



GIRL, HUSH!

Written by

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Based on a true story.

Story By

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OVER BLACK...

*

SUPER: 1979.

*

YOUNG GIRL
Children, obey your parents in the
Lord; for this is right.

*

FADE TO:

EXT. FIELD - DUSK

A YOUNG GIRL-- 11, brown and golden dusted, stands with arms
outstretched.

*
*

The tall tweeds kiss her finger tips.

*

Her worn dress collects dust.

*

She dashes through unkept grass.

*

YOUNG GIRL
Honor thy father and mother;

She bounces her shabby braids like rubber.

*

GRANDMA--60s, beams proud. She hangs clothes on the line.

*

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
That it may be well with thee, and
thou mayest live long on the earth.

*

Grandma turns and holds her hand out.

*

Young girl places her face in Grandma's palms.

*

GRANDMA
Thou mayest live long on the earth.

Grandma kisses her forehead.

*

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - EARLY MORNING

Two-story single family homes with chipped paint line the
wide street.

*
*

A black MAN jogs on the sidewalk.

*

A black WOMAN beelines through dewy grass to the mailbox.

*

Car passes the woman honking. She smiles and waves.

*

INT. CAM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

A powder pink bedroom with a Wonder Woman poster on the wall. *

A Diana Ross doll staged in front of many dolls on the dresser. *

A record player sits on the nightstand--needle off. The Commodores and Smokey Robinson's hit records stacked against it. *

A sheer canopy covers a stuffed animal filled bed. *

The young girl, CAM, lays asleep and we hear an alarm clock ring. *

She rockets up out of bed. *

She opens her door and yells.

CAM
Did he call?

INT. CAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A long hallway covered with framed images of Cam, her family and black celebrities. The classic 'Black Jesus' hangs at the end. *

She passes them and flees down the stairs. *

INT. CAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS *

A suburban kitchen bleeds with earth tones, Golden Pothos' and an assortment of flowers. *

Cam lands in the kitchen. *

Grandma sits at the table and sips coffee. *

TESSA, 30s, jelled--yet, gentle, walks inside holding mail. *

Biscuits steam on the counter. *

Tessa hands Grandma a newspaper. *

Cam ogles the biscuits. She leans over the hot pan. *

She inhales the fumes of fried butter. *

CAM
Did he call?

GRANDMA
We ain't sleep wit' you. *

CAM
Sorry, Grandma. *
(beat) *
Good Morning. *

GRANDMA
And getcho' unwashed face from
'round them biscuits. *

CAM
Morning, Momma.

Cam hugs Tessa. Cam hugs Grandma. *

CAM (CONT'D)
Did he call?

The PHONE RINGS. She jumps with joy.

CAM (CONT'D)
It's him!

Tessa walks to the phone. *

TESSA
Calm down, chile! Let you tell it,
you ain't never had nothing.

Cam holds her arms at her side. Calm. *

Her fingers wiggle. *

GRANDMA
You know the girl's been waiting
all week. *

Tessa kisses her teeth. *

CAM
It's THEE Commodores AND Smokey
Robinson.

Grandma gives Cam five under the table. *

Tessa grabs the ringing phone. *

TITLE CARD:

"GIRL, HUSH!"

TESSA

Girl, hush!
(to the phone)
Hello?

Tessa leans into the wall--a high school girl vibe. *

Cam and Grandma listens closely. *

Tessa shoos them away. *

TESSA (CONT'D)

Richie, you know I can't do that.

(beat)

Fine, what time is it? *

(beat) *

Okay, I will call you.

(beat)

Boy, I'm hanging up now.

Tessa smiles. She hangs up the phone. *

Tessa turns around. *

Grandma holds the newspaper just below her eyes. *

She yells.

TESSA (CONT'D)

You're going to see THE COMMODORES.

Grandma slams the paper down on the table. *

Cam leaps onto Tessa--squeezing her tight. *

TESSA (CONT'D)

Alright, nah... Calm down before
you burst your stitches.

