on hills and curves.

C) The cab stops. Mahipal WHOOPS and runs inside a small
house.

D) Julie enters. TWO SISTERS (4,7) and his MOTHER (36)
celebrating -- LAUGHTER and TEARS.

E) Mom drops to her knees and flings her arms around Julie.

F) Mom empties money from a tin box. Julie grabs a few coins.

G) Julie hugs Mahipal.

H) Julie in the speeding auto rickshaw, she smiles, leans
back in the seat, raises her hands and lets her hair fly.

END MONTAGE

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie teaches the orphans movements to "London Bridge."

JULIE

(sings)
'... LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN,
MY FAIR LADY.
(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)
 SHAKE HER UP WITH SALT AND PEPPER,
 SALT AND PEPPER, SALT AND PEPPER,
 MY FAIR LADY...'

Sashi and Julie capture Nilaya and "shake her up." Nilaya LAUGHS. Julie notices movement and is surprised to see Daya approaching.

PRAVEEN
 Police! Run!

The children SCREAM and run around the hedge but continue farther and hide in a...

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

The children crouch among the lush tropical flowers.

PRAVEEN
 I told you, police eat orphans. My brother's friend was taken and the next day his clothes were beside the station. They ate him!

WILSON
 It was the police who tore down my ashram. Dayasagar and I escaped and then he died because of the police.

BAHNU
 I was living behind a store and the police made me leave.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Daya ambles across the street.

DAYA
 You have orphans.

JULIE
 Oh, you believe me now?

DAYA
 We believed you then, but orphans don't get help because they don't vote or have money for bribes. They are considered a nuisance or worse.

JULIE
 What do you want?

DAYA
I want to help.

JULIE
I have no money. My wallet was
stolen, remember?

DAYA
I'm not here for your money.

JULIE
The orphans aren't for sale. We're
a family and we'll fight you as a
family. We already ran off one
creepy guy.

DAYA
I want nothing from the orphans. I
am a Jesus follower. James 1:27
tells us to help the widows and
orphans.

Julie is momentarily taken aback. Daya smiles and nods.

JULIE
We need food and the children
obviously need homes. One little
girl, Chavi, lives by a park with a
large fountain and was separated
from her family at a festival.

DAYA
That park is only eight kilometers
away. I'll find her family. I'll
bring food on my lunch break and
walk this street three times a day.

In her enthusiasm she hugs Daya. He's embarrassed and steps
backward when he's released.

DAYA (CONT'D)
I can teach self-defense to the
boys.

He turns to leave. Julie calls after him.

JULIE
I hate to ask, but could you bring
a bottle of hand sanitizer? Large.

Daya leaves. Julie looks to the sky and smiles.

JULIE (CONT'D)
You provide all our needs. Thank
You. And help me to trust You more.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie reads her Bible. Daya arrives with two large grocery sacks. The kids scream and disappear around the hedge.

JULIE
They must think you're like Mr.
Shaw. Three of our boys have
escaped and he snatched two more.

DAYA
Vermin like Mr. Shaw pay bribes to
be left alone. But, I do not take
bribes. Where does he live?

JULIE
Ravi knows.

DAYA
I would very much like to meet Mr.
Shaw.

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

The children huddle for a serious talk. Ravi remembers.

RAVI
My neighbor was shot dead and the
police took the body.

MADHU
It's true, Praveen, they eat live
people and dead people!

Julie appears with the food sacks and motions for them to follow.

PRAVEEN
Wait! What if it's poisoned? He
could come for us after we die.

The children look at Julie's smiling face and the food, then back at Praveen. Julie holds up bananas. The children follow.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The children wait in a circle.

JULIE

(prays)

Jesus, help us remember that You
answered our prayers for food. And
thank You for our new friend, Daya.

Julie squirts hand sanitizer and distributes the food. She is
unaware the orphans consume only what she eats, after a
slight delay. She picks up her sweet and Sammy eats his.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'll save this for later.

Sammy pounds his chest and coughs, then rolls on his back
SCREAMING and flailing.

SAMMY

Help, I'm dying!

The other orphans toss their candy in the trash pile and
watch, horrified. Julie attends to Sammy who refuses to be
comforted.

JULIE

What's wrong?

RAVI

The sweet made him sick.

JULIE

He just ate it.

RAVI

You must eat your sweet.

Julie fails at repeated attempts to calm Sammy.

RAVI (CONT'D)

(adamant)

Eat your sweet!

Julie gives up and eats it. All children watch her for a few
seconds then stampede to the trash pile to retrieve and eat
their candy. Sammy regains composure. Ravi puts his arm
around him and they both LAUGH.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The next morning Julie teaches a Bible lesson.

JULIE

... when the women came to the tomb, an angel told them Jesus was alive again! Later He appeared to them and showed them the wounds in His hands and feet.

The children see Daya and run away. He hands Julie the food.

DAYA

I found Chavi's address. No one was home, but I'll stay with her until they return.

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

Julie startles the orphans with her enthusiastic arrival.

JULIE

Chavi, I know your address. Thank you Jesus, it's a miracle! You'll be back with your family today!

Chavi rejoices. The orphans hug her and she leaves with Julie.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie teaches another action song.

JULIE

(sings)

'TOUCH YOUR SHOULDERS, TOUCH YOUR KNEES. RAISE YOUR ARMS, AND DROP THEM PLEASE. TOUCH YOUR ANKLES--'

Daya returns and the orphans scatter.

DAYA

Chavi's home. I've never seen such a reunion. I almost cried. But, I could not locate Ravi's uncle.

