

Final Draft 7 Demo

Butterfingers

by
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FADE IN:

1 INT. OLD HALL - NIGHT 1

A pair of old shoes is shuffling clunkily on an old timber stage, trying to dance to strange piano music.

Inside the old clod hoppers are the feet of a young girl.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

If I ever get old I'm NEVER going
to stop dancing!

Off stage, beyond her feet, a strange darkness. A hint of movement.

CUT TO:

2 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 2

The piano music fades into a clatter of hospital noise.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

I LOVE dancing !

A beautiful and very elderly woman is in bed, surrounded by medical contraptions. Her face is lit by the flicker of a television. The voice of David Attenborough and assorted animal noise buzzes from the suffering speakers.

As we move closer, we realise that the old lady is asleep.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

My dad takes me to dancing
lessons every Saturday.

Close up on the TV, where two bears wrestle majestically to the Attenborough commentary.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

He takes me to HEAPS of cool
places. Last week we went to the
zoo and we saw an old bear who
was pretending to be asleep...

Close up on the old lady's face. She responds slightly to the roar of the TV bears, the shadow of a frown.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

...and I was talking to him and
he opened his eyes and looked
right at me and then I KNEW he
could hear me...

There is a particularly loud roar.

CUT TO:

3 INT. OLD HALL - NIGHT 3

The old shoes hesitate at the sound of the bear's roar.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
...and daddy said he would be
hungry cos he just woke up...

Final Draft 7 Demo

CUT TO:

4 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 4

Close up on a piece of medical equipment.

It stutters and blinks uneasily.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. ZOO - DAY 5

A bear looks at us from his cage. Dangerous, inscrutable.

Final Draft 7 Demo

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
...and if I got too close he
would EAT me !

The little girl watches the bear with her father, hand in hand. She looks nervously up at her dad.

He squeezes her hand reassuringly.

CUT TO:

6 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 6

The old lady's sleeping face is oblivious to it all. We track up to a clock ticking away on the wall.

Final Draft 7 Demo

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
My Dad says that the brown bear
is from North America, but I
already learnt that at school.

CUT TO:

7 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 7

The hospital clock becomes a school clock. We track back down to the lesson.

A teacher's pointer is emphatically tapping a map of North America on the blackboard, double time to the clock.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)
My favorite subject at school is
geography. When I grow up I'm
going to travel EVERYWHERE !

CUT TO:

8

INT. OLD CAR - DAY

8

The ticking of the school clock becomes the clicking of a car indicator. We see a hand impatiently tapping the wheel.

The car appears to be caught in a line of holiday traffic.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
I'm going to Prague so I can look
at the clocks...

Through the window we read a succession of strange signs for less than exotic school holiday destinations.

In the back seat, the little girl is gazing out of the window, eating a dripping ice cream. She looks like she has forgotten something.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...and I'm going to eat gelato in
Venice...

Her ice cream suddenly plops into her lap. She snaps a look back at her dad, in the front seat of the car.

DAD
(we see him in the rear
vision mirror)
Whoops ! Butterfingers !

CUT TO:

9

EXT. BEACH - DAY

9

On a fairly unattractive tourist-infected beach, the girl carefully reads a warning sign, holding tight to its base. She wears a mask and a snorkel.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
...and I'm going to travel to the
Lost City of Atlantis, even
though my teacher Mrs Matthewson
says it isn't a real city...

She is carefully reading the warnings aloud, we hear them under her voiceover. Dangerous currents! Deadly fishes!

The camera moves back to allow a bunch of kids to crash noisily past.

CUT TO:

10 INT. OLD HALL - NIGHT 10

The old shoes pause at the commotion, then carefully start up again, searching for that rhythm.

Dark things stir in the background, off stage.

Final Draft 7 Demo

CUT TO:

11 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 11

Crazy jungle noises come from the TV, a continuing echo of the noisy kids on the beach.

TV shadows play across the old lady's sleeping face.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

...but most of all I want to go to the jungles of South America and conduct a series of exhaustive scientific studies of the Toucan, also known as "Ramphastos Toco"...

Final Draft 7 Demo

CUT TO:

12 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 12

The little girl stands at the front of the class, pointing scientifically at her crayon drawing of the toucan.

Under her voiceover, we faintly hear the voice of David Attenborough.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (V.O.)

...where we conducted a series of exhaustive scientific studies of the Toucan, also known as...

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CUT TO:

13 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 13

The old lady's eyes are still closed.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

(from the TV)

..."Ramphastos Toco"...

She half-mouths the words with him.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. THE JUNGLE - DAY 14

Close up on the girl's face. She is staring intently up into a jungle canopy as the TV animal cries merge with real ones.

She wears a neat safari suit. The sound of a jungle flute screams from the treetops.

We hear a particularly aggressive squark !

LITTLE GIRL
(triumphantly)
Ramphastos Toco !

She rushes down to pull something out of her explorer's satchel...

CUT TO:

15 EXT. BEACH - DAY 15

... her very neat crayon drawing of the Ramphastos Toco. She fumbles the drawing in her haste, shakes off the sand...

CUT TO:

16 EXT. THE JUNGLE - DAY 16

...her attention continues quickly from her journal back up into the jungle canopy.

Her eyes widen, she has seen something scary. We sense the darkness of the opening scene.

The jungle sounds reach their shrieking climax !

There is a huge crash !

CUT TO:

17 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 17

The old lady's eyes snap open. The jungle canopy has become a maze of medical equipment.

She looks fearfully around the room. It feels like 60 years since we were in the jungle.

A nurse pops up from the side of the bed. He has dropped some noisy metal pans on the floor.

NURSE
(super apologetic)
Whoops ! Butterfingers !

The old lady looks very ill, she smiles unconvincingly.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
(more thoughtful)
When I grow up, I'm going to be a doctor and find a cure for the common cold.

The nurse fusses and smiles back.

CUT TO:

18 INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

18

The little girl looks concerned. She is wearing her stethoscope while she frowns over an old brown teddy bear.

LITTLE GIRL
(a little resigned)
Don't worry Rupert. I'll fix you up.

She looks up and frowns at something unseen across the room.

CUT TO:

19 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

19

The old lady frowns too, remembering something. The nurse reads her charts.

NURSE
(softly)
Hey wonder woman. I think we're gonna have you out dancing on the weekend huh ?

He hands her some pills and a glass of water. She looks very pale from his view, resigned. She swallows her pills...

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
Once I had a fever and I had the silliest dream...

CUT TO:

20 INT. OLD HALL - NIGHT

20

The feet from the opening scene, paused.

The little girl looks across the interior of the hall. We can now make out a group of strange people, swirling, disturbed. Disgusting white gowns, searching blindly in the dark. Not the sort of dream we would wish on a little girl.

We blur past a few of the people, gazing off, lost in their various private dreams. Pulling at their clothes, dropping things, tugging at their hair.

Final Draft 7 Demo

CUT TO:

21 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

21

The nurse squeezes the old lady's hand, touches her forehead. Her eyes are closed again now.

The opening piano music begins again. Gentle, tentative.

CUT TO:

22 INT. OLD HALL - NIGHT

22

The old shoes start to move again, gaining momentum as the piano winds crazily up.

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We zoom out to reveal the little girl dancing for the people in her strange dream. One by one they slowly turn to watch her, transfixed.

With an elaborate final piano flourish, and a tricky click of her heels, we cut to the closing credits.

END

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