Grandma fans Tessa and Cam with her paper. *

GRANDMA

Oh, Tessa. She's alright-- she's
excited. *

Cam lets go of Tessa, but still wiggles. *

CAM

Okay, okay... I'm getting dressed
now! *

She flaps her arms on her way out of the kitchen. *

CAM (CONT'D) *
 (singing) *
 You're gonna fly away, glad you're *
 goin' my way... *

Tessa watches Cam go upstairs. She turns to Grandma. Her *
 smile fades. She glares at Grandma. *

Grandma sits. She grabs her paper and shuns Tessa. *

SERIES OF SHOTS:

I/E. CITY BUS - DAY *

Cam looks out of the window. She watches old towns pass by. *

She sees a family walking in a store. *

She watches trees run past the window. *

She waves to a small black girl in a car next to her. *

The kid waves back. Cam smiles and rests into her seat. *

END SERIES OF SHOTS *

EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

RICHIE, late 30s, stands outside of his car. *

He wears a gold diamond ring that reads, "Mr. Richie Rich". *

His wrist flashes a gold IWC Da Vinci watch. *

A group of people leave out of the station. *

He flicks his long stem cigarette as he spots Cam. *

A wave is shared between the two of them as she makes her way *
 to the car.

He opens the trunk for her bag.

RICHIE

Here.

He tosses it in the back.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Let me take a look atcha.

CAM

Hi daddy.

RICHIE

Don't just stand there, hug ya
daddy.

Cam hugs her dad. *

She sniffs in his cologne. *

CAM *

Which smell good is that? *

RICHIE *

They call it Ralph Lauren Polo
Green--Ya Momma used to love this
one. *

Cam smiles. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Alright, let's get on this road.

He opens her car door and she hops in. *

Cam locks her seatbelt and squirms in her seat. *

He gets in. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

We got about an hour and a half
before the show, so we're gonna
stop by the hotel to freshen up. *

Cam's smile reaches her ears. *

Richie drives off. *

EXT. MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER *

Richie's pulls into a parking space at a Motel. *

He gets out and opens the door for Cam.

She gets out. Richie grabs her bag. *

Cam squeezes her fingers together as she follows him to the
room. *

INT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Floral dark colored bed spreads and warm walls fill the room accompanied by one full-sized bed, a nightstand with lamp, a tv and a dresser. *

The motel is luxury for it's time. It has a small living room: one love seat, a coffee table, an area rug. *

The window curtain is open with a view of midsize office buildings. *

Richie places her bag on the bed and grab his things. *

RICHIE

Go ahead and get your things and bathe. I'll get in after you. *

CAM

Okay, Daddy.

Cam grabs her things and skips into the bathroom. *

She closes the door. She runs water. *

Richie lays out his toiletry bag. He grabs his razor and shaving cream. *

INT. MOTEL - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A gold shower fixture pours water. A mini television sits in the corner. Cam pulls back the plain shower curtain with gold curtain rings. She feels the water temperature. *

Cam undresses. The mirror fogs up. *

She scribbles a tiny happy face in the corner. *

Richie opens the door. *

Cam snatches her shirt and covers herself. *

Richie walks in. Hands full of toiletries. *

CAM

Daddy! You said I could go first. *

Richie's scoffs. *

RICHIE

Girl, hush! I'm ya daddy, I made everything you got over there. *

Getcho butt in that shower. *

Cam stands frozen. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)

 You wanna see Smokey and the boys
 tonight or what? *

 CAM

 Mmmhmm-- I do. *

She lowers her t-shirt back to the floor. *

Richie covers his face with shaving foam. He wipes the
mirror, leaving the happy face. *

Cam steps into the tub. She closes the curtain behind her. *

Richie rips it open. *

Cam jumps. He lunges at her. *

Richie rams the tip of his finger onto Cam's nose. *

 RICHIE

 Don't you EVER do no shit like that
 again! *

 CAM

 Daddy! Momma said I--

 RICHIE

 I'm your fucking daddy! You ain't
 got shit I ain't never seen before! *

A glob of shaving cream drops from his face into the tub. *

Cam adjusts her feet to miss it. *

 CAM

 Sorry, Daddy. *

He removes his finger and backs down. Softer. He sizes her. *

 RICHIE

 I need to be making sure you
 cleaning right. Ain't it been like
 8 weeks since your surgery?

 CAM

 Yessir.

 RICHIE

 See that. I'm yo' daddy. I be
 keeping up with your stuff.

He turns back and puts the razor to his face. *

Cam slowly washes her body. *

She steals looks at her father. He does the same. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)
 You ain't doing it right.

He puts down his shaver. He grabs her cloth. *

Cam pinpoints the tiny happy face on the mirror. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)
 See, this is how you do it.

She gawks at the happy face. Add his action: he washes her, swinging her body like a rag doll. She stays fixed on the happy face. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)
 Alright, nah gon' ahead and get dressed.