JULIE

Thanks for trying. At least I'll sleep better knowing Chavi's safe. You are truly an answer to prayer.

DAYA
You might be an answer to our
prayers.

JULIE
'Our' prayers?

DAYA
Forget I mentioned it. Well, I'm
here to help. Any more problems?

JULIE
I'm in charge of all these orphans
who live on a garbage dump and have
no parents or homes, but, other
than that, I'm fine, really.

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

The orphans are hiding from Daya. Julie arrives.

JULIE
(to Ravi)
Tell them Daya took Chavi back to
her family. Isn't that great?

RAVI
You gave her to... I thought you
were taking her in a taxi, like
Mahipal.
(to orphans, in Hindi)
She gave Chavi to the policeman.

PRAVEEN
He ate her; she's dead.

A collective MOAN goes up, looks of horror.

JULIE
You're just jealous. Can't you be
happy for her?

Julie throws her hands up and leaves. Ravi looks after her,
tears well in his eyes.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie reads the Bible and watches the children at play.
Nilaya hesitantly approaches Julie. She clutches a NEWBORN
BABY wrapped in rags. Julie smiles at Nilaya, slathers on
hand sanitizer, takes the bundle and tousles Nilaya's hair.

JULIE

Nilaya, you rescued a baby! I'm so proud of you!

(to baby)

Where'd you come from, precious?

The orphans gather.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Nilaya saved the baby's life.

Nilaya slides in close to keep a hand on the infant.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(prays)

Lord, show us how to care for this precious baby and thanks for Nilaya, too.

Julie wields the bottle of hand sanitizer to cleanse every finger. The girls hold the baby, the boys make faces.

RAVI

Can I hold her?

As he rocks her, he tenderly coos and hums.

JULIE

That's wonderful, Ravi.

RAVI

My mother used to sing me this song. Could we name her Sharavithia? Shara for short?

JULIE

What a beautiful name.

RAVI

My mother's.

JULIE

Since Nilaya found the baby I think Nilaya should name the baby. Shara?

Nilaya's face brightens and she nods. Ravi beams.

WILSON

Police! Hide!

All orphans run. Ravi hides behind the hedge to watch. Daya has groceries. Julie holds up Shara.

JULIE

Someone must have left her in the trash this morning.

DAYA

This is not unusual. Couples want boys so they will be supported in their old age. They discard or kill the girls and try again.

Julie shudders and holds Shara close.

DAYA (CONT'D)

I will take her --

JULIE

To the police station? What will they do with her?

DAYA

-- to my church friends, two sisters. They love children and will take good care of her.

JULIE

(to Shara)

I wish I could keep you.

She nuzzles Shara and reluctantly hands her to Daya.

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

The orphans are in a huddle. Ravi arrives in a panic.

RAVI

The police man took her! He took our baby!

The orphans MOAN, SHRIEK and GASP.

SAMMY

Did he bring food before he left?

Ravi nods yes. Madhu looks up from the seed and nail.

MADHU

It wasn't poisoned yesterday and if he's going to eat the baby he's not going to be hungry for awhile so he wouldn't need to kill us all today.

WILSON

But he didn't know we had a baby so
maybe it is poisoned.

SAPNA

Auntie must be very hungry to trade
the baby to that bad man for food.

RAVI

I don't think she knows he's bad.

SAMMY

Can we just go look at the food?

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The orphans gather in a circle.

JULIE

(prays)

Thank's Lord for providing a place
for Shara and for our new friend
Daya and the food he brings.

The orphans don't respond. Julie's frustration grows.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Ah-meen. She passes around the hand
sanitizer and the food.

The orphans eat only what she does. She takes the lid off a
foam cup, tastes the rice and makes a face.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Spicy!

Praveen and Wilson exchange looks. The orphans set their rice
aside. Julie eats her sweet, Sammy waits extra long before he
eats his. Julie picks up trash. The foam cups are all full.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Praveen, you didn't eat your rice.
Wilson? Ravi, what's going on?

RAVI

Umm, we didn't think it tasted
good. Too spicy.

JULIE

Ravi are you planning to rescue
more children?

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)
That is so kind, but Daya can do
that. I'll keep these for later.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

The children keep to themselves and when Julie approaches they fall silent. Julie waves Ravi over. She sits and hands him two cups of rice.

JULIE
You can have mine, too.

Ravi panics and shakes his head.

JULIE (CONT'D)
It's not like you to turn down
food.

She scoots near and offers the rice but he scoots away.

RAVI
Don't make me eat it, it's
poisoned. He ate Chavi and Shara
and he's going to eat us and then
find some old, dead people to eat.

JULIE
Ravi? What?

RAVI
Did you know police are bad? Were
you going to let him eat us? Why
did you give him Shara?

Julie scoops him up and he collapses into her arms and SOBS.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

As the children watch, she takes a large bite of rice. She stops chewing and tries to stifle a cough. Her face flushes. She forces herself to swallow.

JULIE
Yummy.
(to Jesus)
I order mild sauce at Taco Bell.

She takes another bite, doesn't chew, can't swallow. Her nose runs and tears well. She forces a smile. The orphans grab for their rice. She turns and spits.

JULE

Someone can have mine now that my
tongue is medium-well and my
esophagus is permanently scorched.

She turns around, opens her mouth and fans it.

JULIE

You all enjoy that rice. I'm going
for a little walk.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie returns and shortly Daya arrives wearing street clothes, carrying a grocery sack and a clean Shara. Julie takes Shara who immediately spits up all over her. The children GUFFAW. Daya and Julie pull a pastry from the sack.

DAYA

Is this poisoned? I think not or I
wouldn't do this.

Julie and Daya take big bites. There's a mad scramble for the sack. When the pastries are gone the orphans see the powdered sugar on each other's faces and BELLY LAUGH their stress away. Sammy holds his arms up to Daya and he scoops him up, turns him upside down and swings him like a pendulum. Sammy SHRIEKS WITH LAUGHTER and the orphans APPLAUD and CHEER.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Daya teaches the boys self-defense. The girls watch.

DAYA

No one can hurt you if you know
Krav Maga.

SAPNA

(whispers to Julie)
I'd just bite them.

JULIE

I know!

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. DUMP - DAY

After class it's the guys against Daya. Sammy is afraid to join in. Daya places him on his shoulders.

DAYA

Sammy and I will take you all on.

The girls watch and LAUGH. Nilaya crawls on Julie's lap and holds Shara. Daya catches and pins each boy on the ground.

DAYA (CONT'D)

The winner and still champion is
Sammy.

The girls CHEER. Daya goes another round and takes a dive so the boys can win. Afterward, the girls play with Shara as Daya and Julie talk.

JULIE

They just love you!

DAYA

My wife and I... the doctors say we
can't... no kids.

JULIE

We wanted a little girl but after
the miscarriages. I'm so afraid...

Daya looks sympathetically at her. She forces a smile.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You'd be a great dad, Daya.

EXT. DUMP - DAY

Julie teaches the children the next morning.

JULIE

Just like the Lord kept Daniel safe
from the lions, the Lord will keep
us safe too. Who wants to pray?

SASHI

Jesus, thank You for keeping us
safe. Please rescue Kumar and Bahnu
and please give us all a home.

ALL ORPHANS

Ah-meen.

Daya arrives with food and hands the sacks off to Julie as
the boys jump him. Julie watches. She hugs her knees and
rocks. She chokes back tears.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

Do they think I'm dead? Do they
miss me?

The children eat and Daya pulls Julie aside.

DAYA

Remember when I said you were the
answer to our prayers? About a
month ago the Lord showed our
church we were to get a house and
train children to love Jesus. We
finished it last night. I can take
you there, now.

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/YARD - DAY

Julie sees the ivory house with iron gate and freezes.

DAYA

Something wrong?

JULIE

He has such a sense of humor. I
slept here several nights.

DAYA

How did you get inside?

She leads him to the small space between house and bushes.

JULIE

I slept here.

DAYA

You came all the way from America
to help orphans and you slept on
the ground? You are Mother Theresa.

JULIE

Not exactly.

She catches sight of something and crawls between the bushes and house. Daya looks startled. She returns with her wallet.

JULIE (CONT'D)

How? It was stolen from the beauty shop...I thought it was a bad thing, but that's how we met. Jesus is so good to me! My wallet returned, Nilaya's break-through, baby Shara and a house for the children. Is it ready now?

DAYA

Yes and no. We rented it for one month and fixed it up but we need the second month's rent, soon.

JULIE

How much?

DAYA

Twenty thousand rupees.

JULIE

Four hundred dollars? I spend that on cappuccinos, clothes, and carry out. I'll pay it, every month.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Large room with new coat of ivory paint, minimum furnishings, white resin chairs, threadbare sofa. Julie takes Shara from the Indian sisters, CHANDA (32) and CHAMPA (34). She nuzzles noses, totally distracted.

JULIE

Hello sweetie. If you tug at my heart strings any more, they'll be ripped right out of my chest.

PASTOR KANDAL, (63) a compassionate, dark skinned man with full white beard, enters. Julie hands Shara to Chanda.

DAYA

This is Julie from America. She has promised to pay the rent.

PASTOR KANDAL

I always say, 'If you want to go fast, go alone;

(MORE)

PASTOR KANDAL (CONT'D)
 if you want to go far, go
 together.' It takes an American and
 some Indians together to make God's
 dream come true.

Pastor Kandal sweeps her up in an enthusiastic hug.

PASTOR KANDAL (CONT'D)
 Julie from America, you are a
 blessing, an answer to our prayers.

JULIE
 I have a confession. God made me
 come here. I cared nothing about
 the orphans.

Daya looks startled.

JULIE (CONT'D)
 I kicked, screamed, whined every
 step of the way. All I wanted was
 to get back to my family and my
 comfortable life.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pastor Kandal, Daya and the sisters are seated around Julie
 and help her receive forgiveness.

DAYA
 (prays)
 ...help her to know that she is
 totally forgiven; that her change
 in attitude delights You. Amen.

PASTOR KANDAL
 I'm a preacher but I always say
 that one act of obedience is better
 than one hundred sermons.

DAYA
 It's true. I've heard at least one
 hundred of his sermons.

Everyone LAUGHS and Julie receives the forgiveness offered.

JULIE
 Pastor, what else do you need for
 the house?

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

I just found my wallet and I'm long overdue for a shopping trip!

TIME CUT TO:

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Julie, Pastor, Daya, Chanda and Champa drop multiple shopping bags stuffed with sweets, clothes, plush toys, calendars, educational materials, silverware and napkins.

JULIE

That was the best shopping trip ever and that's saying something!

DAYA

They can finally shower and put on clean clothes.

JULIE

Are we ready? Let's go get them!

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/PORCH - DAY

Julie hushes the orphans.

PASTOR KANDAL

(prays)

Jesus, the Bible says You take care of the orphans. Thank You for answering all our prayers. Amen.

ALL ORPHANS

Ah-meen!

The children follow Pastor inside but Madhu stays behind. Julie motions for Ravi to join her.