He turns the water off and finishes his shaving. *

She wraps herself in the towel. *

She grabs her clothes. *

She hurries out. *

INT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Cam holds her towel with one hand--fixes her clothes with the other. *

Richie walks out of the bathroom. He puts his clippers away. *

Cam fixes her eyes on him again. He beams at her. *

Tense. *

He tosses lotion over to her.

 RICHIE
 Don't forget to lotion your body.

Cam puts the clothes down. She holds onto the towel. *

She grabs the lotion. *

Richie pretends to fuss with his clothing. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You know, I told Lionel I was
bringing you? *
*
Cam jerks her head up. *

CAM

Really?

RICHIE

Sho'nuff. *
*
Richie smirks. Cam smiles back. *
*
Cam bends down and lifts one side of the towel. *
*
She puts a dap of lotion on her knee and rubs it in. *
*
Richie pauses.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You're doing that all wrong. *

Cam stops smiling. She stiffens. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Come here. *

[[The room space between them stretches. All of a sudden,
Richie is extremely far away from her.]] *
*
His brow flinches. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Don't make me repeat myself. *

CAM

Daddy, I'm 11. I can lotion myself-- *

RICHIE

What did I say? You gon' make me
late to the show, now. *

[[The space between the two disappears.]] *
*
She sits on the bed and extends her foot to him. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

How you healing up from your
surgery?

CAM

Just fine.

RICHIE

Let me see.

Cam squeezes her knees together. *

CAM

Daddy, please.

(beat)

It's a private area. *

Richie knocks her hand. He pushes her. *

Cam falls back on the bed. *

RICHIE

If some doctors cut on you, I can
see what they did! I am yo' daddy.
You hear me? *

[[...from Cam's POV, she sees the ceiling as the hands of her
ancestors hover over her eyes until...]] *

EXT. FIELD - DUSK *

Cam's little fingers graze the grass. Pink. Purple. Yellow. *

Eyes closed--Arms outstretched, she spins. *

Cam's head falls back. Her hair picks up with her current. *

CAM

Honor thy father and mother; *

Cam opens her eyes. She stops spinning. Cam lands on Richie's
face; distorted. *

EXT. STREET - NIGHT *

The neighborhood street is bare. *

A few house lights remain on. Cars are parked in their
driveways. *

Street lights illuminate the sidewalks. *

I/E. CAR/FRONT OF HOUSE - NIGHT *

Richie drives. *

Cam watches her dim house from the window. *

RICHIE *

 Did you enjoy the concert? *

 CAM *

 Yes, Daddy. *

 RICHIE *

 I got something else for you. *

Richie parks the car in front of Cam's home. *

She wrings her concert poster. Her thumb nail pokes Lionel's *

face. *

He reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a wad of cash. *

Richie hands the money to her. *

Cam flinches. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)

 Daddy loves you. *

Beat. *

 CAM

 I love you too, Daddy. *

Cam sneaks a peak out of the window again. *

He pushes the money to her again. *

 RICHIE

 Take it. *

She wraps her tiny hands around the wad. *

He touches her shoulder. *

Cam shrinks. *

 RICHIE (CONT'D)

 You go on and tell ya Momma what a *

 great time you had with Smokey, *

 Lionel and the boys. *

Cam catches a glimpse of his Mr. Richie Rich ring on her *

shoulder. *

She shifts in her seat and grabs the door handle. *

She struggles with the handle. *

The light flicks on from inside the house. *

Richie pushes his thumb into her collar bone. *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

And that's all you tell ya mama,
you dig? *

Cam pulls away. *

CAM

Yes, Daddy.

RICHIE

Go on and put that in your bag
before you get out. That's a lot of
money, girl. *

Cam exits the car. *

EXT. CAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Tessa opens the door. *

Richie leans over to the passenger side and cranks down the
window. *

RICHIE

You lookin' good, Tess.

Tessa blushes. Cam meets Tessa midway. *

TESSA

Always, Mr. Rich. *

Rich tips his hat. *

Tessa nuzzles Cam under her shoulder. *

Richie steals another look and pulls off. *

They walk back to the house. *

Tessa palms Cam's little face. *

TESSA (CONT'D)

Let me look at you.

Cam looks into her mother's eyes. *

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cam puts her bag down and sits at the table. *

Grandma sits at the table, snapping peas. *

Tessa walks over to the leftover dishes in the sink. *

Cam surveys the ripped poster. So, does Grandma. *

She tries to straighten it out. *

GRANDMA

So tell me, did the Commodores sing
"Zoom"?