JULIE

(to Madhu)

What's wrong?

MADHU

This is not my house because I don't love Jesus.

JULIE

Oh, Madhu, you have it backwards. This house is not for everyone who loves Jesus, it's for everyone who Jesus loves. He loves you very much and He believes in you.

MADHU
I can stay?

She gives him a big hug and they go inside.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/BOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ivory room with one closet and mats on the floor. The boys flop on the mats and wrestle. Wilson lets out a Tarzan-like WAIL and jumps in the middle.

JULIE
Must be the Hindi word for
Cannonbaaaall!

Daya wades into the joyful skirmish.

DAYA
I can't resist. Krav Maga, show me
guys.

JULIE
(to pastor)
Will you and Daya teach the boys to
use the toilets and shower? Chanda,
Champa and I will take the girls
upstairs. Oh, use the lice shampoo.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Julie sniffs her armpits and grimaces.

JULIE
It'll be paradise to wash my hair --
my dirty, oily, greasy, disgusting,
filthy hair!

All the girls enter the bathroom. The door swings closed.

JULIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Woo hoo! Thank You, Jesus! Running
water! I think I died and went to
Heaven!

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/PORCH - DAY

Everyone is clean and well dressed. Julie wears a beautiful punjabi and new shoes.

JULIE

Clean clothes! And at twelve
dollars for the whole outfit
Michael would be so proud.

Her voice catches and she fights to maintain her composure.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(to self)

I take that thought captive. I
trust that You are taking care of
my lambs!

(to children)

Who's first for a haircut? Any
style you want, as long as it's
bowl.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

The children play with the stuffed animals and look at the
calendars. A KNOCK on the door causes everyone to freeze.

PASTOR KANDAL

The food! The children run for the
door but Julie herds them to the...

INT. IVORY HOUSE/DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They sit on two long benches. Daya joins the boy's bench and
Sammy climbs on his lap.

SAMMY

I'll eat with you.

DAYA

And I'll eat you!

Daya nibbles on Sammy's neck and ear as the children LAUGH. A
parade of SIX WOMEN, including LABONI, (30) Daya's vivacious
wife, place dinner on the table.

JULIE

I'm going to teach you all about
manners. Keep your hands off the
table while we pray. These are
called napkins. Put them on your
lap. I'll teach you how to use the
silverware. This is called a fork.

PASTOR KANDAL
 (interrupts, prays)
 Jesus thank You for rescuing Your
 children. Thank You for the women
 who cooked. Amen.

ALL ORPHANS
 Ah-meen.

OOHHS and AAHS from the children as Julie removes each lid.
 Rail-thin Shoba fills her plate. Julie beams as she watches.

After dinner Laboni meets Sammy. She scoops him up. He wraps
 his legs around her waist and buries his face in her hair.

SAMMY
 You sure smell good.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/BOY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Julie and Pastor pray for each boy as they doze off. Pastor
 leaves. Ravi is still awake. Julie settles by him.

JULIE
 (reads)
 'He holds the ocean in the palms of
 his hand and he measures the stars
 with the span of his hands.' How
 big is the night sky with all the
 stars, Ravi?

RAVI
 Just the part of the Milky Way that
 we can see or the whole galaxy?

Julie is taken aback and then smiles.

JULIE
 Your God is so big, His hands are
 bigger than the whole galaxy. This
 is the God who loves you.

She kisses him good night and he hugs her.

RAVI
 I love you, Auntie.

JULIE
 I love you more.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie, Pastor, Daya, Laboni, Chanda and Champa all sip chai, tell jokes and LAUGH.

PASTOR KANDAL
...and then he said, 'I didn't
believe in reincarnation the last
time, either.'

Everyone LAUGHS.

DAYA
So, I hear reincarnation is making
a comeback.

Everyone GROANS.

DAYA (CONT'D)
Wait, wait! This Hindu girl from my
school said she recognized me from
the vegetarian club, but I'd never
met herbivore.

PASTOR KANDAL
That joke is so lame it needs a
cast.

CHANDA
A friend of mind converted to
Hinduism but told me later she
thought it was a missed steak.

LABONI
Is a rivalry between two Hindus
still called 'a beef'?

When everyone LAUGHS at Pastor's, Chanda's and Laboni's joke
Daya looks slightly miffed.

DAYA
I accidentally spilled coffee on a
Hindu lady's dress.

JULIE
What happened?

DAYA
I told her I was sari.

PASTOR KANDAL
Well, I must go -- before Daya
tells another joke. But, I'll be
back to help with breakfast.

DAYA
I requested the day off.

LABONI
I will be here also.

Chanda and Champa, Pastor, Daya and Laboni exit.

DAYA (O.S.)
Three Hindus and a vulture are
eating at a Mexican buffet. The
vulture says....

INT. IVORY HOUSE/GIRL'S BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Bare ivory room with mats. Julie cuddles with Shara. Sashi
and Shoba doze nearby on another mat.

JULIE
(to Shara)
You have a new home and a dozen
brothers and sisters. The dinner
was great! And everyone was
actually full! I've got clean
pajamas and they smell wonderful.
Not to mention running water and
flushing toilets and my mat is
about a forty two! I've got so much
to be grateful for.

She kisses Shara and closes her eyes.

INT/EXT. IVORY HOUSE - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS - A DAY AT THE ORPHANAGE

- A) Julie and girls cut fabric. Sewing machine in the b.g.
- B) Pastor Kandal teaches the Bible.
- C) Daya leads worship on the guitar. The children dance.
- D) The girls and Champa prepare aloo-vada for lunch.
- E) Dodge ball. Both sides want Julie on their team.
- F) Julie sings to and rocks Shara.
- G) Madhu lures a stray pup with pieces of aloo-vada.
- H) Julie and Pastor tuck the kids in. Lights out.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. IVORY HOUSE/GIRL'S BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie snuggles with Shara then checks the next Bible verse.

JULIE
'I will fight for you.' Seems like
the battles are over. Thanks
anyway, Lord.

She falls asleep snuggled around Shara.

INT. SHAW'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The maid answers the RINGING PHONE.

THE MAID
Hello.

She stiffens and covers the receiver.

THE MAID (CONT'D)
(to Shaw)
Amogh.

MR. SHAW
Tell him I'm not here.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/DOWNSTAIRS - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ravi enters. He hears GLASS SHATTER O.S. He locks the door and kneels in the dark.

MR. SHAW (O.S.)
(to Adeel)
We'll try to get them all but the
girls and Ravi are priority.

RAVI
(prays)
Jesus, please protect us.

The sound of a SLAP, O.S.

ADEEL (O.S.)
Move, move, move.

MR. SHAW (O.S.)
I see you hiding back there.

WILSON (O.S.)
Help us, Jesus.

MR. SHAW (O.S.)
Faster.

JULIE (O.S.)
What do you think you're --

A LOUD CRASH interrupts Julie. She CRIES OUT in pain, then falls silent. Shara CRIES. Running FOOTSTEPS. Orphans WAIL. Door SLAMS. A car REVS and disappears in the distance.

RAVI
(prays)
Jesus, please don't let her be
dead. She was my new mother.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/GIRL'S BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Ravi enters the dark room. Julie emits a MUFFLED SOUND.

RAVI
Don't die, Auntie. Jesus, don't let
her die.

He finds the light switch. She's tied and gaged. He pulls the tape from her mouth.

JULIE
Ravi, Ravi, you're OK.

He unties her and throws his body on hers. They hug and WEEP.

INT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - NIGHT

A child's shoe and ripped T-shirt lay along the wall. Mr. Shaw and Adeel herd the WHIMPERING orphans inside startling Kumar, Bahnu, Tamasi and NEERAJ (10) using a crutch made from a tree branch. Mr. Shaw turns to go then stops and shines a flashlight on each child.

MR. SHAW
Where's Ravi?

He kicks at the dirt and exits. Tires SQUEAL O.S.

WILSON
Let's ask Jesus to help.

Sashi gathers the children and gives Kumar and Bahnu a hug.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/GIRL'S BEDROOM #2 - NIGHT

Julie and Ravi untie and ungag Chanda and Champa.

JULIE

Jesus, please show us what to do.

She listens so hard her face screws up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Please Lord, we're in a mess.

RAVI

(interrupts)

I know what to do.

JULIE

Not now. We have to hear from the Lord. Chanda did you hear? Champa?

They both shake their heads no but glance at Ravi.

RAVI

We should go to Mr. Shaw's house, now.

A CAR SCREECHES to a stop and the DOOR SLAMS O.S.

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/EXTERNAL STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Everyone follows Ravi down the stairs and out the back gate. Mr. Shaw charges into the empty backyard.

INT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - NIGHT

Ravi, Julie and the sisters unbar the door and enter. Pandemonium and hugs all around. Julie is relieved to see Shara in Niliya's arms.

SAMMY

You came to get us!

WILSON

Thank You, Jesus!

Tamasi and Neeraj watch from the back corner.

INT./EXT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - NIGHT

Mr. Shaw's silhouette in the doorway plunges the kids from delight to terror. He sees Julie and Ravi and SNICKERS. He enters and grabs Ravi in a headlock.

MR. SHAW

I'm really a quite nice man until
you cross me. I treated Ravi and
Sammy like sons. Isn't that right,
boys?

Sammy, terrified, nods.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)

Ravi ran away and then stole others
from me. There are few things I
despise worse than a thief.

Several children CRY. Mr. Shaw draws his knife from his
scabbard. Julie falls to her knees and shouts

JULIE

Jesus, will you fight for us?

The maid enters.

THE MAID

Amogh is waiting.

MR. SHAW

I'll call later.

THE MAID

He's in the house. With his
friends.

Mr. Shaw goes pale, drops Ravi, and exits, locking the door
behind. Julie and the children all run to Ravi.

RAVI

Let's ask Jesus how to rescue
ourselves. He rescued Daniel from
the lions.

JULIE

That's right. Everyone pray.

The SOBS give way to prayer. Madhu, Praveen and Wilson dig
with the tree branch crutch, a metal dish and an ink pen.

INT. MR. SHAW'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The sun is almost up. Mr. Shaw lays unconscious on the floor
wearing a left eye shiner, an ice bag and covered by a
blanket. Vidya sleeps on the couch near by. The monkey enters
and they wake. He slowly stands and starts to leave. The
monkey jumps on his shoulder.

VIDYA
Where are you going?

MR. SHAW
Unfinished business. After I get
done with Ravi none of them will
ever consider disobeying.

INT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - DAY

Daybreak. Dirt is piled high beside the door.

JULIE
(to Praveen, Madhu and
Wilson)
Faster.
(to Ravi)
Keep them praying.

MADHU
(to Nilaya)
Scoot under the door then slide the
lock. You can do it!

Lying on her back, Niliya pushes her head and shoulders under
the door.

EXT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - DAY

Mr. Shaw and the monkey stare down at her. He shoves her back
under with his boot. Nilaya SCREAMS in pain.