CAM

Oh, Grandma, they did and Lionel
sung it good too. Smokey sung
Cruisin'.

GRANDMA

Sho' you right. That's my favorite
record! *

Cam gives a side smile. Grandma cups Cam's face. *

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

(singing) *

I love it when we're cruising
together... *

Tessa rinses a plate. *

TESSA

And did Smokey say anything to you? *

CAM

He did tell me to tell my
momma...something like-- 'Hey
Tessy, it's been a long time'...
but, I figured you didn't care. *

Cam turns to Grandma. Grandma smirks. *

Tessa turns around. *

TESSA

He said that?

CAM

Mmm hmm, but I told him, you didn't
care nothing about that.

TESSA

You did what?!

Grandma chuckles. *

CAM
I'm just kidding. *

Tessa tosses a few suds Cam's way. She turns back to the dishes. *

TESSA
Chile, hush up! *

Cam mellows back down. She thumbs her poster. Thinks. *

She looks to her mother. *

CAM
I did get something from Daddy.

TESSA
And what did that old buster get you? Better had been autographed portraits, from all of them! *

CAM
He said, it's better than that.

Cam bends over. She grabs the money from her bag. *

Grandma gasps. *

GRANDMA
Tessa.

Tessa whips around. She see's the wad of money in Cam's hand. *

She drops the dish on the floor. *

Cam and Grandma jump. *

Tessa rushes to Cam. She grabs her shoulder. *

Grandma leaps to the phone and dials. *

TESSA
What did your dad do to you?

Cam's eyes gloss over. *

GRANDMA
(sotto) *

It's Cam. Richie just dropped her off. Yes. Not too long ago. Hurry. *

TESSA
Mama! *

SERIES OF SCENES:

INT. CAR - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER *

Richie pulls up to a stop sign. *

He grabs a flask from his glove box. *

He takes a swig. His eyes tear up. He takes another swig. *

A car pulls up behind him. *

The DRIVER beeps at him and then speed around his car.

RICHIE *

Fuck! *

He HITS at his steering wheel. *

RICHIE (CONT'D) *

Fuck! Fuck! *

He begins to pull off.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Richie drives down the street.

Another car appears to be following Richie. *

He turns. The car turns. *

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Richie speeds up to a red light. *

The car behind him stops. The driver turns the headlights off. *

Richie scans in his rearview mirror. *

He takes a swig of his flask. Taps on the steering wheel. *

He cranes his neck. *

The car creeps up beside him. *

The driver whips the car around and cuts him off. *

Richie clicks the lock. The door unlocks with every click. *

THREE MEN, Cam's uncle's ANDY, WILLIE, holding a bat and JUNIOR-- black, broad, God-like step out of the car. *

Richie repeatedly locks the door. Junior opens the door. *

EXT. STREET - NIGHT *

Junior pulls Richie out of the car. *

RICHIE *
Man, please don't do-- *

He drag him onto the pavement. Richie loses his hat. *

RICHIE (CONT'D) *
Please! *

Cam's uncle's repeatedly lash Richie. *

Andy kicks Richie in the gut. *

RICHIE (CONT'D) *
Help! *

Willie swings his bat to Richie's legs. *

Junior stomps on Richie's arm. *

Richie's Mr. Richie Rich ring flies off. *

RICHIE (CONT'D) *
No... please. *

Richie fights them off. Blood flings in the air with every hit. Andy grabs Richie by the neck. *

RICHIE (CONT'D) *
Brother, please. *

Andy hauls back and socks Richie. *

INT. FIELD - DAY *

Little fingers graze the grass. Pink. Purple. Yellow. *

A YOUNG BOY, 11, wears Richie's clothing. It swallows him. *

He combs through the grass. *

A girls laughter echos in the wind. *

CAM (O.C.)

That it may be well with thee, and
thou mayest live long on the earth.

Richie hunts through the grass. The voice gets louder. *

CAM (CONT'D)

Thou Mayest Live.

The boy shallow breathes. He seeks the girl. *

CAM (CONT'D)

Long.

He turns, but see's no one.

CAM (CONT'D)

Long! On the earth.

(beat)

And, ye fathers, provoke not your
children to wrath;

The boy collides into the young girl. Cam. *

They face each other. She smiles. He cowards. *

CAM (CONT'D)

But, bring them up in the future
and admonition of the Lord.

Cam eyes pierces him. *

Her smile fades.

YOUNG BOY

I'm sorry.

Cam's jaws unhinge. She screams. We disappear into it. *

FADE TO BLACK.