INT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - DAY

Mr. Shaw enters. The monkey leaps above to a wooden beam. Mr.
Shaw makes sweeping eye contact with each child.

MR. SHAW
I should kill you all right now!

Shara suddenly bursts into loud, piercing WAILS. Mr. Shaw
fingers the knife at his side.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
Shut that baby up or I will.

Nilaya scampers to the far corner, behind Shaw, with Shara,
who immediately quits crying.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
 (to Ravi)
 Do you know what happens to little
 boys who steal?

Mr. Shaw backhands Ravi. Blood drips on his pajamas. He holds up the knife and examines the blade.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
 I don't want anyone saying, 'I can
 steal from Mr. Shaw and get away
 with it.'

He kicks Ravi and jerks him forward. Ravi doubles over. Julie flies to his side. Mr. Shaw spits and shoves her down.

MR. SHAW (CONT'D)
 Who are you and why are you always
 in my way?

She stands defiantly, wipes the spit, and approaches.

JULIE
 Let him go. He's just a little boy.
 I stole him from the street corner
 and I stole the others. It's me you
 need to deal with. You can make
 more money with me than with all of
 them. Let them go and I'll work for
 you.
 (to Ravi)
 Tell him, Ravi. Tell him what I
 said.

Mr. Shaw looks to Ravi who is still hunched over, shaking.

RAVI
 She says she will take all the
 children and leave. She promises
 with her whole heart to never, ever
 tell anyone what has happened here.
 I will stay. Please let her and the
 other children leave, please.

MR. SHAW
 (to Julie)
 You're already a dead woman!

RAVI
 Auntie, he says he's going to think
 about letting us go.

Nilaya lays Shara aside. She is tiptoeing behind Mr. Shaw. He grabs Ravi and presses the knife against Ravi's throat.

Julie lurches forward but backs off when he applies pressure. Nilaya tiptoes closer. Mr. Shaw glares from child to child.

MR. SHAW

Open your eyes! I want you to see
what I'll do to you if you disobey.

He pulls the knife away ready to plunge it in. Nilaya crouches behind him on hands and knees. Wilson and Praveen topple Shaw backward over Nilaya. Ravi wiggles free. The knife lands on the ground. Julie grabs it and points it like a gun, unsure what to do with it.

JULIE

Jesus, Jesus, will You fight for
us?

All the guys jump on Shaw. Fist fight with Krav Maga. Madhu flings dirt in Mr. Shaw's eyes. Mr. Shaw, lying on his back, blinded, rarely lands a punch. Chanda runs out the door. Sapna bites into Mr. Shaw's leg. He SCREAMS. The monkey watches from the beam. He SHRIEKS and throws punches.

ORPHAN GIRLS

Jesus help us. Protect us. We trust
You.

After a struggle, Ravi knocks Mr. Shaw unconscious with the tree branch. The monkey SHRIEKS, leaps onto Mr. Shaw's chest and repeatedly slaps his face.

Ravi pulls the monkey off. It climbs into his arms, tips its hat, gives Ravi a candy, a fork, a coin, a small carving, a tool, glasses and his Silly Putty. Ravi jumps and waves it over his head.

RAVI

Thank You, Jesus.

PRAVEEN

We need to tie him up!

MADHU

I know what we can use.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. MR. SHAW'S SHED - DAY

Daya bursts in, his gun drawn, followed by Pastor Kandal, Chanda and Laboni. Daya looks relieved and holsters his gun. Pastor Kandal LAUGHS. The ladies blush.

Mr. Shaw is still unconscious. His shirt firmly binds his wrists and his pants are wrapped around his ankles. He wears only boxers with red hearts.

WILSON

He wears funny underwear.

Daya cuffs Mr. Shaw and hoists him over his shoulder.

DAYA

Come on, Sleeping Beauty, you're going to wake up in jail.

He gives the guys a thumbs up.

DAYA (CONT'D)

You're all champions!

Julie and Ravi hug. She wipes the blood from his face. Wilson and Praveen boost Nilaya on their shoulders.

ALL ORPHANS

Yay for Nilaya! Woo hoo! Nilaya!

Kumar and Bahnu lead Pastor to the other captive children -- Neeraj and Tamasi.

PASTOR KANDAL

We have a safe place for you. Come.
We will be your new family.

JULIE

Everyone get in a circle we need to thank Jesus. We were part of a true miracle.

Everyone sits on the ground. Nilaya, holding Shara, climbs on Julie's lap. Kumar and Ravi snuggle in beside her.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Jesus can do anything. He used Shara and Nilaya to rescue all of us! You can always trust Him.

NILAYA

(prays)

Jesus, thank You for telling me to sneak up on that bad, bad man.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/GIRL'S BEDROOM #1 - NIGHT

Julie wakes in early a.m. and snuggles closer to Shara.

JULIE
 (to Shara)
 Since everyone has a home now I
 guess I'll be leaving soon.
 (to Jesus)
 I've got two families. I can't bear
 the thought of not having both.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Julie and Ravi sit together. She wears a punjabi and his mother's dangly earrings.

JULIE
 ... my husband and son are in
 America. But I'll see them soon.

RAVI
 When are they coming?

JULIE
 They're not.

She tousles his hair but gets no response.

INT. IVORY HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is gathered. Daya and his wife hold Sammy. Daya tosses him in the air. Sammy SQUEALS. Everyone LAUGHS when Sammy hands Julie a drawing of Mr. Shaw behind bars.

SAMMY
 My dad put him in jail!

Other kids hand her drawings and cards which she puts in her battered, stained designer bag. Madhu places a primitive necklace over her head, the brown seeds strung together on a string. Ravi sits by himself looking somber. Wilson chokes back tears and thrusts his walking stick to her. She hugs him and it clatters to the floor.

JULIE
 Oh, Wilson, I can't take your
 stick, but you have a heart just
 like Jesus.

She kisses his forehead. He blushes but smiles.

PASTOR KANDAL
 Thank you, Julie from America.
 (to orphans)
 Let's thank God for bringing her.

ALL ORPHANS

Jesus, thank You, for Auntie. You
are good! Yes, Thank You. Ah-meen!

The prayers and obvious affection move Julie to tears.

JULIE

For the first time in my life I'm
really rich.

Pastor pulls out his cell phone.

PASTOR KANDAL

Line up for pictures.

Julie locates her cell phone, the bars are fully charged.

JULIE

(to Jesus)

You are too funny!

(to Pastor)

Take pictures for me? I'll need
them to prove where I've been all
this time.

The children gather round her, Julie CRIES harder. Ravi
reluctantly joins the group. A KNOCK ON THE DOOR O.S.

PASTOR KANDAL

It's your taxi to the train
station.

Wilson opens the door and Ravi's parents step inside. Ravi
runs into their arms for a joyful reunion. Right behind them
are Angelo and Raja. Raja leaps into Madhu's arms, licking
his face. When Madhu stops LAUGHING he points to Angelo.

MADHU

That's him! He took Raja!

ANGELO

Madhu, Raja's good as new because
Jesus wants you to know He really,
really loves you...This is a home
for everyone Jesus loves.

Madhu beams, Raja BARKS, everyone LAUGHS, then gathers around
Ravi's parents.

PASTOR KANDAL

Ravi was told you died in the
wreck.

RAVI'S MOTHER

We were unconscious and
hospitalized. Your father was in a
coma, not expected to live.

RAVI'S FATHER

Jesus appeared and healed me. We
left the hospital and Angelo was
waiting there. Who are we that
Jesus would be so good to us?

JULIE

He's better to all of us than we
deserve. And you've got an amazing
son. I love him like my own.

Ravi pulls the Silly Putty egg from his pocket and holds it
toward his mother. She beams and embraces him.

EXT. SIDEWALK/STREET BY IVORY HOUSE - DAY

Everyone surrounds Julie -- smiles, tears and hugs as they
walk toward the taxi. Angelo climbs in the driver's seat.
Julie climbs in behind. Angelo holds up his pocket watch.

ANGELO

(to Julie)

I told you I'd help you get home
when the time was right, Love.

Pastor Kandal hands Shara to Julie.

JULIE

I love you all. I miss you already!

The children wave and run beside the auto.

ANGELO

I see you're bringing a lamb with
you. And Love, no worries about the
adoption paperwork. When you need
it, it will appear.

INT. TRAIN - DINING CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Sitting in a booth, Julie is on one side. Jesus holds
snoozing Shara on the other.

JESUS

I saw the tears you wept over the
miscarriage and I stored them all
in a bottle.

JULIE

I never believed my heart could
heal. It felt way past broken. It
was shattered.

JESUS

Shara is My healing answer to that
incredible pain.

Angelo pushes a cart heaped with food. He serves it on the
ornate stoneware from her fantasy.

JULIE

Fried chicken, corn on the cob!
Sweet potato fries? My favorite
meal from childhood.

JESUS

Your mom's recipes. Try the fries
with the coconut chutney. To die
for!

Julie bows her head to pray, then smiles and looks up at Him.

JULIE

Um, thanks for the food.

Jesus pours apricot nectar, Julie drinks it all.

JESUS

I'm not a harsh father but a proud,
loving parent. How do you please a
good father?

JULIE/JESUS

You hold up your cup and ask for
more!

She holds up her empty glass and He pours apricot nectar then
proposes a toast.

JESUS

To your destiny!

JULIE

Going to India seemed like a
hideous tragedy but You made it an
amazing blessing. She
absentmindedly runs her finger over
Madhu's necklace.

JESUS

You have some new jewelry.

JULIE

I'll wear it regularly so the memories will be close to my heart.

JESUS

But it's not designer or made with precious stones.

JULIE

This time you're wrong, Lord! It's both. It was designed especially for me and it's very precious.

She stares at the necklace.

JULIE (CONT'D)

My heart's not really in retail any more. If Michael and I downsize I could stay at home with my wonderful family.

Jesus raises an eyebrow and smiles.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You love to use weak and flawed people don't you?

JESUS

It's the only kind I have and yes, I'm crazy about you, um... them.

They LAUGH together. The train stops.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Time for the next part of your journey.

JULIE

I don't want to leave You but I know You're always with me.

Jesus escorts her to the...

INT. TRAIN - CABOOSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Jesus still holds Shara.

JESUS

You have a new baby and didn't even have to go through labor.

JULIE

But it was costly.

Jesus gives Julie a hug.

JESUS

I don't just send you back, I
launch you into your destiny. Go,
this meeting is what you've longed
for. I'll bring Shara in a second.

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - GARDEN OAKS, N.Y. - DAY

Julie hurries down the stairs to the deserted platform and
flings her arms around Michael and Logan. Michael stares at
the punjabi she wears.

MICHAEL

This is all the rage in the Big
Apple? You look a little...
different.

JULIE

Michael, I'm a lot different! And
I'm sorry I didn't call. You must
have been worried sick.

MICHAEL

Don't get dramatic. You make two
days sound like an eternity.

JULIE

Two days? I've been gone for weeks.

Logan and Michael exchange glances. Michael holds out his
watch, Julie sees the date. She realizes the truth of the
timing.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Amazing! He's so amazing! Michael,
trust me. Really, I've been in
India.

Logan looks at Michael and makes the "crazy" hand signal.
Angelo comes down the stairs and hands Julie her purse.

ANGELO

You forgot this, Love.
(to Michael and Logan))
You must be Michael and Logan.
Julie had quite the time in Mumbai.

JULIE

It's hard to explain. I didn't go
shopping but I do have an amazing
gift for all of us.

Jesus steps on to the passenger loading platform holding Shara.

LOGAN

See Dad. I told you about my dream!
(to Julie)
A Man came and held me. He said I'd
have a little sister. That's Him!

Logan runs up the steps into Jesus' arms.

JULIE

That's Shara, our gift. She was an
orphan now she's ours.

MICHAEL

Oh, my God.

JESUS

Yes?

MICHAEL

Sorry, I didn't mean....

JESUS

(to Logan)
You are going to be the best big
brother ever.

Jesus descends the stairs. Hands Shara to Julie and turns His
attention to Michael.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Michael, your sister's accident
wasn't your fault.

Michael is momentarily stunned, but goes with it.

MICHAEL

She left mad. I shouldn't have
argued with her.

JESUS

She was leaving anyway to meet her
friends. She was over it. She
didn't leave because of you; she
didn't die because of you.

Jesus puts His hands on Michael's shoulders.

JESUS (CONT'D)

A dog ran in front of her and she
swerved.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

It wasn't you, it was her
inexperience at the wheel. I'm
telling you this to set you free.

MICHAEL

All these years I've felt so
guilty.

JESUS

Jeannie is with me and she lives in
complete joy. She wouldn't want to
come back.

Michael fights his tears.

JULIE

Trust Him, Michael. He's always
right.

JESUS

Julie, you should all be heading
home, you have a whole two days to
catch up on.

Jesus LAUGHS. Julie shakes her head and smiles. Angelo holds
up his watch, smiles, climbs the stairs.

ANGELO

Cheerio.

JESUS

I told you I was taking care of
your lambs... I have it all under
control.

Jesus cups Julie's cheeks in His hands and kisses her
forehead. He kisses Shara, hugs Michael and high five's Logan
before unexpectedly challenging him to an invisible sword
fight. He lets Logan get in the last jab and feigns an
injury.

JESUS (CONT'D)

(to Logan)

Arrr, matey, ya got Me!

He smiles and boards the passenger loading platform. He and
Angelo wave as the train leaves. Julie's family all wave and
watch until it's out of sight. Julie hands Shara to Michael.

JULIE

Here, would you hold her?

MICHAEL

Her? 'Her' just sounds so wonderful!

(to Shara)

Come along precious, you're daddy's girl now. Look at your beautiful, brown eyes.

He kisses both cheeks, already smitten.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(to Logan)

What do you think of your little sister?

LOGAN

She smiled at me!

Julie puts the strap of her dirty, damaged bag over her shoulder and they turn to go.

INT. JULIE'S NEW LIVING ROOM - GARDEN OAKS, N.Y. - NIGHT

A much smaller house. The nice furniture is there, but less of it. Magazines are askew on the coffee table. On the mantle are several framed pictures of Ravi and the orphans. On the wall is a poster of good-bye day at the orphanage with Julie in the middle BLUBBERING.

Julie sits on the couch looking at pictures in an email from Ravi. Bud, Shara and Logan play on the floor with Silly Putty. Julie stares at the putty and smiles. She pats Bud's shoulder, he puts his hand on hers and smiles warmly. Michael enters carrying a blueprint.

JULIE

Ravi said Mr. Shaw's maid cooperated with the police and Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are both in prison. Turns out the maid had been kidnapped by Shaw as a youth.

MICHAEL

Excellent.

BUD

Are those the finals for the addition?

They all gather as Michael unrolls the blueprints.

EXT. IVORY HOUSE/ORPHANAGE - YARD - MUMBAI, INDIA - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE YEAR LATER

Julie, Bud, Mr. Shaw's maid and the orphans paint the new addition. Chanda and Champa OOH and COO over toddler Shara. Raja and the now grown puppy playfully wrestle. The monkey stirs the next gallon of paint.

Ravi and his parents arrive. Ravi runs into Julie's arms, she swings him around and then tousles his hair. His mother and Julie have the same earrings. Ravi reaches for Julie's. His parents hug Julie.

RAVI'S MOTHER

He talks about you all the time.

JULIE

We're separated by distance but
he's never far from my heart.

MICHAEL

(to Pastor Kandal)

Are the bunk beds arriving today?

PASTOR KANDAL

Twenty four. We can fill them, for
sure.

Daya arrives and Michael offers his hand.

MICHAEL

I'm Michael. I hear you were
promoted, congratulations.

PASTOR KANDAL

He's too modest. He's introduced a
campaign to open orphanages run by
churches, families or other
organizations. Abandoned buildings
or buildings confiscated from
criminals are being remodeled with
state funding to get the orphans
off the street.

DAYA

My proudest achievement was when we
confiscated Shaw's house and turned
it into the most luxurious
orphanage in India, possibly the
world!

Ravi and Julie are chatting as they paint. Ravi accidentally drips paint on Julie's jeans. He freezes. Julie smiles and returns the favor as she dabs paint on Ravi's chin. A spirited paint fight breaks out among them all.

Julie is in the middle, covered with paint and SHRIEKING WITH
LAUGHTER. C.U. on Old Navy tag.

FADE OUT.

THE END